

National Water Trail Initiative Advances

WHAT STANDS OUT

November, 2017. RCNWT Round 3 Submission Update

Made the deadline for the November submission to the NWT program. The application had/has gaps in it. Strong points NJ Senate Resolution SR-78 and 35 other collected letters of legislative, community and individual stewardship.

The review by the NPS has stated what is needed specifically for the next round submission. The “ship” remains on course. Buffeted by high winds and nay-sayers the initiative gains strength and momentum.

Community support and multi-use recreation opportunities were acknowledged as strengths. Likewise the local and Statewide discourse cultivated about the RCNWT Initiative.

Areas for improvement. Well.....lots. Organization, governance, trail-markers and a single use map. Tremendous progress achieved as the issues highlighted by the NWT program are resolvable.

Pathways seeks a professional planner and lawyer to facilitate the last stage of the application. Volunteers also welcome to help organize the application into a coherent, workable document in-line w the application process. Next round for submission is in November, 2018.

Zap a note to Pathways to get further involved. ingvarja@verizon.net

ORGANIZATIONAL “SCHUMPETER”

Dynamic, vibrant change presents opportunities across the Watershed.

Willingness to engage others across numerous silos, bridging concerns across jurisdictional borders, appreciating the results of reaching common ground while maintaining a neutral position and attitude strikes numerous chords.

Innovation drives the tides so that indeed a rising tide lifts all vessels. Innovation embraces the future of the Rancocas Creek. Innovation anchors organizational milieu.

Having the abilities to speak plain and true allows numerous concerns and issues to surface and from here focused attention is given to find solutions that buttress the RCNWT application

Program content focuses on the Rancocas’s tide-water ecology, navigation, commercialization, impaired waters, natural history and community heritage. Geographically the 4 major regions of the Rancocas Watershed (estuary, tidal, agriculture and the Pine Barrens) are connected by the Creek as an artery and capillary tributaries.

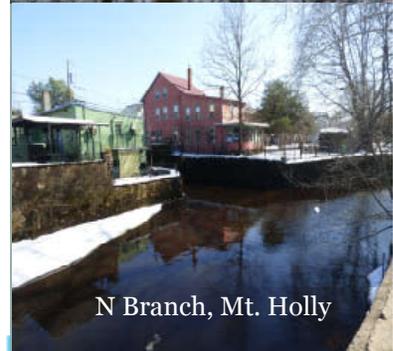
Paddle down, visit, spend time “Exploring Historic Pathways, Discovering New Understandings”.



The “Portal”



Kevin Lee Photo



N Branch, Mt. Holly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Application | 1 |
| Stewardship..... | 2 |
| Clean-Ups | 3 |
| Excursions | 3 |
| Diversity | 4 |
| Outreach..... | 5 |
| Summer | 6 |

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Community Outreach
- Activity Maps
- Outdoor Wall Movies
- Adopt a Creek
- Mug Sales
- Red Dog Historical Fact on Rancocas Creek Pickles.

Thank-You to Volunteers, the Steering Committee and Trustee’s

WATER TRAIL MAINTENANCE



Mt. Holly Creek Clean Up

Tip of the Paddle to RVRHS Cadets, Burlington County College at Rowan Student Interns and members of Mt. Holly Environmental Committee spent a day hauling trash from out and around the bow and Flood Channel.. Most excellent lunch wraps supplied by Robins Nest.

Pemberton

Tip of the Paddle to Kevin T. for helping remove a downed tree up on the N Branch on the County Canoe Trail. In January. Very Chill.

Folks are working on an enhanced paddle guide to the N Branch flat-water. Tip of hat to Eric O. over at the County Parks for directing us to explore the old marl pits and

marl mines of the Rancocas.

Melpine

Ongoing clean-up and a tip of the hat to all who help spruce up the landing at Melpine. Fallen tree's have been removed, brush cleared, the landing brush-hogged by the local farmer. Tip of the paddle to Robert F.

