

Winter 2018

Eno River Currents





Join Our Journey

"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction." – Rachel Carson

I've been thinking about the great Rachel Carson recently. I've been thinking about how her work as a pioneer in environmental and grassroots conservation efforts continues to inspire our efforts at the Eno River Association. Our mission to conserve and protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Eno River basin mirrors her concern that the drive for human domination of nature is ill-conceived. Thanks to each of you, we are protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, and ecological diversity while also working to provide humans with recreational opportunities and scenic open spaces that connect us to the natural world.

In this newsletter we will share with you some of the many ways we fulfill our mission: from protecting the land for generations to teaching the young (in age and at heart!) to care for, work with, respect, and enjoy the beauty and majesty of our Eno River watershed.

I invite you to come with us on our journey. Come take a hike with us on a Sunday afternoon or explore the secret "hidden gems" of the Eno on your own. The wonders and realities of the universe are right here for you.

All the best,

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

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Cover: Eno River by Andy McClung



Saving More Land

By the end of November we will close on a land purchase that has been in the works for more than 20 years! The 87-acre property, known as the Bacon Quarry, will be incorporated into Eno River State Park. The tract is geologically fascinating and includes an old quarry that was operated from the early 1940s to the 1960s. It also includes significant natural heritage areas, high quality wildlife habitat and beautiful vistas from the high areas above the quarry site. As you drive on roads in Orange County, think about how some of the material beneath your wheels probably came from the quarry on this property.

We also have three great conservation easement projects nearing completion that we expect to close in the coming months.

One project will protect 77.4 acres of forest along 5,500 feet of the North Fork Little River, upstream of Little River Regional Park and Durham's Little River drinking water reservoir. By preventing development within a 300-foot buffer on both sides of the stream, we are protecting significant forest and aquatic habitat as well as water quality. A second project,

pictured above, will protect both farmland and water quality in Buckquarter Creek, an Eno tributary. The Association will co-hold a conservation easement with Orange County on 56.5 acres near Eno River State Park. On a third property, we are excited to work with the owners of a multi-generation family-owned and operated farm to protect 37 acres near Lick Creek, a tributary of Eno River.

There are many places in the Eno River watershed with remarkable beauty and exceptional natural features, where you know in an instant that it is special and worth protecting. We thank you for your continued support that makes our work possible.



What is a conservation easement?

A conservation easement, also called a conservation agreement, is a contract between the landowner and the easement holder. The landowner retains ownership of the land, but gives up rights to develop it. The easement holder monitors the property at least once a year to ensure compliance

Attracting Pollinator Species to the Confluence

Construction of a pollinator garden has begun at the Confluence Natural Area! Thanks to a generous grant from the Burt's Bees Greater Good Foundation, we will soon have raised garden beds planted with native flowering plants that provide food for a variety of pollinators from bees to hummingbirds. Bee populations are in decline, and growing flowers that they like to use will help keep them buzzing. It's good for us too, because we depend on bees for one out of every three bites of food.

Our talented students at Eno River Field Station helped build the garden structure and painted tiles with beautiful images of birds, landscapes, and flowers that will provide the final flourish on the garden. They also planted seeds in the nursery trays that will grow up to be Milkweed and Smooth Purple Coneflower.



**Field Station
campers in action**

Reforestation the Confluence Bottomland Field

On a cold day in January 2018, 100 volunteers planted more than 250 trees and shrubs at the Confluence during a stewardship workday co-hosted with We Plant It Forward. Our goal is to return an old farm field to forest ecosystem, which will help protect water quality in Eno River and provide habitat for wildlife. Before the tree-planting, the field had been mowed regularly, but since halting mowing, the area has sprung back to life with buttonbush, sycamore, and other plants filling in between our plantings.

A group of cheerful, hard-working folks from Burt's Bees came out to tend the young trees in October, removing grasses to reduce competition for water and disentangling the trees from vines. We are encouraged by the high survival rate so far (over 95%), and welcome you to visit the Confluence to see this forest renew in the coming years.



**Burt's Bees tending
trees at the Confluence**

Supporter Spotlight: Richard Low & Anne Almond



Tell me how you first got involved with the Eno River Association?

We've been hiking the trails in the Eno River State Park since we came to Durham in 1989. Shortly after we moved here, we purchased a home located a couple hundred feet from an entrance to the State Park with a community trail connector to the Dunnagan Trail. It is still one of our favorite walks. We attended the Festival for the Eno through the years when our children were younger. We officially got involved in the Eno River Association around 2011 when we attended a Durham Chamber of Commerce meeting as small business owners. As luck would have it, we sat beside Cynthia Satterfield who was not only a strong advocate for the Eno River but who has also become a dear friend through the years.

