

# WATERSHED

A Newsletter of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Volume 32 No. 2

Summer 2015

## “WATERSHED” is Going Green and Going Digital!

Happy summer from the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association! We hope that you are enjoying many fun outings in our beautiful watershed and rivers. Here at WPWA, we've been busy taking dozens of children on the Wood River and Browning Mill Pond to introduce them to the beauty of the outdoors. We believe that fostering an early appreciation for nature in these kids is a great way to encourage a lifetime of environmental stewardship.

Here at WPWA, we want to lead this stewardship effort by example. To that end, in an effort to be “greener” and make your donation dollars go further, we will begin publishing “WATERSHED” digitally. If you have provided us with your email address, then every couple of months you will be receiving news updates and interesting articles from WPWA in your inbox. You may also receive an occasional email from us between newsletters with breaking news, an urgent request, or information about upcoming events.

Why, you may ask, are we doing away with our paper newsletter? Our reasons for going digital are many. The most obvious is the benefit to the environment from saving many thousands of sheets of paper and plenty of ink. We will be able to devote more of your generous membership dues and donations to programs, as we will no longer be paying for printing, folding, and postage of hundreds of multi-page paper newsletters. We also hope that our members will spread the word about the work WPWA is doing by forwarding our e-newsletter to their family and friends.

We will also be posting our news articles on FaceBook, so please “Like” our page and “Share” with your friends.

Please be assured that we will NEVER sell or share your email address! We also promise that we won't bombard you with constant emails--we respect your time and know how annoying frequent emailers can be. You have the option of unsubscribing to our digital newsletter (which unfortunately would unsubscribe you from ALL of our emails) or requesting that a paper copy be mailed to you. If you prefer to receive a paper copy, please complete the form below and return it to us. To ensure that you will receive our newsletter electronically, please email us at [info@wpwa.org](mailto:info@wpwa.org) from your preferred email address now with Newsletter in the subject line. As always, we thank you for your continued support!

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Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) with an American kestrel from Born to be Wild Nature Center.

## WPWA's Annual Meeting a Big Success

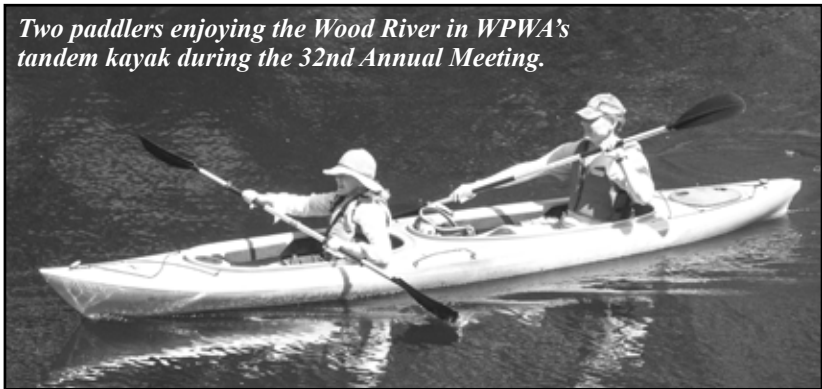
WPWA held its 32nd Annual Meeting on Saturday May 30th at our campus on the upper Wood River. It was a beautiful, bright, warm day--a bit different from last year's meeting! We were pleased to recognize this year's award winners: Watershed Watch Monitor awards to Greg Soder for 25 years monitoring Deep and Schoolhouse Ponds, Al Ball for 20 years monitoring Falls and Moosup Rivers, and Carol Ann and Mark Baker for 10 years monitoring Alton Pond; Christine McIntyre Hannon, the incredibly gifted artist who painted the stunning murals in the Welcome Center, with the Volunteer of the Year award; Senators Jack Reed (RI) and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), and Representatives Jim Langevin (RI) and Joe Courtney (CT) with the Mitch and Betty Salomon Award; and Mitch and Betty Salomon with the Lifetime

*continued on next page*

*Annual Meeting, cont. from p. 1*

Achievement Award, accepted by their son, David Salomon. John and Vivian Maxson from the Born to be Wild Nature Center brought several birds of prey to show our members and guests. Quite a few folks grabbed a kayak and had a nice paddle up the Wood River, while others stayed on land, enjoyed food and drink, and socialized with friends old and new. Pete August's famous pulled pork was a huge hit, as always. It was a great day and we appreciate everyone who joined us for the festivities!

