Learning, Dreaming & Growing Along a River

By Kathy Lee, Director of Education

I recently found myself reflecting on the joys of my childhood spent exploring the woods close to my home, and walking beside the river that ran through the town. I was at the 1st NC Outdoor Classroom Symposium offered by the Office of Environmental Education talking with educators from all over North Carolina, across the country, and from around the world. We spent three days sharing experiences and current research on outdoor learning spaces on school grounds; we visited area schools that have incorporated the outdoors into their teaching; and we discussed the challenges that we face in bringing nature back to our school grounds.

The timing was perfect. I’ve been working with a team of parents, professionals, and volunteers on the design and implementation of a new Discovery Garden at Easley Elementary in Durham. The project began this past summer when Colleen Ring, a researcher at Duke University and a parent of two children attending Easley Elementary, visited my office to brainstorm some partnership ideas. The project quickly grew as Stefan Bloodworth, Curator of the H.L. Blomquist Garden of Native Plants, and Annie Nashold, Director of Children’s Education and Family Learning, joined the team. Pat Henline, a volunteer at Easley Elementary and a member of the Durham Garden Club, helped to connect us with local garden clubs and LETS GROW Durham, a community organization dedicated to providing safe green spaces in Durham.

We have been working on the design of the Discovery Garden with the help of Easley Elementary students, parents, and staff. The garden will feature native plants, outdoor learning activities, and a seating area for students and teachers. We hope to have the garden ready for the start of the school year.

The project has been a wonderful opportunity to bring nature and education together. We are grateful to the Easley Elementary community for their support and to all of the volunteers who have been working on the project.

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

Volunteers plant a native plant garden on the grounds of Easley Elementary School.
...from the Director

A few weeks ago Eno River State Park Ranger Christopher Ammon volunteered to take members of the Eno River Association Board and staff on a hike through the “missing link” section of the park acquired at the end of last year. There are no official trails in the area yet, although someday the Mountains-to-Sea Trail will connect through this section. Christopher was a wonderful guide. His love of the park was evident as he led us through the woods pointing out native plants, and invasive ones, talking about the history of the land we were walking on, and explaining to us how each ranger has a section of the park that he or she is responsible for. We explored an old road, found a stone chimney, and visited the remains of a slave cemetery, now protected within the park. We saw a group of deer in the distance, and turning over an old iron stove door lying on the ground, discovered a spotted salamander. And of course we walked down to the river where most of us got our boots a little wet, unable to stifle the impulse to walk out onto the rocks at the water’s edge.

I spend most my working days in the Eno office, not getting outside nearly as much as I thought I would when I became Executive Director. Like everyone who loves the land and the river I’m always aware in the back of my mind that they are out there, but walking just a few feet into the woods on that beautiful fall morning reminded me again why the work we do is so important. Thank you for caring too, and for all you do to help protect this incredibly special place we share.
With the holidays here and the end of the year not far behind, there is much to be done! One of those things for many of us is wrapping up our yearly contributions. There is still time to make your donation to the Eno River Association to receive a tax benefit for 2009. It is easy, as you will see...A few of my favorites for this time of year are:

THROUGH THE WEBSITE
You can go to our website at www.enoriver.org and make a contribution right up until December 31 with your credit card and receive a tax deduction for 2009. Just find the “Donate Now” button on our home page—click and go!

APPRECIATED STOCK
With the stock market rebounding, there is a chance that you may have some appreciated stock in your portfolio from stocks purchased earlier this year or from the past. If you give these to the Eno, you can avoid capital gains taxes and make your gift go even further!

AT OUR ADDRESS
You can mail gifts directly to our office at Eno River Association, 4404 Guess Road, Durham, NC 27712, Attention: Financial Development. This method allows you to write a check and send it directly to the Eno River Association where we can immediately begin putting it to good use.

There is Still Time to Make a Difference!
By Erik Daubert, Senior Development Associate

With so many great projects underway, know that your resources are needed to continue our efforts to protect and preserve the Eno River. By giving to the Eno River Association this year you will help protect the Eno River for yourself, for your family and friends, and for the community as a whole. What a great feeling!

THROUGH OUR OFFICE
If you have questions about us, or our work, please give us a call at 919-620-9099 x202, or email us at association@enoriver.org. We'd love to hear from you! By calling our office, you can make a credit card contribution right over the phone.

