



*2007 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**

**2007 Annual Report**

(Published May 2008)

Congratulations to

**Sen. Kevin Breene  
Kevin Essington  
Kathleen Wainwright**

2008 recipients 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*

**Lori Urso  
WPWA Executive Director  
Emeritus**

Recipient of the 2008

**Trustees Award**

*in recognition of  
the many contributions she has made in  
influencing the creation, shape, and effectiveness  
of the  
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association*

Presented at WPWA Annual Meeting  
May 21, 2008

**Cover photos:**

Charlie Hickox leading a hike in Champlin Glacial Park  
Fish sampling on Parris Brook  
Curtis Corner Middle School students on a field trip at Browning Mill Pond  
Sign for the John "Jay" Cronan River Access crafted by Lori Urso

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

# Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

## 2007 Annual Report

### TRUSTEES ~ STAFF

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Geoffrey B. & Susan M. Sewall  
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## ↻ MAJOR GIFTS BY INDIVIDUALS AND PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS ↻

**\$85,000**

Forrest and Frances  
Lattner Foundation

**\$25,000**

Marie Chapman

**\$18,000**

ECRI Education Fund  
(Coalition for Water Security)

**\$5,000**

Horace A. and S. Ella  
Kimball Foundation  
Lattner Family Foundation  
Cornell Douglas Foundation

**\$4,600**

RI Rivers Council  
Vernal Pool Inventory

**\$2,500**

Fuller Family Charitable Trust

**\$500**

Kayla Jean Ricci  
Memorial Foundation

**Land (.4-acres)**

The Patnoad Family

## ↻ ANNUAL APPEAL GIFTS AND INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS ↻

### Annual Appeal Gifts

#### *Leadership Giving* (*\$1000 and above*)

Richard and Ardis Holliday  
Frederick C. Leonard

#### *Major Donor (\$500 to 999)*

Ashaway Charitable Trust  
Malcolm and Marilyn Grant

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Frank and Susan Golet  
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Dante and Angela Ionata  
Peter and Marnie Lacouture  
Gaytha Langlois  
Thomas Lloyd  
Karin McCormick  
David and Carolyn Moulthrop  
Brian O'Connor  
Eric Orava  
Gerard F. Sheperis  
Paul Singer  
Ken and Rose Sorensen  
Wescon Corporation of CT

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Pete August  
Albert J. and Sandra P. Ball  
Alan Banister  
Gail Bonner

James and Mary Boyer  
Elizabeth W. Boylan  
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Wade and Jill Diehl  
Tim and Brenda Drury  
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John Parker  
Noel B. Rowe  
Saul and Jennifer Sails  
Catherine Silks  
and Jose del Valle  
Eric and Cathy Taylor  
Elise Torello  
Fred Vocatura

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A&B Oil  
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John and Frances Topping  
Nancy R. Weissmuller

### Individual Gifts

#### *Up to \$100*

Joellen Anderson  
Manfred and Dan Armbruster  
Joyce and William Clark III  
Peter and Judith George  
Henry Muller  
Brian O'Connor  
Doug and Eugenia Rayner  
Brian and Deborah Wagner  
Dr. Philo Willetts

(Continued next page)

**Individual Gifts (cont.)****Up to \$50**

Elaine Calderone  
and William Keith  
Catherine P. Silks  
and Jose del Valle  
John Green & Donna Busch  
N. Kingstown Conservation Com.  
George A. Werrbach III

**Up to \$25**

Lorraine Arruda  
Nathaniel P. Dodge  
Wade and Jill Diehl

Pamela Fisette  
and Matt Bertrand  
Patricia J. Fontes  
Warren Fitzpatrick  
and Christine Kelly  
Dennis and Mary Lou Fritz  
Bruce Gillard  
and Cheryl Hollingworth  
Joan McGrath  
Doug and Joan MacPherson  
Mella Nathan  
Richard Pearce  
Nancy Potter  
Kelly and Fred Presley

