

Fall, 2005

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

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www.wma4.org

FIRST ANNUAL PASSAIC RIVER PADDLE RELAY A HUGE SUCCESS

The Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance, (WMA 4) hosted the first annual ***Passaic River Paddle Relay and Watershed Festival*** on Saturday, May 14, 2005. This ambitious and hugely successful endeavor was the result of an impressive partnership between various individuals and institutions, including members of the Education and Outreach Committee, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC), the National Park Service, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The entire event was planned by Americorps Watershed Ambassadors, Cara Monkowski (WMA 4) and Carolyn Waugh (WMA 6), and members of the Education and Outreach Committee.

Official Start to the Day

The day began at the newly dedicated Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland, where County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr., Roseland Mayor Michael Pacio, Jr., and local police, fire chiefs, and Environmental Center officials launched the festivities.

Relay Race

Ten teams of six paddlers entered the race in canoes provided by the Bronx River Alliance. The first leg of the relay stretched from Roseland to Great Piece

Meadows in Montville, a total of eight miles. The second leg began at Pequannock River Park in Lincoln Park and finished five miles



And they're off!

Teams of relay racers paddled down the Passaic River

down the river at Island Park in Little Falls. Finally, the last leg—approximately three miles long—started just below Little Falls and ended in Westside Park in Paterson.

The teams included groups from Newark Academy, Roseland Scouts, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners, William Paterson University, Hanover High School Environmental Club, Sierra Club, and informal teams of eager friends. The winning team was the “Hoboken Elite,” which came to the finish line in costume, just to add to the fun. Prizes, donated by Eastern Mountain Sports and Campmor,



The kick-off: PVSC's Tom Pietrykoski, with megaphone, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr., to his right, Roseland Mayor Michael A. Pacio, Jr., far right

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WMA 4 Executive Committee:

- PAC Chair, Mark Newell, Ramapo College
- PAC 1st Vice Chair, Jerry Mitchell, Jacobs-BBL
- PAC 2nd Vice Chair, Tom Pietrykoski, PVSC
- TAC Chair, Russ Furnari, PSEG Services Corporation
- OSC Chair, Paul Russo, Bloomfield College
- EOC Chair, Tom Pietrykoski, PVSC

Editor: Lisa Summers

FIRST PASSAIC RELAY (cont.)

were awarded to the top three teams, including Camelback backpacks, dry sacks, and gift certificates.

PVSC River Restoration crews provided transportation for the teams for each leg of the event, and provided help with the park cleanups.

Watershed Festival

Among the dedicated workers at the festival were the



Winning canoe team, the Hoboken Elite

15 members and staff from the New Jersey Youth Corps of Newark and Paterson. Under the guidance of Elyssa Serrilli, they helped with various aspects of the watershed festival, which included running the watershed festival at both the start and the finish line. At Westside Park in Paterson, they planted 15 large shade trees (5 Hawthorn, 5 Willow Oak, and 5 Black Gum) provided by the NJ Tree Foundation. Paterson's Department of Public Works arranged for watering trucks to keep the trees healthy in the future.

At Westside Park, the festival also included exhibits by the Americorps NJ Community Waterwatch and Watershed Ambassador programs, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners, and the Passaic River Institute at Montclair State University. Crafts were also part of the day. In addition, improvement projects were conducted:

Brendan Lynaugh, Rutgers-Newark campus organizer for New Jersey Community Waterwatch, painted fences and repaired woodwork around Westside Park.

Thanks Go to So Many

The success of the entire event hinged on the involvement and generosity of countless people. Several supermarkets and local stores made donations, providing pizza, fruit, bottled water, and even an ice machine! We would also like to thank the following generous sponsors: The League of Women Voters of Ridgewood, NJDEP-



Elyssa Serrilli, NJ Youth Corps-Newark, and friends plant a tree



Jerry Willis of the National Park Service (fourth from left) and his crew of volunteers, with their shovels at the ready for the tree plantings

Div. of Watershed Management, PSE&G, GSE, LLC., and the Lower Passaic Cooperating Parties.

