



New Volume 5 Edition 2

THE RANCOCAS CREEK ASSOCIATION

The New Creekside News



The "New" Creekside News

is an e-newsletter for, about, and by the Rancocas Creek Association - free to all, published quarterly (**January, April, July, October**). The Creekside News was previously distributed weekly (1930's) to all residents free of charge - for the first copy - any additional copies were sold for 2 cents per copy!

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*Jacob Poinsett
Audubon Society*



As spring migration is in full force, we should expect to see summer breeding birds passing through our state as well as returning to our state to breed. Being located on the Atlantic Migration Flyway, New Jersey is situated along a busy route for migratory birds and the various habitats found here provide much needed resources for their long journeys. Birds like the Prairie Warbler return to these unique habitats year after year. Despite the misleading common name, the Prairie Warbler is actually a small songbird found in regenerating forests and scrubby habitats rather than prairies. These habitats include well-managed pine forests such as those found in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. Although its population is declining due to habitat destruction, there are sanctuaries such as the Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve in Vincentown that are specifically managed for this beautiful bird. Tributaries of our beloved Rancocas Creek meander through the preserve and the stands of Pitch Pine that are managed

via prescribed burns allow the Prairie Warbler to rely on the sanctuary year after year. So grab your binoculars, fill up your water bottle, and hike the trails at the Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve to catch a glimpse of a fellow New Jerseyan!



We hope you might have noticed that Shreve Street and West Railroad Avenue are a little less littered, if not completely litter-less. A crew of RCA members and other residents spent a few hours over two weeks in March picking up cans, bottles, wrappers, soda cups, plastic bags, paper bags, various scraps of automobiles (like a bumper guard) and on and on.

It looks better as of this writing – but even a few days later un-aware drivers had begun to re-build the “trashy” look. So, we will keep at it.

There is a tradition here. Some of you may remember Barbara Wood (though most will not, as she moved away in 2003) – she patrolled Shreve Street and West Railroad Avenue for trash for many years. So,

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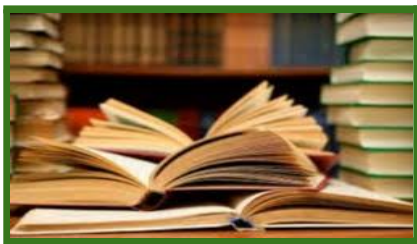
Barbara, wherever you are, we are following in your footsteps.

By the way, occasionally passers-by seemed to appreciate the effort with a smile or wave – very reinforcing.

Best to all,
Claudia McNamara

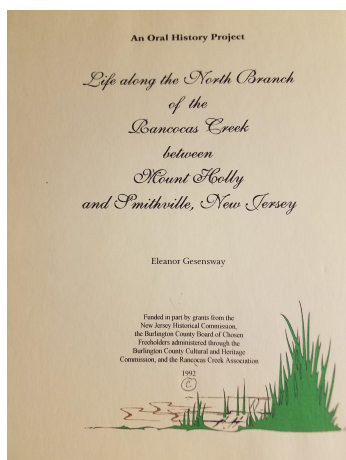
Editorial note - Our ornithologist, Jacob, until he too moved away, was known for traversing West Railroad Avenue to collect trash and debris. We miss you both!

Thank you!! Thank you!! for all who help in keeping our area clean and litter-free.



Ellie's Corner

"To me it is important not to live in a throwaway society...that you respect what came before." Eleanor Gesensway.



The banks of the Rancocas Creek has in its residents a remarkable membership of truly talented and interesting persons. Please enjoy another excerpt from Ellie's book -

"An Oral History Project: Life Along the North Branch of the Rancocas Creek between Mount Holly and Smithville, New Jersey".

Excerpts from interviews with Elizabeth Hayes. (August 1990)

Our beloved and supportive Betty passed away on March 4, 2021. She was 92! A past secretary and past treasurer of RCA, Betty was a friendly and loving face that was often seen at meetings of the past - in person! Many of you will remember her bright spirit, her sense of humor and her fondness for a good Martini. She loved fiercely her creek, her birds, and mostly her family and friends. While there will be no service, may we each toast Betty as we lounge by the creek, watching the herons and the egrets that she loved enjoy the creek that she loved. Rest in Peace Betty.

