



Visions for the Whippany Watershed

2014-2015 Annual Report of the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee

Our vision looks like this:



Water conservation



A healthy environment



Clean water legislation



Educational and recreational opportunities

Above, Pat Rector, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Agent, at Memorial Junior Middle School, Whippany at new rain gardens financed with a grant from 3M through WRWAC. Upper right, another successful annual river clean up in Morristown in March with Bethel AME Church. Right, WRWAC sponsored Mini-bus trip's participants, including many 2014/2015 watershed ambassadors, tour the watershed to observe best management practices at work, and stop at Speedwell Lake in Morristown in June. Center, US Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen, pictured with Facilitator Art Vespignani, joins WRWAC in celebrating our 15th anniversary.

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

Partners 2014-2015

In addition to its member municipalities and the
Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders,
WRWAC receives partner support from the following organizations:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County

Rutgers Water Resources Program

Watershed Ambassador, WMA6

County of Morris Department of Planning and Public Works

Hacklebarney Chapter Trout Unlimited

The Watershed Institute Grant Program

Boy Scout Troup #155

Princeton Hydro, LLC

*Special thanks to John O'Keefe for his photography at the Morris County
Film Premier and 15th Anniversary Celebration*

Executive Committee- 2014

Saverio Iannaccone, Chairman

James Baranski, Vice Chairman

Brian Marshall, Secretary

Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

Paula Cozzarelli

Len Cipkins

Carmela Vitale

Education and Outreach Committee 2014:

James Baranski, Chairman, Hanover

Program Committee- 2014:

George Van Orden, Chairman, Madison

Membership Committee-2014

Carmela Vitale, Chairwoman, Madison

Watershed Sign Sponsors

Brookside Diner

699 Route 10 East, Whippany

DM Airports, LTD

8 Airport Road, Morristown

Burnham Park

Association

Town of Morristown

Township of Morris

Joseph M. Forgione

Township of Hanover

Whippany River Watershed

Action Committee

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

2015 Board of Trustees:

Township of East Hanover
Mayor Joseph Pannullo

Township of Hanover
Mayor Ronald Francioli

Borough of Madison
Mayor Robert H. Conley

Borough of Morris Plains
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Township of Morris
Mayor Daniel W. Caffrey

Town of Morristown
Mayor Timothy P. Dougherty

Borough of Mountain Lakes
Mayor Doug McWilliams

Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills
Mayor James R. Barberio

Administration:

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) nonprofit 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.

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 River Watershed whose purpose is to improve the condition or prevent further degradation of the watershed.

Highlights of WRWAC's 15th Anniversary Celebration

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum was the scene of the celebration on September 3, 2014. Members, award winners and guests enjoyed refreshments graciously donated by **ShopRite Supermarket of Greater Morristown, Farmtastic of Whippany and Whole Foods in Madison**. Keynote speaker, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, spoke to the attendees about the Clean Water Act and the progress made to date in water quality of the Whippany River. Many representatives were on hand for a group picture, right, taken after the stewardship awards ceremony.



Watershed Stewardship Award Winners:
(pictured with Sal Iannaccone, from bottom left)

- * Dr. Stephen Souza, Princeton Hydro, LLC
- * Reverend Sidney Williams, Bethel AME Church
- * Deena Leary, Morris County Planning
- * Jeffrey Kurt, WRWAC
- * James Baranski, WRWAC
- * Bayer Healthcare, LLC
- * Arthur Catalusci, Morris County
- * Andre Jensen, WRWAC
- * Virginia Michelin, Morris County



Recognition of years of service, in the form of a lapel pin with the watershed insignia, is given at periodical intervals to members of the committee who have served continuously for increments of 5 years. The 15th Anniversary was an excellent time to present the following individuals for their constant commitment to the mission of WRWAC.

