



**Your water. Your environment. Your voice.**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For immediate release

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### **Watershed Association Wins Environmental Excellence Award**

*Honored for "Six Decades of Determination" by NJ Governor & DEP*

**December 4, 2009 (Hopewell, NJ)** – The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, central New Jersey's first environmental group, capped off a special year of 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with the reception of one of New Jersey's top honors for environmental leadership.

Winner of a 2009 New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, the Watershed Association was recognized for its outstanding leadership and dedication to protecting clean water and the environment by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Governor Jon Corzine at an awards ceremony held at Drumthwacket, the governor's official residence, in Princeton NJ on Thursday, December 3.

Nominated by U.S. Representative Rush Holt (D-12), the Watershed Association won for its "Six Decades of Determination" in the award's Water Resources category.

"Today being 'green' is all the rage, but 60 years ago only one organization was on the front lines protecting clean water and environment in central New Jersey," said Congressman Holt. "The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association – one of the first watershed associations in the nation – greatly deserves this award."

Founded in 1949 by a handful of citizens concerned about soil erosion and environmentally responsible land use practices, the Watershed Association has grown to become one of the largest and most respected watershed associations in the state, making the "CASE" for clean water and a healthy environment through Conservation, Advocacy, Science, and Education.

"For six decades the Watershed Association has led the way with a farsighted vision of protection for our lakes, rivers and streams," said Jim Waltman, Watershed Association Executive Director. "From soil erosion and sedimentation in the 1950s to challenges associated with climate change and global warming today, the Watershed Association continues to fight for your water and environment. We are your environmental voice."

The New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards were established 10 years ago by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to recognize outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects in the state.

Coordinated by the DEP, a panel of judges evaluates nominees on the long-term benefits their work has achieved as well as innovation. Since its inception, more than 80 municipalities, individuals, businesses and institutions have been honored. The New Jersey Corporation for

Advanced Technology and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities are co-sponsors of this award.

Award categories include: Clean Air, Healthy Ecosystems, Land Conservation, Water Resources, Innovative Technology, Environmental Leadership, Environmental Stewardship, Sustainable & Healthy Communities, and Environmental Education/Student Activity.

**About the Watershed Association**

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, a not-for-profit organization, protects the 265-square-mile region drained by the Stony Brook and Millstone River – an area spanning 26 towns and five counties. Founded in 1949, the Watershed Association is central New Jersey's first environmental group protecting clean water and the environment through conservation, advocacy, science and education. [www.thewatershed.org](http://www.thewatershed.org)

***Interviews with Executive Director Jim Waltman available upon request. Contact Gwen McNamara, Communications Manager, at (609) 737-3735 x16 or [gmcnamara@thewatershed.org](mailto:gmcnamara@thewatershed.org).***