Calendar of Events

Holiday Shopping in Support of the Eno
Twig Eco-Friendly Store
(next to Whole Foods, Chapel Hill)
December 1st–14th
See announcements (page 8) for more details

Annual Calendar Celebration
Sun. Dec. 7th
5–7 pm
The Chameleon at Lakewood

Volunteer Stewardship Workdays
Saturdays
Dec 13th, Jan 24th, Feb 21st, Mar 21st

5th Annual Members Only Sale!
Dec. 17th and 18th

New Year’s Day Hike
Thurs. Jan. 1st, 2009

Winter Hike Series
January–mid-March, 2009
Each Sunday afternoon at 2pm

30th Annual Festival for the Eno
Craft artist deadline
February 1st, 2009

Visit www.enoriver.org for details on these events and more!

Birdscaping Your Yard
Kurt Schlimme, Director of Stewardship

In a report recently released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), it is estimated that nearly a third of the U.S. population—71 million people—enjoyed closely observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife in 2006 (FWS: Wildlife Watching in the United States: The Economic Impacts on National and State Economies in 2006). It is important to note that taking a trip to a far-off land is not required to see rare and exotic wildlife. Wildlife watching around the home is an important and growing form of recreation, particularly for bird enthusiasts. But how can you make your yard more inviting to our fine feathered friends? There is a simple answer...birdscape!

Birdscaping is the process of attracting birds to your backyard through the planting of vegetation that provides food, water, and cover for a variety of bird species. Chances are that your backyard is already landscaped but by adding a few well chosen shrubs or trees, it will become birdscaped and explode with avian activity. So what is the first step? To think like a bird! Chart out your yard from an aerial perspective and determine the following:

• Are there places to hide from predators?
• Are there enough nesting locations and protection from the natural elements?
• Most importantly, is there food and water available?

Once you answer these questions, you can then begin to address possible deficiencies through the planting of vegetation and installation of bird baths or bird boxes.

see Birdscaping, page 3

Charles Twine
Looking Forward

More than 200 years ago the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the people they represented took a giant step toward creating a more positive world. In the years since then that hopeful vision, celebrated each year at the Festival for the Eno, has manifested itself in our country and our community in countless ways, both large and small. A few weeks ago we reaffirmed our collective hope for a better future for our country. Forty-odd years ago the founders of Eno River Association saw the opportunity to help create a better future for our community and set out to make it happen.

The Eno River Association has always focused on positive change. From the beginning in the 1960s Margaret and Holger Nygard, and the members and volunteers of the Association concentrated not just on halting a reservoir, but on creating and expanding the Eno River State Park. Over the years tireless effort has gone into permanently protecting special places along the river where wildlife and plants can thrive and people can visit and enjoy, helping our community to thrive too.

The newsletter you are holding celebrates our recent land protection successes and illustrates some of the many ways we are all working together to steward and care for our river and the land within its basin. With the economy in its present state, the Eno River Association, like all non-profits, is keeping a watchful eye on its financial resources, but we remain hopeful about our future. We know that you care about our work. We ask that you continue to do what you can to support it as we look toward another year full of opportunity.
A Tire-less Effort for the Eno
By Pascale Mittendorf

One of the very first things Volker Mittendorf did after moving into his new home close to the banks of the Eno River in Hillsborough was to go for a walk along the river. Enjoying the scenery, the varied wildlife, and the reflection of light through the branches leaning over the water, he began counting the tires stuck in the riverbed. Soon after he took his kayak and went fishing, however his first catch was not a bag of fish or even mussels, but a mess of old tires, some arguably quasi-historic. That first day produced 20 tires found along his 200 feet of river waterfront. Over the next three years his fishing expeditions went beyond that short stretch of the Eno. So far, he and some neighbors and friends have landed 92 tires of all sizes and ages from about half a mile of river downstream of Churton Street Bridge. The tires have been properly disposed of at Eubanks landfill; no small task, since they only accept five tires at a time.

We can only speculate how so many tires ever got into our beloved river in the first place. They could not have come from the Occoneechee speedway, because it is located downstream and they were never doing tractor races. Maybe somebody dumped a truckload of tires in the river to create an artificial reef habitat? Judging by their condition it is plausible that many of them pre-date the existence of a county landfill.

