

Calendar of Events

<p>April 17 - Groundwater Supply and Ecosystem Needs A must for local planners. FREE but registration required. Pinelands Preservation Alliance 7:00 to 9:00 pm. 609-859-8860, ext.16, rich@pinelandsalliance.org</p>	<p>kids' crafts. Delran Environmental Advisory Agency. Amico Island Park 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm • FREE • www.delrantownship.org</p>
<p>April 19 - Rancocas Conservancy Earth Day Cleanup and Tour Piper's Corner Preserve 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 856-859-2785 • rancocas@bigfoot.com</p>	<p>April 26 (Rain date 4/27) - Spring Wildflower Walk Bring binoculars. TRAIL IS STEEP IN PARTS. Crystal Lake Park • FREE but registration required. 609-265-5068</p>
<p>April 19 - Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge Explore the teamwork of nature's creatures. 11:30 am and 1:30 pm • Adults \$5, children \$3 856-983-3329, ext. 1 • www.cedarrun.org</p>	<p>May 10 - Burlington County Garden Expo 2 Academy Dr., Westhampton 08068 11:00 am to 3:00 pm For more info, call Meredith Melendez at 609-265-5050</p>
<p>April 19 - Moonlight Walk at Whitesbog Village 7:00 pm • \$5 per person 609-896-4646 • www.whitesbog.org</p>	<p>May 10 - Secrets of Pinelands Plants: Historical Uses of Plants 1:00 pm Educator Millicent Moore of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust \$5 members, \$7 non-members 609-893-4646 • www.whitesbog.org</p>
<p>April 20 - Native Plant Sale Pinelands Preservation Alliance 609-859-8860</p>	<p>May 17 - Burlington Birding Bonanza Carpool from park to park. Bring binoculars. Meet at Smith's Woods, E. Railroad Ave., Eastampton 8:00 am • FREE but registration required. 609-265-5068</p>
<p>April 20 - Nature Walk at Crystal Lake Park Bring binoculars. TRAIL IS STEEP IN PARTS. 9:30 am • FREE but registration required. 609-265-5068</p>	<p>June 8 - Burlington County Earth Fair Smithville Park, Easthampton 10:00 am to 4:00 pm 609-265-5068</p>
<p>April 20 - Nature Walk at Amico Island 2:00 pm • FREE but registration is suggested. 609-265-5068</p>	<p>June 28 - Whitesbog Blueberry Festival 609-893-4646 • whitesbog@hotmail.com</p>
<p>April 20 - Earth Day Celebration Environmental workshops, live animal demonstrations,</p>	

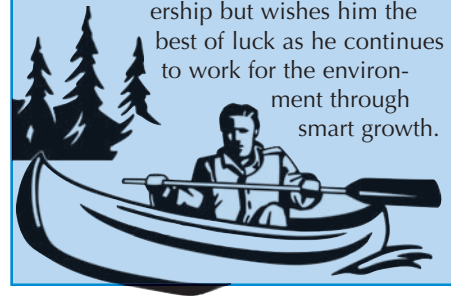
Goodbye and Good Luck!

By Melanie Reding

The Conservancy is reluctantly saying goodbye this month to Board member **Peter Rocco**. Peter has served on the Conservancy's board for the last two years and has lead the charge for our stewardship committee.

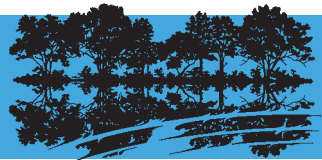
Peter, who had worked as the manager at REI in Marlton, was a constant at our preserve cleanups and often brought new employees to help out. He also was instrumental in the creation of the Medford Canoe Trail that opened in July of 2007. Peter has decided to head to Tucson, Arizona to go to graduate school for Urban Planning.

The Conservancy will miss his leadership but wishes him the best of luck as he continues to work for the environment through smart growth.

