

# Eno River Currents

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



## What's Inside

**Spring Wildflower  
Hike Series**

**Penny's Bend  
Unique Diabase Rocks!**

**Kid's Corner:  
Water Words**

**Festival Family Reunion**

**Eno Trail-Building**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

## Calendar of Events

**MARCH 27**

**Great Human Race**

**MARCH 28**

**Spring Wildflower Hike**

**APRIL 4, 11, 18, & 25**

**Spring Wildflower Hikes**

**APRIL 18**

**Apple Chill, Chapel Hill**

**APRIL 24**

**Earth Day, Durham**

**MAY 2**

**Spring Picnic**

**MAY**

**Nature Trail Workday**

**JUNE 18, 19**

**Hillsborough Hog Day**

**JULY 3, 4 & 5**

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Festival for the Eno**

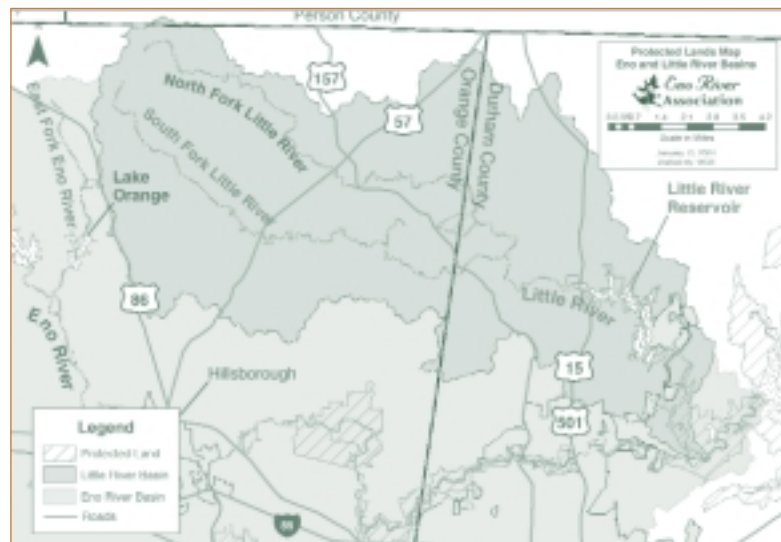
Call (919) 620-9099 for more information  
or to volunteer for these events.

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

## Eno River Association Receives Grant to Fund Study of the Little River

*From Staff Reports*

**T**HE ENO RIVER ASSOCIATION was recently awarded a grant of \$22,500 to complete a Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan for the Little River Basin, the Eno River's largest tributary. The grant was awarded to the Association by the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, with funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.



The Little River, the Eno's largest tributary

Map by Wade Shelton

To prepare the Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan, the current status of the Little River will be assessed and a prioritization system developed to determine the relative importance of protecting certain areas within the basin. The process will include evaluations of natural and cultural features within the project area, such as land use, hydrology, geology, topography, and vegetation. This will help achieve the maximum benefit for the protection of wildlife, river ecology, and water quality.

Rating systems will be developed to help screen properties against certain criteria, highlighting those with the highest conservation potential. Properties can then be prioritized and pursued accordingly for conservation. "The plan is a fabulous tool to help shape our work, and give it a

*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.

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- 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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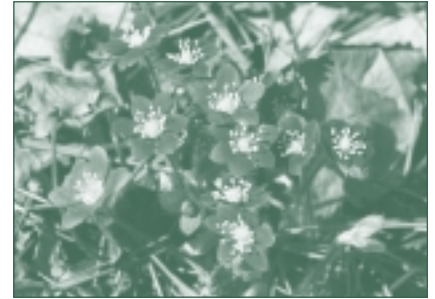
## Better to the Members

Spring 04

Lori Olson, *Executive Director*

Friends of the Eno,

Happy Spring! I, for one, am delighted each year when the chill of winter finally begins to subside, revealing the buds and blooms of spring. It is a magical time—especially on the Eno—and I hope that everyone is able to take some time to get outdoors and enjoy it.



Duncan Heron

We have lots going on this time of year, from our spring hikes at the Eno River State Park, to trail-building workdays, to outdoor events like the Great Human Race on March 27, Chapel Hill's Apple Chill on April 18, and Durham's Earth Day on April 24. There are tons of different ways to get involved and volunteer for the Eno. We are always looking for able and enthusiastic volunteers to help out with these and many other events.

"How do I get involved?" you ask? Well, that's easy! Just call or e-mail our office (620-9099, association@enoriver.org), and we will help you sign up to help out with any one of our spring events and activities.

