



# Musconetcong River News

Spring/Summer 2018

Published quarterly by The Musconetcong Watershed Association

Asbury, New Jersey

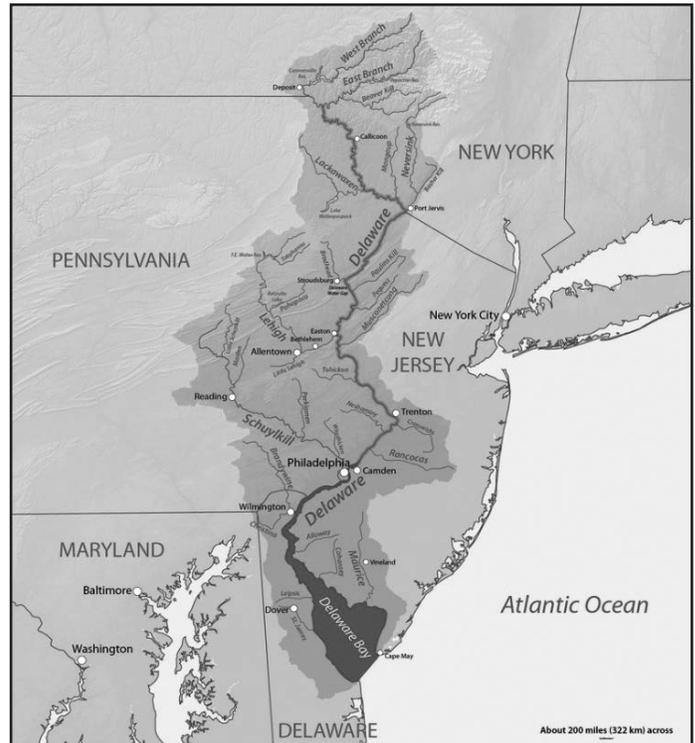
## Delaware River Watershed Initiative - #4States1Source

*By: Kyle Richter, Watershed Programs Coordinator*

As the longest undammed river, east of the Mississippi, the Delaware provides drinking water to almost 15 million people in 4 states (New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania) – making it an extremely important region to protect. The Delaware River Watershed comprises 13,539 square miles, and within that region, 157.6 square miles is known as the Musconetcong River Watershed.

In 2014, The William Penn Foundation (WPF) in Philadelphia recognized the significance of protecting the greater Delaware Watershed in order to protect the health of those who rely on it as a source of water. This led the WPF to start the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) – a collective of more than 50 nonprofit organizations who work across four states, in eight distinct regions (known as clusters) to protect one shared source of clean water. These groups work to restore waterways, protect forested headwaters, encourage responsible land use and farm management, create access to nature, and ensure clean water for all.

The DRWI is a multi-phased initiative. Phase one began in 2014 and ended in 2017. During this phase, the entire initiative was able to preserve 19,604 acres, restore 8,331 acres, and



*Map showing the entire Delaware River Watershed stretching across New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware*

monitor and sample water quality at more than 500 sites across four states. On April 4, 2018, the WPF announced an additional \$42 million in funding for phase two, which will carry the initiative into 2021.

MWA has been part of the DRWI since its inception, working with 12 organizations in what has been deemed the New Jersey Highlands Cluster. The New Jersey Highlands cluster comprises 690 square miles in Northwest New Jersey and is made up of five major watersheds – the Musconetcong River, Paulins Kill, Pequest River, Lopatcong Creek and Pohatcong Creek. This area has been inhabited for more than 13,000 years, and for the last 300, has been actively mined, logged and farmed. This area is a source of drinking water for more than 5.4 million people. Phase one of the Initiative's work in this region consisted of educating the community on the link between septic systems and drinking water, collecting data on water quality within our watershed, preserving land, and promoting best land use practices.

In Phase two, MWA plans to expand on successes from phase one. First, we will work with municipalities interested in improving

**Delaware River Watershed** Continued on page 2



*MWA Board of Trustees with Andy Johnson, Program Director for the William Penn Foundation at MWA's Annual Members' Meeting*

## Delaware River Watershed - Continued from page 1

their stormwater management which will reduce runoff to the Musconetcong during storm events. Second, we will work with partners to restore streams that are susceptible to erosion, which will help reduce the sediment flowing into

the river and improve wild Brook Trout habitat. And third, we will serve as the New Jersey Highlands Cluster's water quality data coordinator, continuing the water quality assessments and analyses from phase one.