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Journey’s End is Just the Beginning
Kurt Schlimme, Director of Stewardship

On the evening of October 8th one journey ended for us here at the Association and we simultaneously began another. With a unanimous vote of the Eno River Association’s Board of Directors, the Confluence Natural Area five-year Management Plan was approved, ending a process that began more than a year ago. It was a welcome end for us because a lot of time went into the development of this plan. It was not the first management plan ever approved by the Association’s Board (in fact all Association properties now have management plans) but it was certainly the most extensive and detailed. But while it was good to end the management plan development journey, it was exciting to begin the next stage of the management process which was initiated once the votes were cast: management plan implementation.

Implementing the goals we created for the Natural Area when the Confluence Management Plan was adopted will require time, volunteers and investment. Projects include the reforestation of two bottomland agricultural fields that were abandoned when the Association took over ownership of the property; the removal and control of numerous invasive species on the property; the creation of several miles of hiking trails; the enhancement of wildlife habitat within the Natural Area’s forest buffer; and the preparation of the property for public access through infrastructure improvement projects, i.e. grading and graveling the driveway onto the property, creation of on-site parking, and the removal of barbed wire and unsafe structures that currently reside on the property. That is a heavy load of work right there and it really only scratches the surface of what we would like to do. Eventually we would love to see the Confluence Natural Area become not only a go-to spot for recreation, but also a center for environmental education opportunities, complete with an outdoor education/stewardship center that could be used for classes, meetings, Association events, etc.

We will undoubtedly need lots of volunteer help to achieve all the things we have planned for the Confluence Natural Area over next five-plus years. If you are interested in helping on any of the Confluence stewardship workdays or wish to be added to the Association stewardship volunteer list, please email me at kurt@enoriver.org. In addition to volunteer help, we will also need to raise the capital necessary to properly steward the Confluence Natural Area in perpetuity. If you are willing to assist with this mission you can submit a donation to the Association’s Confluence Fund or Land Stewardship Fund, both of which are dedicated to providing long term stewardship funds for the Confluence Natural Area. The legacy of volunteering and giving are two of the things that make the Eno River Association so special. They are also what make our newest journey much less daunting than it might seem at first glance. Thank you to all who have already helped with this project. We look forward to working with everyone in the years to come!
Jambo-Annual Meeting!

The rain made puddles of our Sept. 26 Jamboreeno plans! Heavy storms the day of the event forced us to cancel and find room in our freezer for all the chow we’d purchased to feed our volunteers. We certainly couldn’t let all that food go to waste and felt sure it would take our five-person staff ’til Easter to eat it all. So we scheduled a “Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon” to precede our Annual Meeting on Oct. 25.

Volunteers were invited to come out early to Pleasant Green Community Center and partake of the delicious food. It was great to see these warm-hearted folks and to commune and converse beneath the stunning fall foliage. Following the feasting we gathered together for the annual meeting where members elected our new officers and board of directors (see page 2). We heard reports from the Eno staff on our finances, education, stewardship, and land protection programs, and finished it all off with a sing-a-long to our favorite new song, “I Love the Eno” by Superintendent Keith Nealson! (see lyrics in the Fall 2009 Currents, page 2).

Thanks to all of the members and volunteers who came out to make this “hybrid” Jambo-Annual event a success! And to those of you who couldn’t make it—we are ever so grateful for your continued support and hope to see you around a picnic table, or along the Eno, in the near future.

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Donation Wish List

Stewardship Tools – Wheelbarrow, Shovels, Hand Tools
Field Guides (e.g. NC trees, NC wildflowers)
Bullhorn

WISHES REALLY DO COME TRUE!
A fireproof file cabinet had been languishing on our wish list for a quite some time. Just as the finishing touches were being put on our land trust accreditation application (which requires secure onsite storage for our property files) we received a call that an anonymous donor had generously offered to fund this important (and extremely heavy!) piece of equipment. This donation could not have come at a better time. It seems that some of our most important wishes have been granted exactly when we needed them most. 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.

Traveling Ts

Two of our newest board members (and recent newlyweds!), Meredith Barrett and Aaron Stoertz, visited Paris last spring where they showed their love for the Eno by posing next to the Eiffel Tower. Aaron is showing the Parisians his Eno style by wearing the 2004 Carolina Ladle Crawfish (aka crawdad!) designed by Emma Skurnick. Quel modèle!

Email your Eno Traveling Tee images from across the state, around the country, or across the globe to kathy@enoriver.org. org. Please include photographer’s name, the date and location where the picture was taken, and any stories that go along with the photo!
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 around the beginning of December with details about the sale. Call or email if you’d like to receive the sale notice in the mail or to update your contact information: 919-620-9000 x205 or email association@enoriver.org.

