



# The Basin Bulletin

*Newsletter of the Raritan Basin Watershed Management Project*

## Commitment: "to pledge or assign oneself to a particular course of action."



Nick Polanin

As Chair of the Raritan Basin Council, I want to take this opportunity to recognize all the efforts and dedication evident in our cooperative commitment on behalf of watershed management initiatives here in the Raritan. Encompassing 1,100 square miles with 1.2 million residents, the basin we call home is a perfect example of the urban / rural interface - urbanized population centers, modern suburban developments, rural agricultural production, and preserved open space, all linked by "rivers" of transportation. As the Agriculture & Resource Management Agent in Somerset County, I address issues in these areas on a daily basis. With an MS in Horticulture from Rutgers, and a BS from Cook College in Natural Resource Management, my environmental career has taken me from laboratory and field work on controlling gypsy moth and Colorado potato beetle to municipal, residential, and commercial arboriculture to my current faculty position with Rutgers Cooperative Extension. In the role as Chair of the Raritan Basin Council, I offer my organizational and communication skills to assist in facilitating an effective, proactive and inclusive process, skills I have used quite successfully in several state and regional environmental organizations. I thank the Council members and stakeholders for accepting me in this leadership role, and welcome any comments or suggestions as we continue to move forward.

I applaud the members of the Raritan Basin Council, the Technical Advisory Committee, the Watershed Management Area Committees, the Raritan Watershed Agricultural Committee, to name a few, for using their diversity to our advantage! In formulating a workable watershed management plan over the next two years, diversity in thought, background, opinion and expression can only strengthen our actions and overall success as a group. Again I congratulate those who have already given so much of their time and effort, including all the experts and supporting staff of NJ Water Supply Authority, and encourage those who as yet have not actively participated to come and join us!

These past few months have been very busy for the Council and its affiliates. Familiarizing ourselves with each other's expertise and backgrounds, finalizing operating principles, and categorizing watershed management issues within a designed priority system are just some of the tasks the group has addressed. Upcoming Council efforts, among others, will focus on surface water quality models (TMDLs), stakeholder leadership and input, components and format of a *good* watershed management plan, the annual plan of work, and of course assisting all our affiliates in any way possible. Have a great summer, and remember, wherever you travel or vacation, you can always keep up with our progress by visiting our website, <http://www.raritanbasin.org>.

~ Nick Polanin, Chair, Raritan Basin Council

### BREAKING NEWS

**Denise Zambrowski** has left the NJ Water Supply Authority to become Communications Coordinator in the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Amy L. Shallcross, P.E.**, who had served as North and South Branch WMA Committee Rep and Vice Chair will be starting with the NJ Water Supply Authority on July 2nd as a Watershed Protection Specialist.

### Basin History

*Contributed by Jillian Sico*

Scottish Pirate 'Captain Kidd' anchored in the Raritan Bay in 1700, supposedly burying his treasure on a nearby beach!

### What's Inside?

- How to do your part to conserve water -p. 2
- **Millstone PL-556 Project Update - p. 2**
- Who's Who -p. 3
- **Calendar of Summer Events -p. 3**
- Non-point Source Pollution Forum Review - p. 4

# EDUCATION FORUM

## Water, Water Everywhere?

By Noelle MacKay, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

Although many of us consider the supply of “clean and plentiful” water as infinite, it is in fact a limited resource that needs to be conserved and protected from contamination. In fact only 3% of the Earth's water is fresh, and about three-fourths of that is in the Arctic icecaps and glaciers. Although the Raritan Basin currently has sufficient water to meet demand, by the year 2040, this may not be the case.

Everyday, we need water to drink, bathe, wash, fish, canoe, irrigate our farms, and run our industries. Often, we only think of our water use when we are in a drought situation, as New Jersey was in 1999. Then, believe it or not, water use actually increases! However, there are ways to save water without changing your lifestyle, and it can save you money in the process!

First, find out how much water you are currently using. The average person uses between 85 and 100 gallons of water every day. Then, get your family together and challenge each other to use 60 gallons each day. Make a list of ways to conserve water. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Check all faucets, pipes, and toilets periodically for leaks.
- Take shorter showers or take a bath
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket
- Turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth, shaving, etc.
- Select proper water level for laundry
- Don't let the water run when washing dishes
- Fill your dishwasher
- Try automatic irrigation systems with moisture sensors
- Water the lawn, not the pavement, only when needed and then in the early morning

- Take your car to a carwash (they recycle their water) or wash your car on the lawn, not the driveway

Encourage farmers, industry and your local municipality to conserve water as well. Farmers can participate in state and federal programs that fund water conservation practices on farmland. Industry can reuse treated wastewater for lawn irrigation, cooling processes and fire suppression. Ensure that your municipality has ordinances (well-head protection; stream corridor, etc.) in place that would help protect existing water supplies.

