



Musconetcong River News

Spring 2014

Published quarterly by The Musconetcong Watershed Association

Asbury, New Jersey

MWA receives \$351K as part of a William Penn Foundation 10 year Watershed Protection Program

MWA will receive \$351,139 from the William Penn Foundation to complete several projects over the next three years. These projects will take

"We look forward to making this work and data available to the public and hope to identify new evidence-based methods for avoiding or mitigating key stressors threatening water quality, specifically urban storm water runoff, agricultural pollution, loss of forests in essential headwater areas, and aquifer depletion."

Andrew Johnson,
Senior Program Officer, William Penn Foundation

place along the Lower Musconetcong River and its tributaries. Restoration projects will focus on reducing bacteria in the Musconetcong River to protect drinking water sources, recreational users, and aquatic life. Funded projects will include working with local farmers to incorporate conservation practices into their operations, as well as outreach to new participants. Projects will also address residential septic system issues in the watershed.

The William Penn Foundation is a private family foundation, founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas. The Foundation, located in Philadelphia, traditionally focuses its funding in the Philadelphia area. Its mission includes a commitment to ensure a sustainable environment, including projects that protect the region's drinking water.

In 2013, the Foundation launched a Watershed Protection Program which focuses the Foundation's environmental grantmaking on aligned, strategic conservation efforts within the Delaware River Watershed. The Delaware River provides drinking



photo by Elliot Ruga

The New Jersey Highlands Cluster Members at a September 2013 Meeting - Organizations include Musconetcong Watershed Association, William Penn Foundation, Open Space Institute, NJ Conservation Foundation, The Land Conservancy, Hunterdon Land Trust, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, NJ Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development, Trout Unlimited, Hunterdon Land Trust, Walkill River Watershed Management Group

water to about 15 million people in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, including the city of Philadelphia.

As part of the Watershed Protection Program, the Foundation brought together more than 40 conservation organizations to develop plans for addressing specific threats to water quality in eight targeted ecologically significant areas, or "clusters", within the Delaware River watershed. There are six clusters in Pennsylvania and two in New Jersey; the Musconetcong River lies within the New Jersey Highlands Cluster.

In an April 2014 press release, the

William Penn Foundation announced its commitment to support the "region's highest performing conservation organizations and research institutions" through Watershed Protection Program grants totaling \$15 million over three years. Organizations from all eight subwatersheds were eligible to apply for these funds. The Musconetcong Watershed Association was among these groups.

Projects being done with funding received through the William Penn Foundation Watershed Protection Program will be discussed at a River Talk on Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the MWA River Resource Center. ☺

Return of the Dragonflies

By Nancy Lawler

Allen Barlow of the Nature Conservancy is a new MWA partner on the William Penn Highlands Cluster projects, and will be helping MWA further develop our volunteer mussel monitoring program. Allen has studied threatened and endangered dragonfly, damselfly and other invertebrate populations in the Musconetcong Watershed since 1993. I had a chance to talk to him recently about what changes he has observed in our river over the years.

Nancy: Allen, I know that dragonfly and damselfly larva are aquatic. I was always taught that they were pretty tolerant of pollution and changes in their habitat, but some species you



Curious River Talk attendees check out mussels found in the Musconetcong River

study are in decline. Are some species more sensitive than others?

Allen: Yes, some species are very resilient, but others are extremely sensitive, like the Brook Snaketail and Rapids Clubtail Dragonflies. Brook Snaketails are a real ‘canary in a coal mine’ species; if there is a problem in a river, they disappear. Under laboratory conditions, you can observe larvae responding to the addition of tiny amounts of silt to the water—they become agitated and move around the tank to avoid it. And even the smallest addition of detergent in the water will cause them to die.

Nancy: Do these species live in our watershed?

Allen: The Rapids Clubtail lives in clean, fast, rocky streams with quiet pools downstream, and are rare in the Musconetcong Watershed. The Brook Snaketail larvae requires silt-free, cold streams with a sandy bottom; I’ve found two populations on the Musconetcong—one on the Wattles property, just downstream of the Point Mountain Bridge and another downstream of Finesville.

Nancy: I’ve found that aquatic larvae of sensitive insect species like stoneflies, mayflies and caddisflies are often absent in areas of the river with dams. How do dams affect these dragonflies?

Allen: Dams disrupt the natural movement of silt, you don’t find Brook Snaketails or Rapid Clubtails in dammed sections.

Nancy: Have you seen changes in the dragonflies since the dams were

removed and the river sections restored?