Birdscaping, cont’d from page 1

When considering what vegetation to plant, it is important to focus on plant species that are native to the area in which you live. Native flora does not provide the problems, such as uncontrolled growth, that exotic species do, and also provides the food and cover that birds need. In addition, because various plants produce flowers, fruits, seeds, nuts and even cover at different times of year, it is important to provide several different types of native plants. By doing this, you are able to ensure that resident and migrant birds will have the necessary components of life (food, water, cover) year round. It is also important to provide habitat with vertical vegetation structure that allows ground-dwelling, shrub-dwelling, and treetop birds to exist in the same horizontal space.

So which species should you plant? The list is long and there are many sources that you can consult to find the right choice for you backyard. Here is a list of informational sources that can be consulted to determine which species to plant and even where you might find them:

Birdscaping Your Garden, by George Adams
North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service:
  www.ces.ncsu.edu/Publications/environment.php
Natural Resources Conservation Service:
  www.nrcs.usda.gov/FEATURE/backyard/wildhab.html
PlantNative: www.plantnative.org
National Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Habitat:

Reflections from the River is a regular column in the
Eno Currents quarterly newsletter, inviting new voices and perspectives from people of all ages with a theme of connection to the Eno River and surrounding land.
• Spring 2009 newsletter deadline: Friday, January 30th
• 250 words or less
• association@enoriver.org or FAX 919-477-0448
A new resource has become available for both land conservation organizations and folks with an interest in managing their own land to promote abundant wildlife. The State’s Wildlife Resources Commission recently rolled out the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The plan has been in development for several years, and was created to increase attention and resources to wildlife conservation throughout the state.

The SWAP identifies 371 priority species most in need of protection. While some of these species are already identified as threatened or endangered by the Natural Heritage Program, others may be relatively common sights, but are seeing their habitat threatened by land use changes and growing urbanization. The Eno River in particular is in one of the most urban watersheds in the state. Activities on our river such as development, pollution from agriculture and forestry operations, and water withdrawals for human consumption all affect its ability to provide quality habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic species.

The Plan will be used by the Association to help us target the most critical properties for wildlife protection. SWAP can also be used by private landowners to protect and improve habitat on their property, by educators for information about animal species and habitat across the state, or by local governments to make urban parks and recreation areas wildlife-friendly. And once a property is bought or placed under a conservation agreement, SWAP can help guide management of that land in ways that sustain habitats and the species they support.

You can read the plan for yourself (all 580 pages of it), or an executive summary, at the website of the Wildlife Resources Commission at http://www.ncwildlife.org/pg07_WildlifeSpeciesCon/WAP_complete.pdf. In the meantime, know that the land protection work of the Eno River Association is helping to protect wildlife habitat right here in your backyard.
Our Evening of Local Flavors on September 27th at the historic Greystone Inn was a gala affair! Guests enjoyed sampling a wide selection of food, wine, and beer from local restaurants while mingling on the spacious porch and enjoying the view of the Durham skyline at night. The silent auction created quite a buzz as guests roamed from room to room checking on their bids. We sipped and listened as board President Holly Reid and Executive Director Robin Jacobs told us all about the reason we were gathered together that evening in support of the Campaign for the Confluence.

Thank you to our Sponsor Hosts, Sponsor Restaurants, auction donors, and to everyone who joined us for the Evening of Local Flavors and contributed to the Campaign for the Confluence. We still need your support to reach our goal. If you would like to contribute to the Campaign please give us a call at 919-620-9099 ext.202 or go to www.enoriver.org and click on Donate Now.