Timbuctoo Creek front

Thanks and obliged to those who helped remove debris from the Timbuctoo Creekfront, from around under Horse Head Point and generally help remove trash and other material.

More remains to be done. Check the Water Trail Calendar and Blog for other clean up days.

*The Enemy have advanced as far as Eyres Town, three miles below Holly, & are busily engaged, in repairing the Bridge, which was destroy'd—a party of Genl Maxwells Brigade, now lay on this side the Creek,
19 June 1778 Major General Philemon Dickinson to Gen Washington*

FUTURE EDITONS

Future editions of Paddle Notes are being broken down into 7 areas for reporting and news.

These include:

- Recreation Opportunities
- Programs
- Conservation
- Community Support
- Public Information
- Trail Maintenance
- Planning

In doing so Paddle Notes facilitates the overall scope and span of the RCNWT nomination package. These are the 7 areas evaluated by the NPS NWT group.

All-ways looking for writers and editors, if your interested drop John Anderson a note.

**A much welcome & thank-you
2 All of Those who are helping
along the water trail**

RANCOCAS CREEK WATER TRAIL DIVERSITY

Driving Diversity Along the Rancocas Creek Water Trail

By Brian Parker, Community Outreach Director, Rancocas Pathways



As a member of the Community Outreach staff at Rancocas Pathways, it's my goal to protect and preserve Rancocas Creek, and ensure that the public and members of the community are taking advantage of the beauty and recreation that the Creek has to offer.

That's why when I was approached to attend the Taking Nature Black Conference in Washington D.C., I jumped at the

chance to build skills that I could take back to my watershed. The Taking Nature Black Conference was held on February 28th and participants included African American environmental affairs professionals, activists, business owners, representatives of regional environmental groups, and governmental bodies. Both presenters and attendees participated in a free exchange of ideas and encouragement, coupled with the stories of success for nature that couldn't help but leave everyone feeling inspired.

(blog posting in the Coalition for the Delaware River, Feb 2018). Continued Page 3.



Early March after the Tempest, Melpine Landing

PADDLING DIVERSITY, CONT.

All of the panels and presentations at the Taking Nature Black Conference were excellent, but there were two that especially interested me because I knew they could benefit Rancocas Creek. The first was the "Nature in Your Neighborhood" panel which will inform my work to engage as many of youth as possible, and to foment ownership and understanding of the local treasure that is Rancocas Creek. The second panel was titled "Engaging Elected Officials," which demonstrated the importance of reaching out to legislators to advocate for issues that matter to the future of Rancocas Creek.

But what was the biggest lesson learned at the Taking Nature Black Conference? That organizations working for the betterment of nature must be representative of all races and all ages. Hearing about and seeing people of different backgrounds working together and offering their unique perspectives was invaluable at the conference, and this same framework needs to be applied to the larger movement to conserve and restore nature. My questions to anyone reading this are: Are you doing all you can to reach every segment of your community? Are you prioritizing diversity at your organization and within your work?

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to ensure underrepresented, under-served, and overburdened communities have a voice in their watersheds and share equitably in the benefits of clean water. Those living in the Rancocas Creek watershed are very diverse, and so should be those who recreate in the watershed and become invested in the Creek's future. Like [Rancocas Pathways](#), the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed have taken on diversity, equity, and inclusion as a priority, and I would encourage all organizations to strive to advance new partnerships and create opportunities for engagement..

Governance Note: Brian Parker has taken into hand the position of Director of Community Outreach for the Rancocas Creek Water Trail and Rancocas Pathways. Opiniated, yes. Direct, yes. Paddler, Yes. Local knowledge, yes. Outgoing, willing to question, confront and challenge.... YES. Unorthodox and embraces innovation, Yes.... Welcome.

Pathways welcomes Brian to the position. Join Brian on his numerous paddling excursions and water-trail centric events. You will not be bored, his enthusiasm is infectious.

Brains can be reached via email: brianparker612@gmail.com



2018 Spring Activities Along the Rancocas State Park Bluewater Trail

March 24/25 Paddling and Cleaning up the water trail after the recent spate of winter and spring tempests and storms.

