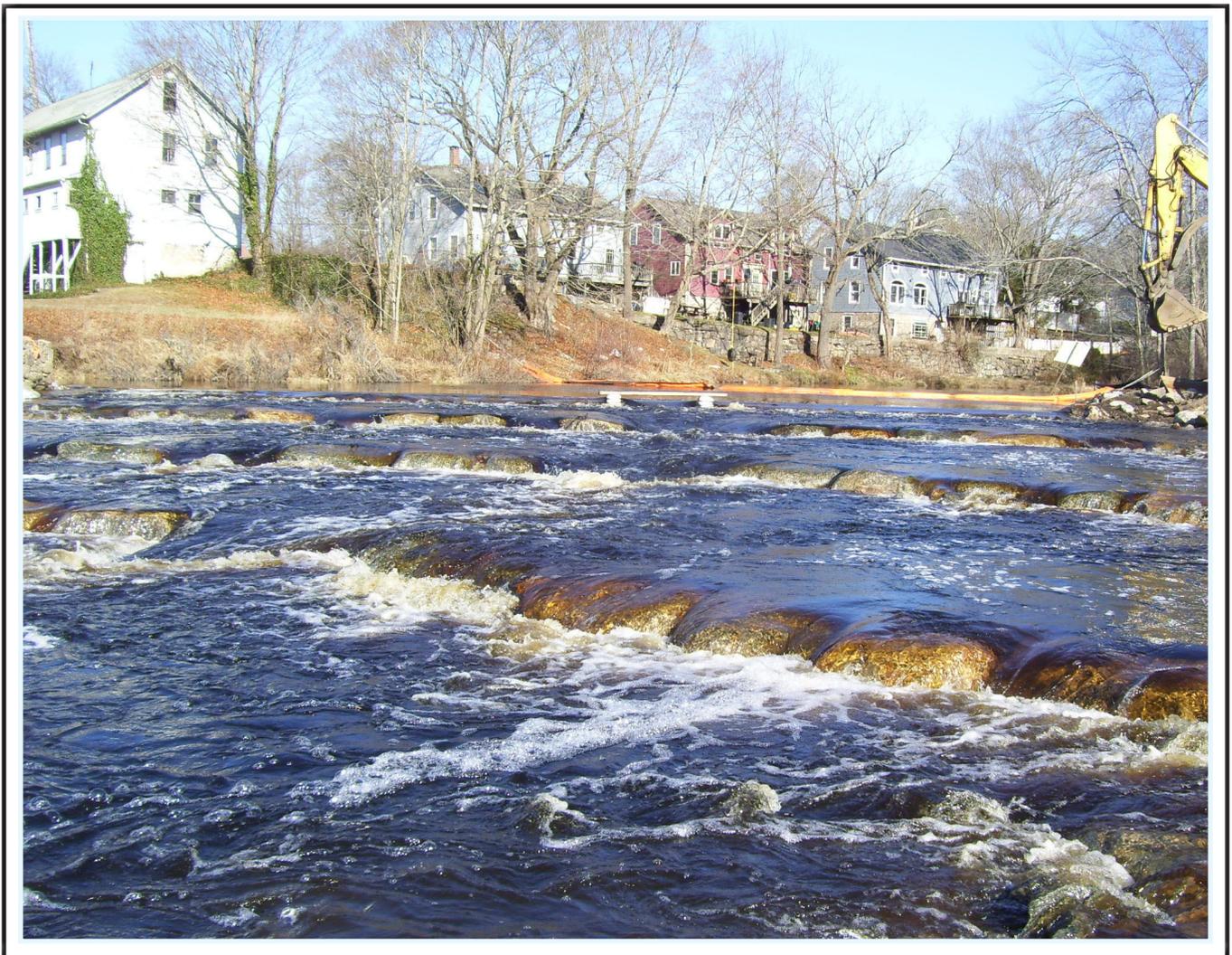


WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

published May 2014

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Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203 Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832
401-539-9017
www.wpwa.org

On Cover: Rock ramp at Kenyon Industries on the Pawcatuck River, near end of construction.