David Ricci  
Arthur J. Viens  
Michael and Ruth Waldman

**Corporate Matching Gifts**

\$245  
Pfizer Foundation

\$100  
Cranston Print Works

\$75  
New York Times Foundation

**↻ MITCH AND BETTY SALOMON ENDOWMENT ↻**

***In Memory of Mitch Salomon******\$1000 and above***

Kathy Spiegelman  
& Robert Zverina

***\$800 to 999***

Patricia Arrow and Russell Kolton

***\$250 to 799***

Judith Salomon and Jerry Weiss  
Howard and Michelle Walker

***\$150 to 249***

Nod Meyer  
Gerry and David Cunningham

***\$100 to 149***

William and Marion Crump  
Peter and Marnie Lacouture  
Marion and Art Gold  
James E. Sheehan  
Amy Chang and Robert Young  
Nina and Barbara Briggs  
Leslie and Margaret Stone

Lisa L. Gould  
Janet Innis  
Bank of America  
Bob Evans & Doris McCormick  
Nancy Potter  
Stephen A. Gordon  
James and Karin Aukerman

***\$50 to 99***

Helen Drew & Kenneth Payne  
Evelyne B. Henderson  
Frank and Susan Golet  
Charles and Louise Kiessling Fair  
Gina Maynard  
Joan and Richard Abrams  
James G. Quinn  
Clare and David Bailey  
Elwood and Hope Letterle  
William D. Metz  
David and Elizabeth McNab  
Stephen and Judy Wood  
Lori Urso  
Elizabeth T. Freeman

***Up to \$25***

Bernard and Bertha Schurman  
Donald and Marie Davanzo  
Michael Russo  
and Catherine Cressy  
Martin J. Bide  
Nancy S. Klotz  
Genie Wild  
Jim Bogin, Fred Bogin  
and Harriet Yogel  
Mella Nathan  
Roger and Anne Maack  
Gerald and Esta Cohen  
Karl and Diane Sudakoff  
Abner and Rosalyn Gaines  
Catharine King  
Robert and Thelma Haas  
Margaret and Kevin Munroe  
Shirley Kesterman & Sam Ochlis

***In-kind gift***

Mike Merner, Earth Care Farm

**↻ SAUL B. SAILA FELLOWSHIP FUND ↻**

***\$5000 and above***

Anonymous

***\$1000 and above***

Lori Urso  
Saul and Jennifer Saila  
Jeffrey and Lynne Rosen

***\$500 and above***

David and Gerry Cunningham  
Annelee J. Desjarlais  
Mrs. Bobby Holcomb  
Dante and Angela Ionata  
Mal and Marilyn Grant  
Stonington Garden Club  
Harold Ward

***\$100 and above***

Ed and Denise Poyer  
Janice Sieburth  
Richard Sisson  
Paul Pezza  
Nancy Potter  
Martin F. Richards



## ~ IN KIND GIFTS ~

AmeriCorps  
 Program assistance  
 Cherenzia and Associates  
 Surveying & engineering  
 E-Z Waste Systems, Inc.  
 Container for Earth Day waste  
 Honey Dew Donuts of Westerly  
 Coffee & brewing services  
 Green Mountain Coffee Rstrs.  
 Bags of coffee for Opening Day

Pizza Place of Westerly  
 Source to Sea lunch  
 Power Resources  
 UPS battery back-up systems  
 RIDEM Aquatic Resource Ed.  
 Materials and staff assistance  
 US Fish & Wildlife Services, NOAA  
 and URI Geology Lab  
 Sampling and stream gauging  
 Brett Mayette, Lisa Dennehy, John

Buscaglia, Charles and Chet Hickox,  
 Chris Hawver, and Christopher  
 Quinn  
 River trail maintenance  
 Susan Cerullo  
 Garden maintenance  
 Marty Richards  
 Lawn care

## ~ MUNICIPAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS ~

Town of Richmond           \$500  
 Town of Charlestown       \$640  
 Town of Stonington       \$1000  
 Town of West Greenwich   \$400

Town of Hopkinton       \$1697  
 Town of South Kingstown   \$1000  
 Town of North Kingstown   \$250

