



Musconetcong River News

Spring 2016

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Asbury, New Jersey

Responding to Crisis: Mansfield Area Oil Spill

*By: Chuck Gullage,
MWA Trustee Emeritus*

On Sunday, January 10th, an angler fishing on the Musconetcong River in Mansfield Township observed an oil sheen and smelled the odor of home heating oil in the river. He reported the incident to the local Trout Unlimited Chapter who contacted the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection hotline. The Musconetcong River is a federally designated Wild and Scenic Waterway, a New Jersey designated Category 1 trout maintenance waterway, a navigable waterway and a tributary of the Delaware River.

The DEP responded immediately with an NJDEP Response Team along with HAZMAT crews from

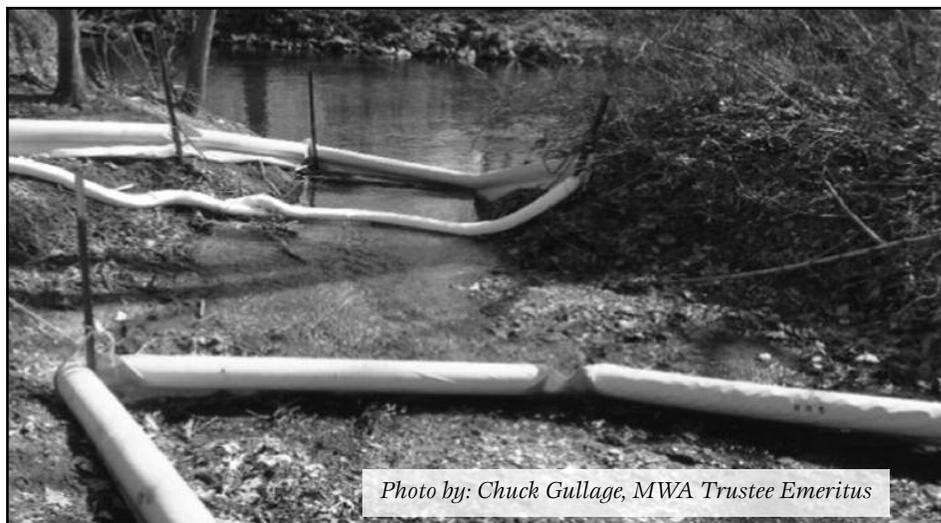


Photo by: Chuck Gullage, MWA Trustee Emeritus

Warren, Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset counties. They discovered that the oil was leaking from a defunct home heating oil company located on an unnamed tributary of the Musconetcong about 150 yards from the river. The BeeLine Fuel Oil Company which is located on the corner of Route 57 and Heiser Road in Mansfield Township, went out of business in 2002. The owner had passed away in 2012 and the property had passed to his son. Initially, it was thought that the tanks had been pumped out in 2002; however, this information was incorrect and there was still oil in at least some of the tanks.

The site had five large #2 home heating oil storage tanks, a covered shed for transferring oil to delivery tank trucks, and a large metal garage for vehicle storage. When the DEP Response Team arrived, they quickly found that the manifold pipe connecting the tanks had burst and that the ground beneath the pipe was sat-

urated with heating oil that was seeping into the tributary. They applied a blister batch to the leaking pipe and dug interceptor trenches between the tanks and the tributary to stem the flow of oil into the tributary and river. In addition, they placed hard and sorbent booms in the tributary and at the confluence to prevent any further oil from entering the river. An environmental contractor with track hoes and vacuum tank trucks was brought in to assist in the cleanup. They used the vacuum trucks to suck the oily water from the interceptor trenches and transferred it to larger temporary storage tanks on site.

Shortly after the DEP began working on the cleanup it was agreed that the project should be transitioned to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with funding provided by the US Coast Guard. The EPA brought in another contractor and placed heated trailers on the

MWA Annual Members Meeting

Please join us on
Friday, April 29, 6:30-9:00 pm
Hawk Pointe Golf Club
294 Route 31 North, Washington

5:00

Bird Walk (optional)

6:30

Light refreshments, cash bar

7:00

Annual Members Meeting
Celebrate 2015 accomplishments
Reveal plans for 2016
RSVP by April 22
Call 908-537-7060 or
email karen@musconetcong.org

Oil Spill *Continued on page 2*

Farewell and Welcome

Farewell... At the end of February we bid farewell to Val Thorpe. Val served as Communications and Administrative Coordinator at the MWA for the past two and a half years. In this role she planned, promoted and executed our fundraising events, produced informational newsletters and blast emails for



Val Thorpe

the MWA membership base, and coordinated office activities. Val discovered her passion for philanthropic work while working at AT&T by partnering with Juvenile Diabetes

Research Foundation to help coordinate the North Jersey Walk to Cure Diabetes Campaign. She also led the corporate partnership with The United Way for three years, within her organization. In Val's new position as Development Manager at the American Diabetes Association, she is responsible for recruiting "Friends and Family" teams, and assisting them in determining and reaching their fundraising goals for the local Tour de Cures, Walks and Runs. This is an especially rewarding job for Val, whose son has struggled with Type 1 diabetes for past last 18 years. We wish Val all the best in her new endeavors!

