

# Eno River Currents

*Eno River Association ~ Connection to the Past ~ Protection for the Future*



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## Calendar of Events

**SEPTEMBER 20 & 21  
Centerfest, Durham**

**END OF SEPTEMBER  
Eno River Watch monitoring**

**SEPTEMBER 27  
Little River Regional Park Trail Workday**

**OCTOBER 5  
Festifall, Chapel Hill**

**OCTOBER 26  
Eno River Association Annual Meeting**

Call (919) 620-9099 for more information or to volunteer for these events.

[www.enoriver.org](http://www.enoriver.org)

## 135 new acres of Eno parklands!

**Association Purchases the Bunting-Poplar Ridge tract**  
*From Staff Reports*

**I**T'S OFFICIAL! On August 15, 2003 the Eno River Association purchased 135 gorgeous acres of Eno riverfront property from the Lucille G. Bunting Family. With over a mile of the Eno River, scenic bluffs, and truly outstanding wildlife habitat qualities, the purchase represents a momentous occasion for the Eno River Association.

*"The property is a true gem, a 'must have' for the State Park in terms of its location and truly amazing natural features," says Executive Director Lori Olson.*



Lori Olson

"This project has been in the works for over two years, so to finally see it purchased, and to know that it will be protected... well, this is what our work is all about," said Robin Jacobs, Chair of the Land and Stewardship Committee.

With a \$1.6 million price tag, pulling off the purchase was both challenging and rewarding for the Association staff and volunteers who made it happen. According to Jacobs, "It is the largest transaction the Association has ever done for the purchase of conservation lands, and that is pretty exciting."

Working with Self Help Credit Union, a loan for the majority of the purchase price has been secured, until such time as the State of North Carolina can secure funding for the property through the state's conservation trust funds.

*continued on page 3*



The mission of the Eno River Association is to conserve and protect the nature, culture, and history of the Eno River basin.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Moffitt, *President*

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Gordon Warren

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#### STAFF

Lori Olson, *Executive Director*

Greg Bell, *Festival Coordinator*

Wade Shelton,

*Land Protection Specialist*

Liz Stabenow, *Program Associate*

Eno River Currents is a quarterly newsletter published by the Eno River Association.

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## *Better to the Members*

Fall 03

*Friends,*

*I think it is time to celebrate some of the great successes we have had over the past few months, for the environment and the Eno River.*

*For starters, and with the help of each of you who called or emailed your legislators and local officials, Eno Drive was defeated, once and for all! The North Carolina General Assembly put the final nail in the coffin when they passed the budget this summer, enacting into law the compromise route that was conceived and embraced by the Durham community.*

*In addition, and despite an extremely dismal budget situation in the General Assembly this year, the environmental community had some truly fabulous victories for conservation funding. With your help—via phone calls, letters and emails—the General Assembly fully protected the revenue streams for both the Parks and Recreation and the Natural Heritage Trust Funds. In addition, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund was appropriated \$62.6 million for each year of the two-year budget cycle. This victory demonstrates the importance of public participation in the legislative process. Without the pressure exerted on our legislators by each and every one of you, the conservation funding situation in this state could have—and likely would have—been much worse.*

*So, while you thank your legislators for fighting for these important funds, pat yourselves on the back, too. It was your concern and action that made these important environmental victories possible.*

*Naturally Yours,*

Lori M. Olson

## 135 new acres of Eno parklands! *continued from page 1*

"This is just one more example of how important our state conservation funding really is," said Don Moffitt, President of the Association. "Without funding sources like the Parks and Recreation, Natural Heritage, and Clean Water Management Trust Funds, important conservation projects like this might easily be lost forever."

