



# Musconetcong River News

Spring 2007

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Asbury, New Jersey

## MWA Water Quality Monitoring Program: A Call for River Watchers

by *Beth Styler Barry*

The Musconetcong Watershed Association is looking for local residents to join our water quality monitoring program as volunteer River Watchers. If you are interested in protecting the Musconetcong River in a very hands-on way, this is a great opportunity for you to get involved. This article outlines some key program details. If you think that you may be interested in becoming a River Watcher, please contact Executive Director Beth Styler Barry at (908) 537-7060 or [beth@musconetcong.org](mailto:beth@musconetcong.org).

The monitoring program will help the MWA to identify problems, develop strategies and prioritize activities for improving the water quality of the river, as well as to track progress towards water quality improvements. The MWA has been working this past year to design a water quality monitoring program that follows the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Monitoring Study Design standards. By designing the MWA program to meet NJDEP standards, the MWA program will yield data of a quality that can be used for presentation to local government decision makers.

### Who should become a River Watcher?

If you enjoy being outdoors and would like to get to know the river better, this is an excellent opportunity for you. The MWA is seeking volunteers to become part of one of four River Watcher teams, each made up of four water quality monitors that will con-

duct simple tests at various sites along the Musconetcong River. No prior experience is needed, just an interest in the health of the river and the commitment of several hours a year.

Training is provided and River Watchers will be required to attend two 3-hour workshops. The first workshop will be an "in-class" training session that will give an overview of the tests to be conducted and the methods that monitors will be using. The second workshop will be an in-depth streamside training session in which monitors will be introduced to equipment and sampling techniques.

River Watchers must commit to meeting at their assigned locations four times a year and spend about two hours performing tests and recording information. The results of these tests will be entered into a computer database and published in annual reports shared with volunteers, MWA members, the NJDEP, municipal authorities and interested citizens.

### What will River Watchers do?

River Watchers will test dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, nitrates

(NO<sub>3</sub>), pH and phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>), identify and quantify macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects) and perform a visual assessment of the test site. Do not be intimidated by the test names if they are unfamiliar to you. The test kits are very user friendly and the techniques for visual assessment and macroinvertebrate identification are easy to learn with some practice. Volunteers will have plenty of training and opportunity to ask questions. An experienced monitor will accompany all teams on their first scheduled stream assessment.

### When will River Watchers meet?

River Watchers will be trained in June and begin sampling in October 2007. Water monitoring will be done at all monitoring stations quarterly. For the MWA program, sampling will take place on the last Sunday of January, April, July and October. There is a bit of "wiggle room" built onto our program to allow monitors to find a time that everyone is available to meet. The protocol calls for sampling to take place

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#### RIVER WATCHER TRAINING SCHEDULE

**June 9, 2007 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. River Watcher Training Workshop 1** This workshop includes an overview of the visual assessment, biological testing and chemical testing protocols.

**June 16, 2007 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. River Watcher Training Workshop 2** Streamside demonstra-

tion of proper use of monitoring equipment and sampling techniques. Hands-on training in all test methods.

**June 23, 2007 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Makeup Training Session** The morning session will cover the topics covered at the June 9 workshop. The afternoon will be a makeup for the June 16 workshop.

# Monitoring Program

*Continued from page 1*

on the last Sunday “plus or minus two days” (i.e. Friday through Tuesday). The recommended time for sampling is 2:00 PM, and the time allowance range is from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Each River Watcher team will be configured in a way that allows one team member to be absent from each sampling. If a team member is unable to make a scheduled monitoring session, monitoring can go forward with the remaining members.

## Where will River Watchers be monitoring?

**Outflow of Lake Hopatcong** This location will be tested because Lake Hopatcong is at the headwaters of the Musconetcong River.

**Tributary to Mine Hill, Stephens State Park** This very protected stream will serve as our reference point.

**Point Mountain Road Bridge, Port Murray** This location was chosen

**MUSCONETCONG**  
**WATERSHED**  
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**908-537-7060**

[www.musconetcong.org](http://www.musconetcong.org)

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because it is a Wild and Scenic Segment and it is vulnerable to development.

