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**Masser, Michelle**

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**From:** Lashway, Lisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2013 4:25 PM  
**To:** Canning, Sean; Masser, Michelle  
**Subject:** FW: NEWS from the Raritan River Collaborative—February/March 2013

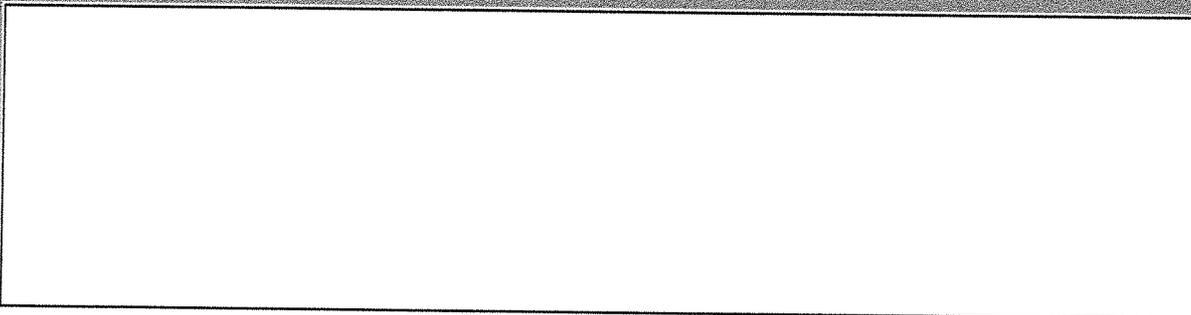
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**From:** Raritan River Collaborative [mailto:blueraritan@ejb.rutgers.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2013 3:57 PM  
**To:** Lashway, Lisa  
**Subject:** NEWS from the Raritan River Collaborative—February/March 2013

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**NEWS FROM THE RARITAN RIVER**

## COLLABORATIVE — February/March 2013

### Region-Wide Events

- New Jersey Conservation Foundation Land Rally – March 9
- NJ Invasive Species Strike Team 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference – April 4
- New Jersey Clean Water Council Public Hearing – April 9

### Across the Region

- Composting Workshop – March 2
- Chasing Ice Film Showing – March 3
- The Raritan River Rubbish Roundup – March 9-17
- Sourlands Film Showing – March 10
- Flood Commission Strategic Planning Session – March 16
- The City Dark Film Showing – March 17
- Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market – March 17 & April 21
- Woodcock Watch – March 21
- Bluebird Nestbox Workshop – March 24
- The Clean Bin Project Film Showing – March 24
- Renaissance of a River, Roberts Street Dam Removal films – March 27
- Headwaters Book Club – March 27
- Rain Garden Workshop — March 31
- Environmental Investigations on Raritan Riverfront Properties
- The Rhythm of Rutledge Film Showing – April 21

- Kayak & Canoe Eco-Tours start – June 6

## Save the Date!

- Sustainable Raritan River Initiative 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – June 11
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### **Conservation Foundation Land Rally — Saturday, March 9, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ

Connecting People with...Land...Nature...Each Other! This educational conference focuses on preserving New Jersey's open space and farmland - and brings citizen and professional leaders from across the region together to compare notes, learn from one another and work together for this common goal. For more information and registration visit: <http://www.njconservation.org/conservationrally.htm>

### **The Raritan River Rubbish Roundup, March 9-17**

To commemorate National AmeriCorps Week March 9-17, AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors will conduct cleanups spanning the Raritan River Water Region in watershed management areas 7, 8, 9, and 10 throughout the week. This cleanup effort is an expansion of last year's cleanups along the Delaware River Basin dubbed the *Delaware River and Bay – Dash for the Trash* when over 400 volunteers spent more than 1500 hours to clean up the Delaware River and Bay during the week long cleanups resulting in the collection of 536 bags of trash and recyclables. This year cleanups are

needed more than ever due to Superstorm Sandy! To participate and signup for a cleanup near you, please check the [NJDEP web page](#) for continuous updates. Please email [Kimberly Cenno](#) or [Katie Barnett](#) or call us at 609 633-1179 with any questions.

**Raritan-Millstone Flood Commission Public Strategic Planning Session  
on Building Capacity for Flood Mitigation — Saturday, March 16,  
9:30am-1:30pm**

The Conference Center at Raritan Valley Community College, Conference Rooms A/B/C, Branchburg, NJ [directions](#)

Join us for a discussion with experts from Rutgers, FEMA and other regional experts in the field to talk about strategies to reduce flood impacts in the region. Sessions will include information on steps we can take now to reduce the affects of future storms, and implement mitigation strategies across the region to reduce risks for everyone. Lunch will be available. To register, contact [Sara Malone](#).

**Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market**

Hunterdon Land Trust, Historic Dvoor Farm, Route 12 Circle, Flemington, NJ

This winter the [Hunterdon Land Trust](#) producers-only Farmers' Market is open on the third Sunday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.. You can get fresh locally-grown food bursting with flavor at the headquarters of the Hunterdon Land Trust, The Historic Dvoor Farm, Route 12 Circle in Flemington. Remaining market days for the winter are March 17 and April 21. Weekly market hours will resume in May.

