



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER

2016



Secretary Sally Jewell Visit to New Jersey

By Katie Conrad

On September 8, 2016, the U.S. Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Sally Jewell, toured the decommissioning of the Hughesville Dam on the Musconetcong River in Hunterdon and Warren Counties in northwestern New Jersey. A “Wild and Scenic River,” the Musconetcong is a 42-mile tributary of the Delaware River. The Hughesville Dam was built in the late 1800’s to power a paper mill, but has been out of operation for decades. The goals of the removal were to (1) permanently open one river mile of fluvial aquatic and spawning habitat for diadromous (American eel, American shad, river herring) and resident fishes; (2) improve water quality; and (3) reduce flooding during major storm events. The effort was led by the New Jersey Field Office’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration programs in partnership with the many members of the Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership, a 2012 recipient of the Coastal America Partnership Award.



Beth Styler Barry (Executive Director of the Musconetcong Watershed Association) left, Sally Jewell (U.S. Secretary of the Interior) middle, and Eric Schrasing (Field Supervisor of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s New Jersey Field Office) right. Photo Credit: Elizabeth Freiday, USFWS.

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Above: Sally Jewell (U.S. Secretary of the Interior), and Eric Schradung (Field Supervisor of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New Jersey Field Office.); Below: Katie Conrad, Cathy Marion, and Elizabeth Freiday, NJFO Superstars!

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Ecological Services Project Leaders Meeting By Eric Schrading

NJFO hosted the Ecological Services Project Leaders Meeting September 12-16, 2016 in Cape May, NJ. The meeting included a field visit to Cape May NWR as well as two restoration projects in Cape May with TNC and the Corps, and with Cape May County and DU. The meeting included great conversations as well as great weather. We worked on organizing the ESA Listing workload as well as finalizing Regional ES priorities.

We were disappointed that Paul Phifer was unable to attend. However, he was always with us in photo!





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Connecting People to Nature: NJFO Staff Assist Local Law Enforcement at Outreach Event By Cathy Marion

NJFO staff assisted the Brigantine, NJ Police Department at their National Night Out event. The National Night Out event takes place annually in communities across the U.S. and Canada on the first Tuesday of August, and is intended to enhance relationships between neighbors and law enforcement agencies. Over 500 members of the Brigantine, NJ community were present to observe various facets of local law enforcement efforts. NJFO staff hosted a wildlife ‘touch table’, and the event provided a great forum for the NJFO to interact positively with local beach communities to share information on endangered species management activities. Congressional District 2.
Photo by Cathy Marion, USFWS.





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Congressman Lends a Hand to Build Oyster Reefs **By Katie Conrad**

Congressman Frank LoBiondo visited our oyster reef volunteer event with the Colts Neck High School ROTC at Gandy's Beach and helped us build a reef. We appreciate the congressman's support of our restoration project. With the assistance of the cadets and project partners, we were able to construct several oyster reefs this month! Congressional District 2.



Oyster reef building crew on Thursday 8/25 with partners from Rutgers University, USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, and Colts Neck ROTC. Photo credit: Patty Doerr, The Nature Conservancy.

Congressman LoBiondo handing an oyster castle to an ROTC cadet. Barbara Brummer, The Nature Conservancy State Director on right. Photo credit: Patty Doerr, The Nature Conservancy.