And don't forget the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Festival for the Eno! This year the Festival is happening on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and, as always, we will be looking for an army of volunteers to help out with everything from face painting to T-shirt sales to raising the "big-top" tent. We will begin the call for volunteers in April, so be sure to get in touch early (volunteer@enoriver.org) to reserve your favorite volunteer activity and time slot. It is sure to be a Silver Anniversary Festival to remember!

Naturally Yours,

Lori Olson, *Executive Director*

### Eno River Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

Clip & mail to: 4419 Guess Road, Durham, NC 27712

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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

### Method of Payment

Check (Please make payable to the Eno River Association)

Mastercard  Visa Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Level:

- \$10 Student
- \$25 Friend
- \$50 Supporter
- \$100 Protector
- \$250 Steward
- \$500 Conservator
- \$1000 Eno Guardian
- \$5000 Life Member

### Volunteer Interests:

- Festival for the Eno
- Eno River Watch
- Eno Calendar
- Trail Workdays
- Events & Exhibits
- Hike Leader
- Public Relations
- Office/Clerical
- Hospitality
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## ERA to Build Trails on Penny's Bend Tracts

Lori Olson, Executive Director

**F**OR THE FIRST TIME in its history, the Eno River Association will be building and opening to the public two nature trails on the Eno River, near Penny's Bend.

The nature trails will be built on six tracts that the Association currently owns on Stanley Road in Durham County. All of the properties are on the Eno River, across from the Penny's Bend Nature Preserve. For the last several years, the Association has been working with willing landowners in the area and purchasing small tracts along the river to protect the corridor for both wildlife and water quality.

"Obviously, protecting land around the Eno River is an extremely important part of the Association's land conservation work," says Wade Shelton, the Association's Land Protection

Specialist. "However, it is equally important that we work to create recreational opportunities along the river so that people will be able to enjoy the land that has been protected. Building these trails will help to do just that."

The Association also has plans to design and place interpretive signage along the trail, to highlight some of the natural features and provide an educational element to the experience. "Penny's Bend is located along a beautiful stretch of the Eno River that is home to a diverse population of plants and animals," says Elizabeth Stabenow, the Eno River Association's Program Associate. "By placing interpretive signs along the trail we can educate hikers regarding the ecological significance of the area, and why it is important that it be protected."



Staff Photo

Volunteers cut trails at the Little River Regional Park

Trail-building workdays will be scheduled this spring and summer to construct the trails. We will need a lot of help from our fabulous workday volunteers to get these new trails up and running, so don't be shy! Anyone who is interested in helping out can contact Wade Shelton at [wade@enoriver.org](mailto:wade@enoriver.org) to find out about upcoming opportunities.

## Eno River Association Receives Grant to Fund Study of the Little River

*continued from page 1*

focus that is grounded in science and real, on-the-ground information," said Executive Director Lori Olson.

In August 2000, the Association completed a similar Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan on the Eno River Basin. That plan has since been utilized in a variety of ways and has helped the Association to concentrate on important properties within the greater Eno watershed. According to Olson, "the Eno conservation plan allowed us to look beyond the Eno River State Park, to broaden our conservation goals to include the Upper and Lower Eno, and its tributaries. The plan provides a process that

we can apply to our land protection activities, so that we can better direct our efforts to protect the overall integrity of the Eno ecosystem."

The Association looks forward to completing the plan in the coming year. It will provide valuable insight to future conservation activities and critical additions to already protected open spaces, such as the Little River Regional Park, which was jointly protected by the Eno River Association, Triangle Land Conservancy and Durham and Orange counties in 2001. This park is currently being developed and is scheduled to open this summer.

The Eno River Association looks forward to protecting additional lands in the Little River and Eno River basins this year. The Riparian Corridor Conservation Plans will help to achieve the greatest impact for our conservation efforts.

