2002 Festival Proceeds Aimed at Purchase of Dimmocks Mill Tract

By Lori Olson

The Eno River Association is excited to announce that we are under contract to purchase the 12-acre Dimmocks Mill Tract along the Eno River in Orange County. The property will be purchased with the proceeds from this year’s Festival for the Eno.

This absolutely beautiful tract contains mixed hardwood forest, steep bluffs over looking the river, and creeks that flow directly into the Eno. The property is located on the river, across from the Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area. Its purchase will not only add to the open space and wildlife habitat currently protected at Occoneechee, it will also protect that gorgeous view from the mountain, that we have all come to love so much.

This property is currently zoned for industrial development. Our purchase will prevent what was the inevitable development of this riverfront tract. The Association is set to close on the property by August 7, 2002.

All proceeds from the 2002 Festival for the Eno will go toward the purchase of this tract. Come to the Festival on July 4, 6 or 7 and support our land protection efforts!

New Facilities At Eno River State Park

By Dave Cook, Park Superintendent

The Few’s Ford Picnic Area has a new look. A walkway makes most of the tables wheelchair accessible. New grills and fire rings have been installed. Most noticeable are the two new buildings. A restroom facility is open at the north end, just off the parking lot. At the south end near the Eno Trace Trail, a 12-table picnic shelter with a fireplace is open for public use. It may be reserved through the park office for $75 per day. Picnic area parking has been doubled.

The current contract on the Piper-Cox House has been completed. Most of the house is finished. However, the downstairs interior is yet to be completed. Park staff are using their imagination and resources to install exhibits in the house with very little funding. The goal is to have the interiors open to the public most weekends. Parking at the house was also doubled.

A new well and well house are operating at Few’s Ford. The park now has plenty of water and it is no longer high in iron, tasting like rust as provided by the old well.

Visit us on the Web at www:enoriver.org
Letter to Our Members

It’s Festival time again! The office is bursting at the seams with excitement and activity, planning, building stages, and garnering enthusiastic volunteers. I will be looking to see all of you there, celebrating the magic of the Eno and having a fabulous time doing it! As many of you already know, it takes an army of volunteers to put on the Festival for the Eno. We need over 1,000 volunteers every year. So, if you have never volunteered before, consider giving it a try. Plus, you will get in FREE to the Festival on any day that you work a shift. Call our volunteer coordinator at 471-5008 to sign up!

Our most exciting news is that we plan to purchase 12 gorgeous acres on the Eno River with this year’s Festival proceeds. The property is across the river from the Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area. It contains mixed hardwood forest and a couple of creeks that flow into the Eno. So, with every Festival ticket that you buy, every drink, raffle ticket, and Eno t-shirt, you will be helping to protect this wonderful conservation property. Spread the word and bring a friend out to the 2002 Festival for the Eno. Together we can make a difference in our community.

Happy summer to you, and we’ll see you at the Festival for the Eno!

Naturally Yours,

Lori Olson

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TOWNSEND & BERTRAM 10% Day Helps the Eno

On Wednesday, July 3, 2002 Townsend & Bertram and Company has generously agreed to donate 10% of their sales receipts to the Eno River Association. This donation will be used for open space protection within the Eno River basin. Please be sure to thank them the next time you’re in the store, and be sure to shop there on Wednesday, July 3.

Welcome to New ERA Members

Ahira Bissell & Megan Hall
Terete Borras
Dale & James Cavanaugh
Sarah Conch
Kelly Dillard
The Hackett Family
(Gift from David and Laura Eastwood)
Ken, Janie & Corette Haywood
Saulc Johnston
Marti Mattox
Eric & Edie McDuffe
Jennifer McGilvray & Steven Uhrue
Chris O'Meara & Kyle Romero
Kathleen & Gary Palmer
David & Jane Rouse
Jill Shires
Britt Spevay
Gayle Young

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FESTIVAL AND BOOKMARKS

Sales Days: July 2-4 & 8-10
Sales Times: 9:30 – 5:00

Wellspring/Whole Food Market
5% Day Helps the Eno
On Wednesday, July 3, 2002 Wellspring/Whole Food Market has generously agreed to donate 10% of their sales receipts to the Eno River Association. This donation will be used for open space protection within the Eno River basin. Please be sure to thank them the next time you’re in the store, and be sure to shop there on Wednesday, July 3.

