

2 ENO RIVER Newsletter | Summer 2019



Eno River by Jack Blackmer

Dear Friend of the Eno,

This will be my final note to you as the Eno River Association's Executive Director. After nearly 14 years in this role, preceded by 6 years as a member of our board of directors, I will be retiring this fall. I am so grateful to have had the unique opportunity to work in a place where my professional and personal passions for land conservation aligned so perfectly, and to know and work alongside some of our founding members and volunteers, supportive board members, excellent professional staff, and you, the members of our fantastic Eno community.



Hiking in the Panther's den at Occoneechee Mountain circa 2006

Together, we have achieved a lot over the past 20 years. 3,678 acres are now safe from development, including 1,547 acres in 25 Eno River State Park acquisitions. The Eno River Association has assisted in protecting 57,616 feet of Eno River stream frontage (nearly 11 miles), and all told we've buffered almost 30 miles of stream frontage within the 3,678 acres. Thousands of volunteer hours have been spent removing invasive plants to enhance native habitat, building and maintaining trails, and cleaning trash out of the Eno. As of this July, we will have sweated together through 20 Festivals for the Eno, enduring storms, droughts, and floods while enjoying countless renowned performers and doing a lot of shopping among the amazing craft artists. We have hiked, we have spoken up against threats like Eno Drive and the Elizabeth Brady Road bypass around Hillsborough, and we have danced at parties held to raise money for all this good work. We even rebuilt our office after a sewage spill that could have devastated our organization.

Our community has benefitted tremendously from the passion and foresight of Margaret Nygard and those who worked with her to safeguard the river for us all. In an area that continues to see unprecedented development, our wild river and its protected lands will remain a constant. It's an effort I have been honored to have a small part in. Thank you to all of you – our members, donors, and volunteers, who have supported the work and supported me. While my time on our staff is ending, this work will continue far into the future and I'll still be there with you, cheering it on.

Pu

Robin Jacobs

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

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Cover Photo by Rich Shaw



North Fork Little River by Rich Shaw

Land Protection Extends in the End River Basin

Seventy-seven acres of newly conserved forestland will forever protect water quality and habitat along the North Fork Little River. The Eno River Association, working in partnership with a willing landowner, Orange County, the City of Raleigh, and the City of Durham, has placed a permanent conservation easement on the property located a mile upstream of Little River Regional Park, and less than five miles upstream of Durham's Little River Reservoir. This land lies within the zone designated by Orange County as the Little River Protected Watershed and is a priority in the City of Durham's Land Conservation Water Quality Protection Model.

The new conservation easement protects approximately 3,300 feet (0.6 miles) of frontage along the North Fork Little River and 2,300 feet (0.4 miles) of frontage along the river's Tapley Creek tributary, and permanently extinguishes the landowner's rights to develop the property. This conserved land will be maintained as forest and riparian habitat for plants and wildlife native to the North Carolina Piedmont. The Eno River Association and Orange County will co-hold the easement.

The Little River is a major tributary of the Eno River,

flowing into the Eno between Penny's Bend and Falls Lake Reservoir. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program has rated the Little River's aquatic habitat as being "of state significance." Little River Regional Park lies on the boundary between Durham and Orange counties, and was created as a joint project between the two counties, the Eno River Association, and Triangle Land Conservancy. Durham's Little River Reservoir is a primary drinking water resource for the city.

The remains of former rock dams are evident in two places along the river on the property. One of the dams is upstream of a former mill site. An earthen mill race with periodic rock supports runs parallel to the river approximately 1,000 feet eastward before entering the mill site. The remains of the mill include a rock foundation, sluiceway, and an iron shaft and gear works that once turned to operate the mill. According to documents in the possession of the landowner, the mill was built for the Smith family in 1809. Smith Mill, later Wagoner Mill, was one of many mills that operated in rural Orange County before the 20th century. The remnants of this will now be protected from future development.

What is a conservation easement?

Conservation easements are written agreements that protect land for its natural or cultural resource values while leaving it in private ownership. As with all Association conservation easement properties, we commit to visiting the land annually to ensure that the terms of the easement are being met and the lands and resources continue to be protected.

