

# Whippany River Watershed Action Committee



## Visions for the Whippany Watershed

2012/2013 Annual Report

### What a Clean Up!



*Waders are a must to remove debris from the center of the stream, above. Reverend Williams better watch his step, below. More pictures on page 6.*



**A very successful** joint clean up occurred in the Spring of 2012, when over 100 participants carried out mounds of trash from the Whippany River in the area behind Bethel AME Church on Spring Street, Morristown.

This spring cleaning was the springboard for more work on this section of the Whippany River, and was instigated by Reverend Sidney Williams, who made the day very accommodating with refreshments, chairs and tents for the opening ceremonies of the clean up. After Hurricane Irene flooded Bethel AME Church in Fall 2011, he noticed that along with the tremendous damage the flood waters made, the river was undercutting the parking lot, and eventually the river would take away a good part of the property. Although “that’s what rivers do,” neither the church or the community could afford the loss of property, so plans were developed through a grant from The Watershed Institute to apply several best management practices to remediate problems in this area. Because of his efforts, Reverend Sidney Williams is a recipient of a 2012 MCMUA recycling award. Further funding is needed for this project.

The vision of the members of the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee is to continue to be a vibrant organization, known for getting things accomplished. With support from its members-town leaders, the Morris County Freeholders, and other stakeholders including individuals, businesses, and conservation groups the committee is committed to being a leader in watershed management and ensuring that the Whippany River is a valued, viable and well-managed natural resource for everyone.

## Visions for the Whippany Watershed

### Support and Funding in 2012

In addition to its member municipalities and the Morris County Freeholders, WRWAC receives partner support and/or funding from the following organizations:

*New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection*

*Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County*

*Rutgers Water Resources Program*

*County of Morris*

*New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission*

*Hacklebarney Chapter Trout Unlimited*

*The Watershed Institute Grant Program*

*Tiffany & Co.*

*Brookside Diner, Route 10, Whippany NJ*

*Boy Scout Troup #155*

*DM AIRPORTS, LTD*

### Whippany River Watershed

#### Action Committee

PO Box 223

Morristown, NJ 07963-0223

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

email: [info@wrwap.org](mailto:info@wrwap.org)

Telephone: 973-428-6279

The Board of Trustees are the member municipalities and are represented by their appointees.

2012 Board of Trustees:

Township of East Hanover

Township of Hanover

Borough of Madison

Township of Mendham

Borough of Morris Plains

Township of Morris

Town of Morristown

Borough of Mountain Lakes

Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills

Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Arthur Vespignani, Facilitator

Contact 973-886-7969

Mary O'Keefe, Administrator

Contact 973-428-6279

The Whippany River Watershed Action Committee is a 501(c)(3) non-profit grass roots organization whose membership shall be open to the sixteen municipalities within the watershed. 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.



### Executive Committee-- 2012

Saverio Iannaccone, Chairman

James Baranski, Vice Chairman

Brian Marshall, Secretary

Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

Margaret Adams, At Large

Richard Taubald, At Large

### Program Committee-- 2012:

George Van Orden, Chairman, Madison

Saverio Iannaccone, Hanover

Brian Marshall, Mountain Lakes

Ralph Rhodes, Mendham Township

Hank Sawoski, Morris Plains

### Membership Committee--2013

Carmela Vitale, Chairwoman, Madison

Art Catalucci, Morris County

Amy DiBartolo, WRWAC

Andre Jensen, Morris Plains

Ted Largman, Morris Township

### Education and Outreach Committee 2012:

James Baranski, Chairman, Hanover

Len Cipkins, Parsippany - Troy Hills

Amy DiBartolo, East Hanover

Pat Rector, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Richard Taubald, Hanover

Douglas Vorolieff, Morristown

### Whippany River Watershed Management Group

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group is recognized by NJDEP as the entity representing the various interests within the Whippany Watershed whose purpose is to improve the condition or prevent further degradation of the watershed.



Andre Jensen and Hank Sawoski, both of Morris Plains, work the table at Morris County Parks' Earth Day 2012 at Lewis Morris Park. Photo by Art Catalusci

**Watershed Jeopardy** is a popular education tool, and WRWAC is fortunate to have Brian Marshall from Mountain Lakes keeping the game fresh with new questions each year. Although the actual frame was destroyed during Hurricane Sandy, Brian pledges to keep the tradition going. WRWAC encourages residents to play the game at events throughout the watershed.

Here are some sample answers. To find the question, see page 4.

