



WATER WATCH:
Community-led science comes to Sound Rivers! Find out more about this new program on [page 5](#).



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CURRENTS

Sound Rivers' Quarterly Newsletter | Volume 11, No. 1 | Spring 2025

A new year, a different perspective

January is an intriguing, interesting and intense month for the Sound Rivers team. It is intriguing because it allows us to reflect on the past year and continue to tease out all the factors that made 2024 a success and analyze those things that we would have liked to have done differently. What is intriguing and amazing is the quality, energy and intellect the volunteers, staff and board bring to the process. It is interesting because of the creativity that produces new and improved approaches to residual concerns and new threats to our rivers. It's intense because of the sheer number of issues that we continue to address and the frequency of new emergent threats.

In recognition of the depth and extent of the service Heather Deck has provided Sound Rivers and its predecessor, the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, for more than 21 years, the Sound Rivers board of directors awarded Heather a three-month sabbatical. I was

honored to be asked to serve as the interim executive director in Heather's absence. In mid-December, I began the onboarding process in preparation for assuming this role. During that process, I

"We recognize that you make all these efforts possible. It is your unfailing willingness to bring your time, treasure and talent to bear as we improve our watersheds and confront polluters. Without you, there is no Sound Rivers."

vacillated between being humbled, overwhelmed, inspired and exhausted. I am humbled to be seen as worthy of assuming this role and the administration of an enterprise whose work is simultaneously deep, broad and intense. The volume and complexity of the issues can at times feel over-

whelming, but I am inspired by the spirit, determination and resilience of a remarkable Sound Rivers team.

The team constantly celebrates you, our members and volunteers. We recognize that you make all these efforts possible. It is your unfailing willingness to bring your time, treasure and talent to bear as we improve our watersheds and confront polluters. Without you, there is no Sound Rivers. This issue of Currents will highlight some of the ongoing and emergent work we continue in our efforts to improve and protect our rivers.

This issue contains a sampling of what we thought was most important to bring to your attention. A new podcast – "What About Wetlands?" – highlights the important role that wetlands play in the health of our rivers and their ecosystems. We want to share with you the immense impact our partnerships have on meeting our mission and goals by see [NEW YEAR](#) on [page 3](#)





NCDEQ issues mine permit despite risk to beloved creek

In February, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality renewed a water-quality permit that would allow Martin Marietta Materials to discharge up to 12 million gallons of wastewater per day from a 649-acre pit mine in Vanceboro into the brackish headwaters of Blounts Creek.

"We appreciate that NCDEQ has acknowledged some of our concerns and made changes to the issued permit based on our requests," said Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman. "The increased monitoring and reporting requirements will help the state, Sound Rivers and the community track Martin Marietta's compliance and long-term impacts of their discharge on Blounts Creek. However, Sound Rivers maintains that this permit, despite the changes made, still should not have been issued. A 12-million-gallon-a-day discharge of mine wastewater will undeniably disrupt the natural conditions of

Blounts Creek — changes that are not allowed under state law or the federal Clean Water Act."

Sound Rivers, with the help of East Carolina University's Water Corps research team, will continue to monitor the conditions of Blounts Creek, before and after the discharge begins.

The tributary of the Pamlico River in Beaufort County is known for its recreational fishing and is designated by the state as a nursery for saltwater species. Large volumes of groundwater discharged into Blounts Creek could significantly raise the pH of the stream system, a change in water chemistry that would also change which aquatic species could survive in those waters.

"In Sound Rivers' comments submitted to NCDEQ, our main requests for permit alterations included increased monitoring and reporting requirements," Katey said. "This is because the expected impacts from such a large volume of discharge include disturbing the streambanks

at the creek's headwaters, stirring up sediment and sending it downstream. The benthic macroinvertebrates, or little critters that live on the creek beds, are adapted to the specific conditions of Blounts Creek's low pH and low flow. The mine's discharge will increase pH, flow, and likely increase sediment deposition, potentially suffocating the critters in the creek and making it less likely that they could continue to survive there. Benthic macroinvertebrates are really good indicators of overall creek health. If the benthic populations decline, other species' populations are likely to follow. This could very well impact the future of Blounts Creek as the exceptional recreational resource it is today."

