



ENO RIVER Currents

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

Calendar of Events

Clean Water Lobby Day
NC Watershed Alliance
Wed, June 4th

Volunteer Workday
Walkable Hillsborough Day
National Trails Day
Land Trust Day
Sat, June 7th

**Father's Day Support Your
Local River - Paddling Trip with
Frog Hollow Outdoors**
Sun, June 15th

iWalk the Eno Summer Program
(FULL)
June 16 - 20th

Hillsborough Hog Day
Sat, June 21st

Festival Big Top Day
Sat, June 28th

29th Festival for the Eno
July 4, 5 & 6th

Jamboreeno!
Eno Volunteer Appreciation Event
Details coming soon

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

Environmental Connections

Kathy Lee, Education & Outreach Director

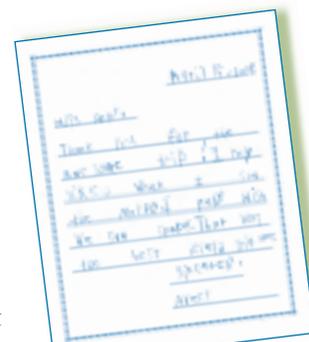
Just before Earth Day I went to Raleigh to hear Richard Louv* speak at an event hosted by Audubon North Carolina and Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, publisher of the national bestseller, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our children from nature deficit disorder*. Like Rachel Carson, who rang the alarm in 1962 about the harmful effects of pesticides with the publication of *Silent Spring*, Louv similarly woke us up when he coined the term "nature deficit disorder" in 2005.

The fact is American children spend on average 30 minutes outdoors each week. You read that right—30 minutes each *week*. This isn't good news. It's downright bad news, but Louv manages to inspire hope in educators, parents, grandparents, and children with his simple message—children need time to explore, observe, and just be outside in nature. And it's not just a hunch or something old fashioned and quaint. There is growing research to support the benefits of time spent outdoors in all areas of a child's development—physical, cognitive, and psychological. I would go even

further than this and say that we ALL need time in nature, no matter what our age.

In the 20+ years that I have been an environmental educator, I have seen first hand the positive results: in the warm smiles and laughter, and in the letters and drawings we receive from children and adults that attest to the power of their experiences in nature. If we listen well to what we used to know and invite nature back

see Education, 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

For more than 40 years people have given their time, money and creative energy to protecting the streams and natural areas in the Eno River Basin by joining and supporting the Eno River Association and its Festival for the Eno. Together we've helped safeguard the quality and the quantity of our drinking water, protected places for animals and plants to thrive, and provided people with places to hike, fish, swim, picnic and camp, and to see, and sometimes interact with, fauna and flora such as birds, deer, foxes, snakes, mayflies, Jacks-in-the-pulpit and shagbark hickory trees.

Looking around at all we've been able to do to protect these special places that balance the pace of everyday life in our urbanized, technologically-enhanced community, we increasingly realize the need to make a priority of communicating with people, particularly young people, about the importance of maintaining this balance. Unless we can convey to others the need to participate in the stewarding of our world, there is the very real danger that the world will continue to tip toward the uncontrollable decline of these things we care about and, in fact, need to survive.

This issue of *Eno River Currents* focuses on some of the things we are doing to encourage the connection between people and the natural world. We hope you'll join us at the Festival for the Eno, where there will be many, many opportunities for discovery, connection and fun.

Robin



Donation Wish List

Laser printer	SUV or light duty Truck
Macintosh computer (G4 or better)	Wheelbarrow
Rain barrel	

WISHES REALLY DO COME TRUE

We've been trying to reduce our carbon emissions and ecological footprint and two Eno supporters recently helped us towards this goal without even knowing it!

Marie Burke donated a stand-up freezer for use in the performer hospitality at the Festival, replacing our old, energy-guzzling one.

Our old kitchen fridge crackled, smoked and died a few weeks back and the very next day Ann Proffitt called us and donated a modern, energy-efficient refrigerator.

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!

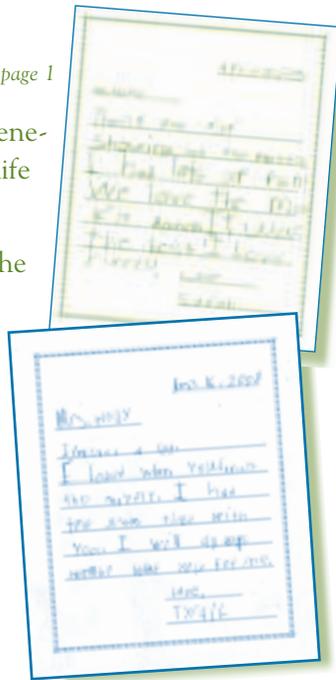
Email association@enoriver.org or call 919-620-9099.



