



Musconetcong River News

Fall 2015/Winter 2016

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Asbury, New Jersey

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Hughesville on the Horizon

By: Beth Styler Barry

Here at the MWA we say that the dam removal process is a lot like an iceberg —the majority of the activities are invisible to the casual observer. Although it is hard to tell, work has continued in earnest on the Hughesville Dam removal. The most optimistic predictions were to have the dam removed by November, 2015; however, that was not to be. Take a look at what we accomplished on this project in 2015:

The Science: In conjunction with Dr. Josh Galster from Montclair State University, MWA River Watchers

installed four sensors in the river in July to monitor the hydrologic conditions around the Hughesville Dam. These sensors measure and record water depth and water temperature at 15-minute intervals. Data analysis is ongoing.

The Stakeholders: Our engineers at Princeton Hydro, scientists from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the MWA have worked closely with the Warren and Hunterdon County Engineers. The Route 519 Bridge spans the river just upstream of the Hughesville Dam and care has to be taken not to exacerbate existing scour (the removal of sediment such as sand and rocks from around the bridge abutments, caused by swiftly moving water) issues. After several months of plan review and fine tuning, a project design was agreed upon. We continue to work with the Warren County Engineers Office on site access and road use issues.

The Award Goes To...: Typically a job like this is not put out to bid until the permits are obtained; otherwise, there is a risk of having contractors bid on a job that is not approved. However, after months of communication with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Bureau of Dam Safety, partners were confident that our design was approvable. Bids went out on October 27, but the complexity of the job scared away several bidders, so the deadline had to be extended to December 1. Challenging issues included a restrictive access point, the approaching winter, state mandated "no work" periods due to trout reproduction, and the removal of accumulated sediment from the dam impoundment. That said, we are pleased to announce that RiverLogic Solutions, LLC has been selected as the contractor for this dam removal.

The Permits: Meanwhile, we continued to wait for permits from NJDEP. The permit package was submitted in May and we expected permits to be in hand by August. In reality, we received the Dam Safety permit on November 25 and the Land Use Regulation Permit on December 4, putting us months behind schedule. So we find ourselves at the beginning of 2016,

MWA Annual Members Meeting

Please join us on
Friday, April 29, 6:30-9:00 pm

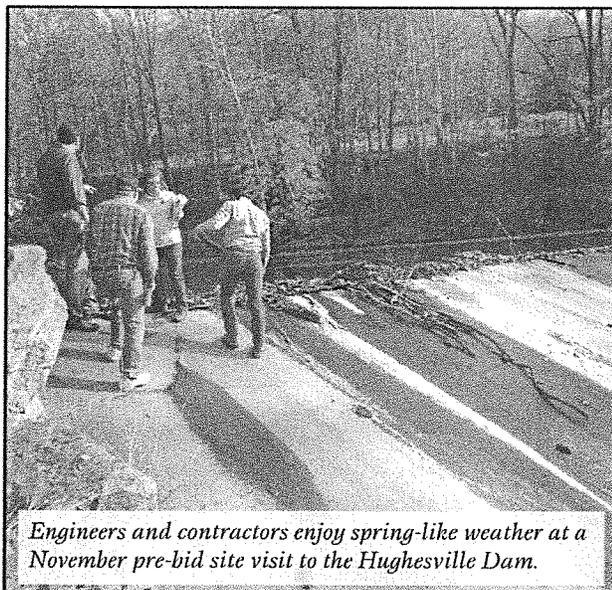
Hawk Pointe Golf Club
294 Route 31 North, Washington

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 val@musconetcong.org



Engineers and contractors enjoy spring-like weather at a November pre-bid site visit to the Hughesville Dam.

Hughesville Dam
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Farewell and Welcome

Farewell... It was a bittersweet day in November as we bid farewell to Kim Hood, who has served as Finance Manager for the last 6-1/2 years. Kim has been associated with the MWA since 2000. Kim, a former trustee, she served as Secretary and then Vice President during her 11-year tenure on the board.



Kim Hood

Additionally, Kim chaired the Building Committee for the construction of MWA's headquarters, and was instrumental in the design of our U.S. Green Building Council LEED Platinum

River Resource Center, which was completed in 2009. Kim plans to remain an active member and supporter of the MWA while maintaining her role as principle of Hood-Burbank Associates, Inc., a computer validation consulting company serving the pharmaceutical industry. She and her husband will also continue to raise all natural grass-fed beef and pork on their 200-year-old farm in southern Warren County. Enjoy this next chapter, Kim!