Welcome... Karen Doerfer, MWA's new Communications and Administrative Coordinator who joined us in March,

2016. Karen comes to MWA with administrative experience as well as internship event planning experience where she helped coordinate the Mercer County Italian American Festival which boasts over 200 attendees annually - among other campus and community events.



Karen Doerfer

She attended Rider University where she received a B.A. in Journalism, specializing in Public Relations and a minor in Event Planning. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, Zumba and hiking with her dog. 🐾

MUSCONETCONG



WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 113, 10 Maple Ave.
Asbury, NJ 08802
908-537-7060
www.musconetcong.org

Trustee Officers

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Vice President, Cinny MacGonagle
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<i>Oliver Grimsdall</i>	<i>Michael Fox</i>
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Communications and Administrative Coordinator
Karen Doerfer

Education & Outreach Coordinator
Kyle Richter

Finance Manager
Brenda Berardo

WQ Monitoring Coordinator
Nancy Lawler

Printing: Good Impressions, Washington, NJ

Oil Spill

Continued from page 1

site. The contractors demolished the oil transfer shed and pumped out and removed the oil tanks and associated plumbing from the site. In total, about 3,500 gallons of heating oil was pumped directly from the tanks. In addition, the vacuum tankers pumped over 104 thousand gallons of oily wastewater from the trenches. No one knows how long the leak existed or how much oil had leaked into the ground.

Over the next few weeks the contractors excavated the contaminated soil and replaced it with fill and crushed stone. In addition, they continued to pump oily wastewater from the interceptor trenches and transferred it to the onsite storage tanks. The well water for the residents on the property was tested and found to be free of oil. The cleanup team continued to monitor and replace the sorbent booms and absorbent pads on a regular basis. They also monitored the river downstream of the tributary to ensure that no product was entering the river.

Throughout the entire cleanup process, MWA personnel monitored the cleanup and met with the onsite

crews. By March 12th, the cleanup was complete. The contaminated soil and oily water storage had been removed from the site. The oil transfer shed and tanks had been demolished and removed, and the site had been regraded and covered with crushed stone. Clean booms had been placed in the tributary and at the confluence to capture any residual oil. An MWA river watcher had monitored the tributary and the river at several points downstream and reported no sign of oil. Going forward, MWA river watcher teams will continue to visit the site and monitor the river to make sure that it is oil free.

MWA would like to thank the NJDEP Response Team, the EPA On Scene Commander, the contractors and all of the county HAZMAT teams that responded. We would also like to thank the angler that initially reported the incident and the local Trout Unlimited Chapter for reporting the incident to the NJDEP hotline. For future reference, the hotline number is 1-877 WARNDP (1-877-927-6337). If you see or smell something in the river, say something. If you are unsure whether there is a problem or you have questions, feel free to call the MWA at (908) 537-7060. 🐾

Asbury Mill Restoration Progress Report

*By: Bill Leavens,
MWA Board Secretary*

We have engaged a very capable crew of professionals to put the Asbury Mill back together. At this writing, the bulk of the structural work in the basement is complete. Contractor, Paul Grefe and mason, Pat Breslin have been working wonders bringing the bones of the building back to life.

The concrete floor of the basement has just been poured. That alone represents a considerable milestone. The concrete overlays tubing for a radiant heating system that will be installed to help stabilize the temperature in the Mill.

MWA members have volunteered their time to do relatively simple tasks like pulling up the first floor. There are three layers of flooring and between each layer we found buckets of graphite that had been working their way into every crack and crevice for 120 years.

Because of that continuing cleaning issue, a decision had been made to replace all of the flooring to minimize the future rain of black dust.

As this project unfolds, the building has been gradually revealing itself. With every part completed, the building throws another surprise at us and shows us what it can be. In our next task, we hope to clean out a century of mud from the turbine bay below the level of the river. We want to pull the Leffel turbine out to recondition and display it. We will not be returning the building to function as an operating mill, but we will be able to display how it all worked as it processed grain and graphite through its blue collar career.