Mid-Week Paddles, Evening, Sunrise and Sunset paddles check out the Water Trail Blog.

New Lisbon Adopt a Creek Mid-April

April 22 Earth Day Paddle 9 AM Melpine, followed by pick-up jam session.

April 29, May 11 and May 19th Rancocas Nature Center Guided Paddle Excursions.

Wildlife Survey and Reports,

May 1st Paddle. 4th annual May Day paddle. Come on out and paddle down.

May 5 McGuire Air Show

Numerous public speaking engagements, Check the blog for details.

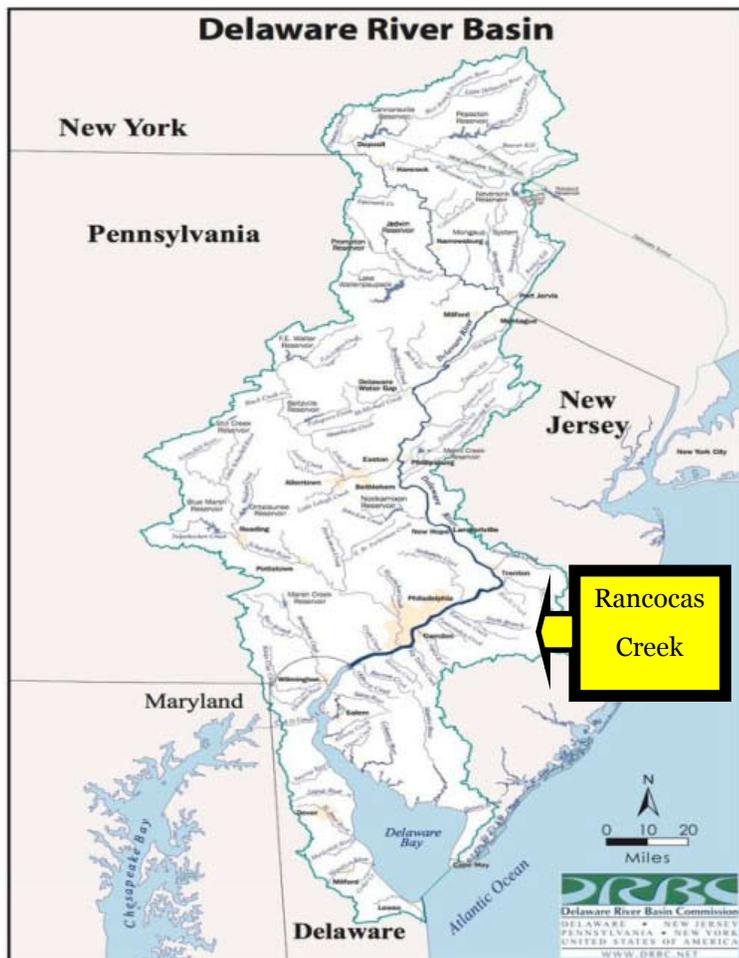
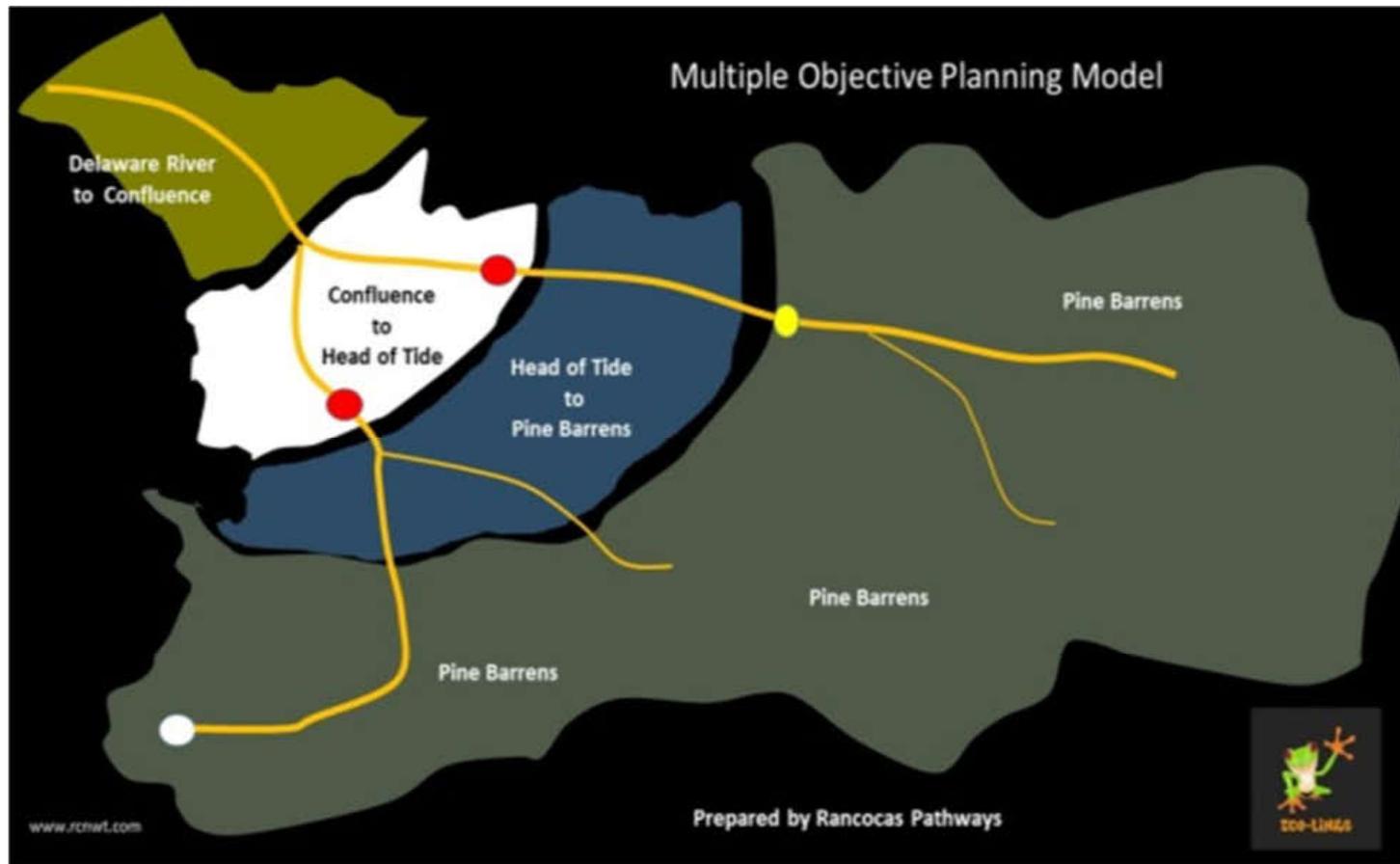
May Movie Outdoor Wall Madness @The Village Idiot Brewing Company... May 12- Animal House May 26- Step Brothers. All showings FREE w/ Donations Encouraged