MWA is excited to continue working with our partners and the WPF and will be sharing regular updates on projects as they begin to take shape! To learn more about this initiative visit [www.4states1source.org](http://www.4states1source.org).

## Traditional Favorite and largest fundraiser has another great year

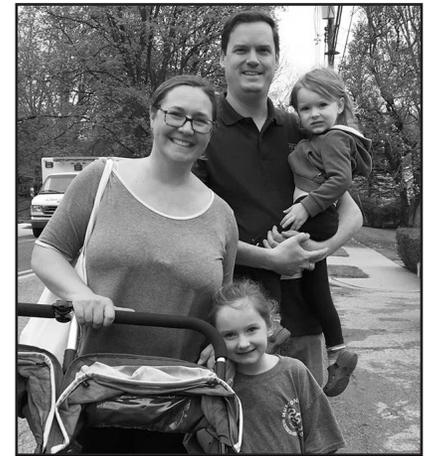
*By Karen Doerfer, Communications and Administrative Coordinator*

The Run for the River is MWA's longest running fundraiser event. It is a 4-mile course that takes participants through Asbury, NJ where the River Resource Center, Asbury Mill and a scenic view of the Musconetcong River can all be seen while running or walking. This

year's mild weather brought out many who have participated in this event since its inception, as well as next generation participants, their pets and the return of the Unity Bank balloon's free tethered rides. Rain and wind had made it difficult for the balloon to go up in recent years.

The morning starts out at Asbury Fire Co. who generously opens its doors for registrations and post-event wrap-up each year. Participants are then lined up in front of the firehouse, and the course starts on Asbury-Anderson Road. Afterward, there is a medaling ceremony behind the firehouse. Congratulations to Greg L. and Shelli D. who won best overall! There is also a free raffle offered to all participants with items donated from local businesses, and the Kayak Raffle winner is announced. Congratulations to Anneliese M. who won this year's Navigator 120 Evoke kayak, a Carlisle paddle and a Harmony life vest.

MWA would also like to thank our sponsors many of which have sponsored this event from the beginning. Please consider these businesses when shopping, and shop local! Gold sponsors: Asbury Farms, Borealis Compounds, Charles Gullage, Hawk Pointe Golf Club, M&M Mars, Princeton Hydro, Unity Bank. Silver sponsors: Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, Asbury Village Farms, Aqua Pro-Tech Laboratories, Barlow Family, Brewster & Judith Perkins, Brown & Brown, Emulsitone Chemicals, Entertainment by D.W. Wilson, Four Paws Playground, Frank Rymon and Sons, George's Plumbing, Gladstone Design, Hackettstown MUA, Herman Grefe & Son, Holland Liquors, International Process Plants, Johnson Automotive Group, Mathnasium of Lopatcong, Muheisen's, Mid Jersey Orthopedics, Musconetcong Sewerage Authority, Ondra-Huyett Associates,



*MWA Trustee, Michael Fox and his family walking the course*



*Thanks again to Unity Bank who made it possible for us to offer free tethered rides*

Perryville Wine & Spirits, Rick Allen's Auto Repair, RiverLogic Solutions, Rockefeller Group, Rossi Chevrolet Buick GMC, Sanico, Schaible's Plumbing & Heating, Wells Fargo Advisors. Supporters: Asbury Coffee Mill, Barry Family, Black Butterfly Painting Studio, MacGonagle Family, Sarah E. Friend, SOS Woodstoves, Steven Firkser, Witt Barlow.

If you would like to be involved in next year's Run for the River or are interested in our Kayak Raffles, please visit our website at [www.musconetcong.org](http://www.musconetcong.org) where we will post information on our upcoming events and our 2019 raffle.

# MUSCONETCONG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 113, 10 Maple Ave.

Asbury, NJ 08802

**908-537-7060**

[www.musconetcong.org](http://www.musconetcong.org)

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# Fishing for Answers

*By: Nancy Lawler, Water Quality Program Coordinator*

Early this spring, Princeton Hydro captured American Shad on video – swimming just downstream from the Warren Glen dam. The shad are back again, but how many? Will they reproduce? MWA recently received a five year grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to work with Princeton Hydro and biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to answer these questions.

After the grant was awarded, MWA and Princeton Hydro developed a plan to monitor water quality as well as survey fish and habitat in spring, summer and fall at five sites upstream and downstream of the Warren Glen dam. This information will help us understand what fish are present and the current river conditions after the removal of the Hughesville dam and before the next dam removal.

