



Musconetcong River News

Winter 2011

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Asbury, New Jersey

It's all about GROWTH

By CJ Koop



CJ Koop, MWA Trustee, will be working closely with Partnership in Philanthropy staff to help build a stronger MWA.

A new tributary into the MWA

And here I am, being asked to share the news with all of you. It is yet another life source of growth for our association. We have been approved to begin a promising mentorship with **Partnership in Philanthropy (PIP)**. PIP is organization of professional fundraisers and funders that 'coach' successful nonprofits on how to build foundations of continued, sustainable growth.

I am to be our board liaison with them as we move into developing new membership and funding avenues for us. I am humbled at the confidence

the board is putting in me, and have high hopes in this growth partnership. This is a great step forward for us! Only a few nonprofits each year are accepted into their program. Their expertise is essential as we expand our financial stability.

Why us?

We have incredible stories to tell. Our measurable and continued successes in environmental education and outreach under the heading of 'grassroots organization' have caused more than a few heads to turn. Our Strategic Plan (found on our website) has goals and action steps that made those incredible stories possible. We now need to cast a wider net in sharing those achievements and PIP's guidance will help us do that.

Why now?

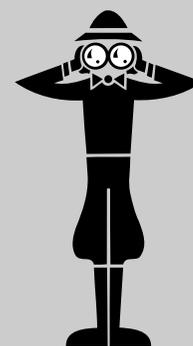
Economics. Our membership count grows incrementally. Our renewals are inconsistent. Our grants (which aren't really ours until we win them) are our primary source of funding. Federal and state dollars are getting more challenging to win. We compete with other nonprofits that also have very good goals. The timing couldn't be better for us to pursue this.

Why me?

Because I look like you. (I think). It's not often you get to

MWA Announces Annual River Watcher Training

By Nancy Lawler,
River Watcher Coordinator



Be a River Watcher! The Musconetcong Watershed Association is looking for volunteers to monitor the Musconetcong River's health. No experience is necessary: you will learn all you need to know in the two required training sessions. The first session, on March 26th at Warren County Community College (WCCC), is the classroom orientation and lab, and the second, on April 9th, is an in-stream field training and will also be held at the college. There are both morning and afternoon sessions offered to fit your schedule.

Four times a year, trained volunteer River Watchers check water quality at four locations on the Musconetcong River. River watchers can also be activated to investigate special situations such as spills into the river or to monitor stream restoration projects such as dam removals. River Watcher volunteers monitor water quality by measuring the oxygen, nitrate and the acidity levels of the water, as well as collect some of the aquatic animals that live in the river. It is a great way to learn about the river and how to protect it.

The classroom training session is offered on March 26th at WCCC. You may attend either the morning session which runs from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or the afternoon session which runs 1:00 -4:00 p.m. The in-stream field portion is offered on April 9th at the college. The morning session runs 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and the afternoon session runs 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Please call the Musconetcong Watershed Association at 908-537-7060 to reserve your seat and for more details. You may also email the River Watcher Coordinator at nancy@musconetcong.org.

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GROWTH

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hear from me as one of your trustees. So, a bit of background is in order. My membership began back in 2001. I was definitely 'watching from the stream bank' back then. My participation grew slowly. I gently stepped into the stream - literally as one of our River Watchers at the Lake Hopatcong site. That was followed by taking the full plunge. Yep, I applied for and was accepted as a board member. (I thought my years in advertising and marketing may be useful). As a trustee my admiration - indeed great respect - for the dedicated efforts of Beth, Kim & Adrienne has grown immensely. And so has my unease. For I have a secret. When I couple that admiration with

the vision of all the past trustees that brought us to where we are today, my unease moves into embarrassment. Yes embarrassment. And now my secret. I am ashamed to say that I have been an "off and on" paid member since 2001. Looking back, that waffling membership is not something I am proud of. It smacks in the face of my ignorance on how much 'being counted' matters. Paid membership is the part of the streambed that keeps us growing as an organization. You may not know this

but on all of our grant applications that figure is required. Practically speaking, it makes sense. Would you give money to an organization that isn't growing? I urge all of you who have waffled as I have done to make the commitment to change that. I have. These next months of growth, under the guidance of PIP, in such tight economic times will be easy if we all do our share. Your talents, your time volunteering and your consistent membership will matter. ☺