Education, cont'd from page 1

into our lives, we will surely benefit from of a more connected life on this planet.

* Richard Louv was awarded the 2008 Audubon Medal given to environmentalists in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of conservation and environmental protection. Previous recipients of the Audubon Medal include E.O. Wilson, Jimmy Carter, Roger Tory Peterson and Rachel Carson.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER

Mink on the Eno: A symbol of our success & responsibility

David Harper

In October of 2007 an American mink (*Mustela vison*) was found dead on the road at the intersection of Guess Road and Open Air Camp Road, adjacent to Eno River State Park. While this incident was sad news for that particular mink, and road mortality is a serious concern for many species of wildlife—it is WONDERFUL news for the Eno River. After all, mink is an indicator species for the ecological health of forested stream valleys in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. The presence of mink populations on the Eno highlights both our success and our responsibility. They wouldn't be living here without the relatively high-quality streams with natural shorelines and forested buffers we've worked to protect. Too many parking lots and lawns mean no more mink. The dead specimen was surely one of a broader population of mink inhabiting the valley from above Hillsborough to Falls Lake. Humans do not often see this nocturnal species, but they are an important predator in the food web of our local watersheds. Let the mink remind us all—residents, businesses, institutions, and government agencies—that we are stewards of land and water. The mink and its food web are depending on us.

“Reflections from the River” is a new column in the *Eno Currents* quarterly newsletter, inviting new voices and perspectives from people of all ages, with a theme of connection to the Eno River and surrounding land. Submission requirements:

- Fall newsletter deadline: Friday, July 25th
- 250 words or less
- association@enoriver.org or FAX 919-477-0448

iWalk the Eno

Bruce Middleton, Orange County Schools Science & Math Coordinator

Orange County Schools, in partnership with the Eno River Association, has received a grant from the Burroughs-Wellcome Fund through their Student Science Enrichment Program to provide a unique summer experience for rising sixth grade students called iWalk the Eno.

We will travel to a new place along the Eno River each day starting at Occoneechee Mountain and ending at Penny's Bend. Along the way we will provide opportunities for our students

to investigate the biology, geology and history of the Eno River and the surrounding areas. It will be a true hands-on experience

for each student with expert guidance from iWalk staff and special guests.

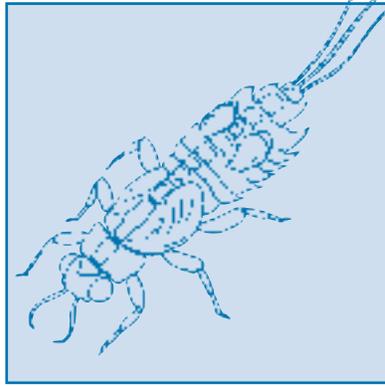
The weeklong day camp promises to be both exciting and educational for students and staff alike. The camp will culminate with a parent-child gala to share student projects and plan for quarterly updates during the school year. Our hope is to connect these students and their families to science along the Eno and maintain that connection throughout the years.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

- Children & Nature Network: www.childrenandnature.org
- No Child Left Inside Coalition: www.nclcoalition.org
- Environmental Educators of North Carolina: www.eenc.org
- Office of Environmental Education, NC: www.ee.enr.state.nc.us



Art by Emma Skumick



There are very few places, and very few times when cultural and ecological preservation dovetail neatly. The Eno River Association's Festival for the Eno is one of those places.

The Festival has its roots in the highly successful North Carolina Folklife Festivals of 1976 and 1978. Organized at Durham's West Point on the Eno City Park to celebrate our nation's Bicentennial by a coalition of folklorists, musicologists, hippies, locals and administrators, the Folklife Festivals presented a program of traditional music by the likes of Doc Watson, Shirley Caesar and the Red Clay Ramblers, displayed exhibitions and demonstrations of regional crafts, and celebrated the then-recent renovation of the grist mill at West Point.

