



Musconetcong River News

Winter 2014

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Asbury, New Jersey

Exciting News on the Hughesville Dam Removal

With the removal of the Finesville Dam, the first blockage on the Musconetcong River is now the Hughesville Dam, located in Pohatcong Township, Warren County and Holland Township, Hunterdon County. The big dam is approximately 15 feet high and 125 feet long, and impounds an area extending almost a half mile upstream to the Warren Glen Papermill. It has fallen into disrepair and no longer serves a useful purpose.

Shortly after Superstorm Sandy, I was contacted by Jerre Mohler of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&W), Delaware River Coordinator Office. He asked that the MWA contribute to an application for Sandy Disaster Relief Appropriations Act funds. In an extremely competitive process, the Hughesville Dam Removal application was chosen, along with others from the state, to go forward for final decision to the Secretary of the Interior's office. In October 2013, I received the following email:

Dear Beth:

As you know, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act provided appropriations to the Department of the Interior to address needs related to response, recovery and mitigation of damage caused by Hurricane Sandy. A portion of this funding was dedicated toward mitigation and resiliency projects. You were critical in the development of the

proposal for removing the Hughesville Dam that my office (via Jerre Mohler, now retired) submitted for funding.

We learned that Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced this morning approximately \$160 million in mitigation funds to be invested in 45 total restoration and research projects... We will receive approximately \$1.05M for our project.

This is wonderful news for natural resources conservation and building a more resilient future for communities along the Atlantic coast and in particular for the Musconetcong River.

I want to thank all of you for your leadership and partnership in this endeavor...

Thank you for being a part of this exciting work to remove the Hughesville Dam and open up the Musconetcong for fish restoration as well as all the other socioeconomic and human safety benefits...

Warm regards,

*Mike Millard and Phil Herzig
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Fisheries Resources

I am proud that USF&W looked to the MWA to fill this role, and excited that our work on this was able to bring in funding for the organization. This funding will allow removal of another dam. Please look for more details on this project on our website and Facebook page this spring. ☺

Musky Partnership Receives Coastal America Award



photo by Chuck Gullage

Beth Styler Barry, MWA, Carrie Mosley, NRCS, Eric Schradung, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Grace Messinger, North Jersey RC&D, Brian Cowden, Trout Unlimited, U.S. Rep. Scott Garrett, U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance, Laura Craig, American Rivers, Paul Kenney, National Park Service, Russ Furnari, PSE&G, NJ Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Dave Chanda, N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife

The Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership (Partnership) was awarded the 2012 Coastal America Partnership Award – but the government sequester forced a postponement of the festivities until September of 2013. Among the distinguished guests who came out to help us celebrate this momentous occasion were U.S. Congressman Scott Garrett, U.S. Congressman Leonard Lance, Coastal America Representative Ralph Cantral, Natural Resource Conservation Service State Conservationist Carrie Mosley, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Director Dave Chanda and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Deborah Rocque, Deputy Regional Director.

The Coastal America “Partnership Award” is the highest level of award for environmental partnership efforts. This award comes from the Office of the President of the

United States, and recognizes outstanding collaborative, multi-agency and multi-stakeholder efforts that leverage and combine resources to accomplish coastal restoration, preservation, protection, and education projects of national significance. Only a handful of awardees are named each year. The application must be entered by a federal partner. In this case, the application was completed by Eric Schradung, Private Lands Coordinator at US Fish and Wildlife Service New Jersey Field Office.

The Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership is a multi-disciplinary team of agencies, organizations and individuals working to improve and restore the Musconetcong River. In addition to private landowners and others, the partnership includes: American Rivers, Musconetcong Watershed

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What's Happening on the Asbury Mill Restoration Project

By Chuck Gullage, Trustee Emeritus

Many of the pieces for the mill restoration are starting to fall into place. Late last year we were awarded a grant for \$402,000 from the Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund (MCCTF) for the restoration of the mill exterior. This will include repointing the stonework, replacing the lime render coating (stucco) and installing new doors and windows. We also received a \$15,000 grant from the 1772 Foundation, and a \$5000 grant from the Hyde and Watson Foundation.

