

... published quarterly at the Hermia Lechner House

## SBWA Receives 2007 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

By Nicole Rahman, Program Director

We have received the NJ Governor's 2007 Environmental Excellence Award in the category of Clean and Plentiful Water. SBWA was recognized for the award at the NJ Governor's 2007 Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony on November 29, 2007 in Princeton at Drumthwacket, the official residence of the Governor.



Bill Kibler and Nicole Rahman  
Proudly Displaying the Governor's  
Environmental Excellence Award

We received the award for our just released Volunteer Monitoring Program Comprehensive Report. The monitoring program was started in 1994 with ten monitoring sites to collect baseline data on the water quality of the South Branch of the Raritan River and its tributaries. This area stretches from the river's source in Mount Olive Township, through Washington, Roxbury, Tewksbury, Clinton, Readington, Raritan, Flemington, Neshanic Station, Hillsborough, and East Amwell Townships, to its confluence with the Raritan River proper in Branchburg Township. 2007 marked the fourteenth year of the program with 18

monitoring sites, and over 60 dedicated volunteers without whom this program would not be possible. This accumulation of data was analyzed to produce the comprehensive report. The comprehensive report will allow us to look at the water quality trends in the watershed since 1994, give us an idea as to where any sources of impairment may be coming from, and provide guidance as to what steps we should take next for monitoring, restoration, and preservation. To view the full report visit [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org). For more information about SBWA's Volunteer Monitoring Program, call Nicole Rahman at 908-782-0422 ext. 14.

*Note: See related article on page 4 about the Annual Monitoring Conference. Also see article on page 10 about another award the SBWA has received.*



**VOLUME 48 No. 1  
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SBWA is a proud member of  
Earth Share of New Jersey

Please check out our  
web site.  
[www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org)



## **BACK TO THE FUTURE**

By Bill Kibler, Executive Director

My house is old. We live on the South Branch in the National Historic District in Califon. The historians who dated the house are confident that it was built after 1735 but before 1760 because all of the beams in the house are hand-hewn. The first saw mill was running in Califon by 1760 and no one would be crazy enough to hand hew beams when there was a mill in town. I like the look of hand-hewn timbers, but I'm sure the workers who built my house would have preferred milled lumber to the back-breaking task of cutting beams by hand.

What that means to me is that my house knew a time when there was no mill dam in Califon and the South Branch was mostly free flowing from Budd Lake to Branchburg, all 51 miles. My dream is for my house and our watershed to see that day again.

There are several dams and other barriers in the main stem of the South Branch. They include large dams, like the one at Lake Solitude in High Bridge, and a number of much smaller structures like dikes and weirs. These structures have a common attribute: they're bad for water quality. For example, dams create slow water that favors the growth of algae and plants, including invasive species, which cause dissolved oxygen levels to fall below NJDEP standards, threatening fish and other aquatic life. Dams cause water temperatures to rise in summer, creating potentially lethal conditions for trout and other sensitive aquatic communities. The silt that fills in behind dams destroys key aquatic habitat. Typically, the pooled areas above a dam contain only one-half the number of fish species found in free-flowing stretches of the river. This may seem paradoxical, but dams also can contribute significantly to downstream erosion. A stream naturally carries a certain load of sediment. If that sediment is removed when the water is held by a dam, the "sediment starved" river picks up additional sediment below the dam, causing erosion of the banks and stream bed.

Like the Delaware, the Raritan River historically supported a spawning run of American Shad. There are efforts underway to restore shad to the Raritan. Dams block the migration routes for shad and other fish. Clearing dams and other barriers from the South Branch would help restore the shad runs that the Lenape Indians and early European settlers relied upon and that are a natural part of our river's ecology.

Major efforts are underway to remove harmful dams across the United States. Plans are being developed to remove dams on the Klamath River in California and Oregon, and two dams are slated for removal on the Penobscot River in Maine, as examples. In a watershed just next-door to us, the Musconetcong Watershed Association is having great success removing obsolete dams. They will have significant long-term improvements in water quality to show for their hard work.

