

Musconetcong River News

Winter 2008

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Asbury, New Jersey

River Resource Center to Become Reality

By *Kim Hood,*
Building Committee Chair

With the recent award of a \$400,000 grant from the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders for the renovation of the River Resource Center, the project took a giant leap forward. Nearing the end of the design phase, with construction documents close to final, and most of the permitting process completed, the only remaining hurdle was raising the money needed to actually carry out the plans.

The Warren County freeholders' decision to fund the MWA's River Resource Center, as well as the purchase of a 5-acre parcel of land and the

Cliffdale Inn by the Heritage Conservancy, creates the basis of an innovative collaboration between Warren County, Heritage Conservancy and MWA. As Beth Styler Barry, MWA Executive Director explained in an email sent to the general membership, "Working together, MWA and Heritage Conservancy will expand outdoor educational and recreational programs for Warren County residents and allow the County to provide services with minimal investment. Like most local governments, Warren County is challenged with meeting the expectations of its citizens by providing better and more extensive services with diminished resources. While Warren County is rich

in natural resources and recreational opportunities, it does not have a County Park System. Heritage and MWA, working together, propose to provide Warren County residents some of the services normally performed by a county park service."

While the MWA will still seek donated and discounted materials and labor to complete the project, this grant will give the project such a boost that it is a very real possibility that we will be breaking ground this spring and completing the renovation by the end of the year. This is a very exciting time for the entire MWA membership as we look forward to seeing the plans and dreams on paper become a reality.

REVISIONS

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REVISION

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2008
SCALE: AS NOTED
TITLE: ELEVATIONS

SHEET NO.: **A3.0**

STATUS LINE
100% CD FINAL COORDINATION SET

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TITLE: ELEVATIONS

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The designs are complete for the Musconetcong River Resource Center.

Torpedo the Dams

By *Bill Leavens, MWA President*

One of the principal goals of your Association is removing the obsolete dams that impede water flow, water quality and fish passage on the Musconetcong.

At this writing, all permit requirements have been satisfied, funding is in place, and a contractor has been selected for removing the Gruendyke Mill and Seber dams in Hackettstown. We are waiting for low water conditions to proceed with the work. But we have bigger plans in store.

The largest dam on the river provided power and process make up water for the Warren Glen dam in Holland Township. This 30-foot high monster blocks the river in the Musconetcong Gorge between Pohatcong (Warren County) and Holland Township (Hunterdon.) It is half owned by NJDEP Green Acres, which owns pre-

served property adjacent to the paper mill, and IPP Corporation that presently owns the mill facility. Preliminary discussions with Trout Unlimited, NJDEP Fish and Wildlife, and the Army Corps of Engineers are underway to determine how this dam can be breached - and how can that work be funded. The Warren Glen dam is the greatest impediment to water quality improvement on the lower Musconetcong and will be the most difficult to remove due to its size and the amount of sediment entrained behind it.

MWA is also undertaking a study to remove two broken dams near the Delaware confluence and two other small dams in Finesville and Hughesville, downstream from Warren Glen.

And we've only just started. There are another fifteen or so after these are gone. Full speed ahead!

WANTED!

Calling all MWA members. Your time and talents are needed. Each and every MWA project and fundraiser can use volunteer help. Whether you can donate one hour or one hundred hours our "things to do" list can be custom-tailored to accommodate your schedule and your particular skills. Below is a list of future MWA events for which we gratefully could use help from our members. Please call 908-537-7070 or email adrienne@musconetcong.org if interested or for more information.

- ◊ River Clean UP (April 19, 2008)
- ◊ Run for the River (May 4, 2008)
- ◊ Wine Tasting (September 28, 2008)