Candid Critters Informs Our Knowledge of Wild Mammal Populations

Caring for the natural resources in and around the Eno River is easier if we know what is out there. That's why more than two years ago the Eno River Association signed on as a partner of Candid Critters, a project of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. The aim of this citizen science project is to map trends in wild mammal populations across the state.

The Eno River Association has been providing images caught by our wildlife camera from Eno River State Park and the Association's nature preserves. Every three weeks the camera is moved to a different location and the data is shared with the Commission and Museum. The camera works on heat and motion. so reptiles won't set it off and mammals like mice and voles are too small to pick up, but it does take infrared flash night photos and most of the animal activity we've caught has happened after dark. As of March, our camera has been in 37 locations and taken 17,637 photographs of whitetail deer, gray squirrels, raccoons, opossums, cottontail rabbits, beavers, coyotes, gray foxes, a few miscellaneous birds, and Education Coordinator Dave Cook and his dogs retrieving the camera.

While it's great to see all these critters, it is concerning that we have not photographed others like bobcats, red foxes, flying squirrels, and skunks. Has our camera just never been in the right place at the right time, or are there fewer of these animals out there than we might hope to see? The Candid Critter Project hopes to answer that question across the state. The project continues until March of 2020. We expect to sample more Eno River State Park locations before continuing to spots in West Point on the Eno, Penny's Bend, and finally the lower Eno game lands.







Field Station Connects Students and Conservation Professionals

Eno River Field Station for middle and high school students returns this July to our Confluence Natural Area north of Hillsborough. The experience will provide students with the opportunity to work in the field alongside professional scientists, researchers, and conservationists. Through their work with these experts, students build a strong connection to science and conservation.

Here are just some of the talented professionals that will be engaging in research with our students this summer:

- Brian Bockhahn, NC Division of Parks and Recreation - Night-time moth capture and survey
- Phil Bradley, NC Geological Survey Rock and mineral survey and mapping
- Susan Campbell, Bird researcher Hummingbird banding
- Rebecca Cumbie & Staff, NC Climate Office -Climate data recording
- Andrew Glen, NC Wildlife Resources Commission - Fish collection and survey
- Chris Goforth, NC Museum of Natural Sciences -Insect identification and behavior
- Ron Grunwald, Duke Biology Professor Reptiles and amphibians survey
- Sarah McCrae, US Fish and Wildlife Service -Mussel survey
- Olivia Munzer, NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Night-time bat capture and study
- Milo Pyne, Nature Serve Tree identification and
- Jamie Smith, NC Museum of Natural Sciences -Aquatic snail inventory

Our goal is for young people to be inspired by the opportunity to work side by side with these professionals in the real world and to go on to pursue career paths in their footsteps. At the very least, we know they will develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural world who are responsible conservators of our shared environment.









Grammy award winners Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer will perform both days of the Festival.



John Dee Holeman has performed at every Festival on the Eno. beginning with the Bicentennial Folklife Festival in 1976. See him at the Grove Stage on July 4th.



Suzie Vinnick, and Ruth Wyand will appear in the round on July 4, showcasing their varied, virtuostic styles of guitar driven blues

THURSDAY, JULY 4 Boulevards

Joe Newberry Blue Cactus Little Tybee Black Twig Pickers African American Dance Ensemble J Rowdy Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer John Dee Holeman **The Gospel Jubilators** Mk Rodenbough **Arson Daily Chatham Rabbits House & Land Turkish Gold Standard Sister Mantos Lightnin' Wells Cane Creek Cloggers Connie Steadman Triangle Afrobeat Orchestra**

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Sierra Hull **Hailu Mergia The Mantras** Loamlands Jon Shain **Reese McHenry Tan & Sober Gentlemen Tha Materials** Michaela Anne **Moon Unit Ellis Dyson & The Shambles Don Telling's Island Mysteries Matt Phillips Spirits Having Fun Lester Coalbanks & The Seven Sorrows Kirk Ridge & Friends Severed Fingers Eno Islanders Mellow Swells Coyote Vs. Acme**



Jon Shain. 2019 International Blues Challenge winner in the solo/duo category.



IBMA winning fireball Sierra Hull headlines July 4.



Known around the world for his exquisite clawhammer banjo playing, Joe Newberry is also a powerful guitarist, singer and songwriter and no stranger to the Eno.



