Dear Friends,

As I write, the landscape of daily life is substantially altered by COVID-19, and our necessary distancing response. I admit my daughter and I have found it arduous to be separated from our family, friends, the Brownie Troop, neighbors, and teachers. We have had to limit our visits to the Eno River, and are longing to get back!

The vibrant, essential role of the Eno River and surrounding parklands in our community has never been more tangible. Perhaps you are one of the thousands who have flocked to the woods, trails and riverbanks these past months. Whether by practicing social distancing as you enjoy the parks in person, or by viewing the Eno River Association website for photos and videos from the comfort of your home, I hope you find a path to keep yourself connected to this special place. I hope you have, and will continue to have, your Eyes on the Eno.

While the Association’s office has been closed for several weeks, we have not slowed our mission to preserve the trails and conserve open spaces. Our Board of Directors has adapted to virtual meetings, furthering our strategic planning and advocacy work. Our stewardship and land protection efforts persevere. And as you will see on the opposite page, a tremendous gift from Ms. Joyce Brown allows us to increase our acquisitions in Orange County.

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Eyes on the Eno.

Our mission is to conserve and protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Eno River basin.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Don Moffitt, President
Peter Schubert, Vice-President
David Singleton, Treasurer
Richard Carroll
Sara Childs
Carol Chairing
Caron Harkrader
Helen Kalevas
Joe Liles
Benedict Peterson
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Festival Director
Hillary Bruce
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Dave Cook
Education and Outreach Coordinator
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Director of Development
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Director of Conservation and Stewardship

Cover photo by Joe Liles

THE ROBERTA & HERMAN BROWN LAND PRESERVATION FUND

“It is my hope that the community will be cognizant of environmental resources as they plan for potential growth.” - Joyce Brown, 2012

Through a historic gift from the estate of Joyce Brown, the Roberta & Herman Brown Land Preservation Fund was established to provide resources for maintaining and purchasing land and easements in Orange County. Never one for the spotlight, Joyce Brown named the fund after her parents, but Ms. Brown’s dedication to her community cannot be overlooked.

A long-time advocate for environmental issues, Joyce Brown was elected to the Chapel Hill Town Council in 1989. During her 12-year tenure, Ms. Brown focused on environmental and energy conservation, as well as neighborhood preservation. Ms. Brown was also active with several environmental groups throughout her lifetime, including Eno River Association, the North Carolina Conservation Council, and the Sierra Club, among others. Growing up in Hillsborough, Ms. Brown held dear memories of wading and swimming in the Eno River. Ms. Brown had deep Orange County roots and was a direct descendent of Matthew McCauley, one of the original land donors who helped create the University of North Carolina. Part of the estate will also support a scholarship fund at UNC – Chapel Hill. In 2012, Ms. Brown was honored as a community treasure by the Chapel Hill Historical Society.

Ms. Brown’s bequest will help carry on her dream of preserving natural lands in Orange County, and ensuring those lands support the needs of a growing community.

LEAVING A LEGACY

If you want to see the river, its waters, parks, trails, wildlife and adjoining farmland cared for beyond your lifetime, consider making a planned gift to the Eno River Association to become a Legacy Member.

When you assess your planned giving options, you may see that you can make a greater impact on ensuring the Eno River flows for generations to come.

As a Legacy Member, you will receive special invitations, recognition, and benefits. Even if you prefer to remain anonymous, informing us of your intention ensures that we can plan for the future and steward your gift in the ways you intended.

Thank you to our current Legacy Members.

To learn more about your planned giving options, contact Emily Hill, Director of Development, at 919-748-2126 or emily@enoriver.org.

