



*2008 Annual Report
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association*



Recreation



Research



Education



Stewardship

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

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
2008 Annual Report
(Published May 2009)

Congratulations to

Lisa Primiano

Recipient of the 2009

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

Cathy Sparks

Recipient of the 2009

Trustees Award

*Presented in recognition of outstanding support toward
the ongoing initiatives of our organization and efforts to
protect and preserve the lands and waters of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed*

Presented at WPWA Annual Meeting
May 21, 2009

Cover photos:

Source to Sea Participants on the Pawcatuck River
Vernal Pool Sampling
Active Watershed Education Course
Dedication Ceremony at Switch Road River Access

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

www.wpwa.org

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association 2008 Annual Report

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In 2008 WPWA lost two long time volunteers. Lawson M. Cary, III passed away in the spring, leaving behind a legacy of advocacy, dedication and volunteerism for the river he loved. Lawson was passionate about flyfishing, which lead to his drive to protect the Wood River and its pristine brook trout habitat. Werner Wiskari passed away in the fall, after close to twenty years as a water quality monitor on his beloved Pasquisset Pond. They will both be sadly missed.

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Bags of Coffee for Opening Day

Pizza Place of Westerly
Source to Sea Lunch

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Garden Maintenance

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Lawn Care

Wood River Golf
Annual Meeting Venue

MUNICIPAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Town of Richmond \$750

Town of Charlestown \$600

Town of West Greenwich \$400

Town of Stonington \$1000

Town of South Kingstown \$500

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

\$427,000

USDA Natl. Resource
Conservation Service (WHIP)
Shannock Fishway Restoration

\$105,000

US Fish and Wildlife Service
*Shannock Fishway Restoration Bradford
Fishway Rehabilitation*

\$60,000

RI Dept. of Transportation (TEA-21)
Switch Road Landing River Access

\$50,000

RICRMC Coastal Estuarine
and Habitat Trust
Shannock Fishway Restoration

\$24,000

USDA Natl. Resource
Conservation Service (WHIP)
Switch Road Landing River Access

\$2,000

RI State Senate
Water Quality Monitoring

WPWA has requested 2009 stimulus funding from NOAA to accelerate fishway restoration work

in the Village of Shannock

within the Towns of Richmond and Charlestown totaling

\$2,600,000.00

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Aquatic Resource Education Center (RIDEM)	New England Environmental Education Alliance
AmeriCorps	Nuweetooun School & Tomaquag Museum
American Rivers	Pettaquamscutt Historical Society
Army Corps of Engineers	Quest Montessori School
Bite Me Bait	Recreational Equipment Inc.
Bradford Printing & Finishing	RI Blueways Alliance
Camp E-Hun-Tee	RI Canoe and Kayak Association
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Chariho Middle School	Richmond Conservation Commission
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Coastal Resources Management Council	RI DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife
Community Development Consortium	RI Dept. of Transportation
Compass School	RI Land and Water Partnership
Exeter West Greenwich Regional Jr. High School	RI Resource Conservation & Development
Four-Point Canoe Outfitters	RI Resource Recovery Corporation
Gateway Health Center, Youth Programs	RI Trail Advisory Committee
HopArts	RI Environmental Education Association
Hopkinton Conservation Commission	RI Natural History Survey
Hopkinton Land Trust	RI Rivers Council
Kenyon Industries	RI Sea Grant
Langworthy Public Library	Richmond Conservation Commission
MA Dept. of Environmental Protection	Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust
Metcalf Institute	Roger Williams Park Zoo
Mount Tom Land Trust	RYSE School
Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration	Salt Ponds Coalition
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program	Save The Bay
Narrow River Preservation Association	South County Art Association
National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Adm.	South County Env. Advocacy Team

Partner Agencies and Organizations (cont.)

