

Winter 2015



ENO RIVER Currents



We've Added Another Piece to the Park Puzzle!

The Association's newest acquisition for Eno River State Park is this forested 6.4-acre property that straddles the Durham and Orange county lines off Sparger Road. Donors to the Margaret C. Nygard Land Acquisition Fund made the purchase possible. Many of the more recent gifts made to the fund were in memory of Margaret's husband Holger Nygard, who died in May of this year.

Though small, the property lies in two Significant Natural Heritage Areas recognized by the state of North Carolina for their unique wildlife habitat. Just 500-feet uphill from the Eno, the land will now provide a permanent buffer between the

river and an adjoining residential neighborhood. Besides protecting the river from runoff, the property will also protect the viewshed for hikers along the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail, only 150-feet away.

Since we created Eno River State Park in the 1970s, it's been our mission to continue its expansion, buying land identified in the Park's master plan. What a wonderful way to honor Margaret and Holger and their tremendous contribution to Durham and Orange counties, and set aside more parkland for our burgeoning community!



Eno River Association – Connection to the Past – Protection for the Future



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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Annette Jurgelski (second from left) volunteering on a stewardship workday

From Retiring Board Member Annette Jurgelski

The moment when we become lovers of the natural world is not always identifiable, but for me it came when I took my two young children by the hand and followed Margaret Nygard on her early hikes to save the Eno. I can still shut my eyes and see Margaret and George Pyne standing on the embankment next to Holden's Mill sharing their vision for protecting the precious resource that is our river.

Serving on the Board brought more memorable experiences. At board meetings, hikes, street fairs, and public hearings, I was privileged to meet many wonderful, environmentally concerned people who shared the goal of creating and preserving the parklands of the Eno for our forebears to enjoy. I am forever grateful for these opportunities.

I am comfortable in the knowledge that the Eno will always have protectors and that today's board members, volunteers, and staff are a great group of environmentalists who will guard our precious river for my lifetime and beyond.

Thanks again for the great memories and remember, if you ever need a willing volunteer, I'm just a phone call away.

Sincerely,

**Tickets On Sale Now
at www.enoriver.org**



Welcoming the Blind and Visually Impaired to the Eno

The Eno River Association is proud to announce that beginning this fall, we are launching a new cutting-edge initiative to increase access to the Eno for the blind and visually impaired. Projects will include improvements to trails, river access areas, and natural play spaces. The multi-year initiative is being made possible by a generous gift from the Dickinson Family, Hillsborough residents and longtime supporters of the Eno River Association. A sensory garden in memory of Debra Dickinson, the outdoors-loving nature girl who inspired this concept, will also be installed at The Confluence Natural Area north of Hillsborough.



Debra Dickinson owned two farms—one in Vermont and the other in the remote Virginia Mountains—where she loved to garden, walk along nearby streams and wade in their cool waters. When diabetes took her sight as a twenty something, she found herself cut off from wilderness and nature. Safe access was the problem. Forced to move into town where some basic support services for the blind could be found and utilized, she profoundly missed being alone and quiet in the country.

On every visit with family, she asked them to take her to a stream to let her wade; to a forest to let her wander while holding someone's arm; to a garden to let her smell and touch plants and maybe even get her fingers dirty. Some of Debbie's family lived along the Eno, and over many visits to North Carolina, she came to know well the wonders of the river. The barriers that kept her (and other "blindies" as she jokingly called herself), from accessing the outdoors, however, were often on her mind.

Funding for this pioneer project will further allow us to hire trained facilitators to assist visually impaired students who register for our *iWalk the Eno Science and Nature* summer camp in June. Not only does the camp prepare 8–12 year-olds

for the middle school science curriculum, its hands-on, feet-wet approach to environmental education inspires a lifelong love of nature for people like Debra. Camp registration begins in early 2016. Contact liz@enoriver.org for details. You can also support our efforts to bring the nature-loving blind and visually impaired to the Eno. Just go to www.enoriver.org, click on "Support Us/Donate" and choose "Welcome the blind and visually impaired to the Eno" when you make your gift.

DONORS PITCH IN FOR A NEW TRUCK

Conservation Director Kim Livingston is always on the move: meeting with landowners and partners throughout Durham and Orange counties to negotiate land deals, collaborate on stewardship projects, and organize volunteer workdays. Her work has been made much easier by the late Dr. Richard Beck, who provided funds for the Association to buy a new used Ford F150 4x4 pickup truck. A number of other donors pitched in as well. Thanks everybody!