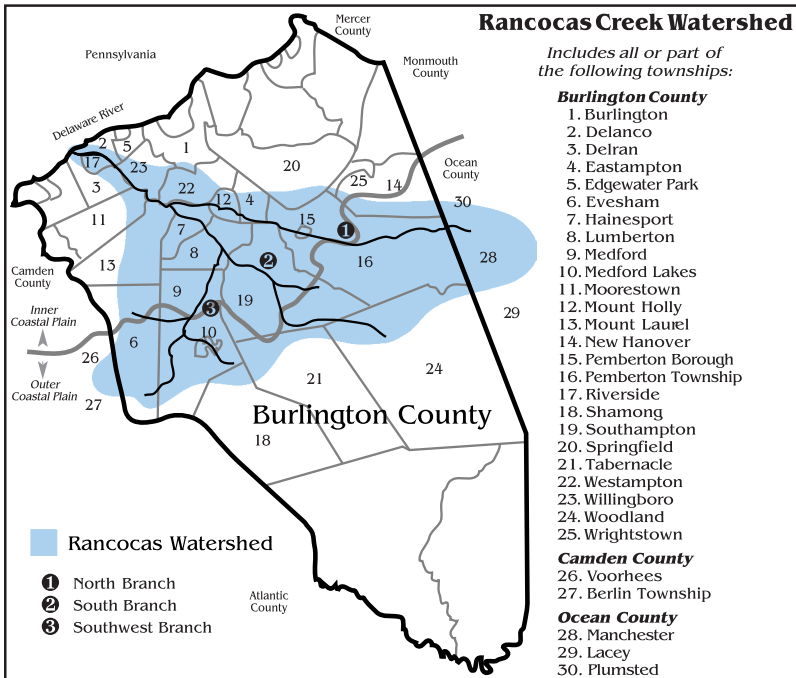


Rancocas Journal

RANCOCAS CONSERVANCY
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Rancocas Journal

NEWSLETTER OF THE RANCOCAS CONSERVANCY
VOLUME 13 NUMBER 1 SPRING 2008



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Do we all appreciate the world around us? Earth Week brings attention to the environment one week out of 52. But, hopefully we realize we can expand the one week into more of a commitment by becoming involved in the Rancocas Conservancy's mission of preserving and protecting our 360 square mile watershed. For those who have answered our past calls for participation, THANK YOU. For those who will take the pledge of time and talent, call us or e-mail us and WELCOME.

President, Board of Trustees

Celebrate Spring and Adopt a Stream in Your Own Community

By Tony Tancini, Watershed Ambassador

Spring's arrival always fills my heart with great joy. While I honor the cold days of winter as Mother Earth sleeps and gets her well-deserved rest, I look forward to seeing her come alive again. I look forward to the blossoming flowers, the longer days, the warm air, the spring showers, and the Earth Day Celebrations.

As this year's current Watershed Ambassador for the Rancocas Creek Watershed, I want to make this spring a time that would inspire all of us to be better stewards of our Mother and home. As a Watershed Ambassador, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful people, given presentations at local schools and completed biological and visual assessments along many of our beautiful streams.

While conducting volunteer monitoring, I noticed that many of the streams in the Rancocas Creek watershed run through residential communities. Indeed, many of our neighbors have a stream running through their very own backyards. I thought, wouldn't it be great if families and friends got together and adopted a stream of their very own as a way to monitor its health and to cleanup the litter found along side of it.

As I thought more about how to get the community involved in volunteer monitor-



Volunteer efforts can help keep area streams clean and clear of litter and debris.

ing, I decided to start the Rancocas Creek Adopt a Stream Club.

Similar to the Adopt a Highway Program, the Rancocas Creek Adopt a Stream Club will offer members the unique opportunity to learn more about their very own backyards, foster stronger community ties, and get us outside and away from the video games, internet, television and other electronic distractions in our daily lives. Club members will receive volunteer monitoring training, which includes instruction on conducting visual and biological assessments, from their Watershed Ambassador and will be able to adopt a stream in their own community.

The stream segment could be in their very own backyard, in their favorite park, or any other location where they like to visit. Club members will then conduct at least one or two stream assessments per year and cleanup the litter they find along

continued on page 3



Clean-up and Guided Tour

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2008

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

at The Rancocas Conservancy's

PIPER'S CORNER PRESERVE*

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Join us for all or part of the day...Light refreshments will be served

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

(609) 859-2785 rancocas@bigfoot.com

*DIRECTIONS to the PRESERVE: From Medford, go east on Tuckerton Rd., beyond Rt. 541 to Shawnee Lane (on left at Lenapi Woods development). Follow Shawnee around to parking area at end. From 206, go west on Tuckerton Rd., approx. 2 miles to Shawnee. Proceed as above.

