



AQUETONG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 504
New Hope, PA 18938

RECEIVE OUR NEXT UPDATE IN YOUR INBOX

Please note that to conserve resources and save on printing and postage, this issue is our first—and last—printed update. To continue to receive AWA news and updates, please go to our web site and type in your name and email address in the area provided on the home page.

www.aquetongwatershed.org



Why Volunteer?

We live in a beautiful part of the world and are fortunate to have many people who care about and want to preserve its natural beauty. The AWA gives you the opportunity to volunteer in many ways. If you are interested, please visit our website to sign up for our mailing list. We'll email you about upcoming events and projects.



Planting native trees along the Aquetong

Our tree-plantings are fun events and require just a couple of hours on a Saturday morning. Put on boots and gloves, plant trees and meet lots of interesting people while experiencing our beautiful countryside. We have planted almost 1,000 trees in the past 18 months. The trees are small, so everyone can participate.

We are forming five teams to work on an Assessment Project. Each team will be assigned to a different segment of Aquetong Creek. Participants will be trained in technologies and procedures of stream assessment, from taking water samples and temperatures to visual assessment of stream banks and local vegetation. Please be prepared to make a commitment of several hours per month for 18 months; you will be rewarded by learning more about stream ecology as you help us plan restoration projects.

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HERE'S WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE SAYING

"The AWA is meaningful to me because it enhances our natural resource of pure water, and leaves a meaningful legacy to future generations."

— Barbara Zietchick

"Being in the business to evaluate and report on specific watershed projects, it is a rewarding feeling to assist a grassroots, community-driven organization committed to long-term improvement of the watershed. AWA offers the opportunity to help improve our local environment through social and hands-on, knees-to-the-ground activities, supporting a quiet, yet powerful, web of water, wetlands and greenery as it flows through the heart of Solebury and New Hope."

— Phil Getty



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2010 Update



Appreciate. Protect. Participate.

Aquetong – A Legendary Spring

Through the land grants of William Penn in 1702, the beautiful domain called the Great Spring Tract was taken from the Lenape ancestors who had called the spring Achewtong.

"Achewe" likely translates from Lenape as "the great spring among the bushy (pine) tree." The Europeans corrupted the Native American word into Aquetong. The land of the Great Spring stayed in the family of the original settlers, the Inghams, for more than 100 years. Today known as Aquetong Spring, it also carries the local name of Ingham Spring.

At the stunning rate of three million gallons per day, water from Aquetong



Spring gushes over the spillway, cascading into a clear pool with a beautiful bluish color along the bottom.

The spring formed at the contact of a geologic fault. As limestone waters freely flowing through cavernous underground voids suddenly encounter red shale, they bubble up to form the spring. Illustrating the geologic fault, ledges of stone on the northwest side of the spring are a gray porous limestone, while stones on the southeast side are of solid red shale.

The water travels down the man-made spillway into a sparkling stream which empties into Aquetong Lake, created by a dam in the 19th century to power mills. Waters from the lake flow into Aquetong Creek, which then flows through New Hope into the Delaware River.

In 2009, Solebury Township acquired the land surrounding Aquetong Lake from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) for purposes of preserving the land and creating a park and environmental educational facility. PFBC retained ownership of Aquetong Spring. The AWA, along with many other civic and environmentally-oriented organizations, will be providing insights and public comments as Solebury Township more fully develops a master plan for this important historic and environmentally sensitive site.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AWA Web Site is Launched!

Thanks to a grant from Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development, obtained with the support of State Rep. Bernie O'Neill, the Aquetong Watershed Association has a new website at www.aquetongwatershed.org

The site has maps, history, volunteering opportunities, photos of the watershed and links to many watershed resources. Please visit our new site!

You can also find us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/aquetongwater

JOIN US

Join your neighbors in actively working together to protect and improve our water resources. Our membership dues are modest so that as many members of the community as possible can participate.

CONTACT US

P.O. Box 504
New Hope, PA 18938
Phone: 215-862-7250
Email: info@aquetongwatershed.org
Web: www.aquetongwatershed.org

Notes From the President

"For many of us, water simply flows from a faucet, and we think little about it beyond this point of contact. We have lost a sense of respect for the wild river, for the complex workings of a wetland, for the intricate web of life that water supports."

— Sandra Postel, *Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity*, 2003.