*Christine McIntyre Hannon receiving the Volunteer of the Year award from Denise Poyer.*



*Two paddlers enjoying the Wood River in WPWA's tandem kayak during the 32nd Annual Meeting.*

*Vivian Maxson from the Born to be Wild Nature Center shows a great horned owl to WPWA's Annual Meeting guests.*

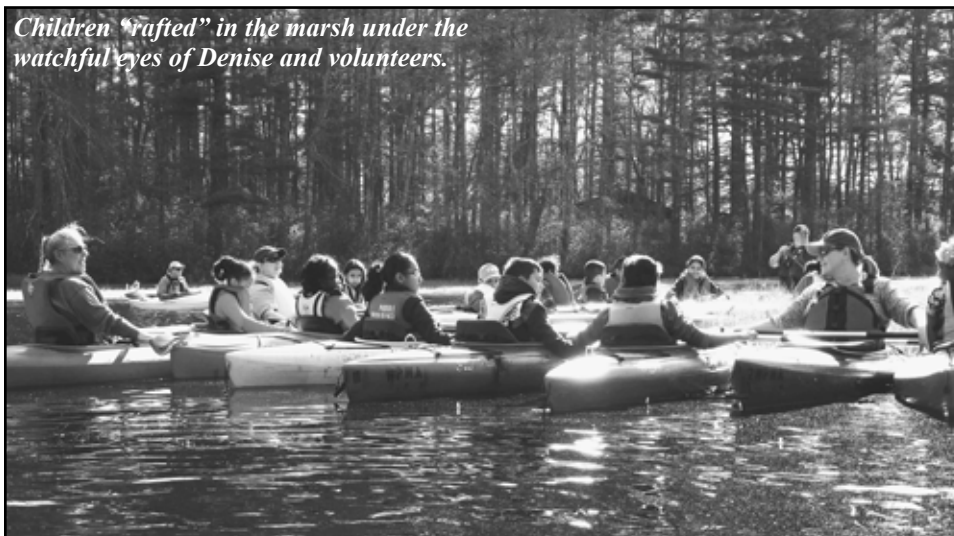


### **Thank you, dedicated volunteers!**

WPWA's dedicated volunteers are critical to the success of our programs, and we can never thank them enough. From river cleanups, tidying up the WPWA campus, deploying temperature loggers in streams, water quality monitoring, and macroinvertebrate sampling, to teaching fly fishing workshops and leading hikes, to helping us with getting hundreds of school children on and in the water, they are the lifeblood of our many diverse activities.

As important as all of these programs are, our personal

favorite is giving children the opportunity to experience the pristine upper Wood River. Kids from fourth grade through high school come to the WPWA campus from all over the state, including several urban areas. Many of the children have never been in a kayak before and they are often nervous about going out on the water in their own boat. Our volunteers gently reassure the children, sometimes literally holding their hands as they get over their initial fear and start to enjoy themselves. As we guide the kids up the river, our vol-



*Children "rafted" in the marsh under the watchful eyes of Denise and volunteers.*

unteers help to keep them off of the river banks and pointed in the right direction. Volunteers give the kids paddling tips as needed, and sometimes even a tow. We usually "raft" all of the boats together in Frying Pan Pond and have the kids silently experience the sights, sounds, and other sensations in the marsh for two minutes. They are surprised by the details they notice: bird calls, the sound of the breeze through the reeds, the damselflies landing on their boats (or bodies!), and so much more. We could not possibly give these kids this amazing experience without our wonderful volunteers, and we thank you.

## River Restoration Update

*By Chris Fox*

The Pawcatuck River was first dammed in the late 1700's and to the best of our knowledge, that is when fish who live in the ocean but spawn in fresh water first saw their access to spawning grounds blocked. Hundreds of years later, in April of 2012, RIDEM introduced over 1000 herring into Worden Pond in South Kingstown, RI.

These fish were migrating up another river to spawn when they were netted and transported to the pond. At the time, I did not grasp the historical importance of this event, perhaps because there were no biologists, no press, no officials, no fishermen, and no boaters on hand as the fish plunged from the stocking truck into the water. It was just me and one RIDEM staffer. I remember thinking that we had only four years until the offspring born in the pond this year would return to naturally produce their own offspring.

At that time, the third and final fish passage project on the upper Pawcatuck hadn't even been designed yet. I was determined to not have to lift the first returning fish over the Kenyon Dam in 2015. Then of course there was the fear that they wouldn't return. Even though fish imprint the unique smell of their natal water, and fight vigorously to follow the smell all the way home, there is no guarantee that they will return. Only hope.