South Kingstown Land Trust	United Turkey Federation
Southern RI Conservation District	University of Rhode Island
Thames River Basin Partnership	URI Coastal Fellow Program
Town of Charlestown	URI Cooperative Extension Service
Town of Hopkinton	URI Watershed Watch
Town of North Stonington	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Town of Richmond	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Town of Exeter	US EPA, Region 1
Town of Stonington	Volunteer Center of Rhode Island
Town of Westerly	Washington County Land Trust Coalition
Town of West Greenwich	Washington County Regional Planning Council
Trout Unlimited Narragansett Chapter	Westerly Land Trust
United Fly Tyers of RI	Wheeler Middle School, North Stonington, CT
	Wood River Fly Tying Association

↻* PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS *↻

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

Fish Passage and River Continuity

WPWA has placed fish passage high on its Work Plan for 2009 and enthusiasm and support for our Pawcatuck River restoration efforts continue to build. In 2008 WPWA and our project partners performed a rigorous review of engineering proposals submitted for the removal of Lower Shannock Falls. Additional funding was required to satisfy the costs received by all the bidders. As a result Save the Bay, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the RI Coastal Resources Council worked quickly on WPWA's behalf to secure the additional funding needed to contract with the selected engineering firm. Fuss & O'Neill is now working to navigate the design and permitting process to remove the Lower Shannock Falls. The removal is expected to occur in August of 2010. Fish passage at Horseshoe Falls and Kenyon Mill Dam will occur concurrently if 2.6 million dollars in stimulus funding from NOAA is approved.

Bradford Printing and Finishing partnered with WPWA, RIDEM, NRCS, and USFWS to repair the Bradford Fish Ladder in 2009. Erosion around the ladder and the ladder's entrance angle were limiting the number of fish passing at the site. WPWA brought all the interested parties together to seek funding and design a modification to the ladder and install a portage path. While the work was completed in late 2008, a ten year rain event occurred soon after construction was completed by Wilco Development. Unfortunately the portage path and fencing were completely destroyed, however there was no damage to the modified fish ladder. WPWA is working with NRCS to secure repair funding and complete those repairs by July of 2009.

River restoration projects are a challenge to initiate and complete. In order to complete these projects for the benefit of everyone, not just the river, many interests such as historical, recreational, biologic, public safety, and regulatory agencies, must be represented and incorporated into the design process. Fundraising for these projects can be complicated and often do not financially support WPWA's efforts as the project owner.

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 800 crossings were mapped and have been prioritized for remediation to allow for better passage by fish. Organizations like The Nature Conservancy are working with WPWA to ensure that the goal of removing these obstructions is achieved.

Stream Study

Stream temperature studies were conducted by WPWA in Rhode Island on the Tomaquag Brook in Hopkinton. This project was undertaken as part of a continuing investigation into brook trout habitat in the Pawcatuck Watershed. Temperature loggers called iButtons were placed in 11 sites along the length of the Tomaquag Brook and its tributary. Data was retrieved from seven sites that provided maximum daily stream temperature information. Ambient air temperatures for June, July, August and September were slightly above average. Precipitation was above normal for July and September and below normal for June and August. This variability allowed us to formulate a general prediction of how the stream reacts to normal summer conditions. Only one site recorded maximum temperatures at or above 25 degrees Celsius, the lethal limit for brook trout, a total of 6 times in July. Only one other site recorded high temperatures for 7 days in July, while the remaining 5 sites had temperatures at or below 20 degrees Celsius for the entire summer. This data indicates that Tomaquag Brook and its tributaries maintain continuous cold water habitat sufficient to support brook trout. Macroinvertebrate sampling was also done at five sites in this stream.

Vernal Pool Assessment

In March and April of this year over one hundred participants attended training sessions concerning vernal pools and how to assess them. During April and May WPWA engaged seventy-five volunteers and three school groups who visited 140 potential pools in seven towns in the watershed. Concurrently, our project partner, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), also conducted the same field assessments at other locations. Together, WPWA volunteers and RIDEM staff visited over 350 pools in nine RI towns. Of the pools assessed, over half were confirmed to be positive. This means volunteers found evidence indicating that obligate vernal pool amphibians were using the pools for breeding. In many cases volunteers saw egg masses from spotted salamanders or wood frogs. Often fairy shrimp were found alongside the egg masses. Later in the project tadpoles were also observed in many of the vernal pools. On a few occasions some adult animals were identified as utilizing the pools.