Late last year we achieved another milestone, receiving New Jersey Department of

Environmental Protection (NJDEP) approval for our mill restoration Wetlands Permit. Their approval will allow us to move forward with the restoration of the tailrace, tailrace island, and the south-side of the mill foundation, damaged by the river current. In January, we issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the in-stream work to qualified contractors. By the end of February, we will issue an RFP for the mill exterior restoration as we continue to work towards gaining approval of our site plan from the Franklin Township

Land Use Board. This will include the parking lot, driveway, planted areas, retaining walls, and stairs leading down to the tailrace. We're close to finalizing these plans, pending NJDEP approval of our septic system design. Approval is expected in the March-April timeframe.

While restoring the mill exterior, we will begin to request bids for professional interior cleaning. The site work, wetlands work, and exterior restoration are likely to be complete by the end of 2014, and the interior restoration is anticipated to begin in 2015. As we manage the project and contractors throughout the year, we will continue to identify additional funding sources, and prepare the appropriate grant proposals to make it happen. Stay tuned! 🎧

Drinking from the Waterfall

By Bill Leavens, MWA Trustee

Musconetcong Watershed Association has been appointed to the Steering Committee of a new organization, the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW). The Musconetcong is the largest New Jersey tributary to the Delaware, the primary source of drinking water for millions of people downstream.

The goal of CDRW is to ensure that the people who live downstream in the Delaware River watershed have clean water for the next century. The coalition works to unite organizations and enhance their capacity to advocate for, protect, and restore the Delaware River Basin. The main task of the Steering Committee is to coordinate communications, messages and actions and to foster success at the federal, state, and local levels.

To that end, the Coalition hosted a two day program in Philadelphia in late October that was attended by more than 200 individuals representing some 60 organizations that have an interest and work in the region. There were three discussion sessions each day, each composed of six break-out groups. In all, there was a tremendous amount of information presented. The deliberation of each session was recorded in order to compile a comprehensive set of observations that will guide member activities and generate appropriate policy recommendations.

Each session was managed by qualified professionals who presented an introduction to a specific topic. The attendees were encouraged to participate in discussions to share their knowledge and experience. With so many interested advocates and professionals involved, the sessions were an exercise in high level group dynamics.

Waterfall *Continued on back*

Coastal

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Association, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, NJDEP-Division of Fish & Wildlife, National Park Service, New Jersey Trout Unlimited, North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The members of this Partnership have been working together for many years, and that partnership had yielded benefits for property owners, the communities in

which we work and the entire ecosystem of the Musconetcong Watershed. Partners have provided assistance from project design and restoration to funding, outreach and grant application. The Partnership is pursuing additional dam removals along the Musky. This feather in our cap validates that we are on the right path. It's also a reminder that through collaboration, goals are achieved. The MWA remains dedicated to doing our part in improving and restoring the Musconetcong River, and all of its watershed resources. 🎧

MUSCONETCONG
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New Faces at the MWA



Kyle Richter

Kyle joined the MWA in January, 2014 as the Education and Outreach Coordinator. He is enthusiastic to work with schools in the watershed, educating students about the importance of the river. He is gearing up for some great hikes for the coming year, and is looking forward to planning an exciting and educational Camp Musky!

Before joining MWA, Kyle taught environmental education for 5 years at YMCA Camp Bernie and worked on developing STEM education curriculum at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University. He grew up in Southwest Florida, venturing to New Jersey to attend Rutgers University where he graduated with a B.S. in Marine Science. In his spare time, Kyle enjoys traveling, camping, hiking, scuba diving, and snowboarding.