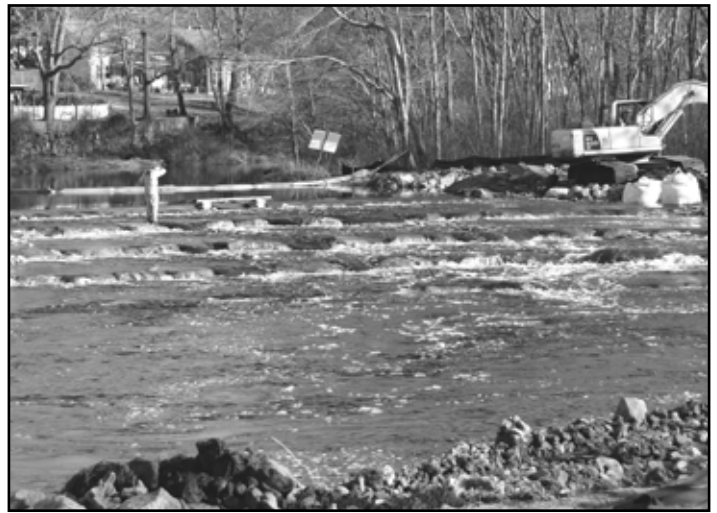


*Water flows freely through the Lower Shannock Falls Dam for the first time in centuries. (July 2010)*

I breathed a sigh of relief in Spring of 2014 when the Kenyon Mill Dam's rock ramp was completed. Finally, the last three obstructions on the Pawcatuck River were gone. Over 50 years had passed since the first efforts to restore migratory fish access to the Pawcatuck River began. Would the fish now return all on their own?

It was a sunny April day when I received a breathless phone call from RIDEM biologist Phil Edwards saying "There are herring in the Horseshoe Fish Ladder!!!" Quite unexpected! Herring can reach maturity in three years, but

generally it takes four years. We just weren't prepared for this early return. So with as little fanfare as their parents received three years earlier, we let their children quietly and peacefully pass up through the three project sites. Herring are always looking out for threats like raptors above the waterline. Had hundreds of people come to the fish ladder to see them migrating, it is possible that less of them would have made it through.



*Water Flows over the new Kenyon Dam Rock Ramp for the first time (Dec 2013)*

Congratulations to all our members for returning migratory fish to Worden Pond for the first time in hundreds of years. As you read this, there are voracious juvenile herring feeding in Worden Pond, and they are food for the freshwater fish in the pond as well. I feel extremely humbled and proud to have played such a pivotal role in reaching this incredible milestone in your watershed's history. My sincerest thanks to all our partners who made the dream to restore fish to the Pawcatuck River a reality. It was you who was the most important partner in this historic endeavor. Without your support of WPWA, who would have endured all the challenges that were overcome to achieve this milestone?



*The first juvenile herring captured in Worden Pond in September 2012, offspring of parents introduced that spring.*

## A Wild and Scenic River in Rhode Island? Yes!

### *The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act Passes* By Denise Poyer

WPWA and its partners, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Bay, RI Department of Environmental Management and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, are pleased to announce the passage of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act by the United States Congress. The bill, sponsored by Representatives Jim Langevin (RI) and Joe Courtney (CT) and Senators Jack Reed (RI) and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), was passed by the House and the Senate on Friday, December 12, 2014. The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act will require that the National Parks Service (NPS) complete a study to assess whether the Wood, Pawcatuck, Beaver, Chipuxet, and Queen Rivers meet the standards to be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Pursuing a Wild and Scenic designation was the catalyst for the creation of the WPWA in the early 1980's. The passage of this Act provides protection for rivers that generate significant tourism and recreation revenue for Rhode Island and Connecticut. A Wild and Scenic designation further supports the ongoing revitalization of the Pawcatuck River and its tributaries as a prime destination for migratory fish.

Now that the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act has passed, NPS has signed a cooperative agreement with WPWA to conduct the three-year study which will identify aspects of the rivers that are remarkable and worthy of protection. To do this, a committee will be

formed including the current partners and many additional stakeholders. We hope to have a representative from each town in the watershed along with state and federal agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, and local interests such as agriculture, business, and recreational groups. The committee will also develop a stewardship plan to protect the river resources. This assures that management of the rivers will have input from all interested parties and that local interests and needs will be an important component of the plan.