An obstacle has been the unpredictable weather this spring. The river rose high, making it dangerous to work in. Safe conditions are generally levels under two feet. It wasn't until the last day of May that we were able to begin work. We decided to begin work at a site upstream of the dams, near Bloomsbury. This site would give us an understanding of baseline conditions including the fish present in an area of the river not affected by the dam removals.

USFWS provided a training on how to catch fish using electroshocking. As an electrical current was sent through the water, team members herded the stunned fish into large seine nets. The seine nets were then inspected for fish, which were placed into buckets with water to be identified.

We weren't expecting to find American Shad at this site, but the variety of fish that live in the Musconetcong's fast, clean, cold water is amazing. Documented fish included native minnows, chunky rock bass and American eels. Many of the



*Cathy Marion, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist giving a training on how to catch fish using electroshocking*

fish were sporting their breeding colors and glowed, jewel-like in our hands as they were identified, weighed and measured.

Our next surveys will be downstream of the Warren Glen dam. Each year we will be able to compare the kinds of fish present at each site in different seasons. If we catch American Shad, we will start to be able to find out if these migratory fish will breed in the Musconetcong. Determining what other species are present will give us information about how resilient the river is to large weather events and changes in climate.

For more information on water quality monitoring or to become a volunteer River Watcher, visit [www.musconetcong.org/water-quality-monitoring](http://www.musconetcong.org/water-quality-monitoring). 🌐

## Headwater sensor update

*By Karen Doerfer, Communications and Administrative Coordinator*

Last year, MWA received a grants from the Watershed Institute and William Penn Foundation to install sensors and utilize data collecting software developed by Stroud Water Research Center in the upper Musconetcong Watershed area – specifically, near Old Waterloo Road, Stanhope and River Road, Byram Township. These sensors measure water depth, conductivity, temperature and turbidity near the Lake Musconetcong area and make it accessible online.

Recently, an interpretative sign was created, with support from Princeton Hydro, and installed at Riverside Park, Byram Township. The sign provides information on the Musconetcong Watershed as well as how changes in river flow affect habitat, wildlife and us-affirming why monitoring the river near dam sites is so important.

We thank all of the supporters who helped get this project going: The Watershed Institute, Trout Unlimited, William Penn Foundation, Stroud Water Research Center



*MWA Water Quality Interns Christa Reeves, Levi Morris and Kristen Roth at the Water Quality interpretive sign in Riverside Park, Byram Township*

and Princeton Hydro.

For more information on water quality monitoring and all of the sensors along the Musky, visit our website [www.musconetcong.org/headwater-sensors](http://www.musconetcong.org/headwater-sensors). 🌐

# New funds push Mill progress forward

By Alan Hunt, Executive Director

We are proud to announce that we now have incoming funds for the next phase of restoration work and can begin planning regularly scheduled, guided public tours next year. This is a big milestone (or is that millstone?) for the 150-year-old, five-story, masonry structure that was last used as a mineral processing facility in the 1970s.

The NJ State Historic Trust awarded MWA a grant of \$370,000. It required matching funds, which we were awarded this May. Franklin Township provided \$50,000 and Warren County is providing \$110,000. These \$530,000 in funds will complete repointing and repair of the Mill's exterior and interior masonry walls, complete installation of historic reproduction windows, and install a new ground floor historic reproduction door. This is significant work requiring scaffolding to be erected on site. While the scaffolding is up, we are looking to complete all other minor exterior repairs, by this fall. We're also looking to develop full architectural plans of the interior's adaptive re-use, a new code-compliant stairway from the ground floor to basement, install basic interior electrical and lighting, install exterior lighting, and complete minor safety improvements in preparation for next year's guided tours.

At the end of this phase of restoration, we will be able to initiate the next phase of interior adaptive re-use. Adaptive re-use means installing modern fittings for modern uses, including plumbing, electrical, heating, air conditioning and other building systems. The Mill was never built with public use like the proposed museum and office space in mind. In the future, it is our hope that the museum is a hub for watershed education, telling the story of how the Musconetcong has always been a great place to live, for over 13,000 years, and



Recent Mill photo taken by Chuck Gullage, MWA Trustee Emeritus

will remain that way as we inspire future generations to steward our water and land resources.

You can be a part of this work, too. The Mill Committee is always open to new volunteers. Volunteers help with Mill restoration planning, community outreach and fundraising. Donations are always welcome and help fill in the gaps on the necessary items that are not covered by grants.