Born 26 June, 1928, Elizabeth (Betty) Jackal started visiting the Rancocas Creek when she was about 2 years old. "My grandfather and grandmother, Enos and Lillian Shaub, started on the creek ... about 1926 or so. ... They rented the land from Magee."

"There were two tent platforms when we started. .. We would put the tents on their poles each summer. There was a ladies bedroom tent and a gentleman's tent because it was a large family and we would all come on on weekends. ... Later on they (Betty's grandparents) built a large shed kitchen, long enough to house the canoes over the winter. We would put the tent tops and the mattresses from the bedroom tents also in the "kitchen" shed for the winter. We'd pile mattresses up on the tables and then we'd have to chase the mice out each year. ... Also in the kitchen shed was an ice box, an iron stove at first and later a kerosene stove, a pump, a little sink used

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for washing dishes, and two long tables with wooden benches."

"Of course we had no electricity and no water. We had a pump but the water was not drinkable. ... We had to paddle up to the spring with the big glass jugs which was dangerous when you think about it. I was just a child and that was one of my duties - to paddle up and get the water. We cooked on an outside fire ... we advanced to a kerosene two burner stove which we used when it rained and we couldn't cook outside."

"After everyone got electricity ... we built a new place on the upper ground so that we wouldn't flood. ...from 1949 to 1952. We built it with cinder brick ... two stories ...no plumbing. Later we added a little kitchen and a bathroom with a septic system. That must have been in 1952."

"We'd sit around the campfire and we'd sing and tell stories and play games. ... While we were doing this, if you'd see a car drive up somebody would say, "Oh my goodness, how many beds do we have?: how many people?: who's going to sleep with whom? and this stuff. We would have both tents filled. Twenty people sometimes. And we'd have army cots for the kids that we'd put up."

"We didn't have a car until I learned to drive. We'd come down by bus and then get a taxi in town to come in."

"The iceman would come around. The baker truck with his long drawers of goodies. ... I don't remember the name of the bakery."

Betty got married in 1949; her husband died in 1952, the same year her son, Michael, was born. In around 1960, Betty purchased the Mount Holly property.

Michael and his wife really put a great deal

into the house. "They lived there for two years or so and really fixed it up to the way it looks now. ... They had a stucco party ... they had a dock building party. He really made the place liveable. ... (when) their son, Billy was born ...the place was too small for them."

Betty spoke of the fond memories she had of her home on the creek - "It was so peaceful and you could get away. I guess children didn't think of it as peaceful. It was just different. We live in the city and you come down here and it's all woods and you could run; you had the canoe; you could do anything you wanted; you could swim. We all had to learn how to swim. And the fun we had at night around the campfire and the games we played. It was something else?"

"We used to paddle down to Hack's Canoe Rental" and had purchased one of the canoes from them.

Betty spoke of the RCA and joined because she "was interested in the creek and the flooding and preserving what was there, but we never went to any of the social functions they had except when they had the fairs in Mercer's field which we participated in and enjoyed very much. ... They had games for the kids and food and contests."

Betty believed that "everyone on the creek should be interested and support it (RCA). ... I don't worry about it (the creek) but I wonder how long it's going to last the way it is. I guess it's already changed a lot. We personally have lost a lot of ground. Where our kitchen along the creek was is not on the other side of the creek! The creek has turned so that we have lost land. We used to have big trees that we had swings on and the trees are gone now."

"Birds. We had cranes. In fact, I saw a blue heron last week in the flood. Ah! It was

beautiful. ..."

Well, Betty, your heron still zooms about the creek, sharing that peacefulness that you loved. May you rest in peace!

The High Cost of Free

Jenna Champion

When I was a new driver I was given a free car. A pretty little red Triumph TR3 that I was free to take to the mechanics and free to take to the body shop. In the end my free car cost me so much in maintenance I bought a car to get me to the job that allowed me to keep it.

