



ENO RIVER Currents

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

Calendar of Events

Spring Wildflower Walks

Sundays, March 9 – April 27
Each Sunday afternoon at 2 pm

Land Trust Assembly

March 26th – 28th

Stewardship Workdays

April 5, May 3, & June 7

Durham Earth Day Celebration at Central Park

Sat., April 19th

Eno River Association

Spring Picnic

Sun., May 4th

Stream-in Family River Day

Sat., May 17th

Clean Water Lobby Day

June 4th

Walkable Hillsborough Day

NC Land Trust Day

National Trails Day

Sat., June 7th

iWalk on the Eno Summer Camp

June 16th – 20th

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

Land Protection at the Confluence

Klugh Jordan, Director of Land Protection

If you haven't yet heard about all of the land protection activity going on around the Eno these last couple of months, you are either brand new to our organization or you haven't opened your mail in weeks. December and January were exciting and productive months.

We started things off just a couple of days early on November 29 when we purchased nine acres of rare plant habitat off of Old Oxford Road in Durham County and transferred it to

the State for protection and management. This property also protects 1,500 feet of frontage along a tributary to the Eno.

In addition to the two park projects we highlighted in our last newsletter, we also purchased two adjacent properties totaling 179 acres at the Confluence of the East and West Forks of the Eno River in Orange County. Together, these tracts provide permanent protection for more than four miles of stream

frontage designated as a Significant Natural Heritage Area. Rare mussels are known to exist in the stream along this property, and our protection of the land will help ensure their continued habitat. A project of this size rarely happens alone, and we had several generous



Aerial photo of the properties at the Confluence of the Eno River.

see Confluence, 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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Eno River Currents is a quarterly newsletter published by the Eno River Association,
 4404 Guess Road, Durham, NC 27712
 Phone 919-620-9099 • Fax 919-477-0448
www.enoriver.org
association@enoriver.org

We're moving!

There have been big changes here at the Eno River Association this past year. As many of you know, we doubled the size of our land protection staff when Kurt Schlimme joined us in May. With this addition, and our annual Festival-related seasonal expansion, we have found ourselves bursting at the seams in the White House we've called home for many years.

Fortuitously, one of the few remaining unprotected tracts of land between the Orange-Durham County line and West Point on the Eno City Park at Roxboro Road came up for sale as we started to look around for



options. We won't be moving far—our new home is right across the street. By purchasing this property, we have not only secured additional space for our staff and programs, but

have also brought an additional 175 feet of stream frontage into protected status (every little bit counts!). The property buffers a stretch of the River containing two state endangered mussels, and part of the nationally significant Eno River Aquatic Habitat.

Come say hello and see the new digs at our new address: 4404 Guess Road.

Robin



Donation Wish List

New office, new opportunities!

If you have items to donate please let us know. Email association@enoriver.org or call 919-620-9099.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| White/Bulletin/ or Cork Boards | Rain barrels |
| Conference table and chairs | Shelving - Free-standing office bookcases and heavy-duty storage shelving |
| Desks | Staple gun |
| Label printer | Water heater (25 gal) |
| Lamps – desk & floor | Wheelbarrow |
| Laser printer | Work tables |
| Macintosh computer (G4 or better) | |
| Map cabinet or flat files, 53" | |
| Occasional tables | |



Confluence, *continued from page 1*

partners participating. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Orange County, and the City of Raleigh, through the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative, all contributed significant funding to the purchase. The Conservation Fund was also a partner, providing short-term financing so that we could close on the properties before all grant funding had come through.

We continue to work on more additions to the State Park, as well as throughout the watershed. If you want to learn more about protecting your property in the Eno River Basin through a sale or conservation easement, or would like to hear about conservation management options, please contact Klugh Jordan at (919) 620-9099, ext. 201 or klugh@enoriver.org.



Bird Banding in the Eno River State Park

Tom Driscoll

Ever wonder how we obtain detailed data on birds, such as weights and lengths? We have these data from the hard work of people like Brian Strong and Emily Parisher of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. For the past four years, Brian gets up very early at least once a week for nine weeks to conduct bird banding at the Eno River State Park. Brian and his helpers begin around May 10 and continue through early August. The bird banding begins at the end of migration and continues through the breeding season. As a result, Brian has banded some very interesting birds, such as prothonotary warbler, white-eyed vireo, American redstart, black-throated blue warbler, Canada warbler, and yellow-breasted chat.

Brian and his helpers set up seven or eight nets in several habitats. Some are very close to the Eno River, while others are deeper in the woods. Several are set up under a power line clearing. He and his helpers are running the whole time. By the time they collect the birds from the nets and conduct the measurements, it is time to go back out and collect birds again. I stayed for several hours and was tired just trying to keep up with them.