Providing a gift in your estate plans can include naming the Eno River Association as a beneficiary of the following:

- Will
- Retirement Plan
- Living Trust
- Donor Advised Fund
- Life Insurance Policy
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Remainder Gift of Real Estate
- Or any other gift that benefits the Eno River Association in the future
PROTECTING WORKING LANDS IN ORANGE COUNTY

Working lands are an essential part of our rural landscape, and conserving them delivers on our mission of protecting not only the natural, but also the cultural and historic resources of the Eno River basin. In addition to providing fresh food to local and regional markets, farms provide wildlife habitat, buffer important bodies of water, and contribute to the overall scenic and rural character that enhances our community. Protecting farms safeguards our natural resources and prime agricultural soils and helps support our local economy by maintaining a viable agricultural base. This year, Eno, in partnership with Orange County, closed on two working lands conservation easements totaling 95 acres.

The Cedar Grove Windy Hill Farm owned by Jane Gledhill is located on Carr Store Road across from an Association and Orange County jointly held conservation easement. This property drains into Lick Creek, which merges with the East Fork Eno River and flows directly into Lake Orange, a drinking water supply reservoir for the Town of Hillsborough. This property is in the headwaters of the Eno River which supplies drinking water for not only the Town of Hillsborough, but also the cities of Durham and Raleigh.

The Holden-Roberts Farm on St. Mary’s Road is owned and operated by Nels and Nancy Anderson. The farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and contains a well-preserved, rare Reconstruction-period I-house (circa 1873) and a large intact grouping of agricultural outbuildings constructed at various times from 1900 through 1950. This easement protects this historically significant property, the scenic viewshed along historic St. Mary’s Road, and the headwater stream that flows into Buckquarter Creek, a major tributary to the Eno River.

In addition to the generous contributions by the landowners, funding from Orange County’s Land Legacy Program, the NC Agricultural Development and Farmlands Preservation Trust Fund, and the City of Raleigh’s watershed protection program, it is YOU, our members who make these projects a reality.
WHAT YOUR GIFTS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2019

LAND & WATER PROTECTION

7,472 acres protected for 1 million+ visitors & water for a half-million people downstream

- 77 acres easement on North Fork of Little River
- 56 acres working lands easement in the Middle Eno
- 40 acres working lands easement in Upper Eno
- 14 acres donated for Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area

LAND PROTECTED IN 2019

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR LANDS

- 25 stewardship workdays
- 1,400 volunteer hours
- 75+ Eno River Trail Stewards
- Nearly 500 volunteers

Projects Completed:
- Town of Hillsborough Reforestation
- Pollinator Garden at Confluence Natural Area
- Trail maintenance along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail
- Invasive species removal
- Litter Pick-ups

NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES EDUCATION

MEETING THE NEED
Thanks to donors like you, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, and Duke Energy, we provided our summer camp programs to families for less than half the cost of presenting them. On top of that, we provided additional scholarship support to 37 campers, 86% of whom attended camp at no charge.

- 446 youth served through school outreach & field trips
- 703 hikers on New Year’s Day Hike
- 48 youth participants at Stream-In
- 51 students participated in workdays
- 120 Junior Ranger Patches earned at Eno River
- 396 hikers on 16 Winter and Spring Hikes
- 156 summer campers ages 8-15
- 150 volunteers and 400+ youth at Festival EEEK Stations

Education Programs Reached 1,494 People (1,096 Youth) Including...

- 703 hikers on New Year’s Day Hike
- 48 youth participants at Stream-In
- 51 students participated in workdays
- 120 Junior Ranger Patches earned at Eno River

40TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL FOR THE ENO

- 80 performers on 5 stages
- 85+ regional crafts artists
- 55+ non-profits and governmental agencies
- 680 festival volunteers delivering 2,450 hours
- 32% attend with one or more children

Local economic impact of $1.9 million*

*2010, Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau
OUR FAVORITE LITTLE STINKER

THE STRIPED SKUNK

Skunks are most famous for their smell, but skunks don’t like their spray any more than you! Skunks will try other tactics first when feeling threatened. First they straighten their legs and arch their backs, put their tails straight up, bristling it to give the appearance of being larger. Threated skunks may lick their teeth or stomp their feet. (YOU TRY IT!) If that doesn’t work, skunks can spray a yellowish noxious musk up to 16 feet with surprising accuracy. Skunk’s spray contains sulfuric acid which can cause temporary blindness, in addition to the lingering smell.