Ethiopian superstar Hailu Meria, a master accordionist, as well as veteran bandleader, arranger, and keyboardist performs July 6.



Columbia, SC-based vocalist Niecy Blues brings a soulful R&B sound to the River Stage on July 4.



Chatham Rabbits, a duo from Bynum, NC, describe their songs as "original music nodding to old-time tradition.



Catch Sister Mantos for some "Psychedelic Improvisational Funk Pop Latin Dance Booty Shaking Performance Art."



Named for a small island off the coast of Georgia, Little Tybee will perform on July 4 on the Meadow Stage.

VOLUNTEER AT THE FESTIVAL



HELLO TEAM ENO!

My name is Bianca Banks and I am thrilled to be taking over for Carolee in managing our volunteers for the festival this year! I am beyond humbled for this opportunity and have already been set up for great success with the foundation that Carolee has built. For the past 3 years, I have been working as the volunteer coordinator for Moogfest here in Durham and have been involved in coordinating festivals all over North Carolina including Hopscotch and The International Jazz Festival. I have also had the pleasure in coordinating events outside of the United States in Canada and Romania. I'm looking forward to bring my experience and enthusiasm to this position and I cannot wait to build long lasting relationships with our volunteers through their very important work. We always need volunteers so please feel free to reach out to me if you're available to help us this July!

Thank you for having me as a part of the Eno family.



SPONSOR HIGHTLIGHTS





Bold Rock is pleased and proud to sponsor the Festival for the Eno this year. Their ties to the festival and to Durham run deep.

"Duke professor and historic cofounder of the Eno River Association, Holger Nygard, inspired my environmentalism," says John Washburn, founder of Bold Rock. "I remember him well through his classes – and our meals together at Duke. After my years at Duke, I taught high school at Northern High School right just down the road from the Eno. I was even born near the mouth of the Eno near Hillsborough."

Bold Rock is excited about their continued partnership with the Festival and supports the Eno River Association's mission to help preserve the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Eno watershed.

Enjoy a cider at this year's festival – and raise a glass to our 40th Anniversary!



"We're proud to lend our support to raising awareness of this exceptional place and thrilled at the chance to share our beers at every opportunity with the likeminded followers of the Eno River Association."

-Mark Ruedrich.

Founded in 1988 in California, North Coast Brewing is a Certified B Corp and a California Benefit Corporation whose mission is to make the world a better place one pint at a time.

With a lineup of beers including Old Rasputin Russian Imperial Stout, Red Seal Ale, Scrimshaw Pils and their Belgian style ales, Brother Thelonious and PranQster, North Coast Brewing Company pioneering brewing efforts along with their focus on sustainable practices have established them as leaders in the craft beer community.

President and Co-founder Mark Ruedrich's more than 50-year family ties to the Triangle area have played a big part in the brewery's support of area non-profits including Eno River Association, Preservation North Carolina, Moorefields Jazz Festival and the Beaufort Historical Association.

However, family ties (Mark's sister-in-law is former longtime Eno River Association Development Director, Cynthia Satterfield) are only part of the story. The Eno River Association's mission to preserve the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Eno watershed aligns it closely with the brewery's social and environmental goals.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE FESTIVAL.
VISIT ENOFEST.ORG TO SIGN UP OR CONTACT BIANCA AT 919-620-9099 X 205
OR BIANCA@ENORIVER.ORG FOR MORE INFO.

Thank you to our generous supporters

You make protecting land, water, and wildlife in Durham and Orange Counties possible. As our list of contributors has grown, it has become an increasing challenge to recognize everyone in our print newsletter. Although every gift is important and appreciated, the following lists recognize our Wildflower Society members and special honorary and memorial gifts only. We make every attempt to ensure accuracy when acknowledging donors and appreciate you notifying us of any errors.

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Thursday, July 4 and Saturday, July 6, 2019 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Daily West Point on the Eno City Park | Durham, NC



Live Music by 70 Bands | Beer Garden | Demonstrations | Kids Activities | Juried Craft Show

The Festival for the Eno raises awareness and funds to protect and restore exceptional places that provide our region with clean water, healthy forests, wildlife and natural areas, and open space.

Visit EnoFest.org for more info, to volunteer, or to purchase tickets.