We all have examples of getting something for nothing that worked out. But as we get wiser we usually look at the reason someone would give something away before accepting. Such should always be the case with what goes into our homes and our bodies. If you found out a free item could do you lasting harm would you still want it?

One example of buyer beware has to go towards "milled asphalt" aka: "historic fill". Why would companies give it away when they charge hundreds for stone or dirt? Easy, there is too much of it and it's known to be unsafe. Although it might contain anything from old construction debris with asbestos or old bricks containing lead the majority of it comes from repaving projects. This too has so many known carcinogens that reuse is restrictive. So companies practically pay unwary homeowners to take the problem off their hands. When it becomes a driveway in stable circumstances the worries about contaminants is limited to what blows around and seeps into ground water. As most of us know, nothing around water is

stable. The millings that look nice spread evenly on a road will float with the next flood into the wetlands and creek around us; causing the creek to not only fill in but contaminating the water children boat (and fall) in. Not everyone worries about long term effects on other people's health but our home values are tied to clean recreational water. It might be obvious that if the creek fills in or becomes polluted values go down but you could also end up with a permanent deed restriction as it's 100% prohibited in a flood plain! If you're ever in doubt as to what works and doesn't in our neighborhood there is a wealth of knowledge and experience in RCA members who are happy to help. If it wasn't for a certain RCA member our bridge would still be twisted. Not only was he able to engineer a solution he got in the water and helped! We miss you Bill.

Actual recycled asphalt warnings: "May Cause Cancer (Inhalation). Causes damage to organs (lungs, respiratory system) through prolonged or repeated exposure (inhalation). Recycled Asphalt Product contains a naturally occurring mineral complex with varying quantities of quartz (crystalline silica). Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) may cause cancer. Recycled Asphalt Product may be subjected to various natural or mechanical forces that produce small particles (dust) which may contain respirable crystalline silica (particles less than 10 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter). Repeated inhalation of respirable crystalline silica (quartz) may cause lung cancer according to IARC, NTP; ACGIH states that it is a suspected cause of cancer."

Please be careful what free ends up costing.

A Blast from the Past

or

DeJa Vu?

Article from "*The Inquirer*" 1986 by Susan Levine, Staff Writer

Thank you to John Anderson as one of the caretakers of our beloved Creek - he states "We who are engaged as volunteers on gaining National Water Trail designation for the Rancocas Creek are part of that specific Conservation Continuum." Enjoy the article!

Outdoor Classroom The Many Faces Of The Winding Rancocas Creek

By Susan Levine, Inquirer Staff Writer

November 12, 1986

Below Pemberton, it is a channel of smoked-glass waters, with sloping banks and carpets of lacy ferns, Lilliputian lichens, and brown, dry grasses.

In Mount Holly, it is a narrow, muddy ditch, shallow waters clogged by dead trees, sometimes littered and often overlooked by the men and women making their way to the county courthouse.

But by Delanco and Riverside, with three branches having converged into one, it is a wide tidal waterway, much more river than creek, clouded the color of coffee with cream and accelerating so very slowly to its meeting with the Delaware.

These are the many faces of the Rancocas Creek.

As the Rancocas winds its way through Burlington County, from headwaters deep within South Jersey's Pine Barrens, it carries with it a history rich in culture, economics and nature.

Once a major player in the life of the communities along its course, today the creek is relegated to a subordinate role. No longer does it carry excursion boats to Philadelphia from Mount Holly, or logs to sawmills near its mouth. No boat builders ply their trade in these waters, although less than 50 years ago, tugs for the U. S. and Dutch governments were constructed there.

For the most part the Rancocas Creek is unobtrusive. Save for the Pirates Inn Restaurant in Mount Laurel, there is little commercial development along the shores that takes advantage of its subtle beauty. The several, somewhat dowdy, marinas along its downstream banks seem to detract from that beauty, not enhance it.

