



*2006 Annual Report  
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association*

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*Recreation*



*Research*



*Education*



*Stewardship*

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

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**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association**  
**2006 Annual Report**  
(Published May 2007)

Congratulations to

**Meg Kerr**

2007 recipient of

**The Salomon Award**

*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*

*and to*

**Linda Green**

Recipient of the 2007

**Trustees Award**

*On the twentieth anniversary of  
Watershed Watch, in recognition  
of her many accomplishments,  
and her contributions to the  
greater scientific understanding  
of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed*

Presented at WPWA Annual Meeting  
May 23, 2007

**Cover photos:**

Fishermen enjoy the rapids area below Barberville Dam  
Watershed steward Brian Allen tends to purple loosestrife study area  
TU's Lawson Cary participates in WPWA lecture program  
Canob Brook

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association**  
**203 Arcadia Road**  
**Hope Valley, RI 02832**  
**[www.wpwa.org](http://www.wpwa.org)**

# Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association 2006 Annual Report

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Bags of coffee for Opening Day

RIDEM Aquatic Resource  
Education  
Educational programs and  
materials  
US Fish & Wildlife Services, &  
URI Geology Department  
Seiment Sampling & Analysis  
Warehouse Beer, Wine,  
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Susan Cerullo  
Garden maintenance  
Marty Richards  
Lawn Care  
Paul Hetu & Gabriel Warren  
Temperature monitoring supplies

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Town of Richmond	\$ 500	Town of Hopkinton	1000
Town of Charlestown	600	Town of South Kingstown	500
Town of Stonington	1000		

*Richmond & Hopkinton have also exempted property taxes on WPWA public access areas.*



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Aquatic Resource Education Center (RIDEM)	Richmond Conservation Commission
AmeriCorps	Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust
Big Sisters of RI	Roger Williams Park Zoo
CT Dept. of Environmental Protection	RYSE School
Chariho Middle School	South County Art Association
Community Development Consortium	South Kingstown Land Trust
Compass School	Southern RI Conservation District
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RI Blueways Alliance	University of Rhode Island
RI Canoe and Kayak Association	URI Coastal Fellow Program
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RI DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife	URI Watershed Watch
RI Land and Water Partnership	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
RI Resource Conservation & Development	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
RI Resource Recovery Corporation	US EPA, Region 1
RI Trail Advisory Committee	Washington County Land Trust Coalition
RI Environmental Education Association	Washington County Regional Planning Council
RI Natural History Survey	Westerly Land Trust

## **↻ PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS ↻**

### **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION**

#### ***Fish Passage and River Continuity***

Moving fish around the three dams on the upper Pawcatuck River through the villages of Kenyon and Shannock, to their upstream spawning habitat, is the focus of the Shannock-Kenyon Fish Passage Feasibility Study. This comprehensive study looks at the condition of the dams and sites and the associated hydraulics, the cultural and historic aspects, local fish populations and target species, and alternatives for fish passage. Findings will be presented in a final report. Two public meetings were held on the project in 2006, and a final public workshop will be presented next year. The report is the study basis for funding proposals to implement the fish passage alternatives in coming years.

Engineering firm Milone and MacBroom is handling the alternatives assessment, including the hydraulic modeling of river conditions before and after possible alteration scenarios. The Cultural and Historic Assessment is being conducted by Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA collaborated on sediment sampling and analysis. URI Geology Lab provided sediment analysis. WPWA deployed YSI data loggers at each site, to archive pre-implementation conditions, and conducted a one-time water column testing at the Kenyon dam.

Partners in the project include the Towns of Richmond and Charlestown, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, RI Coastal Resources Management Council, US Fish and Wildlife Service, American Rivers, Narragansett Bay Estuary Project, and RI Dept. of Environmental Management. Funding for the study, with a total cost of \$130,000.00, has been provided by RI Coastal Habitat Estuary Trust, NOAA-American Rivers Partnership, WPWA and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Pawcatuck Watershed Stream Continuity Project has largely been completed, thanks to the efforts of Lawson Cary and other volunteers from Trout Unlimited. WPWA partnered with RI RC&D, USDA-NRCS, and Trout Unlimited, to map and assess obstructions at road crossing of small streams throughout the region. Over 400 crossings were mapped and have been prioritized for remediation to allow for better passage by fish. Two possible remediation projects are under review at this time.

### ***Biological Control of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.)***

WPWA completed its third year of an ongoing effort to employ biological methods to safely control the spread of invasive Purple Loosestrife, a Eurasian ornamental plant, into our natural waterways. This method involves the use of *Galerucella* sp. beetles as a biological control for the invasive plant Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria* L. Studies have been conducted on the beetles' effectiveness at controlling the target species, as well as their impact to non-targeted plants since 1992.

This year WPWA released an additional 6000 beetles into the study area that was initiated in 2005. The study site was revisited in the fall to document leaf damage, re-count stems of *L. salicaria*, and look for the presence of newly emerged beetles, beetle larva, and eggs. Visual inspection and data from the fall documentation indicate that there was very little damage done to any of the *L. salicaria* plants in the study site. One thought is that the wet spring prevented adult emergence, thereby reducing the number of eggs laid and larval damage in the summer. It is hoped that beetles released in the summer will provide a new generation in the spring of 2008 that will continue to control the *L. salicaria* growth. Further evaluation of this site will continue.

Information gathered from volunteers of the 2006 *L. salicaria* survey of the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers was used to prioritize future biological control sites. Areas along the Pawcatuck in Shannock village have been targeted as the next release sites for *Galerucella* beetles. This is a project that may be combined with fish passage restoration projects at these same sites in the next few years.

Through this effort we hope to leave measurable impact on the control of invasive species in our rivers and wetlands without the use of herbicides in our surface waters, and draw attention to the use of biological controls to eradicate invasive plants from our wetlands. We hope other watershed councils will be able to use our protocols as a model for similar projects on their affected rivers.

### ***Queen River Temperature Study***

WPWA continued its intensive studies in the queen basin with an in situ temperature logging program. Twenty-five "i-button" temperature loggers were deployed along sections of the Queen River, to continuously record temperature over several weeks. The purpose is to look for changes in stream temperatures, and determine possible contributors, and any impact to native trout habitat quality

Part of this study also involved wading through sections of the queen with a handheld YSI logger, to locate areas where groundwater seepage into the river may be occurring. Findings are discussed in the report *Maximum Daily Stream Temperatures in the Queen River Watershed and Mastuxet Brook, Summer 2006*, by Poyer and Hetu, available at [wpwa.org](http://wpwa.org).

## Brook Trout Studies

The final field visit and brook trout tagging for the Red Brook Stream comparative habitat study took place in the fall. Eleven fish were tagged, bringing the total tagged in the system to 30. WPWA hopes to recover at least one of the data loggers we deployed, to provide us the information we are searching for on the behavior of the fish in salt water. In the meantime, MA Department of Environmental Protection staff continues to search occasionally for fish with a clipped adipose fin, indicating that it is one of the tagged fish. We have also asked anglers to be on the lookout.

Site and habitat assessments were conducted at three sites in Red Brook Stream. Identified parameters will be compared with conditions in the Pawcatuck System. The purpose is to determine how the Pawcatuck compares physically to a system known to support an anadromous trout population, such as Red Brook.

WPWA appreciates the support of Dr. Larry Dunn at Mystic Marineline Aquarium, who has provided veterinary staff to work with us in the field, and Lawson Cary of Trout Unlimited Narragansett Chapter. Of course, without the leadership and vision of Dr. Saul Saila, this research would not be possible.

Locally, WPWA worked in Mastuxet Brook to install temperature loggers to assess habitat suitability for brook trout, and sampled the stream for fish assemblages. Brook trout were located along the stretch. Additional feasibility studies for habitat and wetland restoration in the system will be conducted next year. Fish sampling also took place on the Beaver River, to look for the presence of glochidia on the gills of brook trout, as an indicator that freshwater mussels are present in the system.

## Surface Water Quality in Pond, Lakes, Rivers and Streams

WPWA continued its ambient water quality monitoring under the URI Watershed Watch program with weekly sampling at fourteen ponds and sixteen river sites in the watershed. Data on dissolved oxygen, temperature, chlorophyll, bacteria and nutrients is collected weekly and monthly.

Thanks to the services of forty-six volunteers, water quality data has been collected consistently for several years, and provided to the state for its annual State of the State's Waters report, required under the Clean Water Act.

The locations and various types of water quality and habitat monitoring conducted by WPWA are itemized in the following spreadsheet:

### 2004-06 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in CT and RI by Town

CONNECTICUT:	2004	2005	2006
<b>North Stonington</b>			
Parke Pond	Macroinvertebrate 3 sites Fish Assemblage		
Asseconk Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	<i>These sites are monitored under the North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance programs</i>
Green Falls Brook	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites	
Shunnock River	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites Macroinvertebrate 2 sites Fish Assemblage 2 sites	
<b>Stonington</b>			
Lewis Pond Outlet	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>			
<b>Charlestown</b>			
Pasquisset Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 5 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 6 sites Data Logger 3 sites
Watchaug Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling

**Exeter**

Boone Lake		Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Breakheart Pond	Lake Sampling		
Browning Mill Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Yawgoo Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Falls River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites
Fisherville Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	
Locke Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Parris Brook	Macroinvertebrate Study Fish Study Temp Study		
Queen River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites Macroinvertebrate Study Fish Study Temp Study	WQ Sampling 3 sites Temp Study 20 sites
Sherman Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site

**Hopkinton**

Alton Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Ashville Pond'	Lake Sampling		
Locustville Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Long Pond	Lake Sampling		
Wincheck Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Wyoming Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Ashaway River	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 site	
Brushy Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	
Moscow Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 5 sites
Tomaquag Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 site	
Wood River			Data Logger 2 sites

**Richmond**

Alton Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Browning Mill Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Meadowbrook Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
White Brook Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Wyoming Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Beaver River		Macroinvertebrates 1 site Temp Study 5 sites Fish Study 2 sites	Glochidia Study 1 site
Canob Brook			Data Logger Boron Sampling
Meadow Brook		Macroinvertebrates 3 sites	
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites Data Logger 3 sites
Taney Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	
White Brook			Data Logger 2 sites
Wood River		Macroinvertebrates 3 sites	Data Logger 3 sites

**South Kingstown**

Barber Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	
Hundred Acre Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Usquepaug 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 1 site	Temp Logging 1 site
Queen River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site WQ Sampling 1 site Temp Logging 2 sites
Sherman Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site Temp Logging 1 site

**Westerly**

Chapman Pond	Lake Sampling		
Mastuxet Brook			Temp Logging 4 sites
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	Fish Assemblage 2 sites WQ Sampling 4 sites

## **Research Publications**

Poyer, D., and M. Hetu. *Study of Maximum Daily Stream Temperature of select Streams in the Pawcatuck Watershed, Summer 2005*. Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Hope Valley, RI. March 31, 2006

Poyer, D., M. Hetu, and D. Aube. *2005 Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling on Selected Streams in the Pawcatuck Watershed*. Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Hope Valley, RI. Oct. 6, 2006.

Poyer, D., and M. Hetu. *Maximum Daily Stream Temperatures in the Queen River Watershed and Mastuxet Brook, Summer 2006*. Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Hope Valley, RI. December 11, 2006

Poyer, D., and M. Hetu. *Investigation of Biological Control of Lythum Salicaria (Purple Loosestrife) on the Pawcatuck River*. Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Hope Valley, RI. Feb. 9, 2007.

## **RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Nearly five hundred recreationists participated in our paddle and hike programs, fishing instruction, and historic mill tour. Participant ages ranged from children age 5 participating in family fun fishing, to adults at and near age 90 on the mill village bus tour. The 2006 Calendar of Events follows this section.

Growing in popularity are the late fall and winter hikes led by Danielle Aube. From the post-Thanksgiving Day walk, to the March exploration, participation has grown well into the double-digits for each event. Paddling was also a draw, however inclement weather cancelled three out of four of our annual Source to Sea weekly paddles in June.

Weekly summer camp exploration programs offered kayak instruction, aquatic exploration, and navigational guidance on the Wood River. Over 225 campers participated over eight weeks. Roger Williams Park Zoo, Dennison Pequot Nature Center, Newman YMCA, and Adventure Zone brought campers, as did two Boy Scout troops and one Girl Scout troop. WPWA also provided kayaks for the Tomaquag Museum Summer Camp program.

Fishing education programs in 2006 included the annual Family Fun Fishing program at Carolina Hatchery, held in conjunction with the Aquatic Resource Education Program at RIDEM. United Fly Tyers and Trout Unlimited collaborated with us fly fishing and fly tying workshops held at our campus.

### **Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

January 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday 10am - 1pm - [Hiking in Carolina](#) Join WPWA hiking guide author and noted geologist Charlie Hickox for a gentle hike in Carolina Management Area.

February 11<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am - 1pm - [Hiking in Burlingame](#) Join WPWA hiking guide author and noted geologist Charlie Hickox for a gentle hike in Burlingame Management Area.

April 8<sup>th</sup> Saturday 6am - noon - [Litter Awareness for Opening Day](#) WPWA and Trout Unlimited (TU) volunteers serve free coffee to anglers with reusable mugs. Look for us at Barberville Dam, Frosty Hollow and Meadowbrook Ponds.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 9am - noon - [Earth Day Cleanup](#), WPWA volunteers will be picking up trash at 20 river access sites in the Watershed. Trash bags, gloves and bottled water will be provided. Call to volunteer at a site close to you!

May 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am - 2pm - [Canoe and Kayak Safety Clinic](#) instructed by experienced river guide Manny Point of Four-Point Canoe Outfitters. Open to swimmers ages 12 and older.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 9am - 3pm - [Source to Sea Paddle #1](#), WPWA leads paddlers along the first seven miles of the Wood River, from Route 165 check station, Exeter, RI, through Barberville, and onto the Wyoming Dam, Hope Valley, RI.

June 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9am - 3pm - [Source to Sea Paddle #2](#), The next nine miles of the Wood River begins in at Hope Valley Fishing Access, winds through the Village of Woodville, and onto the Alton Dam, Alton RI.

June 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9am - 3pm - [Source to Sea Paddle #3](#), This 14-mile trip starts on the lower Wood River at Alton, meets up with the Pawcatuck River, and on through Burdickville to Potter Hill Dam in Ashaway, RI

June 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9am - 3pm - [Source to Sea Paddle #4](#), The last nine miles of the Pawcatuck River begin at Potter Hill Dam in Ashaway, RI, through White Rock, and across the Pawcatuck Estuary to Avondale, RI.

July 7<sup>th</sup> Friday 10am - 1pm - [Family Fun Fishing Day](#) at the Aquatic Resource Education Center located at the Carolina Trout Hatchery. Poles and tackle available.

July 14<sup>th</sup> Friday 10am - 1pm - [Family Fun Fishing Day](#) (see July 7)

July 15<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am - 1pm - [Learn about Dragonflies and Damselflies](#) with odonata expert Ginger Brown of RINHS, then paddle the Wood River to find these prehistoric invertebrates.

July 21<sup>st</sup> Friday 4 - 6pm - [Learn to Flyfish](#) on the Wood River at Barberville Dam, Hope Valley, RI. Anglers from TU will teach the peaceful art of flyfishing. Includes use of fly rod and reel

July 28<sup>th</sup> Friday 4 - 6pm - [Learn to Flyfish](#) (see July 21)

August 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 5 - 7:30pm - [Summer Splendor on the Wood River](#). Leisurely paddle upstream from WPWA campus to enjoy the colorful wetland blooms.

August 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9am - 3pm - [River Cleanup](#) WPWA volunteers will target certain river areas where the trash is at its worst. Call to Volunteer!

October 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am - 2pm - [Fall Tour of Historic Mill Villages](#). Leisurely and colorful tour by coach of historic watershed mill villages. Includes lunch and a talk at Shannock's Horseshoe Falls.

November 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am to noon - Exeter, RI. [Hike Tefft Hill](#). About 3 miles, gentle. Proper footwear and 200 sq. inches of fluorescent orange required.

November 30<sup>th</sup> Saturday 6 - 7:30pm - Carolina, RI [Public Worksession, Shannock Fish Passage Study](#) at the new H.L. Arnold Fire and Safety Complex, to discuss study of fish passage alternatives at Shannock and Kenyon.

December 30<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am to noon - Richmond, RI. [Hike Carolina South Trail](#). About 3 miles, gentle. Proper footwear and 200 sq. inches of fluorescent orange required.

## ***PUBLIC RIVER ACCESS***

Through the generosity of Roy and Kim Dubs, donors of the land, and the assistance of Cherenzia and Associates, donors of surveying and site planning services, WPWA accepted the donation of a three-acre parcel on the Pawcatuck River in Richmond at the end of the year. In early 2007, WPWA will take the legal steps necessary to record the deed, as well as a conservation easement to the town, and a public access easement to the RIDEM that will finalize the transfer. The property includes a 1-acre portion presently known as the Richmond Fishing Access, which will be renamed at a later time.

WPWA continues to provide public access to the upper Wood River at our Hope Valley campus on Arcadia Road. There recreationists are welcome to utilize our facilities during office or program hours. In the summer, RIDEM provides portable facilities on the property for the convenience of weekend visitors.

WPWA provided public access information for the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers to the RI Blueways Project, a statewide effort to map accessible and navigable water trails, or blueways, in RI, and make it available to the public to encourage and facilitate recreational use.

River trail maintenance on short segments of the Wood and Pawcatuck River took place in the spring. Every year, trees blow down during storm events, and when the season begins paddlers are greeted by these rather large obstructions. Clearing the obstruction often means cutting a path through the fallen trees, which are too large to physically move.

WPWA has laid the groundwork for an easement agreement between Bradford Dyeing Association, RI DEM, and WPWA to provide temporary access for the Bradford Fishway Rehabilitation Project, the permanent maintenance of the fish ladder by RIDEM, and permanent public portage around the Bradford Dam. We hope to finalize agreements early next year.

WPWA continues to negotiate with RI Department of Transportation relative to design for the Switch Road public access enhancement, approved for funding under the TEA-21 program in 2002.

## ***EDUCATION***

Our work in elementary and secondary education took us to schools all across the watershed. Denise Poyer led student expeditions that ranged from training students and teachers at Davisville Middle School in North Kingstown in fish sampling techniques, to a salmon release and river exploration with Coventry High School students, a complete wood river exploration with Chariho Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and watershed field trips with students from South Kingstown's Curtis Corner Middle School, and Rocky Hill School in East Greenwich. In total, 290 participants took part in these programs and excursions.

As educational mentor, Denise assisted in statewide projects, such as training and judging the aquatics section for the RI Envirothon, and helping to produce the annual New England Environmental Education Alliance Conference held at Alton Jones. She also worked with teachers at Quest Montessori School to incorporate watershed education into their curriculum. Approximately 220 participants benefited from these programs.

Service learning opportunities at three schools – Chariho Middle School, Nuweetooun School in Exeter, and Exeter-West Greenwich Regional Junior High School – include a multi-school water quality sampling program implemented in the upper Wood River watershed. Denise helped to develop protocols for this project with educators from the three school. The program gives students an opportunity to collect samples that become useful data, while learning scientific concept and useful skills. In all, 210 students and educators participated.

Students from Chariho's RYSE program (Reaching Youth through Support and Education) provided community service hours to assist in the maintenance of WPWA's campus grounds. Fifteen students and instructors participated. Afterward they explored the river by kayak.

The WPWA Education Program brochure continues to bring school groups and educators to WPWA to participate in environmental projects, river explorations and field trips.

## ***ADVOCACY, POLICY AND STEWARDSHIP***

### ***Coalition for Water Security***

WPWA signed on as a member of the Coalition for Water Security, and past president and trustee Harold Ward has been actively engaged on our behalf in the formation of sound water management policy that will protect the future of our water supplies. The Coalition insists that if the state is to have water for all its needs – drinking and household use, environmental health, firefighting and economic growth – we have to manage this valuable resource, not waste it.

You can find out more about the elements of a comprehensive plan for Rhode Island's water by visiting [www.coalitionforwatersecurity.org](http://www.coalitionforwatersecurity.org).

Coalition members include Aquidneck Land Trust, Audubon Society of RI, Clean Water Action, Conservation Law Foundation, Environment Council of RI, Environment RI, Grow Smart RI, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, Narrow River Preservation Association, RI Economic Policy Council, RI Land Trust Council, RI Natural History Survey, RI Public Expenditure Council, Sierra Club RI Chapter, Save The Bay, Trust for Public Land, and the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association.

## ***Richmond Stump Dump***

WPWA has been gathering facts and data relative to the stump dump off Skunk Hill Road in Richmond, which has been the subject of much official discussion at town hall and on the site. WPWA has participated in site visits with the owner, local officials and the media, and continues to follow the disposition of this issue.

In the spring and summer, site assessments on adjacent properties and the Canob Brook wetland, water quality testing in nearby groundwater wells, as well as electronic data logging in stream sites upstream and downstream of the site, were conducted by WPWA. Findings are discussed in the following report, available on our website:

Saila, S., T. Boving, and D. Poyer. *Preliminary Executive Summary of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association Regarding Water Quality in the Vicinity of Richmond Stump Dump*, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Hope Valley, RI. August 2006.

## ***Empowering Members in their Towns***

Last year, WPWA played a role in the crafting of the Watershed Council Notice Rule, an administrative procedure established under the RI Rivers Council statute. This rule requires state agencies and municipalities to provide notice of planning and zoning proposals and public hearings to watershed councils, such as WPWA, on written request.

Now that WPWA has arranged for receipt of notice from most towns, we have begun to pass this information along by email to our members in each town when necessary. This concise format alters recipients to public hearings and planning workshops regarding proposals in their communities that may affect them, but that they were not made aware of because they are not immediate abutters to the land.

WPWA wants to encourage members to participate in local advocacy on proposals that impact their towns. Elected officials can be persuaded to listen to their voting constituency, so it's important for individuals to speak up.

## ***COMMUNITY OUTREACH***

Often WPWA has the opportunity to provide services to other community groups. This year, we offered our facility to Gateway Health Services to provide canoe training to their clients. Americorps participants volunteered their time to clean up the river and access areas, and finished their day with a kayak up river.

WPWA led an informational Wood River paddle trip for ten RI Canoe and Kayak Association members. We also loaned kayaks to RICKA for their own paddle demonstrations. Kayak instruction was provided for thirty participants of Women in the Outdoors at Alton Jones, as well as a paddle on the Wood River for Metcalf Journalist Fellows to expose them to the richness of Rhode Island's wild environment. Westerly Adult Education and WPWA teamed up to offer a guided hike of the Champlin Glacier Park trails to twenty participants.

Chris LeHerrisier did his Eagle Scout community service project at WPWA this year, bringing a crew to build a storage shed on our property, that is shingled just like our buildings. It's beautiful! And Chris earned the ranks thanks to his hard work and dedication. WPWA also appreciates the contributions of his family to the project.

Senator Lincoln Chaffee and his staff had a guided tour of the Wood River with WPWA. Representatives of several state agencies participated, as did the Senator's young daughter.

Other groups and organizations who were provided the use of our boats, our expertise for a lecture or presentation, and other donations include RI Wild Plant Society, New Hope Chapel Youth Group,



Gateway Health Services, Nuweetooun School, United Church of God, RYSE at Chariho, Coventry High School, Hopkinton Historical Society, and Chariho Rotary.

