



*2009 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
2009 Annual Report
(Published May 2010)

Congratulations to

Raymond F. Cherenzia

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 20, 2010

Cover photos:

Summer Campers on the Wood River
Beriah Lewis Farm Preserve on the Pawcatuck River in Westerly
Curtis Corner Middle School Students on Field Trip at Browning Mill Pond
Wood Frog near Vernal Pool in Charlestown (photo by Tom Tetzner)

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
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**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
2009 Annual Report**

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In early 2010 WPWA lost long time friend, volunteer and board member Raymond F. Cherenzia who passed away in the winter, leaving behind a legacy of advocacy, dedication and volunteerism for the watershed he loved. Ray be sadly missed by the WPWA family.

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Lower Shannock Falls Engineering

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RI State Senate
Water Quality Monitoring

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Active Watershed Education Course

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Town of Hopkinton	URI Cooperative Extension Service
Town of North Stonington	URI Watershed Watch
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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
United Turkey Federation	Wood River Fly Tying Association

↻ PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS ↻

RIVER RESTORATION

Fish Passage – Pawcatuck River

- ↻* Repairs and improvements to the Bradford Dam Fish Ladder and Portage Path were completed by WPWA in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Bradford Printing & Finishing LLC, USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Wilco Development.
- ↻* Engineering, design and permitting for the 2010 removal of Lower Shannock Falls was completed by WPWA in partnership with The Town's of Richmond & Charlestown, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, USDOC's National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council, USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Save the Bay, Trout Unlimited and Fuss & O'Neill Inc.
- ↻* Engineering and design for the 2010 construction of a Denil Fish Ladder & Eelway at the iconic Horseshoe Falls Dam was initiated by WPWA with funding and technical support from USDOC's National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Special thanks to landowner Jeffrey Marlowe, dam owner Francis Flynn, and resident historian Sanford Neuschatz for their project support.
- ↻* Preliminary engineering investigations at the Kenyon Mill Dam were initiated by WPWA thanks to significant funding provided in 2009 by USDOC's National

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

River Continuity

- ↻ Volunteers from WPWA, RC&D, and Trout Unlimited finished the Pawcatuck Watershed Stream Continuity Project. Over 800 crossings were mapped and have been prioritized for remediation to allow for better passage by fish.
- ↻ WPWA and NRCS sampled 10 sites on the Queen and Beaver Rivers for presence of Brook Trout, to help prioritize habitat improvement projects.

River Study

- ↻ Lewis Farm on the lower Pawcatuck River will be the site of remediation work by the Westerly Land Trust. WPWA did pre-remediation habitat studies on the site, including water quality sampling up and downstream, habitat assessment, and data logging.

Vernal Pool Assessment

- ↻ 17 WPWA volunteers revisited 50 sites from the previous year to perform follow-up assessments. Some sites had inconclusive results or had not been properly assessed.
- ↻ About $\frac{1}{3}$ of these sites were found to contain obligate species for vernal pools.
- ↻ RINHS assisted with the project this year, providing maps and other information. A final report will be produced by RIDEM.
- ↻ 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.

Pawcatuck Watershed Water Use Optimization Project

- ↻ A Model of the ground and surface water in the Pawcatuck Watershed was completed by USGS. This 5-year project was sponsored by NRCS, USGS, and RI Water Resource Board.
- ↻ WPWA partnered with NRCS, RC&D, and the RI Water Resource Board to present four public workshops detailing results from the project.
- ↻ Ideally this Model will benefit towns, agencies, and organizations looking to minimize water use impact on streams.

Water Quality Monitoring

- The Water Quality Data Management Project was completed by Elise Torello for all the sites in the watershed, including many historic sites. 137 data sites in the Pawcatuck Watershed are mapped and results available on WPWA's website.
- Data for Salt Ponds Coalition, Coastal Watershed, Saugatucket Watershed, and CUSH are also accessible through the website.
- Future projects include analysis and reports on all WPWA's sites, highlighting current conditions and trends.
- WPWA completed 22 years of water quality monitoring in the watershed.
- 40 volunteers monitored 10 lakes and ponds and 25 streams and rivers.