Volunteer Spotlight on Ann Prince

During one of our greatest times of need, Ann Prince came to the rescue. In January, as you may recall, we experienced a “great unpleasantness” when raw sewage destroyed our offices. We were also facing the temporary leave of our new Conservation Director, which dropped our staff to four during an already busy time of year. Fortunately, while we were asking ourselves, “what are we going to do?” Ann was asking herself a similar question. After 25 years with the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, Ann was looking for her next great adventure. Driven by a deep-seated love for the environment and a desire to continue

her work protecting natural places, she came to us ready and willing to take on some of our land stewardship responsibilities.

Ann’s love for the outdoors started with her parents’ love of wildflowers, birds, and wild places. “The more you explore the natural world, the more fascinating it becomes,” she said reflecting on her childhood. Those early explorations in nature led her to a career in natural area protection in both Maryland and North Carolina.

Ann had already been volunteering for the Association for several years before deciding to take on a more active role. “It is great to work on a local level with a group committed to conserving natural areas on the Eno, educating and energizing the public, and improving the condition of the land,” says Ann. When asked why the Eno is important to her, she replied, “The Eno River ecosystem supports rare plants, animals, fish, and mussels, so it is a very special place. But, just as importantly, it’s the place where we swam and hiked together as a family...we even named our dog “Eno”...so it holds a lot of special memories for me.”

Ann has lead volunteer workdays, removed countless invasive species, monitored conservation properties, volunteered at the Festival, and developed species inventory lists and outreach materials. She loves the Eno and truly enjoys helping keep it alive and thriving. “I volunteer because being a part of that makes my life much richer.”

Every year, The Eno River Association is humbled by the hundreds of volunteers who participate in our stewardship workdays, lead hikes, help with the Festival, and so much more. Thanks to Ann and everyone for helping make the Eno the special place that it is. If you are interested in volunteering, sign up online at enoriver.org.



50 Years of Protecting the Eno

FULL COLOR 2016 WALL CALENDAR CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF PROTECTING THE ENO

This calendar has it all: original artwork, gorgeous photographs, and histories of how our local parklands—the lands you love to hike and enjoy—came to be. It also makes a great holiday gift. Need a bunch of little squares to write birthdays on? Reminders of important holidays and Eno events? This calendar has you covered. For a full list of locally owned retailers, go to enoriver.org/shop/calendar or swing by our office at 4404 Guess Road. Questions? Email calendar@enoriver.org.

Eno River Association Receives \$37,500 in Environmental Education and Easement Acquisition Funding from Duke Energy

A recent \$30,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation will allow The Eno River Association to secure more land along the river and potentially expand the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail. The grant, awarded through Duke’s Water Resources Fund, will also achieve the company’s goals to protect and enhance regional waterways. “We look forward to our partnership with the Association and the impact this grant will have on the local community,” said Shawn Heath, vice president of the Duke Energy Foundation and Community Affairs.

Over the years, Duke Energy has supported the *iWalk the Eno* summer camp and been a Festival for the Eno sponsor. “It’s great that they are now bolstering our land protection efforts as well,” says the Association’s Conservation Director Kim

Livingston. This summer, a \$7,500 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation helped provide a science-based summer camp experience to 120 rising fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, and scholarships to underserved children. “There are lots of summer camps in our area, but *iWalk the Eno* is unique because it’s taught by certified North Carolina teachers,” explains Camp and Education Director Liz Stabenow. “It instills in

kids a lifelong love of nature but also gives them a solid foundation in earth science.”

“Science education and environmental stewardship are two critical focus areas for Duke Energy,” said Duke Energy’s Indira Everett, district manager for government and community relations in Durham and Orange counties. “*iWalk the Eno* is a proven program that emphasizes both, and we’re happy to make this opportunity available to kids from diverse backgrounds across the Eno watershed.”

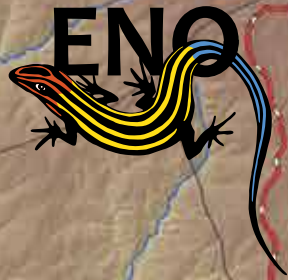


Eno Invites Community to 50th Birthday Party at the Washington Duke Inn

We’ve come a long way, baby, and come Feb. 20, we’re putting on our bell bottoms and dancing shoes to celebrate. Join us for an auspicious and delicious event emceed by WRAL’s Bill Leslie and hosted by an impressive slate of Honorary Chairs representing a broad spectrum of environmental leadership including Katherine Skinner, Executive Director of the NC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; Paula Alexander, Director of Sustainable Business at Burt’s Bees; Chuck Davis, Founder of the African-American Dance Ensemble; Representative David Price; and Orrin Pilkey, Professor Emeritus of Earth and Ocean Sciences at Duke’s Nicholas School of the Environment. 1970s cover band The Wusses, a silent auction, and photo booth will keep everyone entertained. Come play with us and help set the tone for the next 50 years of conservation on the Eno!

