



# Musconetcong River News

Fall 2016

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Asbury, New Jersey

## United States Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell visits MWA/Hughesville Dam Removal

*By: Karen Doerfer,  
Communications & Administrative Coordinator*



On Thursday, September 8, 2016, MWA had the honor of hosting Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell for a round table discussion on dam removals. The Secretary's visit stems from a nationwide effort by the Obama Administration to work with local communities and governments at state and local levels, and private

dam owners to address challenges posed by obsolete dams. Over 1,000 obsolete dams across the United States have been removed in the last century, with more than half of these in the last 10 years.

Secretary Jewell, along with MWA Executive Director, Beth Styler Barry, representatives of the Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership (MRRP) and NJ state officials participated in a closed conversation on the importance of dam removals in river restoration. The MRRP is grateful to our partners at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for helping make Secretary Jewell's visit possible.

This meeting was held at the time of the first notching of the Hughesville Dam where Secretary Jewell and guests then spoke at a press conference prior to the notching. At this press conference, Secretary Jewell reiterated the importance of "collaborative conservation" and the MRRP's ability to work collectively to accomplish a goal such as this.

"We have opportunities to restore watersheds and ecosystems and bring back natural vegetation that is so

important for the (fish, wildlife, plants and people) in these areas..." the Secretary noted.

The dam has since been removed and engineers are now working at this site to restore the river to its natural, free-flowing state. Dam removals for the purpose of river restoration have shown to reduce flooding as well as help local habitat. The Hughesville Dam is the fifth dam to be removed along the Musconetcong River.

After the press conference, Beth gave a tour of the Warren Glen Dam which is upstream of the Hughesville Dam site and MWA's next target to be removed. The Warren Glen Dam is the second obsolete dam on the old paper mill's site on the boarder of Hunterdon and Warren counties and the largest on the Musconetcong River. This dam is also currently owned by International Process Plants who is eager to work with the partnership again.

For more information on the Secretary's visit or dam removals, please visit our Facebook page and [www.musconetcong.org!](http://www.musconetcong.org!)

### MWA Thanks Our Partners:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
- American Rivers
- North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council
- New Jersey Trout Unlimited
- NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife
- National Park Service
- Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
- Private Landowners

# Welcome...

Laura Tessieri, PE, CFM. Laura is now the Associate Director for MWA's subsidiary, North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council (NJ RC&D). She is responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of mission and financial objectives. NJ RC&D supports programs in areas of water resource protection, agricultural sustainability and community development.



Laura Tessieri

Laura worked for 10 years with the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) as a Water Resource Engineer. Her responsibilities included flood loss reduction activities, GIS analysis and

hydrologic modeling. Laura was highly involved with the Delaware River Basin Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force that formed at the request of the four basin governors (NJ, NY, PA and DE). She implemented flood warning enhancements, reservoir modeling efforts and a floodplain regulation evaluation subcommittee through the DRBC Flood Advisory Committee. Her career also includes serving as the Assistant Municipal Engineer with Raritan Township, Hunterdon County and over six years as an Environmental Engineer Consultant.

Laura is a licensed professional engineer in the State of New Jersey and a Certified Floodplain Manager. She currently serves on the board and is a past chair of the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM). Laura holds a dual Bachelor's Degree in Bioresource Engineering from both Cook College and the College of Engineering, Rutgers University. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and two young children. They live in Hunterdon County, NJ in close proximity to the Delaware River, but up on a ridge located well outside of the floodplain.

# Welcome...

Taran Sayal is our newest AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador for the Upper Delaware Management Area serving at the Musconetcong Watershed Association from September, 2016 to June, 2017. She is extremely passionate about protecting the welfare of human health and the environment, and this is



Taran Sayal

fueled by the rewarding experiences she obtains by volunteering as a leader and educator in community outreach programs. She is a recent graduate of Rutgers University and holds a

Bachelor's degree in Public Health, and comprehensive science background with a focus in Biology. As an ambassador, Taran is very excited for the opportunity to work with the communities in her management area to help them understand their watershed and ways to improve it.