Uli Hartmond, Sara Stratton, Pascale Mittendorf

Melissa McCullough and Holly Reid

The Phenomenal
Carol & Bill Charping
Nancy & Norman Gustaveson
Lonna & Richard Harkrader
Corinna & Gordon Herbert
Bercidas Peterson
Hildegard Ryals
Aimee & Derek Tattersall

The Renowned
Phyllis & Robert Andrews
Jeanne & John Blackburn
Trish Kohler
Marcia & Mark O’Neal
Shimar Recycling

The Enormously Appreciated
Margaret Babb
Ellen & Tom Bacon
Barbara Baker & Don Kritsch

Meredith Barrett & Aaron Stoertz
Laura Benedict & John Morris
Caroline Brzelius & Anders Wallace
Sidney Cruze & Don Moffitt
Barbara & Tom Driscoll
Jane Ezzard & Clark Wang
Gail Freeman & Susan Gidwitz
Ann & Leonard Gettes
Elizabeth Wade Grant
Emily Herbert
Sally & Rob Jackson
Lynn & Cliff Leath
Janie & Steve Maggi
Melissa McCullough
Alexa McKerrow & Milo Pyne
Gwen & Bill Reid
Holly Reid & Rich Shaw
Claire & Allen Wilcox
Traveling Tees

A few years ago a collection of Eno t-shirts visited the Masai Mara Reserve in Kenya with our board President Holly Reid and her family. In this photo the Eno bat, crawdad, beaver, cuckoo and toad t-shirts are worn by members of Holly’s family and Masai-Mara friends and colleagues of Robin Reid (Holly’s sister).

Email your Eno Traveling Tee images from across the state, around the country, or across the globe to association@enoriver.org

Subject line: “Traveling Tees”

Photographers name

Date & location of where the picture was taken and any stories that go along with the photo!
Annual Meeting Report

At the annual meeting of the Association held on October 26th at the Pleasant Green Community Center we recognized three new officers of the Board of Directors, two outgoing board members, and two new ones. Our board is made up of volunteers who give their time and their talents to the Association. They serve on committees, as officers, and as devoted advocates for our mission to protect land in the Eno River basin, and we thank each and every one of them for their work. Please take a moment to read the names of our officers and members of the board listed on page two.

Outgoing board members:

Laura Benedict and Cliff Leath each served as treasurer during their time on the board and we offer our appreciation for their dedication. We look forward to working with them on committees and special projects in the coming years.

New board members:

Ron Bodkin and Joe Liles bring their expertise, community connections and enthusiasm to the Eno Board. Ron works at Self Help Credit Union in Durham, and has been collecting water-quality data with his son as an Eno River Watch volunteer for the past year. Joe is a recently retired teacher from the School of Math and Science in Durham. You may know him from his project researching the historic Fish Dam Road with his students, which led to the theme for the 2005 Eno River Calendar – The Search for Fish Dam Road.

The newly published 2009 Eno River calendar featuring Birds of the Eno was inspiration for our special presentation at the 2008 annual meeting. Tom Driscoll, our calendar committee chair, introduced the 2009 calendar and a panel of guest speakers:

• We learned from Curtis Smalling with Audubon North Carolina that the Audubon Society has designated the Eno River valley as an Important Bird Area.
• Brian Strong from NC DENR Division of Parks & Recreation shared his research using mist nets and bird banding in the park to track individual birds as well as population data.
• Edith Tatum shared her stories from more than seventeen years of teaching folks about the birds of the Eno and the many different bird habitats found in the Eno River State Park.

Thanks to each of our guest speakers for sharing their experience and passion for birding in the Eno River valley!

Donation Wish List

Paper Shredder
Fireproof File Cabinet
Gift cards to Home Depot, Lowes, Staples

Featured Item: SUV or Van

Five years ago we gratefully accepted the donation of a Ford Explorer SUV from Lisa Creasman. The “Winnebago” (as it became known) served us well, until recently, when one repair led to another, and another, and another. At our staff retreat in October we made the decision to let the Winnebago go. Without this workhorse we find ourselves at a loss for a reliable vehicle to do our work including volunteer stewardship workdays, hauling supplies for the annual Festival, community outreach events, and site visits to properties throughout the Eno River basin.

As we come to the end of 2008 we send out a special wish for a new-to-us SUV or van. Perhaps you or someone you know can help us out. We will put your vehicle to good use, and you will receive a tax receipt for your donation!

Please call us if you have something looking for a good home. You just never know when our unspoken wishes and your goods looking for a new home will magically align! Email association@enoriver.org or call 919-620-9099.