Much of the time, in fact, the creek almost seems hidden. Drivers on Route 616 rumble over the creek, unknowingly, as they traverse the low, green bridge that is Hanover Street in Pemberton Borough. No markers identify it for truckers on Interstate 295 or the turnpike in Westampton, or for others crossing the slight swell that is the new Route 130 bridge connecting Delran and Edgewater Park.

Yet the creek has been harnessed by man and, in many cases, it has been changed and contaminated as well.

"The human hand has been there to alter the stream," said Gary Patterson of the West Jersey Sierra Club.

Numerous industrial and municipal sewer plants sit along its course, discharging millions of gallons of treated and sometimes not-so-treated effluent. Just this week, a section of the stream near Mount Holly was polluted by a leak of more than 500 gallons of home heating oil that spilled from a storage tank.

One of the few federal flood-control projects in New Jersey also is on the

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Rancocas. Built in the early 1940s in response to three years of record flooding in Mount Holly, it enlarged and relocated portions of the creek, created a bypass channel to divert water through the center of town, and included construction of two bridges.

The flooding in Mount Holly has been greatly abated. Still, the Rancocas can exert its force. "It's such a huge watershed," said Rick Walnut, who in the 1970s organized the Rancocas Creek Watershed Association.

The creek's north branch reaches as far as Ocean County; the south and southwest branches, which join in Lumberton, encompass a sweeping area from Evesham to Southampton. Into these flow dozens of tributaries, with names such as Cedar Run, Budds Run, Barton Run, Friendship Creek. They help the Rancocas drain hundreds of miles of land.

"There are so many little streams that you don't think of being part of the watershed area," Walnut said.

Because of that, the upstream development in areas such as Eastampton and Pemberton and, more recently, in Medford and Evesham, has created havoc. Homeowners eager to be close to the water have crowded near the Rancocas' banks, destroying - and often, with their septic tanks, polluting - valuable low-lying ground. During sudden, heavy storms, rain has no place to run, and flooding, Patterson said, "is a commonly accepted and recognized fact."

But in upstream areas, on a fall day when reflections of high gray clouds glide across the creek's dark, reflective surface, the angry flooding that can follow a storm seems an imagined danger.

The Rancocas flows almost imperceptibly here, and that, plus its easy access, makes it

a fascinating outdoor classroom for the study of flora and fauna.

"It has a foot in both the inner coastal plain and the outer coastal plain," naturalist Ted Gordon explained as he quietly navigated a canoe along the creek's north branch on a recent Saturday outing. "You get down right behind the (Burlington County) college, and you're right at the demarcation line for where the intercoastal plain begins. There are richer soils and different vegetation."

By day, Gordon is a teacher of German at Northern Burlington Regional High School. By night, weekend and summer, he is a naturalist, a frequent lecturer at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and a man who melds knowledge with poetic description. And, he is a superb tour guide.

"The beech tree," said Gordon, motioning toward one. "That's a non-Pine Barrens tree. You get it next to the American holly fairly frequently here. That's also a typical non-Pine Barrens tree. When you get into beech wood, you generally get into a richer forest."

The same could be said of the sweet gum, he noted, calling attention to its five-point dark red leaf. As for the Virginia pine, which Gordon also identified, it rings the Pine Barrens along its western border.

"No matter where I go," he commented, "I always seem to wend my way back here."

Gordon is fascinated by the history of the region, much of which relates to the Rancocas. Along the north branch, for example, there once were two ironworks - the Mary Ann and Hanover furnaces. In the late 1800s, efforts were made to canalize the creek to Lumberton and create a port there; as it was, the Atsion iron furnace used part of the south branch to transport its product.

"That was always the problem, how to get the product out," he said.

Of course, mills also located along the Rancocas, as they did most streams in the Pine Barrens. There was marl mining, too, and Gordon pointed out the subtle green mixture of clay, sand and limestone that forms a stratum of the Rancocas' exposed banks.

"Now one of the great industries, if you want to call it that, was pleasure homes," he continued. "Take Browns Mills. It was quite a resort community at the turn of the century. I think most of our pollution problem early on the stream was from people trying to get around the water at Hanover Lake."