The permit's renewal brings to a close more than a decade of effort by environmental organizations and Blounts Creek residents to protect the creek. In 2013, the Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of Sound Rivers and North Carolina Coastal Federation, challenged the

initial water-quality permit issued to Martin Marietta Materials by NCDEQ, citing the permit was in violation of state law.

Between 2013 and 2023, Sound Rivers' challenge to the water-quality permit that could potentially destroy an entire ecosystem bounced between North Carolina courts, reaching the N.C. Supreme Court twice. The permit was vacated by a Superior Court judge in 2017, only to be reinstated in 2019 when the N.C. Court of Appeals overturned the lower court's ruling.

In 2023, the North Carolina Supreme Court upheld the N.C. Court of Appeals' decision.

"Over the last decade, community members have consistently rallied to support Blounts Creek. We will continue to work with this community to protect Blounts Creek and everything that makes it a special place to fish, swim, boat, and enjoy," said Blakely Hildebrand, senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center.

Shortly after the N.C. Supreme Court issued its final decision, NCDEQ reviewed the company's updated application to discharge mine wastewater into Blounts Creek and issued the draft permit.

"When NCDEQ released a draft updated permit for Martin Marietta, more than 500 community members submitted letters of opposition to NCDEQ during the public comment period and many more people voiced their concerns during the public hearing in November," Katey said. "We want to make sure Blounts Creek's biological integrity is maintained. So, when the mining starts, we will be monitoring impacts to the creek. We — Sound Rivers, the residents, business owners, the people who fish here — have been working to save Blounts Creek for nearly 15 years. We're not going anywhere."

Sound Rivers welcomes new board member

The effectiveness of any nonprofit relies on a few things: its supporters, its volunteers, its staff and an engaged and active board of directors.

Sound Rivers is fortunate to have all four, and board and staff members are happy to welcome Cornelia McGee to the board.

Cornelia joined the Board of Directors in January, bringing with her a history of working with Sound Rivers to keep the Tar-Pamlico beautiful. While she currently serves as Director of Community Development for the City of Rocky Mount, she was first introduced to Sound Rivers as the Keep America Beautiful coordinator for Nash and Edgecombe counties, a role she held from 2006 to 2018. In that capacity, she met Executive Director Heather Deck through cleanups along the Tar.

Cornelia brings to the board a wealth of experience in working with Tar River communities and stakeholders, as well as a passion for improving the community in both appearance and by creating



CORNELIA MCGEE

economic opportunities.

"I hope to bring my skillset and knowledge regarding litter prevention, stormwater issues and educating people regarding environmental concerns to the board," Cornelia said. "I'm happy to be a part of Sound Rivers board."

As Director of Community Development, and with the Keep America Beautiful program now falling under her department, Cornelia's main focus is quality of life for community members, which includes the health and beauty of the river.

NEW YEAR

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highlighting our partnerships with Cummins and The Great Raleigh Cleanup. We'll talk about how your Riverkeeping team has created an excellent training program for volunteers, "Water Watch," that offers training in how to monitor and, if needed, report water pollution as quickly as it is identified. We'll also focus on the ongoing "Adopt A Trash Trap" program and the launch of Season 8 of Swim Guide. Last and certainly not least, we are pleased to introduce you to our newest board member. She will be a great

addition to the Sound Rivers board and an asset to your rivers as we move into the future.

I hope this issue of Currents finds you well. Never hesitate to provide us with your questions, concerns and compliments.

As always,

Dave Emmerling
Interim Executive Director

PARTNER SOUND RIVERS SPOTLIGHT

Sound Rivers, The Great Raleigh Cleanup team up for



A Raleigh nonprofit and Sound Rivers have combined forces in an effort to keep urban waterways litter-free.

With last fall's installation of trash traps 7, 8 and 9 on Marsh Creek in Raleigh, The Great Raleigh Cleanup officially partnered with Sound Rivers to take on monitoring, cleaning out and maintaining two of the three passive litter-collection devices.

It's a partnership that was destined to happen, according to The Great Raleigh Cleanup's Executive Director Preston Ross III.