They weigh and measure the length of each bird. In addition, they determine the gender and age of each bird. This is sometimes very difficult, but having them in hand helps. Brian submits these data to a national database. He has committed to conduct bird banding at this site for five years, but he plans to continue banding at the site after this year. Although Brian is a big strong guy, he is very

gentle with these birds. As you can see from the picture, they look very small in Brian's hands. The birds are frightened and thrash about in the nets and sometimes Brian and his assistants have difficulty extracting the birds from the nets, but very few have suffered any ill effects; mostly they lose a few feathers and maybe some of their dignity.

Some of the migrants that nest in the piedmont, such as Indigo Buntings, seem to come back to the same place to nest each year. About 20% of the birds captured, have been already banded by Brian. He will sometimes catch the same bird several times during a season. The work they and others do to characterize our bird populations is important for determining the health of and general trends in piedmont bird populations. If you are interested in observing, then I encourage you to contact Brian next year and watch them at work!



Brian Strong bands birds at Eno River State park from May through early August.

Tom Driscoll

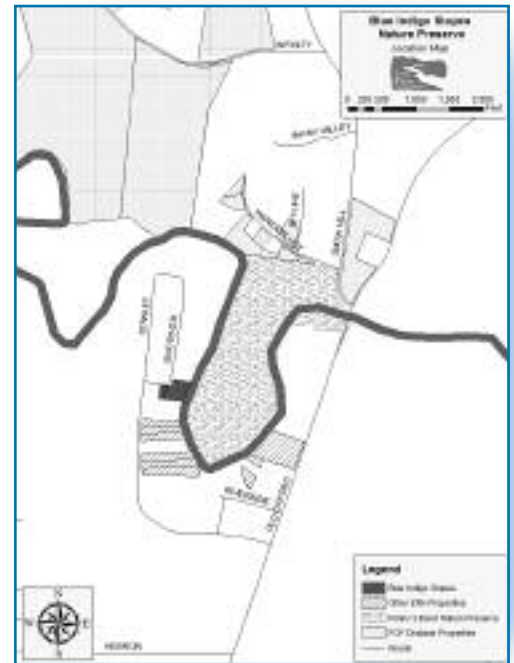
Stewardship spotlight: Blue Indigo Slopes Nature Preserve

Kurt Schlimme, Land Protection Specialist

Located just across from the Penny's Bend Natural Area on the southern bank of the Eno River is the Blue Indigo Slopes Nature Preserve, a 2.5-acre property that was acquired in 1986. Within the property there are two distinct biological communities: the slopes and upland. The slopes portion of the property is characterized by gentle to moderate slopes (floodplain at the river's edge to over 10 percent slope as you move west towards the upland), and has an unusual forest canopy dominated by two species: northern shagbark hickory and southern sugar maple. The upland portion of the property is found on the western acre of the property and is characterized by gentle slopes (0 to 3 percent). The majority of the upland is composed of remnant grassland that has persisted thanks to a combination of soil type and human land-use history. Two basic soil types—Iredell and Wilkes sandy loam—are derived from the diabase rock found throughout the Penny's Bend Bluffs and Fields Natural Heritage Site. These soils are ideal for certain grassland plants that are found in abundance in other parts of the country, particularly within the grasslands of the Midwest, but are rare in North Carolina. In addition, North Carolina Natural Heritage reports indicate that the property was formerly used as pastureland which helped prevent a significant invasion of early successional

tree species. This combination of factors has allowed a number of rare grassland species to persist on the property. A few of the rare species found in the glade include blue wild indigo, prairie dock, glade wild quinine, and hoary puccoon. However, the grassland species found on the uplands are becoming increasingly out shaded and outcompeted by fast growing tree species such as loblolly pine, Virginia pine, sweet gum, southern sugar maple, American beech and yellow poplar that have invaded the area. In addition, a number of invasive species have established on the Blue Indigo Slopes Nature Preserve, including a dense privet patch that is located along the property's entire river frontage.

During 2008 we will be leading a number of workdays at the Blue Indigo Slopes Nature Preserve in order to continue the grassland restoration work that we began late in 2007. Thanks to the assistance of the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program, a number of the overstory trees have already been cut. On March 1st we will be holding our first stewardship workday of the year at the Blue Indigo Slopes property. At this workday, we will remove all of the cut overstory trees and also remove seedlings that are shading out the grassland vegetation. In addition, we will work along the property's river frontage in an attempt to manually pull the years of privet growth that has occurred. If you are interested in helping with future restoration efforts please contact kurt@enoriver.org.



Kurt Schlimme

January 1st on the Eno - the beginning of a year full of hope and possibilities

There are many ways to enter the New Year—with resolutions and plans for change, with hopes and dreams, and for some, the possibility of new love. Margie and Rob DeWoskin can trace the beginnings of their new life together to a moment on January 1st, 1984 at the annual Eno River New Year's Day hike.