Events Are Free Unless Posted.

Donations welcome.

June: Community Meeting
Solstice Paddle
Water Festival (?)
Other

Summer and Fall events to be posted



GEOGRAPHIC MAP OF THE RANCOCAS CREEK

Geography appreciates the Rancocas Creek Watershed into 4 separate zones, each with own specific characteristics and heritage. From the Delaware River and Estuary the Rancocas flows east on the main stem until it reaches the confluence of the North and the South Branches. From the confluence to the head of tide in Mt. Holly (N Branch) and Lumberton on the S Branch commercial navigation and heritage is traced 400 years. From these head of tide the Rancocas flows across the outer and inner coastal plain up into the NJ Pine Barrens.

How well do you know the Delaware River Basin?

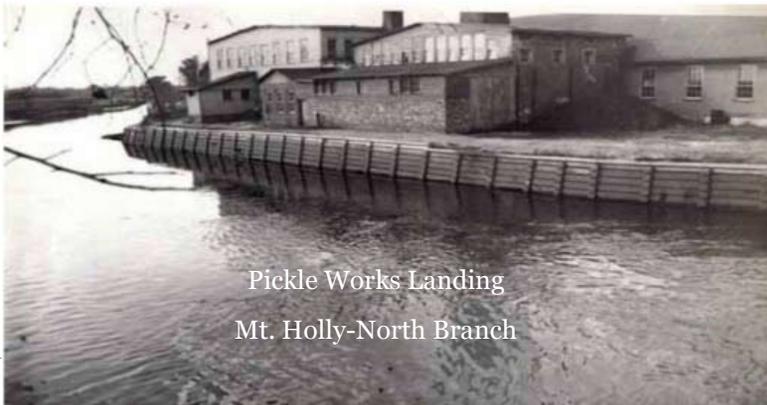
Have you spent time on the Rancocas? Visited Mt. Holly? Chilled in the State Park? Gone boating on the Main Stem? Bush hogged out paddling in the incisional marl banks? Waded through shallows? Listened to silence? Touched tannic cedar waters? Paddled into a State of NJ State Natural Area? Explored the Pine Barrens, Stopped at local communities and support local business? Have you visited the Barton Arboretum? Or the Nature Centers inside the watershed? Have you quaffed at brew at local brew pubs and breweries? Sat on the Creekside patio of the Robin's Nest? Kayaked the rips? Fished the tidal breaks? Swam on a warm summer day in the Pines? Checked out outdoor wall movies? Got involved in an "Adopt A Creek" event? Skied the North or South Branch? Been to a local canoe festival? Watched fireworks from your kayak?

360 square miles spans the watershed. Its headwaters sit mostly within the NJ Pine Barrens National Reserve, its creek banks lined by County and Municipal Parks. The Rancocas is the apex of the Rancocas State Park connecting to the Burlington County Parks at Longbridge and along the County Greenway. Multi-use anchors public access along the tide-waters and non-tidal waters of the Rancocas.

It Takes Many Drops to Make A Water Drop

RED DOG'S KERNAL OF HERITAGE

In past issues readers were introduced to Red Dog's comments on the heritage of the Rancocas Creek. For this issue Red Dog was wandering down King Street when he came upon the old Pickle Works Canning Site. Creek side he went., down onto the sandy beach, pulled up a stump, sat and watched the world go by....Red Dog Slept Here.



Pickle Works Landing
Mt. Holly-North Branch



© carosuessphotography



Muskrat Prices High. Demand Robust \$25.00 a pelt. (Delanco, 1927).

LEGISLATIVE STEWARDSHIP & ADVOCOCAY

Stewardship falls under many umbrellas.

Municipal resolutions, NJ Senate Resolution SR-78 and letters of support for the RCNWT are examples of legislative stewardship to the RCNWT initiative.

Bipartisan in neutrality, reaching across local borders, spanning the National, County, State and Municipal stewardship from elected officials is a critical area of the NWT application.

Asm Howarth speaks well of issues r/t successional concerns of the RCNWT and Asw Murphy has taken the horse by the collar to advance a State wide NJ Assembly resolution in support of the RCNWT.

Pathways encourages all who visit the creek, all who paddle the creek, all who use the Creek to contact these and other elected officials in NJ and do the old fashioned "sent them a letter, email or engage them in conversation" about the water trail.

Pathways has forged relationships w numerous individuals inside the Rancocas Creek watershed, these residents act as volunteer messengers and "ambassadors"

to the Water Trail. Get involved.

As was told to Pathways one has to "stir the pot" to gain traction and "stir the pot" Pathways has done.

Not quite to a rollicking boil but to a simmer and so the discourse advances.

Legislative purview of a water-trail is accepted as part of the issues to resolve. Make no mistake about it the ad-hoc Rancocas Creek Water Trail Action group is just that ad-hoc. Real meetings are held infrequently as social media, e-mails and texts support numerous multi-use interests and concerns. Pathways is always on the look-out for additional members of the ad-hoc community action group.

