



Musconetcong River News

Fall 2007

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Asbury, New Jersey

A Great Blue Heron has landed on the 2007 MWA Commemorative Ornament

By *Rosemary Kent*

Come springtime, if one is sharp-eyed and patient, the Great Blue Heron (*ardea herodias*) can be seen on certain sections of the Musconetcong River. This statuesque, dignified bird will be perching on the river's grassy banks or wading in its fast moving water searching for food and perhaps looking for a mate.

Artist/photographer Merle Morse, a long-time member of the Musconetcong Watershed Association, has been lucky over the years to observe the colorful and graceful bird in a riverside area near her home in the historic village of Beattystown. Morse's heron sightings have been for her both a birdwatcher's delight and a fitting subject for her artwork.

As a result of her up-close and personal observations, Morse's luminous watercolor portrait of this migratory heron with the S-shaped neck and long legs, entitled "Beattystown Great Blue Heron," will be the featured image for the 2007 Musconetcong Watershed

Association Commemorative Ornament.

"A neighbor of mine has property with frontage on the Musconetcong where I often walk, and in spring I have been so fortunate to see the Great Blue Heron, one of my favorite birds, many times. They look as if they were made by a committee!" says Morse.

"If I do see one I have to stand very still as they are alert and wary. They are

fast, excellent fishermen and it is fascinating to watch them strike their prey with their oversized beaks. The very fact they are fishing in the Musconetcong tells us that the river's aquatic life here is healthy or the herons would go somewhere else to survive."

Serving as one of the representatives from Mansfield Township on the MWA's

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Warren County Community College and Musconetcong Watershed Association: A Work In Progress

By *Ralston Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences*

A 'thank you' from Warren County Community College (WCCC) to the Musconetcong Watershed Association is an appropriate way to introduce this article. The first "thank you" goes to the MWA for the time and effort put into protecting the river and the second, more specifically, to Beth Styler Barry,

who has been providing field trips for the Environmental Studies classes for several semesters now. The course centers on the ideas of stewardship and sustainability. It is difficult to imagine an organization or person more dedicated to these ideals. An old environmental saying is "Think Globally, Act Locally." The MWA and Styler Barry epitomize this.

Beth conducts field trips that visit the Point Mountain area, Asbury, Finesville and Hackettstown. She speaks on the Wild & Scenic designation, positive aspects and problems with the Highlands Act, development, runoff, point and non-point source pollution, biodiversity, riparian buffers and dam removal. She always engages students and enlightens them to the

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Musconetcong Advisory Council, Morse was involved early on in helping to get the Musconetcong River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Over the years, she visited various sections of the river to evaluate its conditions for eligibility for the Wild and Scenic inclusion and was "extremely ecstatic" when the river did receive this prestigious designation.

Drawing and painting since she was a small child, Morse began her formal art training at the New York Phoenix School, which later became Pratt Institute, and graduated from the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts. Her oils, watercolors and photography have been bought by private clients, and she has exhibited at Atrium Gallery in Morristown, Hillcrest Camera Club in Phillipsburg, Arts Off Main Gallery in Hackettstown, and in both solo and group shows presented by the Warren County Arts, of which she is a charter member.

Eighth in a series, the MWA Commemorative Ornament, introduced in 2000, is a custom-made, white porcelain disc with original artwork on one side of it highlighting a scenic or historic site of Musconetcong River, as interpreted by an artist living on or near the river. The featured artist's signature and the title of the image appear on the reverse. Both to keep and to given, these high-quality ornaments have become instant collectibles.

All sales of the ornament, which can be hung, framed or displayed, benefit MWA. The 2007 ornament,

"Beattystown Great Blue Heron" by Merle Morse, sells for \$22 which includes shipping and handling.

Ornaments are available by mail (make checks payable to MWA) and online by credit card. To order online please visit www.musconetcong.org or by using the (enclosed) order form in this newsletter. A limited number of ornaments from the past years also can be ordered. To place a phone order call (908) 537-7060 or email Adrienne@musconetcong.org with any questions.

A Work In Progress *Continued from page 1*

issues of the river and what it has to offer the community.

WCCC, in return, has adopted the Penwell area of the river for the Annual Stream Clean-Up. This year 20 of my students and other volunteers collected 30 bags of trash! For the last two clean-ups, I've been amazed to see the students team together with so great a sense of purpose. In addition, I recently became involved with the "River Watcher" water quality monitoring program. Over the summer, I was trained as a River Watcher and assisted in the training of other volunteers participating in the program. I will continue to lead quarterly testing at the monitoring site in Finesville.