Meet the 50 Hikes Challenge

We’re throwing down the gauntlet! Starting with our famous New Year’s Day hike, we are challenging local nature lovers to participate in all 50 guided hikes we’ll be offering next year to celebrate Eno River Association’s 50th Birthday. From New Year’s to Mother’s Day, we’ll lead afternoon hikes at 2pm every Sunday. During summer and fall, we’ll be offering more opportunities to get outside and enjoy the nature, culture, and history of the Eno. Log 50 hikes in 2016 and join the fun! Visit enoriver.org/50hikes to learn more about registering for the challenge and recording your hikes in our virtual log book.



THE BIG PICTURE

- 7,000+ acres protected
- 5 parks created
- 550,000+ annual park users
- 40 miles of trails
- 410,000+ water users
- \$6,451,235 in conservation land and easement assets

Building Community in 2015

- 20 Sunday afternoon hikes, 398 hikers, 790 hike hours
- 702 New Year's Day Hikers
- 20 stewardship volunteer workdays, 200 stewardship volunteers, and 1,100 volunteer hours
- 300 trees and shrubs planted
- 71 volunteer Trail Stewards

Building Public Support in 2015

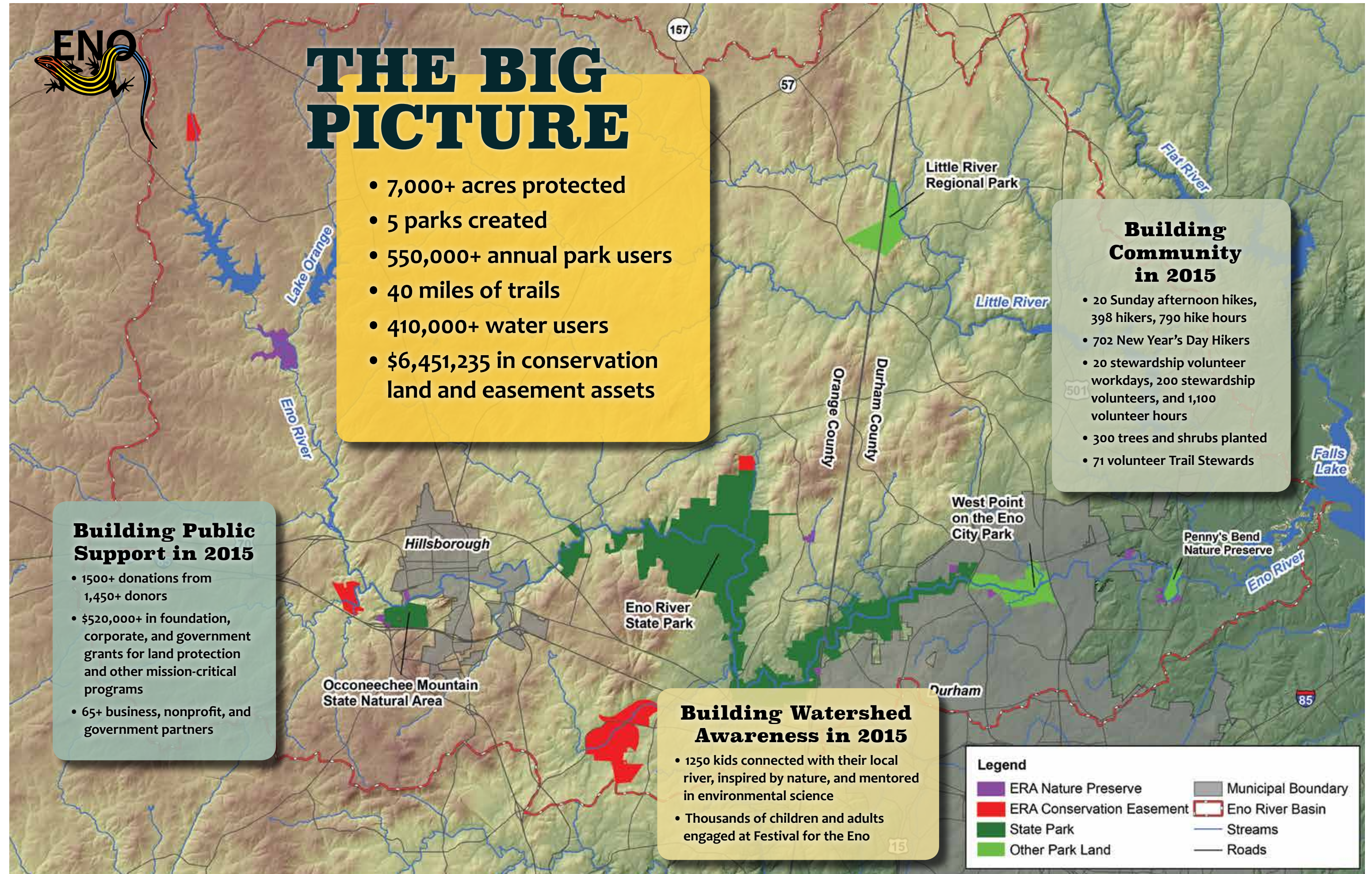
- 1500+ donations from 1,450+ donors
- \$520,000+ in foundation, corporate, and government grants for land protection and other mission-critical programs
- 65+ business, nonprofit, and government partners

