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**Gouveia, Susan**

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**From:** Lashway, Lisa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 2:57 PM  
**To:** Canning, Sean  
**Cc:** Gouveia, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: [Sustainable\_raritan\_river] NEWS from the Raritan River Initiative—February 2015  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

Correspondence

Michelle Masser  
Deputy Clerk

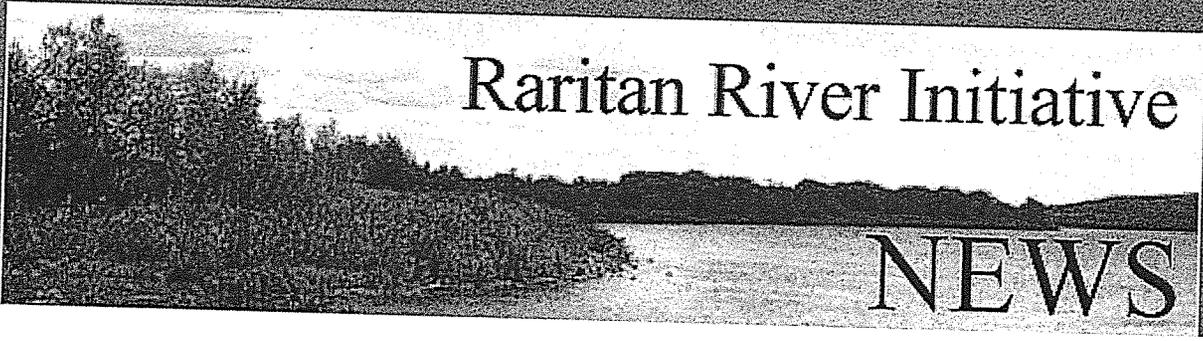
973-691-0900 Ext. 7291  
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**From:** Bloustein School News [mailto:ejbnews@ejb.rutgers.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:07 PM  
**To:** sustainable raritan river  
**Subject:** [Sustainable\_raritan\_river] NEWS from the Raritan River Initiative—February 2015

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Raritan River Initiative

NEWS

# NEWS FROM THE SUSTAINABLE RARITAN RIVER INITIATIVE — January 2015

## Regional Collaborative Activities

- February 2 – Deadline for Conserve Wildlife Matching Grants
- February 2 - Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership "Watershed Academy" Study Group
- February 2 – Hunterdon County Parks – Program on Owls
- February 2 – Draft Comments Deadline for Citizens Advisory Committee of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
- February 6 – Duke Farms Workshop: Creating Meadows – The Story of Landscape Meadows
- February 7 – Raritan Headwaters Association - Winter is for the Birds!
- February 7 – Benefit Concert for the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership
- February 11 – Take a Walk on the Wintery Wild Side
- February 13 – Owl Prowl at Fairview Farm
- February 14 – Join Middlesex County's EARTH Center for the Great Backyard Bird Count
- February 14 – Up with the Birds: Residents and Winter Wanderers
- February 17 – Green Infrastructure Design "Action Planning" for Lower Raritan Communities
- February 17 – Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership Membership Meeting
- February 17 – Up with the Birds: Residents and Winter Wanderers
- February 19 – Aquatic Mammals in Hunterdon County
- February 20 – Sustainable Raritan River Newsletter Deadline
- February 21 - Winter Water Fowl and Seal Walk with the American Littoral Society
- February 21 – Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands Walk – Signs of Life on a Winter's Day
- February 21 – Raritan Headwaters Association – Winter is for the Birds!
- February 21 – Winter Tree Exploration Hike with Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association and Washington Crossing Audubon Society
- February 22 – Duke Farms – Up with the Birds: Residents and Winter Wanderers
- February 28 – Maple Sap Collection with Hunterdon County Parks

- February 28 – Duke Farms – Sugar Maple Celebration
- March 1 – Duke Farms – Sugar Maple Celebration
- March 6 – Woodcock Watch with Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association and the Washington Crossing Audubon Society
- March 7 – Maple Sugar Memories with Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association  
March 8 – Duke Farms – Up with the Birds: Early Spring Migrants
- March 9 – Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership Joint Meeting with the Middlesex County Water Resources Association
- March 11 – Take a Walk on the Wild Side with the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association
- March 13 – Winter Water Fowl and Seal Walk with the American Littoral Society
- March 14 – Duke Farms – Seasonal Tree ID Walks – Bark and Structure: Tree ID of Leafless Trees in Late Winter
- March 18 – Rain Barrel Workshop with Hunterdon County Parks and the Raritan Headwaters Association
- March 18 – Build a Bluebird Box Workshop with Hunterdon County Parks
- March 20 – Spring Equinox Walk with the American Littoral Society
- March 23 – Woodcock Watch with the Hunterdon County Parks
- March 24 – Green Infrastructure Workshop for Property Developers and Stakeholders  
April 1 – Hold the Date for the Third Annual New Jersey Invasive Species Conference
- April 4 – Start of Spring Trout Season

## News and Information

- Rain Garden Rebate Program 2015: For Bridgewater, Raritan, Somerville Residents
- Video and Information on New Jersey's Bald Eagle Population
- New Permit System Requires Long-term Combined Sewer Discharge Reduction Plans and Enhanced Public Outreach
- If You Catch a Tagged Fish
- Sourland Conservancy's Hunter Connection

- Don't Pick up Hitchhikers!
- Report Dumping in the Raritan River
- Raritan Collaborative Newsletter Next Deadline is February 20

## About the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative

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### REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### **February 2 – Deadline for Conserve Wildlife Matching Grants**

The Division of Fish and Wildlife Endangered and Nongame Species Program is offering matching grants to nonprofit groups and agencies for projects directly related to wildlife diversity and education, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin announced today. The matching grants are generated by the Conserve Wildlife License Plate renewal fund, with approved projects funded on a single-year basis.