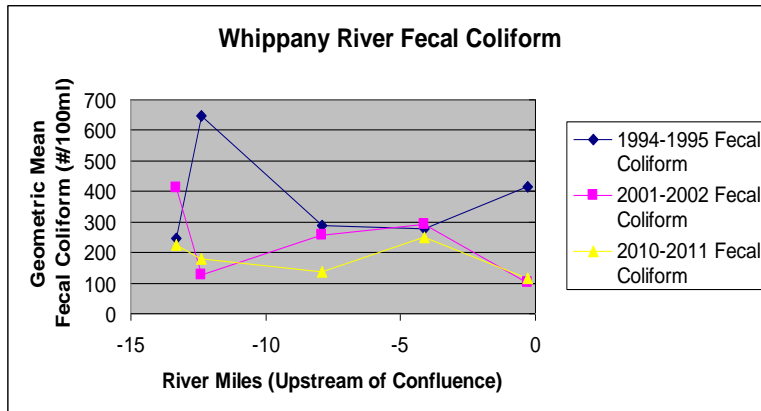
1. This meaning of "Whippany" was derived from the native word "Whippanong"
2. The Whippany River joins with this river before discharging into the Passaic River in East Hanover
3. Flowing water scours river banks and removes sediment through this process
4. One acre of trees can remove 10 tons per year of this greenhouse gas
5. A measure of water's acidity

## A Busy Year

- Hank Sawoski, representative from Morris Plains, gave WRWAC's power point presentation to the Senior Citizens of Morris Plains
- Rich Taubald, Hanover representative, gave a stormwater education presentation to scouts in Rainbow Lakes and participated at Earth Day at Johnson & Johnson
- Participation at Earth Day and Lake Parsippany Day
- Len Cipkins, Parsippany-Troy Hills, and Andre Jensen, Morris Plains, investigated 3 dumpsters that were in the Whippany River in Morristown, tracked down the owners, and the dumpsters are in the process of being removed. WRWAC received an email from a concerned citizen about the dumpsters in the fall of 2012
- Art Vespignani, WRWAC facilitator, and Pat Rector, Rutgers Co-operative Extension of Morris County, presented at Passaic River Symposium V at Montclair State University
- WRWAC held an Municipal Engineers Roundtable entitled "Stormwater Bioretention Basins - Design, Permitting, Maintenance and Funding Opportunités" presented by Dr. Steve Souza of Princeton Hydro, LLC
- Art Catalusci, Principal Engineer, County of Morris Engineering Department, continues to actively and effectively participate as liaison between the County and WRWAC providing educational material, performing site visits to project areas, and taking part in outreach events
- Carmela Vitale, Madison councilwoman, hosted a Rain Barrel Workshop in Madison. Councilwoman Vitale has accepted the leadership role in the Membership subcommittee
- WRWAC is now on Facebook and has an entry on Wikipedia thanks to Len Cipkins, Parsippany-Troy Hills representative
- The new website format was designed by Amy DiBartolo who currently acts as webmaster
- Douglas Vorolieff, Morristown representative and trustee of the Burnham Park Association, acted as liaison with the WRWAC on the ongoing restoration process at Atno Brook in Burnham Park
- Ray Zabihach, Morris Plains representative and our great supporter of stormwater pollution control, is moving on and will be missed!
- Stephanie Queirolo, Watershed Ambassador for 2011-2012 was active with WRWAC and displayed the watershed model at various events
- Rutgers Professional Accounting MBA Program students, as part of an Organizational Behavior project, studied WRWAC and surveyed members. Results were presented at the October meeting. The students received an A! Thank you to all who responded to the survey.
- Congratulations to Ted Largman, representative from Morris Township, for receiving 2012 MCMUA Recycling Award
- Robert Strechay, PTH Business Administrator and representative, has retired after many years with WRWAC. Bob hardly missed a meeting and will be missed
- WRWAC member Jeff Kurt, Trout Unlimited, made a big contribution with others in the Bethel AME clean up by bringing his fishing waders and getting out the bulky garbage that otherwise was unreachable

# Trends Analysis Data Available

Three rounds of water quality testing were collected at selected locations during 2010 and 2011 during dry weather conditions in order to evaluate water quality over time. This third analysis, following one in 1994/95 and one in 2001/02, reflects water quality improvements during dry weather, most likely through upgrades in wastewater treatment plants and active watershed management programs within the watershed. The sampling team lead by George Van Orden included Ralph Rhodes, representative of Mendham Township, Garry Annibal, Health Administrator for Harding Township, Lee Piscitelli and Joanna Adamiak of Hanover Township Health Department and Peter Summers of Morris County Office of Health Management. The complete report can be viewed at [www.wrwac.org](http://www.wrwac.org). This study was funded by the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders.



These two graphs are among the many that can be found in Appendix C of the Trends Analysis Report.