On the Pohatcong Creek, just one watershed north, WCCC students have assisted with a riparian revegetation project on the Roaring Rock Brook in Meadowbreeze Park. They have also recently painted the storm sewers at the college with a fish captioned "Empties into Pohatcong Creek" as a means of increasing environmental awareness on campus.

Future ideas for a strengthened relationship between the MWA and WCCC include science students taking on ecological, biological and chemical research projects in the watershed. Ecotourism students intend to support the MWA in developing informational materials and offerings organized recreational opportunities to MWA members and the community. I hope the next article I contribute is an update on the progression of these activities.



MWA Executive Director Beth Styler Barry addresses a Warren County Community College Environmental Studies class at the bridge at Point Mountain.



Warren County Community College student volunteers collected 30 bags of trash at the Penwell site in the MWA Annual Spring Clean Up.

MUSCONETCONG

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

908-537-7060

www.musconetcong.org

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2007 MWA Wine Tasting Event the Most Successful Yet!

Raise a glass of your favorite vintage to a very successful 5th Annual MWA Wine Tasting Event. More than 150 wine tasters enjoyed blue skies and sunshine along with delicious wine and food. This annual fund raising event, held on the banks of the Musconetcong River, benefits MWA's continuing work to protect and preserve the Musconetcong Watershed.

Here's to the people who made the 5th Annual Wine Tasting a sparkling success:

MWA Special Events Chair Cinny MacGonagle and committee members Mike Sedita, Stuart Shafran, Erik Henriksen, Bill Harclerode and Adrienne Kaczynski.

MWA Trustees, staff and member volunteers

Perryville Wine & Spirits and Readington Wine & Spirits - Owners **Gordon and Shelly Stewart**, and staff members **Brian, Bob, Pam, Steve** of Perryville and **Jeff Farrell, Bob Vail, & Becky Deitz** of Readington worked hard all day to please all of the wine tasters. Perryville Wine & Spirits and Readington Wine & Spirits offer an exceptional range of the finest wine, spirits, beer, micro brews, champagne and offer free local delivery.

Readington
Wine & Spirits
US Highway 22 East
Whitehouse Station, N.J.
(908) 534-5772

Perryville
Wine & Spirits
72 Route 173 West
Hampton, N.J.
(908) 735-9237
www.perryvillewine.com

The Milford Market - Located at 26 Bridge St, Milford, New Jersey, The Milford Market is a grocery store and wine shop that features a deli and catering services and is owned by **Gordon and Shelly Stewart**. If you attended this year's event, we do not have to tell you how tasty the food was. Once again, the fresh smoked trout was very popular. On hand to help at the Wine Tasting this year were **Mat Rue, John, Nicole, and Jen**. Give them a call for help with your holiday catering (908) 995-0810.

Musky Trout Hatchery - Vern Mancini, owner of the Musky Trout Hatchery, donated the fresh trout for smoking. The Musky Trout Hatchery is located at 279 Bloomsbury Road in Asbury and can provide koi and water plants for your ornamental pond. The hatchery can be reached by calling

908-479-4893 or e-mailing muskytrhatchery@earthlink.net. Visit their website at www.muskytrouthatchery.com.

Warren County Rod and Gun Club - Warren County Rod and Gun Club President Mike Zawacki and club members provided the use the riverside pavilion and grounds.

Jam-Bone - Band members **Rich Plumpton, Steve Kirchuk and John Cermenaro** have contributed their time and musical talent towards the success of the MWA Wine Tasting for the past several years. Jam-Bone, with roots in traditional rock 'n roll and blues, is available for clubs, festivals or private parties. Call 908-670-3332 or visit www.jambone.org. Jam-Bone will be performing at the Pattenberg House in Pattenburg, New Jersey on December 1st and 16th.

Award Signs - Scott Fernandes of Award Signs located at 433 Old Main Street in Asbury helped people to find their way to the MWA Wine Tasting event by donating all of our event signs. Award Signs services include vehicle lettering, signs, banners, logo designs and shirts. For a complete list of services, call (908) 537-6700, e-mail scott@awardsigns.com or visit www.awardsigns.com

Greenway Flowers - Nancy and George Cummings, owners of Greenway Flowers, provided pumpkins, mums and cornstalks, which helped to this spectacular outdoor event, look so festive. For all of the products and services offered by Greenway Flowers, located at 441 Schooley's Mountain Road, call (908) 850-0700 or visit www.greenwayflowers.com.