### **FREEZER NEEDED**

**The Festival needs a chest freezer to use for storage at the Festival site. It does not have to work but should be able to be cleaned. Will pick up. Call 477-4549 for info or to arrange.**

# Thanks to Our Contributors & Volunteers

## **Eno River Association**

Zach Ambrose and Jill Wright  
Carol Anderson  
Ellen, Edwin and Elizabeth Arnold  
L. E. Bagshawe  
Emily Ballance  
Nathan Berolzheimer and Trish Barron  
Barbara Blair  
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Ronald Wenda  
Harris Williams  
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**In honor of Robin and Barry Jacobs**  
Julia and Bob Lackey

**On behalf of Andy Knapp and Robert Freese**  
Emily Gallione-Knapp

**In honor of Diane Glenz**  
Scott McElroy

**In honor of Paul Masouras and Anthony Taylor**  
Karen Hales

**In honor of Leslie and Will McDow**  
Rusty and Carrie Painter

**In honor of Bercedis Peterson**  
William Shipp

**In memory of Ron Jolley**  
Rick, Roger, and Sally Jolley

**In memory of Elizabeth Lewis**  
Department of Chemistry, Physics, and Geoscience of Meredith College

**In memory of Maud Oaks**  
Don and Judy Cox

## **Thanks to Our Volunteers**

Judy Allen  
Phyllis Andrews  
Lila Boquist  
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Elizabeth Dyer and Art Mines  
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Vic Minton  
Peg Parker  
Piedmont All-Stars Old Time Revue  
Bercedis Peterson  
Sandy Preissler  
Josie Rondone  
Ronald Rudin  
Marion Sands  
Hilary Smith  
Jack Threadgill  
John Waszak  
Alex Weiss  
StClair Williams

*A Note: We apologize for any omissions or errors to the above lists.*

# Penny's Bend Unique Diabase Rocks!

Rob Evans, Ecologist, NatureServe

SOME OF THE Eno River Basin's most unusual features are found near Falls Lake in eastern Durham County. The ecological importance of area has been underappreciated by many local citizens and conservationists — a surprising situation considering that the area hosts some of the rarest and most unique biological and geological conditions in the entire Carolina Piedmont.

The area's significance is related to rocks called "diabase," one of the least common types in entire Piedmont. Diabase is generally harder and more resistant than surrounding rocks, which caused the Eno to dramatically alter its course, forming the natural horseshoe at "Penny's Bend." In nearby uplands these rocks form soils that are richer and less acidic than most in North Carolina. Less than 10% of the entire Piedmont has such soils. Astute botanists noted unusual vegetation and plants on these soils, and over 30 rare plant species have been located on patches of diabase soil. Among the rarest is the Smooth Coneflower, a federally listed endangered species. Other rarities such as Prairie Rosinweed, Blue Wild Indigo, and

False Pennyroyal are best known in other parts of the country in different habitats. Soil properties made cultivation difficult and many agricultural uses incompatible. Consequently, when rural land use was the norm, many rare species were able to persist, but suburban sprawl has destroyed many remnants within recent memory and those that remain do so precariously.

Original residents — the Eno and Shakori — were ancestrally linked to the Sioux people, who have a documented history of fire use. Their presence, combined with the occurrence of soils (called Mollisols) that are traditionally associated with prairies, provides intriguing indirect evidence that the historic landscape was locally sculpted by fire. In the 1940's a well-known plant ecologist noted that there had been a relatively recent reduction in fire frequency for the entire Piedmont region. Wayne Cash, a long-time resident of Penny's Bend, has personally observed how "protected" sites can change in a relatively short span of time in the absence of fire. As the area became overgrown with young saplings, increased shade to the forest floor and increasing quantities



Smooth Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea laevigata*

ERA archives

of leaf litter led to the complete disappearance of a large and healthy rare plant population. To most eyes, there is little indication of the former botanical richness of this site and many others like it.

Thus, simply protecting land will not be sufficient to save these species. Conservation success along this part of the river will require intensive management and active restoration. Although the role of fire is complex and not completely understood, its reintroduction will provide opportunities for people to participate positively in restoring part of our natural heritage by recreating a lost landscape.

## Give to the Eno while you shop!

When you're out shopping for your groceries, you can help out the Eno River Association two different ways. If you're a Food Lion shopper, link your MVP card to the Eno River Association and a donation will be made automatically. Each year, you must renew your choice to participate in the Food Lion Shop & Share program. Check at your store for more details. If you shop at Harris Teeter, the store is currently giving away gazebos to customers who use its VIC card. To qualify, you must spend at least \$40 for 14 out of 16 weeks between Jan. 28 and May 18. Don't worry if you haven't saved those receipts — a reward notice will print out when you qualify. Just pick up your gazebo at the store and donate it to the Association. We can always use another tent at events such as the Festival for the Eno.

## T-SHIRT PROJECT

You know those old Eno River T-shirts that fill your drawer, but are too small or ragged to be worn anymore? Recycle them! As part of this year's celebration of the Festival for the Eno's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, we are collecting any unwanted T-shirts to make into a yet-to-be-determined art project. It may be a quilt, a windmill, or a hot-air balloon. We won't know until we see the quantity and condition of the shirts, but it's sure to be a novel, community-based way to bring in the second quarter century of the Festival.