15 year pins:

*Amy DiBartolo, Sal Iannaccone, Ted Largman
Ralph Rhodes, George Van Orden, Art Vespignani*

10 year pins:

*Brian Marshall
Hank Sawoski*

5 year pins:

*Jim Baranski, Art Catalusci, Len Cipkins
Andre Jensen, Jeff Kurt, Pat Rector
Rich Taubald, Douglas Voroloeff*

Many of the above listed names have served longer than the years designated above on behalf of the Whippany River

Visions for the Whippany Watershed

4th Annual River Clean Up at Bethel AME Church, Morristown

March 28, 2015



Garbage gets caught up in snags caused by downed trees. This downed tree in the Whippany River in back of the parking lot at Bethel AME Church, Morristown, currently helps stabilize the streambank until funding becomes available for a permanent stabilization project, but picks up floatables from upstream. In the second photo, litter was removed during the annual clean up; the third photo shows a snapping turtle sunning himself on that same log during our Mini-bus tour. Litter from upstream had not returned after two months.

Removed from river:
59 bags= 3540 lbs
4 tires
7 gals paint
1 table top
1 scooter
1 cement angel



Troy Brook Clean Up

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Green Team

Veterans' Park, Parsippany, April 27, 2014

Reynolds Ave, May 3, 2015



Rain Barrel Workshops

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church 2014

Burnham Park Association 2014

Memorial Junior School, Whippany 2015

(made possible through 3M Eco-grant)



Speaker's Bureau

Presentations made to the following groups:

Frelinghuysen School, Josh Tennant's science class—2014, Brian Marshall, presenter
St. Gregory's Church—2014, Brian Marshall, presenter
Whippany Park High School—2014, Brian Marshall, presenter
Community Gardens—2014, Jim Baranski, presenter
Grow It Green Morristown—2014, Brian Marshall, speaker
Rotary Club of Whippany—2014, Amy DiBartolo, presenter
Hanover Twp. Environmental Commission—2015, Amy DiBartolo, presenter
Hanover Twp. Senior Citizens—2015, Richard Taubald, presenter

Rutger's Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan Actions



Cluster Rain Garden Program at Hills of Troy neighborhood: stormwater education, creation of new rain gardens, and maintenance manuals for rain garden owners

Parsippany Troy Hills Department of Public Works: planting of 1200 linear feet of bioswale leading to Troy Brook with switchgrass to perform phytoremediation of hydrocarbons from onsite fueling station; sedimentation basins placed at entrance of bioswale to reduce flow velocity and capture sediment.



Sign Installation and Sponsorship

The Sign Team, Len Cipkins, Rich Taubald, Andre Jensen and Dan Bonilla, purchased and posted at new locations in the watershed, and added two new sponsors in 2014

Participation in Municipalities' Special Events

Madison Green Fair— 2014
Parsippany-Troy Hills Fall Festival— 2014
Morristown Parks and Ponds— 2014
Hanover Township Day—2014
Sustainable Morristown—Festival Earth 2015



Whippany Burying Yard Memorial Dedication, 2015

In May, the Hanover Township Landmark Commission dedicated the memorial to those "Known Only to God." Tours of the historic 1718 cemetery were given. Pictured at left is a new sign for the proposed site of an important streambank stabilization project, for which funding is needed.

From left to right: Deputy Mayor John L. Ferramosca, Township Committeeman George F. Coppola, Landmark Commission Member Marc Sieka, Landmark Commission Chairman Mike Czuchnicki, Bayer HealthCare Deputy Director State Government Relations Chuck Leitgeb, and Whippany River Watershed Action Committee Chairman Jim Baranski.

Visions for the Whippany Watershed

Lights, Camera, Action!