The Bunting-Poplar Ridge tract, as it has come to be known, is one of the larger and more spectacular properties within the Eno River State Park Master Plan. "The property is a true gem, a 'must have' for the State Park in terms of its location and truly amazing natural features," says Executive Director Lori Olson. The site is home to several rare plants and animals as well as majestic birds of prey and elusive river mammals like the red-tailed hawk and the river otter. The Bunting-Poplar



Eno River State Park Superintendent Dave Cook examines wildlife on the Bunting-Poplar Ridge tract

Rich Shaw

Ridge tract lies just to the east of the Town of Hillsborough, on the Eno River near its crossing with Highway 70. It is the longest undisturbed stretch of land along the river on the western end of the Eno River State Park Master Plan.

Ownership will eventually be transferred to the State of North Carolina for inclusion into the Eno River State Park. According to the North Carolina Division of Parks

and Recreation, plans for the tract include the development of new hiking trails and other recreational opportunities. The Association hopes to transfer the property to the state by December of 2003.

For information about the Association's land conservation activities or to inquire about participation on our Land and Stewardship Committee, call the Association office at 620-9099.



Duncan Heron

Hoary Puccoon, *Lithospermum canescens*, photographed at Penny's Bend Nature Preserve

## New Penny's Bend Tracts Protected

*From Staff Reports*

**A**MONGST ALL THE stir and excitement surrounding the Eno Wilderness and the Bunting-Poplar Ridge Tract projects, the Association has been quietly working on a handful of land acquisition projects around Penny's Bend.

On July 30, 2003, the Association closed on two additional tracts on the Eno River across from the Bend. This brings the total number of properties owned by the Association on the south bank of the River to seven and the total number of acres to 10.6.

"We are working to preserve important lands in the Penny's Bend area for wildlife habitat, water quality and endangered plant protection. This purchase is just one more step toward that goal," said Executive Director, Lori Olson.

Recently a coalition of local interested groups, including the Eno River Association, the North Carolina Botanical Garden, Durham County, and others have been working together to come up with a more comprehensive plan for the protection of the rich Penny's Bend ecosystem.

A \$51,000 Durham County Matching Grant was awarded to the Eno River Association this year toward the purchase of these two tracts.

The Association is currently negotiating with other landowners in the Penny's Bend area toward the purchase of additional riverfront properties for conservation.

# Thanks to Our Contributors

## Welcome to Our New Members

Will Anderson  
Cory L. Annis  
Don Ball  
Edward Balleisen  
Kurt and Irene Becker  
Jo Bouler  
Christopher and Christie Boyce  
Aaron and Stephanie Cain  
Susan Chioffi  
Stanley Chojnacki  
Jay and Beth Davis  
Joe Diver  
Kathryn Fenn  
The Galdy Family  
Mary Grigsby  
Eric Hallman  
Derek J. Hampson and Martha Payne  
Jean Hanson  
The Harris Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay L. and Fran T. Hitchens  
Albert and Irene Hunt  
Adam and Kelly Keadey  
Dewitt and Miriam Kennard  
Jim Lee  
Jeff Master  
Scott McCall  
Denise Mitchell  
Stephanie Morales  
Kelly O'Malley  
Kathryn Picotte  
Ethel Kay Prevette  
Laura Rader

Lea Ray  
Dr. Sharon Schulze  
Gilbert Smith  
David Snyder  
Mary Molly Taylor  
Mark Thomas  
Anna Trachtman  
K. Travers and E. Machtinger  
Richard Trotter  
Gina Upchurch  
Joan Walsh  
Karen W. and Ralph E. Wilson  
Jeffrey Woolf

## Recent Eno River Association Contributors

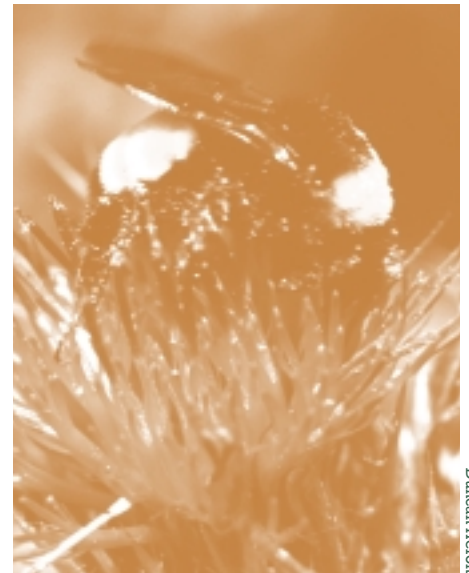
Sarah D. Campbell  
Ellen Cassilly and Frank Konhaus  
Rhonda Cohen  
Tracy Feldman  
Carol Hannaford  
Vivian and Robert Lamb  
Bercedis Peterson