-era Office Help Needed

The Eno River Association office seeks a dependable volunteer for 2-5 hours, once a month, to help with assembling Board packets. The day that you come in each month could be flexible. Please respond to Lori Olson at 620-9099 if interested. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated!

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Townsend & Bertram
10% Day Helps the Eno

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HELP PROTECT ENO LANDS WITH A CHARITABLE GIFT TO THE ENO RIVER ASSOCIATION OF CASH OR STOCKS.

Your Eno River State Park Is Growing

By Dave Cook, Park Superintendent

Eno River State Park was blessed with the addition of three land tracts in 2001, totaling 58 acres. Two tracts are on the river at the Cabe’s Ford Area. These are the nine-acre tract of William Cabe lands on the north bank and the 19.5-acre Kelly tract on the south bank. The Kelly tract was first acquired by the Eno River Association before transfer to the park.

The purchase of the 29-acre Cooper tract makes it the northernmost park land. It is on Buckquarter Creek near the Shakori Trail. All three tracts are mostly mature hardwood and have significant bottomland forest and higher ridge lines back from the river and creek.

Eno River State Park (Cowe Mill Road Area)
Children at the River. Photo by James

Festival Notes

Help Hazel with Festival Hospitality

By Hazel Cash

Since this is the last newsletter before the Festival, I would like to remind everyone that we had a wonderful hospitality table for the performs last year at the Festival for the Eno because so many of you brought delicious bowls of food. (You should hear the raves you get.) We hope you'll be willing to donate something good to eat again this year. All salads or picnic type foods are great, but no jello please.

If you can help out, please give me a call at 477-8936 or email me at way-cash@earthlink.net

Schedule Your Festival Volunteer Shift Early

By Judy Allen

Festival Days (July 4, 6 & 7)

Drunk Booth
Ticket Booth
Gatekeeper
Recycling Steward
Composting
Waste Collection truck drivers
Hands-on Pottery (no experience necessary)
Pottery Wheels
(experience necessary)
Recording stage performances
Face-painting
Runners
Assistant Stage Managers
Raffle Booth Sales people
T-shirt Sales people
Traffic Control
Food donations
Office phones

After the Festival

Closing night break down
Workdays following the Festival
Hospitality for workday volunteers
Run errands
Office phones

Remember…each Festival for the Eno volunteer receives a free pass into the Festival for each day worked. To volunteer, or for info about volunteer opportunities, please call Festival Volunteer Coordinator Judy Allen at 471-5008 or email volunteer@enoriver.org.

Before the Festival

Poster/Brochure Distribution
Stage Building Workdays
Help put up the 40’ X 80’ Big Top Tent (June 29th)
Workday Hospitality
Site Prep (week before the Festival)
Office Help (answer phones, copying, running errands)

A Gnawing Issue

By Dave Owen, Resident Field Naturalist.

West Point on the Eno Park

It was dusk as I lay back in my inflatable boat to acquaint myself with the night environment on the river. Katsydids began to call. Bull frogs moaned up and down the river as I let my boat gently twirl in the ever so slight current. Just as I was entering into a sublime state of focus, a huge splash occurred right next to my boat. I was startled out of my reverie, my mind announcing to me that someone was tossing huge stones from the bank. I grabbed the paddle and spun the boat around in several directions, my heart thumping at this rude interruption. Soon I noticed a brown head moving along the surface not far away. A rodent-like body curled on the surface and then, smack... and the animal disappeared below. I smiled in relief as I realized that I had just been initiated into the world of the beaver.

This is how I directly encountered the beaver, but the results of this animal’s activities are noticeable everywhere along the river. The beaver’s primary diet consists of the soft, inner bark of trees. By the river, one can observe where the outer bark has been gnawed off on large standing trunks where beavers, on their tiptoes, can reach two or three feet up the trunk. Not aiming to cut the large tree down for building, the beaver just scrapes off its meal of tree tissue and moves on to the next tree. Of course this practice is not healthy for an individual tree as slowly, over the coming five to ten years, the tree will probably die and rot. This has recently happened to what is now completely girdled by a beaver. A giant chestnut oak at river’s edge, a keystone species, in that its habits become the basis for a whole community of complementary wildlife. I have heard estimates that as much as twenty percent of eastern forest areas are quite willing to share space with us in our urbanized Piedmont. Considering how we have mistreated them in the past, I feel that it is with a profound sense of reconciliation on their part that these animals are back in our midst again. Are we going to welcome this opportunity to live side by side with one of nature’s most fascinating creatures and allow our lives to be enriched by their companionship? Or do we humans want to continue to expand our greedy, consuming habits and one day wake up as the only, lonely species of life left on this planet?