Welcome... Brenda Berardo, MWA's new Finance Manager who joined us in October, 2015. Brenda comes to MWA with over 10 years of accounting experience concentrating mostly in small business. She is also the Business Manager of her husband's towing company, Stinger Towing & Transport, LLC out of Lebanon Township. Brenda graduated from Stockton University in 2000 with a B.A. in Communications and is currently pursuing her CPA education certificate from Raritan



Brenda Berardo

Valley Community College. In her spare time, Brenda enjoys knitting, hiking and spending time with her four dogs and three cats.

Meet the New Ambassador... Melyssa Garcia is our newest AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador for the Upper Delaware Management Area serving at the Musconetcong Watershed Association from September to June, 2016. She is a recent graduate of Rutgers University with her B.S. in Environmental Science, and a focus on Public Health. Melyssa worked as a summer intern for the MWA gaining experience in the field of water quality and water education post-graduation. As ambassador, she serves the community by promoting watershed stewardship through direct community involvement. Melyssa is very excited for the opportunity to work with the communities in her management area to help them understand their watershed, and ways to improve it. ☺



Melyssa Garcia

MUSCONETCONG

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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

www.musconetcong.org

Trustee Officers

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Kyle Richter

Finance Manager
Brenda Berardo

WQ Monitoring Coordinator
Nancy Lawler

Printing: Good Impressions, Washington, NJ

Hughesville Dam

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in possession of the permits and ready to iron out the last few details. There is quite a bit of work to do to make the access ready for use by heavy equipment; and that plan will have to go to Warren County for approval. That will likely take us into February. Prior to the demolition of the dam, a contractor will need to dredge out approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sediment and that will take time. We are now approaching a three-month period where instream work is forbidden. It looks like the Hughesville Dam removal may very well take place on a beautiful summer day—but it will take place. ☺

Dam Removal Permits and Approvals Obtained in 2015

- Bureau of Dam Safety & Flood Control (Construction)
- Division of Land Use Regulation (Freshwater Wetlands)
 - State Historic Preservation Office (MOA)
 - NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
 - Office of Dredging and Sediment Technology
- Water-Lowering Permit
- Warren County/Hunterdon County Soil Conservation Districts
- Road Opening Permit (Warren County DPW)

Asbury Mill Restoration Progress Report

We're making very exciting progress on restoring the Asbury Mill. Our contractor, Herman Grefe and Son, has been concentrating on making structural repairs on the mill's interior. Right now this mostly entails removing old damaged and rotting timber joists, columns and beams and replacing them with new timbers. Mostly the timbers are 12" x 12" stock and weigh hundreds of pounds. The main beam was about 25 feet long and required that they open a temporary hole in the foundation to slide it into the basement.

To prepare for the long beam the contractors had to remove large sections of the basement and first floor and then install temporary shoring and scaffolding (see photo) to hold up the building while they slid the new timbers in place. Then once the new timbers were in place, they had to level them with jacks and drive the columns with sledge hammers to get them square. It's a very impressive sight to watch them work as they move the timbers around and bring the building back to original specifications. Renovating an old mill like this can be tricky because the structural timbers in the mill have been reconfigured many times over the years, and not all of the previous work was done

professionally, or done anywhere near current building codes.

Now the first floor is level and more solid and square than it was the day the mill was completed back in 1863. Nothing is going to waste in this operation. One of our volunteers who is retired from Asbury Carbons and actually used to work in the mill when it was operational, Rudy DiGilio, is using his wood-working skills and lathe to create beautifully carved bowls and vases from the old mill stock. These limited edition carvings will be offered for sale via a mill benefit action at a later date.

In the meantime, we continue to write grant proposals to fund the remainder of the restoration. This phase of the operation is being led by MWA Vice President, Canny MacGonagle. We just received word that the Warren County - Municipal Charitable Conservancy Trust has generously awarded a \$200,000 grant for the restoration of the Asbury Mill. In addition, we recently completed a proposal to the New Jersey Historical Trust - 1772 Foundation and we are working on grant proposals for the Hyde and Watson Foundation and the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM).



Photo by: Chuck Gullage

Contractor Hermie Grefe drives a large timber column in place.