## Great Human Race

The BIN Charitable Foundation

## Margaret Nygard Fund

Christopher and Christie Boyce  
Rhonda Cohen  
Mary H. Dawson  
Carol Ann McCormick and Mark Peifer



Duncan Heron

## In honor of Miriam Sage's birth

Cyrus K. Dastur and Michele Kloda  
Sherry Samuels

## In memory of Steven Adams

Caroline and Dick Donnan

## In memory of Kay Reames

Anne Bleyman  
June and Ken Dills  
Martha and Roy Girolani  
R. B. and Mary W. McKnight  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis A. and Marjorie J. Ruckert  
Ruth G. Stalvey  
Annette Wilson and Mark Armitage

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 8 AM TO 2 PM

**What:** Nature Trail Construction Volunteer Workdays

**Where:** Little River Regional Park and Natural Area

**Description:** Come out and be part of a volunteer partnership effort to build nature/hiking trails at the 390-acre Little River Regional Park & Natural Area. This natural area Park, being jointly developed by Durham & Orange counties, will feature over 7 miles of hiking trails. In a community effort, construction of the trails is dependent upon service minded volunteers who want to spend a great day out in our natural world assisting staff in trail construction. Beginning in September come out and learn trail building techniques, get some good healthy exercise and the knowledge you have helped in developing what will be one of the premier trail destinations in our community.



Duncan Heron

**Location:** Little River Park located in northern Durham County off Guess Rd. All participants will receive maps and directions to the site. The Park is scheduled to open to the public in the Spring of 2004 so come out and help us get ready!

All equipment, training, water etc. will be provided. Workday's participation is restricted to adults 16 years of age and older and physically able to work outdoors and in warm weather. You must sign up to participate in this workday.

**Contact:** Mike Giles, Durham County Open Space Land Manager Phone (wk) 560-4137x269, e-mail: mgiles@ci.durham.nc.us

# 2003 FESTIVAL FOR THE ENO~ Another Great Success!

By Greg Bell

**T**HOSE OF YOU who missed the Festival for the Eno missed something really rotten. By the time this article goes to press the Festival compost pile will have been turned and have cooled, its contents now bearing more resemblance to garden earth than the watermelon, plates and corn dogs from whence it came. The more than 30,000 folks who turned out to generate the food scraps and paper comprising the pile, from all reports, had a great time.



Jim Davis

Old friends catch up at Hazel's performer hospitality

Friday, July fourth was the first day of the Festival and saw the largest crowd. Seldom in recent memory has the Meadow been as full of people as during the performance of Jump Little Children, as the throngs of fans (mainly teen age girls) danced, screamed, and sang along with the band. Other highlights from the performers throughout the Festival included: Laura Love taking a nap in her instrument case, the Krüger Brothers fabulous Deliverance medley, the Eno Parade, led by the fantastic Hand Paper Puppet Intervention. Sunday saw virtually the entire Festival staff on stage at the Grove, filling in for the ailing Festival fave Bill Phillips with Chris Turner and Rachel Maloney.



Jim Davis

Kicking Grass brings energy and presence to old time and bluegrass music.

Despite weather which partially toppled the Big Top tent, and threatened to wash away the River Stage on July 2nd, the Festival ran smoothly at all times. The hard work of our great volunteers, the great support from Keith Braun and the folks at Property and Facility Management and the cooperation of our wonderful craft artists enabled us to have the park ship shape by the evening of the July 2nd, and ready to receive guests.