When you have put your conservation plan into action, check your meter to see how much water and money you have saved! Then have a tall, cold glass of water to toast your success.

## **UPDATE: Millstone River Watershed PL-566 Project**

By Greg Westfall

The Millstone River Watershed is the focus of a PL83-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Project. The Project is led by a Steering Committee made up of representatives appointed by their County Freeholders in Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset Counties as well as representatives from local municipalities, soil conservation districts, New Jersey Water Supply Authority, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and others. The Steering Committee has identified numerous goals and objectives including flood damage reduction, water-based recreational development, water quality improvement/protection and others.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which is assisting the Steering Committee, is currently identifying structures in the flood-prone areas and obtaining their respective elevations. The elevations include those of the first floor, low opening or basement door/window and the adjacent ground. Areas where elevation information has already been obtained include Millstone Borough, East Millstone, Blackwells Mill and Griggstown as well as numerous isolated areas along River Road in Hillsborough and Montgomery

Townships and along Canal Road in Franklin Township.

This information will be summarized to identify the dollar amount of flood damages that occur on an annual basis. Later in the project, various flood damage reduction alternatives and their costs will be developed. In order for Federal funding for implementation of a particular alternative, the average annual benefits must exceed the average annual costs (Federal and all other) for implementing that alternative. In addition to its primary purpose, this elevation information will be used by the Somerset County Flood Information System. Somerset County will be able to assist local municipal emergency management coordinators to more accurately identify and notify those property owners where evacuation may be necessary during a flood.

Following public meetings, the Steering Committee has identified several frequently asked questions received from members of the public. These questions with their answers, as developed by Steering Committee members and NRCS staff, are posted on the project website at [http://www.raritanbasin.org/nrcs\\_millstone.htm](http://www.raritanbasin.org/nrcs_millstone.htm). The public will have the opportunity to address additional questions or comments to the Steering Committee and NRCS staff at the same site.

# WHO'S WHO???

By Jillian Sico - NJDEP

Some interesting facts about the leadership of  
YOUR Watershed Management Area Committees

## **George Hawkins**—Chair, Millstone WMA Committee

George is the Executive Director of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, where he manages and oversees the budget, 21 employees, and hundreds of volunteers. He has been with Stony Brook Watershed since the end of 1997. Most people do not realize that George also manages a small sheep and chicken farm!

## **Mary Beth Koza**—Vice-Chair, Millstone WMA Committee

Mary Beth is the Associative Director of the Environmental Health & Safety section of Bristol-Myers Squibb, on the Hopewell Campus, where she oversees the program. She has been with BMS for 22 years, and at the Hopewell campus since July of 1997. She also has 3 teenagers, and is a high school swim coach.

## **Heidi McLaughlin**—Vice-Chair, Millstone WMA Committee

Heidi is a Regulatory Officer at the Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority, working on regulatory environmental complaints for water and air, as well as dealing with related safety concerns. She has been in her job since July of 1989, and enjoys Swedish folk dancing.

## **Dave Peifer**—Chair, North & South Branch Raritan WMA Committee

Dave is the Executive Director of the Upper Raritan Watershed Association, which has served Morris, Somerset, and Hunterdon counties since 1959. Dave is basically in charge of running the organization, as he has been doing since 1981, only 2 years after joining. He claims he has no life, working 50 to 70 hours a week—but he recently decided he is going to buy a motorcycle!

## **Geoff Knapp** - Vice Chair, North & South Branch Raritan WMA Committee

Geoff is Environmental Specialist at Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority, which is in charge of ground water issues in 15 municipalities in WMAs 8 (Raritan) and 6 (Passaic). He currently works on the Alamatong Wellfield, the acquisition of open space, and an EPA brownfields project in the Rockaway River Watershed. He has worked at MCMUA since August of 1997. He is also an ice hockey participant and a Ranger fan!