Presented at WPWA Annual Meeting

May 28, 2014

WATERSHED WATCH MONITORS

Madeline Jeffery

In recognition of working for as the director for the North Stonington Citizen Land Alliance who have for Twenty-five years monitored Wyassup Pond, Shunock River, and Greenfalls River

Peter Stack

In recognition of Fifteen years monitoring Sherman Brook and the Queen River

Deb Luz

In recognition of Ten years monitoring Wincheck Pond

Sandy Neuschatz

In recognition of Ten years monitoring the Pawcatuck River

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Kenyon Industries

In recognition of their steadfast partnership and commitment to the historic Kenyon Mill Dam Fish Passage Project that has restored migratory and resident aquatic wildlife access to over 1300 acres of pond, river and stream habitat.

TRUSTEES AWARD

Caitlin Chaffee, RI CRMC

James Turek, NOAA Restoration Center

In recognition of their exemplary local efforts to support the ongoing initiatives of the Association and to protect and preserve the lands and waters of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed.

SALOMON AWARD

Richard Quinn, US Fish & Wildlife (ret.)

In recognition of his exemplary efforts to preserve, protect, conserve and restore the natural resources of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Robert Schiedler

In celebration of the significant and lasting contributions he has made toward the conservation and protection of the natural resources of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed and for his steadfast leadership and volunteerism to the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association.

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Jim Cole helping on Urban Kids Paddle last summer

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Scouts from Richmond Troop 1 get ready to clear blow-downs on the Wood River

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Urban Kids Paddle group getting ready to paddle

MAJOR GRANTS AND GIFTS BY FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

PAWCATUCK FISH PASSAGE:	\$35,604	\$3,000
\$187,340	EPA/Urban Waters Grant	RI Trail Advisory Committee
NOAA-TNC Partnership	<i>Development of an urban waters fish community monitoring program</i>	<i>River Maintenance</i>
\$311,500		
Restore America's Estuaries via Save the Bay	\$14,000	\$3,000
	RI Foundation	National Wildlife Foundation via Environmental Council of RI
OTHER PROJECTS:	<i>Initiative for Non-Profit Excellence</i>	Urban Kids Paddles
\$91,915	\$11,850	
Champlin Foundations	Coastal Institute	\$2,500
<i>Campus Renovation</i>	<i>Flood Forecasting & Stream Gage Operations</i>	EPA/Watershed Counts
\$80,000		<i>Freshwater Water Quality Indicators</i>
Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation	\$4,600	
	RI Rivers Council	
	<i>Water Quality Teacher Training Programs</i>	

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Teachers at Watershed Science Program

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IN MEMORY OF LAWSON CARY II

Gloria Cary, Lawson Cary III, and John Pallof

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Appalachian Mountain Club	Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust
Aquatic Resource Education Center (RIDEM)	Roger Williams Park Zoo
American Rivers	RYSE School
Chariho Middle School	Salt Ponds Coalition
CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection	Save The Bay
Coventry High School	Southern New England Paddlers
Curtis Corner Middle School (SK)	South Kingstown Land Trust
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Hopkinton Land Trust	Town of Hopkinton
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RI Canoe and Kayak Association	URI Coastal Institute
RI Coastal Resources Management Council	URI Cooperative Extension Service
RI DEM, Various Divisions	URI Watershed Watch
RI Envirothon Competition	US Army Corps of Engineers
RI Land and Water Partnership	US Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
RI Resource Conservation & Development	US Fish and Wildlife Service
RI Resource Recovery Corporation	US Geological Survey
RI Trail Advisory Committee	US EPA, Region 1
RI Environmental Education Association	Watershed Counts
RI Natural History Survey	Westerly Land Trust
RI NEMO Program	Wheeler Middle School, N Stonington, CT
RI Rivers Council	Wood River Fly Tying Association
RI Sea Grant	Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
Richmond Conservation Commission	

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RIVER RESTORATION

FISH PASSAGE – PAWCATUCK RIVER

Over \$2 million dollars in Sandy Relief funding has been awarded to the RI Nature Conservancy to improve flood resiliency and fish passage on the lower Pawcatuck River. These funds will be used to remove the White Rock and potentially Bradford Dams to mitigate flooding impacts and improve fish passage. WPWA's restoration efforts on the upper Pawcatuck River helped leverage this funding and we are honored to provide technical assistance to RI TNC as they work to implement these projects over the next few years.