Many compliments were received for the new traditional crafts area and expanded crafts demos, which delighted thousands of Festival goers with demonstrations of carving, quilting, caning, basket making and clay turning and molding. Our "Trash Free Festival" strategies continue to improve, reducing our wastestream by over 90% this year, and serving as a model for other events throughout the country.

Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the Festival for the Eno, and we look forward to celebrating the anniversary with all our friends. Look for a great mix of old and new, compelling performances and just plain fun at West Point Park on July 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2004. We'll see you there!

## Festival for the Eno 2003 Contributors

Accent Construction  
Jim Alberti  
Altrusa of Durham, North Carolina  
Archetype Graphic Design  
Wilson Angley  
Azalea Graphics  
BB & T  
Bennett Pointe Grill  
Dr. & Mrs. Walter R. Benson  
Barbara B. Birkhead  
Larry & Hallie Bohs  
Cambell's Ceramic Supply  
Glenna Chapin  
Lewis Cheek  
Central Carolina Bank and Trust Company  
City of Durham  
County of Durham  
Countrywide Home Loans  
Stephanie Curtis and Ronald Swanstrom  
Durham Bulls  
Durham Coca-Cola  
Eno River State Park  
John and Olga Eyre  
Fairfield Inn - Durham  
Robert O. and Martha A. Forrest  
Freudenburg Spunweb Company  
Grapevine Print and Design  
Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce  
Highwater Clays  
Keane, Inc.  
Trish Kohler  
KONTEC Systems  
Krista Cipriano Craft Center of Duke  
University  
Susan Matthews and Martin Ashdown  
Marshall Resources  
Karen McLachlan  
Kevin Meehan  
Jennifer Miller  
Mobile Communications  
Nelda and James Mold  
David and Beverly Moser  
N.C. State Parks  
PSNC Energy  
Pickett-Sprouse Real Estate  
Bercedis Peterson  
Miriam Prichard  
RGG Architects  
Victor Rhodes, Jr.  
Hildegarde Ryals  
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Stacie Sanders  
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TROSA  
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Michael and Magarita Throop  
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Patrick and Patricia Vincent  
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Water Choice  
Larry Weaver  
Thomas J. White  
William Scottsman, Inc.  
CT Wilson Construction, Inc.  
Peter H. Wood  
Susan E. Zarutskie  
The Zimmerman Group, Inc.

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Festival for the Eno's Trash-free Team

By Liz Stabenow

**A**LL OF THE dedicated volunteers who make the Festival for the Eno such a great success year after year deserve our appreciation and admiration for the hard work they do. This year, we would like to shine a light on one aspect of the Festival for the Eno- the amazing trash-free program that serves as a model for other events. The education of festival-goers through this program and the compost demonstration site truly has an immeasurable impact on the thousands of people who see volunteers each year hard at work to reduce waste. The task is large, but the team leaders make it seem like the proverbial walk in the park.

Marcia Eickmeier is a long-time volunteer who helped set up the waste reduction program. Her leadership has helped the program grow to cut waste by nearly 90%—coming quite close to the goal of a trash-free Festival for the Eno.

Elizabeth Gibbs has helped the composting program grow from its humble beginnings. Today, the compost mountain is a wonder to behold and festival goers can tour it during the Festival for the Eno.

Judy Stafford coordinates the dedicated volunteers who staff the recycling stations during the festival. Although the work can be grungy at times, she says volunteers are enthusiastic and it is a pleasure working with them. The

most gratifying part has been observing the change in the public's attitude and their willingness to participate in the program and even serve as impromptu station stewards. Looking to the future, volunteers are needed to serve as station monitors, on the pick-up crew, at the compost site- and a few dedicated people who would like to take an active role as an intern & learn the ropes.

What more can we do to eliminate waste? More educational programs and exploring the possibility of using corn starch-based utensils are two possibilities for the future. Most of all, we are looking forward to working with dedicated volunteers like those on the trash-free team. Again, many thanks to all of the volunteers for the great work they do and the inspiring enthusiasm with which they do it!