***Renaissance of a River and Roberts Street Dam Removal Film Showings***

**— Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.**

Raritan Bank YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ

Showings of “Renaissance of a River” and the “Roberts Street Dam Removal” at 7:00 p.m. on March 27 at the Raritan Bay YMCA Theatre, 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. A Q-and-A session with Judy Shaw, Director of the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, and John Jengo, MWH Americas, will follow. If you would like to arrange a showing of the film, please contact the [Sustainable Raritan River Initiative](#).

**Environmental Investigations on Raritan Riverfront properties in Perth Amboy**

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority will be starting environmental investigations on several properties along the Raritan Riverfront in Perth Amboy. The City and the MCIA have worked together in a variety of ways on numerous projects for more than 15 years. To assist the city with several on-going riverfront redevelopment initiatives, the Authority secured a large USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. The environmental investigations phase is anticipated to begin this winter. The MCIA also will use the funds to conduct site planning work for the City’s plan to redevelop one site into a boat facility and another property for mixed use. Several community partners are expected to participate in the projects. Various stormwater management approaches and green infrastructure are being considered for the properties as well. For more information contact the [MCIA via email](#) or call 609-409-5002.

**New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team Conference — Thursday,  
April 4, 9:30am - 2:30pm**

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ

The NJ Invasive Species Strike Team is hosting our 1st Annual Invasive Species Conference. The conference will feature key speakers who will share information about the latest threats and management opportunities with regard to invasive species in NJ. There will be a panel of expert speakers in the morning session and concurrent roundtables in the afternoon. Lunch and refreshments are included in the registration fee of \$50 per person and the conference is open to the public. We hope you can join us for this important event. Please reserve your space early. [Click here for more information](#). Register [online](#) or by mail by March 28, 2013.

**Public Hearing of the New Jersey Clean Water Council — Tuesday,  
April 9, 9:00am-1:00pm**

Location to be announced

The New Jersey Clean Water Council will hold its 2012 public hearing (postponed due to Superstorm Sandy), *A Resilient New Jersey: Adapting Water Infrastructure to the "New Normal"* with a revised topic that focuses on improving the resilience of our water infrastructure. A term with many meanings, resilience can be considered "the capacity to adapt successfully in the presence of risk and adversity." There is no question that our water infrastructure has been the victim of adversity over the years – Tropical Storm Irene and Superstorm Sandy are only the two most recent catastrophic events. Whether the causes are river flooding, coastal storm surges and wave action, high winds, power failures or inadequate asset management, the ongoing and likely risks to water infrastructure are becoming clearer and of greater concern with each year. How should New Jersey respond? What roles should State government play? NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin is scheduled to provide an overview of NJDEP's ongoing thinking regarding these issues. Public testimony is invited, leading to formal recommendations by the Clean Water Council to the Commissioner. ***A detailed public hearing notice will be released***

**soon.** To pre-register for the public hearing, please contact Geraldine Skrajewski, NJDEP, at [Geraldine.Skrajewski@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Geraldine.Skrajewski@dep.state.nj.us).

### **Raritan Headwaters Association's (RHA) Activities at Fairview Farms**

- **Composting Workshop — Saturday, March 2, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**  
Fairview Farm Wildlife Preserve, 2121 Larger Cross Road, Bedminster, NJ  
Composting is a great way to reduce food waste in landfills and make excellent food for your garden. Learn a few techniques to compost using your own food and yard scraps at home. Register by March 3rd to receive a counter-top compost bin to bring home. This program is for adults and children ages 7 and older, and the cost is \$15 per person. To register, please contact [Lauren Theis](#) or call 908-234-1852, ext. 314.
- **Woodcock Watch — Thursday, March 21, 5:30-7:00 p.m.**  
Fairview Farm Wildlife Preserve, 2121 Larger Cross Road, Bedminster, NJ  
Visit Fairview Farm to learn about the American Woodcock. This bird has a fascinating courting ritual that takes place on warm evenings in the early spring each year. The male woodcock begins his "peenting call" at sundown. To attract a female, he first struts in circles on the ground and then takes flight, circling and whistling 100 feet high. The whistling turns into a high pitched twittering, ceasing suddenly as the lovesick bird flutters to the ground, only to begin the dance again. The woodcock is so caught up in his romantic ritual that the observer can get close to this otherwise evasive bird! Of course, we can't guarantee a sighting, but the sunset at Fairview Farm alone is worth the visit and if the "Singing Field" is quiet you can listen to the sounds of the evening!

The cost is \$5 per person. To register, please contact [Lauren Theis](#) or call 908-234-1852, ext. 314.