"We helped with the installation of the Little Rock Creek trash trap in October of 2022," he said, adding that the traps made an immediate impression. "I thought, 'This is a phenomenal idea. We've tackled litter on land — this is just ingenious.'"

In 2020, Preston started tackling litter on land because of a simple



Preston Ross III (left), The Great Raleigh Cleanup volunteers, Workforce employees and Sound Rivers staff celebrate the installation of a Marsh Creek trash trap.

observation: as Raleigh was growing, he saw more and more litter on the ground. What began as getting a group of likeminded people together once a month for cleanups became The Great Raleigh Cleanup. Since, more than 1,600 volunteers have picked up upwards of 160,000 pounds of garbage and diverted nearly 34,000 pounds of metal from landfills to recycling centers. The Great Raleigh Cleanup is now working with the City of Raleigh for not only beautification, but to employ the homeless and those with housing insecurity. "The Workforce — The Great Raleigh Cleanup and City of Raleigh Beautification Program" came to life as a pilot program in 2023 and had such great results, the Raleigh City Council approved the continuation of the program in June of 2024.

"I just saw a need for litter to get picked up — I didn't know I was starting a nonprofit," Preston said. "I

thought I was starting a hobby, but it evolved from that. It was really about seeing a need and making an impact."

That impact expanded to Sound Rivers' Litter-Free Rivers program with the two Marsh Creek trash traps. The Great Raleigh Cleanup's program manager, Kayley Cross, organizes Workforce employees, volunteers and trash trap cleanouts. The litter from the traps is then delivered to Dr. Barbara Doll, assistant professor with N.C. State University Extension — material for her microplastics research.

For Preston, the partnership with Sound Rivers is an opportunity to spread the word, the mission and the impact of The Great Raleigh Cleanup.

"Introducing our work and mission to a whole new audience — that's always the biggest plus, especially when you're in the environmental field," Preston said.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY: (Above) An eroded swale on the Southern Nash High School campus; (left) the reconstructed swale runs with clear stormwater runoff. Courtesy of a Cummins Water Works grant, stormwater infrastructure is being built or repaired at public school campuses across Nash County. Assessments for 12 schools are currently underway.

Industry pitches in for school stormwater makeovers

Sound Rivers and a Rocky Mount company have teamed up to improve stormwater infrastructure at Nash County Public Schools.

Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant and Sound Rivers are transforming campuses across Nash County through construction of rain gardens, bioswales, constructed wetlands and rainwater harvesting cisterns. The goal is to harness the erosive force of stormwater runoff and allow it to either filter into the ground slowly — improving water quality before flowing into the many Tar River tributaries — or put it to use elsewhere, according to Sound Rivers Program Director Clay Barber.

"Rain gardens, bioswales, wetlands, regenerative stormwater conveyance systems, are all designed to slow down stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces like rooftops and parking lots and let it pool up and soak into the ground slowly," Clay said. "But rainwater harvesting cisterns can capture thousands of gallons of runoff, so it can be used for things like watering plants grown by Ag classes or washing school vehicles — really, anything that doesn't require water to be

potable."

Through the partnership, Cummins has provided funding for six green stormwater infrastructure projects at Southern Nash and Northern Nash high schools. Sound Rivers manages the construction end of the partnership, with Clay working alongside environmental engineers at Kris Bass Engineering, Backwater Environmental and Rainstorm Solutions to implement projects recommended by stormwater assessment reports, paid for by a separate grant from the North Carolina Division of Water Infrastructure.

"Thanks to funding support from Cummins, Sound Rivers, in partnership with Nash County Schools, is able to complete beneficial projects that not only improve our local environment and waterways, but create amazing outdoor classroom opportunities for teachers," Clay said.

The outcome is less campus flooding, less erosion, less pollutants entering local waterways and the educational opportunities green stormwater infrastructure projects provide.

"Projects focused on green infrastructure are integral to Cummins' commitment to strengthening communities through sustainable water,"

said Jim Schacht, vice president, Cummins Inc. Corporate Responsibility and CEO of Cummins Foundation Inc. "These projects also offer students, educators and our employees an opportunity to participate in hands-on environmental education activities, promoting a deeper connection to sustainability and conservation. Cummins is proud to partner with Sound Rivers on these important environmental initiatives."