**MUSCONETCONG**  
  
**WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**  
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**908-537-7060**  
[www.musconetcong.org](http://www.musconetcong.org)

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## Asbury Grist Mill Update

*By: Chuck Gullage, Trustee Emeritus*

We are working on finalizing the contract for the next phase of work at the Mill which will consist of replacing broken floor joists and the decking on the second and third floors. In addition, we will be repairing the window and door openings and installing new windows and the door on the east side of the Mill. We are also in the process of collecting estimates to install storm water run-off measures in the parking lot and around the Mill. The storm water run-off measures will include installation of a porous surface to prevent water from ponding in the parking lot. While the



contractor is excavating around the Mill, we will also be installing a septic tank. We will install the rest of the septic system when funding allows.

# Camp Musky Boasts Another Record Breaking Year

**By: Kyle Richter,**  
MWA Education and Outreach  
Coordinator

This summer, MWA welcomed 65 campers over the course of five weeks, ranging in age from 5-13, to our Camp Musky Summer Program. The month of July was filled with exciting, hands-on, outdoor learning adventures. Every day, campers explored a different part of the beautiful MWA River Resource Center (RRC) property and the adjoining preserved 30 acres of meadow, woods and wetlands. They learned about the many different animals that call this region home, from bears, to turtles, to all the various macroinvertebrates that live in the river and how they adapted to live in our region. At the end of every day, campers took some time to draw and write in their nature journals and document the day. Some highlights from each session include:

**STEM** (ages 8-12): New for 2016, Camp Musky's STEM program was a huge success! Campers participated in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities. Some group favorites included an intensive study of the health of Musconetcong River and the pond located on MWA's property, real life Angry Birds, building underwater robots and who can build the tallest marshmallow and toothpick tower!

**Explores** (ages 5-6): The youngest group of campers spent a week learning about the river. They learned about camouflage, explored different areas of the MWA property through a scavenger hunt and had a blast learning about the different animals that call the Musky home.

**Stream Team** (ages 7-9): This half-day team enjoyed a week of hiking, shelter building, arts and crafts and an in-depth study of the Musconetcong River and the organisms living beneath the surface.

**Trailblazers** (ages 7-9): The first week of full-day campers spent their days exploring and working together to complete some team building activities. They learned about the power of the sun by building their own solar ovens to cook s'mores.

**River Rangers** (ages 10-12+): The oldest campers rounded the summer program out and learned about what it takes to live sustainably and the impacts we, as humans, can have on the environment.

Overall, it was a great summer, and together we accomplished a lot! MWA would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to our amazing volunteers, Rebecca Canright, Vaughn and Emily Koscinski, Jill Bahr and Melyssa Garcia, for their part in making this year's Camp Musky such a success. Be on the lookout for Camp Musky 2017 registration information coming in April! 🐼



# MWA Hosts Thank you BBQ

**By: Karen Doerfer,**

*MWA Communications and Administrative Coordinator*

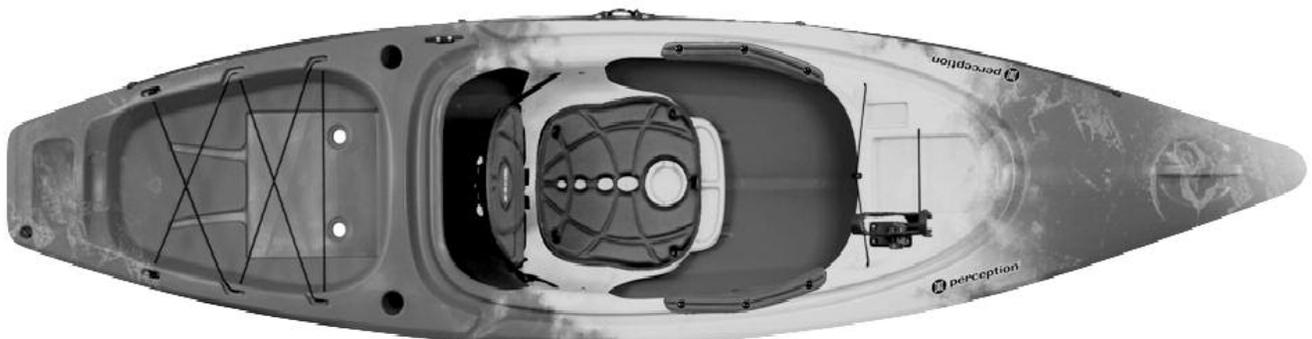
August 27, 2016 was a day of celebration and thanks for the MWA. We are so fortunate to have such a loyal membership and volunteer base. In order to say thanks to our hard working volunteers, MWA hosted a BBQ at our River Resource Center. MWA staff and board set up a day which included a lot of mingling, an opportunity for kayaking and a buffet of BBQ food and desserts! MWA volunteers help our organization with everything from water quality monitoring to event preparation to envelope stuffing.