BUT WAIT. THERE’S MORE!
Why not make it a complete gift package by adding a gift membership and a selection from the Eno collection such as the 2010 Eno calendar, a coffee mug, map bandanas in assorted colors, an Eno lapel pin, or a color map of the Eno River parklands.

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

RUMINATIONS ON PERAMBULATIONS

Picture this...Hundreds of people celebrating the beginning of a new year; chatting in small groups; hiking or strolling along wooded trails; returning to the start to sip hot chocolate and share stories of previous hikes with friends present, and past.

This scene is repeated each year on January 1 at the annual Eno River Association New Year’s Day hike! Join us at the picnic shelter in the Eno River State Park, Few’s Ford Access Area (end of Cole Mill Road). Hikes begin at 2pm but get there early to park and get to the picnic shelter to join a hike. You can choose between a short (about 2 mile) hike and a longer one (4+ mile).

We start each year with the New Year’s Day hike but this is just the beginning of our winter hike series.

Winter is a great time to see the lay of the land and the reminders of our history (both human and geologic). We’ve been leading winter hikes along the Eno since the mid-1960s, visiting favorite trails and passing by historic homesites, mill sites, and gravesites, as well as overlooks and river views. You can amble, hike, promenade, saunter, stroll, or walk with us each Sunday afternoon at 2pm from the beginning of January through the end of February. Each week we explore a different trail in the Eno River valley. Hikes are free and no registration is required.

Details and directions at www.enoriver.org. Click on the Events & Activities link.

WINTER STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Coulter Conservation Area: Property clean-up
Saturday, December 12, 11am–2pm

Confluence Natural Area: Invasive species removal
Saturday, January 9, 11am–2pm

Stanley Road Spring Clean: Property clean-up
Saturday, February 20, 11am–2pm

WEEKDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We often have projects during the week that require a small group to get the work done. If you’re interested in being on an email list for weekday opportunities, contact kurt@enoriver.org.

2010 ENO RIVER CALENDAR

Support our retail business partners by shopping locally! For a listing of local retail shops selling the 2010 Eno calendar visit www.enoriver.org/calendar/calloc.htm. Or contact our office to purchase your Eno River calendar christy@enoriver.org / 919-620-9099 ext205.
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ENO RIVER ASSOCIATION

Thank you to our members and donors (May 1, 2009 – October 31, 2009)

Eno Guardian
Carolyn E. Norris & Marc Fowler
Todd & Kathleen Shapley-Quinn

Conservator
Laurie McNeil & Pat Wallace

Steward
Anonymous
Paul Feldblum & Tolly Boatwright
Tom & Elvia Howard
Sally & Bob Jackson
Daniel & Caroline Kados
James & Penny Lore
Sarah & David Nevill
Peter & Una Pickens
Karen Prus & Lewis Carson
Alexander Van Nievelt & Laurie McLennan
Mike & Sarah Woodard

Protector
Jean Anderson
Anonymous
Bill & Jean Bohs
Thomas B. Cole
Alexander Davison
Eric Dietze & Victoria Seawaldt
Marcia Eickmeier & Larry Watkins
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Mark Schultz
Geoffrey & Margaret Wainwright

IN HONOR OF...
Dee Lutz
from Anonymous

Allen Lloyd Fund
Wesley & Alice Woods

IN MEMORY OF...
Joshua Warren
from Jila Bakker

Student/Friend/Patron
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Gail Austin Curry
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Kurt & Ilga Blankmeyer
Gerald A. Bowen
Blanche & Wesley Brewer
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John Lohnes
Maria Mangano & Dan Read
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Shari Miller
Sue & Jerry Monahan
Jean & Richard Oline
Fred Parham
Rick Payne
Susan Reeves
Neil & Carole Ross
Philip & Brenda Rubens
Henry & Jeanne Sawyer
Cheri Smith
Ted & Amy Smith
David Thomas
David Tucker
Joni Walsh
Gayle Young
Richard Ziegler

Welcome New Members
James & Janis Applewhite
Jila Bakker
Beth Conlin
Natalie Davis

Jabari & Akehsia Jenkins
Shari Miller
Philip & Brenda Rubens
Linda Timberlake
Eno River Association

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

Eno River Association
Membership Application/Renewal 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.

I would like to make an additional contribution of $ _________________

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
☐ $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.