No Festival was held in 1979, and the absence was noted. In 1980 Margaret Nygard, the founder of the grass-roots environmental organization known as the Eno River Association (ERA), organized a hundred volunteers to park cars, sell drinks, and host the first Festival for the Eno to raise funds and awareness for the purposes of land protection in the Eno River Basin. The Festival was held on one day, had one stage, and admission was one dollar.

When earnings were totaled, the ERA had raised over \$13,000 for land protection, but moreover, had created exposure for the rich and diverse cultures and ecology along the Eno River.

Now in its 29th year, the ERA's Festival for the Eno continues to raise funds (over \$1.6 million, all told) for land conservation, notably purchasing lands towards the fulfillment of the State of North Carolina's Master Plan for the Eno River State Park. In a broader sense, the Festival seeks to educate about environmental stewardship, against a backdrop of traditional culture. The old mill still operates (weekends May through September), and each Independence Day weekend the glades and glens

FESTIVAL eno

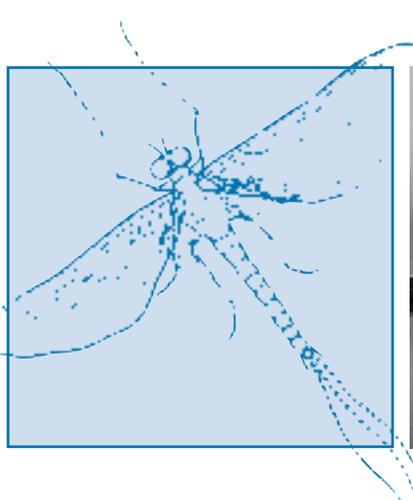
along the Eno River in West Point Park fill with over 30,000 people and the sights, sounds and aromas of the southeast's premier environmental event.

This year, the Festival is happy to re-establish the Demonstration Area in the Meadow across Black Meadow Branch. There, festival goers can experience a variety of traditional and contemporary domestic and agricultural activities including: backyard chicken raising, beekeeping, cider grinding, children's games, composting plus a "Pickin Pit" where folks can try out various stringed and percussive instruments.

The Sustainable Home & Garden (SHAG) area continues this year; and is expanding to highlight up to 20 local businesses showcasing their sustainable products, practices and services including: rainwater harvesting, recycled building materials, organic landscaping and alternative energy systems.

Throughout the Festival, dozens of non-profit and governmental organizations will lead activities and demonstrations. You can explore the macro-invertebrates of the Eno, dig for fossils, learn to make biodiesel fuel, turn clay on a potter's wheel, try out a canoe or Kayak, or just kick

*The Festival has become a model for
throughout the country, and con*



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back and listen to music on a solar-powered stage.

Over the years the Festival has continued to present quality traditional and contemporary entertainment, ranging from old time and bluegrass to gospel, country, blues and even rock. This year is no exception. Five stages of performances highlight some of the best local, regional and national talent available. Look for the full-page schedule insert in the middle of this newsletter.

As we close the third decade of the Festival, and look forward to observing our 30th anniversary in 2009, we are reminded of the words of Margaret Nygard: "Many hands make light work." We hope to see your hands (and the rest of you) at the Festival.

Admission is free to those 12 and under, and 65 and older, and for our fabulous volunteers. Volunteers are needed before, during and after the Festival in a number of capacities. Please call 620-9099 x210 or email volunteer@enoriver.org if you'd like to help out. Discounted advance tickets are available through our website, and at locations throughout the Triangle until July 3. Advance tickets are \$13 for 1 day, or \$30 for a three-day pass. At the gate tickets are \$15 one day and \$35 three day.

*... other grassroots community events
continues to grow, as does the Park.*

Volunteer@EnoRiver.org

The Festival for the Eno would not be possible without those who give their time, talent and effort each year to create a fun, safe, entertaining and educational celebration that enriches the community and serves the greater purpose of preserving precious watershed for posterity. The Festival for the Eno has become a model for other grassroots community events throughout the country, and continues to grow, as does the Park.

Last year over 30,000 people attended the Festival, and we need help (before, during and after!) to ensure another successful event, and to show all our guests a good time.

How You Can Help

Ever want to be in a circus? **Big Top Day** is big-time fun. On Saturday, June 28th we put up the Big Top in the Meadow and we need at least 30 folks to unfold the tent, hammer stakes, haul ropes and do a variety of other tasks.

Trash-Free for me! Our "**Trash-Free**" Program diverts over 92% of the Festival waste away from the landfill. Help with this vital, award-winning, waste reduction program by volunteering as a steward—at the Festival or at the really cool organic compost site.

