

2011 Annual Report Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association



Recreation



Research



Education



Stewardship

To promote and protect the integrity of the lands and waters of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association 2011 Annual Report

published May 2012

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Cover photos:

- 1. Charlie Hickox, co-author of Hikes in the Watershed & Wood-Pawcatuck River Routes Guide, on a fall paddle of the Wood River
- 2. Courtney Dougal, WPWA's 2011 Coastal Fellow, recording data for purple loosestrife on the Pawcatuck River
- 3. Teachers from the 2011 Watershed Science for Educators Course, on a field trip in Arcadia Mgmt Area for water quality sampling
- 4. New fish ladder at the Horseshoe Falls on the Pawcatuck River, Shannock, RI

Presented at WPWA Annual Meeting May 17, 2012

Watershed Watch Monitors Anne Marie Tavares

In recognition of 20 years monitoring Meadowbrook Pond

Susan Cerullo

In recognition of 10 years monitoring the Queen River

Ben Bradley

In recognition of 5 years monitoring Worden Pond

Bruce Burns

In recognition of 5 years monitoring the Pawcatuck River

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In recognition of 5 years monitoring the Pawcatuck River

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In recognition of 5 years monitoring Wincheck Pond

Volunteers of the Year Jeffrey Marlow, Francis Flynn, and Sandy Neushatz

In recognition of all their contributions of time, facilities, expertise and patience toward the success of the Shannock Horseshoe Dam Fish Ladder

Trustees Award Linda Green, Elizabeth Heron, and URI Watershed Watch

Presented in recognition of twenty-five years of outstanding work as Southern New England's consummate Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Organization

Salomon Award Janet Coit

Director RI Department of Environmental Management

Presented in recognition of exemplary efforts to preserve, protect and conserve the natural resources of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed, in furtherance of the goals of the Mitch and Betty Salomon Endowment

Lifetime Achievement Award Hank and Peggy Sharpe

In recognition of over a quarter century of active land conservation, especially the protection of the watershed's important natural resources and special places

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Clifton O. "Gus" Woodmansee, a WPWA supporter and tireless community advocate, passed away in January, 2011. The Chariho Rotary Club donated a granite bench to the WPWA Campus in Gus's memory.

One of WPWA's most diligent volunteers, **John (Jake) Levanti**, passed away in March 2012. Jake was an attorney by trade but a passionate fisherman by avocation. He translated this passion into working for the protection of the places he loved, especially the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Jake served on the Board of Trustees for 10 years, but continued on until his death as an Advisor. Besides working on many programs, such as Opening Day of Trout Fishing Season, Jake also lent his legal expertise to WPWA whenever asked. He will be sorely missed.

Another long time member and volunteer, **Jean L. Dion**, who was also Denise Poyer's mother, passed away in April, 2012. Denise used her mother shamelessly to help on many of WPWA's recreational and educational programs. Jean's favorite WPWA activity was the Art Auction held for many years at the Carolina Mill. It was not unusual for her to be standing in the rain setting up tables or chatting with participants. Jean has been an inspiration to Denise and everyone who knew her.

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"Charlie", the Great Blue Heron living near the WPWA Campus on the Wood River

◆ PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS ◆

RIVER RESTORATION

Fish Passage - Pawcatuck River

- Engineering, design, permitting and construction for the removal of Lower Shannock Falls was completed by WPWA in partnership with The Town's of Richmond & Charlestown, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, USDOC's National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council, USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Save the Bay, Trout Unlimited, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Fuss & O'Neill Inc and MAS Building & Bridge.
- Engineering, design and permitting for the 2011 construction of a Denil Fish Ladder & Eelway at the iconic Horseshoe Falls Dam was completed by WPWA with funding and technical support from USDOC's National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Special thanks to landowner Jeffrey Marlowe, dam owner Francis Flynn, and resident historian Sanford Neuschatz for their support of the Lawson M. Cary Jr Memorial Fishway.
- Preliminary engineering investigations at the Kenyon Mill Dam were initiated by WPWA thanks to significant funding provided by USDOC's National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