Congress Extends IRA Charitable Rollover Provisions

IRA charitable rollover provisions have been extended through December 31, 2009. These provisions allow individuals to make tax-free IRA distributions directly to a qualifying charity such as the Eno River Association. For more information call Robin Jacobs at 620-9099x202.
Gifts That Keep on Giving
Members Only Sale – 50% Off Selected Art Prints, Posters and T-Shirts!

Share your love for the Eno River by giving a special gift to someone (or to everyone!) on your holiday gift list during our annual Members Only sale. Current members will receive an email at the beginning of December with details about the sale. Call 919-620-9099 if you’d like to receive the sale notice in the mail.

But wait. There’s more!
Combine your purchase with a tax-deductible Eno River Association membership or a selection of Eno-wares: 2009 calendar, coffee mug, map bandana, lapel pin, water bottle, color trail map of the Eno River parklands, and temporary tattoos.

By purchasing your holiday gifts from the Eno Collection your gift keeps on giving by supporting our work to protect land and water in the Eno River basin for future generations.

Eno-Inspired Art

“From the beginning, I was convinced that there was a tapestry waiting to be uncovered that could not be painted or designed on paper, but one that would evolve from the process of weaving itself.” — from The Making of Modern Tapestry: My journey of discovery, Silvia Heyden

Several times a week, world-renowned artist Silvia Heyden walks to the Eno River from her home, spending several hours there studying the landscape, water and light for inspiration, transforming what she sees and touches into beautiful woven tapestries. Heyden’s work hangs in numerous public buildings in the United States and Europe, and is part of the permanent collections of several museums in the United States and Switzerland, including the North Carolina Museum of Art.

Walking daily along the river inspires me in my way of weaving tapestries. How water shapes rocks and rocks shape water is a fascinating concept I am able to observe and understand. Watching the currents has taught me important principles, which are also true in weaving.

I would like to express my gratitude by donating one of these tapestries to the Eno River Association…to hopefully find an Eno-loving buyer. My Eno River Series of tapestries (and the donated piece titled Eno from Above) will be exhibited at the Horace Williams House in Chapel Hill from November 23–December 21.”

You can also take a look on our website at www.enoriver.org/tapestry

More Holiday Shopping in Support of the Eno
December 1st-14th
Twig Eco-Friendly Store next to Whole Foods in Chapel Hill. Mention the Eno and Twig will make a donation worth 20% of your entire purchase—at no additional cost to you. Thanks Twig!
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ENO RIVER ASSOCIATION

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS AND DONORS (AUGUST 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2008)

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Steward
Peter & Ona Pickens
Adam & Lynn Swank
Epting & Hackney
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Laurie McNeil & Pat Wallace

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Stephen Sasse
Mastafa Springton
Will Stone
Aimee Tattersall
Derek Tattersall
Dar Talmon
Julia West
Emily Wexler
Gyiin Xue

**In Honor of**
Anna Baker
from Carolina Ohio
Millie & Rod Duncan’s 60th Wedding Anniversary
from Ronald & Sherry Powell
Marcia Eickmeeer
from Lyns S. Wilson & Paul Killough
Ellen D. Haith
from Robert A. Haith

**In Memory of**
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from Lisa Motok & John Bender
Laura Benedict & John Morris
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Margie DeWoskin
from Jerry & Sondra VanSant
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from Ellen McRae

**Margaret Nygard Fund**
Dorothy & James Andrews
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James Brosman
Jan Harris & Hugh Mace
Eno River Association Membership

Join us! We are always in need of members who want to help protect the nature, culture, and history of the Eno River. If you are not a member, why not join today? If you have already paid your dues, share your love of the Eno with a friend or family member and encourage them to join the Eno River Association. Memberships also make great gifts!

Eno River Currents is online!

The Eno River Association’s newsletter, Eno River Currents, is also available online at our website, www.enoriver.org. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of (or in addition to) the paper edition, please call 919-620-9099 or email: association@enoriver.org

Membership Level

- $10 Student
- $25 Friend
- $35 Patron
- $50 Supporter
- $100 Protector
- $250 Steward
- $500 Conservator
- $1000 Guardian
- $5000 Champion

Volunteer for the Eno

- Please inform me of volunteer opportunities with the Eno River Association. (Please provide an email address if you have one.)

All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your contribution.