Cummins, a global power technology leader, is a corporation of complementary business segments that design, manufacture, distribute and service a broad portfolio of power solutions. Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant was established in 1979 and has invested in the community through partnerships in education, equality of opportunity and the environment.





Join
WATER WATCH
today!

Sound Rivers launches **community-led** monitoring program

In April, Sound Rivers will launch its most ambitious program to date: Water Watch. Led by the River-keeping team, Water Watch trains volunteers in the field to collect scientific observations about water quality, flooding, erosion, habitat and more, all of which help inform Sound Rivers' understanding of the health of the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico waterways, flag pollution concerns and monitor and protect more stream miles throughout both watersheds.

"I'm really excited for this program. It's going to be able to plug

in people from all across the watersheds that are interested in our work and taking ownership of their local waterways," said Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman.

Between Katey and Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop, they have more than 12,000 square miles of watersheds to monitor, which includes the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico rivers, 928,052 acres of estuary, 5,909 miles of streams, and 21,423 acres of freshwater lakes – and they can't be everywhere at once.

That's where Water Watch comes in with a team of community scientists to help keep an eye on those waterways.

Samantha said it's one of the many goals of the program.

"I hope it will build relationships between community members and their local waterways," Samantha said. "I also hope it will build out our capacity as a watchdog organization of all the waterways in a quarter of the state where those communities are alerting us to issues when they happen."

Water Watch volunteers commit to one training and visiting a site of their choice in the Neuse or Tar-Pamlico watersheds at least once a month to collect observations. In the early days of the program, data will be submitted directly to the Riverkeepers, but as the program builds out, the plan is to have Water Watchers submit

their findings to an online mapping system, where the public can see the observations Water Watch volunteers collect.

For Katey, the program will be a valuable tool in tracking the impacts of a limestone mining company's discharge into Blounts Creek. After Sound Rivers' nearly a 14-year court battle to prevent potentially 12 million gallons of wastewater used in the mining process from being discharged into the headwaters of the brackish creek, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality renewed the company's wastewater permit in February. When mining starts, Water Watchers will play an important role.

"Now that this permit has come out, there are a lot of folks down

in Blounts Creek who want to do something to help," Katey said. "Being able to give them the

tools and knowledge to do that is going to be really meaningful for them and great for us, as well, as we continue to monitor Blounts Creek impacts."

Samantha, Katey and Water Quality Specialist Taylor Register will hold the first Water Watch trainings in April: April 5 in Oriental and April 6 in Blounts Creek.

"This is community-led science in the name of water quality," Samantha said. "If you are passionate about water quality and looking for a way to give back to your watershed and community, sign up for

(Above, left to right) Sound Rivers Water Quality Specialist takes a photo of a potential pollution issue; Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman collects a water sample; Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop seeks out a reported pollution problem.

our Water Watch program."

For more information about the Water Watch trainings in April, see the Earth Month event listings on page 10 or visit the Water Watch program page on soundrivers.org!



WHAT ABOUT WETLANDS?



Find out in Sound Rivers' latest podcast episode

In honor of Earth Month, Sound Rivers released its latest podcast episode, "What About Wetlands," on April 1.

The episode is the fifth installment of the podcast "Sound Rivers: Riverkeeping Tales from the Neuse & Tar-Pamlico," launched in April 2024. Featuring Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop and wetlands expert David Lekson, "What About Wetlands" takes listeners on a journey through the type of wetlands found in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds and why they are vital to water quality – and everything that relies on clean water and flood mitigation.

"Our wetlands are in peril," Samantha said. "The best way to protect what's left of our wetlands is to make the public, and our decision-makers, understand their importance and value both to our natural ecosystems and our communities."

The idea for a podcast featuring

wetlands was inspired by a Sound Rivers' wetland walk in Croatan National Forest in April 2024. Samantha hosted the walk, leading with a talk about threats to wetlands, while David provided a wealth of information on wetlands identification. A retired field office chief for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, David adds 40 years of regulatory and field experience in wetland delineation education and training to the episode.