Recognizing a Friend in “The Forest!”

By Caroline Long

At our April 2002 meeting, I made a motion to the Board of the Eno River Association to send a “Certificate of Appreciation” to Edith Duffey, to be presented to her at a celebration of her 90th birthday on May 4, 2002. The motion passed unanimously.

The resolution is a formal recognition of Ms. Duffey’s long-time caring support of the EBA, noting that Edith was often seen by the side of our founder Margaret Nygard helping her during the formative years of the Eno River Association. Carol Charping, Nancy Gustavson and Susan Runciman, whom remember Edith’s many contributions to the Eno River Association, were consulted in the writing of this document, and did so with the assistance of Don Moffitt and myself.

The Master of Ceremonies at Edith’s May 4th birthday celebration, Nora Johnson, presented Edith with the Certificate of Appreciation during the cake ceremony. The celebration was held at The Forest At Duke in Durham.

Hazel Cash. Photo by Grant McNichols

Blowing Bubbles. Photo by James Hill

Children at the River. Photo by James
Marcia Eickmeier Named Volunteer of the Year

By Greg Bell & Jennifer Silva

Long-time Eno River Association supporter and volunteer, Marcia Eickmeier, was named Sustained Involvement Volunteer of the Year by the Volunteer Center of Greater Durham. The award was one of the eight categorical Volunteer of the Year Awards selected from the 105 individual and group volunteers honored on April 24, 2002, at the Twenty-eighth Key Volunteer Luncheon.

Marcia was nominated by the Eno River Association for the longevity of her commitment as both a Hike Coordinator and a “Trash Free” Festival Coordinator. Over the 15 years that Marcia has organized the New Year’s Day and Winter Hikes, she has developed a well-advertised, organized trash-free program, which reaches over 40,000 people each year. (For more info on how to help with the Festival’s work, go to trashfree@enoriver.org or phone Judy Allen at (919) 471-5080.)

Marcia’s steady leadership has nurtured and developed the loyalty and talents of others, and her hard work and always pleasant demeanor serve as an example for others seeking to make a difference in their community.

Thank you, Marcia, for your years of dedicated volunteerism and your continued devotion to protecting the Eno River.

A Big “THANK YOU” to Recent ERA Volunteers

Mary Ellen Ackerman - Tom Barbara Driscoll - Laura Mansberg - Peggy Sanford
Greg/Marguerite Adkins - Helen Drivas - Melissa McCaulloch - Rebecca Sanford
Judy Allen - Marcia Eickmeier - Andrea Miele - Tim Sanford
Brandi Burke - Steven Fishback - Sue Monahan - Bruce Saunders
Jones Bell - Chip Gentry - Margaret Moore - Peter Schubert
Barbara Brichak - Tom Howard - Peg Parker - Molly Sonce
Larry Bohs - Thomas Humphrey - Vickie Patton - Rob Satter
Kathy Bonner - Gail Ice - Barry Phillips - Judy Teague
Amy Campbell - Leslie Killem - Diana Phillips - Margaret Wainwright
Pat Carstensen - Jason King - Sandy Pressler - Melissa Malkin Weher
Bob Ciski - Heather Lassford - Ken Pugh - Rachel Wellman
Sidney Crazz - Kathy Lee - Liz Pullman - Sonia West
Erik Daubert - Michelle Makrucki - Mary-Russell Roberson - Emily Wexler

Volunteers & BIN Challenge: Record Funds for ERA at the Great Human Race

By Jennifer Silva

The Eno River Association had record-breaking participation in the recent Great Human Race, thanks to the work of 22 volunteers who participated in the pledge run/walk put on by the Volunteer Center of Greater Durham. Our volunteers collected over $4,600 in pledges from friends, family, and colleagues on behalf of the Association.