Let's Make It An Annual Event

The entire event was worthy of an annual event, so expect to hear announcements for the next **Annual Passaic River Paddle Relay** very soon. The Education/Outreach Committee has a motto: "*The best way to see the Passaic River is by being on the river.*" When neighbors of the River understand its impact on their lives, a natural stewardship arises. The Committee is comprised of hard-working New Jersey residents who want to revive the beautiful Passaic River, once the heart and soul of New Jersey. Join Us!



Hard-working organizational members of Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance

Transitions

Farewell...we say goodbye and good luck to our energetic Americorps Watershed Ambassador, Cara Monkowski and industrious Brendan Lynaugh, Rutgers-Newark NJ Community Waterwatch Campus Organizer.

Welcome... to our new Watershed Ambassador, Gina Mongiello (gmoniello@pvsc.com), and our two NJ Community Waterwatch representatives, Elyse Conde (Montclair@waterwatchonline.org) and Kym Kline (Newark@waterwatchonline.org).

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Bioregional Basis Of Urban Sustainability **Thursday, October 20th** **7pm**

Peter Berg, Director of Planet Drum Foundation and author of "Discovering Your Life-Place" and "A Green City Program," will lecture on urban sustainability at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland, New Jersey.

To register, or for more information, please call 973-228-8776. Space is limited and pre-registration required. Cost: \$7 per adult.

Family Fall Festival **Saturday, October 29th** **10 AM-2 PM**

Many activities are planned, including canoe trips with the New Jersey Audubon Club and Sierra Club, beekeeping activities and displays, Native American stories, garden crafts with Master Gardeners, nature walks with 4H Clubs, and much more.

No registration required, everything is FREE. For more information call: 973-228-8776, or just be there on October 29th, Essex County Environmental Center, 621 B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ.



MSU NJ COMMUNITY WATERWATCH CLEANUPS:

Saturday, Oct. 22nd
11AM-3PM,
Rt 46 and McBride Ave
in West Paterson, NJ
&
Saturday, November 5th
11AM-3PM
Pennington/Westside
Parks in Paterson, NJ

For more information contact Elyse Conde at Montclair@waterwatchonline.org

RUTGERS-NEWARK WATERWATCH CLEANUPS **October 29th and November 19th**

Times and locations to be announced; please contact Kym Kline at Newark@waterwatchonline.org

HELP TO KEEP YOUR WATERSHED CLEAN

Do You Need a Cleanup?

Are there sections of the Passaic River, Saddle River, Hohokus Brook, Third River, or other waterways that are extremely littered or full of debris? If you contact one of the NJ Community Waterwatch Organizers (see "Transitions"), they will try to arrange a cleanup. We need your help to identify those areas most degraded, and we will do our best to help you clean them up.



ELYSSA SERRILLI OF NJ YOUTH CORPS LANDS OUTDOOR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Elyssa Serrilli, Environmental Projects Coordinator of New Jersey Youth Corps-Newark, was sponsored by a scholarship from the Rivendell Foundation to take the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Educator Course, given by the National Outdoor Leadership School this past June. Set in the Absorka Range in northwestern Wyoming, the training focused on leadership techniques and wilderness survival.

While backpacking on and off the trail through bear country, Ms. Serrilli learned critical skills, such as backcountry cooking, navigation, adapting to weather and terrain, and group expedition behavior. This Fall, she will share her passion for the outdoor classroom and working in teams with "at-risk" youth in Newark.



*Outdoor Educator Course
in action*

STAY INFORMED ABOUT YOUR WATERSHED

Check out our informative, new website at: www.wma4.org You'll find current information on local watershed issues, including post-ings for monthly events, cleanups, river walks, scheduled meetings, and this newsletter.



If you have suggestions or comments pertaining to the website, newsletter or watershed issues in general, please let us know! You can contact Michele Bakacs (michelebakacs@dep.state.nj.us) or Tom Pietrykoski (tpietrykoski@pvsc.com).



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Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance - General Meeting

Date: Second Thursday of each month

Location: Various, within WMA 4

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

For More Information: Mark Newell 201-684-7406

Technical Advisory Committee

Date: Fourth 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: Tom Pietrykoski 973-817-5735

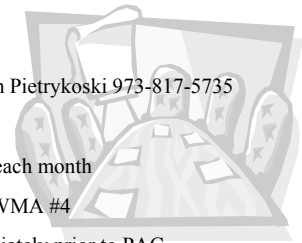
Open Space Committee

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

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