

WATERSHED

A Newsletter of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Volume 24 No. 2

SPRING 2007

URI Watershed Watch celebrates twenty years of stewardship

WPWA dedicates 2007 season in memory of Mitch Salomon and Bart Hurley

As we all enjoy the May bloom, fifty of our fellow citizens will be preparing to take part in a twenty-year tradition of volunteer water quality monitoring in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. These dedicated people, many of whom have no formal science background, perform a service to all of us who live and work here, or just enjoy the ponds, rivers, and streams of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed.

Every week or two, pond monitors launch their kayaks, canoes, or row boats onto their assigned ponds, and paddle to the center. There they check the depth and clarity of the water, take a temperature reading, and collect water samples to run dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll tests. On certain weeks they also collect samples for bacterial and nutrient analysis at the Watershed Watch lab. River monitors conduct their tests from the river banks, or walk into wadeable streams to collect water temperature and dissolved oxygen readings every other week, and collect water samples

once a month. The data gathered by these volunteers is used by WPWA, governmental agencies, and organizations, to gauge the health of the watershed. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management incorporate the data into the annual State of the State's Waters Report, and the List of Impaired Waters, required by federal law.



Linda Green, co-founder and program director of URI Watershed Watch

Watershed Watch volunteers come from areas throughout greater RI, from many different backgrounds, and a variety of skill levels. What they share is an appreciation of clean water and recreational resources, and a desire to participate in preserving or achieving good water quality.

The history of Watershed Watch begins at WPWA, when in 1987 board members at the time were looking for a way to assess the health of our ponds. Very little data was available from the state or federal government at that time. The board considered hiring

a limnologist to test several sites. Instead, URI Professor Arthur Gold, a board member, had an alternative plan. Having come from Michigan where volunteer water quality monitoring is common, Gold suggested that he and Linda Green, a research associate in the Natural Resources Science Department, could work together to develop a volunteer-based monitoring program that would be professional, cost effective, and result in significantly more information.

Today, URI Watershed Watch has expanded to over 200 sites in RI and nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut. Sites monitored by WPWA volunteers have grown from eight ponds, to now sixteen ponds and fourteen river and stream sites, thanks to the services of the many volunteers who have dedicated their time to the effort.

WPWA underwrites the cost of monitoring these sites with funding from state and local grants, and further consideration from URI Watershed Watch.

WPWA fondly dedicates the 2007 monitoring season to the loving memory of Mitch Salomon and Bart Hurley, two of the founders, original volunteers, and vi-

(Cont'd page 6)

From the Executive Director

Thanking members and friends for their contributions of the past year.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the generosity of all who have made financial and in-kind contributions to WPWA this past year. Your names appear in this publication. It is because of all of you that we are able to continue the good work we were created to do. Your support is also a vote of confidence for us, that tells us you approve of our performance here, and we appreciate that.

In the compiling of any list of names, there are those unfortunate times where a name is unintentionally omitted, accidentally deleted, or misspelled. Please accept our sincere apologies in advance, and give us a call or email so we can be sure our records are correct. We appreciate your patience.

Sadly we remember, in compiling this list, the passing of long-time members Mitch Salomon, Bart Hurley, and Peter Brownell, who not only made generous financial donations to WPWA, but also donated a good part of their lifetimes to helping us protect our watershed resources. We mourn their loss, and the passing of other members and friends this past year.

On a brighter note, recreational season has begun, so please check the website for upcoming guided paddle and hiking programs. Danielle's events are getting more and more popular, and fill up quickly, so be sure to reserve a space.

Meg Kerr is the 2007 recipient of The Salomon Award

The WPWA Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Meg Kerr has been selected 2007 recipient of The Salomon Award. The award will be presented at the WPWA Annual Meeting on May 23, 2007.



Meg Kerr at the River Council award ceremony in 2005

Selected from a field of very distinguished nominees, Kerr's contributions to watershed protection span more than two decades of work, from her early years with the River Rescue program, through to her more recent role as chair of the RI Rivers Council. In the latter, she directed numerous capacity-building initiatives to empower local watershed councils with the tools to become effective leaders in their regions.

The Salomon Award is given annually to an individual from the government and non-profit sectors, in recognition of exemplary regional efforts to preserve, protect and conserve the resources of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. It is given in conjunction with the WPWA Mitch and Betty Salomon Endowment, a fund that supports WPWA's involvement in regional planning initiatives in our watershed. Past recipients of the award include Harvey Buford, Sandra Poirier, and Harvey Perry.