How are you currently involved with the organization?

In those early days of our business, we didn't have much extra money to donate, but we could donate our time and services. One way we offered to help was for our software company, Topsail Technologies, to build a mobile web app for the Festival for the Eno. Each year in the weeks prior to the Festival, Richard works closely with Greg and the festival staff to make sure that the music performance schedule and crafts and other activities are current and

inclusive. Over the years we've also been delighted to grow our financial support of the Association.

What do you wish other people knew about Eno River Association?

We wish more people understood the role of the Eno River Association as an environmental asset to the entire Durham community. By acquiring and stewarding land that surrounds the Eno River, maintaining trails, and providing comprehensive education, the Association preserves this wonderful local resource as a beautiful recreational playground for the residents of our city and county. We give a lot of credit to the Eno River Association for maintaining the rural, unspoiled feeling of Northern Durham. We joke about blindfolding someone, driving them around town for three hours, then taking them down to the river where they think they are in the middle of the wilderness, yet they are only 5 miles from downtown Durham.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about donating, volunteering, getting involved in some other way?

Volunteering for the Association is fun! You meet wonderful committed folks who feel at home outdoors. You help preserve the ecosystem of the Eno River and the woods and our neighborhoods that surround it. Working at the Festival is relaxing, and it's a great time to hear exceptional music and meet talented artisans. And we've learned a few things, too. We now know the proper name of the pileated woodpecker we spotted in our neighborhood this summer and we affirmed that we had a family of red, not gray, foxes living in our backyard. Also, donating is easy - just amortize it! Instead of spending \$2 for a cup of coffee on your way to work, make it at home and donate the \$2 to help preserve the river. That adds up to \$500 per year. Think about what the Eno River Association could accomplish if every coffee drinker in Durham donated \$2 a day? That's \$10 per week for access to a local gem/gym.



Take Care of the Land that Takes Care of You: Brooks Conservation Easement

As you're driving east on I-40 just past Hillsborough, if you glance to your right, you'll notice a stand of pine trees. Hiding behind them is a 113-acre farm with rolling hills, gentle cattle, a gorgeous home, and a rustic saddle shop. It's a special kind of place. As the landowners' grandson best described it, "When I am there, I feel just like I'm in a picture in a magazine!"

Linda and Dennis Brooks came to Hillsborough from Chatham County back in the late 1970's in the days when they did rodeo and Dennis was working as a livestock inspector. Though they were initially sent here on temporary assignment by the state, the pair decided to put down their roots, call Hillsborough home, and open up Lazy B Saddle Shop.

Dennis noted, "I was working a full-time job, we had cattle on three farms, started the saddle shop, and we figured out there was nothing lazy about us. So we changed the name to Rocking B."

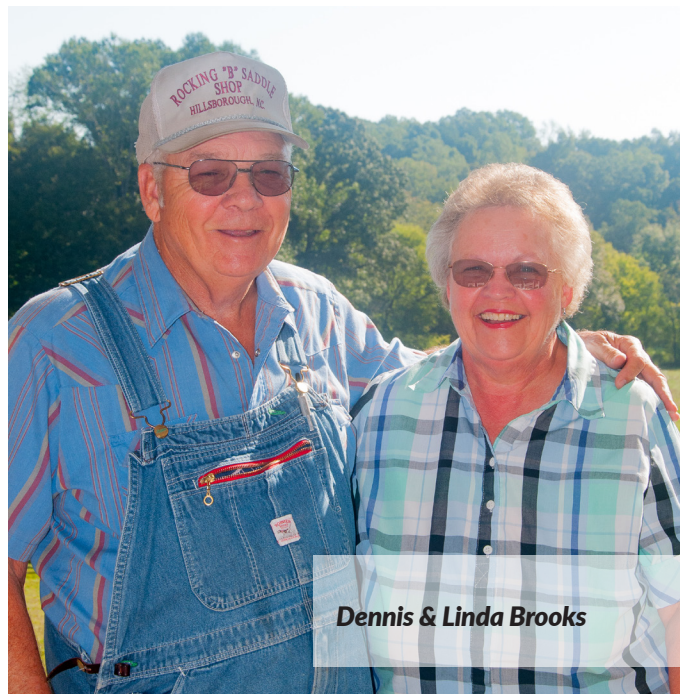
Located on Sevenmile Creek, just upstream of Hillsborough's Lake Ben Johnston drinking water reservoir, Rocking B Saddle Shop has served its customers for over 38 years. As Linda said, "We've been very fortunate to be able to do what we enjoy doing and make a living at it."