You can learn more about the restoration and the history of the Historic Asbury Mill at the next "Mill Talk & Tour" on Saturday, July 14th. Reserve a spot, or learn more about the Mill by contacting [info@musconetcong.org](mailto:info@musconetcong.org) or 908-537-7060. There will be a brief slideshow at the River Resource Center (10 Maple Avenue, Asbury, NJ), followed by a guided tour of the ground floor and mill turbine room. You can follow what is going on at the Mill on the Mill Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/388082367932626/>.

# Creating the Musconetcong Island Park

By Karen Doerfer, Communications and Administrative Coordinator

On the heels of the Green Acres funding MWA received to remove the old lab building between the Asbury Historic Mill and current Asbury Carbons comes the announcement of additional funding to match our current funding and further the momentum to create the Musconetcong Island Park.

MWA received additional funding from the National Park Foundation. Also, we were selected to be part of a pilot site for the Love Your Park initiative. Through support from the Love Your Park project, MWA plans to utilize community and volunteer support to remove invasive plants and restore this quarter acre site to be a local park that can be used as fishing access and local recreation. This project is anticipated to be completed before the end of this year, 2018.

The Musconetcong River is a Partnership Wild & Scenic River, and we are excited to be able to create green



Unused mill "lab building" and invasive plant species currently at park site

recreation space on our nationally-significant waterway – especially, as the Federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. For more information on the Wild & Scenic Act and its milestone anniversary, visit <https://www.rivers.gov/wsr50/>.

# SAVE THESE DATES!

**Saturday, July 14:** Mill Talk and Tour, 11:00 am. MWA Trustee, Bill Leavens and Trustee Emeritus, Chuck Gullage conduct a walking tour of the Asbury Mill and grounds. Attendees will see the tailrace deck and canal, and the mill basement, including the auxiliary Sheppard diesel engine and the Leffel turbine. On the upper floors, attendees will see the milling area and how the equipment operated both as a grist mill and later as a graphite mill. Finally, guests will get a first-hand presentation of our plans to create museum space featuring Paleo Indian artifacts collected locally and on loan from the Smithsonian Institute! This event is free, but space is limited. Please call (908) 537-7060 or email [karen@musconetcong.org](mailto:karen@musconetcong.org).

**Sunday, September 9:** Wild & Scenic Film Festival, 10:00 am. Please join us as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act by hosting the Wild & Scenic film festival. All films are created specifically for the festival and discuss various conservation topics including clean water, wildlife conservation, agriculture and more. This event is free to attend. For more information, visit [www.musconetcong.org/film-festival](http://www.musconetcong.org/film-festival).

**Saturday, October 13 (Rain Date: October 14):** 16th Annual Wine Tasting on the Musky, from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Join us for a scenic afternoon and sample fine wines, local beers, and live music provided by a local band, the Caren Kennedy Trio. Attendees will also have the chance to enter our annual rubber duck race on the Musky! A complementary wine glass will be given to the first 100 registered. Tickets are available at [www.musconetcong.org/wine-tasting](http://www.musconetcong.org/wine-tasting).

## TRUSTEE OPENINGS

We currently have openings for new trustees on our Board of Directors. The Board meets monthly on a Thursday evening, and no previous experience as a board member is needed. Trustees ensure MWA is following our mission, sets policy, and ensures that we are financially well. You don't have to be an environmental professional – but obviously, belief in our mission is essential. People from all walks of life and careers are helpful to us. Right now, someone with HR experience, general leadership skills, and lawyers would be extremely helpful. If you would like to learn more about trusteeship, please email Board President, Tish Lascelle: [tish.mwa@gmail.com](mailto:tish.mwa@gmail.com).

Friends of MWA – volunteers, members, Facebook followers – make the best trustees! If you've ever thought about becoming more involved, this is a great way.

## We're Social! Follow us on:



*Facebook*  
Musconetcong  
Watershed  
Association



*Instagram*  
@MuskyWatershed



*Twitter*  
@MuskyWatershed



*Meetup*  
Musconetcong  
River Area  
Outdoor Activities

For more information or to register for any of these events, please email [info@musconetcong.org](mailto:info@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 1992 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 26 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:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <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:  
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## Musconetcong River News

### What's Inside:

- ◆ Delaware River Watershed Initiative - #4States1Source
- ◆ Traditional Favorite and largest fundraiser has another great year
- ◆ Fishing for Answers
- ◆ Headwater sensor update
- ◆ New funds push Mill progress forward
- ◆ Creating the Musconetcong Island Park