Congratulations to
Helen Dellavalle of Broadway,
winner of the 2007 MWA
Kayak Package!!



Gordon Stewart, (far right) and his wife Shelly (not shown) have sponsored the MWA Wine Tasting Event for the past 3 years. They are the owners of Perryville Wine and Spirits, Milford Market and Readington Wine & Spirits. Gordon, pictured here with several of the pourers, waits for the first wine tasters to arrive.



Jam-Bone members from left, Steve Kirchuk, John Cermenaro and Rich Plumpton, contribute to the unique atmosphere of this riverside affair. Hear their music at www.jambone.org



From left, MWA Trustee Stuart Shafran, MWA member Jill Kalatucka, MWA Trustee Erik Henriksen and MWA President Bill Leavens welcome arriving wine tasters.

They planned, they set up, they sold tickets and they even cleaned fish! MWA Trustee Stuart Shafran and MWA Administrative Assistant Adrienne Kaczynski smile as another successful MWA Wine Tasting Event unfolds in the background

Musconetcong Watershed Association
2007 Commemorative Ornament
“Beattystown Great Blue Heron”
Watercolor by Merle Morse



Shown: front design, reverse is signed and dated. Actual size 3.5”

The Musconetcong Watershed Association 2007 Commemorative Ornament, eighth in a series, features an image of a Great Blue Heron (*ardea herodias*) taken from a watercolor by Beattystown, New Jersey artist Merle Morse entitled “Beattystown Great Blue Heron.” The statuesque migratory bird has been seen in springtime along the banks of the Musconetcong River in Beattystown, a historic district settled in 1750, in Warren County, NJ. The artwork is mounted on a custom-made, white porcelain disc and has the artist’s signature on the reverse. Each year the MWA offers a new ornament highlighting a scenic or historic site on the Musconetcong River.

Ornaments are available by mail and online by credit card. Please send this order form and a check or money order (payable to MWA) for \$22, which includes shipping and handling per ornament to the address below. To order online, please visit www.musconetcong.org. There are limited quantities of past MWA Commemorative Ornaments still available for sale. To view photos of past and present ornaments, visit www.musconetcong.org. **Please call (908) 537-7060 or email adrienne@musconetcong.org with any questions.**

Name: _____ Total # of ornaments ordered _____

Address: _____ Total amount Enclosed \$ _____
(\$22.00 per ornament)

City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____

Quantity

____ 2007 “Beattystown Great Blue Heron”

____ 2006 “Fishing on the Musky”

____ 2005 “Bloomsbury Bridge”

____ 2004 “Finesville Bridge”

Quantity

____ 2003 “Hackettstown Union Cemetery”

____ 2002 “Changewater Railroad Bridge”

____ 2001 “Morning on the Musconetcong”

____ 2000 “The Asbury Mill”

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

Venture Scout Crew 63 Helps Out At The River Resource Center

On a recent afternoon, Venture Scout Crew 63 from Warren County spent several hours cutting dead wood, clearing debris and making sure that logs marking trail boundaries were in place at the River Resource Center in Asbury. The scouts of Crew 63 have helped Musconetcong Watershed Association in the past with trail maintenance and maintenance of its riparian buffer planting at the River Resource Center.

Venture scouting is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years of age. Venturing is based on a dynamic relationship between youth, adult leaders, and organizations in their communities. The result is a program of exciting and meaningful activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, develop leadership skills, and become good citizens. For more information on joining Venture Scout Crew 63 please contact Venture Scout leaders Maria Henley at j.henley2@comcast.net or Dennis Boyle at d.a.boyle@att.net



Say Cheese....or maybe not. Venture Scout Crew 63 takes time out from a very productive workday to pose for a group shot.



Kids with chain saws and sharp tools? Count us in. Adult supervision for the trail clearing was provided by MWA member Bob Hood, MWA Trustee Kim Hood, Scout Leader Dennis Boyle, Dawn Turek and Scout Leader Maria Henley.



Many Hands Make Light Work The Venture Scouts removed deadwood, cut back vegetation and cleared debris from the 1.3-mile trail at the River Resource Center.



Will Work for Marshmallows Venture Scout Danielle Pacifico enjoyed the post trail cutting bonfire.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 2, 2007 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
MWA Annual Members Holiday Party. This year's gathering will be held at the home of MWA President Bill Leavens. Invitations will arrive by mail and e-mail.

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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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