The Rancocas was an extremely popular waterway then. "This stream was heavily canoed in the early 1900s," Gordon said. "That's why Hacks (Canoe Rental in Mount Holly) did such a tremendous business. I bet you couldn't rent a canoe on a busy weekend."

Unfortunately, those heavy concentrations of homes and people damaged the Rancocas over time. The isles of grasses once dotting the creek were eroded by such heavy traffic.

"They were like little gardens," Gordon said. "We had a much more attractive stream then, and that's changing."

Although sections of the creek today appear to have been untraveled for years - "This doesn't look like it's been canoed for a while," Gordon offered, surveying a tree blocking the width of the stream south of Pemberton Borough - other parts are littered with bottles and trash.

The rusting body of a junked car shows itself, belly up, at one spot; discarded water heaters and gasoline tanks emerge

frequently.

At least some residents, banded together as the Rancocas Creek Association, are trying to clean up the situation. In the last year, they have taken dozens of fallen trees out of the creek and had several abandoned houses along the bank condemned. Now they are seeking money to have the creek dredged.

"The trees in this area are simply magnificent. The sunsets here are just magnificent," said Bea Rosenthal, the association's president. Rosenthal first came here as a vacationer nearly 50 years ago, when summer residents paddled into Mount Holly for groceries and sponsored concerts along the creek. In 1983, she began living in her Eastampton cottage year-round.

"It's just a most unusual area," she said.

But downstream the creek shows a totally different face. It is low and wide, marshy, tidal. It is a river, with sometimes strong currents. No longer so navigable by canoe, it is ruled by motorboats, which often use its stretches by Route 130 for unofficial drag races. And that creates other problems.

About five weeks ago, for example, a man flipped his boat while speeding at about 35 m.p.h. on the creek - more than three times as fast as he should have been traveling, according to state marine police.

He was lucky, however. Doctors originally thought his neck was broken. It was not, and his other injuries were not serious. Still, until his boat was recovered two-and-a-half hours later, the craft remained sunk in the creek, a dangerous obstacle to other boaters.

Besides the hazard of speeding and reckless boating, there is also the damage that large wakes do to other boats and piers along the banks.

"We get calls and we try to send a boat there as fast as we can," said Sgt. Al Dempster of the state Marine Police, "but no one is stationed there."

On certain late spring and summer weekends when staffing allows it, Dempster places a patrol there full time. It pays. From May 31 to June 1, for example, his officers issued 23 summonses for speeding, skiing and other boating violations.

If a bill sponsored by state Sen. Catherine Costa (D., Burlington) passes the New Jersey legislature, the Marine Police will establish, for the first time since 1981, a permanent station in the county. A likely location would be near the mouth of the Rancocas.

"I've had many complaints," Costa said.

The Rancocas' opening onto the Delaware is framed by high sandy cliffs and protected by an expansive sand bar that has grounded many a boater.

"You see people pushing their boats off of it," said Ted Fink of Beverly, who with his wife, Sandy, patrols the area as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Here, a heron flies, solitary against the sky. Tall grasses and weeds blow near the banks, creating a study in browns.

Sighed Sandy Fink, "You can almost picture the Indians coming up it in their canoes."

And the RCA continues to do our best to keep our beloved "subtly beautiful" creek clean and inviting for all to enjoy.

Tree Removal Project



Ralph's Tree Service

Thanks to everyone who donated, supported, and gave encouragement for our tree removal project.

Ralph's Tree Service has started with the removal project. Below are some of the trees that are targeted.





While you are paddling along the north branch, if you come across any trees that impede your path, please take a picture and record the coordinates then send it to "Rancocas@gmail.com", we will add it to the list!

A Bit of History

Claudia McNamara

The Rancocas Creek Association – in the beginning...

This article started as an idea for a presidential history of the RCA, inspired by seeing something that brought about memories of Ed Derowski – president in 1990, many years ago.

Many of us may not know him, or Bea Rosenthal, or Dan McGonigle while some of our more recent presidents are known entities – take Sharon Astorino for instance.

So, for posterity, it must be memorialized as someday our known past presidents won't be known by members either!