Matt Barr

Matt is the current AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador serving out of the Musconetcong Watershed Association. He hails from Bethlehem, PA, and graduated from Elizabethtown College with a B.S. degree in Environmental Science. His duties as an ambassador include organizing watershed stewardship projects, presenting watershed education programs, and performing stream assessments.

Before coming to his current position, Matt was a naturalist and river safety guide at Wildlands Conservancy in Emmaus, PA. He loves all things in nature, but has a particularly great interest in plants. Matt also enjoys hiking, biking, singing, and playing guitar. He is very happy to be serving with the wonderful staff of MWA, and is looking forward to all the adventures this year will bring!



Val Thorpe

With over 20 years in a corporate setting, Val Thorpe has held several communications, project management and administrative roles at AT&T, Avaya and most recently, a marketing and advertising agency. At AT&T, she discovered her passion for philanthropic work. Partnering with Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) she co-led the highly successful North Jersey Walk to Cure Diabetes Campaign for four years. She also led the corporate partnership with The United Way for three years within her organization.

Val has a B.A. in Communications from Rowan University, specializing in Advertising. She recently completed two Rutgers courses, achieving certificates in Non-Profit Management and Event Planning & Management. A life-long nature enthusiast, Val enjoys camping, hiking, kayaking and jogging with her family and friends.

And a Fond Farewell...

The MWA bids a fond farewell to and sends along its best wishes with our long-time Administrative Assistant Adrienne Kaczynski. Adrienne began working with the MWA in 2004, after doing volunteer work for the organization for several years. If you are a member you are probably familiar with Adrienne's always sunny disposition whether you've interacted with her on the phone or at one of the MWA events. Adrienne has left the MWA to take on the daily operations at Countryside Studios in Madison, NJ, a photography studio that Adrienne and her husband started many years ago.

In addition to all of her administrative duties, Adrienne was a constant part of the MWA Education program since 2004.

She was always on hand for the field work and taught the occasional classroom lesson when we needed her to pitch in. She also shared the duties of running the Meet the River programs in the summer. She enjoyed sharing her love of the river with the kids and it showed. Adrienne was also key in building the MWA Run for the River and working the phones - and the mailbox - for years to grow our sponsor base. Her artistic eye was often called upon to design posters, web features and brochures.

Adrienne's largest contribution to the organization was the incredible growth in our Annual Spring Clean Up. She worked hard and made numerous connections with municipalities, counties, waste



haulers and volunteers to grow the event. Each year we were able to reach more locations, additional towns, new volunteers and tremendously increase in the number of miles covered.

Adrienne will be sorely missed by the members, sponsors, volunteers, staff and trustees at MWA and we wish her the best. 🌟



MWA Trustee Bill Leavens locates and measures one of the old oil pipelines at the Changewater Tank Farm. Photo by John Brunner



Historic village of Finesville - A riffle now runs across the river where the dam once stood.



AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador, Matt Barr and MWA VP Cinnie MacGonagle lead volunteers in planting tree seedlings at the Finesville riparian buffer site.



A tranquil scene on the Musconetcong River after a recent snow storm.

Photo by Elie Porter Trubert



Long time MWA member and paddler Loretta Gomez waits for her fellow paddlers to catch up during a November paddling trip.

Photo by John Brunner



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

SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, February 22 – Hike Allamuchy Mountain State Park, 10am - 12 pm Take-in the beautiful winter scenes of NJ's magnificent Allamuchy State Park. Trails range from easy to moderate. All hikers welcome, novice to expert. Bring a water bottle and a snack! We will meet at 9:45 am at the Waterloo Rd. parking area (look for signs on right for Sussex Branch Trail Parking.) MWA members are free, non-members are asked to donate \$3.

Saturday, March 15 – Family Hike at the MWA RRC, 12 - 1:30 pm Enjoy a lively hike along the River Trail at the MWA River Resource Center. We will explore the trail looking for signs of critters and play some fun hiking games. This is a great hike for families, but all are welcome! Meet us at the MWA River Resource center at 12 pm to begin our exploration. MWA members are free, non-members are asked to donate \$3.

