



UPPER RARITAN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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Christina Guido and Harry Wilmerding

Christina Guido Elected to Lead URWA Bedminster, New Jersey; April 30, 2008

At its Annual Meeting on April 17th, the Upper Raritan Watershed Association recognized a number of individuals for their contributions to the organization and elected a new slate of Officers to lead its Board of Trustees. Retiring Trustees Charles Chapin, III of Oldwick, Putnam Lee Crafts, Jr. of Far Hills and Michael C. Stanley of Pottersville were saluted for their years of dedicated service. These men collectively served for more than half a century on URWA's Board, and each provided invaluable guidance and support.

Mr. Chapin joined URWA's Board in the 1960's, and he served in virtually every capacity possible during his tenure as a Trustee, including President. Mr. Chapin most recently held positions as Chairman of URWA's Land Committee and as a Co-Chair of "Securing the Future" the hugely successful Endowment and Capital Campaign which raised over \$9 million to support URWA's advocacy, land preservation and natural science education programs. Mr. Crafts lent his expertise in conservation easements and financial planning to the Board for most of this decade. His critical thinking and attention to detail have ensured that URWA is not only a fine steward of the natural resources of this region; his influence has also guaranteed that the organization is an effective steward of its business operations. Mr. Stanley was a longtime member of URWA who joined the Board in 2003 after the passing of his wife, Georgie, who had served as Vice President. Their work together to protect open space in and around the Somerset Hills has had a lasting impact on URWA and this region. The Georgie Stanley Open Space Fund established at URWA by Mr. Stanley and his children pays special tribute to this work.

Harold Wilmerding of Mendham was lauded for the outstanding leadership he provided to URWA during his tenure as President of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Wilmerding led the organization through the Endowment and Capital Campaign mentioned above, presided over the selection of Cynthia Ehrenclou as Executive Director in 2006, and guided URWA as it negotiated with landowners and policy makers to establish important conservation easements and enact critical preservation policies across the watershed. After six years at the helm of the Board, Mr. Wilmerding has passed the gavel to a new President, although he remains an active member of URWA's Board of Trustees.

Christina Guido, a resident of Gladstone, was elected to succeed Mr. Wilmerding as President of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Guido has been a member of the Board for the past decade – she became involved after purchasing land from one of URWA's founding Trustees, Mr. William Turnbull, and his wife Betty. As a Trustee, Mrs. Guido has helped to establish URWA's Natural Science Committee, develop and implement stewardship projects and secure funding for important water quality initiatives. Active in many horticultural and conservation endeavors, Mrs. Guido serves on the Peapack-Gladstone Environmental Commission and helped establish the town's Environmental Resource Inventory as well as a Community Forestry Program. She is joined on URWA's leadership team by Vice Presidents James Lynch, Jr. of Pottersville and William Bruett of Far Hills, Secretary Suzette Dewey of Oldwick and Treasurer James Collins of Pottersville.

About the Upper Raritan Watershed Association

The Upper Raritan Watershed Association is a not-for-profit, membership supported organization working to ensure the protection of the Upper Raritan Watershed through education, advocacy, land preservation, and stewardship. Since 1959, the Association has been preserving and protecting natural resources throughout the watershed, a 194 square mile natural geographic region defined by the drainage basin of the North Branch of the Raritan River and its tributaries. The watershed, which includes 23 municipalities in parts of Somerset, Hunterdon and Morris Counties, is a vital link in New Jersey's water supply system and contains large areas of undeveloped, environmentally significant land.

For More Information, please contact:

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48 years of protecting and preserving the natural resources of our countryside