Here is our first building block of history...

If anyone has records/minutes previous to 1980, please let us know.

In the 1920's and '30's, "campers", mostly from Philadelphia, were finding their way to this area.

Many of them were young people looking for a cheap, accessible and friendly place to get out of the city in the summer. Those who landed here and loved it formed friendships, shared cabin rentals, and enjoyed their holidays on the Creek. Note that "accessible" at that time meant, as far we can glean from residents' interviews, a trolley ride to Front Street, the ferry across the river, the trolley or taxi to Mount Holly, and then walking to Hacks to rent a canoe to paddle upstream.

Time went on, and those who camped along Paducah Road grew older, married, bought cars, started families and eventually bought the land they had camped on. Quite a community developed along Paducah Road. As families bought land they began to see the advantages of bringing electricity to their camps as an alternative to kerosene lamps and cookstoves.

As best the records show, in 1946-47 they formed themselves into an organization with the goal of raising money and

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awareness to bring power to the area. They joined parades in Mount Holly, encouraging watchers to join them, and in 1948 had their first Fair at the "Retire-Inn" campsite. The goal was to raise money, and they were quite successful. The fairs ran into the 1960's, sometimes drawing "100-200" visitors.

The records we have don't identify officers at that time, though clearly Bea Rosenthal was a significant driving force. Bea was an organizer, energetic, efficient and focused. Her job was in management, and her interview (Gesensway, pp. 331-362) describes the fight to get city water down Shreve Street and then to bring attention to the pollution and exposed waste in the landfill.

A footnote is in line here. The start of the original Creekside News (1934) became historically blended with the formation of RCA (1942), cleverly giving us an extra 8 years of "history". In 2017, the RCA, although being referred to as a non-profit for decades, officially received their non-profit status!

Should anyone have documents to help us fill in the blanks, please contact us at rancocas@gmail.com - thank you!

? - 1982 - Bea Rosenthal
1982 - 1985 - Dan McGonigle
1985 - 1989 - Bea Rosenthal
1989 - 1990 -
1990 - 1992 - Ed Derowski
Raoul Sanches V.P. Acting President 1991

1992 - 2000 - Claudia McNamara
2000 - 2018 - John McNamara
Craig Katz – For a year during the 2000 to 2018 time
2018 - 2020 - Rich Astorino
2020 - present - Sharon Astorino

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug - A Non-native Insect in New Jersey

These stink bugs have been a tad scarce, but it looks like they are making a comeback!

Courtesy of the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Burlington County, Fact Sheet FS 002 is attached for your perusal.

Spotted Lanternfly

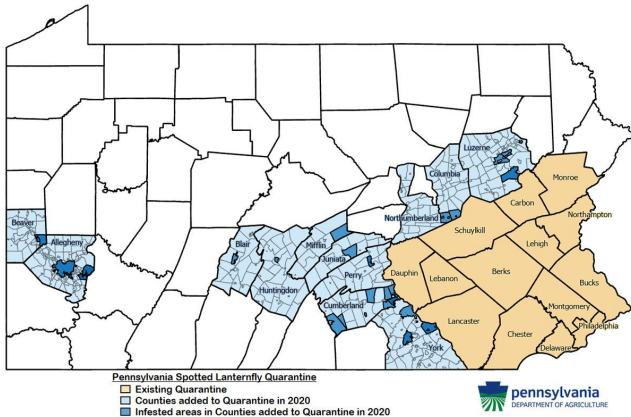
The Spotted Lanternfly is now found in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Burlington County no longer has to report sightings.

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive planthopper (a type of insect) in the U.S. It is native to certain parts of Southeast Asia.



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Frequently asked questions regarding this pest may be seen at <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-frequently-asked-questions>.