Public comment sought on Shannock Fish Passage report

On Wed., May 30 at 6pm, WPWA will host the final public workshop to solicit comment on the Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility Report. The meeting will be held at the H.L. Arnold Public Safety Complex on Route 112 in Richmond.

The draft report is available for public review at the Clark Memorial Library in Richmond. It is also available for download from the www.wpwa.org, but be aware that it is a large file.

The draft report is also currently under review by state and federal partners in the Shannock Fish Passage Study project.

The report was prepared by consulting engineers Milone and MacBroom, Inc., Jeanine Bonin, P.E., project manager.

WPWA encourages all stakeholders and members of the public to review the report and provide any comment to info@wpwa.org, attention Lori Urso, or by calling 401-539-9017.

Volunteers needed for 1st Annual Paddle Pickup

On June 6 & 7, at 2pm, WPWA will conduct on-river cleanups of floating debris and larger items. Volunteers are needed to canoe or kayak the river sections to pick up floating trash, to get in the river to haul out larger items, to use their vehicles to transport collected items, and to take photos.

The Wood River cleanup is June 6th from the Switch Road access in Hope Valley; the Pawcatuck River is June 7th from the Jay Cronan River Access on Rt . 91. Email Danielle@wpwa.org for info.

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(cont'd next page)

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In-kind gift

Mike Merner, Earth Care Farm

Municipal Government

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

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

Land Gifts

Roy & Kim Dubs
 3-acres on the Pawcatuck River at Rt. 91

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 Garden maintenance
 Marty Richards
 Lawn Care
 Paul Hetu & Gabriel Warren
 Temperature monitoring supplies

Watershed Watch *(cont'd from Pg 1)*

sionaries of Watershed Watch. Their commitment and inspiration helped lay the foundation for the long-term success of this model program. They will be sorely missed.

To further recognize the program's great success, WPWA will present Linda Green with the 2007 Trustees Award on May 23, in celebration of the longevity and success of Watershed Watch, and in recognition of her accomplishments on behalf of our watershed resources.

WPWA thanks the volunteers who have committed to the 2007 season. Their names and sites follow. We still need additional volunteers to cover all sites. Some have one volunteer and need a partner to share the duties. If you

are interested in monitoring at any of these sites, please email denisep@wpwa.org, or call 401-539-9017. Training & supplies provided.

Available monitoring sites:

Exeter: Boone Lake*,
 Browning Mill Pond
Charlestown: Watchaug Pond*
Hopkinton: Alton Pond*, Ashville Pond, Long Pond, Parmenter Brook, Tomaquag Brook
Richmond: Pawcatuck @ Rt 91, White Brook Pond*
South Kingstown: Barber Pond, Chipuxet River @ Rt. 138, Pawcatuck River at Biscuit City, Usquepaug River @ Rt. 2
Westerly: Pawcatuck River (2 sites)
 * partner needed

Confirmed 2007 monitoring sites and volunteers:

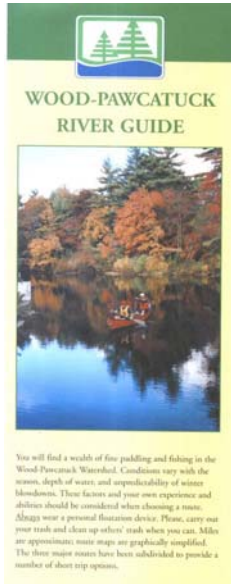
Alton Pond: Mark & Carol Ann Baker
Ashaway River & Parameter Brook: Harvey Buford, Pat Fontes & Craig Hotchkiss
Blue Lake: Bill Hixson
Boone Lake: Tony Imbriglio
Breakheart Pond: Bruce Burns
Falls River: Al Ball, Dan Beltrami, Lawson Cary & George Rainville
Hundred Acre Pond: Mike Walsh
Locke Brook: Sam Curry
Locustville Pond: Thomas & Michele McCormick, & Amy Tait-Kamradt
Meadowbrook Pond: Kristin & Don Chambers, Anne Marie Tavares
Pasquissett Pond: Werner Wiskari
Pawcatuck River
Below Kenyon: Sandy Neuschatz
Burdickville: Keith Manning
Bradford: Judy Kaplin
Below Bradford & Chase Road: Karen & Mike Cryan
Avondale: Marie & Paul Leinhaas
Queen River
Usquepaugh: Jim Cummings
Sand Bridge: Sue Cerullo
Sherman Brook: Peter & Ginny Stack
Tucker Pond: Sindy Hempstead
(cont'd next page)