By springtime we hope to have much of the structural repairs completed and then we will be able to schedule more tours. Stay tuned! You can follow progress on the restoration on our Facebook page, Asbury Historic Mill - Musconetcong Watershed Association. ☺

Announcing the MWA River Watcher Program — 2016 Training Sessions

By: Nancy Lawler

Become a River Watcher! Learn about the Musconetcong River and how to protect it. All you have to do is attend one or more River Watcher trainings and join a team that monitors river conditions quarterly. Additional opportunities are available for high school or college students interested in environmental careers. All trainings include field, classroom and lab work. Contact the River Watcher Coordinator at nancy@musconetcong.org to reserve your seat or for more information! ☺

Training Dates and Times

Habitat Assessment

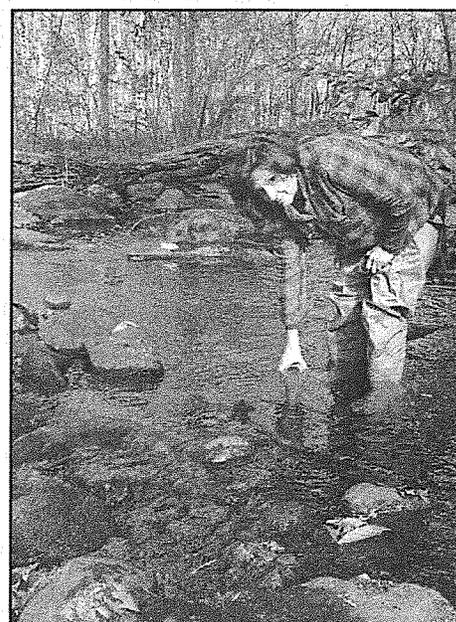
Saturday, March 19, 9am-1pm
MWA River Resource Center
10 Maple Ave., Asbury, NJ 08802

Chemical Assessment

Saturday, March 26, 9am-2pm
MWA River Resource Center
10 Maple Ave., Asbury, NJ 08802

Biological Assessment

Saturday, April 9, 9am-2pm
Warren County Community College
475 Rt-57 W, Washington, NJ 07882



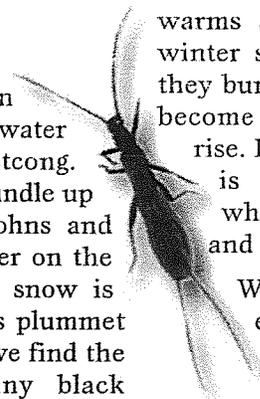
Kathy Mertrud of Byram Twp collects a water sample from the Willow Street site.

Watching and Wading: Snow Bugs

By: Nancy Lawler

MWA River Watchers brave the cold and snow in late January to measure water quality on the Musconetcong. It's a great adventure to bundle up in wool hats and long johns and marvel at what we discover on the river together. When the snow is deep and air temperatures plummet into the teens sometimes we find the banks hopping with tiny black insects. What are they and how are they able to stay alive in such frigid weather?

These snow-loving bugs are winter stoneflies. Like dragonflies, caddis flies and mayflies, stoneflies spend most of their lives in rivers and streams as aquatic nymphs. Most aquatic insects grow as the water

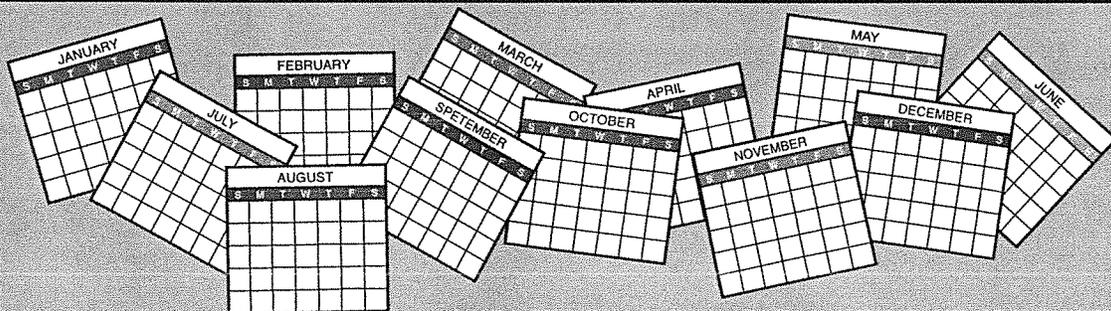


warms and emerge in spring, but winter stoneflies do the opposite—they burrow into the streambed and become dormant as temperatures rise. It's the cool water of fall that is their wakeup call—that's when the nymphs begin to feed and grow.