Building Watershed Awareness in 2015

- 1250 kids connected with their local river, inspired by nature, and mentored in environmental science
- Thousands of children and adults engaged at Festival for the Eno

Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| ERA Nature Preserve | Municipal Boundary |
| ERA Conservation Easement | Eno River Basin |
| State Park | Streams |
| Other Park Land | Roads |



TWO WAYS YOU CAN ADVOCATE FOR THE ENO!

Vote in Favor of the Connect NC Bond Act of 2015!

Have you heard the news? The \$2 billion Connect NC bond will connect North Carolina to the 21st century through statewide investments in education, parks, safety, recreation, and water and sewer infrastructure. Importantly, it will bring \$2.8 million to Eno River State Park to build a visitor's center and \$4.5 million to the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail to improve and lengthen the trail. The bond issue will

be on the March primary ballot. We ask you to vote in favor of the bond and urge your friends, family, and colleagues across the state to do the same. Eno River State Park and the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail are painfully under-resourced, and these funds are sorely needed. Go to enoriver.org to read the legislation authorizing the bond and see where the rest of the money would go!

Call or write in support of the Conservation Easement Incentive Act of 2015

The Eno River Association is best known for protecting land for parks, but we also work with private landowners to permanently conserve properties along the river and its streams. However, landowners need to have both their hearts in the right place as well as the right financial incentives

to work with us. After all, most of a landowner's net worth could be tied up in their property.

Since 2006, landowners who donated a conservation easements to a qualifying organization like the Eno River Association have been able to claim a federal

income tax deduction. This deduction has been a significant driver of private voluntary land conservation. However, Congress has allowed the deduction to expire year after year, creating huge uncertainty among landowners, and land trusts like us that are doing landowner outreach.

It's time to make these powerful conservation provisions permanent and give conservation-minded landowners in North Carolina greater certainty when considering donating an easement. In February, the House of Representatives voted to make the enhanced incentive permanent. **Now, we need to get the Senate to pass S 330, the Conservation Incentive Act.** The Eno River Association, along with 23 other land trusts across the state, have persuaded Senator Richard Burr to publicly and officially sign on as a co-sponsor of this bill. **Please contact your Senators in Congress and ask them to cosponsor this important legislation as well. If they co-sponsored it in the past, thank them and ask them to renew their support.**

This legislation is backed by North Carolina's 24 local land trusts as well as national conservation



ENO CROW

Eventually you end up ambling past
bushwhack and pine cathedral to Eno warble
Light spangling through oak hickory
standing in leaning over
Water moss singing silent song to salamander
fish terrapin

Up over
never heard such cackle
Treetop black-robed caw-caw sparring
oak-muscle and water-sinew
Boulders and call loosening body's thrumming tether
Needing only to be Not do
River keeping another river inside

– Jeffery Beam

GET YOUR ART FIX AND SUPPORT THE ERA

From Jan. 25 – Feb. 21, the Hillsborough Gallery of Arts will host a poetry and art exhibition called FLOW, featuring the work of gallery artists as well as the poetry of local writers. All art and poetry will be



Eno in Fall, by Ellie Reinhold

inspired by nature, the environment, and the Eno River. Donations to the Association will be accepted at the Gallery's front desk throughout the exhibit. Be sure to join the Eno River Association for the opening reception on Fri., Jan. 29, 6–9pm.

We are proud to be a member of...



The Eno River Association thanks Eugene A. Brown and Distinctive Properties for their support of this newsletter.



Support the Eno River Association

Want to help buy more land for Eno River State Park and protect other land for recreation, water quality, wildlife and farming? Join today! If you are not a member, why not join? 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.



4404 Guess Road,
Durham, NC 27712

Eno River Association Membership Form

Clip and Mail to: 4404 Guess Road, Durham, NC 27712 or join online at www.enoriver.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

We do not share our email list.

Method of Payment

Check (Please make payable to the Eno River Association)

Mastercard Visa Credit Card # _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Or, click on "Donate Now" online at www.enoriver.org

Membership Level

- \$5000 Blazing Star*
- \$2500 Lady's Slipper*
- \$1000 Crested Iris*
- \$500 Trillium*
- \$250 Steward
- \$100 Protector
- \$50 Supporter
- \$35 Patron
- \$25 Friend
- \$10 Student



* Wildflower Society

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