WPWA CANOE AND HIKING GUIDES

Order Form

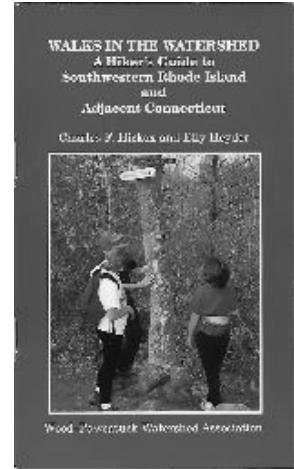
Wood-Pawcatuck River Guide (2nd edition)

By Charlie Hickox and Elly Heyder
 \$ 4.00 members (\$5.00 non-members)
 Navigate the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers from source to sea with this colorful folded map.



Walks in the Watershed

By Charlie Hickox and Elly Heyder
 \$4.00 members (\$5.00 non-members)
 Sixteen of the watershed's best loop hikes contained in a handy pocket-sized guide



Quantity:
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 Add \$1.50 postage and handling per item.

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Mail form with payment to:
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 203 Arcadia Road
 Hope Valley, RI 02832

Watershed Watch (cont'd from pg. 6)

- Watchaug Pond: Virginia Wooten
- White Brook Pond: Chris Turner
- Wincheck Pond: Deb Luz, Gerri Miceli & Michele Eldredge
- Wordens Pond: Anne Sheffield & J. Benjamin Bradley
- Wyassup Pond: Douglas Carocari & Joseph DiBrino
- Wyoming Pond: Ally Fell, Ben Jacques, Max Hall, Stacy LeHerissier, Samantha Migdail-Smith, Erin Ward & Sophia Warren
- Yawgoo Pond: Sher & Jim Schroe, & Linda Green

Thanks to all for your interest in the program. For more information available online, please visit <http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/wv/>.

Saila, Cary discuss findings of brook trout research projects

On March 31, WPWA hosted a Saturday morning program to share findings from brook trout habitat research studies of the last

five years, and to discuss the current stream continuity project underway.

Fisheries biologist and WPWA trustee Dr. Saul Saila, and Lawson Cary, president of Trout Unlimited Narragansett Chapter, led a discussion with attendees regarding brook trout habitat resources in our watershed. Dr. Saila discussed the studies he has directed for



Dr. Saila and Lawson Cary discuss brook trout and stream continuity.

WPWA, and shared information learned throughout his remarkable career.

Cary focused on the stream continuity project undertaken by Trout Unlimited and RI Resource Conservation and Development,

to identify and prioritize obstructions at road crossings that interrupt stream flow and fish passage. Small streams are important resources that provide valued habitat areas for native trout populations.

You can find reports of WPWA's brook trout studies at www.wpwa.org.

Paddle from Source to Sea over five Saturdays in June

Paddlers wait all year for the Source to Sea journey with WPWA. This year's event will begin on the Chipuxet, and end at Avondale.

If you'd like to help by serving as a river leader, or by shuttling paddlers between landings in the morning, email denisep@wpwa.org, or call the office 401-539-9017.

If you plan to paddle with us, be sure to register in advance.

Application for Membership

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- ____ Individual \$25
- ____ Family \$40
- ____ Contributor \$50
- ____ Corporate \$100
- ____ Supporter \$100
- ____ Sponsor \$250
- ____ Patron \$500
- ____ Benefactor \$1000

In addition to my dues, I am enclosing an additional contribution of

\$ _____

*Your contribution is tax deductible .
Thank you for your support!*

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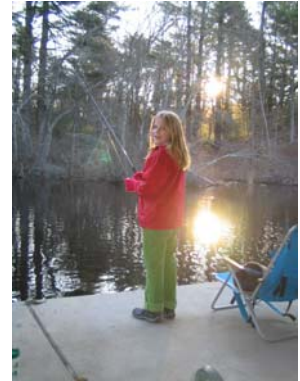
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WPWA Campus

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 401-539-9017
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 Website: www.wpwa.org



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association



Nine year old Natasha Shien fishes at dawn from the WPWA patio on Opening Day 2007.

Opinions expressed in *Watershed* are not necessarily those of WPWA, its Board of Trustees, or staff.

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