2007-09 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in CT and RI by Town

	2007	2008	2009
CONNECTICUT			
<i>North Stonington (These sites are monitored under the North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance programs)</i>			
Asseconk Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 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 2 sites
RHODE ISLAND			
<i>Charlestown</i>			
Pasquiset Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 3 sites
Watchaug Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
<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	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
			Fish Sampling 2 sites
Locke Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Queen River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites
			Fish Sampling 2 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	
Wincheck Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Wyoming Pond	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	WQ Sampling 1 sites
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 3 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites
Tomaquag Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 site	
	Temp Study 11 sites		

Wood River	Macro Study 3 sites		
<i>Richmond</i>			
Alton Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Browning Mill Pond	Lake Sampling		
Meadowbrook Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
White Brook Pond	Lake Sampling	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Wyoming Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Beaver River	Macro Study 3 sites		Fish Sampling 3 sites
Canob Brook	Data Logger, Boron Sampling		
Meadow Brook	Macro Study 1 site		
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites
	Data Logger 1 site		
Wood River	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
Queen River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
	Macro Study 1 sites		
Sherman Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Shickasheen Brook	WQ Sampling 4 site	WQ Sampling 4 site	WQ Sampling 4 sites
Tucker Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
White Horn Brook	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites
<i>Westerly</i>			
Chapman Pond	Lake Sampling		
Mastuxet Brook	Temp Study 4 sites		
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 7 sites Data Logger 2 sites

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Paddle Programs

- Source to Sea on the Pawcatuck River in June had 35 participants, 10 of whom completed all 45 miles of paddling over 4 weeks. URE Outfitters donated gifts for the participants and Pizza Place donated pizza for the party on the last day.
- WPWA also offered family paddles, July and August evening paddles, and Tuesday lunch paddles in August. 30 participants took part in these paddles.
- Beginner Kayak Instruction was offered in June to 6 participants to learn the basics of kayaking and safety information.
- Almost 120 campers from Roger Williams Park Zoo, Denison Pequot Nature Center, and Audubon Society of RI participated over the course of ten weeks.
- WPWA provided kayaks and instruction for the RYSE School and Gateway Health Programs.
- Kenyon Grist Mill Open House - WPWA provided kayaks and Kenyon's collected donations to benefit WPWA's programs.

Other Programs

- ↯ Litter Awareness, Opening Day of Trout Fishing Season
- ↯ Family Fun Fishing: 20 participants
- ↯ Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Instructions: 16 participants
- ↯ Hiking programs: 18 participants

EDUCATION

Special Programs

- ↯ Watershed Science for Educators course: WPWA partnered with Narrow River Preservation Association to provide this 3-credit graduate level course to teachers from around the state. 24 teachers learned about watersheds and watershed issues. A grant from the RI Rivers Council allowed us to offer this 30 hour course at no charge to the educators.
- ↯ Wood River Youth Kayak: REI provided funding to bring watershed education to underserved students. The program included a classroom visit to the school to teach about river ecology, and then a field trip to WPWA campus so students could experience the Wood River from kayaks. 87 students from Gateway Healthcare Children Residential Program, Valley Day Program, Alternatives School, Nuweetooun School, and Compass School took part in this program.

Other Education Programs

- ↯ Earth Day Program at Wheeler School, North Stonington
- ↯ RI Envirothon Competition
- ↯ Chariho Middle School field trips
- ↯ Compass School field trip
- ↯ Americorp field trip
- ↯ Guided hikes for Carritas House and Cockery House
- ↯ Stormwater Training for Educators, through URI Cooperative Extension

ADVOCACY, POLICY AND STEWARDSHIP

Public River Access

- ↯ The Switch Road Public Access was official opened at a ribbon cutting ceremony with DEM Director Sullivan. Volunteers from Camp E Hun Tee constructed the kiosk and performed some landscaping.
- ↯ The Bradford Dam Portage path was improved for safer passage around the dam and fishway.

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.

The South County Environmental Advocacy Team

This team formed in 2008 for the purpose of fostering better communication and cooperation amongst southern RI and Southeastern CT environmental groups. 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. In 2009 CUSH joined the group and we look forward to including more groups in our discussions in 2010.

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 2009.

Potter Hill Mill Redevelopment – Westerly
Comprehensive Plan Redrafting – Various Towns
Wyoming Dam Bridge – Richmond & Hopkinton
Exit 1 Development - Hopkinton

Richmond Stump Dump – Richmond
Kenyon Piece & Dye Dump – Charlestown
Brushy Brook – Hopkinton

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- ↯ WPWA staff presented at the Land and Water Summit
- ↯ Presentation at Westerly Adult Day Care
- ↯ Presentations at Recreational Equipment Inc.
- ↯ Over 10 fish passage presentations at various events and meetings throughout the watershed
- ↯ Presentation for Source Water Protection Workshop

Committees and Boards

- ↯ Trail Advisory Committee
- ↯ RI Blueways Alliance
- ↯ Paddle 09 Chairperson
- ↯ New England Environmental Education Alliance

NEWSLETTER, MAPS AND WEBSITE

- ↯ Volume 26, Numbers 1-4 of *Watershed* published, with a total distribution by mail of over 4000, and a global availability through our website.
- ↯ *Walks in the Watershed* was revised by the original authors, Charlie Hickox and Elly Heyder. New edition will be published in 2010.
- ↯ Our website, www.wpwa.org, has been completely revised, with the new version by website designer Bruce Hooke coming on-line in early 2010.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND MENTORING

Wild and Scenic Designation

- ↯ WPWA formed a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Save the Bay, and RI DEM to work towards Wild and Scenic Designation for the rivers in the Pawcatuck Watershed.
- ↯ Committee focused on having Congressional legislators sponsor a bill that would assign the National Parks Service to study the Pawcatuck Watershed rivers to determine if they qualified for Wild and Scenic designation.
- ↯ Presentations were made to all towns in the watershed to garner support for the bill.
- ↯ Committee also identified the Wood, Beaver, Chipuxet, Queen, and Pawcatuck Rivers as having qualities most likely to earn Wild and Scenic designation.

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

PUCCI & GREENE, LTD.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Stewart T. Pucci, CPA
Stephen M. Greene, CPA

May 10, 2010

To the Board of Trustees
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Hope Valley, Rhode Island

We have compiled the accompanying statements of financial position of Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (a Rhode Island non-profit corporation) as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets for the years then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

A compilation is limited to presenting in the form of financial statements information that is the representation of management. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures and the statement of cash flows required by generally accepted accounting principles. If the omitted disclosures and the statement of cash flows were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Organization's financial position, changes in net assets and cash flows. Accordingly, these financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2009 and 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash		
Operating.....	\$ 70,650	\$ 147,975
Special projects	203,419	129,103
Fiscal Agents	22,307	35,614
Investments		
Capital Revolving Fund.....	25,517	89,010
Polly Fund	165,686	132,888
Sisson Fund	16,876	15,424
Inventory	<u>1,253</u>	<u>2,428</u>
Total current assets.....	<u>505,708</u>	<u>552,442</u>
PROPERTY		
Office buildings and land	257,905	257,905
Rental house	88,064	88,064
Vehicle	18,416	18,416
Equipment	2,220	-
Less accumulated depreciation.....	<u>(46,970)</u>	<u>(36,389)</u>
Total property	<u>319,635</u>	<u>327,996</u>
OTHER ASSETS		
Land held for conservation.....	<u>261,000</u>	<u>261,000</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,086,343</u>	<u>\$ 1,141,438</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Rental security deposit	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Payroll taxes payable.....	775	-
Sales tax payable	80	-
Due to Fiscal Agents	<u>22,307</u>	<u>35,614</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>24,362</u>	<u>36,814</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted.....	389,483	473,516
Temporarily restricted.....	228,936	221,796
Permanently restricted.....	<u>443,562</u>	<u>409,312</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,061,981</u>	<u>1,104,624</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,086,343</u>	<u>\$ 1,141,438</u>

See accountant's expanded compilation report, available on request