Construction of the rock ramp fish passage structure at the Kenyon Mill Dam began thanks to significant funding provided by USDOC's National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration via the Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council, Save the Bay's Restore America's Estuaries partnership and the Nature Conservancy's partnership with NOAA. The project includes the reconstruction of the existing dam at Kenyon Industries with a natural rock ramp to facilitate access for migratory and resident aquatic species to Worden's Pond for the first time in hundreds of years. This project will complete the restoration of the historic fish runs from the Atlantic Ocean to the headwaters of the Pawcatuck River. WPWA is proud to complete this work begun in the 1970's on the lower Pawcatuck River by the RI Dept. of Environmental Management and others. This project has also enhanced recreational boating through this stretch of the river. Special thanks to RIDEM for their second year of herring stocking in Worden Pond and to Kenyon Industries for their cooperative efforts to realize this monumental achievement.

SCIENCE RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

FLOOD MITIGATION

The Pawcatuck River stream gage owned by the US Geological Survey at Wood River Junction is one of three critical flow gages used by the National Weather Service to predict flooding in the watershed. This long standing gage is one of a handful of gages that lost funding as a result of federal sequestration and was subsequently turned off. In 2013 WPWA was asked by the RI Emergency Management Agency to assist in seeking alternate funding to reactivate the gage until such time that the federal government could resume the operational expenses. Thanks to WPWA's efforts to solicit funding, a generous contribution from URI's Coastal Institute was secured and along with supplemental funding from the RI EMA, the gage was reactivated for one year allowing NWS flood forecasting to resume.

INVASIVE SPECIES

WPWA finished a three year program funded by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to conduct biological control for purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in the Shannock section of the Pawcatuck River. This project was done as part of larger project to remove the dam at Lower Shannock Falls in 2010. In July of last year over 2,600 additional *Galerucella* spp. adult beetles were released, donated by the URI Plant Science Department. Spring and fall monitoring were completed and a report was sent to NRCS. The data indicates that there may be some benefit to use the *Galerucella* beetles for biological control of *L. salicaria* in a river system. However, it appears that without a regular introduction of beetles to the area their populations may not be able to be sustained. If resources allow, WPWA will continue to monitor these quadrants over the next few years.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

WPWA completed 26 years of water quality monitoring in the watershed. RIDEM regularly uses this data as part of their State of the Waters report. 32 volunteers monitored 11 lakes and ponds and 19 streams and rivers.

2011-13 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in CT and RI by Town

Town	2011	2012	2013
CONNECTICUT			
<i>North Stonington</i> (These sites are monitored under the North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance programs)			
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
Wyassup Lake	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
RHODE ISLAND			
<i>Charlestown</i>			
Pasquiset Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Watchaug Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites
<i>Exeter</i>			
Boone Lake	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Yawgoo Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Falls River	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites
Glen Rock Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
		Macro Sampling 1 site	
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 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
Wincheck Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Ashaway River	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 1 sites	WQ Sampling 1 sites
Brushy Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites
	Macro Sampling 1 site	Macro Sampling 1 site	

Town	2011	2012	2013
<i>Hopkinton (cont.)</i>			
Parameter Brook	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 1 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 1 site
Wood River	Macro Sampling 3 sites	Macro Sampling 3 sites	
<i>Richmond</i>			
Alton Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Meadowbrook Pd	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Beaver River	Macro Sampling 1 site	Macro Sampling 1 site	Temp Study 6 sites
Meadow Brook site			Macro Sampling 1
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites	WQ Sampling 2 sites
White Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
<i>South Kingstown</i>			
Barber Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Hundred Acre Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Usquepaug Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Worden Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Yawgoo Pond	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling	Lake Sampling
Chipuxet River	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Glen Rock Brook	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site	WQ Sampling 1 site
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 sites
Queen River	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 site	WQ Sampling 2 site
	Macro Sampling 2 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>			
Pawcatuck River	WQ Sampling 7 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites	WQ Sampling 4 sites

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

PADDLE PROGRAMS

WPWA and the AMC Narragansett Chapter hosted Dragonfly workshop and attended by 16 fascinated participants. The workshop included an indoor presentation by Ginger Brown and a paddle on the Wood River to capture and identify dragonflies and damselflies.