When the study is completed a report will be sent to NPS. They will review the report and develop their own report to congress with recommendations regarding the qualification of the rivers for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. At that point we will need to ask our Congressional delegates to sponsor another bill asking Congress to amend the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include the Wood, Pawcatuck, Beaver, Queen and Chipuxet Rivers.

This process has been long, but the benefits to the local rivers we enjoy so much should be worth effort. Not only will there be an extra measure of federal protection to retain the outstandingly remarkable values of these special rivers, but there will be a management plan developed by consensus of all the users of the watershed.

### **The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System**

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

*"In the past 50 years, we have learned—all too slowly, I think—to prize and protect God's precious gifts. Because we have, our own children and grandchildren will come to know and come to love the great forests and the wild rivers that we have protected and left to them . . . An unspoiled river is a very rare thing in this Nation today. Their flow and vitality have been harnessed by dams and too often they have been turned into open sewers by communities and by industries. It makes us all very fearful that all rivers will go this way unless somebody acts now to try to balance our river development". – President Lyndon Johnson on signing the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, October 2, 1968.*



## Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Flood Resiliency Management Plan

by Denise Poyer

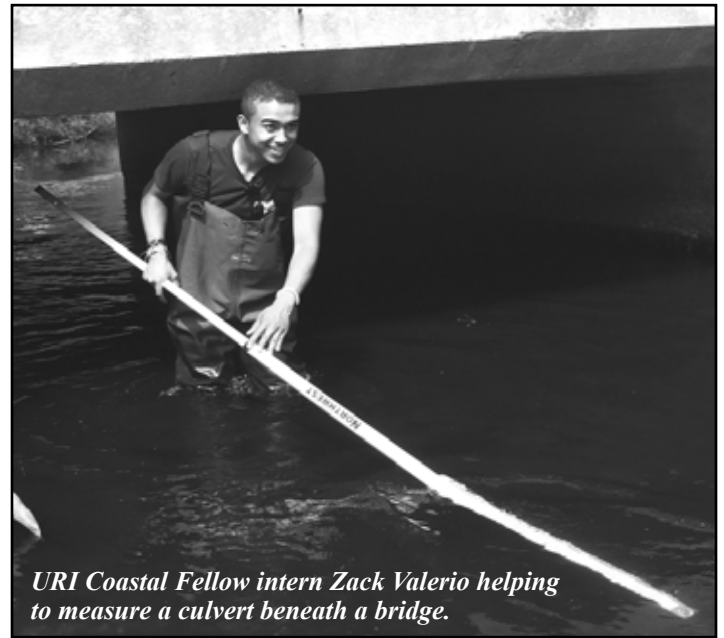
In the recent past, the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed has suffered extensive flooding and flood-related damages, most notably from super storm Sandy and the historic March 2010 Flood. Significant flood damage has occurred in both Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The Federal and State governments recognize the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed as highly valuable and worth preserving and protecting. Through multiple large grants, a substantial sum of money is being spent on this watershed. As part of this investment, in 2014 WPWA was awarded a \$720,000 grant to develop a watershed-wide management plan for flood resiliency. This project will address the problems faced by cities and towns caused by extreme weather events. The program, funded by the Hurricane Sandy disaster relief appropriation through the Department of the Interior, is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The two-year project is expected to be completed in early 2017.

This comprehensive flood and storm damage resiliency and watershed management plan will focus on stormwater and flood management in a way that mitigates future flooding concerns from existing and proposed new land use. At the same time, the plan will balance land use protection with the benefit of protecting water quality and aquatic habitat.

The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Management Plan will be researched and drafted by the engineering firm of Fuss and O'Neil, who have previously designed fish passage projects on the Pawcatuck River. The project will involve assessment of existing conditions and evaluation of what can be done to avoid or mitigate future impacts from catastrophic storms. WPWA kicked off the project in spring 2015 with a steering committee meeting involving a number of the watershed communities and interested stakeholders. Further

meetings will be held during the project and after the plan is drafted, to assure involvement and feedback from all of the watershed communities.



*URI Coastal Fellow intern Zack Valerio helping to measure a culvert beneath a bridge.*



*URI Coastal Fellow intern Nate Lukas assisting with culvert measurements.*

This summer, Fuss and O'Neil engineers, along with WPWA's two URI Coastal Fellow interns, will be in the field doing assessments of many of the culverts, bridges, and dams in the watershed to determine their flood conveyance capacity and the potential flooding or road damage that they cause if they are undersized. The engineers will identify improvement alternatives, including increased culvert sizes, to mitigate flooding and erosion damage. This evaluation would also include the assessment of aquatic connectivity. Aquatic connectivity is the degree to which a stream can flow freely and the animals within it can travel up and downstream. A team of geomorphology experts will also be assessing stream segments to determine if they could alter their course during flood events. This field work should be completed by the fall of 2015.