Removing dams on the South Branch will improve water quality, protect vital stream habitat, and help ensure the survival of trout and other aquatic life. The web of life in our watershed—including insects, fish, birds, wildlife, and humans—relies on a clean, healthy river to thrive. We have a historical opportunity to begin restoring our river to its natural condition.

Removing the dam at Lake Solitude, stabilizing the silt above the dam, and restoring the aquatic habitat will be a major accomplishment and will create measurably cleaner water and a healthier environment. You'll be hearing more from us on this initiative in the coming weeks and months. We're very excited about this incredible opportunity to have a major positive impact on our watershed and look forward to your enthusiastic support for this effort.



## Help Clean Up the South Branch Raritan River on April 19

We will hold our 18th Annual Spring River Clean-Up on Saturday, April 19, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed to help clean up the river and surrounding land at 20 sites throughout the entire watershed from the river's beginning at Budd Lake in Mount Olive Township to its end in Branchburg. Come join us and spend the morning making your community sparkle!

Anyone can participate! Individuals, scouts, schools, churches, and senior citizen groups are just some of the people who have participated in the past. Last year, over 630 volunteers collected several tons of trash throughout the watershed. We need your help to have a successful clean up again this year!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Nicole Rahman, Program Director, at 908-782-0422 ext. 14, or e-mail nicolahman@sbwa.org. Please pre-register by Tuesday, April 15, 2008.

## MARK YOUR 2008 CALENDAR

**Community Well Testing** — Also check our web site for additional dates.

**April 21** — Alexandria Township

**May 5** — Lebanon Township

**Annual Member Meeting and Dinner** — **March 28**. See details on page 12.

**Hunterdon County Green Table Forums** All forums are held at the Echo Hill Lodge from 8:00—10:00 a.m.

**March 20** — Homeowners and Wildlife, Can't We All Live Together?

**May 15** — Municipal Planning Incorporating Natural Systems

**Earth Share Celebrates New Jersey** — **April 12** at Dancer Farm Bed and Breakfast Inn, New Egypt, NJ from 5:00—8:00 p.m. For more details visit [www.earthsharenj.org](http://www.earthsharenj.org). SBWA is a member of Earth Share of New Jersey.

**Field Trip to Hoffman Park Restoration in Union Township** — **April 17** at 8:00 a.m.

**Annual Spring River Clean-up** — **April 19** from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. See above.

**WOW Teacher Workshop** — **May 15**. Workshop on Wonders of Wetlands Curriculum & Activity Guide.

**Annual Ride for the River Fundraiser** — **May 17** See article on page 9.

**Volunteer Monitoring Training** — **June 7**. Learn how to monitor the health of your local streams.

**Treasures of the South Branch** — **June 14** at the Red Mill Museum in Clinton. The next issue of *The Current* will have details or check our web site.

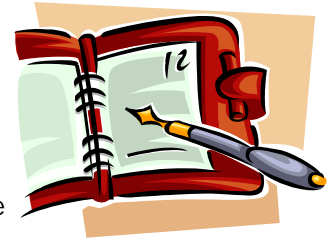
**Stream Monitoring by Volunteers** — **June 14—29**. SBWA's volunteer stream monitors will be collecting macro-invertebrate samples for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

**Wildlife Conservation Night** — **September 3** at the Somerset Patriots game. See details on page 11.

**Casino Night Fundraiser**— **October 11** at the Flemington Elks Lodge in Flemington. The next issue of *The Current* will have details.

**Annual Volunteer Monitoring Conference** — **November 8**. Join us at the Echo Hill Lodge to hear the results of this year's monitoring season. There will also be a presentation by a guest speaker.

Visit the Calendar page on the SBWA web site at [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org) for dates of other meetings and events throughout the year.



Mark your day to volunteer at SBWA. Please check the SBWA web site for a list of opportunities.



## Local Waterways Are Healthy According to Stream Critters

By Nicole Rahman, Program Director

On Saturday, November 10, 2007, at Echo Hill Environmental Education Area, we presented the results of our 2007 river monitoring season. Our recently completed comprehensive report on the health of the South Branch Raritan River using 12 years of our monitoring data was also showcased.