BRING OR MAIL YOUR DONATIONS TO:  
THE ENO RIVER ASSOCIATION  
4419 GUESS ROAD, DURHAM, NC 27712

# Volunteer Opportunities at the Eno River Association

Liz Stabenow, Program Associate

**S**PRING IS UPON US, and many are feeling the urge to get out and play. There are many ways to help out at the Association, whether you prefer digging to typing or cooking to drawing. If you would like to volunteer, or change your volunteer preferences, call Liz at 620-9099 or e-mail [liz@enoriver.org](mailto:liz@enoriver.org). We will contact volunteers as the need arises.

## Festival for the Eno

For many folks, volunteering at the Festival for the Eno has become an Independence Day weekend tradition. It takes over 1,200 volunteers working before, during and after the event to present the Festival for the Eno each summer. Volunteers take tickets, build stages, pour drinks, paint faces, address letters, cook food, turn pots and compost, catch critters, collect recycling, and do just about everything else necessary to put on our region's most prestigious and well-known Fourth of July event. The Festival volunteer coordinator will get in touch with you in the spring to arrange the details.

## Eno River Watch

Four times a year, head out to your monitoring site and help us collect information on aquatic life and conditions on the Eno. Keeping a watchful eye on the health of the river is also a fun activity for families and friends to do together. To participate in the Eno River Watch program, you complete a short training session and are given an opportunity to adopt a site along the river. Quarterly sampling is done in small groups, so sign up by yourself, with a buddy, or bring the kids.

## Outdoor Workdays

As opportunities arise, volunteers work on trails and clean up newly acquired properties. This is usually fun, hard work done in the spring and fall. Recently, we have cleaned up around Eno quarry and cut trails in the Little River Regional Park. Soon, we will be working on nature trails at Penny's Bend. Volunteers usually need to be at least 16 and in good health.

If you are interested in volunteering to do trail maintenance at Eno River State Park, they can train you and get you prepared — just call (919) 383-1686.

## Environmental Education

If you enjoy working with children, join the environmental education team. We are currently working on several projects, from writing articles for the newsletter, to designing an educational teacher's guide about the Eno, to staffing the EEK (Eno Education for Kids) area at the Festival for the Eno.

## Hike Leader

Each year, the Eno River Association hosts a series of winter and spring wildflower hikes. Hike leaders should be familiar with the Eno flora and fauna or just be enthusiastic hikers. No experience is required to lead hikes on Sunday afternoons from January to April.

## Events and Exhibits

Each year, many people spend a few hours at the Eno River Association's exhibit at Apple Chill, Earth Day, Hog Day, Festifall, and Centerfest, answering questions and distributing information to the public. At events such as

our Spring Picnic, Annual Meeting, and Holiday Celebrations, helpers are needed to set up, clean up, and organize.

## Publications

The Eno River Association publishes an annual Calendar and occasional Eno Journal. Photographers, writers, and researchers work together to produce these educational pieces that teach about the river and its nature and history.

## Outreach/Newsletter

Eno Currents, the newsletter of the Eno River Association, is published quarterly to inform our members and friends about the current issues and events along the Eno. Artists, editors, writers, and other contributors are needed to produce the newsletter as well as press releases and other public relations materials.

## Office/Clerical

Help us out with mailings, filing, data entry, and archival collections. Whether you have skills to share, or time to spend with us stuffing envelopes, we always need help around the office.

## Hospitality

If you can cook, bake, simply stir a pot, or buy groceries, your help is needed for our many annual events. Let us know if you are available to help out with goodies and refreshments.

## Other

What skills do you have? What would you like to share with the Eno River Association? Give Liz a call at 620-9099 or e-mail [liz@enoriver.org](mailto:liz@enoriver.org), and we can find a way to utilize your skills.



David Thomas

Hikers enjoy the views along the Eno River

## *Spring Wildflower Hike Series*

**In March, as the first flowers open, the Eno River Association will begin its annual series of hikes to celebrate the signs of spring and educate people on the river and the work being done to protect it. The hikes take place every week from March 14 to May 2. Hikes are two and a half hours long, and occur each Sunday at 2 p.m. Each group is limited to 20 people. Please call Margaret Wainwright at (919) 489-2795 before 9:30 p.m. to register, or e-mail [mhwain@nc.rr.com](mailto:mhwain@nc.rr.com).**

# Festival Family Reunion

Greg Bell, Festival Coordinator

**T**HIS SUMMER marks the 25th Anniversary of the Festival for the Eno. A lot has happened since the first Festival in 1980. The Eno River State Park has grown from 1,600 acres to almost 4,000 acres. New parks have been created on the Eno at Occoneechee Mountain and Penny's Bend and on the Little River, and the parks on the Eno now attract over 400,000 visitors each year.