**Mount Joy Road, Finesville** The MWA hopes that dam removals in this area will improve water quality over time. The location of this test site will help us to understand the effect of dam removals over time.

## Why should you become a River Watcher?

Monitoring the river on a quarterly basis will become a critical part of our strategy to protect the Musconetcong River. Stream monitoring will help the MWA to

- Establish baseline conditions and discover trends that would otherwise go unmonitored.
- Identify problems, develop strategies and prioritize activities for improving water quality, and track progress toward improvement.
- Provide the opportunity for local citizens to participate in a basic, centrally administered and interpreted stream monitoring program.
- Educate people about the value of the river, the kinds of pollution threatening it, and how individual and collective actions can help solve specific problems.

# River Resource Center Update

“I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.” Frank Lloyd Wright

To the casual observer, it may not be obvious that work is continuing at a brisk pace on the River Resource Center. But rest assured, the River Resource Center LEED Team is hard at work. LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a US Green Building Council certification program for green buildings.

The following has been accomplished in the past year:

- 1) Electrical Service Installation *Complete*
- 2) Architectural Plans
  - Design Development *Complete*
  - Construction Documents *Near Completion*
- 3) Mechanical/Engineering/Plumbing Plans *Complete*
- 4) Highlands Exemption Applicability Determination Letter *Complete*
- 5) Freshwater Wetlands and State Open Waters Delineation *Complete*
- 6) Preliminary and Final Site Implementation Plans *Complete*
- 7) Use Variance Planning Report *Complete*
- 8) Preparation of Septic System Plans *Complete*
- 9) Local and regional permitting Ongoing
- 10) The following have been *applied for* -
  - Wetlands Letter of Interpretation
  - Freshwater Wetlands Permit
  - Minor Stream Encroachment Permit

Members of the River Resource Center LEED TEAM meet to review plans in the fall of 2006.

LEED stands for Leadership in Environmental Energy Design. Front Row: Henry Meltzer, Peter Banta, Beth Styler Barry, Kim Hood, Mike Cronomicz, Mike Sedita, Back Row: Brendan Barry Team Members not pictured Bill Amann, Jim Chmielak, Bill Leavens



# MWA Volunteer Spotlight

by Claire Tondreau



Claire Tondreau

The Musconetcong Watershed Association exists and continues to thrive because it is fueled by a continuous stream of talented, dedicated and generous volunteers. This Volunteer Spotlight features MWA member Claire Tondreau. Tondreau used her professional skills to help MWA put together a PowerPoint presentation to be used to showcase the organization and our work.

The presentation, which can be tailored to a 30 or 60-minute PowerPoint presentation, explains who we are, what we do and why we do it. This overview includes broad topics such as "What is a watershed?" and "Why are watersheds important?" as well as a good

deal of specific information about the Musconetcong River and its watershed. The presentation outlines the history, mission and goals of Musconetcong Watershed Association as well as our current programs.

Tondreau graduated with a BA in English Literature from Penn State University in 1978. After spending a brief time at an ad agency in her hometown of Philadelphia, she embraced the idea of making marketing her career. She moved to New York where she worked at this chosen profession at well-known firms for almost two decades. It was while working at Ammirati Puris Lintas as Executive Vice President and Managing Director that Tondreau decided to begin her own brand development firm., HotSpring, Inc.

Tondreau's firm uses a flexible model for brand strategy and positioning, which it has applied to successful projects for such well-known companies as Atkins Nutritionals, Barnes & Noble, Citi Cards, Time Inc., Sprint PCS, Philips Electronics and others.

Below is a conversation between MWA Executive Director and MWA member volunteer Claire Tondreau.

**Q. What do you find special about the Musconetcong Watershed?**

**A.** That it is quiet and feels undiscovered - other than on the opening day of Trout Season! Its scale makes it clear how intertwined our lives and health are with it - not only because of water quality but also because of the

access one has to it and the range of uses it invites, that it has undeniable value to people, animals and birdlife and that it provokes contemplation just by virtue of its beauty.