Saturday, March 15 – Finesville Work Day, 9 am – 3 pm – Volunteers needed! Join us along the river in Finesville to plant willow stakes in the riparian buffer on the stream bank. Driving directions can be found on our website.

Sundays, March 23 & March 30 – Paddling the Musky, 9 am – 1 pm Locations and lengths of these paddles TBD as dates approach. Pre-registration required. Participants must supply their own boat and wear a life jacket, dress for cold water paddling, and come prepared with drinking water, a waterproofed lunch or snack, and binoculars. Donations: MWA members \$10, non-members \$15. Space is limited. Contact naturalist and river guide John Brunner with questions about your readiness, or specifics on the route at riverhealer@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 29 – MWA Work Day, 9 am – 3 pm – Volunteers needed! Come out to the MWA River Resource Center and help tidy up our native plant beds. It's a beautiful day by the river.

Saturday, April 5 – Hike Stephens State Park, 9:30 – 11:30 am MWA's first hike of the Spring! Join us as we use GPS coordinates to search for hidden geocache sites within Stephens State Park. Trails will range from moderate to slightly difficult. Bring a water bottle and snack! We will meet at 9:15 am at the park's HQ parking area: 800 Willow Grove Rd., Hackettstown. MWA members are free, non-members are asked to donate \$3.

Saturday, April 12 – The 22nd Annual Spring Clean-up, 9 am – 12 pm Roll up your sleeves! From Lake Hopatcong to the Delaware River, we are seeking volunteers to help with our annual clean-up. Each year we rely on MWA members, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Trout Unlimited members, local citizens and kids from environmental clubs to help us pull tons of trash from local roadsides, parks, and the stream banks of the Musconetcong River. Lunch is on us at MWA River Resource Center at 12 pm. Great for community service hours!

**Tuesday, April 22 – River Talk “A Wild & Scenic Story: Virtual Watershed Tour”
7 – 8:30 pm** Enjoy a special Earth Day presentation on the long journey to the Musconetcong National Wild and Scenic River designation. Former MWA Executive Director John Brunner will lead us on a virtual tour of the watershed from 'top to bottom.' Along the way he'll describe an amazing story of people, politics, programs, and how this amazing little river joined the nation's ranks of most revered and protected rivers. This program is free, donations are always welcome. Location: MWA River Resource Center.

Saturday, April 26 – Native Plant Sale, 9 am – 2 pm Bypass all of the showy Easter/Mother's Day flower sales, and buy native plants this spring. Visit the MWA River Resource Center and discover a variety of native plants available for your home landscaping projects. Knowledgeable people will be on hand to help you choose. You may have to wait for a bit of color – but that's only natural. Learn about Native Plants on the MWA website.

Sunday, May 4 – The 14th Annual Run for the River, Run start-time: 10 am Walk start time: 9:45 am The Run for the River is MWA's biggest fundraiser each year, with fun and excitement for the whole family. Run or walk with the hundreds of people who come out for this scenic 4-mile course. Free bottled water and bagels for all participants. Lots of age category prizes! Registration will open soon on the MWA website.

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

WATERFALL *Continued from page 2*

Bill Leavens and Beth Styler Barry attended, surviving the commute to Center City Philadelphia and miraculously arriving on time each day. General topics included agriculture, forests, tributaries, urban, suburban, upstream and downstream landscapes. The second day sessions were geared toward developing a knowledge base of measurable data, discussing how facts can be used to guide public policy, determining how to best cultivate advocates for the water-

shed, and other basin-wide topics.

As the reports from the conference issue, we will be sharing the thought and direction that is generated. As with virtually every other environmental issue, safe guarding the larger Delaware watershed will be require a lifetime commitment. However, now there is a mechanism and an opportunity for our energy to be coordinated and directed. ☺

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*.



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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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustainer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Steward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Champion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 + Life Member | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to:

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