Allen: Just a year after both the Seber and Gruendyke dams were removed, I saw Rapids Clubtail for the first time — adults flying around, females laying eggs, and even exuviae—the “shell” that is cast-off when the larva goes through metamorphosis. The dragonfly is completing its entire lifecycle there—great news!

Nancy: Have you seen changes in the Brook Snaketail population downstream of Finesville since we removed the Finesville dam?

Allen: The Brook Snaketails are thriving and starting to spread out there— I haven’t seen larval exuviae yet. But the river is healing. Maybe we will see them this year!

Read more about Brook Snaketails at www.conservewildlifenj.org/species/spotlight/snaketail/ 📄

Win a Kayak!

The MWA Kayak Raffle is back! This year’s kayak is an Old Town Heron 9, which is perfect for local rivers offering easy maneuverability and high stability on flatwater and slow-moving rivers. Prize includes Carlisle Paddle and Extrasport Life Vest. Total package value is \$500. Purchase your ticket online, at the RRC, or at Paddler’s Cove for \$10 – call MWA at 908-537-7060. The winner will be selected at the Wine Tasting on October 4, 2014 – you do not need to be present to win. Good luck!

MUSCONETCONG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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www.musconetcong.org

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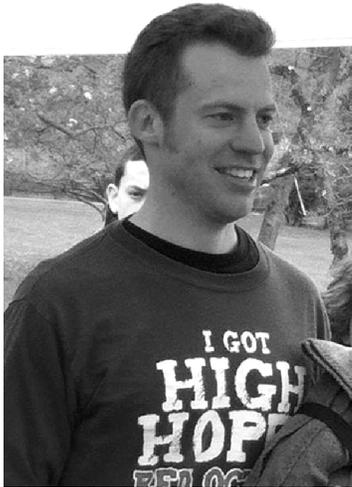
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14th Annual Run for the River



Christopher Martalus
Overall Male Winner
(23:14)



Kendra Wade
Overall Female Winner
(29:31)

By Val Thorpe

Congratulations to the over 200 runners and walkers who participated in the 14th Annual MWA Run for the River! It was a chilly start to the day as participants began to arrive, yet everyone appeared upbeat and anxious to go for the gold. We were even lucky enough to squeeze in a few tethered balloon rides, compliments of Unity Bank and balloon handler, Tom Baldwin, before the wind picked up and blew away that plan. Dave of Entertainment by D.W. Wilson, a long-time supporter of the MWA, once again donated his time, sound system, and energy to pump-up the crowd.

A sea of walkers took off promptly at 9:45 am with families, baby strollers, dogs and smiles, followed by the runners promptly at 10:00 am. At 23:14, the overall male winner, Christopher Martalus, crossed the finish line with an incredible 5.78-minute mile. Kendra Wade, overall female winner, completed the course at 29:31 with an impressive 7.33-minute mile. Awards were presented to the age category winners as participants recovered from their efforts with complimentary bagels, orange slices and water. To top off the afternoon, all who participated were entered in a free drawing, and over 50 exciting prizes were given away, including our biggest crowd pleaser, 12 large boxes of assorted candies from M&M Mars.

Overall it was a successful day that would not have been possible without the huge efforts of so many. Our returning volunteers, led by Bonnie Butler, Jill Kalatucka and Jeanmarie Murray, developed a highly efficient registration process to assure there were no delays at the starting line, and no errors at the finish line. Behind the scenes, MWA trustees and staff members worked diligently and transparently to set-up and break-down both inside and out. Piggy's Deli saved the day from a bagel mishap, and once again, the Franklin Township Fire Department, Franklin Township Rescue Squad, and NJ State Police provided the location, traffic control, and safety for all attendees. And of course, it wouldn't be an event without our participants. We saw a lot of familiar faces, and appreciate the support of those who return annually to run or walk this scenic, 4-mile course, that passes the Musconetcong River. Please be sure to save the date for our 15th Annual Run for the River – Sunday, May 3, 2015. We hope to see you all out there, and be sure to tell your family and friends!

Finally, the MWA would like to give special thanks to our new and returning sponsors, supporters and donors. We remain extremely grateful for their contributions to MWA, and for supporting the Run for the River, our largest fundraiser of the year. Please consider using them when conducting your business, or shopping for pleasure. Links to all of our sponsors' businesses can be found at the MWA website: www.musconetcong.org.