We have plenty of skunks around the Eno, but they are mostly out at night when parks and trails are closed. If you sit very still in your next campsite you might see a skunk ramble by looking for food. Skunks maintain a diet of mostly grubs, worms, small rodents, reptiles, and eggs but they also eat berries, acorns, and other vegetation they can reach from the ground. The best ways to avoid an unpleasant skunk encounter is don’t leave food waste outside where they can get it, and don’t feed pets outside. Trust us, stepping out on your porch to find a skunk eating out of the cat food bowl will set your heart racing!

WHAT’S THAT BUZZING HOLE?

Walking on an Eno trail, you may encounter a hole in the ground, exposing some kind of beehive. That is a yellow jacket nest and the excavator is a striped skunk. Skunks consider yellow jacket grubs to be a tasty meal and are resistant to the effects of being stung. Lucky them!

RECIPE

for eliminating skunk odor:

More effective than tomato sauce, which masks the smell, this simple at-home concoction should do the trick on that skunk smell!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 quart of 3% peroxide
- ¼ cup baking soda
- 1 tablespoon liquid dish detergent

Mix well and spray on affected area

For more striped skunk information visit: https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Learning/documents/Profiles/Mammals/Striped_skunk_wildlife_profile_FINAL.pdf

BUILDERS OF COMMUNITY

The Wilson family has been involved with the Eno River Association from the very beginning. Chuck Wilson remembers his mom, Martha, rushing out to meetings and volunteer shifts with the Association in the 1960s and early 1970s. Charlie Wilson, Chuck’s son and Martha’s grandson, recalls growing up playing in the Eno and attending the Festival each summer. C.T. Wilson Construction Company, the family business, has been a supporter as well, sponsoring the Festival for the Eno for decades.

The Wilsons have made C.T. Wilson Construction Company into one of North Carolina’s largest and most respected builders and renovators; specializing in complex projects for educational, health care, and worship uses, and providing new life to beloved historic properties such as Durham Athletic Park, Golden Belt, and Rocky Mount Mills. Therefore, we are honored that C.T. Wilson would choose to boost their commitment to the community and demonstrate leadership by becoming the title sponsor of the 2020 Festival for the Eno.

“I grew up on the Eno. It was always a part of my childhood. My grandmother served on the Eno River Association Board and she always had us help sell T-Shirts at the festival. The Eno is an important part of Durham and we are glad to be a part of supporting it,”

-Charlie Wilson, President of C.T. Wilson Construction Company.

In addition to their Festival support, C.T. Wilson Construction will be providing materials and labor to increase the parking at our Guess Road office for visitors to West Point on the Eno City Park.

“We are extremely grateful to C.T. Wilson Construction for their long-time support of the Festival and proud to be able to work with them as partners in increasing open space access for all” says Greg Bell, Festival Director.

THIS REALLY STINKS:
2020 FESTIVAL FOR THE ENO CANCELLED

It is with much sadness that we announce the cancellation of the 41st Festival for the Eno, scheduled for July 3 and 4, 2020. We do this following thoughtful deliberation and in consultation with our many partners including the City of Durham, Orange and Durham Counties, NC State Parks, and many local participants, sponsors, artists, and friends. We waited as long as possible to make this decision, in hopes that we could present some scaled-down version of this beloved annual tradition this summer. Unfortunately, we can no longer see any feasible way to produce an event of this magnitude and complexity while ensuring the health and safety of everyone involved.

Due to the continued uncertainty about the future spread of the COVID-19 virus, we do not plan to reschedule the 2020 Festival for the Eno.

Please visit our website, www.EnoRiver.org for more information on this decision, and for opportunities to support the Festival by making a donation, purchasing Festival tees and posters, or buying a “ticket” to support future Festivals for the Eno.
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

You are making protecting land, water, and wildlife in Durham and Orange counties possible. Each and every gift we receive is vital to making our work possible. The following lists highlight our Wildflower Society members and special honorary and memorial gifts. We make every attempt to ensure accuracy when acknowledging we receive is vital to making our work possible. The following lists highlight our Wildflower Society members.

