



## ***MEHOOPANY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION***

### ***WORKING TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE LAND AND WATER OF THE MEHOOPANY CREEK WATERSHED***

**P. O. Box 73 Mehoopany, PA 18629  
Newsletter**

**Spring 2013**

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Back in late 1999 and early 2000, the Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association came into existence. Since that time, the Association has completed a number of projects with major funding from the Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program and the Wyoming County Conservation District.

After an assessment and prioritization of problem areas, the first major project (known as Problem Area 6) was tackled. This was nearly 2,00 feet of Mehoopany Creek, upstream of the bridge at the Four Corners in Forkston.

Since then, with major help from the Wyoming County Conservation District, smaller projects to stabilize embankments were done on Tommy Creek (at Roger Hollow and Route 87), Scouten Brook (Kachner), White Brook (Funk/Ader), the North Branch of Mehoopany Creek (Traver and Shaffer), and Mehoopany Creek (Cappucci).

The Windy Valley Project was begun in 2008 and is now complete. In all cases, erosion and damage and/or potential damage to property and homes is a major criteria. It's costly and time-consuming, requiring the proper timing of funding, permits, bids, construction companies with the right equipment and knowledge, and a limited time to actually work in the water.

The next big project is for a stretch of the Mehoopany Creek between Route 87 and Creek Road in Forkston and Mehoopany Townships. This area was badly damaged by flooding and continues to threaten local homes. The Association received funding from a Growing Greener grant in late 2012 which will be used for design plans and permits. This will be another multi-year project.

Signs, informational brochures, and equipment for water monitoring and testing have also been acquired from various sources.

## TROUT DAY

Trout Day was held on April 14, 2012. Of course, it was cold: it wouldn't be Trout Day if it weren't. 2013 Trout Day will be held on April 13. Please stop by the Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association's information booth at Forkston Four Corners, the intersection of Route 87 and SR 3001. Coffee, snacks, lunch items, T-shirts, caps, etc. will be available for purchase. Show off your fish and chat with Association members. This is also a good time to join or to renew your membership. Plan to stop by between 7 a.m. and noon.



## WINDY VALLEY PROJECT

It's done! It isn't the solution to everything but project is completed. Someday, perhaps, there will be funding to correct problems upstream but in the meantime, this will help. And, it makes for some beautiful pictures. This is on Windy Valley Road (SR 3001) just above Forkston, a short distance from Route 87.



## CRUISING THE WATERSHED

Sightings of our majestic national bird, the bald eagle, are becoming more prevalent. Not only are they sighted along the Susquehanna River and along the Mehoopany Creek, but also flying

above local ponds. Jane Stabinsky was successful in capturing photos of bald eagles perched in a tree, probably watching the ice fishermen, on Chamberlain Pond.



*Bald eagle photos courtesy of Jane Stabinsky*

Habitat improvement is the name of the game by members of the National Mountain Quality Deer Management Association and the National Wild Turkey Federation. Members of the Watershed Association joined them on the Forkston side of State Game Lands 57 to prune old apple trees and to clear brush from under them. This opens the trees to sunlight to bear more fruit. Four types of clover and chicory seeds were spread under them and in areas prepared for food plots. Bear and deer were reported enjoying the results of the clearing and seeding performed last winter.

A recent newsletter from the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association reported studies done by Dr. J. M. Niles and his interns from Susquehanna University to assess streams within that watershed. One question arose as to why certain streams with good quality water lack trout. Another study, to assess the recovery of streams from the flooding of 2011 found that trout, 4 - 4.5 inches long (half of the stream population) was gone. Trout smaller than 4 inches survived.

The Fish and Boat Commission approved the addition of 13 new waters to its list of wild trout streams. This is a biological designation and does not determine how it is managed. The additions in the Mehoopany Creek Watershed area include Burgess Brook, Douglas Hollow Brook, Farr Brook, Kasson Brook, and Henry Lott Brook. For the complete list, go to [http://www.fish.state.pa.us/waters\\_trout.htm](http://www.fish.state.pa.us/waters_trout.htm).

Gas well pads continue to crop up here and there within the watershed. In addition, pipelines are being constructed, along with compressors and transfer stations. The skyline is now dotted with windmills which can be seen from a number of local roads. We're all reminded, however, that the windmills are on private property and need to be viewed from a distance.

Route 87 and the embankment of Mehoopany Creek in Colley Township, just beyond the Wyoming County line, was severely damaged in the floods of 2011. A \$2 million project has corrected much of the damage and the road has re-opened. Although the main thrust of the reconstruction was for road repair, a section of the North Branch of Mehoopany Creek was relocated away from the roadway. Large rocks (rip rap) were placed along the banks of the waterway and bank plantings to prevent erosion were put in place.

The "Million Dollar" bridge on Windy Valley Road (SR 3001) above Forkston is being replaced. Work has begun to replace the original "new" bridge and temporary bridge that were washed away in the 2011 floods.

Thanks to Bernie Scalzo, Watershed Specialist, with the Wyoming County Conservation District, you can now visit the Watershed Association on the Net. See us at <http://www.mehoopanycreek.org>.

We encourage you to visit the watershed area. There's lots to do and see, whether it's fishing, hunting, boating, biking, hiking, walking, kayaking, swimming, or just enjoying the natural beauty and wildlife. We hope to see you soon!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Trout Day 2013	April 13,
Liming 2013	Spring and Fall
Litter pick-up Road	Spring and Fall 2013 on Windy Valley
Water monitoring	Year-round, weather permitting

Additional help is needed and welcome. If you would like to volunteer to assist with any of these projects, or would like additional information, please contact Rusty Bennett at 570-833-4332.

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## MEHOOPANY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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President, Rusty Bennett  
Vice-President, Dennis Mingus  
Treasurer, Dave Krafjack  
Secretary, Marilyn Stark

Visit us at <http://www.mehoopanycreek.org>

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except December) at 7 p.m. in the Mehoopany Township Municipal Building. Meetings are open to the general public. Many thanks to Marilyn Stark and Janie Stabinsky for contributing to this edition.