Gold Sponsors

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Refreshments

ShopRite of Greenwich

Another Successful Spring Clean-up on the Musconetcong River

By Val Thorpe

Families, scouts, organizations and supporters of the Musconetcong Watershed pulled on their boots and joined forces on April 12 to participate in the MWA Annual Spring Clean-up. It was the first warm Saturday in a very long time, and everyone appeared beyond ready to shake off the winter, and dig into an outdoor activity. Armed with orange trash bags, bright blue t-shirts and work gloves, nearly 300 volunteers from Lake Hopatcong to Warren Glen hauled trash from the stream banks, roadsides and parks. Other dedicated groups took to the river in canoes, kayaks, and waders to remove submerged and floating debris, a highly appreciated job.

By noon, clean-up crews had collected over 240 bags of trash and recycling, 40+ tires (including one from a tractor) and many other large items including: a 55-gallon drum, shopping carts, auto bumpers, lawn furniture, metal fencing, sofas, coffee tables, carpeting, a 55-inch television and even a toilet. Following this successful event, volunteers gathered at the River Resource Center for a complimentary barbeque where they could rest their feet and swap stories. Several volunteers talked about local fishers stopping to thank them for cleaning the river that they cherish. Many of our repeat volunteers noted that their locations appeared cleaner than in previous years. We like to believe our education programs and events are having a positive impact on our watershed community. As an added bonus MWA's former Administrative Assistant, Adrienne Kaczynski, rolled up her sleeves and got busy handing out supplies, dispensing hot dogs, and catching up with old friends. Thank you, Adrienne!

Along with our clean-up crews, location leaders, and event volunteers, the MWA would like to thank Trout Unlimited and NJ Mohawk Canoe Club

Photo by
Kyle Richter

GS Troop 864 fills their bags with trash found at the Penwell location.



Photo by
Brian Cowden,
Trout Unlimited

Trash collected between Stephen's State Park and Penwell Dam includes a tractor tire, 2 sofas, and a 55-gallon drum.

for once again showing up in force and handling the in-river work, Hunterdon County Solid Waste for donating the trash bags and work gloves, Warren County Mosquito Commission for collecting the tires, and finally Warren County Road Department, Byram Township Department of Public Works, NJ State Park Service, and Raritan Valley Disposal for the location and proper disposal of the refuse. It takes a united effort of dedicated people to accomplish these kinds of results. We couldn't do it without all of you. Mark your calendar for the next Annual River Clean-up on April 11, 2015 – we hope to see you out there. In the meantime, should you happen to spot trash before then, you don't have to wait for the next clean-up to grab it! If you're unsure how to dispose of it, please call the MWA. ☺

Shop at Amazon? Add a Smile and Support MWA

If you shop online at Amazon, you can support the MWA at no additional cost to you! The AmazonSmile Foundation offers a convenient way to support your favorite charitable organization by donating 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items. The prices, selection and your account information all remain the same. Simply visit www.smile.amazon.com on your computer or mobile device to register Musconetcong Watershed Association as your charitable organization of choice. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping. It's quick, easy and safe, and it's a great way to give without reaching into your pockets.



Are you following the Musconetcong Watershed Association on Facebook? It is a great way to find out what's going on in the watershed.

SAVE THESE DATES!

July, 2014: Camp Musky - An educational and fun day camp for kids ages 5 to 12+. We offer an outdoor learning experience, and hands-on, river-based programs. Our primary mission is education and awareness. We believe that a community that is fully aware of the importance and vulnerability of its natural resources is a community that will actively support efforts to ensure environmental quality. Don't miss out, classes are filling up fast! Visit www.musconetcong.org for more information and registration forms.

Tuesday, July 22: River Talk – “Moth Night” 8 pm - 10 pm In celebration of National Moth Week, president of the North Jersey Butterfly Club, Wade Wander, will shed a light on these fascinating creatures with an interactive presentation at the River Resource Center. This river talk starts and ends later than our usual talks to allow time for our “special guests” to arrive. MWA members are free, non-members are asked to donate \$3 per person (\$10 limit per family).

July and August: Meet the River Programs 10 am - 12 pm This is a great opportunity for kids to go down to the river's edge and get their feet wet. We'll turn over some rocks and maybe even catch a frog! Participants must wear water shoes, old sneakers, or sandals with a back strap. No bare feet or flip-flops. Parents must be present, but will not need to get wet - lots of volunteers on hand. MWA members are free, non-members are asked to donate \$4 per child (\$15 limit per family).

