



Visions for the Whippany WatershedWhippany Watershed

2013-2014 Annual Report

Governor's Environmental Excellence Award presented to WRWA C

The Board of Trustees for WRWA C were delighted to be presented with the 2013 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in the Water Resources category in Trenton this past December.

The winning project was for the development of the watershed protection and restoration plan, which included extensive modeling, sampling and analysis of water quality data for prioritization of implementation projects. The conversion of two detention basins into bio-retention basins on West Hanover Avenue was included in the project.
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Former Governor James Florio, left, and NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin, right, present the award to WRWA C vice-chairman Jim Baranski, center

Celebrating 15 Years 1999-2014

The Action Committee was created in 1999 as the group to implement the Whippany River Watershed Management Plan. The plan was developed through six years of research, analysis, group discussions, concerns and suggestions by NJDEP staff and the Public Advisory Group, from 1993 to 1999. Nominated and elected as chairman in 1999 was Saverio (Sal) Iannaccone from Hanover Township, one of the 16 municipalities in the watershed. Sal is still chairman of the committee **and rightfully so, as his middle name is "Action"**. Congratulations to all Action Committee participants in the continued efforts in keeping the goals of the Watershed Plan alive.

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 2013

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

Brookside Diner, 699 Route 10 East, Whippany NJ

Boy Scout Troup #155

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Bayer HealthCare



Whippany River Watershed

Action Committee

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

2013 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— 2013

Saverio Iannaccone, Chairman

James Baranski, Vice Chairman

Brian Marshall, Secretary

Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

Margaret Adams, At Large

Len Cipkins, At Large

Program Committee— 2013:

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 Catalucsi, Morris County

Amy DiBartolo, WRWMG

Andre Jensen, Morris Plains

Ted Largman, Morris Township

Education and Outreach Committee 2013:

James Baranski, Chairman, Hanover

Len Cipkins, Parsippany - Troy Hills

Amy DiBartolo, WRWMG

Pat Rector, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Richard Taubald, Hanover

Douglas Vorolief, 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.



WRWAC facilitator Art Vespignani, top, with Virginia Michelin of County of Morris and Steve Souza of Princeton Hydro were instrumental in the project

WRWAC
2013
WATER
RESOURCE
AWARD
WINNER



WRWAC Facilitator Art Vespignani explains Water Resource project with other award winners at the NJ State Museum in Trenton, venue of the 14th annual award ceremony

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The County of Morris, Division of Planning, partnered in the retrofitting of the detention basins at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy and the Morris View Health Care Center. Dr. Stephen J. Souza, President of Princeton Hydro LLC, attended as the consulting engineer for the project.

This award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates a positive influence in one or more of the following areas and activities:

- Improving surface or ground water quality;
- Ensuring sufficient quantities of water through reuse and conservation techniques;
- Promotion or development of progressive land use policies and watershed management approaches to improve protection of surface and groundwater sources.

The project was funded through a 319(h) grant with NJDEP, with a considerable amount of in kind contributions from action committee members, volunteers, and Morris County employees Virginia Michelin, Arthur Catalusci, Principal Engineer, Engineering Department, Teresa Duckworth, Wetland Specialist, Mosquito Control.

WRWAC looks forward to continuing important implementation projects to protect water quality and abate non point source pollution in the waterways.



Morristown River Clean Up

This truck load of metal and artificial palm trees came out of the Whippany River in March 2014 during the 3rd Annual River Clean Up held with partners WRWAC and Bethel AME Church. Unfortunately the success of river clean ups coincides with the amount of debris in the river, but nevertheless a good time was had by all. Thanks go to all the hearty volunteers, to the Town of Morristown for hauling away the litter, and to Bethel AME church for providing refreshments.

Streambank Stabilization Design funded by Bayer Healthcare

In 2013, Bayer Healthcare awarded a \$10,000 grant to prepare a restoration plan to stabilize the 320 foot streambank adjacent to the Whippany Burial Grounds, Route 10, Hanover Township. The Whippany Burial Grounds, established in 1728, are on both the National and State Register of Historic Places. The study and plan were prepared by Princeton Hydro LLC. The study found the streambank to be eroded and unstable, comprised mostly of invasive vegetation, mostly Japanese knotweed, in its understory. An onsite drainage ditch conveys runoff from Route 10, increasing the sediment load in the stream segment.

The Whippany Burial Grounds, owned by Hanover Township, are downstream of two dams. Interestingly, Princeton Hydro discovered that this stream segment has been in the same configuration for 160 years, which is unusual for an urbanized river.

The study and plan are available on www.wrwac.org. under “Projects and Reports”.

Rutgers River Friendly Business Program

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Morris County and Rutgers Water Resource Program hosted the **kick off breakfast at the Parsippany Sheraton for Morris County’s River Friendly Business Program in April, 2013.** Companies can be certified “River Friendly” as described throughout the morning by Chris Obropta and Pat Rector from Rutgers, as well as other speakers whose topics included green infrastructure, economics of water conservation projects, and how even small stormwater management projects can make an impact on water quality and quantity in a watershed.