Extra incentive was provided to our supporters by the BIN Charitable Foundation in the form of a challenge grant, which was met, thanks to the tremendous support of the Eno River community. The challenge grant provides a donation directly to the Association to match the first $4,000 raised in pledges for the Great Human Race. Collectively, the amount of funds raised through participants’ pledges and the BIN Challenge Grant represents the largest amount of money raised by the Association through the Great Human Race.

The Race was held on a chilly morning in March, but the energy at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park kept everyone warm, including representatives from the seventy-eight participating organizations. Wind chills brought temperatures to a frosty chill, but also opened the doors for participants to see more of our beloved community.

Thank you to all of the participants, donors, and members who helped us meet our goal by raising pledges and participating in the Great Human Race, 2002. As always, the funds raised will aid us in protecting vital natural resources in the Eno River Basin.

Collectively, the amount of funds raised through the Great Human Race, 2002, met the BIN Challenge Grant, which was created to aid us in protecting vital natural resources in the Eno River Basin.

ERAs are a member of Earth Share of NC. Please look for us at Earth Share’s workplace giving campaign.

Barred Owls on Ellerbee Creek

By Mary-Russell Roberson

Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?

That’s what Barred Owls are supposed to say, but it didn’t sound exactly like that to me when I heard one hooting at dusk recently. My family and I were on the new trail along Ellerbee Creek, between Indian Trail Park and Maryland Avenue. My husband was walking and talking when I stopped suddenly. “Shhh! What was that?” I whispered. We heard it again: several hoots followed by a sound like a whisper. We looked through the grove of hedges in the darkness at the hoots. There, about 20 feet away, was a large owl perched on a low branch. It looked at us solemnly. I felt like jumping up and down. It was the first time I’d ever had such a good view of an owl in the wild. The only owls I had seen before were silhouettes against a dark sky, gone before I knew what they were. This one was about a foot-and-a-half tall, and had stripes of brown and white.

Our daughter pedaled up on her bike and we showed her the owl. Just then it flew to another tree nearby, and as it did, another owl flew too. Two Barred Owls! We heard them call to each other, and we followed them down the path. They flew again. We lost sight of one. The other flew into the top of a tall pine tree in the park at the bottom of Maryland Avenue. We could barely see the owl now it was just a dark bump up high that looked like a pine cone. But we stayed for awhile anyway, to hear its beautiful hoots.

When I got home, I called my next-door neighbor who is a bird watcher. I imitated the owl’s hoot over the phone. He said, “That sounds like a Barred Owl. The only other owl you might see down by the creek would be a Great Horned Owl.” He hooted like a Great Horned Owl. “No, it definitely wasn’t like that,” I said. Birders often identify owls by their calls rather than their appearance. That’s because it’s so hard to get a good look at owls! They sleep during the day, hidden in nests or well-camouflaged near the trunk of a tree. At night, they go out hunting, using their keen hearing and sharp night vision to find mice and other small animals to eat. Humans can’t see as well as owls can at night, so it’s not a good time for us to go bird watching. But even if we can’t see them at night, we can still listen to them.

It’s not surprising that we saw the owls near Ellerbee Creek, because Barred Owls like to live in wet places like swamps and stream valleys. They nest in hollow trees, or sometimes old crow nests or old squirrel nests. Barred Owls are not the only animals that live in dead trees-other owls, other birds, raccoons, foxes, and millions of insects also seek out dead trees for homes. If you have a dead tree in your yard that is not in danger of falling and damaging something, don’t chop it down. Maybe a Barred Owl will come to live in it. Then perhaps you will hear, “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?”

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Upcoming Events

June 1  National Trails Day
June 13  Public Hearing on Eno Drive, location TBD. Call Lori Olson at 620-9099 for more information.
June 14  Kick-off for Hillsborough Hog Day, 6PM-dark.
June 15  Hillsborough Hog Day, 9am-7pm, downtown Hillsborough.
Mid-June  Eno River Watch monitoring. Contact Kathy Lee at 919-309-4830 or e-mail katgirl@employees.org for more information.

June 29  Big Top Day. Help raise the Eno Big Top tent. Call Judy Allen at 471-5008 for more information.
July 4, 6, & 7  Festival for the Eno. Y’all come!
July 5  Beaver Hikes, Buckquarter Creek Trail. Call Eno River State Park office at 383-1686 for information/registration.

The ERA Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

The Festival for the Eno 2002 logo was designed and illustrated by Jennifer Armstrong.