-Wednesday, July 9 & Saturday, July 12 Point Mountain Preserve, Point Mountain Rd., Port Murray

-Saturday, July 26 Byram- Riverside Park, River Rd. (off Route 604) Byram Township

-Saturday, August 2 & Wednesday, August 6 NJ DEP Bloomsbury Fishing Access - 253 Bloomsbury/Asbury Rd., Asbury

Saturday, August 9: Hike at Merrill Creek 6:30 - 8:00 pm Enjoy an evening exploration of this 290-acre preserve. The trail offers many scenic views, and passing through a variety of habitats. While most of the trail follows old woods roads providing easy walking, there are a few rocky areas. All are welcome, novice and expert alike. Please bring a water bottle. We will meet at the Merrill Creek Visitors Center at 6:15 pm. MWA members are free, non-members are asked to donate \$3 per person (\$10 limit per family).

Tuesday, August 26: River Talk “The Flavor of the Wild - Native Plants as Food and Medicine” 7:00 – 9:00 pm Learn about the cultural uses of native plants with Jared Rosenbaum, proprietor of Wild Ridge Plants, LLC. Jared will cover native spices, greens, fruits, and herbal medicines, including wild leek, Solomon's seal, wood nettle, elderberry and others. Integrating wildcrafting, ecological restoration, and permaculture, Jared will present a framework for a conservation ethic based on interdependency, stewardship, and awareness. This program is free, donations are always welcome. Location: MWA River Resource Center.

Tuesday, September 16: River Talk “River Restoration – We're Rolling Our Sleeves Up!” 7:00-9:00 pm Join MWA Executive Director, Beth Styler Barry, as she discusses the exciting projects taking place over the next three years with funding received through the William Penn Foundation Watershed Protection Program, and the State of New Jersey. Beth will present an in-depth look at what that means for the river, the watershed, and the surrounding communities. This program is free, donations are always welcome. Location: MWA River Resource Center.

Saturday, September 20: Hike at Raccoon Ridge 9:00 am - 1:30 pm Come along with us as we look for a variety of hawks and eagles, and enjoy fantastic panoramic views of the Delaware Valley. Hikers will then hike along the Appalachian Trail for about 2.5 miles to reach Raccoon Ridge. This hike is of moderate difficulty, particularly the first quarter mile, and may not be suitable for inexperienced hikers or families with members aged 10 years and younger. Hikers will meet at the A&P on Route 94 in Blirstown at 8:00 am. Hikers need proper footwear, water, and lunch, and we recommend bringing binoculars and dressing in layers. MWA members are free, non-members are asked to donate \$3 per person (\$10 limit per family).

Saturday, October 4: Our 12th Annual Wine Tasting 2:00 – 5:00 pm Join us for a relaxing fall afternoon at the Pavilion at Warren County Rod and Gun Club in Asbury. Sample a variety of imported and domestic wine and beer, along with delicious finger foods near the banks of the Wild and Scenic Musconetcong River. Enter the 50-50 for a chance to win one of several prizes, and cheer on our feathered friends in our traditional Duck Race.

For more information or to register for any of these events, please email val@musconetcong.org or call 908- 537-7060, unless otherwise noted. Also find us on Facebook or visit our website at www.musconetcong.org. MWA River Resource Center (RRC) is located at 10 Maple Ave., Asbury, NJ

The Musconetcong Watershed Association

The Musconetcong River Valley is rich in scenery, history, natural resources, and recreational opportunities. The river rises up in Lake Hopatcong - New Jersey's largest spring-fed lake - and is shadowed by 1,000-foot Highland ridges and slices through a deep, limestone river valley, flowing swiftly to the Delaware River. Along the way the "Musky" passes by state and county parks, bustling towns, vital industries, historic villages, and some of the most productive farmland in the state.

The Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1991 to protect and enhance the Musconetcong River and its related resources through advocacy and environmental education programs, scientific research and river restoration projects. The MWA scope spans the 158 square-mile Musconetcong River Watershed, and includes portions of four counties, and all or portions of 25 municipalities. The Musconetcong River became part of the National Wild and Scenic River System in 2006.

MWA members are part of a network of individuals, families and organizations who care about the Musconetcong River and its watershed. They are kept informed about issues concerning the river and its related resources by receiving quarterly issues of the *Musconetcong River News*.



PO Box 113
Asbury, NJ 08802

MWA Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the Musconetcong Watershed Association in which I will receive membership benefits and publications. I have enclosed a check payable to **MWA** for the membership category listed below:

- \$20 Student
- \$30 Family
- \$50 Supporter
- \$100 Sustainer
- \$250 Steward
- \$500 Champion
- \$1,000 + Life Member

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Musconetcong River News

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