Testing sites:

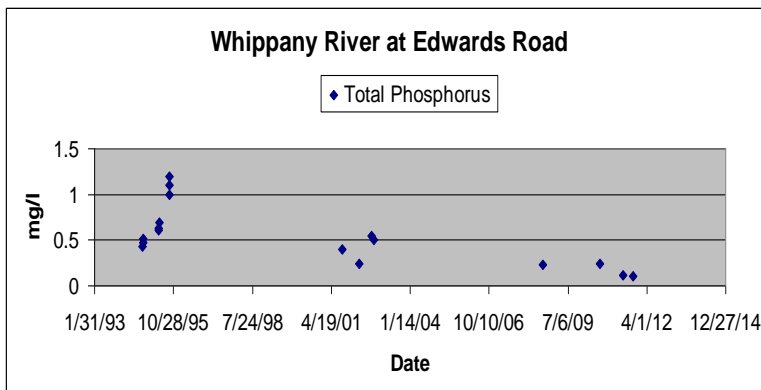
.3 miles upstream from the confluence with the Rockaway River - Edwards Road, Parsippany

4.1 miles upstream - Melanie Lane, East Hanover

7.9 miles upstream - South Jefferson Road, Hanover

12.4 miles upstream - Speedwell Avenue, Morristown

13.3 miles upstream - Lake Valley Road, Morris Township



## Videos of Filterra® Tree Box available on website

Kathleen Onorevole, Stormwater Assistant employed by Rutgers University Cooperative Extension of Morris County, under the direction of Pat Rector, did a fantastic job of recording the process of installing the Filterra® tree boxes at the Parsippany-Troy Hills Police Department. Additional videos provide information on site selection, cost, maintenance as well. The videos are available to watch on our website, [www.wrwac.org](http://www.wrwac.org) on the Projects and Reports Page. This project was funded through a grant from NEIWPC, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, and serves as a model for green infrastructure of an urban parking lot. Princeton Hydro LLC was hired by WRWAC to oversee the engineering and installation of the project.

Watershed Jeopardy Questions from page 3:

1. What is "place of the willows"?
2. What is the Rockaway River?
3. What is erosion?
4. What is carbon dioxide?
5. What is pH?

# Troy Brook Watershed Tour

This tour, held in the fall of 2012, highlighted the best management practices (BMPs) controlling stormwater runoff in the Troy Brook Subwatershed of the greater Whippany River Watershed. These projects were implemented by grants obtained by Rutgers University through the Troy Brook Stormwater Management Plan, as well as a grant obtained from New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission for improvements made at the Parsippany-Troy Hills Police Department Parking Lot. Many, many thanks to Pat Rector, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County, for making it all possible.



*It's not just a grate in the driveway—participants look into the oil water separator at the filling station at the Parsippany-Troy Hills Police Department on Route 46, close to Troy Brook, left.*



*Tree boxes were installed in the parking lot to capture and filter stormwater runoff from this urban parking lot, right. To learn more about tree boxes, visit our website.*

Garry Annibal, Health Administrator of Harding Township and Morris County Mosquito Commissioner, admires the native vegetation growing in one of the five rain gardens constructed in the Hills of Troy neighborhood, constructed by Ingrid Witty, Certified Rutgers Environmental Steward, as part of the Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan, right.

Participants study the newly constructed rain gardens at Tivoli Gardens. The stormwater that would normally go into the Troy Brook is now captured, and slowly filters down into the ground, far right.



*A small storm drain hides in a rain garden at Tivoli Gardens, left.*

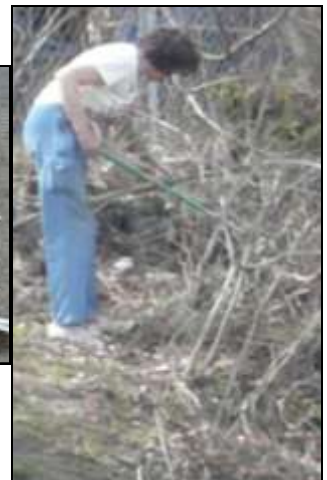
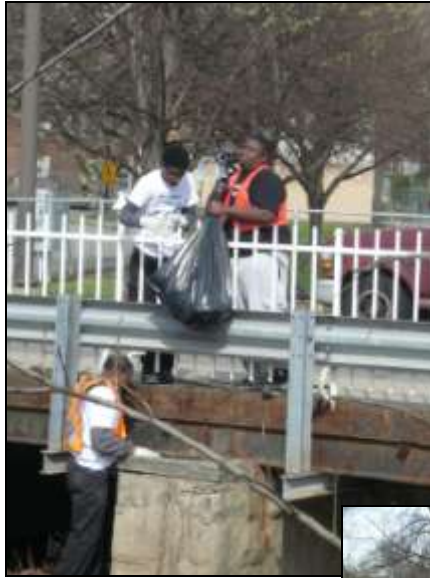
Art Vespignani, facilitator of WRWAC, was thrilled to have Watershed Ambassadors for 2012—2013 come along, right.