**Q. Do you volunteer for any other group or organization?**

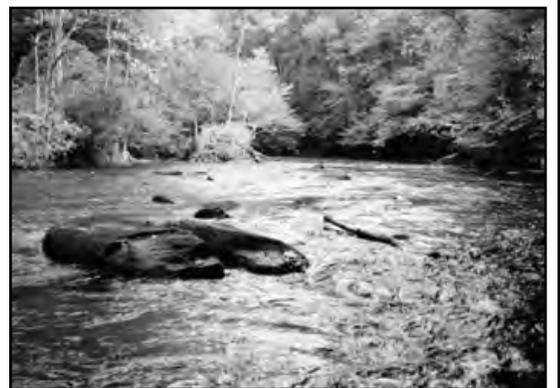
**A.** I was part of the Open Space Committee for Washington Township (Warren County). I was also part of a citizens group working to minimize the size and impact of the bridge being constructed across the Musconetcong between New Hampton village and New Hampton Road, Washington Township. (I remain concerned that a paved roadbed is going to invite salting in the winter that will run off into the river, believing that a metal grid roadway would have been a better choice, but that's both another story and a lost battle).

**Q. When I approached you with the idea for this project, you immediately offered to help. What made you so enthusiastic?**

**A.** Anything that gets the word out that living, dynamic entities require stewardship is great in my book. More specifically, though, I don't think people understand that fresh water is as precious as it is. People drink bottled water in this country by choice, not by necessity. I like to believe that we can keep it that way - that we'll never be forced to drink bottled water because our water table is compromised. ◐

The Musconetcong Watershed Association has developed an informative Power Point presentation that describes the many current and interesting projects the MWA is working on. A special segment focuses on the passage of the Musconetcong Wild and Scenic River bill.

This approximately 30 minute long presentation already has been well received by several local organizations ranging from business groups to paddlers and anglers. The MWA would like to share the details of our recent successes and future projects with your community, church or special interest group. A donation of \$100 is suggested for this presentation. For further information, contact Executive Director Beth Styler Barry at 537-7060.



# A bit of philosophy:

By MWA President Bill Leavens

To even casual observers the time has clearly come for people to live more intelligently on the planet. The unbridled wasting of power and water resources that defines our age must end and that will require profound changes in human behavior. Human activity alone is driving the depletion and spoiling of resources on this planet. Until better ways are found to live with ourselves and within our environment, that degradation will continue and eventually impact the lives of every person and being.

The trustees and members of MWA do not have all the answers. We are only concerned with protecting a 154 square mile basin between two Northwest Jersey ridgelines. What we can do best is to share a awareness of environmental problems that confront those who live, work, visit, and play in this watershed. We can teach the principal and practice of life on a small planet.

Our primary mission is education. We have resolved that our role is to demonstrate ways that we can live comfortably here while placing minimal demands on the finite resources that we use in our daily activity. Commuters have to commute smarter. Farmers have to farm smarter. We all have to create and enjoy the means to live smarter.

Define 'smart' how you wish. Environmental sustainability ought to be a part of the definition - improving our

environment instead of degrading it - increasing the water supply available for public use - using renewable resources in ways that further their creation. But at one point there has to be widespread popular awareness of how the way we are living here and now is not sustainable, and how much better we can be at sharing our time and space here. This Association intends to demonstrate the promise of and possibilities for living lightly on the land.

*"...at one point there has to be widespread popular awareness of how the way we are living here and now is not sustainable, and how much better we can be at sharing our time and space here. This Association intends to demonstrate the promise of and possibilities for living lightly on the land."*

It seems there are few incentives to adopt the life styles and work ethics that embrace a different way. Government is concerned with the bureaucratic needs and methods of government. Business does business in the ways that have proven to be successful. We all live as we have learned by experience. These ways of living and being are not necessarily wrong, but they have created a culture of waste that pervades American society.

MWA cannot impose a carbon tax, but we can lead people to understand the environmental costs of consuming fossil fuels. We cannot impose fees or taxes on water use, but we can demonstrate an awareness of why and how to minimize water consumption. MWA can teach watershed protection by example. With support from a community that already 'gets it', in our own small way and in our own little watershed, we can help to change the world.