MUSCONETCONG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

908-537-7060

www.musconetcong.org

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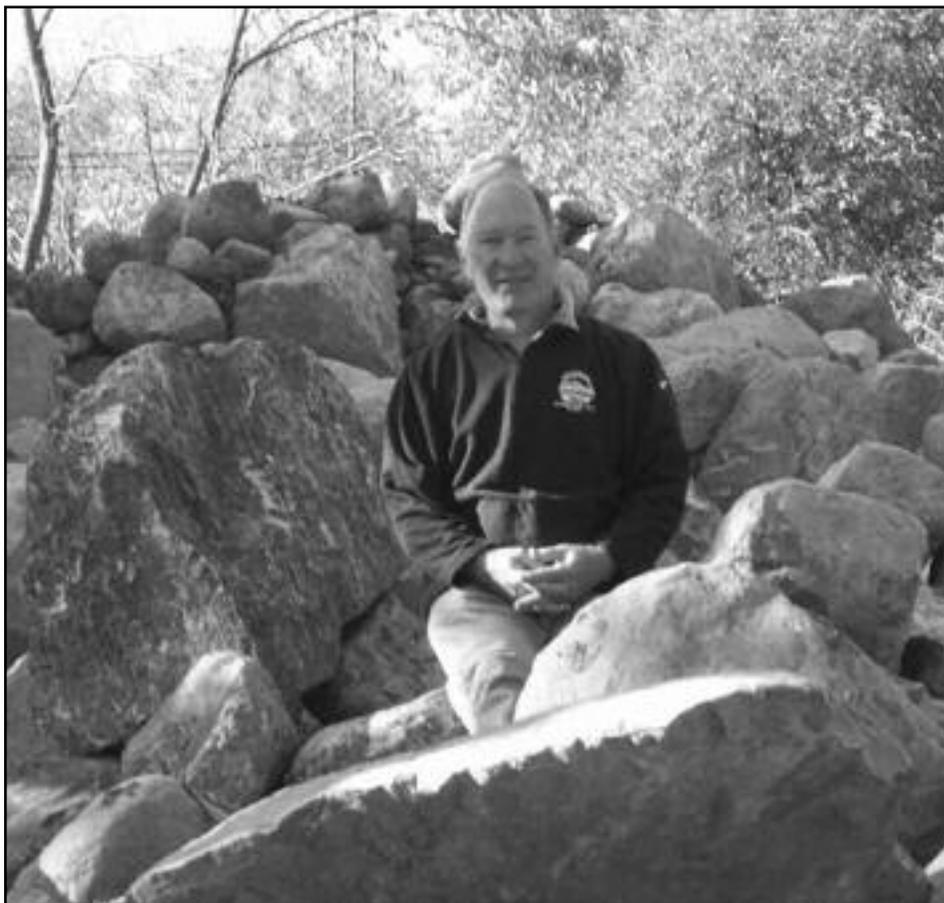
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Printing: Good Impressions, Washington, NJ



MWA President Bill Leavens sits among the tons of rock that will be used to create weirs at the Gruendyke Mill dam site after the dam is breached. Rock weirs help to stabilize silt and create habitat for fish and aquatic insects.

Bicycling for your health, and the Musky's

Volunteer MWA River Watcher/ Monitor Chuck Gullage has proposed that MWA implement a **Bicycle Visual Assessment Program** to supplement other monitoring programs.

Chuck Gullage is a retired Coast Guard Reserve officer who was trained in Marine Environmental Protection in conjunction with his Port Security duties in the Coast Guard. Chuck is also an avid bicyclist who enjoys exploring canal towpaths, abandoned railroad beds and waterfronts on his bicycles. Over the years he has combined his hobbies, interests, and training to identify and report a number of pollution incidents that he has observed while exploring, including illegal dumping, construction silt entering an estuary, sewage overflows, and road salt runoff entering a waterway. The recent Netcong Royal Terminal oil spill and the lack of a proper containment enclosure around the tank farm inspired Chuck to propose this program. He believes that trained MWA volunteers can survey areas along the river to proactively identify problems before they become critical and impact the environment.

Chuck's proposal sounds like it could be a fun program to try in the spring time. This program may reap some important benefits in identifying potential MWA pollution sources and heading off problems before they occur. In addition, this program can further educate and involve the community in watershed issues and enhance the repertoire of MWA skills and capabilities. Look for an email on this topic in the near future. We'll be looking for MWA members with bicycles that are eager to get some exercise and participate in a pilot of the **Bicycle Visual Assessment Program**.

Incidentally, this proposal focuses on bicycles as the mode of transportation because they are eco-friendly and allow you to cover a lot of ground quickly. However, any transportation mode that gets you out in the open air will probably work just as well in this program. So if you don't ride a bike, walking, motorcycling or even driving around in a convertible car with the roof down will suffice. If you would like to contact Chuck with your thoughts and suggestions on this program, his email is seagull6@gti.net.