Invasive Species

- WPWA partnered with RI Natural History Survey, URI Cooperative Extension Watershed Watch, and RIDEM to trail volunteers how to survey and identify invasive aquatic plant species. Most volunteers were Watershed Watch monitors who did surveys on the ponds and rivers they already monitor for water quality.
- WPWA interns surveyed the entire length of the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers by kayak. They determined that purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is common throughout the Pawcatuck River and variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) is a growing problem on the Wood River from Wyoming Pond to Alton Pond.
- In the summer of WPWA conducted a biological control for purple loosestrife in the Shannock section of the Pawcatuck River. This project was done as part of larger project to remove the dam at Lower Shannock Falls. More than 2,300 Galerucella spp. adult beetles were released in July by WPWA interns. WPWA will continue to monitor the Shannock site in 2012 and 2013 for evidence of the effectiveness of biological control of the purple loosestrife in the Shannock project.

Water Quality Monitoring

- RIDEM conducted a basin study of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. They were able to use data from WPWA's Water Quality Monitoring Project, currently up on WPWA's website. WPWA worked with RIDEM to identify and set up sample sites.
- WPWA completed 24 years of water quality monitoring in the watershed. RIDEM regularly uses this data as part of their State of the Waters report.
- 35 volunteers monitored 10 lakes and ponds and 20 streams and rivers.
- **WPWA** interns conducted macroinvertebrate sampling on 8 sites in the watershed.

2009-11 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in CT and RI by Town

2010

2011

CONNECTICUT North Stonington (These sites are monitored under the North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance programs)					
Asseconk Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 sites		
Green Falls Brook	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites		
Shunnock River	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites		
Wyassup Lake	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling		
RHODE ISLAND Charlestown					
Pasquiset Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling		
Watchaug Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling		
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites		
Exeter					
Boone Lake	Lake Sampling		Lake Sampling		
Eisenhower Lake	Lake Sampling		zane sampinig		
Yawgoo Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling		
Falls River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites		
Glen Rock Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site		
GIEII ROCK DIOOK	Fish Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Jamping 1 site		
Locke Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site		
Queen River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites		
2	Fish Sampling 2 sites	r g	r 6		
Sherman Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site		
Hopkinton					
Alton Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling		
Wincheck Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling		
Ashaway River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites		
Brushy Brook	,, & sambang 1 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites		
Parameter Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 sites		
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites		
Tomaquag Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 site		
Wood River	Macro Study 3 sites	WQ Janipinig 2 site	Macro Study 3 sites		
vvoou river	macro study 3 sites		macro study s sites		

2009-11 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in CT and RI by Town (cont.) 2009 2010 2011

Richmond			
CICITITOTIVI			
Alton Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Meadowbrook Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
White Brook Pond	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Nyoming Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	
Beaver River			Macro Sampling 1 site
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites
South Kingstown			
Barber Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Hundred Acre Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Jsquepaug Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Worden Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Yawgoo Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Chipuxet River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Glen Rock Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites
Queen River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	
			Macro Sampling 2 sites
Sherman Brook			
Shickasheen Brook	1 0	1 0	1 0
Tucker Pond		1 0	
White Horn Brook	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites
Westerly			
Chapman Pond	Lake Sampling		
Mastuxet Brook	Temp Study 4 sites		
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 7 sites	WQ Sampling 7 sites
Nyoming Pond Beaver River Pawcatuck River Bouth Kingstown Barber Pond Hundred Acre Pond Jsquepaug Pond Norden Pond Chipuxet River Glen Rock Brook Pawcatuck River Queen River Sherman Brook Ghickasheen Brook Tucker Pond White Horn Brook Westerly Chapman Pond Mastuxet Brook	Lake Sampling WQ Sampling 2 sites Lake Sampling Lake Sampling Lake Sampling Lake Sampling Lake Sampling WQ Sampling 1 site WQ Sampling 2 site WQ Sampling 2 site Lake Sampling WQ Sampling 4 site Lake Sampling WQ Sampling 4 site Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling 2 sites Lake Sampling Lake Sampling Lake Sampling Lake Sampling Lake Sampling WQ Sampling 1 site WQ Sampling 2 site WQ Sampling 1 site WQ Sampling 1 site WQ Sampling 4 site Lake Sampling 4 site Lake Sampling WQ Sampling 2 site	Macro Sampling 1 site WQ Sampling 2 sites Lake Sampling Lake Sampling Lake Sampling Lake Sampling Lake Sampling WQ Sampling 1 site WQ Sampling 2 sites WQ Sampling 2 sites WQ Sampling 1 site Macro Sampling 2 site WQ Sampling 4 sites Lake Sampling WQ Sampling 2 sites

RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

Paddle Programs

- Source to Sea on the Pawcatuck River was offered over 4 Saturdays in the summer, one leg per month. A total of 25 paddlers participated.
- ↑ The Southern New England Paddlers (SNEP) held three paddle training nights at the WPWA campus.
- 150 campers from Roger Williams Park Zoo, Denison Pequot Nature Center, and Norman Bird Sanctuary were instructed over the course of the summer.

- WPWA hosted 64 family members of actively deployed military personnel during 2 kayaking programs for Operation Military Kids. Besides the kayak on the Wood River, kids also learned about the bugs and critters that make up a healthy river system. A grant enabled us to provide these events for free.
- Kenyon Grist Mill Open House WPWA provided kayaks for use by hundreds, in return Kenyon's collected donations to benefit WPWA's programs.

Other Programs

- Litter Awareness, Opening Day of Trout Fishing Season.
- Fly Tying & Fly Fishing classes led by volunteers from WPWA, Trout Unlimited & Wood River Fly Fishing Club.
- ⚠ WPWA initiated a beginning birding series during the winter.

EDUCATION

Special Programs

- Watershed Science for Educators course: WPWA and our partner, Narrow River Preservation Association, received a 2010 grant from the RI Rivers Council to offer a 3-credit graduate level course for the Spring 2011 semester. The grant allowed us to provide this course at no charge to the teachers. Twenty-one formal and non-formal educators from around the state learned about watersheds and watershed issues.
- № 84 fifth-grade students from Curtis Corner Middle School spent a day with WPWA at the
 Arcadia Management Area for a field trip that included, kayaking, macro sampling, and hiking.
- ✓ WPWA worked with the URI Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) program to conduct outreach on storm water issues through our website, newsletter, and school programs.
- WPWA provided training and field trip equipment for the SMILE program, an after school academic enrichment program for students in fourth through twelfth grades. These students are primarily underserved and undereducated populations from city school systems.

Other Education Programs

- Quest Montessori School classroom program
- Greene School teacher orientation
- Compass School field trip
- Coventry High School field trip
- ♣ Chariho Middle School field trip
- ⚠ Americorp field trip
- URI Hydrology class field trip
- URI Forestry Class

CAPACITY BUILDING

Wild and Scenic Designation

- ⚠ In 2010 WPWA formed a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Save the Bay, RI DEM, CT DEEP to work towards Wild and Scenic Designation for the rivers in the Pawcatuck Watershed. Presentations were made to all towns in the watershed to garner support for the designation.
- In November 2011 Congressmen Langevin (RI) and Courtney (CT) sponsored a bill to have the National Parks Service conduct a three year study to determine if the Wood, Pawcatuck, Chipuxet, Beaver, and Queen Rivers qualify for designation as Wild and Scenic rivers. D. Poyer Testimony in support of the bill was heard in the Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands in April 2012. While no action has been taken yet, WPWA is hopeful that the bill will be heard in the full house sometime this summer.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Campus Renovations

Thanks to grants from the Champlin Foundation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sportsfishing Restoration Program, WPWA was able to complete a striking campus renovation. Phase I included the removal of the rental house and installation of a new well and septic system. Phase II involved removal of pavement from the driveway, creating a new public parking area where the house once stood, creation of a public bathroom in the visitor's

center, removal of invasive plants and new plantings with primarily native vegetation. The results are a much more inviting campus, with plenty of parking for members and the general public, as well as more space for recreation and school activities.