A final report will be produced by RIDEM from the data sheets completed by WPWA volunteers and RIDEM staff. RIDEM will also provide WPWA with maps showing assessed and confirmed vernal pools, which will be published on the WPWA website. At this time WPWA and RIDEM are working on plans to continue the project next spring to assess more potential vernal pools on protected properties in the watershed.

This project was deemed a success on many levels. First, more than half of the potential pools were visited and assessed. Second, the project proved that educating and engaging volunteers is a viable option for conducting field work. Third, participation in a project such as this provided people with an opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of the natural areas in their own town. It is WPWA's belief that this experience will also stimulate these participants to expend more efforts towards conservation and protection of important natural areas throughout the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Lastly, it provided people with a chance to be a citizen scientist. Many people volunteered so that they could learn more about vernal pools. Most of the volunteers had never seen a wood frog or an amphibian egg mass prior to their involvement in this research effort. When returning their data sheets and equipment, most volunteers remarked on what an enjoyable experience they had and requested more assignments. The inventory processes was also met with great excitement by the school age children who also participated in the research. Of further importance to all the volunteers was the knowledge that their efforts will be translated into usable data for future land management.

Surface Water Quality in Ponds, Lakes, Rivers and Streams

WPWA is well into the third decade of water quality monitoring on lakes, ponds, rivers and streams in the Pawcatuck Watershed. During the 2008 monitoring season forty-three volunteers monitored fourteen ponds and twenty-three river sites in the watershed. For lakes and ponds volunteers collected data on water clarity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and chlorophyll levels weekly; bacteria and nutrient levels monthly. Rivers and streams were monitored monthly for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and bacteria. As with the past twenty years, WPWA continues to work closely with the URI Cooperative Extension Watershed Watch Program for ambient monitoring of the surface water in our watershed. Water samples are analyzed at the Watershed Watch labs and the information provided to local, state and federal agencies. RIDEM uses much of this data 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.

WPWA is in the process of developing a new data management system that will allow us to disseminate our many years of water quality data in a clear, concise, and valuable format that will be useful to a wider audience. This project began with the desire of WPWA volunteer, Elise Torello, to complete a Master Thesis in Computer Sciences at URI. She chose to research and develop a prototype data reporting method for non-profit organizations. Working with WPWA data she produced an on-line map that shows fourteen sites in the Pawcatuck Watershed. A user can select the desired site and pull up several parameters of water quality sampling over the past six years for that site. WPWA has since received a grant from the Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation to expand this project to utilize all WPWA's data from the last twenty years. Under the same grant Elise will also be working with the Salt Ponds Coalition and Save The Bay, South County Office, to develop a similar data management program for them.

2006-08 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in CT and RI by Town

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
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CONNECTICUT

North Stonington (These sites are monitored under the North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance programs)

Asseconk Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites
Green Falls Brook	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites
Shunnock River	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites
	Macroinvertebrate 2 sites		
	Fish Assemblage 2 sites		

RHODE ISLAND

Charlestown

Pasquisset Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 5 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites
Watchaug Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling

2006-08 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in RI by Town

(continued)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<i>Exeter</i>			
Boone Lake	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Breakheart Pond	Lake Sampling		
Browning Mill Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	
Eisenhower Lake		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
Glen Rock Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site Temp Study 3 sites	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Locke Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Queen River	WQ Sampling 4 sites Temp Study 1 site Macro Study 1 site Fish Assemblage 3 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites
Sherman Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
<i>Hopkinton</i>			
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	Lake Sampling
Ashaway River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites
Parameter Brook		WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites
Tomaquag Brook	WQ Sampling 1 sites	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites Temp Study 11 sites
Wood River	Data Logger 2 sites	Macro Study 3 sites	

2006-08 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in RI by Town

(continued)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<i>Richmond</i>			
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	WQ Sampling 1 site
Wyoming Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Beaver River		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	WQ Sampling 2 sites
	Data Logger 3 sites	Data Logger 1 site	
White Brook		WQ Monitoring 1 Site	WQ Monitoring 1 Site
		Data Logger 2 sites	
Wood River	Data Logger 3 sites	Macro Study 3 sites	
<i>South Kingstown</i>			
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
		Temp Study 1 site	Temp Study 4 sites
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites

2006-08 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in RI by Town

(continued)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<i>South Kingstown</i>			
Queen River	WQ Sampling 1 site Temp Study 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 site Macro Study 1 sites	WQ Sampling 1 site
Sherman Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site Temp Study 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
<i>Westerly</i>			
Chapman Pond	Lake Sampling	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

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

More people participated in recreational programs sponsored by WPWA in 2008 than ever before. Hundreds of children learned to kayak from the WPWA campus through school and camp programs. The 2008 Source to Sea Paddle took place on the Wood River, attracting over fifty paddlers, eight of whom completed all four segments. Other paddle trips were offered during lunch or after work to take advantage of the warm summer evenings. WPWA expanded the very popular Family Fun Fishing Program to three events and held them at the Carolina Trout Pond in the Arcadia Management Area. The RIDEM Aquatic Education Program supplied fishing equipment, posters and worms for this program. Fly Tying and Fly Fishing instructions were offered at the WPWA campus by volunteers from Trout Unlimited and the United FlyTyers of Rhode Island. Weather affected some of the late fall and winter hikes led by Program Assistant Danielle Aube. However, interest still remains high for this popular activity.

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, Carritas House, and Gateway Health Programs.

See the Following Page

For a List of Our

2008 Events

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 26th Saturday 10am to noon – Learn the Art of Fly Tying Materials donated and lesson taught by volunteers from Wood River Fly Tying Assn. and Trout Unlimited. Held at the WPWA campus.

February 23rd Saturday 10am to noon – Learn the Art of Fly Tying (see January 26)

April 12th Saturday 6am to noon – Litter Awareness for Opening Day At specified fishing access points in our watershed. WPWA served free coffee and hot chocolate to anyone with a reusable mug. Beverages donated by Honey Dew Donuts and Green Mountain Coffee.

May 17th Saturday 10am to 2pm – Kayak Safety Clinic Instructed by experienced river guide Manny Point and son, Gary Point, a registered Maine guide. Held at the WPWA campus.

June 7th Saturday 9am to 3pm – Source to Sea Paddle #1, Upper Wood River Paddle.

WPWA lead 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 14th Saturday 9am to 3pm – Source to Sea Paddle #2, Wood River Paddle.

The second section of the Wood River started at Hope Valley Fishing Access, wound through the Village of Woodville, and ended at the Alton Dam, Alton RI.

June 21st Saturday 9am to 3pm – Source to Sea Paddle #3, Wood and Pawcatuck River Paddle.

This 14-mile trip started on the lower Wood River at Alton, and met up with the Pawcatuck River, and on through Burdickville to Potter Hill Dam in Ashaway, RI.

June 28th Saturday 9am to 3pm – Source to Sea Paddle #4, Pawcatuck River Paddle.

The last nine miles of the Pawcatuck River began at Potter Hill Dam in Ashaway, RI, through White Rock, and across the Pawcatuck Estuary ending in Avondale, RI.

July 11th Friday 10am to 1pm – Family Fun Fishing Day at the Carolina Trout Pond. Poles and tackle were provided for all children by the DEM's Aquatic Resource Education Center.

July 18th Friday 10am to 1pm – Family Fun Fishing Day (see July 11)

July 31st 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 fly-fishing. Included use of fly rod and reel.

August 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Tuesdays noon to 2pm – Floating Lunch Club Participants joined WPWA on the Wood River for a short paddle to Fry Pan Pond where they stopped to relax on the river and have lunch.

September 9th Tuesday 5pm to 7:30 pm – September Splendor

Leisurely paddle upstream from WPWA campus to enjoy the colorful wetland blooms.