MUSCONETCONG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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Asbury, NJ 08802

908-537-7060

www.musconetcong.org

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MWA River Watchers Joe Srsich, Nancy Lawler (Coordinator), Paul Pomel and Earl Riley perform quarterly water monitoring at Stephens State Park on a very snowy Saturday in February. Photo by Charles Fineran

MWA Board of Directors seeks Trustees

Why not take your support of the Musconetcong Watershed Association and its mission to the next level? We are looking for people who are ready to help the organization grow and become self sustaining. Take the first step by calling or emailing to request information about this exciting

opportunity. MWA Board President Bill Leavens can be reached by phone at 908-892-0400 or via email at bill.leavens@gmail.com and will be happy to provide information that will help you to decide if this leadership role is something you'd be interested in pursuing. ☺

A Walk in the Woods – The Hike You Didn't Take

By MWA President Bill Leavens

Our January hike was scheduled on what was to be the coldest day of the new year. It was about 20 degrees out as the little group left the parking lot and headed off toward Deer Park Pond in Allamuchy. As arms and legs limbered up, the air seemed to grow a bit warmer. More likely the hikers grew warmer as they exercised and blood moved around out to the fingers and toes.

It's unfortunate that we were only three – I was with Beth Styler Barry and hike leader Charlie Fineran, Jr. who is Director of Open Space, Allamuchy Township, member of Allamuchy Environmental Commission, President of the Allamuchy Historical Society, Allamuchy representative to the Musconetcong River Management Council and MWA River Watcher - wow. Charlie was definitely the fellow to lead the hike.

If you can deal with cold you would have loved it. It was crystal clear as only cold days can be clear. With the leaves off the trees, the terrain beckoned and promised distant views of the ridges ahead. The walking wasn't difficult at first, we kept in the ruts of trucks parked up ahead, trying to avoid walking in the tracks of cross country skiers. It became a little more challenging as we got off roadways and circled Deer



Two paths diverged in a snowy wood and MWA President Bill Leavens, Executive Director Beth Styler Barry and Charlie Fineran of Allamuchy took the one less travelled. Photo by Charles Fineran

Park Pond in the bowl that lies between Rt. 517 and the Musconetcong.

All of the slopes were gentle enough to ski. Were it not for the relative difficulty of mushing through five or six inches of snow it would be a good walk for younger children. The road to the second parking lot went past a house formerly part of the Rutherford Estate. The Allamuchy Mountain State Park includes the Rutherford Deer Park hunting grounds. The tract was acquired by the NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry and is adjacent to Stephens State Park across the river in Morris County. Access is free and there is parking on site for perhaps 50 cars.

Sights along the route included large and small animal tracks in the snow, scenic views of local ridges and watercourses and beaver lodges in Deer

Park Pond, the pristine destination for the trek.

The Jersey Off Road Bike Association (JORBA) assists the Park Service in building and maintaining multi uses trails at both Allamuchy and Stephens. Members remove downed trees, assure trail sustainability by incorporating trail drainage solutions, and build new approved trails during scheduled trail maintenance events. JORBA members have worked closely with the Park Superintendent to develop and incorporate a marked trail network system as well as detailed maps of three distinct parcels.

MWA urges members and everyone else to get out and enjoy these local parks. Where great emphasis is put on passive and active recreational parks and fields for New Jersey citizens who live in our cities, Stephens and Allamuchy State Parks are jewels in our watershed. Deer Park is easily accessible on Deer Park Road, three miles north of Hackettstown on Route 517. Enjoying these recreational opportunities is one of the great benefits of living along the Musconetcong. Farther up river on the north side of Rt. 80, Allamuchy Mountain State Park invites bicyclists, cross country skiers, hikers and nature photographers.