WRWAC was a co-sponsor of the event, and Facilitator Art Vespignani was a speaker. Parsippany-Troy Hills Mayor James Barberio spoke also about involvement with Rutgers and the implementation of many storm water projects as part of the Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan.

For more details contact Pat Rector at: rector@njaes.rutgers.edu

Hackensack River Cruise



The biannual early evening Hackensack pontoon boat ride, led by Captain Bill Sheehan, pictured, took us down the Hackensack River to the Newark Bay, then up the Passaic River almost to Second River in Belleville, heading back just before sunset. Facilitator Art Vespignani is shown here celebrating his birthday. Mark your calendars for the 2015 excursion, space is limited!



Arbor Day at Burnham Park



Partnering with Rutgers

WRWAC partners with Rutgers in building rain gardens, holding workshops and other efforts, as well as rain barrel workshops, such as this successful workshop hosted by Burnham Park Association on April 13, 2013, and another workshop to be held in April 2014.

Douglas Voroleiff, WRWAC representative from Morristown and trustee of Burnham Park Association, is pictured here with Jen Carcich, also a BPA trustee. This Arbor Day event was a big hit with all ages, and must have turned some heads of passing motorists.



Rain barrels are placed under down spouts and collect rainwater from rooftops, water that would otherwise become stormwater runoff. Rain barrels give this water a second chance at watering a garden and filtering down through the soil to become groundwater. Spouts are placed at the base of the barrel and can be attached to a garden hose. Detailed instructions are provided at the workshops.



Guest Speakers in 2013

February The students of the Red Oaks School and Science teacher Elizabeth Murphy did a wonderful presentation showing the various flora and fauna that they found at Speedwell Lake, Morristown. They even sang their very own Speedwell Lake song to the members of the Action Committee.



Red Oak School Science teacher Elizabeth Murphy and her students.

April Teresa Duckworth, Wetland Specialist, Morris County Mosquito Extermination Commission, gave a presentation of various stormwater structures and ways to limit mosquito habitat.

May Jim Baranski, WRWAC vice chairman, and chair of the Outreach and Education Committee, presented **WRWAC's updated power point presentation that is shown to civic, school, and other organizations** to promote understanding of the importance of clean water and watershed organizations' role in abating non-point source pollution.

October Facilitator Art Vespignani presented detailed information about the results of the rounds of wet weather water quality testing done at eight sites throughout the watershed, through funding from the most recent 319(h) grant that WRWAC received through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.



Top row: Len Cipkins, Paula Cozzarelli, Parsippany; Honorable John F. McKeon; Ted Largman, Morris Township; Carmela Vitale, Madison; Douglas Vorolief, Morristown; Art Catalusci, County of Morris. Bottom row: Amy DiBartolo, WRWMG; Sal Iannaccone, Hanover; Facilitator Art Vespignani; Brian Marshall, Mountain Lakes; and Jim Baranski, Hanover. Picture taken by Mary O'Keefe, administrator.

November WRWAC was pleased to welcome Honorable John F. McKeon, Assemblyman from District 27, who spoke to the committee about the environmental issues affecting the watershed.

Take Note that the Action Committee has nine regular membership meetings a year that are attended by the representatives of the Board of Trustees (the towns that comprise the watershed), the representatives of the Morris County Freeholders, members of Management Group, (comprised of the stakeholders of the watershed), and members of the general public, all of whom are warmly welcomed with refreshments and pizza during the early evening meetings starting at 5:45 PM. Check the calendar on our website, www.wrwac.org, for meeting dates and other upcoming events.

Continuing Support from Morris County Freeholders & Member Municipalities

Morris County Freeholders continue to support the Action Committee, both through support of the staff, and financially as well. Financial support goes directly to investigate and provide watershed management solutions in problem areas for the member municipalities. Applications for grants are extensive, and the county support provides WRWAC with seed money that has resulted in sizable grant awards through the years.

WRWAC holds educational programs, workshops, hikes, tours and other outings that benefit not only member towns, but all municipalities in Morris County.

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 2014, the appointees are Freeholder John Cesaro, Art Catalusci, Engineering Division and Henry Kafel of Hanover Township.

Municipal Membership annual dues remain constant at \$1200 per year. Dues allow for management and general expendi-

tures 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.

The Membership Sub-Committee led by Madison Councilwoman Carmela Vitale, is challenging membership to include all 16 municipalities to participate in the regional watershed process.

The Action Committee is once again grateful for the demonstration of the County's as well as member municipalities' continuing belief in the organization.

Celebrating 15 Years 1999-2014

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



A Whippany River Watershed Quiz

Can you name the location of this winter scene?

This photo was sent in by East Hanover resident, John Deep.

See if you can find this spot while on a hike along the Whippany River—(or a tributary?)

If you have photos to share that were taken in the Watershed, send them to Mary O'Keefe at info@wrwac.org.



**Whippany River
Watershed Action
Committee**

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Contact: info@wrwac.org

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WWW.WRWAC.ORG

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

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from:

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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 _____

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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.