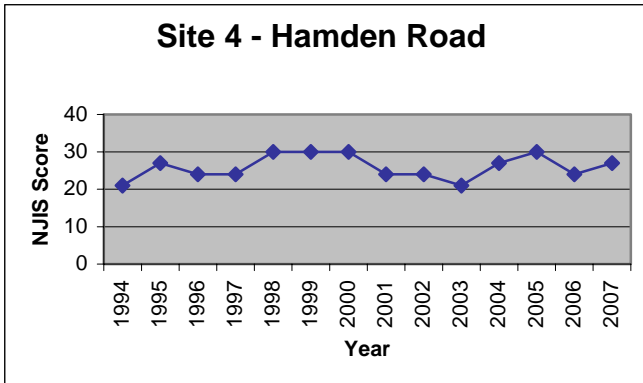
This was the 14th year of collecting biological data at 18 sites along the South Branch and its tributaries. Every June trained volunteers collect a macroinvertebrate, or "bug" sample at their assigned sites along the river. They follow specific protocols to maintain accuracy and precision in the data collection. This bug sample is analyzed at a certified lab. The species of bugs present tells us whether the river is healthy or not. Certain bugs can live in polluted water, but others cannot. If you find a large number and variety types of bugs that need clean water to survive, you know you have a healthy river.



**The Attentive Audience at the Volunteer Monitoring Conference**

Of the 18 sites monitored this year, 13 were non-impaired, 5 were moderately impaired, and none were severely impaired. This is similar to last year's results of 14 non-impaired and 4 moderately impaired.

Trends in water quality were discussed by the guest speaker, Ben Jessup, Aquatic Ecologist from Tetra Tech, and author of the report, in his presentation, "South Branch Raritan River – 12-Year Monitoring Trends," which was the highlight of the event. The EPA had provided a \$20,000 grant in 2006 to prepare this comprehensive report analyzing and documenting trends in river health. The report was published by Tetra Tech and released this past summer.



**Hamden Road Monitoring Site —  
NJ Impairment Scores 1994 - 2007.  
Non-impaired for 2007!**

Ben explained the results of the report and what they mean for the river. In the report, it was shown that urban areas increased equally throughout the watershed area from 1994 to 2005, while agriculture was stable. Ben stated, "However, the further you head downstream, the more agriculture you encounter and the lower the water quality is according to the bugs. The habitat quality also diminishes as you head downstream. I would recommend evaluating the habitat more frequently, collecting replicate bug samples for quality assurance, and continuing to monitor consistently each year."

We'd like to thank all of the volunteers, monitoring advisory committee members, spring workshop trainers, and sponsors. These dedicated people make the monitoring program possible.

For more information about becoming a volunteer monitor, please call Nicole Rahman, Program Director, at 908-782-0422 ext. 14.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS *September 15 to December 31, 2007*

Molly Crowther  
Sarah Dougan  
Kristin DuFosse  
Geraldine Esposito  
Steve Foster  
Leslie and Helga Hopkins

Gene and Dana McCarthy  
Nancy Olds  
Judith Richterman  
Mark Sharrock  
Gene Slowinski and Kathryn Koch  
Tom and Linda Southard

Corporate Members:  
Central Jersey Chapter of Trout  
Unlimited  
Sander Mechanical Service, LLC  
(Branchburg)

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members. Please call us if you need information or have a concern about water quality or potential threats to our watershed.

Also, please stop by our office to learn about volunteer opportunities. We want you to help us continue our important work.



### To All Our Members: Are your friends and neighbors members?

We can help you convince your friends and neighbors that membership in SBWA means helping to preserve a healthy watershed for the future. Recruit five new members for 2007-2008 and get your next annual membership fee free. We have membership kits for prospective members that we can send to you or directly to your friend or neighbor. Please call us at 908-782-0422 or e-mail us at [info@sbwa.org](mailto:info@sbwa.org).