Water is essential to all of us and in the lives of all flora and fauna on earth. Water is the universal solvent, affected by all that it comes in contact with: the land it traverses, and the soils through which it travels.

A watershed is a basin-like landform, defined by the surrounding topography,



Learn about stream ecology at AWA seminars

dividing areas that are drained by a network of rivers, streams and tributaries into a particular body of water. The water that falls in the form of precipitation travels through the soil to groundwater and streams, creating a combined water system.

The important thing about watersheds is: what we do on the land affects water quality of the groundwater and impacts all communities living downstream. The Aquetong watershed, in which we live, covers a landform of over eight square miles and contains 23 miles of streams that eventually drain into the Delaware River. Two major creeks, Aquetong and Honey Hollow, are located within its land area, as well as Aquetong Lake and Aquetong Spring. There are about 3,000 residences and businesses in the watershed covering a major portion of Solebury Township and all of New Hope Borough. The entire population of the watershed depends upon groundwater wells as its source for drinking water and daily use. So, all of us, residents and businesses alike, living in the watershed have a vested interest in protecting our most valuable resource.

In 2008, the AWA submitted a Growing Greener grant application to the PA Department of Environmental Protection requesting funds to conduct a

comprehensive assessment study of the watershed. The grant also requested funds to train volunteers to help in the data collection and monitoring phase of the project. Last year, we were overwhelmed when Governor Rendell announced that the AWA was awarded a \$47,000 Growing Greener grant to execute the assessment and monitoring project.

We are doing this study to learn more about the environmental condition of the Aquetong watershed, including water quality and biological indicators leading to a determination of the current "state of the watershed." We are hoping our study will augment the previous work done by Solebury Township and reported in other independent studies.

Our study has many objectives, namely: to identify areas within the Aquetong watershed to protect and preserve; to recommend potential areas for restoration; and to work with the municipalities and community in developing a plan for the preservation of this great resource. If you are interested in volunteering to help in the data collection, in becoming an AWA member, or just learning more about what you can do to help improve the watershed, please contact us.

— Les Isbrandt

Conserve the watershed.

Aquetong's Fish Species

Aquetong Creek supports native brown trout and Aquetong Spring was used as a trout hatchery in the past. It is probable that trout reproduction occurs within Aquetong Creek because small/young trout have been observed in the creek, and the dam at the Bucks County Playhouse prohibits trout from swimming upstream from the Delaware River. Other species that occur in the creek include American eel, white suckers and bass as well as

northern two-lined salamanders and green frogs. A variety of turtles, including snapping and painted turtles, occur in the watershed. Eastern spiny softshell turtles are native to western Pennsylvania, but have been introduced into eastern Pennsylvania, and may occur in Aquetong Lake. Macroinvertebrates include a variety of mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, as well as other genera.



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We thank all of you who have joined in the tree plantings, walk-abouts, educational events, annual meetings, and lifetime and annual members and all those who contributed additional donations to enable the AWA to grow.

We acknowledge and deeply appreciate these important contributions to AWA and our community.

Renew Your AWA Membership — Join Us

Please join us! Our membership dues are modest so that as many members of the community as possible can participate. If you are already a member, it's time to renew! The AWA's projects and programs are driven entirely by volunteers, and we welcome

everyone to volunteer with us. Join your neighbors in actively working together to protect and improve our water resources. Please complete this form and send, with your check, to Aquetong Watershed, P.O. Box 504, New Hope, PA 18938.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day/Eve) _____

Email _____

Become a Member (Please check one)

- Individual \$20
- Household \$30
- Business \$100
- Lifetime \$1,000
- Student \$5

Area(s) of Volunteer Interest: (Circle all that apply.)

Committee Member Tree Planting Stream Monitoring Subject Matter Expertise

Board of Directors Other _____

Mission and Vision

AWA's mission is to conserve, preserve and restore the natural resources of the Aquetong watershed by engaging with residents; leading and supporting demonstration projects and advocating wise planning and best practices.

We believe people are inextricably linked with the natural environment, especially in Solebury and New Hope

where we are entirely dependent on our ground water and underground aquifers for drinking water. The way we treat our lands and homes, what we buy, what we throw away, the choices we make—all of these have a profound effect on the environment around us. Even if you never take a walk along the Aquetong Creek, what you do in your home and your community affects the

health of our streams and water resources.

Our goal is to give residents the information, insight and tools they need to make positive changes in the watershed by working together to protect vital resources and the natural beauty of our region for current and future generations.