## KID'S CORNER

### Fabulous Ferns

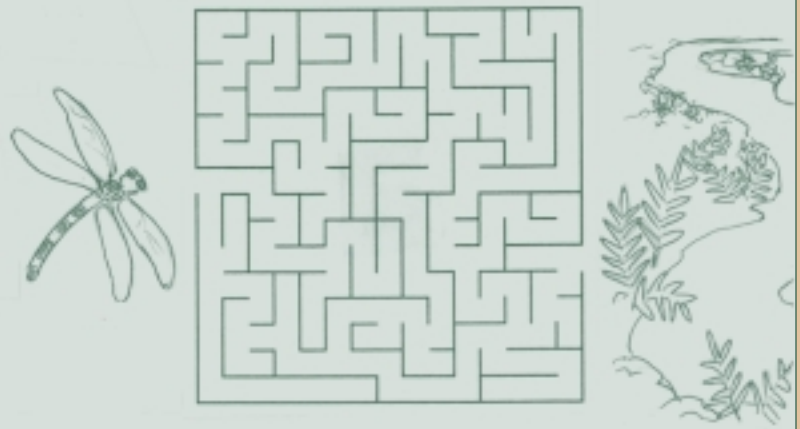
By Joe Deppe, Eno River State Park Ranger.  
Illustrations by Renee Clisch.



**I**magine a time when the first dinosaurs were appearing on earth, giant dragonflies the size of vultures flew around, and ferns ruled the earth. Ferns may no longer be the size of trees, but they are still very recognizable and abundant around the Eno even today.

Ferns can be a fabulous way to study nature. While most ferns require damp shady spots found all around the Eno, others such as the Bracken Fern can be found in open sun and poor soil. Like trees, some lose their leaves in the winter, and others like the Christmas fern pictured above are evergreen and can be found all year long. Because of all these differences, ferns can

*Can you help the dragonfly get back to its home by the river where the ferns grow?*



be seen just about anywhere are during any season on the Eno.

Ferns can be easy and fun to identify. Most are identified by their frond. The frond is the part of the fern that on other plants would be called the leaf. The ferns around the Eno have many beautiful shapes. You can find simple and unfernlike shapes on the Adder's Tongue Fern, as well as lacy shapes found on the common Southern Lady Fern. So next time you find yourself along the banks of the Eno River see how many different ferns you can find.

# CHANTING FALL BUGS

By Dave Owen, Resident Field Naturalist West Point on the Eno Park

**L**A TE SUMMER AND fall is a most savory season for listening to wild calls along the Eno River. After the Fourth of July Festival, the BUGS take over the airwaves from the birds and the frogs. Cicadas step up to the mike during daylight hours. Then at dusk there is a changing of the guard and katydids come forth as masters of the nocturnal audio realms. This pattern continues until the first cool days of late September when milder air turns down the volume on these amorous calls. If we experience an Indian summer, very abbreviated versions of cicada and katydid choruses may continue into October, but by November this second wave of warm season songs has faded out completely.

The decrescendo of cicadas and katydids ushers in the crescendo of yet a third distinct wave of calls, the season of crickets and grasshoppers. Whereas creatures of the second wave call from arboreal perches over our heads, crickets and grasshoppers call from grassy areas near the ground. From late summer to mid fall, nature hands over the airwaves to this group of

highly sonorous animals. Crickets generate a high pitched, musical call while grasshoppers produce a less melodic and more metallic sounding strain. They interplay together, both day and night, to rarefy the crisp fall air with the luxuriant sound of teeming life. When freezing weather approaches in late fall, these insects finally go silent, most of the next generation overwintering only as eggs.

I'm quite confident that seasoned subscribers to the Eno River Association newsletter are among the cognoscenti who do not live in hermetically sealed houses, with windows and doors locked tight from spring through fall, listening to the "whoooooosh" of air conditioners and heat pumps. The sad truth is that those who have accustomed themselves to such insulated and cloistered behavior, miss out on what is truly one of the greatest delights of living on the planet earth – the dazzling, late summer and fall chorus of vocalizing insects.