You might want to wait until it warms up and dries out a bit, but do take a drive north out of Hackettstown and find Deer Park. Bring sensible shoes and go exploring. ☺

Community Supported Agriculture in the Watershed

Asbury Village Farm is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation with 12 organic acres under cultivation. The farm is a member of the Northeast Organic Farming Association and offers full shares, half shares and work shares. By purchasing a share in a CSA, you not only have access to fresh local produce but you are helping to preserve a working farm and supporting sustainable agricultural practices which protect our streams and drinking water. Visit their website at www.asburyfarm.org or call (908) 537-0777 for more information or to purchase a share.

Please take advantage of one – or both – of these opportunities to support the MWA. In both cases the items have been donated to the organization so One Hundred Percent of your purchase goes to support the organization.

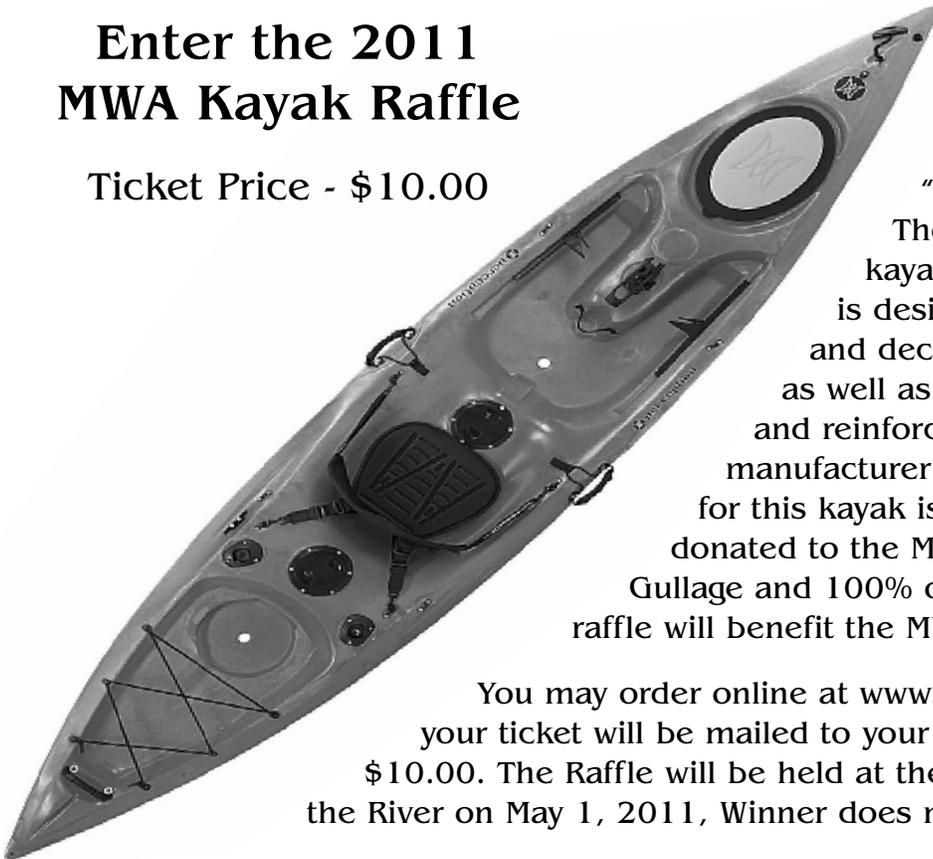
Show off your Musky pride!

The classic Musconetcong Watershed Association logo is embroidered on this high quality cotton polo shirt. These shirts were donated by MWA Trustee Bill Harclerode so 100% of your purchase will benefit the organization. \$27.50 includes \$2.50 shipping. Shirts may also be purchased at the River Resource Center for \$25.00.



Enter the 2011 MWA Kayak Raffle

Ticket Price - \$10.00



This kayak has been described as a "fisherman's delight".

The Caster 12.5 angler kayak from Perception Sport is designed with flush-mount and deck-mounted rod holders, as well as multi-directional seating and reinforced foot braces. The manufacturer's suggested retail price for this kayak is \$600. This kayak was donated to the MWA by Trustee Chuck Gullage and 100% of the proceeds of this raffle will benefit the MWA.