The objective of the project is to provide tools to the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed communities (including property owners, land developers and Local and State governments) that can help them develop greater resiliency to impacts of future storms and climate change. These impacts include greater precipitation events resulting in larger flood events, more severe hurricanes and tropical storms resulting in greater occurrence of inland flooding, dam failure, stream and river erosion, and channel-restricting sedimentation events. These tools will be developed in such a way that community resiliency can be strengthened through the enhancement of natural systems. The goal of the project is to have a finished product that RIDEM and local communities can adopt and begin using immediately.



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Peter V. August	Robert E. Pietrusza	Joan E. Gradilone	Alan C. DeBeaulieu	Arthur J. Viens
Eric S. Bibler	Sandra M. Poirier	Lillian M. Grant	Patricia J. Fontes	Elizabeth B. Walsh
Paul R. Blakeslee	Nancy A. Potter	Georg Hinteregger	Bruce Garstka	Nancy R. Weissmuller
	Susan R. Rittling	Duncan U. Hunter Jr.		David Zannelli
	Thompson Rowe-Drake	Tony Imbriglio		
	David J. Salomon	James E. Knapp		
	Thomas P. Sculco M.D.	Pierre Koussa		
	Susan A. Shaw	William Le Herissier		
	Richard E. Slimak	Elwood Letterle		
	The Spratt Family	Warren Liepold		
	Margaret T. Stone	Douglas MacPherson		
	Harold R. Ward	James R. Mancini		
	Michael J. White	Elizabeth McNab		
	Robert Yarnall			

**DONATIONS TO THE MITCH & BETTY SALOMON  
FUND IN MEMORY OF BETTY SALOMON  
\$10,000 Bequest from Betty Salomon**

Sherri Appleton	Joan E. Gradilone
Brightman Hill Charitable Foundation	James Grogan
Barbara Hale Davis	Elwood & Hope Letterle
Joyce Fingerut	Marilyn J. Malina
Mark & Jo Goren	Nancy A. Potter
	Norman Zucker

### Betty Salomon (1921 - 2014) *By Marnie Lacouture*

Betty Salomon, a co-founder and long-time friend of WPWA, died peacefully in Cleveland, Ohio on November 26, 2014 while visiting her daughter and family for Thanksgiving. She was 92. She and her late husband Mitch are survived by three children, their spouses and four grandchildren.

Betty's independence and youthful spirit inspired both those who knew her well and those who met her late in her life. She was born Betty Mayer on December 19, 1921 in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. In her late teens she learned to pilot small planes hoping to join the WACs but was turned down because she was not tall enough to meet their height restrictions. After raising three children she earned her BFA in 1969 at the University of Rhode Island where Mitch was a professor of soil science. The family spent two years living and traveling in Europe which contributed to Betty's love of art, food and gardening. Betty was an artist in everything she did from arranging flowers to cooking a meal to knitting a pair of socks.

After Mitch retired in the early 70's they moved from Kingston to a home in Bradford on the Pawcatuck River just beyond its convergence with the Wood River. They enjoyed canoeing, swimming in the river and watching the cycles of nature on their property, where Mitch kept an extensive vegetable garden and Betty created a lovely expansive woodland garden. They lived there for 35 years during which time Betty, with Tess Hoffman, edited *Hope Valley Revived, The Recorded Past: Photographs and Oral History*, a collection of historic photographs, each accompanied by a quotation from a resident of the area. It was funded by the Rhode

Island Committee for the Humanities and published in 1977. She also directed a project with Gladys Segar which documented the dam sites along the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers in a small gem of a book entitled *Water Power Revisited* published in 1980.

She and Mitch were influential in founding the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association in 1983. Ed Wood recalls that WPWA was born around the dining room table at Betty and Mitch's beloved "river house" in Bradford. While there had been discussion among several people in Hopkinton and Richmond for a few months, nothing of substance happened until Betty invited three other couples to dinner. At that gathering the initial plans for a "Wood River Association" were put together, which shortly led to the advertisement of a public meeting in the common room of the Hope Valley Baptist Church. The twenty or so people who attended that meeting organized a steering committee that expanded the concept into a broader "Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association", and the steady growth in members, programs and influence began.