Eno River Association and Orange County co-hold a conservation easement on the Brooks' farm as a result of a big undertaking that began in 2012 with multiple partners, including the Brooks, the Orange County Lands Legacy Program, the City of Raleigh, the Town of Hillsborough, and the NC Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Permanently protecting family-owned farms with working lands

conservation easements helps to keep drinking water sources clean and to secure local food sources.

Other landowners who are curious about conservation easements have approached Linda and Dennis, who are happy to share their experiences. "It seemed a good way to participate and derive some income from the farm that would also allow us to retire on the farm, and still save the farm to keep it in the family. We could have our cake and eat it too! That was our thinking. Especially since we are self-employed. Many farmers have to sell off part of their farm to development."

In the six years since the cattle have been fenced out from walking in the streams, life in the protected



Dennis & Linda Brooks

buffers along Rocky Run and Sevenmile Creek has already changed. "We find flowers we didn't find before. There's something blooming here almost every month of the year. Some of them are called Knee Flowers; you've got to get on your knees to see them," said Linda.

Leaving the farm, you can't help but flick your eyes in the rear-view mirror at the green rolling hills and trees gently swaying in the breeze. Knowing how hard they have worked on and for this land, and recognizing all that the land has given to their family, drives home Dennis and Linda's vital message for the world: "Take care of the land that takes care of you. It's something you probably hear so much of, but it's true."





Eno River Field Station Adventure

The adventure began on July 23 when the first Eno River Field Station participants arrived at the Eno River Association's Confluence Natural Area. Forty-two students, ages 12 to 15 spent five days and one night immersed in Environmental Science research and field work. Scientists, researchers, and educators took them into the creeks, forest, and meadows to learn about local natural resources, national and global issues surrounding those resources, and careers related to them. They surveyed fish, mussels, reptiles, amphibians, hummingbirds, trees, insects, and aquatic snails. They collected climate, water quality, and geologic data. They built a pollinator

garden, core bored tree rings, learned camera trap techniques, and identified night sounds. They visited the headwaters of the Eno, and canoed its final miles where it becomes the Neuse. All of these explorations aimed to build scientific knowledge, grow enthusiasm for environmental sciences and careers, and teach students that issues confronting our environment are local. Field Station was made possible through a grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, with additional support from the F.M. Kirby Foundation and the Duke Energy Foundation. Mark your calendars now: Field Station 2019 will take place July 22-26.

Members' Only Sale December 5 & 6

Eno River Association Office 4404 Guess Rd. Durham.
All posters ½ price. Tee shirts just \$20. Caps, totes,
stickers and gift memberships available, too. Join
ahead of time or at the sale.

Visit EnoRiver.org for more info.





Hurricane Florence Impact

The heavy rains of September 16 and 17 caused significant flooding along the river and significant damage to trails and bridges in Eno River State Park. Volunteers and staff worked with state park staff to clear trails and make repairs, but many bridges will remain out until state inspectors can approve engineering plans for rebuilding.

In West Point Park the mill was flooded to a depth of about 30 inches at the ground floor. The damage was minimal, thanks to Association staff and volunteers working with City staff to secure the waterworks and move furniture, tools, and supplies to the third floor prior to the storm.

Save the Date: 40th annual Festival for the Eno!

July 4 and 6, 2019. Tickets and craft applications available now at EnoFest.org



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. 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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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2019

New Year's Day Hike
Winter Hike Series Begins

March 2019

Spring Hike Series Begins

June 2019

iWalk the Eno Science
& Nature Camp

July 2019

Festival for the Eno 2019
Eno River Field Station

For more information about
upcoming events visit our
website www.enoriver.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Eno River Association New Year's Day Hike

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 Hikes Begin at 2:00 p.m.
Eno River State Park, Few's Ford Access | Durham, NC
Please allow 15 minutes to walk from the
parking area to the gathering point.



The Eno River New Year's Day Hike is as traditional to the Triangle's first day of the year as black-eyed peas and resolutions.

Every year since 1971, we have sponsored a fun-filled afternoon of guided hikes, refreshments, and merriment. We'll have two hike options, a longer 4.1-mile hike as well as a shorter 2.6-mile route. Hot chocolate, marshmallows, and popcorn will be served around the fireplace at the end of the hike. There will be something for everyone, so come one, come all and enjoy New Year's Day at the Eno!

For more information contact our office at (919) 620-9099, ext. 211
or email hikes@enoriver.org.