You may order online at www.musconetcong.org and your ticket will be mailed to your home. Ticket price is \$10.00. The Raffle will be held at the 11th Annual Run for the River on May 1, 2011, Winner does not need to be present.

Tickets also available at:

**Paddler's Cove - 384 E Washington Ave., Washington, N.J. • 908-835-0624
and at the River Resource Center, 10 Maple Avenue, Asbury**

SAVE THESE DATES!

Wednesday, March 16th, 7:00 p.m. Native Plants and Invasive Species Join us for this presentation by Master Gardener Cenny MacGonagle and learn what you can do to help New Jersey's native species survive and thrive. This presentation will take place at the MWA River Resource Center 10 Maple Avenue in Asbury, NJ. Please call 908-537-7060 or contact adrienne@musconetcong.org to register.

Saturday, March 19th, 10:00 -11:30 a.m. Tick Tackler Presentation The "Tick'Em Off" presentation offers a few simple suggestions that will help you eliminate "hot spots" in your yard without the harsh treatment of traditional pesticides. Jennifer Molzen of The Tick Tackler presents an educational seminar on what you can do to reduce the number of ticks in your backyard. Please call 908-537-7060 or contact adrienne@musconetcong.org to register.

Saturday, March 26th, 10-11:30 a.m. Saxon Falls (Hackettstown) River Trail Hike Join us for this easy flat hike that is perfect for young children, families and those ready to come out of hibernation. We'll search for signs of spring as we explore a trail that runs right along the Musconetcong River. The abundance of water along this trail makes it a great location for viewing birds that live in or hunt along the river. Directions: Take CR 517 south to Bilby Rd. and turn left. Go to "T" intersection and turn left which is Route 604. Proceed north about 2 miles to Saxton Falls, which is on the right side of the road. We will meet in the small parking lot. Please call 908-537-7060 or contact adrienne@musconetcong.org to register.

Friday, April 8th, Annual Members Meeting at Hawk Pointe Golf Club Join us for this year's MWA Annual Meeting. A brief business meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a presentation by Michael Van Clef, Ph.D of Ecological Solutions, LLC. Mr. Van Clef, one of New Jersey's foremost native plant and invasive species ecologists, will give a presentation on the importance of native plants in the preservation of our biodiversity and wildlife habitat. RSVP no later than April 4th to 908-537-7060 or to adrienne@musconetcong.org. (Not a member? This is a great time to join, clip and send the form on the back of this newsletter or join online at www.musconetcong.org.)

Saturday, April 16th, 19th Annual Spring Clean Up Come out and help at the Annual Spring Clean Up. Each year we count 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 and stream banks. Afterwards participants gather at the MWA's River Resource Center in Asbury for hot dogs and sodas. E-mail adrienne@musconetcong.org or call (908) 537-7060 for information.

Saturday, April 23rd, MWA Native Plant Sale 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Come to the River Resource Center and discover a variety of native plants available for your home landscaping projects. Native plants are the cornerstone of a sustainable landscape- they are adapted to grow in local soils and climate, require less care than exotic ornamentals, and provide food and shelter for local wildlife. In addition to other benefits of landscaping with native plants – purchases at our plant sale directly support the MWA's native garden project.

Sunday, May 1st, 11th Annual MWA Run/Walk for the River Come out and either walk or run in this 4.0-mile event. Runners start at 10:00 a.m. and walkers begin at 9:45. Come out and support the MWA's largest annual fundraiser. Free bagels, bottled water and prize drawing for participants. Registration and parking at Asbury Fire Co. at 410 Old Main Street, Asbury 08802. MWA is once again offering Family Discount packages but these packages must be pre-purchased - they are not available on race day. Visit www.musconetcong.org for details.

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.

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- ◆ MWA Announces Annual River Watcher Training
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Musconetcong River News



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 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*.

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:

Musconetcong Watershed Association
PO Box 113, Asbury, NJ 08802