## Member Profile

Name: Mary Melfi  
Resident of: Flemington Borough  
Member of SBWA since: 2006

Mary Melfi has been a prominent public servant in Hunterdon County since 1993, when she served on the Flemington Borough Planning Board, and was subsequently elected to the Borough Council in 1994. In 2006, she was elected as County Clerk, where she has taken her enthusiasm for serving and demonstrated her bias for action by enhancing hours and services to benefit the public.



Mary Melfi at Her Swearing in  
as County Clerk

Mary's involvement with the SBWA began as the Borough's Clean Community Coordinator. She always made sure the SBWA received a portion of the grant for its yearly clean up day. In 2005 when the Reading-Fleming Middle School faced budget restraints and was forced to eliminate the Camp Bernie trip, it afforded the Borough and the SBWA the ability to collaborate in yet another way — education! By working with the Reading-Fleming Middle School, an exciting program developed to educate the youth on the value of clean water and protecting our watershed. She was personally so impressed with the dedication of Bill Kibler and Nicole Rahman, that she joined the SBWA as an individual member.

For her efforts, Mary received the SBWA's Environmental Education Award in 2007. When learning about the award, Mary said, "It is an honor to receive this recognition from such a great organization."



## A New Staff Introduction

*Lauren is an AmeriCorps member and is serving as a NJ Watershed Ambassador for 2007-2008. Her time is split between the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the Upper Raritan Watershed Association (URWA), and the SBWA. She will play a major role in helping us to coordinate and implement our annual stream clean-up this spring. A special note of thanks to last year's Watershed Ambassador, Katherine Axt, who is now working for the NJ DEP in Trenton.*



My name is Lauren Theis, and I am the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassador at the SBWA for 2007-2008. As the Ambassador for Watershed Management Area 8, I spend my time both at the SBWA and at the URWA in Bedminster. I grew up on the banks of Budd Lake, New Jersey's largest natural lake, and so the protection of our local bodies of water is very important to me.

In May of 2007, I received a Bachelor's of Science degree in the Biological Sciences, with a strong focus in ecology and evolution from Cook College at Rutgers University. The perspectives on the environment that Cook College helped me develop will definitely aid me in teaching others about the importance of our Earth and how we can help to protect it.

Everybody lives in a watershed, but not everybody knows what one is! I would like to spread the word to our community about how our everyday activities on land can truly affect the quality of our water. These presentations are fun, informative and interesting, and demonstrate what individuals in our community can do to help prevent damage to our watershed and hopefully reverse the negative effects we are already seeing. I also hold hands-on volunteer assessment training sessions to teach citizens how we can observe certain aspects of the habitat surrounding a water body to assess its health.

I am a free resource to the SBWA community and look forward to teaching the importance of watershed management! Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions and concerns or to schedule a presentation. I look forward to working with you and sharing my knowledge in a fun-filled way so that together we can help to preserve our most precious resource!

For more information contact Lauren Theis at 908-782-0422 ext. 16, or e-mail [laurentheis@sbwa.org](mailto:laurentheis@sbwa.org).

**SBWA STAFF:** Bill Kibler, Executive Director; Nicole Rahman, Program Director; Ellen Cronan, Watershed Project Manager; Lynn Becker, Director of Development and Member Relations; Dee Ely, Office Manager; Mary Licetti, Accounting; Lauren Theis, Watershed Ambassador; Alan and Barbara Rennie, Kandi Kaczetow, Marie Comerford, Tom Southard, and Harold Blackstone, Environmental Educators.

**2008 OFFICERS:** *President:* James Hill; *Vice President:* Fred Puelle; *Secretary:* Patricia Stover; *Treasurer:* Ken Jagel.

**2008 TRUSTEES:** Randy Block, Dave Clapp, Karen Elbert, Oliver Elbert, Amy S. Greene, John Madden, Kathy Madden, Elizabeth (Tish) Plum, Nick Romenenko, Kay Serebrakian, Sam Stothoff, Johannah Weinhofer, and John Williamson

Contact SBWA at 908-782-0422 or e-mail us at [info@sbwa.org](mailto:info@sbwa.org).



