

Fall, 2006

Watershed News
Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance
Watershed Management Area 4

Volume 5, Issue 2



www.wma4.org

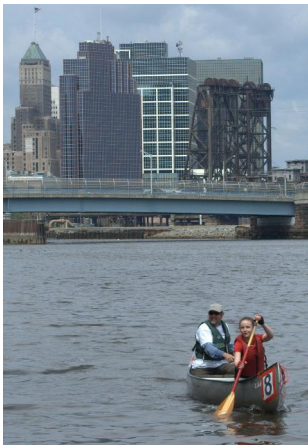
SECOND ANNUAL PASSAIC RIVER PADDLE RELAY A HUGE SUCCESS

One of the highlights of our year is the opportunity to enable our community to experience the Lower Passaic River by paddling on the River in the Annual Passaic River Paddle Relay. Held on May 20th, with the weather cooperating, our 8 mile course ran from the Nereid Boat Club in Rutherford to the Riverbank Park in Newark, with two transitions. Twelve teams of six paddlers entered, as well as individuals who wanted to experience the Passaic. A total of 86 paddlers in kayaks and canoes entered.



Paddlers lining up at the starting line at the Nereid Boat Club

The winning team was a group of young women from Rockland County, aptly named the KamiKaze Kanoers. They showed all of us a thing or two about the meaning of “relay”. Our own Alliance team, comprised of Bob DeVita, Scott Pengitore, Ray Cywinski,



With a beautiful urban background, members of the second place team work their way down the Passaic River

Franco Lofaro and the father-son “finishers”, Jerry and Jeremy Mitchell, came in third place. The event was hosted by the Alliance, in partnership with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners, the Ironbound Community Corporation, and SPARK Friends of Riverbank Park.

Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance Chairman Tom Pietrykoski opened the event in Rutherford. Bernadette McPherson, Mayor of Rutherford, and Chairwoman of the Bergen County Board of Freeholders, welcomed all participants. The Essex County Executive, Joseph DiVincenzo, was a member of the team Putting Essex County First.

Mr. DiVincenzo, a strong supporter of our watershed efforts, congratulated the

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<i>Editor: Lisa Summers</i>	

Stay Tuned...

Garret Mountain Reservation, a 568 acre recreational area in Passaic County, was designed by the Olmsted Brothers in 1927. The Lambert Castle, a 19th Century structure, is the home of the Passaic County Museum.

In the next newsletter we will be featuring Garret, a premier birding location as well as home to a large variety of plants species and mixed hardwood forest, as well as ponds. Stay tuned and learn about another surprise in our urban watershed.

MEET THE IRONBOUND COMMUNITY CORPORATION

Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) was founded in 1969 in order to help meet the needs of residents in the Ironbound neighborhood in Newark. Over 50,000 residents live there; many are newly arrived immigrant families from Brazil, Mexico, and other countries of Central and South America. ICC provides a range of social services for all ages—including free pre-school and after-school programs, college courses in partnership with Essex County College, senior citizens programs (e.g., transportation, meals-on-wheels, and homemaker programs), programs for healthy mothers, family workshops, and financial literacy.

In addition to social services, ICC does community organizing related to quality of life issues in the neighborhood. ICC organized a group called Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW) which has, for over twenty years, focused on the problem of toxic waste sites in surrounding areas.

During its industrial past, Ironbound has had many polluted sites, including the Diamond Shamrock plant which manufactured Agent Orange during the Vietnam War and left a trail of the highest dioxin levels in the country. The Ironbound neighborhood continues to be surrounded by polluting industries which affect the air that residents breathe. Truck traffic to and from Port Newark compounds the problem, and residents continue to fight for cleaner air and improved quality of life.

Open space is also an issue in the Ironbound neighborhood: it has less than 22 acres of recreation space, well below the average for cities of similar size. When a developer tried to take Riverbank Park (along the Passaic River) for the Newark Bears Stadium, ICC helped to form SPARK (Save the Park At RiverbanK). The group led the effort to preserve the park; it formed a volunteer, non-profit group dedicated to the Park's preservation and initiated cultural and educational programs. A new generation will learn park stewardship.

The Riverbank Park will celebrate its 100th year in 2007. Both ICC and SPARK participated in the Passaic River Paddle Relay and Watershed Festival this year, and look forward to 2007 and beyond. For more information, or to learn how you can join, please

*Nancy Zak
presents a drawing
of the future
Newark water-
front.*



contact: Nancy Zak, (973)589-3353 or
spark07105@yahoo.com

Transitions....

We say goodbye and good luck to Gina Mongiello, our superb Watershed Ambassador (2005-2006). Her energy and knowledge made the year a huge success.

Welcome to the 2006-2007 Ambassador, Carrie Deitz, who comes with a BS in Environmental Education and experience as a Park Naturalist, Assistant Park Manager, Environmental Camp Coordinator, and teacher. We know she will do an excellent job of educating residents in the Lower Passaic Watershed region.

FYI...