In 1984 Margie was a single mom with two children working at the Triangle J Council of Government. Her coworker and friend Dave Blaha invited his roommate Rob DeWoskin to join them on the January 1st Eno River hike. Rob, originally from Missouri, had relocated to Durham to pursue a career in toxicology after completing his Ph.D. in Oregon. Margie and Rob had met before but Margie remembers a turning point and a tender moment when she saw Rob helping one of her daughters roast a marshmallow after the hike that day.

Margie and Rob soon were married and have continued to share their life together on the Eno. A few years back one of Margie's daughters (all grown up and working

in real estate), helped them find the home where they now live. Margie said that the main selling point in the real estate ad was that it was right next to a golf course. This wasn't a big selling point for them, as neither of them golf, but when they saw that the house was also located adjacent to the Eno River State Park they knew

that they were home. Their home and the adjacent undeveloped lot that they purchased to further protect the park buffer even has a creek that runs through it connecting them directly to the Eno River where their life together began.

The Eno River New Year's day hike is both an anniversary and a reminder for Margie and Rob. As Margie says, "It's a wonderful way to celebrate the

New Year and a wonderful way to be part of something we both value and that we want to see protected."

We still serve hot chocolate and roast marshmallows on an open fire after the New year's Day hike just like we did in 1984—a surefire recipe for true love if we ever heard one!



Robin Jacobs

Eno River Calendar Contest

It takes months of planning and collaboration by a team of volunteer writers, editors, photographers, artists and designers to create our calendar each year. Next year we are devoting the entire calendar to the birds of the Eno River valley. There will be tips for successful birding each month as well as information about the habitat and identifying features for each bird. If you have stories or anecdotes about bird-watching or photos of birds taken on the Eno River please contact Tom Driscoll, coordinator of the 2009 calendar and Eno River board member: btdriscoll@bellsouth.net

This year we are also hosting an Eno River photo and drawing contest. Spread the word to your children, grandchildren, students, youth club organizers, and neighbors.

The Eno calendar contest is open to anyone 16 years old and under. Winners will have their pictures

featured in the 2009 Eno River calendar. Submit your photos or drawings of birds of the Eno River valley to the address below and include:

- Name and age of artist
- Description of image: name of bird, location (if it's a photo), and any other information about the image
- Contact information: Mailing address, telephone number, email
- Self-addressed stamped envelope with adequate postage if you'd like your picture(s) returned to you.
- Deadline: April 30, 2008
- Mail or email your child's contest submission to:

Eno River Association
Attention: 2009 Calendar Contest
4404 Guess Road, Durham, NC 27712
association@enoriver.org (jpeg files, 300 dpi)
Subject line: 2009 calendar contest
Happy bird watching!

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Important Bird Areas – Point Count Training

Tom Driscoll

One of the most important things the Audubon Society and other bird advocacy groups do is to count birds. Not only do we count birds, but we count them in a systematic way at static intervals. This way we have trend data on bird populations. The Audubon Society and others have identified areas that provide the greatest habitat value and support significant populations or an exceptional diversity of birds. These Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are essential strongholds of avian abundance and diversity.

IBAs are identified according to standardized, scientifically defensible criteria based on numbers of birds or assemblages of birds regularly occurring at a particular location. Once nominated, a site undergoes strict review by a technical committee comprised of the state's leading experts on birds. Once approved by the technical committee, the site is designated an IBA. For more informa-

tion on IBAs, see <http://www.ncaudubon.org/IBAs.html>.

The New Hope Audubon Society (NHAS) sponsors two IBAs at Lake Jordan and the Eno River Bottomlands. One of the first steps that the NHAS are taking is to continue the assessment of the bird populations in these areas. The NHAS has worked with the Eno River Association and Audubon North Carolina to schedule point count training at the Eno River State Park visitor center on April 20, 2008 at 8am. There will be a half-day training on how point counts are conducted. A point counter does not have to be a great birdwatcher or know all the bird songs for the birds of the Eno River. If you are interested in helping and/or just want to learn more about IBAs and point counting of birds, then I encourage you to attend. If you have any questions please contact btdriscoll@bellsouth.net.



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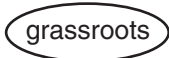
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Eno River Association Membership
Join us! We are always in need of members who want to help protect the nature, culture, and history of the Eno River. If you are not a member, why not join today? If you have already paid your dues, share your love of the Eno with a friend or family member and encourage them to join the Eno River Association. Memberships also make great gifts!

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**Eno River Association
Membership Application/Renewal Form**

Clip and Mail to: 4404 Guess Road, Durham, NC 27712

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

We do not share our email list.

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
- \$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.)

Clip and mail this form or join online at www.enoriver.org