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

**\$427,000** *(granted in 2008)*  
 USDA Natl. Resource  
 Conservation Service (WHIP)  
*Shannock Fishway Restoration*

**\$60,000**  
 RI Dept. of Transportation (TEA-  
 21)  
*Switch Road Landing River Access*

**\$24,000**  
 USDA Natl. Resource  
 Conservation Service (WHIP)  
*Switch Road Landing River Access*

**\$97,000**  
 US Fish and Wildlife Service  
*Shannock Fishway Restoration*  
*Bradford Fishway Rehabilitation*

**\$35,000**  
 RICRMC Coastal Estuarine  
 and Habitat Trust  
*Shannock Fishway Restoration*

**\$5000**  
 RI State Senate  
*Water Quality Monitoring*

## ~ PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ~

Appalachian Mountain Club  
 Aquatic Resource Education Center (RIDEM)  
 AmeriCorps  
 Big Sisters of RI  
 CT Dept. of Environmental Protection  
 Chariho Middle School  
 Clark Memorial Library  
 Community Development Consortium  
 Compass School  
 Exeter West Greenwich Regional Jr. High School  
 Four-Point Canoe Outfitters  
 Gateway Health Center, Youth Programs  
 Hopkinton Conservation Commission  
 Hopkinton Land Trust  
 Langworthy Public Library  
 MA Dept. of Environmental Protection  
 Metcalf Institute  
 Mount Tom Land Trust  
 Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration  
 Narragansett Bay Estuary Program  
 Narrow River Preservation Association  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Nuweetooun School & Tomaquag Museum  
 Quest Montessori School  
 RI Blueways Alliance  
 RI Canoe and Kayak Association  
 RI DEM, Forestry Division  
 RI DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
 RI Land and Water Partnership

RI Resource Conservation & Development  
 RI Resource Recovery Corporation  
 RI Trail Advisory Committee  
 RI Environmental Education Association  
 RI Natural History Survey  
 RI Rivers Council  
 Richmond Conservation Commission  
 Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust  
 Roger Williams Park Zoo  
 RYSE School  
 South County Art Association  
 South Kingstown Land Trust  
 Southern RI Conservation District  
 Thames River Basin Partnership  
 Town of Charlestown  
 Town of Hopkinton  
 Town of North Stonington  
 Town of Richmond  
 Town of Exeter  
 Town of Stonington  
 Town of Westerly  
 Town of West Greenwich  
 Trout Unlimited Narragansett Chapter  
 United Fly Tyers of RI  
 United Turkey Federation  
 University of Rhode Island  
 URI Coastal Fellow Program  
 URI Cooperative Extension Service  
 URI Watershed Watch

## **Partner Agencies and Organizations (cont.)**

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
US EPA, Region 1  
Volunteer Center of Rhode Island  
Washington County Land Trust Coalition

Washington County Regional Planning Council  
Westerly Land Trust  
Wheeler Middle School  
Wood River Fly Tying Association

## ***PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS***

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

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

The report on the Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility Study, completed by the engineering firm Milone and MacBroom, was published in August. Findings were presented at a final public workshop and posted on the WPWA website. The purpose of the study is to assess anadromous fish passage and riverine habitat restoration at the upper three dams on the Pawcatuck River. 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. The report is the study basis for funding proposals to implement the fish passage alternatives in coming years.

Milone and MacBroom handled the alternatives assessment, including the hydraulic modeling of river conditions before and after possible alteration scenarios. The Cultural and Historic Assessment was 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 test 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 crossings 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.

#### ***Stream Study and Data Loggers***

Stream temperature studies were conducted by WPWA in Rhode Island on the Tomaquag Brook in Hopkinton, the Mastuxet Brook in Westerly, and the Glen Rock Brook in Richmond, Exeter, and South Kingstown during the summer of 2007. These projects were undertaken as part of a continuing investigation into brook trout habitat in the Pawcatuck Watershed. Data from iButtons provided maximum daily stream temperature information for a total of eight sites. While ambient temperatures for July and August were just below the average of the previous 35 years, precipitation was well below average from June through September which had an impact on the stream conditions. Four sites had no water flow in early October when the iButtons were retrieved. However, there is no indication from the data that low precipitation increased stream temperatures. Only two sites had significant number of days with high temperature

readings, both of which are below impoundments and both had very high stream temperatures recorded in 2006. A report on this study will be published shortly.

