



# Whippany River Watershed Action Committee 2007 Annual Report

## Mission Statement

*“As stewards of the Whippany River Watershed, the Action Committee’s (WRWAC) 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, ongoing assessment and promotion of resource conservation.”*

## The Whippany River

The Whippany River has molded and shaped the geography of a large area of southeast Morris County. Despite attempts to clean up the Whippany River and its watershed, it is on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection list of impaired rivers and needs **ACTION!**

The headwaters of the Whippany River in Randolph, the Mendhams and Denville meander into Speedwell Lake; from there the Whippany flows through Morristown and the Hanovers. Madison and Florham Park belong to the Black Brook subwatershed, while the Troy Brook flows through Mountain Lakes and Parsippany.

## Action Committee Approach

WRWAC is an intermunicipal non-profit watershed organization located in Morris County, N.J. encompassing 16 municipalities and known for its **ACTION!**

The Action Committee's hands-on, community-based approach to watershed management has:

- Engaged hundreds of volunteers and member communities in major watershed restoration projects in Morristown and its surrounding municipalities.
- Attracted media attention – for example, a half page spread of our kayakers was in the Sunday Star Ledger, May 2007

- Documented scientific facts about water quality trends and pollution sources that help address public and environmental health problems
- Shared information and technology with the public and local governments to help protect water resources
- Provided a model of active community stewardship for water resources

## ACTIONS of 2007

### WRWAC Program Committee

- Completed the Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan in conjunction with Rutgers University. This plan has been adopted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as the **very first** plan of its kind in the state of New Jersey.



Fishing from the newly installed platforms prevents soil erosion at Speedwell Lake

- Concluded the Speedwell Lake Shoreline Restoration Project. It also participated in the follow-up loading study to determine phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment loading, which will enable future management of the lake and watershed to improve water quality. A presentation has been developed offering area municipalities information on action taken and assessments conducted at this key location of the Whippany River.

## WRWAC Outreach Committee

Sponsored outreach to the public through our Speaker's Bureau. This outreach effort provides a dynamic and interactive presentation about our watershed to educational, civic, municipal, service, fraternal, political and other organizations.

- Continued an educational program presented to science and environmental classes in schools throughout the watershed
- Led an annual educational hike along Patriots' Path
- Acted *regionally* by sponsoring a Hackensack Meadowlands ecological cruise
- Participated with many of our partners in the Whippany River Watershed's annual spring cleanup
- Held the second annual canoe/kayak trip down the Whippany River
- Participated in the Earth Day program in partnership with the Morris County Park Commission



Facilitator Art Vespignani at Action Committee Booth, Earth Day 2007 at Sunrise Lake in Lewis Morris Park

## Future Action

Act as *lead agency* in implementing the Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan

Initiate a Black Brook Watershed Restoration Plan to improve surface water quality in Madison, Florham Park, Hanover and East Hanover

Monitor the riparian restoration at Speedwell Lake and continue with improvements

Assist and support the Western Avenue Project, to reduce erosion and flooding in Morris Township and Morristown.

Perform sampling and testing at Speedwell Lake

Initiate the Sanitary Survey Project to identify the sources of fecal contamination in 'hot spots' throughout the watershed

## Preserve, Protect, Maintain

### Financially Responsible

The following chart shows how the majority of the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee's expenses concentrate on grant expenditures and public outreach. (unaudited figures)