Now there are those who confuse legislative stewardship w political opportunity and scope. There is much that can be said under the scope of political science.

Narrowed down the process of legislative stewardship empowers people to get involved that leads to real, immediate concrete improvements. Pathways matrix follows: issue focus, goals, structure, communications, tactics, timeline and re-



Rancocas Pathways

RP is governed by a Board of Directors, a board of Trustees and by opinions presented through the ad-hoc community council.

RP is developing, strengthening and facilitating the role of these pillars organizational governance.

Pathways governance process is ongoing and fluid and shall remain so as part and parcel of the official application.

RP is always looking for members of any of these boards .

RP is planning public meetings to be held during the summer fall of 2018 and beyond.

Contact John Anderson, Secretary of the Board of Directors for information and if you would like to volunteer your time.

Paddle down

Newsletter Note: Published 4 to 6 times a year. Available only on-line. Edited by Brian Parker, Written by John Anderson, Creative process by numerous others. Sponsors welcome.



Rancocas Pathways

Mailing Address Only

16 Broad Street
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

Field Office

Melpine Landing,
N Branch

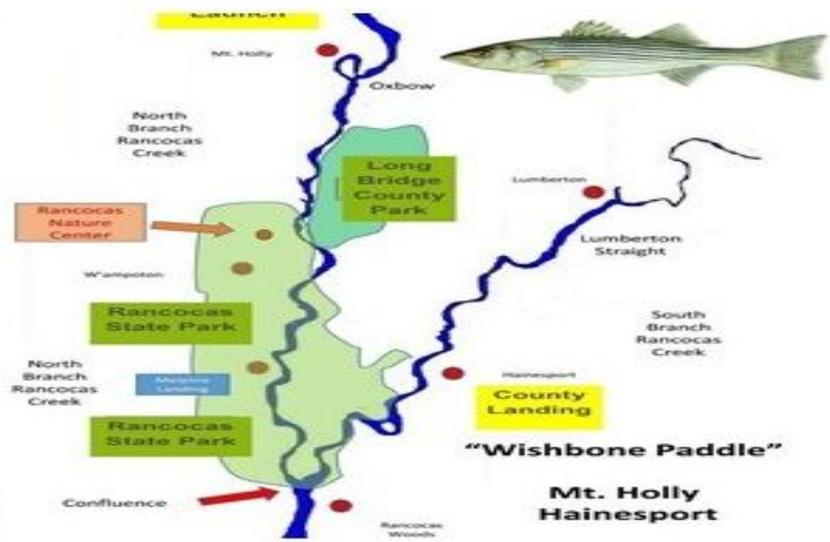


Check Out the Awesome Write-Up in the March 2018 American Canoe Association Magazine on the Rancocas Creek Water Trail

RANCOCAS PATHWAYS

Rancocas Pathways is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that manages the Rancocas Creek National Water Trail Initiative and organizes community events like Adopt-a-Creek clean-ups and the "Education is Fun, Naturally" program in the Rancocas Creek watershed. Rancocas Creek is a tributary of the Delaware River in southwestern New Jersey that totals 360-square miles and begins in the Pinelands town of Browns Mills. Rancocas Creek's main stem is 8.3 miles long, with a North Branch of 28.3 miles beginning in Mill Dam Park, and a South Branch flowing 21.7 miles beginning in Vincentown, before combining at the Bluewater Trail in Rancocas State Park. The Rancocas Creek Watershed drains a rural agricultural and forested area on the western edge of the Pinelands north of Camden. Past Mill Creek, around Delanco and Riverside, Rancocas Creek is a must for birders and wildlife watchers. Whether on foot or in a kayak, this area is an adventure where beavers, deer, eagles, hawks, and many other fish and wildlife can be enjoyed

Water Trail Activity Maps are Available online at www.rcnwt.com



Ever Popular Rancocas Pathways Mugs Are Offered for your donation. **Exciting New** Merchandise to Come: Contact Brian Parker for particulars....