September 16th Tuesday 5pm to 7:30 pm – September Splendor (see September 9)

PUBLIC RIVER ACCESS

Remediation work at the Switch Road Access was finally completed in the late fall 2008. Funding for this project had been originally approved under the TEA-21 program in 2002 and was supplemented with funds from the USDA's NRCS. Improvements included the removal of broken tar and road remnants; grading the site for handicap accessibility; installation of a walkway and parking area; and planting vegetation to prevent erosion and enhance the esthetics of the access. WPWA's green project included no petroleum based products and will permanently protect the Wood River from contaminated stormwater runoff from Switch Road. In March of 2009 a dedication for this site took place and was well attended and publicized.

The portage path at Bradford Dam was redesigned and constructed by WPWA, USDA's NRCS, and USFWS. Unfortunately a 10 year rain event occurred shortly after causing significant damage to the portage path. Because WPWA is dedicated to ensuring its project's achieve long term success, we are in the process of securing repair funding and will have the path revitalized by July of 2009.

The Patnod Family of Ashaway donated land to WPWA on the Pawcatuck River downstream of the Route 3 crossing. For years the family utilized the parcel and camp house as a fishing access point on the river. With the passing of their family's patriarch they decided the site should be made open to all who recreate on the river. Donating the land to WPWA will allow for access to everyone and for us to raise funds to develop the site as another handicap accessible point on the river. We hope that work will begin in 2010.

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. This year WPWA is working to have river access goals for the Pawcatuck Watershed written into the RI Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

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 including Camp E Hun Tee who donate their time, expertise, and chainsaws to help keep the rivers navigable.

EDUCATION

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. Two schools, Compass School and Nuweetooun School, volunteered with the Vernal Pool Volunteer Assessment Program in the spring. In total, 260 students participated in WPWA educational programs in 2008.

As educational mentor and WPWA Program Director, Denise Poyer assisted in statewide projects, such as training and judging the aquatics section for the RI Envirothon and Science Mentor for the GEMS-Net Program run by the Education Department at URI. Denise joined the board of the New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA). NEEEA's focus is to assist the passage of the No Child Left Inside Act, sponsored by RI Senator Jack Reed, as well as assisting the New England states in writing Environmental Literacy Plans. Denise also gave a presentation at the Land and Water Summit on Environmental Education in RI.

Participants of the AmeriCorps Environmental Education program were given opportunities to learn how to conduct field trips and aquatic exploration through affiliation with WPWA events. 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. Thirteen students and instructors participated before enjoying a kayak trip on the Wood River.

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.

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.

Watershed Concerns

The WPWA continues to monitor threats to the watershed and respond to concerns regarding development and environmental hazards along our rivers and above our aquifers. We encourage our members and the public to bring these concerns to our attention so that we can provide technical input as needed. The list of watershed concerns listed below is just a handful of the issues WPWA followed and commented on in 2008.

Potter Hill Mill Redevelopment – Westerly
Comprehensive Plan Redrafting – Various Towns
Fox Run Development – Richmond
Kenyon Piece & Dye Dump – Charlestown

Richmond Stump Dump – Richmond
Altamonte Ridge Development - Richmond
Wyoming Dam Bridge – Richmond & Hopkinton

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WPWA continued to have a strong presence in the media. In an interview of Denise Poyer at the WPWA campus, News Channel 10 announced the RI Blueways Paddle 09 program. RJ Heim also gave an on-location report from one of WPWA's kayaks. In the summer, Providence Journal South County Editor, Alan Rosenberg, enjoyed his first kayak trip ever on the upper Wood River with Denise Poyer. Writing about it in his column Mr. Rosenberg described not just the scenic beauty, but the deep appreciation for the Wood River by all the people that he met on the water that day. Overall WPWA's exposure in all outlets of the media increased significantly in 2008. We expect that expansion to continue as WPWA makes technology upgrades in 2009.

HopArts, a local grassroots artistic collaborative, approached WPWA in 2008 to engage in a partnership that would help further unite local artists and the environment. We saw this as a wonderful opportunity to share our interests and help unite the public at large with both the arts and the environment. Nationally renowned sculptor Sereena Bates along with Chariho student artists utilized our Wood River Campus to display their work on the 2008 HopArts Trail. WPWA also serves as fiscal agent for the annual HopArts event which encourages people to visit the individual artists and their work.

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, Nuweetooun School, RYSE at Chariho Middle School, Coventry High School, 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.