Learn About Resource Conservation

By Matt Johnson,
Burlington County Coordinator
of Open Space Acquisition
and Park Development

If you are interested in learning about resource conservation from the best and the brightest, I strongly urge you to consider attending the Land Trust Alliance's annual National Land Conservation Conference.

I was fortunate enough to attend the LTA Rally in Denver, Colorado last fall. There I had the opportunity to be a presenter on a panel with other professionals discussing land conservation finance issues, which was not only fun, but very informative. And that's the benefit of going to these conferences. You rub elbows with land trust professionals, preservation leaders and others who are focused on protecting important natural resources, farms, forests, trails and parks!

For example, I attended sessions ranging from Transfer of Development Rights program implementation in Colorado to innovations in park and trail development to "outside the box" conservation grant funding organizations.

In between sessions, there were plenty of chances to meet and greet peers in the land preservation field from all over the country and to tour the region to see first-hand some of the best examples of smart growth and smart preservation. I especially enjoyed walking the incredible trail system in and around downtown Denver and visiting the Boulder Farmer's Market. Hopefully we can implement some of the ideas I got from those vendors at the Burlington County Community Agriculture Center's farmer's market this year!

While I had to endure the Rockies sweeping the Phillies out of the playoffs, my stay in Denver was a lot of fun and I came back to Burlington County energized and full of great, new ideas to better our land preservation and park development programs.

If you share an interest in learning more about resource conservation, reserve September 18-21, 2008 to attend Rally 2008 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information about the Land Trust Alliance and their national conference, check out their website at: www.lta.org or e-mail them at rally6@lta.org to request a brochure. Hope to see you in Pittsburgh!

Disposal of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products

Any product consumed or applied by an individual for health or cosmetic reasons can be defined as a pharmaceutical or personal care product.

These products include prescription or over-the-counter therapeutic drugs, fragrances, cosmetics, sunscreen agents, diagnostic agents, biopharmaceuticals and many others. All of these products have the potential to be excreted or washed into sewage systems and discharged to the aquatic or terrestrial environments.

When medicines are flushed down the toilet, they can harm the beneficial bacteria that are responsible for breaking down waste in the septic system or wastewater treatment plant. Since municipal sewage treatment plants are not engineered for pharmaceutical removal, many medicines are not captured or only partially captured during the treatment process, so they can pass through the treatment plant intact. They are then released into nearby lakes, rivers or ground water with the treated wastewater.

Exposure to small amounts of pharmaceutical and personal care products can have a severe impact on aquatic and amphibian species. In a 2002 study by the U.S. Geological Survey, 80% of the streams sampled showed evidence of drugs, hormones, steroids and personal care products such as



Proper disposal of household goods prevents toxic substances from entering the water stream.

soaps and perfumes.

Some things you can do to reduce the amount of waste pharmaceuticals and personal care products are:

1. Purchase only what you need. Why waste money on pharmaceuticals to just sit on the shelf and expire over time.
2. Mix prescription drugs with substances such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter and put them in impermeable containers.
3. Read the label. Some products contain mercury-added preservatives. If you see it on the label, find an alternative product.
4. Take advantage of community pharmaceutical take-back programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal.

Office of National Drug Control Policy and N.H.DES

RANCOCAS CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 2188
Vincentown, NJ 08088
(609) 859-8860, Ext. 17
rancocas@bigfoot.com

MISSION

The purpose of the Rancocas Conservancy is to preserve, protect, and enhance the ecological and cultural integrity of the Rancocas Creek Watershed.