*Vice Chair, North & South Branch Raritan WMA Committee - vacant post*

## **Michael Rogers**—Chair, Lower Raritan WMA Steering Committee

Mike works as the Executive Director of the Monroe Township Municipal Utilities Authority, where he is in charge of all operations. He has been with MUA for 19 years. Not everyone knows that he is also avidly into both landscaping and fishing.

## **Alan Godber**—Vice Chair, Lower Raritan Steering WMA Committee

Alan, a Television Broadcast Engineer, originally worked for the BBC in London, later for CBS and NBC. He is now retired, but is actively involved in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He volunteers for the Milltown Environmental Committee for 12 years, is a trustee with the Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership, and has many interests, including growing vegetables, flowers, and fruit, bicycling, horseback riding, photography, and traveling.

## **Jeannine Der Bedrosian**—Vice Chair, Lower Raritan WMA Steering Committee

Jeannine works as an environmental advisor to East Brunswick Schools and is employed by the NJ Water Resources Research Institute. During her seven years with the East Brunswick Environmental Commission she wrote and administered USEPA and NJDEP grants for two water monitoring projects which served 9 schools and the general public, utilizing over 200 volunteers ages 9 to 73. She has been active with the Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership and in the startup of the South River Watershed Association.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

## JULY

Lower Raritan Subcommittees  
N & S Branch E & ) Committee:  
**See Web site for current listing**

- 11 Lower Raritan E & O Subcommittee  
10AM –Noon, Place TBD
- 17 Millstone Steering Committee  
6:30 - 8:30PM, Mercer Library -  
West Windsor Branch
- 24 Raritan Technical Advisory Committee  
7-9PM, Somerset County Library,  
Bridgewater
- 24 Raritan Basin Council  
3-5PM, Location TBD (see Web)
- 25 Lower Raritan Steering Committee  
7-9PM, Middlesex County  
Planning Board, New Brunswick
- 30 N & S Branch WMA Committee  
6:30 - 8:30PM NJWSA Annex,  
Clinton

## AUGUST

Lower Raritan Subcommittees  
N & S Branch E & O Committee  
**See Web site for current listing**

No other meetings scheduled — Have a  
great summer!

For More Information on the above  
dates, please contact Sally Kean at  
732/356-9344 x23 or  
skean@raritanbasin.org

FOR A COMPLETE LIST-  
ING OF TRAINING OP-  
PORTUNITIES, PLEASE  
VISIT THE WEBSITE @  
**WWW.RARITANBASIN.  
ORG/EDUCATION.HTM**

## Non-Point Source Forum

By Jillian Sico, NJDEP

On May 17th, a forum was held at Middlesex County College to guide new groups putting their non-point source (NPS) pollution ideas into action. Presentations were made by groups who have already implemented projects, sharing successes and failures. With the September deadline for state-funded 319 grant applications quickly approaching, attendees seemed thankful for the input.

The first section included summaries of previous non-point source projects. Presentations were made by Michael Pollock of the South Branch Watershed Association, Steve Yergeau and Noelle MacKay of Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, and Matt Myers from the North Jersey Conservation and Development Council. Each representative discussed their processes in detail, giving a workable framework for future project planners. Despite close questioning of some of the projects' details, listeners seemed to have benefited from the morning session.

Following a short break, three water education projects were presented by Chris Altomari of Stony Brook, Michael Pollock, and Colleen Gould from Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Projects described included a workshop for municipal officials and plans for an educational CD-ROM.

After lunch, four Watershed Restoration Pro-

jects were presented by Jocelyn Bamba of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, William Tanner of Van Cleef Engineering, Bill Kruse of the Middlesex County Department of Planning and Steve Barnes of New York/New Jersey Baykeeper. It was exciting and informative to get an insider's view of all the work that has gone into restoring watershed areas in the Raritan Basin. It was noted by the closing speaker, Dan Van Abs, that both partnership and education were emphasized by all.

Overall, the attendees, while asking tough questions, seemed to have enjoyed the forum. By sharing what worked – and what did not – everyone was able to get a better idea of what to plan for their communities.



Photo Courtesy of Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

*Volunteers working with the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association restoring a stream bank on Beden Brook in the Millstone Watershed Management Area.*

The Raritan Project  
c/o NJ Water Supply Authority  
PO Box 287  
South Bound Brook, NJ 08880



To receive copies of this newsletter, please contact Sally Kean at [skean@raritanbasin.org](mailto:skean@raritanbasin.org) or call 732/356-9344 ext. 23.