



The 2011 Lake Musconetcong Hand Pulling Event was a wonderful success. We more than doubled previous totals, both in numbers of volunteers and in total amount of water chestnut harvested. At the August 20, 2011 event we had over 65 volunteers and we harvested 16 tons of water chestnut. This is an amazing success.

First, we would like to thank everyone individually and personally because it was people out there pulling weeds, reaching their hands into the water and pulling out water chestnut. For some it was their lake, for others it was an even more generous decision; simply to make a difference in a lake being overtaken by an extremely aggressive invasive weed, water chestnut.

But there were many behind the scenes that helped to make this possible and we would be remiss in not noting the contributions:

- Americorps Ambassador Program: Chris Trainor, coordinator of the volunteer event, and much more, far exceeded both our expectations and the high expectations of the Americorps Program. Americorps is charged with making a difference in the community, focusing on four issues: environment, public safety, human need homeland security and education. AmeriCorps is a national service initiative that was begun in 1993 and is modeled after the Peace Corps. Also thanks to Greg Kofsky, Americorps Ambassador for WMA 9 who helped launch volunteers in the right direction.
- Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) provided amazing support and coordinated with Morris County Parks Commission to reach an agreement to enable us to have sufficient boats to get everyone out on the water. MWA did this within an extremely short timeframe, and they managed to accomplish an agreement and insurance for the boats.
 - Beth Styler Barry, Executive Director
 - Bill Leavens,
 - Adrienne Kaczynski, Administrative Assistant,
 - Kim Hood
 - Stuart Shafran of Musconetcong Watershed Association, (of the floating sled)
 - Peter Banta,
 - Richard Plumpton, Counsel, Lowenstein Sandler PC, and
 - Bill Harclerode

- David Helmer Executive Director Morris County Park Commission. Morris County Parks Commission for working with partners and finding a way to make it possible to provide us with canoes enabling us to accomplish so much. Dedicated volunteers dedicated without canoes and kayaks would have been sending good wishes to people on the lake; that would not have pulled many weeds.
- Lake Hopatcong State Park and Worthington State Park for providing boats from Worthington State Park, personal flotation devices, gloves and transportation of Morris County Parks Commission boats.
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- The Troop leaders and Boy Scouts of America Troop 85: they were a great team of future leaders who contributed a lot to this effort. The Troop Leaders who saw this as a good endeavor for their troop and did all the necessary planning to see that the Troop was there and capable of going out on the water are to be greatly commended.
- Borough of Stanhope Fire Department: For providing Safety on the water. With over 65 volunteers, 8 of which were minors from Boy Scout Troop 85, we appreciate the security that came from knowing that the safety boat and Emergency Squad was there.
- John Searle – fantastic memory of the event and great educational tool on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vv6sPTKnSXU>
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners helping to man the registration tables and keep volunteers flowing.
- Borough of Netcong Councilwoman ToniAnn Mc Cullough, Recreation Liason.
- Borough of Stanhope Councilman George Graham.
- Rosie's Diner, Netcong for supplying hot dogs, rolls and other supplies as a donation to help feed the volunteers after the event.
- Carmine's Pizzeria, Main St., Netcong for supplying pizza as a donation to help feed the volunteers after the event.
- Sal's Pizzeria, Rt. 183, Stanhope for supplying pizza as a donation to help feed the volunteers after the event.
- All in the Icing Bakery, Main St., Netcong, for supplying cupcakes and cookies to help feed the volunteers after the event.

In planning this hand pulling event we did follow the Rutgers Fact Sheet Making your water chestnut hand pulling event a success.

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS1138>

Volunteers are an amazing group of people. They are willing to put aside their own personal agenda for an hour, a week, a year and help accomplish what can not be accomplished without them. The volunteers for the Lake Musconetcong Hand Pull event were certainly a dedicated group, and we hope that in some small measure this letter indicates our gratitude for your service.

Sincerely,

Earl Riley

Earl Riley

Lake Musconetcong
Regional Planning Board

Pat Rector

Pat Rector

For the Water Chestnut
Task Force

Helen Maurella

Helen Maurella

Superintendent Lake Musconetcong
State Park
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry