

# WATERSHED

A Newsletter of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Volume 33 No. 2

Spring 2016

*Please forward this edition of WATERSHED to a friend!*



JOIN/RENEW

## WPWA Membership, What's In It for You?

In a word.... Lots! WPWA Membership gives you access to WPWA's boats, facilities, parking, and bi-monthly e-newsletter Watershed from June 1st to May 31st each year. It also supports all the great efforts of your favorite not-for-profit organization toward ensuring that there is cool, clean and abundant water for the wildlife, residents, and visitors of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. This year we have added incentives for you to increase your membership contribution beyond...

[Read more...](#)



## The Programs They Are a Changin'

We've come up with a great way to better serve our members who no longer seem to like planning their activities very far in the future...[Read more...](#)

**Please support WPWA's efforts on behalf of you, our member, by renewing your membership this May!**

*Renewing your membership will ensure that our programs and advocacy continue throughout 2016 and beyond.*

*Thank you!*



## WPWA Now Hiring

WPWA will continue to lead programs like our Full Moon and Bioluminescent Paddles. In addition, we want to hire YOU to lead programs!... [Read more...](#)

**Thank you to our "WATERSHED" Sponsors**



## Improving Your Access to Rivers

By David Smith Access to the Wood and Pawcatuck rivers for paddling is better than ever, with even more improvements on the way.... [Read more...](#)



401 - 247 - GUNS



## Pamela A. Crandall

The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed has lost another staunch supporter when Pam Crandall passed away on February 24, 2016.... [Read more...](#)





## Don't forget, WPWA's Annual Meeting is 5/19!

WPWA's Annual Meeting, where we will spotlight our Water Quality Monitoring Program, is May 19th at our campus in Hope Valley...[Read more...](#)

kristy@flyingricpa.com  
flyingricpa.com  
401 - 364 - 3500



**FIRST FINANCIAL**  
ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.

mcunningham@1stallied.com  
www.FirstFinancialAdvisory.com  
401 - 596 - 0193

## WPWA Membership, What's In It for You?



In a word.... Lots! WPWA Membership gives you access to WPWA's boats, facilities, parking, and bi-monthly e-newsletter Watershed from June 1st to May 31st each year. It also supports all the great efforts of your favorite not-for-profit organization toward ensuring that there is cool, clean and abundant water for the wildlife, residents, and visitors of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed.

This year we have added incentives for you to increase your membership contribution beyond

the base cost of \$35 for an individual or \$50 for a household (now called the **Dragonfly** level of membership). For the first time ever you can pick from five levels of membership for individuals and households (which include everyone living in your household) and add benefits as you move up the membership ladder. We will also be open on Saturdays and Sundays this summer (9am-2pm) to better unite you with your member benefits.

Here's an example:

**Trout Household** - For an annual contribution of \$175 you, all who live with you, and one guest will receive unlimited on or off site use of WPWA's boats and gear (subject to availability). Plus, you receive a paddling guide, hiking guide, parking sticker, discounts on events, and a subscription to our bi-monthly e-newsletter. In addition you can reserve (for a fee) our riverside facilities for your next birthday party, company outing, family reunion, wedding, meeting, etc.

Love going on WPWA events? For \$250 per year move up to **Otter Household** and add unlimited free program participation (subject to availability) for all who live with you and a guest.

If you're already a member, these new benefits will be explained when we mail you our annual renewal notice in May. If you have already renewed for 2016-2017, your new membership level reflects your membership renewal donation amount (and thank you!). Finally, if you're considering joining for the first time, or just can't wait to learn more, please

visit WPWA's website to see all the benefits that you will receive as your charitable giving increases. Renewing or joining before June 1st makes you a member through May 31st, 2017. So what are you waiting for? Join or renew safely and securely online today by clicking [here](#).

[Return to Top](#)



## The Programs They Are a Changin'

Many a Watershed article has been focused on WPWA's pursuit of a National Park Service Wild & Scenic Designation for sections of the watershed's rivers. Both projects are being led by Denise Poyer who previously ran the majority of WPWA's paddle and education programs. Because we've been unable to clone Denise, we are making changes to our 2016 programs. Read on to learn all about the changes.

In the past, Denise would schedule and advertize nearly 30 programs for the upcoming spring, summer, and fall. As each event date would draw near, inevitably some would need



Locally Owned & Operated Since 1998  
office @ezwasteri.com  
www .ezwasteri.com  
401 - 348 - 9155



Septic Pumping, Inspections, Repairs  
401-377-4538  
We take your crap for less!  
WWW.MACAMAUXSEPTICPUMPING.COM

www .macamauxsepticpumping.com  
401 - 377 - 4538



hopevalleybait.com  
401 - 539 - 2757



ureoutfitters@hotmail.com  
ureoutfitters.com  
401 - 539 - 4050



www .partytentsforrent.net  
401 - 377 - 8121



frank@ecoRI.org  
www .ecori.org



to be canceled or rescheduled at the last minute because of adverse weather. When this would happen, participants would be disappointed, and WPWA staff would have to invest more time in the four R's: Rescheduling, Replanning, Re-advertising, and Refunding. In recent years we have also seen a decline in advance registrations, with most coming in mere days before a scheduled event.

We've come up with a great way to both avoid overtaxing Denise and

to better serve our members who no longer seem to like planning their activities very far in the future. The vast majority of our programs will now be scheduled just days in advance, when we are confident that Mother Nature will cooperate. We will rely on email and FaceBook to announce our Spur-of-the-Moment Programs to you. Safe and secure registration through our website will continue to be the best way for you to register. For more information on our event changes, see the article entitled [WPWA Now Hiring](#). [Return to Top](#)

## WPWA Now Hiring

The WPWA staff will continue to lead select programs like our popular Full Moon Paddles and Bioluminescent Paddles. In addition, we want to hire YOU to lead programs for WPWA! We have developed a Per Diem Program Leader arrangement that is perfect for those folks looking to pick up a part time job at which you make your own schedule. Why not turn your watershed passion into a paying job!



This 50/50 profit sharing employment is a win/win for you and WPWA. You will be paid to showcase your recreational passion (birding, hiking, paddling, snowshoeing, fishing, etc) on a schedule that works for you. In turn, WPWA can expand the number and variety of our programs. WPWA will advertise and register participants for you through our website and cover you and the participants under our insurance. Expanding the advertising by posting your events to your own personal social media outlets means you can maximize your income and populate the event with more of your friends.

Sound interesting? Send Chris a message by emailing [chris@wpwa.org](mailto:chris@wpwa.org) or by calling (401) 539-9017. Applicants must be outgoing, responsible, at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license. [Return to Top](#)

## Improving Your Access to Rivers

By David Smith

*Photo of the recently acquired State access area on the Pawcatuck River below Potter Hill*



[jwilbur@wilcodevelopment.com](mailto:jwilbur@wilcodevelopment.com)  
[www.wilcodevelopment.com](http://www.wilcodevelopment.com)  
 401 - 463 - 6600

## What's Happening

### Westerly Land Trust Volunteer Opportunity: Pawcatuck River Clean Up

Saturday, May 7th, 8:30am - 2:30pm  
 Join the Westerly Land Trust for a day on the Pawcatuck River and help improve our local waterways. A team of volunteers will conduct a river clean up from kayaks and canoes, combining fun paddling with regular stops to collect trash and debris that is encountered along the way. For more information and to register, please contact Sally Hanson at 348-9109 or [sally.hanson@verizon.net](mailto:sally.hanson@verizon.net)

### Celebrate a Free-Flowing Pawcatuck River!

Friday May 20, 9:30am  
 As part of World Fish Migration Day, please join The Nature Conservancy, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and WPWA in celebrating a free-flowing Pawcatuck River! The White Rock Dam is gone after 245 years; let's start talking about the next dam! The event is at the offices of the Westerly Land Trust, 10 High St., Westerly, RI. RSVP to 401-214-4517 or [tmooney@tnc.org](mailto:tmooney@tnc.org)

## Related News

### Winter Moth Caterpillars Prepare to Defoliate Region

By Todd McLeish, ecoRI News contributor  
 April 28, 2016

### Developers Pushing for Building Closer to Wetlands

By Tim Faulkner, ecoRI News staff  
 April 25, 2016

### Lawn Chemicals Feed Health, Environmental Problems

By Frank Carini, ecoRI News staff  
 April 10, 2016

### Senate Hearing Supports Continued Use of Controversial Pesticide Linked to Bee Decline

By Tim Faulkner, ecoRI News staff  
 March 28, 2016



*Mill in Westerly, RI by David Smith.*

Access to the Wood and Pawcatuck rivers for paddling is better than ever, with even more Pawcatuck River improvements on the way.

Work on a new launching spot into the Pawcatuck River just off Kings Factory Road will begin later this year and improvements have been made to an access area off Post Office Lane in Westerly, just below the ruins of the Potter Hill mill.

From Worden Pond in South

Kingstown to a state fishing access on Main Street in Westerly, there are more than a dozen access points along the Pawcatuck River, and for the Wood River, starting from Route 165 in Exeter to the Alton Dam, at least six. The following outlines recent and upcoming improvements moving up the Pawcatuck River from Westerly to Worden Pond in South Kingstown.

The Town of Westerly is working toward developing an access area on land it owns on Canal Street but it is not expected any work will be done this year. Meetings are planned in the coming weeks to try and develop a trail system and refurbish an existing building on the 4 acre site. A launch area plan will be dealt with in stage two or three, according to Westerly Town Planner Marilyn Shellman. The launch area proposal has not yet garnered DEM approval. The town has a DEM Trails grant and money from the Latner Family Foundation totaling \$200,000 to fund the stage one work.

Andres Aveledo, with the State Planning and Development division of the Department of Environmental Management, says access to the Pawcatuck River from Post Office Lane is open to the public. It is a dirt road that winds less than 100 yards from Potter Hill Road to a parking area by the river. Bear left as you drive in. At the access point is an old cement and steel bridge that is not part of the DEM property. A house that was part of the property has been removed. There is some signage that identifies it as a state access area but more is planned, along with a kiosk. The parking area is hard-packed gravel with room for more than a dozen cars. It is about a 50 yard walk to the river from the parking lot. The gently-sloped grassy bank of the river will be left in its natural state and is suitable for launching canoes and kayaks.

Scott Comings, associate director with the Rhode Island Chapter of the Nature Conservancy says his organization has earmarked about \$50,000 to develop a launching area on the south side of the river, just east of the bridge on Kings Factory Road in Charlestown. He said that people have launched from there in the past and that there was a need. The access will be part of the Francis C. Carter Memorial Preserve, he said, which now encompasses more than 1,000 acres. Included in that parcel is 270 acres of the former United Nuclear Corp. property which was purchased two years ago. A grant from the Champlin Foundation will be used for engineering the project, a road cut into the access area, a parking lot and landscaping to minimize erosion into the river. Work is expected to begin in late summer or fall.

Just upstream of the new King's Factory access area on river right is the John "Jay" Cronan Access area. This 3 acre parcel was donated to WPWA by the Dubs family in 2007 at which time WPWA agreed to continue to allow RIDEM to maintain a public access area there. The WPWA has received grant funding from various private sources totaling \$130,000 to revitalize the access area with better parking, access to the river, erosion controls and streambank stabilizations. More informative signage is also planned as part of this summer 2016 project. WPWA executive director Chris Fox is pleased to be stepping in on behalf of RIDEM to rehabilitate the degraded site. "We recognize the current lack of capacity within the agency (RIDEM) to maintain and responsibly improve its access areas and we are very thankful to the State and our funders for the opportunity to take the lead on this valuable improvement project." Fox said.

There are three redesigned portage areas in Shannock Village as a result of work on the dams. The first was the lower Shannock Falls Dam that was removed in 2010. A portage path was built just above where the dam was located, river right, and a put-in with a ramp is located just downstream on the same side. When a fish ladder was added to the Horseshoe Falls Dam in 2012, a portage path was established where the old one was, located river left just above the dam. An agreement with the property owner was formalized for the usage. The put-in is across Shannock Village Road on the same side of the river. When the Kenyon Dam was removed and replaced with a rock ramp in 2013 an informal portage path was established on river left, mirroring the path that was used by boaters for many years to bypass the dam.

Andres Alvedo says the state is also working at expanding the parking at a boat launch area at Worden Pond in South Kingstown where the Pawcatuck River begins. A parking lot will be

## National Water Monitoring News

By National Water Quality Monitoring Council  
Spring 2016

This newsletter provides a forum of communication among water practitioners across the Nation. In support of the Council's mission, this newsletter is geared to foster partnerships and collaboration; advance water science; improve monitoring strategies; and enhance data integration, comparability, and reporting.

## Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat—Potential Concerns for Human Health and Aquatic Life

By US Geological Survey  
Spring 2016

"Sealcoat is the black, viscous liquid sprayed or painted on many asphalt parking lots, driveways, and playgrounds to protect and enhance the appearance of the underlying asphalt. Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), academic institutions, and State and local agencies have identified coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat as a major source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in urban and suburban areas and a potential concern for human health and aquatic life." Read more in this fact sheet from USGS.

---

## WPWA Board and Staff

### Board of Trustees

Helen Drew, President  
Peter August, Ph.D., Vice President  
Antonia Bryson, Secretary  
Kim Coulter  
Walt Galloway  
Malcolm J. Grant  
Joseph MacAndrew  
Brenda Rashleigh, Ph.D.  
Donna Walsh

### Emeritus Trustees

Saul B. Saila, Ph.D.  
Robert J. Schiedler

### Staff

Chris Fox, Executive Director  
Denise Poyer, Project Coordinator  
Eiise Torello, Program Specialist

---

**Visit Us on FaceBook**



**Please consider  
supporting our mission**

developed across the street on a small portion of 6.9 acres purchased from the Boy Scouts of Rhode Island in April of 2014 for \$160,000. The existing launch area on the pond is .42 acres and was purchased in 1954. The proposed parking lot has gone through a design phase and has been approved. It will feature 13 car and trailer parking spots. There are a few issues regarding guardrails that are being worked out with town officials. The expansion is the result of reports of people parking on the road during times of high usage, Alvedos said.

Fox is very excited to see so much attention being put both toward expanding and improving existing areas in conjunction with the development of new access areas. He believes the timing of all this work is critical. He is confident that the use of access areas will continue to increase especially if the federal government ultimately adopts many sections of the Pawcatuck River into the National Park Service's Wild & Scenic River system in 2018.

[Return to Top](#)

---

## Pamela A. Crandall

The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed has lost another staunch supporter with the passing of Pam Crandall on February 24, 2016. Born Pamela Ann Stevenson in Westerly, she moved back to the watershed when she married her husband, Lloyd Robert (Bob) Crandall, who owned Ashaway Line and Twine in Hopkinton, on the Ashaway River. Sadly, Bob passed away too soon in 1970.



Despite her painful personal loss, Pam transitioned the focus of her life and enrolled in Connecticut College in New London, CT, graduating magna cum laude in 1974. She later enrolled in Harvard Business School's "Smaller Company Management Program", where she also graduated with high honors. From 1976 until her death, Pam worked for Ashaway Line and Twine Mfg. Co., first as President and in her later years as Chairman of the Board. She was instrumental in successfully guiding the Crandall family business through many challenging business cycles as the company's first female President, building Ashaway Line & Twine into a valued supplier to the medical and sporting goods industries.

Pam also made time to volunteer her expertise and business experience for the benefit of many local institutions. WPWA was privileged to have her serve as a Board Member from 1995 to 1998. She was elected the first female Board member of Industrial National (Fleet) Bank, where she served faithfully for many years. Undoubtedly, Pam was a leader in the women's rights movement in the 1970's and 1980's, successfully balancing her visible role in the management of the family business with her non-profit activities as a mentor and role model for women in many diverse organizations. Beginning with her important volunteer work for the League of Women Voters in the early 1970's, she continually blazed trails for women in business, politics and philanthropy throughout her life.

Pam was known throughout Rhode Island as one of the most accessible small business executives and was frequently asked to serve on many volunteer business boards and committees. She was also known throughout South County as a very kind and generous resident, always willing to support the local community with her time, energy and resources. She will be dearly missed by her devoted family, loving friends and many others touched by her. WPWA is grateful for all she and her family have done for the watershed.

*Written with excerpts from the Providence Journal Obituary. Photo courtesy of the Crandall family.* [Return to Top](#)

...to WPWA's 33rd Annual Meeting May 19th from 5-9 pm, where we will spotlight our decades-long Water Quality Monitoring Program. Did you know that ensuring cool, clean and abundant freshwater is WPWA's top strategic objective? Without it, we would not benefit from the biodiversity, drinking water, or recreational enjoyment that folks often take for granted. That is why WPWA invests over \$15,000 per year to track the health of this beautiful watershed's fresh water.

Join us from 5-6pm on Thursday May 19th for a social hour with food/drinks, kayaking, and water quality monitoring demonstrations. From 6-7pm will be talks about WPWA's water quality monitoring program and presentation of Water Quality Monitor Awards to our dedicated 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 year volunteer monitors. You will learn about the past, present and future of the monitoring program that you make possible, including our comprehensive late-2015 assessment of the program. WPWA's business meeting and honoring of our newest emeritus trustees, founding members Ed and Linda Wood, begin at 7pm.



Please mark your calendars now for this free event from 5-9pm on Thursday, May 19th, 2016 at WPWA's headquarters at 203 Arcadia Rd. in Hope Valley, on the banks of the Wood River. Who can pass up the chance to eat, drink, and be merry all while learning so much about all you do to protect the invaluable water resources of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed? We hope you won't!

Bring your partner, bring your children, bring your friends, the event is rain or

shine and open to all. (Photo: Carol Ann and Mark Baker receive the 10-year Water Quality Monitor Award at the 32nd WPWA Annual Meeting in 2015) [Return to Top](#)