"What About Wetlands" follows four previous podcast installments: "The Story of Blounts Creek," a breakdown of the 14-year battle to save a beloved creek, featuring Executive Director Heather Deck and Save Blounts Creek co-founder Bob Daw; "To Swim, Drink, Fish," which tells the tale of Swim Guide – its origins, how valuable it is to communities and to Sound Rivers; in "Muddied Waters," Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop tackles the biggest pollution source in North Carolina – sediment; and "Inves-

tigation: Sound Rivers" in which Water Quality Specialist Taylor Register gives listeners a behind-the-scenes look at Sound Rivers' pollution investigations.

All podcast episodes are available at www.soundrivers.org and can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Amazon Music – just search using the keyword "riverkeeping."

(Pictured above) Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop and wetlands expert David Lekson (both on the left of the photo) lead a group on a Wetland Walk in Croatan National Forest in April 2024.

Listen now!



SWIM GUIDE 2025

Sound Rivers preps for Season 8 of recreational water-quality monitoring

Swim Guide, for most people, starts Memorial Day weekend with a text alert letting the public know where it's safe to swim in local waterways.

But for Sound Rivers, particularly Volunteer Coordinator Emily Fritz, Swim Guide begins much earlier. For Emily, it starts in January with a slew of tasks: inventorying supplies, ordering more where needed, working with the Riverkeeping team to confirm more than 50 sites to be sampled and ensuring they're accessible for volunteers. And the work doesn't stop there.

"I also spend time interviewing and hiring our interns, organizing our incredible team of Swim Guide volunteers, putting together the sampling kits, hosting volunteer trainings, and onboarding the interns to get them ready for the controlled chaos that is Swim Guide sampling," Emily laughed.

It's all for a great cause: knowing the water quality at popular recreational sites on waterways across the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds – before you dip your toes in. For eight years, Sound Rivers staff, summer interns and many volunteers have been providing that

information every Friday afternoon from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

"Our goal has always been to be

swimming spots, fishing areas and boat ramps throughout the summer," Emily said. "It's a true reflection of

the connection our communities have to the water and the importance of providing accurate, real-time data to help keep these spaces safe and enjoyable for all."

At the heart of the program is the volunteers from Raleigh to Oriental who collect samples every week and deliver them to Sound Rivers to be tested for bacteria.

"The longevity of the Swim Guide program really speaks to the passion and dedication of our volunteers, as well as how valuable this information is to eastern North Carolina," Emily said. "Some of our volunteers have been doing this since the start of the program, while for others, this will be their first summer sampling. I love getting to hear everyone's stories and their unique connections to the river. It's one of the most rewarding parts of the job."

Emily's still looking for a few good volunteers – if you have Thursday mornings free and want to volunteer for water quality, she'd be happy to talk to you about joining the Swim Guide team. Email Emily at emily@soundrivers.org and let her know!



a trusted resource for everyone in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds, and the fact that Swim Guide continues to thrive shows just how much people rely on our weekly reports for peace of mind as they and their loved ones enjoy their favorite

EARTH DAY events & more

2025

LITTER-FREE
Rivers

05
APR

WATER WATCH TRAINING

Join your Riverkeeping team for the inaugural Water Watch training, 3-4:30 p.m. at Town Hall in Oriental. Learn how to collect scientific observations about water quality, flooding, erosion, habitat and more. Register for this event at www.soundrivers.org/water-watch.

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APR

WATER WATCH TRAINING

Back-to-back Water Watch trainings: the second will be held 3-4:30 p.m. at Cotton Patch Landing on Blounts Creek. (see April 5 Water Watch training description). Find out more and register to be a Water Watcher at www.soundrivers.org/water-watch.

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WETLAND WALK

Join Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop and Walnut Creek Wetland Center staff for a wetland walk complete with the center's environmental justice history. 10 a.m. to noon. Register for this event at www.soundrivers.org/events.

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APR

KINSTON CLEANUP

Volunteer Coordinator Emily Fritz is celebrating Earth Month and National Volunteer Week with this Kinston trash trap cleanout and Adkin Branch cleanup. 2 p.m. Email Emily to let her know you're coming at emily@soundrivers.org.