I, for one, am convinced that chanting bugs communicate important subliminal messages to all the animals in the forest as well as to

humans. If we go about our household tasks and even sleep at night with an open and "breathing" house, our subconscious is massaged with a continual stream of magical messages that inextricably bind us with the natural world in



Duncan Heron

Katydid

both healthy and mysterious ways. So, if you have any neighbors who perpetuate that weird modern habit of shutting doors and windows in the warm seasons, in deference to a few degrees difference in temperature comfort, just remind them that **WE ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE TO EXPERIENCE THE PRECIOUS SOUNDS OF THE NATURAL WORLD.** To shut them out, and thereby teach our children to ignore them, is yet another ignorant attempt by human beings to divest ourselves of one of the most salubrious lullabies we can experience on this marvelous planet Earth.

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## Federal Legislative Update

Denny O'Neal

**T**HE NEW YORK TIMES had a fine yet depressing editorial on July 29 entitled "Environmental Carnage" which outlines how the House of Representatives, orchestrated by NC's Charles Taylor, decreased funding for the Conservation Trust Fund from the budgeted \$2.1B in 2004 to only \$1.2B, and within that, the cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (the

major land acquisition program) from \$900M to \$198M!

Action should occur after recess in the Senate, so please CONTACT your two senators and ask that full funding be restored. As you may know, the LWCF has provided millions of dollars for open space protection in NC, including for the Eno River State Park. The article cited above also mentions how the House voted against the national

forest roadless area designation (to protect the remaining undisturbed areas of our national forests) and were in favor of continuing the use of snowmobiles in Yellowstone, in spite of overwhelming public dissent. See [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) and search on "Environmental Carnage".

North Shore Road, Great Smoky Mountain National Park. This

*continued on back page*



## ASSOCIATION

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### *Membership Renewal Season is Here- Tell a Friend!*

Your membership in the Eno River Association is due for renewal at the end of September. If you did not take the chance to renew early, now is the time! This year, please consider giving a bit more and helping us protect the Eno River basin through advocacy, conservation, and environmental education. Your membership to the Eno River Association is greatly appreciated—won't you please tell a friend about the great work you support & encourage them to join?

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Federal Legislative Update

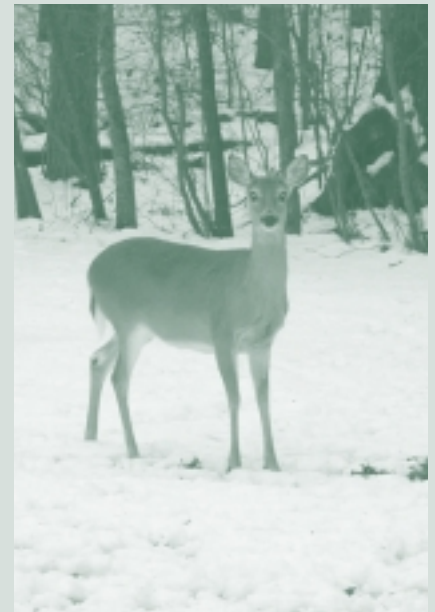
*continued from page 7*

proposed road, long favored by former Senator Helms, and loved by Congressman Charles Taylor, would, if constructed, not only cost taxpayers about \$150 million, but would put 21 miles of road through one of the major remaining roadless sections of our Park. Public comments are needed badly; see [www.northshoreroad.info](http://www.northshoreroad.info) to register your comments, and also see [www.npca.com](http://www.npca.com) for further information.

There are, sadly, so many really important issues that the public—"they are us"—should get involved in if we are to prevent major environmental degradation of all sorts. Please see some of the "related sites" in the Eno River Association's web site ([www.enoriver.org](http://www.enoriver.org)) which will give you most of the information you need.

*"I do believe that the conservationist is in everybody, partly because it's a question of survival. You've got to have clean air, and you've got to have clean water. And the one thing I think perhaps people don't realize that they have to have is open space-and quietness. It's really hard to explain that."*

MARGARET CRUDEN NYGARD



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