Based on information obtained from the stream temperature study and visual stream assessments, it was decided that Mastuxet Brook has only limited practicability as brook trout habitat. While there is a small viable population presently in the stream, there are major obstacles, both natural and manmade, that prevent the brook trout from accessing much of the stream.

WPWA re-deployed two YSI data loggers above and below the dam at Kenyon Industries to follow-up on studies done the previous year. Temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH were recorded every 15 minutes for three weeks in August. In 2006 data recorded during this same time period showed very low dissolved oxygen levels both above and below the dam. The data from this summer shows dissolved oxygen levels that fall within a more average summer range. More follow up may be done next summer.

### ***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 will be combined with fish passage restoration projects at these same sites in the next few years.

Through this effort we plan to make a 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. WPWA intends for other watershed councils to use our protocols as a model for similar projects on their affected rivers.

### ***Surface Water Quality in Ponds, Lakes, Rivers and Streams***

WPWA completed twenty years of ambient water quality monitoring under the URI Cooperative Extension Watershed Watch program. The 2007 monitoring season had forty-two volunteers who monitored fourteen ponds and twenty-three river sites in the watershed. For lakes and ponds data on water clarity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and chlorophyll levels were collected weekly; bacteria and nutrient levels were collected monthly. Rivers and streams were monitored monthly for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and bacteria. This information, provided to local, state and federal agencies, is used by RIDEM to help write the annual State of the State's Waters report and the Federal List of Impaired Waters, which is required under the Clean Water Act.

Watershed Watch started its first monitoring season in 1988 with twenty-eight volunteers recruited by WPWA to monitor thirteen ponds. Since that first year, over 200 volunteers have collected data on eighteen ponds and thirty-five stream and river sites around the watershed. All of the original ponds are still being monitored, two by the same volunteers. This has provided WPWA with invaluable data

regarding the general water quality in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Our goal for the coming year is to develop a data management system using GIS in order to better analyze water quality trends at individual sites and produce clear, functional reports to all watershed stakeholders.

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

*2005-07 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in CT and RI by Town*

<b>CONNECTICUT:</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b><i>North Stonington</i></b>			
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><i>Stonington</i></b>			
Lewis Pond Outlet	WQ Sampling 1 site		
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>			
<b><i>Charlestown</i></b>			
Pasquisset Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 5 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites Data Logger 3 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites Data Logger 1 site
Watchaug Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
<b><i>Exeter</i></b>			
Boone Lake		Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Breakheart Pond	Lake Sampling		
Browning Mill Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	
Eisenhower Lake			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		
Glen Rock Brook			Temp Study 3 sites
Locke Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Queen River	WQ Sampling 4 sites Temp Study 5 sites Macro Study 5 sites Fish Assemblage 3 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites Temp Study 20 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites Temp Study 1 site Macro Study 1 site
Sherman Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
<b><i>Hopkinton</i></b>			
Alton Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Locustville Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Wincheck Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Wyoming Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	
Ashaway River	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites
Brushy Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites		
Moscow Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site		
Parameter Brook			WQ Sampling 2 sites
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites
Tomaquag Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites Temp Study 5 sites
Wood River		Data Logger 2 sites	Macro Study 3 sites

### ***Richmond***

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

### ***South Kingstown***

Barber Pond	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 Temp Study 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site Temp Study 4 sites
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites
Queen River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site Temp Study 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 site Macro Study 1 sites
Sherman Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site Temp Study 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site

### ***Westerly***

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

### ***Research Publications***

Poyer, D., and M. Hetu. *Maximum Daily Stream Temperature 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. *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.

### ***Other Publications on WPWA Website***

Malone and MacBroom, Inc. *Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility Study, Pawcatuck River, Richmond and Charlestown Rhode Island*. MMI #2989-01. Cheshire, CT. August 10, 2007. 284 pages.

Park, Eugene. Charbert Project Follow-up Report #2. Feb. 1, 2007

## RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Hundreds of recreationists participated in paddle, hike, and fishing programs sponsored by WPWA in 2007. Participant ages ranged from children as young as three learning to fish during the Family Fun Fishing program to energetic elders enjoying a paddle or hike. The 2007 Calendar of Events follows this section.

Late fall and winter hikes led by Program Assistant Danielle Aube continued to grow in popularity, with participation remaining well into the double-digits for each event. Among the many popular paddling events the annual Source to Sea paddles in June continued to be the most attended event of the season. WPWA also started a new program, the Floating Lunch Club, in August. Using WPWA kayaks, paddlers had a chance to take a leisurely trip up the Wood River and enjoy their brown bag lunch while listening to birds and watching dragonflies dart over aquatic vegetation.

Summer camp exploration programs offered kayak instruction, aquatic exploration, and navigational guidance on the Wood River. Almost 200 campers from Roger Williams Park Zoo, Denison Pequot Nature Center, and Audubon Society of RI participated over the course of ten weeks. In addition, WPWA provided kayaks and instruction for the Tomaquag Museum Summer Camp program, the RYSE School, and the Lighthouse for Youth.

Fishing education programs in 2007 included two Family Fun Fishing programs at the Carolina Hatchery, held in conjunction with the Aquatic Resource Education Center at RIDEM. United Fly Tyers and Trout Unlimited collaborated with WPWA for another successful year of fly fishing and fly tying workshops held at our campus.

### Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am to noon - Learn the Art of Fly Tying Taught by volunteers from Wood River Fly Tying Assn. and Trout Unlimited. Held at the WPWA campus.

March 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am to noon - Hiking in Westerly WPWA hiking guide, author, and noted geologist Charlie Hickox lead an informative hike through the Dr. John Champlin Glacial Park.

March 31<sup>st</sup> Saturday 11 to 2pm - Restoring Sea Run Brook Trout  
Noted fisheries biologist, Dr. Saul Saila and others discussed the future of sea run trout restoration in the Pawcatuck Watershed. Held at the Clark Memorial Library in Richmond, RI.

April 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday 6am to noon - Litter Awareness for Opening Day  
At specified fishing access points in our watershed. WPWA is always looking for volunteers to help with this event!

April 28<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9am to noon - Earth Day Clean-Up  
Volunteers picked up trash at 25 river access sites in the Watershed. Trash bags, gloves and bottled water were provided.

May 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am to noon - Hiking in Watch Hill WPWA hiking guide, author, and noted geologist Charlie Hickox lead a hike at Napatree Point where participants viewed the remains of Fort Mansfield which was erected during the Spanish American War.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 9am to 3pm - Source to Sea Paddle #1, Chipuxet River paddle. WPWA lead paddlers beginning from Taylor's landing in South Kingstown, RI, across Worden Pond and ended at the Biscuit City landing in Charlestown, RI.

June 9<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9am to 3pm - Source to Sea Paddle #2, In celebration of National Rivers Day, WPWA lead participants further along the Pawcatuck River from the Biscuit City landing to the John M. "Jay" Cronan River Access in Richmond, RI.

June 16<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9am to 3pm - Source to Sea Paddle #3, The third section of the Pawcatuck River starting from the Jay Cronan Access. After eleven miles of paddling ended across from BDA in Bradford.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 9am to 3pm - Source to Sea Paddle #4, Seven and a half miles of paddling on the Pawcatuck River from the Bradford Access to the Potter Hill Dam in Ashaway, RI.

June 30<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9am to 3pm - Source to Sea Paddle #5, The last nine miles of the Pawcatuck River began at Potter Hill Dam, through White Rock, and across the Pawcatuck Estuary ending in Avondale, RI.

July 7<sup>th</sup> Friday 10am to 1pm - Family Fun Fishing Day at the Aquatic Resource Education Center located at the Carolina Trout Hatchery. Poles and tackle were provided for all children.

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

July 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday 4pm to 6pm - Learn to Flyfish on the Wood River at Barberville Dam, Hope Valley, RI. Anglers from TU taught the peaceful art of flyfishing. Included use of fly rod and reel.