As we prepare to celebrate the silver anniversary of what has become the most successful and prestigious event of its kind, it seems fitting to mark this occasion by reflection of what has come before, as well as celebration of that yet to come. This, the 2004 Festival for the Eno, promises to be a family reunion of sorts — featuring the return of some of the most popular performers and activities from years past, as well as a generous portion of new artists and



Staff Photo

Raising the Big Top at the 2003 Festival for the Eno.

events, which in turn will be celebrated in decades to come.

As with any family reunion, we want stories! Tell us about your favorite Festival memories. From flooded stages to bourbon cake, to escapes and first dates, the 25 years

of the Festival present a rich tableau of shared community experiences and effort that we want to collect. Please share with us your stories of the Festival by sending them to: [festival@enoriver.org](mailto:festival@enoriver.org) or 4419 Guess Rd. Durham NC 27712.

## KID'S CORNER

### PUT THE LETTERS IN THE RIGHT ORDER TO MAKE A WATER WORD!

All living things need \_\_\_\_\_ (tawer) to live.

When water evaporates, it travels into the air and becomes part of a \_\_\_\_\_ (dlocu).

Less than 1% of all the water on Earth is \_\_\_\_\_ (sefrh) water.

We \_\_\_\_\_ (ikrdn) water in the liquid form.

Check for leaks and save hundreds of \_\_\_\_\_ (gllouns) of water a day.

You'll save water by taking a quick \_\_\_\_\_ (howser).

Wash bikes and cars with a \_\_\_\_\_ (kecbut) and a sponge instead of a running hose.

Ask your \_\_\_\_\_ (mfaiyl) to look for ways to save water.

The Eno River Basin collects and provides drinking water for many towns and cities, such as Hillsborough, Durham, and Raleigh. Wildlife such as the Neuse River Water Dog, endangered freshwater mussels, and the rare Panhandle Pebblesnail depend on the Eno's clean, clear water for life. The more lands that are protected around the Eno River the more we will protect our drinking water supply, habitat for wildlife to live, and places for all of us to hike, play, and swim.





**ASSOCIATION**

4419 Guess Road, Durham, NC 27712

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THE VOLUNTEER CENTER OF DURHAM  
PRESENTS



**THE GREAT  
HUMAN  
- RACE -**

**5K RUN AND  
NONPROFIT WALK**

SATURDAY - MARCH 27, 2004 - 9:30AM

DURHAM BULLS ATHLETIC PARK

RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR FAVORITE NONPROFIT!

## Walk with the Eno River Association in the Great Human Race!

**YOU MAY BE** involved with the Eno River Association as a volunteer, a member, a donor, or a participant in one of our events such as the Festival for the Eno, Spring Picnic, or Winter & Wildflower Hike Series. As a friend of the Eno River Association, we would like to invite you to join us in the Great Human Race, a fun family fundraiser and celebration of our activities on March 27.

The Great Human Race is the Volunteer Center of Durham's annual 5K run/walk/roll to raise money for local nonprofit organizations. It's a terrific way to support the Eno while taking part in a great community event. Last year, we raised over \$6,000—each dollar raised by volunteers was matched by a challenge grant, making contributions go twice as far!

Already volunteers have signed up and begun collecting pledges from their co-workers, neighbors, and friends to support the ERA. If you would like to participate, call Lori at 620-9099 or e-mail [lori@enoriver.org](mailto:lori@enoriver.org) and a pledge packet will be sent to you. It is a great service to do as a family, with your best friend, or as a community project with friends from work.

As a thank you to anyone who raises over \$50 in pledges, participants will receive a T-shirt from the Great Human Race. If you can raise over \$100, you will get an additional T-shirt from the Eno and be entered into a drawing for door prizes at the race. Over \$250 earns you a Great Human Race sweatshirt.

If you can't participate this year but want to support the event, you can sponsor the Association's "Team Eno" by sending your pledge to 4419 Guess Road, Durham, NC 27712. Checks should be made out to the Great Human Race/Volunteer Center.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE ON RACE DAY!**