Director Glenn Silber joins members of the Action Committee for the film premier in Jersey City

“**River’s Journey**,” a documentary short film about the restoration of the Whippany River, was produced with a \$45,000 grant from the Bayer USA Foundation in 2014. This educational film, directed by Academy Award nominee Glenn Silber of Catalyst Media Productions, portrays community, municipal and corporate group efforts to bring back the Whippany River to a healthier ecosystem. The film was completed in the late summer of 2014, after which it was shown as the first film at the New Jersey premiere of the first annual Jersey City Film Festival held on October 18, 2014. The Morris County premiere was held on Wednesday, November 12, and was a resounding success with well over 125 people attending, among them various municipal officials along with some of the “stars” of the film and representatives from Bayer. WRWAC volunteers have been presenting the film at various venues throughout Morris County. Future venues include the Albuquerque Film Festival.



Hanover Township Mayor Ronald Francioli with WRWAC Facilitator Art Vespignani at Morris County Premier of “River’s Journey”

Get your ‘River’s Journey’ DVD!

A \$25 donation is requested.

Let us know at info@wrwac.org.

Guest Speakers in 2014

March: Julia Somers and Erika Van Auken, Highlands Coalition, presented an overview of the work of the coalition and offered an update and an explanation of the municipalities’ designations in the planning and preservation areas.

April: Richard Plambeck, Passaic River Coalition, offered the presentation , “The Passaic River—It’s More than Just a River!” Discussion followed about areas of concern and clean up efforts and recreational projects of PRC.

May: Dr. George Van Orden, Health Officer, Township of Hanover and chairman of WRWAC Program Committee, explained the results of the Water Quality Trends Analysis of the Whippany River that was presented in his report of Fall 2012. The Trends Analysis was funded by the Morris County Freeholders.

September: Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, representing the 11th District of New Jersey, was the keynote speaker for WRWAC’s 15th Anniversary celebration at Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

November: Evelyn Meisenbacher, Watershed Ambassador, WMA6, spoke of her duties and projects as our ambassador this year.

Take Note: The Action Committee has nine regular membership meetings a year, 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 at the Morris County Library. Check the calendar on our website, www.wrwac.org, for meeting dates and other upcoming events.

2014-2015 Donors, Grantors, Sponsors

Corporate and Organization Support; Sign Sponsors

Bayer USA Foundation
3M Foundation
DM Airports, LTD
Brookside Diner
Burnham Park Associaton
Township of Boonton
Joseph M. Forgione
“Change for Charity” - Actavis, Inc.
Whippany Rotary Club

Individual Donations:

Sandra P. Cohen
Lisa Colantuoni
Harriet Grose
Sharon McLaughlin
The Kramer Family
Dale B. Kiddoo
Stefan Schuele
Ronald and Mary Phillips—rowboat



Our new rowboat, donated by Ronald & Mary Phillips, was put to use at the Spring river clean up in Morristown to get to those hard to reach areas. J. Eng and J. Kurt from Trout Unlimited pictured here.

WRWAC
Proud recipient of the
2014 Morris County MUA
“Environmental Excellence Award”

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

3M Grant Received

As part of its Eco-Grant program, 3M gives, WRWAC received a \$28,750 grant to “advance conservation and environmental education,” to develop a student outdoor environmental learning project, including the installation of four rain gardens in the Quadrangle at Memorial Junior School in Whippany. Pat Recor, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, with the students at the school, designed the rain gardens, which were dug, planted and mulched in May 2015. Additionally, teacher in service training was provided through Rutgers University, and a student environmental club was formed. Rain barrels were beautifully painted by students and will collect rain water from down spouts in the quadrangle. Ongoing implementation of the program will continue as students maintain the site from year to year while teachers introduce future classes to the learning experiences. *See pictures of gardens and rain barrels throughout this newsletter!*

Whippany River Watershed Action Committee



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.WRWAC.ORG

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK



The Whippany River

Clean it! Protect it! Enjoy it!

What's YOUR Vision?

Trout fishing at your favorite spot ?

Litter free roads, highways and stormdrains.

Kayak and canoe entry points and snag free rivers...

A place to walk, bike or be near water.

Clean lakes with less algae and less sedimentation,

Groundwater recharge into the Buried Valley Aquifer.

Clean water. Join us.

Your Home, Your Actions, Your Water



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.