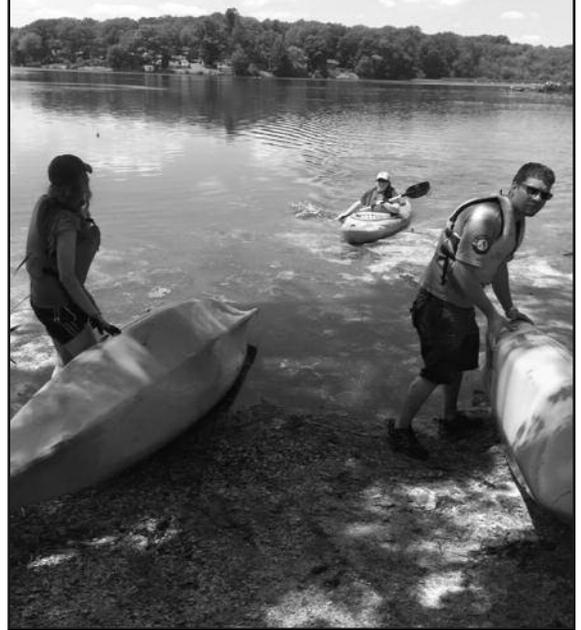
It is well worth taking a picture tour of the work on the Asbury Historic Mill via the MWA Facebook page to view the work as it progresses. 📷



Photos by: Bill Leavens, MWA Board Secretary



Photo by: Dan Ross, Former AmeriCorps Ambassador



Water Chestnut Hand-Pull

*By: Melyssa Garcia,
NJ Watershed Ambassador*

Enjoy the summer sun and help preserve Lake Musconetcong by volunteering for the Water Chestnut Hand-Pull starting at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 16th at Port Morris Park, 23 Washington Street, Landing, NJ. During the event we will use canoes and kayaks to target parts of the lake that the weed harvester is unable to reach. Last year's event removed 9,000 to 10,000 lbs. in one day. We can beat that this year with your help!

Participants are encouraged to bring their own boats and life vests, if possible. Please dress appropriately for the weather and come prepared with sunscreen. No experience necessary, but volunteers must be 16 years or older. Lunch will be provided.

Pre-register by contacting Melyssa at 908-537-7060 or by emailing ambassador@musconetcong.org.

This event is hosted by Melyssa Garcia, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador for the Upper Delaware Management Area serving at the MWA. As Ambassador, she serves the community by promoting watershed stewardship through direct community involvement. Thank you to our partners in this event: Musconetcong Watershed Association, Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and Morris County Park Commission. 📷

Information Box:

Saturday, July 16th, 2016 10:00 am-2:00 pm (Rain Date: July 17th, 2016)
Port Morris Park, 23 Washington Street, Landing NJ 07850
Contact **Melyssa Garcia, 908-537-7060, ambassador@musconetcong.org**

Go Native!

By: *Tish Lascelle,*
MWA Board President

No matter how harsh the winter, spring always returns. But this was a tough winter! Now that the snow is gone, how did your plants do? I'd have to say, I was a little despondent surveying my own yard. The work ahead after winter generally seems foreboding! But there was a bright spot... A few years ago I began shaping one of my gardens toward more native plants, and one of the benefits of gardening with native plants is that they have greater survivability. My native garden is looking less harassed by the winter than other parts of my yard. Native plants are not immune from hungry deer – who will eat just about anything – but this garden also seems to have withstood the deer pretty well too.

One of the Musconetcong Watershed Association's (MWA) signature events is the annual Native Plant Sale. Which will be held April 23rd, from 9 am to 2 pm this year. We will be selling a beautiful array of native plants at the River Resource Center at 10 Maple Avenue, Asbury, NJ. Our selection includes everything from groundcovers to trees – all naturalized for local use. In addition to their greater survivability, native plants require less fertilizer, less pesticides, less maintenance and less watering. They also play an important role in supporting biodiversity. That's why our organization restores the banks of the Musconetcong River using only native plants. It's good for the health of the river.

The MWA uses native plants at the River Resource Center too. If you haven't come by over the summer, you really must



make a point to do so this year. Our photos don't do it justice. Sometimes people think native planting means it has to look like a wildflower meadow. I happen to like that look, but there's no reason why you can't achieve a more formal look with natives, even around your foundation. Some yards have problem areas – perhaps a section that's always fairly wet. There are some native plants that can handle that runoff better and still be very pretty. Shady areas also frustrate some gardeners, but there are many native plants that bloom and thrive in the shade, creating a lush woodland setting.