An excellent publication, “What YOU Can Do To Prevent Nonpoint Source Pollution in the Lower Passaic Basin” is available, free of charge, to any interested educator or resident. This sturdy and informative publication tells you what nonpoint source pollution is, how to avoid it, and how to keep our waterways as clean as possible.. For copies: mandegruber@hotmail.com

Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance Executive Committee

Chairman, Thomas Pietrykoski, PVSC

1st Vice Chair, Mark Newell, Ramapo College

2nd Vice Chair, Jerry Mitchell, Jacobs-BBL

TAC Chair, Russ Furnari, PSEG Services Corporation

EOC Chair, Peyton Baker, Passaic County Department of Health

OSC Chair, Paul Russo, Bloomfield College

WILLIAM PATERSON PARTNERS ON WATER QUALITY MONITORING GRANT

By Dr. Richard Pardi, Chair of Environmental Science, William Paterson University

Passaic County, in partnership with William Paterson University (WPU), has received funding from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to monitor water quality in the Molly Ann Brook. Starting in Franklin Lakes, near the large Haledon Reservoir and smaller North Haledon Reservoir, the Brook runs through WPU's Oldham Pond in Wayne (site of the WPU Environmental Science Laboratory) and ends at the Paterson Falls.

This project is funded through a NJDEP 319(h) grant and parallels the Preakness Brook Water Monitoring Project which has been underway for a year. The water quality monitoring portion of both projects are under the guidance of Dr. Richard Pardi, WPU Chair of Environmental Science. In both cases, the impairments being addressed are fecal coliform levels and the macroinvertebrate community. Molly Ann Brook's watershed, approximately 7.8 miles, is somewhat smaller than Preakness Brook's approximately 11.1 square miles, so its discharge is less.

Molly Ann Brook is essentially channelized downstream from Oldham Pond, which means that its natural flow has been restricted. In addition, the downstream portion of the stream receives inflow from several Combined Sewage Outfalls (CSO). All six sampling sites on the Brook are upstream from known sites of potential CSO influence, however, there are several hundred documental outflow pipes entering Molly Ann within this reach (and quite a few upstream as well).

Previous studies of Molly Ann Brook conducted by Dr. Pardi, Dr. Michael Sebetich, and students at WPU have documented a sharp decline in water quality within the channelized portion of the stream. For further information, please contact Dr. Pardi at pardir@wpunj.edu.

PADDLE RELAY CONTINUED...

paddlers at Riverbank Park. Prizes were handed out to the winners, donated by local merchants.

At the Park, a festival organized by the WMA4 Watershed Ambassador Gina Mongiello was a perfect end to the day; pizzas and water were served to the tired but happy paddlers. Music and exhibits rounded out the day.

We had invaluable help from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Clifton Fire Department, the PVSC Safety Boats, and the police departments of Kearny, Belleville, and Newark. There were dozens of volunteers to make sure this event came off without a hitch; and we all resolved to do this again next year.



Tom Pietrykoski congratulates the Winning Team, the KamiKaze Kanoers



County Executive Joe DiVincenzo and Essex County Team

So many of the participants were amazed that the River was so accessible and beautiful. Our River needs a lot of loving care, but that's what this is all about. We want to connect our residents and visitors to the River. We are confident they will become stewards of our waterways once they see the potential to bring the Passaic back to the way it used to be-- a place to recreate, to sit, to walk along the banks and to improve the quality of life for all of us.

JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS. IT IS YOUR RIVER TOO!

Protect Our Waterways

You can play an important part in protecting our waterways. Please document and/or photograph any evidence of pollution or illegal dumping in our streams, rivers, and storm water drains. To document properly, write down the date, time, location, and what you witnessed.

Illegal dumping includes, but is not limited to, chemicals, oil, tires, poop bags, and other litter. Discolored water and suspicious or foul odors near a waterway should also be noted.

Please report your concerns to:

1-877-WARNDEP
OR
1-877-927-6337



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Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance

Date: Second Thursday of each month

Location: Various, within WMA 4

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

For More Information: Tom Pietrykoski, 973-817-5735,
tpietrykoski@pvsc.com

Technical Advisory Committee

Date: Last Thursday of each month

Location: Oldham Pond Environmental Center, N. Haledon

Time: 6:30pm

For More Information: Russ Furnari 973-430-8848

Education and Outreach Committee

Date: Third Wednesday of each month

Location: Clifton Public Library, Allwood Branch, Clifton

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

For More Information: Peyton Baker 973-338-4098,
pbaker@passaiccountynj.org

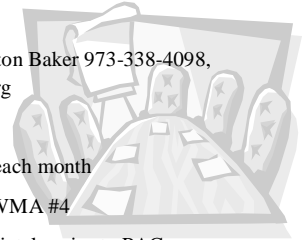
Open Space Committee

Date: Second Thursday of each month

Location: Various, within WMA #4

Time: 5:00-6:30pm, immediately prior to PAC

For More Information: Paul Russo 973-748-9000



Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance
(Watershed Management Area 4)
www.wma4.org

c/o New Jersey Department of
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