The annual Opening Day litter awareness program was held in partnership with Trout Unlimited Narragansett Chapter. Honey Dew Donuts of Westerly provided the free hot chocolate and brewing services. Green Mountain Coffee Roasters provided the coffee beans. Free coffee offered to fishermen with reusable mugs spared some public access areas a considerable amount of litter, as did collection of trash and fishing line at the sites.

Seventy six volunteers participated in Earth Day cleanups throughout the watershed. More than twenty sites, most at river and pond access areas, benefited from a few able hands to pick up litter and debris.

### ***NEWSLETTER, MAPS AND WEBSITE***

Volume 23, Numbers 1-4 of *Watershed* were published this year, with a total distribution by mail of over 4000, and a global availability through our website. Through this quarterly publication, WPWA conveys news, events, issues, and proposals that impact our watershed and natural resources, and has done so since early in its history.

The *Wood-Pawcatuck River Guide* and *Walks in the Watershed* remain in relative demand in our area, selling at numerous retail outlets, and directly through WPWA. This year WPWA also sold trail maps produced by Cliff Vanover of Arcadia, Big River, Carolina, and other state holdings, at our campus store.

Our website, [www.wpwa.org](http://www.wpwa.org), continues to be the host site of the many reports, publications, and events we post, and a source of new and updated information regularly. In the coming year we will begin to look at how to improve on the design of the site, and offering direct member sign up and product purchase using Paypal or other electronic means.

### ***CAPACITY BUILDING AND MENTORING***

WPWA has continued to be an active participant in the Land and Water Partnership "Infrastructure Collaborative" in 2006. This learning network of seven member organizations-- including two watershed councils, two land trusts, as well as the RI Rivers Council and RI Land Trust Council -- was formed to develop solutions to administrative needs of small non-profit conservation groups. WPWA assumed the role of fiscal agent for the collaborative in 2006, managing existing project funds, and new funds received from Rhode Island Foundation. Primary focus areas continue to be member/donor database management, and shared volunteer management services.

In 2006 the partners installed iMIS database software on our systems that had been acquired through the Collaborative. By the end of the year, the partners overall found this program to be unsuitable for general use, especially for the smaller groups who do not have paid memberships. The group is researching different databases, and WPWA will likely transition to a new software for the study.

The Collaborative also hosted a shared volunteer program manager to work with the partners this year. This pilot position allowed the group to determine how best to serve a collaborative of groups by combining specific services, such as recruitment and recognition of volunteers, and to create useful resources, such as volunteer agreements and job descriptions, for the benefit of several organizations.

Toward our own growth in capacity, WPWA secured a donation from ESRI state-of-the-art ARC GIS 9.2 software, to allow us to create mapping layers for our data, as well as access the RIGIS database to better assess watershed growth and environmental issues. We have used it to map purple loosestrife, identify and plan future research areas, and make maps for reports. WPWA staff has had training on the software through programs at URI

**STATEMENTS OF WPWA FINANCIAL POSITION**  
December 31, 2006 and 2005

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Checking .....	\$ 131,806	\$ 1,071
Savings .....	8,674	57,666
Investments .....	454,741	215,488
Inventory .....	<u>2,428</u>	<u>2,428</u>
Total current assets .....	<u>597,649</u>	<u>276,653</u>
<b>PROPERTY</b>		
Office buildings and land .....	257,905	257,905
Rental house .....	88,064	88,064
Less accumulated depreciation .....	<u>(21,957)</u>	<u>(15,355)</u>
Total property .....	<u>324,012</u>	<u>330,614</u>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Land held for conservation .....	<u>221,000</u>	<u>146,000</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,142,661</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 753,267</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Rental security deposit .....	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Due to Land & Water Partnership .....	<u>12,299</u>	<u>-</u>
Total current liabilities .....	<u>13,549</u>	<u>1,250</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted .....	416,638	404,578
Temporarily restricted .....	271,058	-
Permanently restricted .....	<u>441,416</u>	<u>347,439</u>
Total net assets .....	<u>1,129,112</u>	<u>752,017</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,142,661</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 753,267</u></b>

See accountants' compilation report, available on request