

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Highest Recognition" Among Awards Received By MWA This Spring**

The Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) was chosen to receive the 2011 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Quality Award. The Award was presented on April 29<sup>th</sup> at a ceremony at the EPA office located in Manhattan by EPA Regional Administrator Judith Enck and Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez.

MWA was honored for being “at the forefront of removing obsolete dams that impede water flow, degrade water quality, and block fish passage, and [having] been instrumental in the removal of two such dams. Furthermore, [the] River Resource Center is the first U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certified building in Warren County. ”

Environmental Quality Award winners can be individual citizens, environmental educators, press, businesses, non-profit organizations, environmental or community groups or federal, state or local agencies. According to the EPA “the award winners span a wide range of environmental achievements, but each proves exemplary determination and success. “These honorees work tirelessly to protect the environment and to ensure that all of us can look forward to a cleaner, healthier world,” said Regional EPA Administrator Judith Enck. “We can all be proud of what they have accomplished and the example they set.”

On Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) received the Dr. Ruth Patrick “Excellence in Education Award” from the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin (WRA). The annual award was given to the group for “innovative environmental and watershed education programs dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of the Musconetcong River watershed including its natural and cultural resources. The WRA was established in 1959 by representatives from industry, public and private utilities and other organizations that had wide-ranging interests in water resources and sought to ensure public participation in the management of the Delaware River and its tributaries.

In March the MWA, along with our partner Trout Unlimited Musconetcong Home Rivers Initiative Program, was honored by the South Branch Watershed Association with its “Environmental Achievement Award” for 2011. The organizations were chosen for the award for their cooperative programs which address dam removal, riparian restoration, fish passage and education and outreach.