**Thanks to the Contributors to Our Annual Appeal**  
(through January 22, 2008)

\$1,000 +

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Charitable Giving

Ilona English  
Patricia Stover

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Jim and Sharon Hill  
Constantine and Sally Kallas

Sam and Verna Stothoff  
Ron W. and Martha Subber

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Marfy Goodspeed

Janice Haggerty  
Fred and Rose Puelle  
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Karl Mausser  
Ronald Monaco  
Paul Morrongiello  
Stewart Pravda & Cathy Monblatt

Linda Stedman  
Samuel Taylor  
Tom and Pam Tisza  
John Zajac

All 2007 Annual Appeal contributors will be recognized in the 2007 Annual Report that will be distributed at the Annual Dinner on March 28, 2008. Also, all contributors will be listed on our web site, [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org).

**More Special Thanks**

Donations

- The Large Foundation — \$18,000 to support operations.
- Bunbury Company — \$10,000 grant to support expansion of our environmental education program, "The Waterways Stewardship Project."
- Watershed Institute — \$5,000 grant to support our Volunteer Monitoring program.
- Norcross Foundation — \$4000 for purchase of LCD projector and large format printer.
- Dow Chemical Company Foundation — \$2,000.
- Dodge Foundation — \$1,000 recommended by Ross Dannis in recognition of awards for Stream Monitoring and Education.
- Amwell Valley Trail Association — \$575 donation from proceeds of their Annual Hunter Pace Ride.
- William J. Lee — \$500 to support general operating expenses.
- Wal-Mart of Whitehouse Station — \$500 donation.
- Wal-Mart of Clinton — \$400 donation.
- Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts — \$265.
- Walter Chandoha — donating photography for River Watch Club recognition gifts.
- Madeline Fisher — donating two chairs and two couches that once belonged to SBWA founder Hermia Lechner.

Volunteers

- Laraine Mocenigo for designing the Annual Appeal brochure.



## Thanks to our 2007 River Watch Club Members

**River Stewards:** Cassa Family, Walter Chandoha, Ilona English, Pat Stover.

**Stream Stewards:** Jim and Sharon Hill, Connie and Sally Kallas, Wayne Paglieri, Sam and Verna Stothoff, Ron and Martha Subber.

**Site Stewards:** Dave Clapp, Marty Goodspeed, Janice Haggerty, John Holt, Frank Hooper, Fred and Rose Puelle, Judith Richterman and Edward Ludlow, William Riley, Williamson Marketing Communication.

**Friends of the River:** Phil and Lucy Fleming, Sandra and John Frisoli, Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, Ken and Milly Jagel, Mary Melfi, Tish Plum.

SBWA's River Watch Club recognizes those members who demonstrate their environmental stewardship and appreciation for the South Branch of the Raritan River by making annual contributions of \$150 or more to the association.

We invite you to become a charter member of the River Watch Club and join others who understand and appreciate what it takes to protect and enhance our water resources for future generations. For details on the River Watch Club, visit our web site, [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org), or call Lynn Becker at 908-782-0422 ext. 13.



**Wish List...**

- Three of our printers have recently decided to retire on their own. We are therefore in need of three LaserJet printers in working condition.
- Please call first to see if our need has already been met. Thanks!

**Other Ways to Help ...**

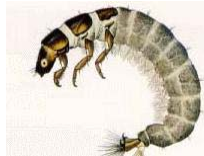
- Donate a car or motorcycle to SBWA and get a tax deduction. Go to [www.vehiclemanagementservices.com](http://www.vehiclemanagementservices.com) or call 888-395-3955.
- Use GoodSearch.com as your search engine and designate SBWA as your cause.
- Contribute through giving programs at your workplace.
- Shop at [www.giveline.com](http://www.giveline.com).



## Join Us at the River This Spring for Group “Bug” Studies

Spring is almost here and along with it comes the Waterways Stewardship Project, our core environmental education program. This program provides in-class, in-field, and computer-based environmental education designed to foster students' appreciation for the natural world, from the tiniest “bug” that lives in the bottom of their neighborhood stream to the larger ecosystem supported by the watershed in which they live. Recognizing the need to establish a human connection with the natural world, the program provides students with the very tangible and personal experience of discovering “hidden” aquatic life while conducting in-field observations and experiments, the results of which can be used to form a hypothesis in a real life science project directly related to the community in which they live. This experience, coupled with the knowledge gained during their in-class sessions, promotes a sense of stewardship for the environment and an appreciation of the ways that human behavior can positively or negatively impact natural systems.