- **Bluebird Nestbox Workshop** — Sunday, March 24, 10:00 a.m - Noon  
Fairview Farm Wildlife Preserve, 2121 Larger Cross Road, Bedminster, NJ  
Learn about the Eastern Bluebird, and build your own nest box to set up in your yard. We will go for a brief hike around Fairview Farm to look for bluebirds, check out the nest boxes on the property and show you how to care for yours once you set it up at home. When you register, let us know how many boxes you would like to build so we can prepare! This program is for adults and children ages 7 and older, and the cost is \$20 per nest box. To register, please contact [Lauren Theis](#) or call 908-234-1852, ext. 314.
- **Headwaters Book Club** — Wednesday, March 31, 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Fairview Farm Wildlife Preserve, 2121 Larger Cross Road, Bedminster, NJ  
Join the Raritan Headwaters Association for a new monthly Book Club. We read and discuss environmental texts on issues that affect our region, and also include fictional literature that inspires a sense of place. There's no commitment - come when the book appeals to you! This month we'll discuss the poetry of Pulitzer and National Book Award recipient Mary Oliver, who is known for her clear and poignant observations about the intersection of the human and natural world. To register or get more information, please contact [Lauren Theis](#) or call 908-234-1852, ext. 314.
- **Rain Garden Workshop** — Wednesday, March 31, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Fairview Farm Wildlife Preserve, 2121 Larger Cross Road, Bedminster, NJ

Rain gardens can be great habitat areas for native wildlife, beautify your property and control your stormwater run-off. This hands-on workshop is intended for anyone interested in installing a rain garden at home, business, school, or church. You'll learn the basics of why, where and how to install a rain garden. This program is for adults and children ages 7 and older, and the cost is \$15 per person. To register, please contact [Lauren Theis](#) or call 908-234-1852, ext. 314.

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### **Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Film Festival – March 3-21, 3:00pm**

Pennington Library, 30 North Main Street, Pennington, NJ

The [Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association](#) is proud to partner with the Pennington Public Library to bring five award-winning environmental films to downtown Pennington in March.

The Watershed Film Festival will give local residents the opportunity to view five highly-acclaimed documentaries at no charge, and to come together as a community concerned about the environment.

Please join us! We invite you to be moved, enlightened and inspired by these exceptional films. We'll bring the popcorn!

- **Sunday March 3:** *Chasing Ice*, the story of one man's mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of climate change.
- **Sunday March 10:** *Sourlands*, a provocative tale of ecology, energy and agriculture, told from a deep forest surrounded by sprawl.
- **Sunday March 17:** *The City Dark*, a search for night on a planet that never

sleeps.

- **Sunday March 24:** *The Clean Bin Project*, a fun and empowering challenge between the filmmakers to see who can swear off consumerism and produce the least landfill garbage in an entire year.
- **Sunday April 21:** *The Rhythm of Rutledge*, a documentary observing peripheral communities in rural Missouri, and how they're models for a more peaceful, durable society.

Each film will be followed by a Q&A session. [Visit the website for more information.](#)

### **NY/NJ Baykeeper – 2013 Kayak & Canoe Eco-Tours start June 6 – Make Your Reservations Now!**

Paddle with the NY/NJ Baykeeper through the Hudson-Raritan Estuary's living web of uplands, biologically rich fresh and saltwater wetlands, beaches, straits and broad bays; home to more than 150 species of fish and shellfish, 330 bird species, and 15 million people. Reservations for Eco-Tours are first come, first served. For more information please contact [Amy Testa](#) at the NY/NJ Baykeeper Office or call 732-888-9870 ext 6. Visit [www.nynjbaykeeper.org](http://www.nynjbaykeeper.org) for more information and reservation forms. Cost is \$25 per person or \$35 per person including boat rental.

- **Raritan Bay Eco-Tour, Thursdays, June 6, 13, 20 & 27, 5:30-6:30pm**
- **Navesink River Eco-Tour, Saturday, June 29, 2:00-3:00pm**
- **Paddle into Fresh Kills, Saturday, July 27, 10:0am-noon**
- **Sunset Paddle from Perth Amboy Beach, Thursday, August 15, 5:45-7:15pm**
- **Navesink River Eco-Tour, Saturday, August 17, 4:30-6:30pm**
- **South River & Lawrence Brook Eco-Tour, Saturday, September 7, noon-**

3:00pm

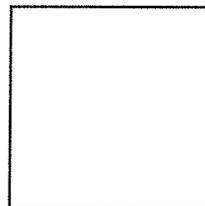
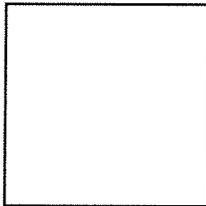
**SAVE THE DATE: 5th Annual Sustainable Raritan River Conference**  
— Tuesday, June 11, 9:00am-5:00pm

Rutgers University, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, 33  
Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ

A full day of discussions highlighting innovation, accomplishments and emerging issues  
across the Raritan - for elected officials, municipal staff, environmental leaders, planners,  
engineers and those concerned with the quality of life in our region, come be part of the  
planning and get involved! **Registration opens April 15!**

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**Send us your news!**

We are happy to celebrate your successes or announce events of general interest, so let us know. If you have stories, photos or upcoming events, send us information and we'll get the word out.

Send to: [blueraritan@elb.rutgers.edu](mailto:blueraritan@elb.rutgers.edu)

For more information about the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative please contact Dr. Judy Shaw at [Judy.Shaw@rutgers.edu](mailto:Judy.Shaw@rutgers.edu)

**title image courtesy Michael Catania**

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