Here's his proposal for the program, taken from a recent email:

*"I've been reconnoitering the Musconetcong River via automobile and the mapping program, Wikimapia, to identify locales and communities where we might want to try the **Bicycle Visual Assessment Program**. Port Morris, Stanhope, Netcong, and Hackettstown all seem like obvious candidates. I think we probably want to select one or two initial locations and go after "low hanging fruit" first - areas where we'll get the biggest payoff with the least effort, at least to start.*

*Also, I have been surfing the web to determine if anyone has already developed a program like this that we could either use "as is" or modify to meet our needs. It looks like there are a few excellent **Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution Checklists** and lots of training guides around. What I will try to do is pick*

one, simplify/massage it a little bit and then run it past MWA staff and board members and some of the River Watcher volunteers for input and suggestions.

Once we finalize a checklist I'd like to train a small group of "bicycle volunteers" in how to conduct assessments using the checklist and then run a limited field test to see how the program goes. The goal will be to identify existing or potential point and nonpoint source pollution problem areas and then work with whomever we need to (businesses, residents, politicians, public works departments, local government officials, the DEP, etc.) to get a resolution or assurance that the situation is under control. The emphasis will be on education and community involvement with voluntary compliance whenever possible. I have a feeling that whatever program we develop will gain the support of the local newspapers based on their interest in the Netcong oil spill."



Tankers empty remaining heating fuel at the Netcong Royal Terminal, 14 Flanders Road in Netcong, after 1,000 gallons of the fuel oil leaked in November 2007.



Hazmat crews attempt to clean up contaminated soil, leaves and woody debris after the spill.

MWA 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Meet our featured speaker

At this year's Annual Meeting, attendees will have an opportunity to hear exciting details about MWA's River Resource Center.

Mike Cronomiz is a LEED certified architect working with Re:Vision Architecture, the design team selected to work with the Musconetcong Watershed Association in rehabilitating the existing storehouse for use as a new River Resource Center

Mike's projects in the past have included working with several non-profit entities to design spaces that work with the natural features (sun, wind, water, earth) as well as cultural elements (people, history) of a given site. In his work Mike uses Re:Vision's design approach, which means seeking ways to find balance between human activity and what the land can support through the integration of innovative and appropriate technologies.

What is LEED?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System(tm) encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria.

LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

This information was taken from the U.S. Green Building Council website, www.usgbc.org.



Architect Mike Cronomiz inspects a sample of green roof material.



A group that included MWA members, trustees, staff and others enjoyed the view from the lookout at Point Mountain Reserve in November, 2007

SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, March 8th, 2008

9:30a.m. - 12:00 noon

Come out and hike the beautiful Musconetcong Gorge.

This preserve, part of the Hunterdon County Park System encompasses 425 acres and has trails that are steep and rocky and views of a scenic waterfall. A highlight of this hike will be viewing the 30 foot high dam, the biggest dam on the Musconetcong, that was once used to power the mill.

Saturday, April 19th, 2008

9:00a.m. - 12:00 noon

16th Annual Spring Clean Up

Pitch in with MWA members, Trout Unlimited volunteers and watershed residents at the 16th Annual Spring Clean Up. Afterwards participants gather at the MWA's River Resource Center in Asbury for hot dogs and sodas. Call (908) 537-7060 for information.

Friday, April 25th, 2008

Annual Members Meeting

Join us for this year's MWA Annual Meeting to be held at Hawk Pointe Golf Club.

A New Jersey Audubon Society board member John Demarris will lead us on a bird walk that will begin at 5:00 p.m. sharp. After returning from the bird walk, sandwiches and soft drinks will be served. A brief business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Following the meeting, guest speaker Mike Cronomiz, a LEED certified architect will discuss the "green" aspects of the River Resource Center. RSVP no later than April 20th 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.) Invitations will arrive by mail.

Sunday, May 4th, 2008

7th Annual MWA Run/Walk for the River

Join us to either walk or run in this 4.0 mile event.

Click on the "Run for the River" link at left for lots of information or to print a registration form. Runners will pass streams, pastures, historic buildings, and of course the beautiful Musconetcong River on this mostly flat, fast course. Race applications can be obtained by calling (908) 537-7060 or printed from the website.

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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 - ◆ Bicycle Visual Assessment Program
 - ◆ Torpedo the Dams
 - ◆ River Resource Center to Become Reality
- What's Inside:

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 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:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to:

Musconetcong Watershed Association
PO Box 113, Asbury, NJ 08802