July 26<sup>th</sup> Thursday 4 to 6pm - Learn to Flyfish (see July 19)

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays noon to 1:30 - Floating Lunch Club  
Participants joined WPWA on the Wood River for a short paddle to Fry Pan Pond where we stopped to relax on the river and have lunch.

August 24<sup>th</sup> Friday 8pm - Bioluminescence Paddle  
Participants enjoyed seeing the glow of the comb jellies while paddling on Narrow River in Saundertown.

September 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 5pm to 7:30 pm - September Splendor  
Leisurely paddle upstream from WPWA campus to enjoy the colorful wetland blooms.

September 12<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 5pm to 7:30 pm - September Splendor  
(see September 5)

October 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday 8am to 2pm - WPWA Benefit Yard Sale

November 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am to noon - Hiking in Pawcatuck  
A peaceful three mile hike on the shores of Little Narragansett Bay at Barn Island.

December 29<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10am to noon - Hiking in the Arcadia Mgmt Area  
Gentle hike along the Tefft Hill trail in Exeter. This four mile hike was perfect for the whole family.

### ***PUBLIC RIVER ACCESS***

Two notable events happened concerning public river access on the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. In early 2007, after legal transactions that included a conservation easement to the town of Richmond and a public access easement to the RIDEM, WPWA took possession of a three acre parcel of land bordering the Pawcatuck River which had been generously donated by Roy and Kim Dubs. The property includes a 1-acre portion formerly known as the Richmond Fishing Access. In the spring, WPWA held a dedication ceremony to rename the site the John "Jay" Cronan River Access after Jay Cronan, a former Division Chief of RIDEM Fish and Wildlife and a long term board member and volunteer for WPWA. In attendance was the entire Cronan family, RIDEM Director W. Michael Sullivan, and many of Jay's former co-workers and friends.

Remediation work at the Switch Road Access was finally completed in the late fall. Funding for this project had been originally approved under the TEA-21 program in 2002. Improvements include the removal of broken tar and road remnants; grading the site for handicap accessibility; installation of walkway

and parking area; and planting vegetation to prevent erosion and enhance the esthetics of the access. A dedication for this site will take place sometime in late summer of 2008.

WPWA's Hope Valley campus on Arcadia Road is a popular river access to the upper Wood River that is used by public and WPWA members all year round. There, recreationists are welcome to utilize our facilities during office or program hours. In the summer, RIDEM provides portable restroom facilities on the property for the convenience of weekend visitors.

WPWA continues to work with the RI Blueways Alliance to provide information on the water trails of the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers.

River trail maintenance on several segments of the Wood and Pawcatuck River took place in the spring, summer, and early fall. This is a courtesy service that WPWA provides to clear downed trees in the rivers. We now have several hardy volunteers who donate their time, expertise, and chainsaws to help keep the rivers navigable.

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 plan to finalize these agreements in 2008.

### ***EDUCATION***

During the Spring Semester, a course on Watershed Science for Educators was taught by WPWA Program Director Denise Poyer at the URI Bay Campus. This three-credit graduate level course is based on the Active Watershed Education (AWESome!) Curriculum developed by the Southern RI Conservation District. Denise was contracted by the Narrow River Preservation Association to update the curriculum, register teachers, and conduct the course. Twenty-two educators, with approximately 1400 students, from elementary, middle, and high schools in South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Exeter and Central Falls participated in the course. Watershed Science for Educators uses many different learning techniques to help teachers and their students develop an understanding of watersheds in general and the unique features of their own watershed in particular.

Coventry High School, Quest Montessori, and Nuweetooun School in Exeter, Eldridge School in East Greenwich, Metcalf School in Exeter/West Greenwich, Chariho Middle School in Charlestown, Richmond, and Hopkinton, and Compass School in South Kingstown learned about watersheds, groundwater, stream ecology, and native fish through classroom presentations and field trips offered by WPWA. In total, 370 students took advantage these educational programs.