Our performers always mention the well run **Hospitality Area** at the Festival and its delicious and nutritious food and drink. We need folks to help supply the victuals to feed all our hungry entertainers.

Each volunteer receives a free pass into the Festival for each day worked. To volunteer, or for info about these or other volunteer opportunities, please call Volunteer Coordinator Christy Smith at (919) 620-9099 x210 or email: volunteer@enoriver.org. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities and a new and improved online sign-up form, go to: www.enoriver.org/festival.

Stewardship Spotlight: A year in review

Kurt Schlimme, Stewardship Director

Happy anniversary to me! I now have one year in the books here at Eno as the resident stewardship wonk (although it probably seems a lot longer to my coworkers and those folks who get my monthly workday emails).

Over the last year I have met some wonderful folks and Eno has taken a big stewardship leap forward. Baseline condition documentation reports (which describe



Kurt Schlimme

the current condition of a property) have been completed for all properties, an important requirement for the Land Trust Alliance accreditation process. Management plans are also being written for all ERA lands. The major management issues for our properties typically center

on invasive species, prior human disturbance, and property-line encroachment. Another important management issue is the protection of rare plant populations found on ERA property. A grassland restoration project has begun at the Blue Indigo Slopes Nature Preserve in an effort to encourage the long-term health of a number of locally rare grassland species. Volunteers have been invaluable in the execution of this project. We have had a number of volunteer workdays over the past six months and have a full plate planned for the rest of the year. These workdays were recently made much easier thanks to a grant from the Norcross Foundation, which allowed ERA to purchase its own stewardship tools. We have also started a volunteer land steward program. Volunteer land stewards adopt a property and increase the stewardship capacity of the Association by making periodic monitoring visits and even organizing stewardship workdays and educational events on ERA properties.

As productive as the last year has been, I want the next year to be even bigger and better. And in order to accomplish that, Eno is going to need your help. I am making an impassioned call for additional volunteers to help with stewardship workdays; to adopt a property

through the volunteer land steward program; to volunteer any special skills that you might have (species IDs, photography, interest in research, strong back) that could help us with some special projects. I guarantee that the weather will be perfect (the Eno River Association does not guarantee that the weather will be perfect for YOU, but for someone, somewhere), the work invigorating (well, probably more tiring than invigorating), and the company exemplary (we aren't setting the bar too high, are we?).

I've tried to lay out my goals for the coming year and many of them are completely dependent on the assistance of our very dedicated volunteer base. Among the projects that need to be completed in 2008 are the continued grassland restoration efforts at the Blue Indigo Slopes Nature Preserve; trail construction at the Old Oxford Road Nature Preserve; and the preparation of the Confluence property for public opening in 2009. I've had a lot of fun over my first year and know that with the help of all you stewardship junkies, that my next year will be even better. Thank you to all. (Kurt can be contacted at: kurt@enoriver.org)

Traveling Tees

Whether it's around North Carolina, across the country, or around the world, we want to know where your Eno Tees have traveled—with or without you! Send your Traveling Tee images to: association@enoriver.org and include "Traveling Tees" in the subject line. Please include the following information:

- Photographer's name
- Date and location of where the picture was taken
- Names of the people in the picture. Please ask for their permission first before submitting any images.



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Eno Brown Bag Lunch Reading Group

4th Wednesday of each month • 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Downstairs at the Regulator Bookshop on Ninth Street in Durham

Earth Day is an opportunity to educate and take action on environmental challenges, and to celebrate environmental triumphs. This year we launched a monthly Eno River Reading Group to keep these connections alive year-round. Our readings each month will be drawn from the newly published *American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau*.

Eno member Josie McNeil Owens attended the inaugural meeting of the Eno Reading Group in April and offers this reflection: “For me, this gathering offered an opportunity to engage with others that share the common denominators of a

connection to the Eno River and an interest in the written word regarding environmental or ecological issues. The goal of keeping the readings to essay format and the meetings one hour is manageable amidst life’s many opportunities! If I miss one month I can easily join in the next month.”

To find out more about the Eno Reading Group visit: www.enoriver.org and click on the reading group link from the home page.





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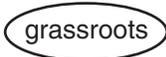


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ENO RIVER CURRENTS IS ONLINE!
The Eno River Association's newsletter, *Eno River Currents*, is also available online at our website, www.enoriver.org. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of (or in addition to) the paper 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)
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- \$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.