Winter stonefly nymphs emerge onto land through cracks or holes in ice in late winter through early spring, and go through one final molt before becoming adults. They wander around on the surface of the snow looking for a mate. The male drums on the snow with his rear end and when a prospective female feels the beat, she drums back! They continue wandering and drumming until they meet and mate. And they

keep from freezing to death by producing a kind of natural antifreeze in their blood!

Winter stoneflies are some of our most sensitive organisms in the river and like clean, clear and really cold water. You can find winter stoneflies in areas where the Musconetcong River and tributaries are shaded by forested land. Where trees are removed from banks or a little bit of pollution slips into the river they simply disappear. These hardy bugs are a good protein source for trout and winter birds at a time when food is hard to find! To learn more about aquatic insects and their importance to our river and water quality, read the Aquatic Life section of our new Water Quality Report Card on our website at musconetcong.org. ☺



Spring Is Just Around The Corner— Mark Your Calendar!

April is just a few short months away. Why not give yourself something warm to think about as Winter makes its way out.

Spring cleaning!

April 16 marks our 24th Annual River Clean-up, 9 am-12 pm. From Lake Hopatcong to the Delaware River, select your location to pick up the trash. We will provide trash bags, work gloves, water, snacks and a souvenir t-shirt. Then join us at the RRC for a BBQ on the house!

Go Native!

The MWA Native Plant Sale is April 23, 9 am-2 pm at the RRC. Purchase beautiful native species that will provide lasting enjoyment and save you money, water and time. Native plants provide food and habitat for our wildlife and are economical for the homeowner since they do not require fertilizers or pesticides. Experts will be on hand at the sale to help you choose the best plants for your needs and location.

April showers also bring May power!

Get outdoors and move your feet at our 16th Annual Run for the River and treat yourself to a scenic run on Sunday, May 1. Or get the family outdoors to walk the four-mile (mostly flat) loop in Asbury (Warren County). This family-friendly day will include awards, prizes, participant t-shirts, music and snacks. Registration will open shortly on our website: www.musconetcong.org.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Tuesday, February 23: River Talk – “Connecting Habitat for Terrestrial Wildlife” - 7:00-8:30 pm

Presented by: Gretchen Fowles of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Endangered and Nongame Species Program. Mrs. Fowles will present on the importance of a connected landscape for New Jersey’s wildlife, with a particular focus on bobcats. She will also present on a partner-based initiative that the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is leading called "Connecting Habitats Across New Jersey (CHANJ)." The goal of CHANJ is to develop tools and guidance that will enable land-use, conservation, and transportation plans to operate in a more collaborative way that will ultimately lead to our landscape and roadways being more permeable to wildlife movement. This is a free program (donations are always welcome.) Seating is limited so please register early. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, April 16: 25th Annual River Clean-up - 9 am-12 pm - (See page 4 for details)

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 - (See page 4 for details)

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

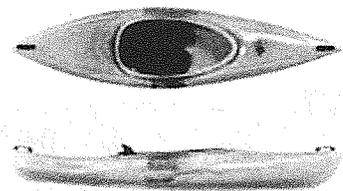
Saturday, October 8 (Tentative Date): Wine Tasting along the Musky - 2 – 5 pm

Raindate Sunday, October 9

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

Win A Kayak!

Old Town Heron 9 kayak - perfect for local rowers offering easy maneuverability and high stability on flatwater and slow-moving rivers. Prize package includes Carlisle Paddle and Extrasport Life Vest. Value: \$500. Purchase your \$10 ticket online at www.musconetcong.org under “What’s Happening,” in-person at the MWA River Resource Center, or at Paddlers Cove: 384 E. Washington Ave, Washington, NJ. Call MWA at 908-537-7060 with questions. The winning ticket will be pulled at the 16th Annual MWA Run for the River event on Sunday, May 1. You do not need to be present to win. Good luck!



We’re Social! Follow us on:



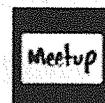
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Meetup
Musconetcong
River Area
Outdoor Activities

For more information or to register for any of these events, please email kyle@musconetcong.org or call 908-537-7060, unless otherwise noted. MWA River Resource Center (RRC) is located at 10 Maple Ave., 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

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Musconetcong River News

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