The total amount allotted for this program in 2015 is \$60,000, with grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,500. The Conserve Wildlife matching grant is a 50-50 cost share grant. At least 25 percent of the grantee's share of project funding must be monetary, and the remainder may be from in-kind support. Since the grant program launched in 2008, 46 grants totaling \$138,000 have been awarded, all in support of a broad range of nongame wildlife research, management, and education projects. Only nonprofit 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations are eligible to apply. The deadline for proposals is 5 p.m. on February 2, 2015. Requests must be submitted electronically to [John.Heilferty@dep.nj.gov](mailto:John.Heilferty@dep.nj.gov). Award notifications are expected to be made by March 13.

For more details and proposal guidelines, please visit the Conserve Wildlife Matching Grant Program at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fqw/ensp/cwgrants.htm> or contact the Endangered and Nongame Species Program at (609) 292-9400. Wildlife license plates can be purchased during the motor vehicle registration cycle at a Motor Vehicle Commission agency, at any New Jersey automobile dealer when buying or leasing a new car, or by calling 888-486-3339 on weekdays for an application to purchase a plate through the mail.

For more information on the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Drive Conservation Home License Plate program, visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fqw/ensp/plates.htm>

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## **February 2 - Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership "Watershed Academy" Study Group**

In February 2015 the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership will kick-off a six month "Watershed Academy Study Group" designed to support LRWP members and others in the New Jersey watershed community in working toward the EPA's free on-line "Watershed Management Certificate."

The LRWP's study group will be virtual, including reminder e-mails and scheduled "Google Hangouts" chat sessions. The study group is designed to pace participants through the EPA modules and to encourage completion of the certificate program. We will also provide supplemental material specific to the Lower-Raritan and other New Jersey watersheds. The idea is to have fun and build community while simultaneously building capacity for an improved understanding of watersheds in the state. Depending on interest we may schedule a few in-person meet-ups. To register, e-mail [Heather Fenyk](mailto:Heather.Fenyk). For more information on the EPA Watershed Academy program, visit <http://cfpub.epa.gov/watertrain/index.cfm>

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## **February 2 – Hunterdon County Parks – Program on Owls**

*6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Echo Hill Lodge, Ages 5 through adult, \$3*

Come and learn about these nocturnal birds of prey. We will find out what kinds of owls live in Hunterdon County in a slide show, and view some mounted specimens. We will also dissect owl pellets to find out what owls eat. For more information, contact the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation at 908.782.1158.

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## **February 2 – Draft Comments Deadline for Citizens Advisory Committee of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program**

The NY State Department of Environmental Conservation is Proposing Rulemaking to Require Class I and SD Waters to meet the "Swimmable" goal of the Clean Water Act. This could potentially be a big step forward for our urban waterways but the devil is in the details and several groups have expressed their concerns. The CAC co-chairs plan on submitting comments on behalf of the CAC, roughly based on the SWIM Coalition talking points (see link below). The deadline is February 2nd. We will circulate a draft for review/ approval. If you have any thoughts or comments, please share them via this forum. Background materials:

- NYSDEC page: [www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/99546.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/99546.html)
- SWIM Coalition talking points: [swimmablenyc.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/WQS-Talking-Points-Jan\\_2015.pdf](http://swimmablenyc.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/WQS-Talking-Points-Jan_2015.pdf)

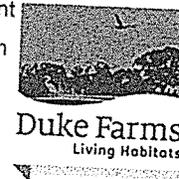
Feel free to contact Gabriela Munoz with questions: [gabriela@harboestuary.org](mailto:gabriela@harborestuary.org) or 212.483.7667

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## February 6 – Duke Farms Workshop: Creating Meadows – The Story of Landscape Meadows

"Creating Meadows", is a practical, "how-to" workshop designed to explore the development of a meadow from site preparation through post-planting maintenance. Three top experts in meadow establishment and landscape restoration will talk about their successes and why meadows are a critical component of healthy landscapes. Registration opens at 8:45 am with the program running from 9:30 to 4:00 pm. Visit the Duke Farms Website for more information or to register at [www.dukefarms.org](http://www.dukefarms.org).



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## February 7 – Raritan Headwaters Association - Winter is for the Birds!

10:30 am to 12:30 pm (Program will be repeated Feb. 21), Round Valley Reservoir, 1220 Lebanon Stanton Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833

A Hooded Merganser, one of the many winter waterfowl we hope to see at Round Valley Reservoir! Beat the cold weather blues by going on a guided hike with RHA's naturalists! Our programs this February include two Winter Waterfowl Hikes at Round Valley and an Owl Prowl at Fairview Farm. Each program has a suggested donation of \$5. Please RSVP by calling Lauren at (908) 234-1852 x314 or email her at [ltheis@raritanheadwaters.org](mailto:ltheis@raritanheadwaters.org) with your name, a contact number and the number of people