This event rain or shine! Master Gardeners will be on hand to give suggestions. For more information, including a list of plants that will be for sale, go to <http://www.musconetcong.org/nativeplantsale.php>.

Summer is Coming – Mark Your Calendar!

Enroll your children in this year's Camp Musky for a season of learning and fun!

An educational and fun day camp for kids ages 5 to 12. MWA offers an outdoor learning experience and hands-on, river-based programs. Our primary mission is education and awareness. We believe that a community that is fully aware of the importance and vulnerability of its natural resources is a community that will actively support efforts to ensure environmental quality.



Photo by: Kyle Richter

"My kids were very excited to be able to go out on the various hikes, and loved cataloging and learning about the various plants and critters they saw. I asked if they would recommend Camp Musky to a friend and got an instant, unanimous and enthusiastic "YES!"

-2015 Parent Testimonial

2016 Camp Musky Season

Session	Ages	Date	Time
STEM Camp	8-12	July 6-8	9:00 am-4:00 pm
The Explorers	5-6	July 11-15	9:00 am-1:00 pm
Stream Team	7-9	July 18-22	9:00 am-1:00 pm
Trailblazers	7-9	July 25-29	9:00 am-4:00 pm
River Rangers	10-12 +	August 1-5	9:00 am-4:00 pm

Find out more about each session and how to register at www.musconetcong.org or contact Kyle at (908) 537-7060 or kyle@musconetcong.org.

Join us for our Camp Musky Open House

Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

MWA River Resource Center
(10 Maple Ave. Asbury, NJ 08802)

Walk in anytime to register or to pick up information about our Camp Musky programs. We will offer "mini" Nature Walks all evening between those times.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, May 21: Mahlon Dickerson Hike – 10:00 am-1:30 pm
park/meet on Weldon Rd., Jefferson, NJ

The largest park in the Morris County Park System, encompassing 3,346.07 acres, Mahlon Dickerson Reservation is located at the Northern most point of the Musconetcong Watershed. This 7.5 mile hike will begin on the Highlands Trail to the scenic Hadley Overlook with views of Lake Hopatcong. We will then continue on to the Pine Swamp and Boulder trails past the Highest Point in Morris County (1,395 ft. above sea level) then make our way to the Ogden Mine Railroad Trail and end back at our meeting location. Trails will range from easy to moderate, with a minor scramble on the Highlands Trail. Come prepared with proper footwear, water and a snack to enjoy at the scenic overlook. MWA members are free, non-members are asked to donate \$3/person, max \$10/family. Please contact Kyle Richter at kyle@musconetcong.org or by phone at 908-537-7060 with questions or to register.

Saturday, April 23: Native Plant Sale at the RRC - (See page 4 for details)

Friday, April 29: MWA Annual Meeting - 6:30 pm at Hawk Pointe Golf Club (See page 1 for details)

Sunday, May 1: 16th Annual Run for the River - Registration at 8:30 am behind Asbury Fire Co.

Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day Paddle - 10 am – 3:30 pm from Hampton to Bloomsbury

Wednesday, July 6 - Friday, August 5: Camp Musky Summer Camp Sessions

(See page 4 for details)

Saturday, October 8 (Tentative Date): Wine Tasting along the Musky - 2 – 5 pm

Raindate Sunday, October 9

Saturday, November 26: Post-Thanksgiving Hike at Point Mountain - 10 am – 12 pm

Win A Kayak!

Don't miss your chance to win an Old Town Heron 9 kayak – perfect for local rowers, offering easy maneuverability and high stability on flatwater and slow-moving rivers. The prize package also includes Carlisle Paddle and Extrasport Life Vest – a combined value of \$500! You can purchase your \$10 tickets online at www.musconetcong.org under “What’s Happening,” or in-person at the MWA River Resource Center, 10 Maple Ave., Asbury, NJ or at Paddlers Cove, 218 Route 31 South, Washington, NJ. Please call the MWA at 908-537-7060 if you have any questions. The winning ticket will be pulled at the 16th Annual Run for the River on Sunday, May 1st. You do not need to be present to win. Good luck!



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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 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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

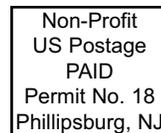
Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to:

Musconetcong Watershed Association

PO Box 113, Asbury, NJ 08802



Musconetcong River News

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