

Members 2008

- Denville Township
- East Hanover Township
- Florham Park
- Hanover Township
- Madison Borough
- Mendham Borough
- Mendham Township
- Morris Plains Borough
- Morris Township
- Town of Morristown
- Mountain Lakes Borough
- Parsippany-Troy Hills Township
- Representatives of the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders



Stream Visual Assessment Training, April 2008

The Whippany River Watershed Action Committee



2008
Annual
Report

*The Whippany River
Clean it! Protect it! Enjoy it!*



Canoe Trip on the Whippany River, May 2008

Support and Funding in 2008

In addition to its member municipalities and Morris County freeholders, WRWAC received support and funding from:

- NJ Department of Environmental Protection
- Rutgers University Cooperative Extension
- Morris County Clean Communities
- Trout Unlimited
- Boy Scout Troop 112 in Morristown
- Morris County Park Commission
- Montclair University
- Passaic River Institute

Additional support has been provided by:

Morris County Soil Conservation — Burnham Park Association — Lake Pocahontas Neighborhood Group — AmeriCorps — Girl Scout Troops — Morristown High School — Morris Land Conservancy

The Action Committee needs the help of individuals and officials to:

- Adopt water conservation practices,
- Keep grass clippings, leaves, pet droppings, and trash out of storm drains and roadways,
- Minimize use of lawn and other chemicals,
- Practice natural landscaping,
- Dispose of oil and other petroleum products in approved facilities,
- Promote no-feeding of waterfowl,
- Support local storm water management policies, and
- Volunteer for river stewardship.



Eagle Scout Michael Santoro directs maintenance project at Speedwell Lake, Aug 2008



Water metering training, Oct 2008

Educational Meetings 2008

At the start of the monthly Action Committee meetings, speakers give informative talks which are open to the public:

Effects of Groundwater Pumping in the Passaic River Basin

Dr. Duke Ophori, Professor at Montclair State University

Watershed Ambassador Program

Mike Romankiewicz, AmeriCorps and NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Morris County Water Balance Model

Virginia Michelin, Morris County Environmental Planner

Open Discussion of Stormwater Regulations

Paul Ferriero, Ferriero Engineering

Michael Pucilowski, Parsippany –Troy Hills Engineer

Summary of Two 319h Grants Received from NJDEP: Non-Point Source Pollution Control & Management and Implementation of Troy Brooks Management Plan (in partnership with Rutgers University)

Pat Rector, NJDEP

Dr. Steve Sousa, Princeton Hydro Engineering

Dr. Chris Obropta, Rutgers University

Learn more about the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee at www.wrwac.org or contact us at:

PO Box 223, Morristown, NJ 07963-0223
973-267-1224
wrwac@optonline.net

Mission: As stewards of the Whippany River Watershed, the Action Committee's purpose is to preserve, protect and maintain the land and water resources of the watershed. This is accomplished through broad-based community action, implementation of projects, on-going assessment and promotion of resource conservation.



The Vision

The **Whippany River Watershed Action Committee** will continue to be a vibrant organization, known for getting things accomplished with its active members and multiple ongoing projects. The Action Committee will be widely supported by its municipal members, Morris County and other stakeholders, including residents, businesses, conservation groups and regulators, who participate through the **Whippany River Watershed Management Group**.



The Watershed

The **Whippany River Watershed** is an area of 69.3 square miles in north central New Jersey. It lies within Morris County and encompasses streams and lakes that flow into the Whippany River. This 16-mile long river is a tributary to the Passaic River and a sub-watershed of the Greater Passaic Watershed, one of the sources of drinking water for more than a million people in northern New Jersey.

The Committee

The **Whippany River Watershed Action Committee** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit grass roots organization whose members represent twelve municipalities and the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Established in 1999 as a result of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's first watershed management program, the committee is responsible for implementing the Whippany River Watershed Management Plan.

Recognized both statewide and nationally with two awards—the New Jersey DEP's *2002 Environmental Excellence Award* and the United States EPA's *2001 Environmental Quality Award for Region 2*.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2008

Programs

- Received a 319h grant from the New Jersey DEP for \$553,975 (plus \$63,125 in-kind) for Non-Point Source Pollution Control and Management to study fecal coliform contamination in the Whippany River, monitor and document water quality throughout the watershed, develop recommendations for stormwater retrofits and upgrades and construct a specific pollution control project for which \$250,000 has been budgeted. The pollution control project is planned as the first in a series of implementation projects throughout the watershed
- Worked with Rutgers University on the implementation of the Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan. Rutgers University, in partnership with the WRWAC, received a 319h grant from the New Jersey DEP in the amount of \$471,000.00 for implementation of projects along Troy Brook, a principal sub-watershed of the Whippany River
- Conducted inflow/outflow testing at Speedwell Lake in Morristown as follow-up to our Speedwell Lake Shoreline Restoration project
- Conducted a follow-up study five years after our Trend Analysis project by sampling water quality at five river sites
- Continued to seek funding for a Black Brook restoration and protection plan

Outreach

Achieved through partnerships with member towns, local non-profits, companies and volunteers:

- Provided Speakers Bureau presentations to Unity Charter School, Madison Rotary, Hanover Environmental Commission, Whippany Park High School and Hanover Park High School environmental clubs

- Conducted our third annual canoe/kayak trip down the Whippany River from Whippany Road in Hanover Twp to Troy Road in East Hanover
- Conducted a spring clean-up in partnership with Trout Unlimited and Morris County's Clean Community Program resulting in a removal of 841 lbs of garbage at Morristown Community Gardens
- Held our second annual Earth Day Watershed Jeopardy event in partnership with the Morris County Park Commission at Sunrise Lake in Lewis Morris Park
- Provided outreach booths at town festivals in Hanover, Parsippany and Mountain Lakes
- Gave a rain garden seminar in partnership with Rutgers University and the town of Parsippany
- Directed an Eagle Scout planting/maintenance project at Speedwell lake in Morristown
- Created a Speedwell Lake Power Point presentation to illustrate to surrounding municipalities our past work and future plans for the improvement of Speedwell Lake
- Established a watershed sign placement program to identify where the river meets the road
- Members attended a workshop and participated in spring egg addling outings to reduce the geese population
- Assisted with a clean-up at Pocahontas Lake in Morristown
- Sponsored two workshops on stream visual assessment protocol and one on water metering and sampling in connection with the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control and Management grant
- Established eight stream teams to conduct river segment assessments throughout the watershed
- Sponsored a Lawn Care Seminar organized by Watershed Ambassador, Mike Romankiewicz
- Applied for and received professional development provider status from the NJ Department of Education