Projects and Presentations

- № 2010-2011WPWA Lecture Series "Recreation In the Watershed"
- C. Fox presented Permitting in Rhode Island for Connecticut and Rhode Island Dam Removal Project Manager Training
- ↑ D. Poyer presented a workshop on Active Watershed Education at the Blue Planet Conference in Bozeman, Montana.
- WPWA worked with Watershed Counts to help develop freshwater indicators for rivers and streams.
- "Lower Shannock Falls Dam Removal" a presentation on the Pawcatuck Fish Restoration project given at the Kettle Pond Visitor's Center as part of the RI Canoe and Kayak Association's monthly meeting.

Committee and Board Affiliations

- Wetland Restoration Strategy Committee
- ♣ Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Team
- ✔ EPA wetland outreach committee
- Watershed Counts indicators committee
- Trail Advisory Committee
- RI Blueways Alliance
- Rhode Island Environmental Education Association
- * Rhode Island Environmental Education Association
- ♣ Rhode Island River Restoration Working Group

Publications and Digital Media

- Volume 28, Numbers 1-3 of *Watershed* published, with a total distribution by mail of over 4000, and a global availability though our website.
- Water Quality Monitoring Map and Data, and an Education page were published on the WPWA website.

FINANCIALS

Dear WPWA Members,

The WPWA closed the 2011 calendar and budget year in a strong financial position. We begin each year with Board-approved budget that must be balanced. We closed 2011 with income exceeding expenses by approximately \$15,000. This speaks to the careful budget management of the staff, our accountant, and the Board.

The financial picture of the organization is complex. \$1.3 million in stimulus grant funds came to the WPWA last year in support of our river restoration work and an equal amount was spent in implementing the projects. We are fortunate to have funding and technical support from NOAA and CRMC on this American Recovery & Reinvest Act-funded project. The Board is, however, very mindful that this project will end shortly and we need to be vigilant to recognize the next big project for the WPWA.

Last year we completed our first federally mandated A-133 single audit by the firm YKSM. Because of the amount of money we are managing for the river restoration project, this was a requirement of our granting agencies. In addition to auditing our finances and assets, this audit process included testing of WPWA's policies, procedures, and the Board and staff's knowledge of these "systems." The organization was found to be financially sound and well-managed. The audit process was very informative and we have modified a number of our business practices to run an even tighter ship.

The Treasurer extends his sincere thanks to the WPWA accountant Ms. Kristy Armstrong for the care she has taken in tracking our finances and the diligence she has shown in keeping the Treasurer, Executive Director, and Board informed of our financial position at all times. The auction at the 2011 annual meeting was a great success and the event netted the WPWA approximately \$4,000. The number and diversity of items that we have available this year is incredible and our goal is to surpass last year's success. A mantra that we frequently hear from our Fund Raising Committee is -- bid early and bid often! The Treasurer urges you to heed this good advice.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter August Treasurer

WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION December 31, 2010*

ASSETS

Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 369,165
Accounts receivable	34,656
Inventory	5,739
Prepaid Insurance	<u>715</u>
Total current assets	410,275
Investments	201,345
Endowments held in trust	57,309
Property, plant and equipment, net	343,795
Other Assets	
Land held for conservation	113,000
Construction in progress	8,125
Total other assets	121,215
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,133,939
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 42,518
Accrued expenses	602
Total current liabilities	43,120
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	918,044
Temporarily restricted	43,384
Permanently restricted	129,391
Total net assets	1,090,819
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,133,939</u>

^{*} Due to the volume of federal funds managed by WPWA in 2011 and audited financial statement is now required as part of our annual financial reporting. This more detailed report of funds, assets, policies and procedures is not yet available. When it soon becomes available it may be viewed at www.wpwa.org