RCA SUNSHINE

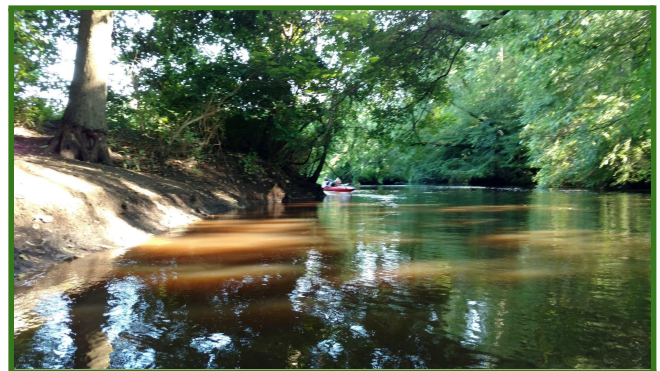


Birthday Greetings and Happy Anniversary to our members celebrating in April, May , and June! Continued good health and happiness to each of you.

Stream Visual Assessment Protocol Training (SVAP)

On November 4, 2020, Dr. Christopher Obropta, Extension Specialist in Water Resources with Rutgers Cooperative Extension conducted training for RCA members and volunteers on SVAP.

The RCA is planning on continuing that training in June as we acknowledge how important it is to recognize that healthy, resilient streams, riparian areas, and flood plains operate as a connected stream corridor system and will continue work to ensure that the Rancocas creek is a healthy body of water.



CLASSIFIED ADS



FREE STUFF! I have a cabin full of stuff I'm happy to give away. There's some vintage furniture for someone who's into restoration, old hand tools, and an unbelievable amount of odds and ends that must be of interest to someone. Please email me at craig_katz@yahoo.com if you'd like to have a look.



The RCA has a long history. - from 1934! It was originally a "camper's association", formed by families summering along the creek.

The Gazette was a newspaper that ran from September 1986 until March 1997; it was

known for "Proudly serving the Rancocas Valley" in Eastampton, Hainesport, Lumberton, Mount Holly, and Westampton.

The June 3, 1987 edition ran a beautiful article on creek and our Association.

"Back before the Lenape Indians lived along its banks and long before Edward Gaskill and James Lippincott dammed the creek at Mount Holly in 1723, the mysterious, meandering, dark cedar water of the Rancocas Creek flowed through the heart of Burlington County on its way from the Pine Barrens."

"Since World War II,...a group of concerned citizens who make up the Rancocas Creek Association have been here to protect the flowing waters."

The article described efforts of the association to "learn how to properly plant red twig dogwood bushes to hold back the eroding earth from falling into the water below.

It stated that members gathered to "do something positive and constructive for future generations of residents, wildlife, plants and the creek itself".

Under the masterful leadership of the founder, Bea Rosenthal, electricity came to the creek along with a realization by public officials that it is a valued asset that needed to be maintained!

That maintenance is essential - "due to the build up of silt in the creek, what used to take two to three days to flood, during a heavy rain, now only takes two to three hours" - a quote from then Director of Public Safety of Burlington County, Henry Van Brunt.

Bea Rosenthal stated about our beloved creek - "it's a jewel. And we want to restore it to its former beauty." This still holds true - the RCA is committed to preserving this jewel to share with others and hand down to those that follow.



The RCA is a non-profit organization.

Tax deductible donations may be forwarded to RCA at 3 Birch Avenue, Mount Holly NJ 08060;

OR you may donate through Facebook;

OR you may identify Rancocas Creek Association as your charity of choice when purchasing through **Amazon Smile** (smile.amazon.com); **Amazon Smile** now works on your Amazon app! RCA will receive 0.5% of your purchase courtesy of the vendor;

OR you may use PayPal - rancocas@gmail.com is our identifier.

So many options!

RCA GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

The easiest way to help the most people, right from your computer!

Rancocas Paddlers, sponsored by the RCA, has a fundraising page for the **Food Bank of South Jersey**. We are helping to raise funding to help fight hunger in South Jersey. You are invited to join us at <https://donate.foodbanksj.org/team/296015> to help our neighbors. Thank you!



HELP WANTED!!!!

We are looking for GRANT WRITERS!!!

Anyone love to play on FaceBook? Social Media authors are needed!

Enjoy digging through archives? We are looking for someone to go to the library and download old copies of newsletters.