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APR

GRANVILLE EXPO

Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman will be on hand at the Granville Gardeners Expo. Plant sales, crafters and nonprofits celebrating Earth Day together. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., 4185 U.S. Highway 15, Oxford. Free to the public!

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APR

NEW BERN CLEANUP

Volunteer Coordinator Emily Fritz is celebrating Earth Month and National Volunteer Week AGAIN with this New Bern trash trap cleanout and Duffyfield Canal cleanup. 10 a.m. Email Emily to let her know you're coming at emily@soundrivers.org.

03
MAY

WINDSOR RIVERFEST

Windsor Riverfest is a free celebration of Northeastern North Carolina's natural beauty, culture, and people. Visit Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman at the Sound Rivers table! Noon to 8 p.m., Roanoke/Cashie River Center.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT SOUNDRIVERS.ORG/EVENTS



WADE IN: (Above left) Members of East Carolina University's Honors Club clean debris out of the Greens Mill Run trash trap in Greenville; (above right) the "Trashy Friends," consisting of longtime Sound Rivers volunteers Christina Marshen, Dawn Dolson and board member Betsy Hester, have permanently adopted the trash trap on Jack's Creek in Washington.



Sound Rivers wants *You* to 'Adopt A Trash Trap'!

Sound Rivers has amped up the Litter-Free movement with its "Adopt A Trash Trap" program.

With the expansion of Sound Rivers' fleet of passive litter-collection devices from five traps to 10 in 2024, Sound Rivers' Volunteer Coordinator Emily Fritz said finding ways to engage more volunteers in cleanouts prompted the idea to put trash traps up for adoption.

"Our Litter-Free Rivers program has been rapidly growing, so the 'Adopt A Trash Trap' program has been a great way to make sure all of the creeks and trash traps are getting the TLC they need," Emily said. "This program allows for people in the community to play a big role in cleaning up our waterways and gives volunteers a close-up look at the litter that ends up in our creeks."

These passive litter-collection devices corral trash drifting downstream so it can be removed from

small urban waterways and disposed of properly. Sound Rivers installed its first trap on Jack's Creek in Washington in 2022, which was followed by traps on Duffyfield Canal in New Bern, Little Rock Creek in Raleigh, Adkin Branch in Kinston and Greens Mill Run in Greenville. In 2024, a second trash trap was installed on a tributary of Jack's Creek in Washington, new traps were installed on East Tarboro Canal in Tarboro and, in a partnership with the City of Raleigh, North Carolina State University and The Great Raleigh Cleanup, another three trash were installed on Marsh Creek in Raleigh.

In February, another trash trap was approved by the Town of Clayton and will be installed on Little Creek, just west of town.

Adopting a trash trap gives groups the chance to sign up for a month of monitoring the amount of trash collected by a trap, organize cleanouts and participate in keeping local waterways clean.

"Trash Trap cleanups are a fan-

tastic, tangible way that you can make a difference," Emily said. "It's such a satisfying feeling to look at the creek after an hourlong cleanup and being able to see the positive impact you've made. It's a great way for any clubs or groups to give back, plus it's a lot of fun. You get to experience the creeks in your area from a different perspective and help improve the health of it at the same time."

The "Adopt A Trash Trap" program has been a huge success, thanks to all of the fantastic groups who have volunteered, Emily said.

"All of the groups have been eager to strap on some waders and get in the creeks," she said. "The great thing about adopting a trash trap is that the groups are able to schedule cleanups for times that work best for their schedules. We already have two groups scheduled to adopt a trap for a second time."

For more information about how to adopt a trash trap near you, visit soundrivers.org/adopt-a-trash-trap.

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APRIL MATCH: DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT TODAY!

For the past **NINE** years, Sound Rivers' generous supporters have come together in April to match all gifts made by you, **our dedicated clean-water community**. We are honored again this year to be the recipient of challenge gifts from donors who are pledging **\$35,000**. All gifts made in April are doubled, which means **your gift will go twice as far** for your Riverkeepers' advocacy work and water-quality programs like **Swim Guide** and **Litter-Free Rivers**. You can give at soundrivers.org/donate, access the donation form via the QR code or return the envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for your support and dedication to your waterways!



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