GOALS

- 1) To act as the land trust for the Rancocas Creek Watershed accepting donations of land and conservation easements, acquiring land deemed suitable for permanent protection, and for transferring land to other entities for appropriate conservation management
- 2) To propose, advocate, and carry out cooperative conservation strategies among the citizenry, public and private sectors in the Rancocas Creek Watershed and adjacent areas
- 3) To educate the citizenry, public and private sectors about the ecological and cultural heritage of the Rancocas Creek Watershed

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Anthony Tancini
AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador

Adopt a Stream

continued from page 1

their adopted stream. Club members will have the opportunity to meet on an annual basis to discuss successes and issues with stream monitoring and identify pollution found during stream cleanups. Also, the current Rancocas Creek Ambassador will be available to provide follow-up training. Club members will not only have an opportunity to monitor the health of the waterways near their homes, but will also get to be outside, learn more about their communities, have an opportunity to network with other environmental organizations and become part of an environmental grassroots movement that may soon sweep across the nation.

Let this spring be a time of rebirth. Let us have a renewed interest in what is happening to our very own neighborhoods and work towards building stronger and cleaner communities. Celebrate Earth Day knowing that you are a steward of Mother Earth. If you are ready for some fun-filled adventure, want to learn more about the water quality in your neighborhood, and are interested in adopting a stream of your very own contact me about becoming a member of the Rancocas Creek Watershed Adopt a Stream Club.

If you have any questions or would like to become part of the Rancocas Creek Watershed Adopt a Stream Club do not hesitate to contact me:

Tony Tancini
(609) 859-8860 ext. 17
tony.ws19@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

By Dr. Mark Thomas, founder, Rancocas Conservancy

JOHN CARL NEESS 1925-2007

Above all, beloved friend

John was born in Milwaukee, where he attended public schools. His early interest in natural history led to involvement at the Milwaukee Museum of Natural History. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a fellowship at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. He completed his doctorate in limnology at UW in 1949, followed by a fellowship at Brookhaven National Laboratory, where Aldo Leopold and Art Hasler were mentors. John taught a broad range of courses in the Department of Zoology and served as a consultant in biostatistical methods throughout the College of Letters and Science.

His teaching and innovative instructional techniques distinguished and

endeared him to students and colleagues.

John was a tireless environmental advocate: he served as director of Wisconsin's Environmental Decade in 1970 and helped to found the Columbia County Environmental Protection League. His testimony and challenges to the plans of energy utilities significantly influenced energy policy in Wisconsin. He served on the National Academy of Sciences committee "Energy and the Fate of Ecosystems" during the Carter administration.

During the 1980's, John became active in politics, non-profit work, and philanthropy, serving on the staff of the Gay Center, the boards of The United, The New Harvest Foundation, and the Shorewood Hills Board of Trustees. He

served as consultant for progressive candidates and causes, including the restoration of native vegetation along the Mississippi River.

John and his partner traveled widely, and fell in love with the Pine Barrens of South Jersey. They purchased a small cabin along the Greenwood Branch of the Rancocas Creek and helped to found the Rancocas Conservancy, a watershed-based land trust.

John's love of the natural world, culture, and music, remained his well-springs to the last day of his life. A memorial gathering will be held in Madison in June. **John requested that memorial donations be directed to the John C. Neess Conservation Fund, Rancocas Conservancy, P.O. Box 2188, Vincentown, New Jersey 08088.**

YES! I want to support the Rancocas Conservancy in their effort to preserve and protect the Rancocas Creek.

Please select you level of support

Individual _____\$ 25.00
Family _____\$ 35.00
Sponsor _____\$ 50.00
Patron _____\$ 100.00
Benefactor _____\$ 500.00
Steward _____\$1,000.00

Please make your check payable to the Rancocas Conservancy

Membership contributions are tax deductible

**MAIL THIS FORM TO:
RANCOCAS
CONSERVANCY
P.O. BOX 2188
VINCENTOWN
NJ 08088**

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone# _____ E-mail _____

I would like to volunteer my time to help the Rancocas Conservancy grow!

In 1990, a group of concerned citizens formed the Rancocas Conservancy, a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation to acquire, hold and preserve open space within the Rancocas Creek Watershed. We invite you to participate in the activities of the Conservancy. Please consider volunteering in a way you find personally rewarding. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Environmental Education
- Newsletter
- Special Events
- Membership
- Publicity/Media Relations
- Land Stewardship
- Fund Raising
- Historian