*Photos by Amy DiBartolo*

# Visions for the Whippany Watershed

The name of our newsletter came from seasonal newsletters dated in the 1990s published by the Whippany River Partnership, a pilot project administered by NJDEP for the state-wide watershed management process. In 1999, NJDEP passed administration to the Whippany River Watershed Mayors' Committee, which was later renamed the current Action Committee. These pictures from the Bethel AME Church clean up held in April 2012 are the visions that the planners had in mind. The people in these pictures are from not just the church community, but also upstream neighbors, citizens from other Morris County towns, Trout Unlimited volunteers, and even our watershed ambassador with a display about non point source pollution.



Photos by  
Art Vespignani and Amy DiBartolo

# Visions for the Whippany Watershed

## Continuing Support from Morris County Freeholders & Member Municipalities

In September 2012, WRWAC received \$9000 towards project development from the County Freeholders. These dollars will be applied to WRWAC's commitment to investigate and provide watershed management solutions in problem areas for the member municipalities. WRWAC also holds educational programs that benefit not only member towns, but all municipalities in Morris County. In addition to monetary support, several county departments are actively involved in watershed projects, and personnel frequently attend meetings and site visits. The Morris County Freeholders appoint three representatives to the committee each year. In 2012, the appointees were Freeholder Ann Grossi, Art Catalusci, Engineering Division and Marguerite Adams of Morris Plains.

2011 County funding went towards three grant applications, one of which successfully brought in \$17,744 from The Watershed Institute. This grant allowed the Action Committee to contract Princeton Hydro, LLC to create a plan to correct an erosion problem in a section of the Whippany River in Morristown. Two grant applications did not receive outside funding in 2012, but did produce documentation for further grant requests. WRWAC held two rain barrel workshops, the Municipal Engineer's Round Table breakfast regarding stormwater structures, the Troy Brook Sub-watershed mini bus tour, and investigation and remediation of various issues, such as illicit

connections, sedimentation, litter and downed trees. A detailed report is sent to the Freeholders each year documenting the work of the Action Committee.

The Trend Analysis, which was funded by the county in 2010, was completed in the Spring of 2012. The results can be found on our website under Projects and Reports.

Municipal Membership annual dues remain constant at \$1200 per year. Dues allow for management and general expenditures of the Action Committee, and help pay for liability insurance, auditing costs as well as professional services. To complement the budget, WRWAC seeks donations from the public and also through businesses through the sign sponsorship program. The continued support and partnership provided by the county in conjunction with member municipalities' annual dues further the work in the Whippany River Watershed. The regional nature of the organization requires the combined efforts of the member municipalities, the county resources, stakeholder businesses and the general public to promote the vision of a healthy river ecosystem as an admired, kayaked, and fished resource that provides drinking water in northern New Jersey. The Action Committee is once again grateful for the demonstration of the County's as well as member municipalities' continuing belief in the organization.

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## Action Now!

What are the goals of WRWAC's **Action Now** Strategy ? 1) Public Health 2) Public Outreach and Education 3) Research and Evaluation 4) Maintenance of the Watershed 5) Improvement of the Watershed and 6) Watershed Management Planning and Implementation. These 6 goals are contained in the Action Now Strategy and are further broken down into very specific objectives and actions. Take a look at this informative document on the member page of our website, [www.wrwac.org](http://www.wrwac.org)

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## Guest Speakers in 2012

March: Erica Van Auken, Elliott Ruga from New Jersey Highlands Coalition: "The Highlands Rediscovered"

April: Reverend Sidney Williams, Bethel AME Church, Morristown: Highlights of Spring Cleanup

May: John Cambridge, NJ Department of Agriculture: "Forest Invaders of New Jersey—What to Look for and What to do"

September: Pat Rector, Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Green Infrastructure of the Whippany Watershed

October: Amanda DiBartolo, Rutgers Professional Accounting MBA Program: Presentation of Organizational Behavior project

*The Action Committee holds nine public meetings a year at the Morris County Library on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:45 PM. Meetings are not held January, July and August.*



**Whippany River  
Watershed Action  
Committee**

PO Box 223  
Morristown, NJ 07963

Contact: info@wrwac.org

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

WWW.WRWAC.ORG

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★ Gold Sponsors ★

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

**Support the Whippany River Watershed**

**Call to Action - Sign Up Today**

- \$500 Gold Sponsor (name or business name will be posted on watershed sign in the proximity of your home or business)
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your check to: WRWAC, Inc. PO Box 223 Morristown, NJ 07963-0223

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

The Whippany River Watershed Action Committee is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation and is registered with the State of New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs as a charitable organization. We are organized for the purpose of preserving, protecting, and maintaining the land and water resources of the Whippany River Watershed.