If you are interested in volunteering for the MWA, please email [info@musconetcong.org](mailto:info@musconetcong.org) or call (908) 537-7060. ☎



## MWA Kayak Raffle is Back!

Purchase your ticket to win a Perception Sound 10.5 kayak – perfect for local paddlers. This kayak offers easy maneuverability and high stability on flatwater and slow-moving rivers. This prize package also includes a Harmony life vest and Bending Branches Whisper paddle. The total package value is approximately \$550. Purchase your \$10 ticket online at [www.musconetcong.org](http://www.musconetcong.org) under “Events” in person at the River Resource Center (10 Maple Ave., Asbury, NJ), or at Paddlers Cove (384 E. Washington Ave., Washington, NJ). Call MWA at (908) 537-7060 with questions. The winning ticket will be pulled at our Run for the River on May 17, 2017. You do not need to be present to win. Good luck!



# SAVE THESE DATES!

**Saturday, October 22:** Saxton Lake Paddle 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. MWA is partnering with Lake Hopatcong Foundation! Departing from the launch ramp at former Elsie's Tavern on Waterloo Road. Elsie's Tavern is an old Morris Canal Lock Tender's house on the north shore of Saxton Lake, approximately 1.5 miles west of Waterloo Village in Byram Township. Paddlers will see remnants of the Morris Canal, Saxton Falls, the Saxton Falls Dam, the Musconetcong River and the hills of Allamuchy State Park. Paddlers must provide their own kayak, paddles, personal flotation gear and will need to sign a liability release. Consider also bringing water, a bagged lunch, hat and sunscreen. Conditions permitting, we'll raft up for a lunch break and enjoy the autumn foliage. \$5 for members/\$10 for non-members. Please email [kyle@musconetcong.org](mailto:kyle@musconetcong.org).

**Friday, October 28:** Haunted Hike along the Musky 7:45 – 9:30 pm. Drag your bones to our Haunted Hike. Self-guided tours will take place at the MWA RRC (10 Maple Ave., Asbury). We will also have free apple cider, BBQ, face painting and games. This promises to be a safe mischief night full of fun and fright for most ages (8 and up recommended). Suggested donation: \$7/person (Not more than \$20/family).

**Thursday, November 10 – Friday, November 11:** Fall Nature Extravaganza 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. SCHOOL'S CLOSED! Camp Musky to the Rescue for a Children's Nature Exploration Extravaganza! Let us help your child enjoy these days off at the MWA RRC. For more information or to register, contact [kyle@musconetcong.org](mailto:kyle@musconetcong.org).

**Saturday, November 26:** Post-Thanksgiving Hike at Point Mountain – 10 am-12 pm. Burn off those Thanksgiving calories at our annual hike on the Ridge Trail at the Point Mountain Reserve. A scenic overlook provides a beautiful vista of distant mountains and farmland. The trail is diverse and challenging at times and includes a steep and rocky incline. Good for novice and expert hikers. Bring a snack, water and binoculars to the gravel parking lot on Point Mountain Road, 0.3 miles from Route 57. MWA Members are free! Non-members are asked to donate \$3 (Not more than \$10/family). For more information or to register, contact [kyle@musconetcong.org](mailto:kyle@musconetcong.org).

## Interested in renting a meeting space?

MWA offers our LEED Platinum-Certified River Resource Center conference room as a room to rent for civic and non-profit organizations. The room can be rented for partial or full days. Packages can also be customized to include a member of MWA's staff as a speaker or presenter at the center. Please call (908) 537-7060 or email [info@musconetcong.org](mailto:info@musconetcong.org) for more information on booking packages and available dates.

### We're Social! Follow us on:



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Association



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*Meetup*  
Musconetcong  
River Area  
Outdoor Activities

For more information or to register for any of these events, please email [karen@musconetcong.org](mailto:karen@musconetcong.org) or call (908) 537-7060, unless otherwise noted. MWA River Resource Center (RRC) is located at 10 Maple Avenue, 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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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