This program is currently being offered for grades 3 through 9. Topics include watersheds, groundwater, and macroinvertebrates. Schools, home school groups, scouts, and others are welcome to participate. Space is limited and fills quickly, so spread the word to your child's teacher, scout leader, etc! Please call Nicole Rahman at 908-782-0422 ext. 14 for more information, or to schedule.



## Sixth Annual Ride for the River Fundraiser on May 17



On May 17 (rain date May 18) SBWA is holding its sixth annual Ride for the River fundraiser, a Motorcycle Poker Run that highlights the beauty of the South Branch Raritan River Watershed. The Ride for the River Poker Run starts at the Spruce Run Recreation Area. Riders will travel 65 miles through the watershed. The ride ends at Lebanon Memorial Park where top poker hands will win prizes and all will enjoy great food.

This celebration will feature the music of The John Austin Band, a local band that has volunteered to play at the event. All riders are encouraged to enter the People's Choice Bike Show and compete for trophies in multiple motorcycle categories. Vendors will be offering clothing and accessories. Families are welcome at the Lebanon Memorial Park Picnic.

The SBWA is also seeking sponsors for the event. Last year's event was sponsored by over 40 businesses and individuals whose names were featured at the event. Sponsors are welcome to attend the picnic at the park as our guests.

The SBWA is also soliciting donations of prizes for the participants.

More details (about registration and directions) will be published in the Spring issue of *The Current* and on our website ([www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org)). You can also contact Lynn Becker at 908-782-0422 ext. 13, or e-mail [lynnbecker@sbwa.org](mailto:lynnbecker@sbwa.org).



Riders Gather Last Year at Spruce Run Reservoir



## SBWA Receives ANJEC'S 2007 NJ Environmental Achievement Award

By Nicole Rahman, Program Director



We have received Honorable Mention for the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions' (ANJEC) 2007 New Jersey Environmental Achievement Award. SBWA was the only non-profit to receive the award this year and was recognized for the award at ANJEC's 2007 Environmental Congress held on October 12, 2007 in West Windsor, NJ.

We received the award for our just released Volunteer Monitoring Program Comprehensive Report. The monitoring program was started in 1994 with ten monitoring sites to collect baseline data on the water quality of the South Branch of the Raritan River and its tributaries. This area stretches from the river's source in Mount Olive Township, through Washington, Roxbury, Tewksbury, Clinton, Readington, Raritan, Flemington, Neshanic Station, Hillsborough, and East Amwell Townships, to its confluence with the Raritan River proper in Branchburg Township. 2007 marked the 14th year of the program with 18 monitoring sites, and over 60 dedicated volunteers without whom this program would not be possible. This accumulation of data was analyzed to produce the comprehensive report.

The comprehensive report will allow us to look at the water quality trends in the watershed since 1994, give us an idea as to where any sources of impairment may be coming from, and provide guidance as to what steps we should take next for monitoring, restoration, and preservation. To view the full report visit [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org). For more information about SBWA's Volunteer Monitoring Program, call Nicole Rahman at 908-782-0422 ext. 14.

## Out and About

Here are some of the events where SBWA had an exhibit.

- Hunterdon County Parks' Earth Day at Deer Path Park — April
- Readington Memorial Day Parade — May
- Ortho McNeill Enviro Fair — June
- Farmers and Businessmen's Picnic — July
- Hunterdon County Fair — August
- Peaceful Valley Orchard Craft Fair — September
- Hunterdon Land Trust "Day on the Farm" — September
- Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Home and Business Expo — October
- Whitehouse United Methodist Church Environmental Fair — October
- Ortho Diagnostics Enviro Day — October

Please come to these events in the future and support SBWA. Volunteers are always welcome!