At a very early point Betty staked out the field of membership. "I will take responsibility for finding the members," she said to the other founders. So don't you worry about that." At monthly meetings the board of directors watched the numbers of dues-paying members climb and climb as Betty and her small group of volunteers searched sources for names and addresses, made lists and wrote letters.

Betty made another contribution that meant a lot to the first group of board members. At one of the early organizational meetings the topic was who should be on the board of directors. "I know many organizations feel that both husband and wife should not serve on the same board" Betty said, "but I think that is a silly rule and Mitch and I both want to go on the board." Although most of the people in the room had been aware of unwritten, and sometimes written, rules that kept married couples off the same board in those days, Betty's resolve made sense, and the first board had at least three married couples as members. It made the early days of a small, all-volunteer organization a lot more enjoyable for several of its most effective members and was probably an important reason for its success.

Lisa Gould remembers giving a wild gardening workshop with Betty in 1987 at the Audu-



*Betty Salomon reciting poetry at a Poetry of the Wild event in 2005.*



*Betty Salomon, continued.*

bon Society of Rhode Island's Eppley Preserve in West Kingston. Those who attended discussed the formation of a native plant organization, and from the seed planted that day sprouted The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society. Betty served on the board from 1987-1989 and as the vice president from 1987-1988. She wrote the first "Cultivation Notes" which appeared in the August 1987 newsletter on propagating Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). She and Betsy Keiffer established and directed for many years the RIWPS Seed Starters West group earning them Lifetime Service Awards in 2005.

Betty was energetic and active until the end of her life.

She lived in Narragansett, where she and Mitch had moved in 2005 before he died in 2006, and where she loved to walk along the ocean. She enjoyed practicing yoga and was named student of the month at All That Matters in Wakefield at age 92. She continued to garden with passion and to live a beautiful life.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mitch and Betty Salomon Fund at the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, 203 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832 or online at [www.wpwa.org](http://www.wpwa.org). A celebration of Betty's life will be held at 10:30 on August 2nd at the Towers in Narragansett. For more information please email [dsalomonart@gmail.com](mailto:dsalomonart@gmail.com).

## **Boulder Farm Conservation Easement Granted to WPWA *By Denise Poyer***

On a sunny late fall day I had the pleasure of walking Madeline Jeffery's property, Boulder Farm, in North Stonington, CT. This is a 190 acre area that contains an historic farmhouse, lovely open fields, miles of stone walls, and many acres of hardwood and mixed forests. Running along 2550 feet of the eastern edge of the property is the Pendleton Brook, a small but beautiful stream that feeds into the Green Falls River. If you were to follow the Green Falls River it would connect with Parameter Brook near the CT/RI border and become the Ashaway River, eventually joining the Pawcatuck River as it starts to meander northwest, very close to the Potter Hill Mill dam.