In addition to Lisa Primiano and Cathy Sparks, WPWA would like to acknowledge several other people at RIDEM. Christine Dudley and Kim Sullivan from the Aquatic Education Program and Jay Aaron from Arcadia Management Council never fail to assist WPWA with programs and events, answer questions, or offer advice and direction on resource matters. WPWA is very grateful for their assistance.

NEWSLETTER, MAPS AND WEBSITE

Volume 25, Numbers 1-3 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 again sold trail maps produced by Cliff Vanover of Arcadia, Big River, Carolina, and other state holdings, at our campus store. Co-authors, Charlie Hickox and Elly Heyder are working on adding a few more hikes to the trail guide's third edition coming in the fall of 2009.

Our website, 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 fall, a WPWA web design committee began the process of redesigning the site with the help and guidance of Bruce Hooke. When unveiled in late 2009 the improved site will offer direct member sign up and product purchase using Paypal as well as direct registry for WPWA programs. 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. In November a blog was created by WPWA Board Member, Peter August, as a way of providing readers with highlights and sightings regarding the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. Recent and archived posts to the site can be found at: <http://wpwariverwatch.blogspot.com/>

CAPACITY BUILDING AND MENTORING

The South County Environmental Advocacy Team was formed in 2008 for the purpose of fostering better communication and cooperation amongst southern RI and Southeastern CT environmental groups. The group was conceived by Save the Bay and WPWA and the first meeting was spearheaded by Save the Bay and hosted at the Westerly Land Trust. Short term goals of the group are to establish an ongoing dialogue between the 10 founding organizations and meet quarterly to discuss ongoing projects as they relate to other group's interests. In the long term, the team plans to work collaboratively on fundraising and projects with the goal of seamless communication to reduce unnecessary duplication of efforts by each participant organization. We look forward to including more groups in our discussions in 2009.

WPWA has continued to be an active participant in the Land and Water Partnership “Infrastructure Collaborative” in 2008. This learning network of eight member organizations – including two watershed councils, four 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.

The acquisition of a van and trailer in 2008 will allow WPWA to provide even more programs in 2009. Our popular paddle and hiking events will now run smoother thanks to these expensive but valuable additions. A generous donation from the Forrest and Frances Lattner Foundation in 2007 supported WPWA’s efforts to acquire these needed additions. WPWA has extended an offer to other organizations to use the van and trailer to assist with their programs. This is another fine example of WPWA’s ongoing philanthropy.

In late 2008, WPWA formed a loose partnership with Save the Bay and The Nature Conservancy to investigate the potential for obtaining a Wild & Scenic designation from the National Park Service for sections of the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. The lengthy process of obtaining the designation would help further protect the pristine sections of the rivers from development. The increased attention the designation would bring our watershed would also help stimulate tourism in the area. The funding provided by the designation would support WPWA’s ongoing efforts to protect the rivers and to implement a river management plan.

WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2008 and 2007

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Checking	\$ 209,150	\$ 146,074
Savings	103,542	7,661
Investments		
Capital Revolving Fund.....	89,010	173,662
Polly Fund	132,888	175,624
Sisson Fund	15,424	16,960
Inventory	<u>2,428</u>	<u>2,428</u>
Total current assets	<u>552,442</u>	<u>522,409</u>
PROPERTY		
Office buildings and land.....	257,905	257,905
Rental house.....	88,064	88,064
Vehicle	18,416	-
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(36,389)</u>	<u>(28,559)</u>
Total property	<u>327,996</u>	<u>317,410</u>
OTHER ASSETS		
Land held for conservation	<u>261,000</u>	<u>221,000</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,141,438</u>	<u>\$1,060,819</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Rental security deposit.....	\$ 1,200	\$ -
Due to Fiscal Agents.....	<u>35,614</u>	<u>23,102</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>36,814</u>	<u>23,102</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted.....	473,516	431,025
Temporarily restricted	221,796	193,108
Permanently restricted	<u>409,312</u>	<u>413,584</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,104,624</u>	<u>1,037,717</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,141,438</u>	<u>\$1,060,819</u>

See accountant's compilation report, available on request