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 Rhode Island Environmental Education Association Conference. Participants of the AmeriCorps Environmental Education program were given opportunities to learn to conduct field trips and aquatic exploration through affiliation with WPWA events. Approximately 220 participants benefited from these programs. Denise continued as Science Mentor for the GEMS-Net Program run by the Education Department at URI.

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 is an ongoing 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, agriculture, 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 continues to follow the negotiations concerning legal action against the owner of the Richmond Stump Dump. During the summer of 2007 another major fire broke out and continued to burn for nearly a week. The fire put a strain on the local fire departments, necessitating the use of tremendous amounts of water from the municipal supply and directly from the Wood River. The town and state are attempting to reach an equitable settlement with the landowner that will result in complete removal of all the stump material. WPWA has attended all the hearings concerning this issue to assure that the safety of the Wood River is addressed in the settlement.

## *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 help with educational and recreational programs. They also enjoyed a paddle on the Wood River to learn about the area.

Kayak instruction was provided for fifty participants of Women in the Outdoors Weekend and at Big Sisters Weekend, both held 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.

As part of the Stream Continuity Project, WPWA provided fish sampling equipment and expertise to assist the Resource Conservation and Development Council in prioritizing restoration projects. In addition, WPWA joined the RI Blueways Alliance and helped formulate plans for PaddleRI, a series of paddle trips in June 2008, to highlight local water ways and watershed groups.

Other groups and organizations that were provided the use of WPWA boats, our expertise for a lecture or presentation, and other donations include Gateway Health Services, Nuweetoon School, RYSE at Chariho Middle School, Coventry High School, Sedimentation Conference at the Kettle Pond Visitor Center, and the Land and Water Conference.

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.

Over fifty 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. Two river cleanups, or Paddle Pickups, were done on sections of the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. Volunteers, including members of RICKA, AMC, and Nuweetoon School, used kayaks and canoes to snag trash that clogged the rivers.

## **NEWSLETTER, MAPS AND WEBSITE**

Volume 24, 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 host, and a source of new and updated information. In the coming year we will begin to redesign the site, and offer direct member sign up and product purchase using Paypal or other electronic means. Additionally WPWA plans to include links to GIS maps, maintain an up to date report of river conditions and a map of river obstructions, as well as the addition of a photo gallery.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING AND MENTORING**

WPWA has continued to be an active participant in the Land and Water Partnership “Infrastructure Collaborative” in 2007. This learning network of six member organizations – including two watershed councils, two land trusts, as well as the 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 and continues to serve the collaborative in that capacity, managing existing project funds, and new funds received from Third Sector New England. Primary focus areas continue to be member/donor database management, and shared volunteer management services.

In 2007 the partners researched new database software called SalesForce, select partners are currently migrating data to this web-based member data management system. By the end of 2008, nearly all the partners will have uploaded their data. The partnership also plans to recruit up to fourteen new partners for their participation in this shared learning network.

**STATEMENTS OF WPWA FINANCIAL POSITION**

December 31, 2007 and 2006

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Checking .....	\$ 146,074	\$ 131,806
Savings .....	7,661	8,674
Investments .....	366,246	454,741
Inventory .....	<u>2,428</u>	<u>2,428</u>
Total current assets .....	<u>522,409</u>	<u>597,649</u>
<b>PROPERTY</b>		
Office buildings and land .....	257,905	257,905
Rental house .....	88,064	88,064
Less accumulated depreciation .....	<u>(28,559)</u>	<u>(21,957)</u>
Total property .....	<u>317,410</u>	<u>324,012</u>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Land held for conservation .....	<u>221,000</u>	<u>221,000</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,060,819</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,142,661</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Rental security deposit .....	\$ -	\$ 1,250
Due to Land & Water Partnership .....	<u>23,102</u>	<u>12,299</u>
Total current liabilities .....	<u>23,102</u>	<u>13,549</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted .....	431,025	400,782
Temporarily restricted .....	193,108	271,058
Permanently restricted .....	<u>413,584</u>	<u>457,272</u>
Total net assets .....	<u>1,037,717</u>	<u>1,129,112</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,060,819</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,142,661</u></b>

See accountants' compilation report, available on request