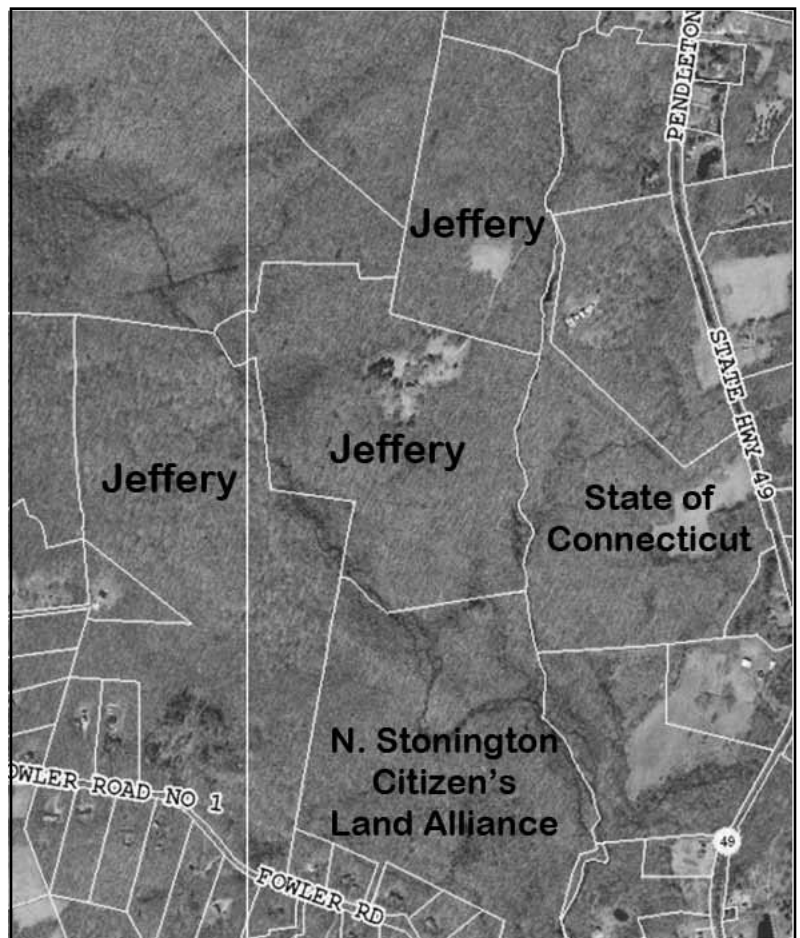
Boulder Farm, consisting of three abutting parcels, has been home to the Jefferys for the last 45 years. Madeline, her late husband Richard, and their son Jonathan had moved to North Stonington from New York City with the intention of pursuing their careers as well as immersing themselves into family farming. They raised prize Southdown Sheep and taught themselves about taking care of the apple orchard, large vegetable gardens, maple syrup trees, and beehives. Interest in the sheep spilled over into Boulder Farm Spinning and Weaving, and Madeline's large dye garden, classes, and lectures brought many to the farm.

As President of The North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance, Madeline has long been an advocate for the rural character and natural environment of North Stonington. Last December, as part of this commitment, Madeline and Jonathan granted a deeded conservation easement especially written for Boulder Farm. The Jefferys were thrilled when WPWA, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, accepted their request to become the holder and monitor of this easement.

This conservation easement specifies exactly what can and cannot be done with the property, effectively reducing the value of the property and the property taxes that the owner pays. It will ensure that the entire property, including its 16-acre home compound, will

remain as one privately owned block of land held for conservation, agriculture, and forestry in perpetuity.

By protecting Boulder Farm, the Jefferys are also helping to protect Pendleton Brook, nearby wetlands, and the groundwater which feeds them. Three other large parcels of open and protected land about Boulder Farm, creating a nearly 500 acre area of protected streams, forest and farmland. A Boulder Farm fund has been initiated to help WPWA conduct its stewardship and monitoring. WPWA is now responsible for making sure that any future owners are maintaining the property in the same loving manner as the Jefferys.



## Oh How Your Family Has Grown! *By Chris Fox*

The WPWA Board of Trustees and staff have a long history of dedication and hard work protecting the watershed for you, our members. Our deep sense of commitment to you stems from a long-standing philosophy that all those at WPWA are part of a larger family. And no one likes to disappoint family.

Well you won't be disappointed with the latest additions to your board and staff. At your Annual Meeting in May, you voted to adopt Donna Walsh and Antonia Bryson into our family. They are two superstars with deep roots in the community, who are passionate about the natural beauty of the watershed. Many know Donna from her years of service as a RI State Representative. She was instrumental in drafting the very first legislation over a decade ago to eliminate cesspools, which pollute our precious drinking water. Antonia comes to us by way of New York City where she worked tirelessly as an environmental attorney. She's happy to be retired and back in RI full time.



*New Board of Trustees member Donna Walsh chats with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse at WPWA's 2015 annual meeting.*

Then, in June, we were able to persuade Joe MacAndrew to join our diverse board. Joe loves the outdoors but is caged up inside all day at Pfizer. In his free time Joe likes to dedicate countless hours serving on the Westerly Conservation Commission, but he has enough energy and enthusiasm leftover for WPWA. Joe will channel his environmental passion toward the issues that you, the WPWA members, are passionate about. A hardy welcome to these outstanding new board additions!

Then there is your faithful staff. I have been fortunate over the last seven years to been involved in so many projects and WPWA transformations. I feel a real sense of accomplishment working on behalf of our members and I look forward to serving you for a long time to come.

For decades Denise Poyer has been part of the WPWA family. She is a true leader in environmental education.

This year Denise won the 2015 RI Blueways Alliance Stewardship Award. According to her nominator, RI DEM Director Janet Coit, "Denise has made a tremendous impact over the past twenty year as the Program Director for the WPWA. During that time, she has developed the educational and recreational programs and led water quality, research and outreach programs. With her degrees and expertise in Wildlife Biology and Environmental Education, Denise has developed monitoring protocols, written scientific papers, and led specific efforts to improve water quality. With patience, passion and plain-spoken language, she brings alive the diversity and special qualities of the watershed."