Wildflower Society $500 and Over

Leadership gifts made since January 1, 2019.

BLAZING STAR — $5,000 AND ABOVE

Anonymous
Meridith Walker
Law & Sally Wardell
From Travis Wardell
Robert Walker
From Emily Wekerl & David Glenn

LADY’S SLIPPER – $1,000 AND ABOVE

Barbara & Tom Driscoll
Kevin & Patti Clayton
Rush & Sara Childs
Julia Chappell
Rick Burt
Lynn Bowlby & Neal Ready
Greg Beck
Anonymous
Phyllis & Bob Andrews
CRESTED IRIS – $1,000 AND ABOVE

Chris Richmond & Lucy Wilson
Julia Tyler
Stuart & Linda Paynter
Brenda Brodie
Community Foundation
McKay Charitable Fund of Triangle Foundation
Andy Balber & Frances Kerr
Donna Baird
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Meredith Barrett & Aaron Stoertz
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Ann Bushyhead & John Valentine
Steve Booth & Mary Lou Rollins
Anonymous
Hilary & Andrew Wilkinson
Aaron & Mandy Wilkinson
Amy & David Turner
Greig & Kristen Schneider
Jennifer & Lance Rogers
Elizabeth Robbins
Mollie & Bill Purdy
Elizabeth Rotblit

Foundation, Civic, & Corporate Support

AlTERNATIVE AIRE
The BJH Charitable Foundation
Bluemere
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina
Ball City Running
The Byrd Foundation
Carolina Academic Press, Inc.
Ciao Bella
Conservation Trust for North Carolina CT
DonorWall
Dionne Emery
SPECIAL GIFTS
The following lists recognize donors who made contributions to special funds between November 1, 2019 and March 24, 2020.

Anonymous
Scott & Kelly Sigelby
From Joseph English
Stanley & the Eno Dogs
From Candace Proper
Town of Hillsborough
From Tom Stevens & Debbie Simmons

SUSTAINING SUPPORT IN CRITICAL TIMES

Our support matters. They have gifts that protect 7,472 acres throughout the Eno River basin – and counting – and educate future generations of conservationists. Now more than ever, Eno River Association Sustaining Members - those who give on a monthly recurring basis - are providing us an anchor. These consistent, monthly gifts bring stability, maintain our support of natural lands, and allow us to plan for the future.

Your $15/month provides two Eno education programs to a local elementary school – we average 42 of these each year.

Your $25/month supports the replacement of the tools staff and volunteers use to steward the 7,377 acres. Your $42/month can purchase 1/10 of an acre of land in our watershed and also gives you the benefits of Wildflower Society membership!

As our Board Treasurer, David Singleton, notes: “Monthly gifts provide critical support in the form of predictable revenue, so the Association can focus on what it does best – protecting the places we all love.”

Together we are defending lands along the river, restoring habitat & building trails, and reaching tens of thousands of people annually with outdoor experiences and programs that connect them with the natural world.

Welcome to our current Sustaining Members who give on a monthly or quarterly basis:

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Welcome to our current Sustaining Members who give on a monthly or quarterly basis:
Angela attended iWalk the Eno Science and Nature Camp for the first time in 2014 when she was ten years old. Being immersed in the forest and the river sparked something in Angela, and she returned to iWalk three summers in a row. This participation and her enthusiasm for the natural sciences, meant that she was a perfect fit to serve as a Junior Mentor when she entered middle school in 2017. She returned as a Junior Mentor in 2018, and also enrolled in our Eno River Field Station program. At Field Station we witnessed Angela’s fascination with science blossom, particularly in herpetology. (You can always count on her wanting to hold the snakes!) In 2019, Angela was promoted to a paid position as an iWalk Alumni Mentor and she returned to Field Station as well. When 14-year old Angela was asked her career goals, she said she wanted to “be a dancer, but maybe a scientist.” A year later when the youth staff were asked who wanted to go into science as a career, Angela raised her hand. We are so proud of Angela, and humbled that her STEM-based leadership journey was sparked by our programs.