Please let the President know if you would be willing and able to volunteer your time - thank you!

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Dues



Dues remain at \$20 per household! Please forward your dues to our Treasurer, Gary Pollak at 3 Birch Avenue, Mount Holly NJ 08060.

You may also pay through PayPal (\$20.74) - please email us at Rancocas@gmail.com to ensure you are credited with the membership!



2021 Meeting Schedule (tentative)

10:30 am - refreshments

11:00 am - meeting

Noon - adjourn

Sunday, April 25 - Virtual

Sunday, May 23

Saturday, June 26

Sunday, July 25

Saturday, August 28

Sunday, September 26

Sunday, October 10 "Potluck"

Sunday, November 7 Support-Local
Gathering

Sunday, December 12 Winter Gathering

Road / Creek Clean-up dates to be
determined

Our Newsletter

Anyone interested in writing an article for our newsletter, or have news that they would like to share, should contact Sharon Astorino or Claudia McNamara at Rancocas@gmail.com.

For those of you who read this newsletter and are not members of the RCA, we would like to tell you what it is! The Rancocas Creek Association is residents' association for people who live on or near the Creek between the Smithville Spillway and the Mount Holly Dam, or who enjoy paddling along the creek. We are a non-profit organization. Although RCA is not primarily an environmental organization, our location and relationship to the Creek means that many issues that we take up on behalf of residents have to do with preserving the quality of the environment and ecology of the Creek.

We welcome new members!

The more subscribed members we have, the stronger our voice to protect our

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environment and neighborhood and the quality of all lives along it. Dues are \$20 per year per household - not a high price to support an association that looks out for our small community and is also a source of information about local activities and development. So come on in! Join up and be part of this not-for-profit neighborhood association!

The 3 "M"s that make the Rancocas Creek "go"!

Membership - Encouraging friends and neighbors to join - \$20/year/household - the larger the membership, the stronger the voice!

Mailings - A newsletter geared to the membership is produced quarterly. We try to limit emails to a minimum!

Meetings - A minimum of 8 meetings per year; the third Sunday or Saturday of the month is preceded by coffee and refreshments, although lately they have all been virtual! Some meetings have speakers and run a little over the usual one hour.

The RCA has over *85 years of history*; formed by people summering along the beautiful Rancocas. The creek-side cabins were summer camps for families from Camden, Philadelphia, and other surrounding towns. RCA has had its ups and downs, some years with vigorous activity, others being barely active. RCA was instrumental in requiring the landfill to respond to health issues, paying for city water along Shreve Street, Kates Tract, and Paducah Road. Our main goal; however, is to maintain the beauty and health of the Rancocas Creek.

Consider joining us, and/or contributing to have some of the large trees removed through

<https://charity.gofundme.com/.../cam.../tree-removal-fund...>

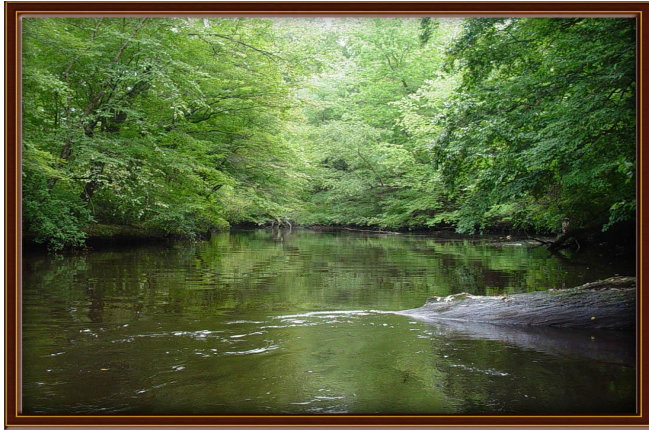
or through PayPal using rancocas@gmail.com as the identifier.

New members, simply mail your dues along with your name, address, email and telephone number to RCA, 3 Birch Avenue, Mount Holly NJ 08060. We look forward to hearing from you and working together for a beautiful, clean creek!

Like us on Facebook!



Creekside News April 2021



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