Denise also received the 2014 Lawson Cary Jr. Conservationist of the Year Award from the Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited at their Annual Meeting held March 28, 2015. "Her outstanding work in conserving, protecting, restoring, and sustaining coldwater fisheries and their watersheds with cooperative, educational, and environmental activities throughout RI" was cited as the reason she was chosen to receive this award.

Last, but most certainly not least, is Elise Torello who recently joined your WPWA family as Program Coordinator. Back in 2007 Elise compiled over 20 years of WPWA's water quality monitoring data into a database, producing reports that can be accessed online via a Google Map on the WPWA website. She then did the same for the Salt Ponds Coalition's (SPC's) almost 30 years of data. She has also been a frequent WPWA volunteer and has been a water quality monitor for SPC for eight years and counting.

After her years of hard work, it's not hard to see why Elise was awarded the 2015 URI Watershed Watch Watershed Stewards Award. The passion and dedication to the watershed that Elise brings to WPWA is incredible. We are so very fortunate to have her knowledge, talent, experience, and her warm personality as a new branch on our WPWA family tree.



*Executive Director Chris Fox with Program Director Denise Poyer (left) and new Program Coordinator Elise Torello.*

**There's still time to sign up for our remaining guided paddles this season!  
Register online at [www.wpwa.org/events.php](http://www.wpwa.org/events.php)**

**ALMOST FULL MOON SUMMER PADDLE**

August 29, Saturday, 7 pm to 9 pm

We put in at the historic Kenyon Grist Mill in Usquepaugh and paddle up the Queen River. Along the way we will explore the Glen Rock Reservoir, looking at late-blooming plants.

Begin your adventure as the sun sets and paddle back as the (almost) full moon rises over the river. This trip is suitable for all ability levels.

\$10m/\$20nm, Kayak rental: \$20m/\$25nm

**ALMOST SUPER FULL MOON PADDLE**

September 26, Saturday, 6 pm to 8 pm

This is the only Super Full Moon for 2015! Join WPWA at Watchaug Pond in Charlestown. Begin your adventure as the sun sets and paddle back as the super full moon rises over the water. This trip is suitable for all levels.

Bring your own boat, no rentals available. \$10m/\$20nm

**PAWCATUCK RIVER FALL PADDLE**

October 11, Sunday, 9 am to 1 pm

The colors of fall make this Pawcatuck River experience even more beautiful!

We'll put in at the WPWA-owned Jay Cronan River Access on Rt. 91 in Richmond and paddle 7 miles to the Bradford River Access in Westerly. This is a wide open section of the river that requires a run over the broken dam at Burdickville. This is not a trip for novice paddlers.

Bring your own boat--WPWA will provide shuttles. \$10m/\$20nm

**Have you renewed your membership for 2015 - 2016 yet? If not, please take a moment to go to [www.wpwa.org](http://www.wpwa.org) or return this form with your check payable to WPWA, with our sincere thanks!**



**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association**

203 Arcadia Rd. Hope Valley, RI 02832

401-539-9017

[info@wpwa.org](mailto:info@wpwa.org)

Please update your contact information and include your email address.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Anonymous gift:  My employer will match my gift:  Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please contact me! I want to volunteer to help with:*

Water Quality Monitoring  River Cleanups  Hikes  Paddles  School Field Trips

Please make checks payable to WPWA, or join/renew securely online with a credit/debit card or PayPal through our website [www.wpwa.org](http://www.wpwa.org). **Thank you!**

*WPWA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We promise NEVER to share or sell your information.*

**Membership Levels:**

- \$35 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$75 Contributor
- \$100 Supporter
- \$250 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Benefactor
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other



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*To Preserve and Protect the Lands and Waters of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed  
for Natural and Human Communities*

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Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association  
203 Arcadia Road  
Hope Valley, Rhode Island 02832

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**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association**

*Protecting Your Rivers Since 1983*

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**WPWA Campus**  
203 Arcadia Road  
Hope Valley, RI 02832  
401-539-9017  
info@wpwa.org

**WPWA Staff**

Christopher J. Fox, Executive Director  
Denise J. Poyer, Program Director  
Elise A. Torello, Program Coordinator

*To learn how your business or  
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