The SBWA staff made these presentations:

"Using Macroinvertebrates as Indicators of Water Quality" at Watershed Partnership of NJ in June at the Willow School, Gladstone, NJ.

"SBWA Volunteer Monitoring Program" at NJ DEP Watershed Watch Network's Volunteer Monitoring Summit in November at the Cooper River Boathouse, Pennsauken, NJ.

"About the SBWA" at the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited's meeting in November at the American Legion in Whitehouse Station, NJ.



## Walnut Brook Restoration

By Ellen Cronan, Watershed Project Manager

On the western edge of Flemington and just north of Route 12 there is a small park named Mine Brook. Through that park runs a small stream and few people realize the stream is called Walnut Brook and is the headwaters of the First Neshanic River. It flows from the heights of the Hunterdon Plateau, through the park, under Route 12 and under Route 202 where it meets with the Second Neshanic River.



Eroded bank of Walnut Brook.

With just a brief look it is easy to tell that the stream needs restoration. The banks are eroded, in some areas there is more than five vertical feet of exposed soil. Erosion increases with every precipitation event because the stream is disconnected from its floodplain. The small number of trees on each side of the bank are unstable, in some areas grass is mowed to the bank edge. Two existing stream bends are so unstable often you can see chunks of sod in the stream bed from recently sloughed banks.

The Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance (owner of the Dvoor Farm) and North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development have received funds from the NJ Wetlands Mitigation Council to restore two sections of the stream and create a wetland. The project will reconnect 11 acres of floodplain and stabilize two stream bends with the goals of restoring natural stream function and improving overall water quality. The project design is almost complete and initial riparian buffer planting could start as early as spring 2008. The major construction is planned for late summer 2008 to coincide with natural low water flow.

SBWA is a project partner and is responsible for macroinvertebrate sampling. Just as in our annual water quality program, SBWA will use macroinvertebrates to analyze the stream health. Samples will be taken three times a year before construction, during construction and post construction. The first samples have been taken and while the spring results showed a healthy stream, the summer and fall results were disappointing. Historically Walnut Brook can run dry in the summer. With the very dry conditions this past year, the stream was dry for more than six weeks and this may have affected the macroinvertebrates.

For more information on this project or to help with the sampling, please contact Ellen Cronan, Watershed Project Manager, at 908-782-0422 ext. 15.

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## Wildlife Conservation Night at the Somerset Patriots Baseball Game on September 3

Join the Somerset Patriots and the SBWA in their efforts to increase awareness of protecting our environment and Wildlife.

Learn more about how you can help protect the environment along with the SBWA. You can help by purchasing Somerset Patriots game ticket vouchers. Ticket vouchers may be brought to the Patriot's Ballpark ticket window for redemption to any 2008 home game. Tickets are \$10, of which \$6 benefits SBWA.



An excellent choice for a game would be September 3rd, because the Somerset Patriots are sponsoring a Wildlife Conservation Night.

Please visit our web site, [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org) to check the Somerset Patriots' full schedule and to download the voucher form, or contact Lynn Becker at 908-782-0422 ext. 13.



## Annual Member Meeting and Dinner — March 28



A Well-traveled Black Bear in Mount Olive Township (Photo courtesy of Dan Serebrakian)

All members of SBWA are invited to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting and Dinner on Friday, March 28. The meeting will be at the Copper Hill Country Club in Flemington, from 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. The festivities will start at 6:00 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres; the dinner and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members.

The special guest speaker is Michelle Ruggiero from NJDEP. Her presentation, "Know the Bear Facts," is all about black bears in NJ. There will be NO live exhibits this year!

For more information about, and tickets for the dinner, please call Dee Ely at 908-782-0422 ext. 10.

Please bring your friends and neighbors to this exciting evening.

Location: Copper Hill Country Club, 100 Copper Hill Road, Ringoes, NJ. Phone: 908-782-4455.



**VOLUME 48 NUMBER 1**  
**Winter 2008**

Lechner House  
Echo Hill Environmental Area  
41 Lilac Drive  
Flemington, NJ 08822

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