Photo by Steve Hoech

*Steve Hoech of Hackettstown spotted this Bald Eagle about 8:00 a.m. on March 9. The eagle was fishing in the Musconetcong River at Stephens Park in Hackettstown. It was first seen perched halfway down the service road between the bridge over the Musconetcong River and the island upstream of the bridge. The Bald Eagle's diet is opportunistic and varied, but most eagles live mostly off of fish.*

*Bloomsbury resident and MWA member Ilse Goshen reported seeing a Bald Eagle on the Musconetcong River in Bloomsbury in late March. Sightings of an eagle hunting in the Stephensburg Bridge Road area (Washington Township, Morris County) were reported during the summer of 2006.*

# It's Official... Celebrate and spread the news

*with a purchase of our new*

## Wild and Scenic T-shirt



Help support the Musconetcong Watershed Association with this 100% cotton T-shirt. The message "Wild and Scenic Musconetcong River National River System Newest Member 2006" is superimposed on a list of the names of the 168 other Wild and Scenic rivers. \$22.00 includes shipping and handling. Make check payable to MWA.

Clip and send the order form below or visit [www.musconetcong.org](http://www.musconetcong.org) to view a color photo, to print order forms or to order online. Please call Beth at (908) 537-7060 with any questions.

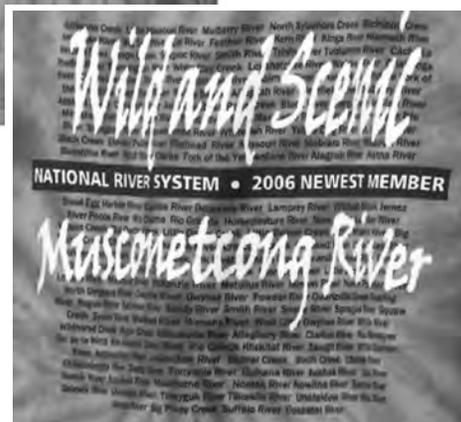
Size S M L XL

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MWA P.O. Box 113 Asbury, New Jersey 08802



## SAVE THESE DATES!

**Sunday, May 6, 2007 7th Annual MWA Run/Walk for the River** Support the MWA by participating in this yearly 4.0-mile event. You don't need to be an athlete! It's always a great, fun way to get some exercise, spend time with friends and family and perhaps win one of our many door prizes. For more information, or to print out an entry application, visit our website - [www.musconetcong.org](http://www.musconetcong.org).

**Saturday, June 9, 16 & 23, 2007 June River Watcher Training** Please see front page of the newsletter for details.

**Saturday, July 14, 2007 Meet the River - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.** NJ DEP Fishing Access on Bloomsbury Road in Asbury. Come out and get your feet wet! We'd like to introduce you to the Musconetcong River. This program will allow children to come down to the river's edge and splash around in the water. We'll turn over some rocks and maybe we'll be lucky enough to catch a frog! You'll need to wear water shoes, old sneakers or sandals with a strap on back. No bare feet and no flip flops please! Parents must be present but do not need to get their feet wet - there will be plenty of volunteers on hand. We will not be swimming, just getting our feet wet. Call (908) 537-7060 or e-mail [beth@musconetcong.org](mailto:beth@musconetcong.org) for details. MWA members free. Non-members will be charged a \$2 donation per child (\$5 limit per family.)

**Saturday, August 11, 2007 Meet the River - 10:00-11:30 a.m.** Point Mountain Preserve, Port Murray Road, Mansfield See details in program listing above.

**Note:** If you are not receiving e-mail reminders for these events it means that we do not have a current e-mail address. If you'd like to receive reminders and occasional "Musky News Briefs" please contact [beth@musconetcong.org](mailto:beth@musconetcong.org).

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Asbury, NJ 08802  
PO Box 113



## 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 shadowed by 1,000 foot Highland ridges, it 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 and 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.

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*.

## 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 Steward  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Champion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 + Life |

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to:*

**Musconetcong Watershed Association**  
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