WPWA co-hosted a program with the Tomaquag Museum about Native American use of the rivers, attended by 22 participants. After a tour of the Museum, led by Museum Director, Loren Spears, participants drove to the WPWA Campus for a paddle and continued discussion on plant and animal use by humans.

WPWA conducted three paddles on the Wood River, one Full Moon Paddle on Queens River, and one bioluminescent paddle on Ninigret Pond, which were attended by 55 participants.

Twelve folks learned to kayak at two full-day Introduction to Kayaking programs.

The Southern New England Paddlers (SNEP) held five paddle training nights at the WPWA campus for 42 beginner paddlers.

WPWA hosted 55 family members of actively deployed military personnel during 2 kayaking programs for Operation Military Kids.

The Environmental Council of RI obtained a grant from the National Wildlife Foundation to provide paddle trips to 260 urban youths. WPWA provided kayaks and instruction for students from RYSE School, Central Falls High School, Tolman/Shea High School, Woonsocket High School, and West Warwick High School. We also hosted four groups from the Providence After School Alliance Summer Program and two groups from the Gateway Health Programs.



Dragonfly held by Ginger Brown

OTHER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Roger Masse led 7 winter and spring birding walks for 35 birders of all levels.

Earth Day cleanups at 12 river access sites.

Two day Map and Compass workshop co-sponsored by Narragansett AMC, attended by 12 participants.

Learn to Fish Program at the Frosty Hollow Kids Only Pond, attended by four families.

Six Fly Tying & Fly Fishing classes led by volunteers from WPWA, Trout Unlimited & Wood River Fly Fishing Club.

EDUCATION

DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS

In partnership with the Narrow River Preservation Association WPWA conducted four Teacher Training Workshops based on Project Wet, Growing Up Wild, and the AWESome Curriculum with funding from the RI Rivers Council.

78 students from Curtis Corner Middle School spent a day with WPWA at the Arcadia Management Area for a field trip that included, kayaking, macro sampling, and hiking.

-  WPWA worked with the URI Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) program to conduct outreach on storm water issues through our website, newsletter, and school programs.
-  WPWA provided training and field trip equipment for the SMILE program.
-  WPWA continued as co-coordinator for the Project WET Program in RI.
-  WPWA chaired the Aquatics section of the RI Envirothon Competition. Staff taught a training, developed tests, and judged in the competition.
-  WPWA was part of the RI Environmental Education Association team that put on a very successful New England Environmental Education Alliance & Sustainable Schools Summit in October.
-  WPWA loaned kayaks and water quality monitoring equipment to Chariho Middle School for their field trips.

OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

-  Quest Montessori School classroom program
-  Greene School water quality program
-  Coventry High School field trip
-  Two classes from Compass School field trips
-  Chariho Middle School field trip
-  URI Hydrology class field trip



Field Trip for Second graders from Compass School at WPWA Campus

CAPACITY BUILDING

WPWA ORGANIZATION

Thanks to \$4,000 in financial support from the RI Foundation WPWA engaged with their Initiative for Non Profit Excellence. This valuable and meaningful program unites RI based non-profits with their counterparts to foster shared learning and also with professionals from a variety of disciplines such as fundraising and board governance. This has been a critically beneficial component of WPWA's ongoing efforts to restructure our programmatic and governance structure.

A late 2012 grant of \$10,000 from the RI Foundation allowed WPWA to engage with Lighthouse Consulting in 2013 to assist our board and staff reorganize its policies, governance and overall operations. This process was woven into our participation in the Foundation's Initiative for Non-Profit Excellence. The result was a thoughtful assessment of the short and long term goals of the Association and a meaningful plan to realistically achieve them. There is still much to be done over the coming years to bolster fund development and increase financial stability. However, the significant progress that the board and staff have made in such a short time is very impressive, encouraging and exciting.

Planning for the implementation of the third and final phase of the WPWA Campus Renovation began in 2013. The structural goal was to ensure that little to no building maintenance would be required over the next 20 years which will reduce our year to year operating costs. The less tangible goal was to increase our capacity to educate and serve the local community and support our future fundraising efforts. Funding was secured to expand the existing Education Center into a Welcome Center, replace all the exterior components of all the buildings, update the conference room and computer server, and create alternate storage for our fleet of kayaks. We look forward to final completion in 2014 which will allow us to better serve our members and the public at large.

WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATION

Representatives Langevin and Cicilline (RI) and Courtney (CT) introduced H.R. 723 into the House in February 14, 2013. It was passed by the House on June 11, 2013.

At the same time Senators Reed (RI), Whitehouse (RI), Blumental (CT) and Murphy (CT) introduced S349 into the Senate. It was heard by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and passed to be placed on the Senate Legislative calendar on June 27, 2013. However, the full Senate has not voted on this bill yet.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

URBAN RIVERS PROJECT

WPWA and the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council received a two year, \$57,000 grant, from EPA Urban Waters to develop a program that uses volunteers to assess water quality through fish sampling. In this first year we developed monitoring protocols, learned to identify fish, conducted preliminary training, and purchased equipment. We also selected 6 sites for monitoring three urban rivers: an upstream and downstream site on the Woonasquatucket, Ten Mile, and Mosshasuck Rivers. For the summer of 2014 we will put together and train monitoring teams and test how well our protocols and fish ID methods work.

The goal of the program is to assess what fish are in the urban rivers and to involve the urban communities in water quality issues. Although the project will end in September 2014, we hope the communities will continue to monitor and learn about their rivers.

WPWA has acted as both fiscal agent and consultant on this project.

OTHER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Committee and Board Affiliations

-  EPA Wetland Outreach Committee
-  Rhode Island Blueways Alliance
-  Rhode Island Environmental Education Association
-  Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Team
-  Rhode Island River Restoration Working Group
-  Rhode Island Trail Advisory Committee
-  RIDEM Priorities Work Groups
-  Watershed Counts Wetland Indicators Committee
-  Wetland Restoration Strategy Committee



Fish sampling in the Woonasquatucket River

Publications and Digital Media

Volume 30, Numbers 1-3 of Watershed published, with a total distribution by mail of over 4000, and a global availability through our website.

Upper and Lower Wood River Trail maps were published and are available for download at http://wpwa.org/paddling_maps.htm or <http://www.exploreri.org/waterTrails.php>.

TREASURER'S 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT
Presented at the WPWA Annual Meeting May 28th 2014

Dear WPWA Members,

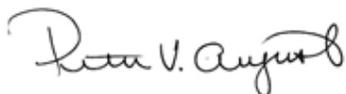
Coordination of the Pawcatuck River Fish Passage projects requires that significant amounts of money pass through the organization. Last year, almost one-quarter million dollars were received and spent on river restoration work. One of the requirements of the river restoration project is the WPWA must undergo a thorough A-133 audit each year. Our auditors (YKSM, Westerly, RI) carefully examine our books and business practices. I am pleased to report that the audit of the 2011 financial year found everything to be in order and the business practices of the WPWA met or exceeded the requirement for an organization such as ours. The 2012 and 2013 audits are in process.

We've nearly closed the financial books on the 2013 calendar year. I am pleased to report that we ended the year with a deficit of only a few hundred dollars. This is remarkable given that our direct income and expenses were well over \$300,000 in both categories. Our cash-flow position was very strong and we ended the year with over \$250,000 of cash on-hand and just over \$100,000 in receivables. Much of this is earmarked for the campus renovation supported by our Champlin capital revolving fund. Some general patterns that we saw last budget-year were: (1) educational programs had higher income and lower costs than we expected, (2) membership and donations were below the amounts we targeted but our targets were very ambitious, and (3) costs to WPWA in administering the dam removal projects were low.

Under the leadership of President Desbonnet we have initiated a new budgeting process where all income and expenses are directly tied to the annual workplan. The process seems to be working very well and will allow us to better prioritize staff time on projects and program administration.

Finally, the Treasurer extends his sincere thanks to the WPWA accountant, Ms. Kristy Armstrong, for the care she has taken in tracking our finances and the diligence she has shown in keeping the Treasurer, Executive Director, and Board informed of our financial position at all times. Thanks also go to the staff of the WPWA for their excellent work in keeping program costs down and working within the budgets we establish for the organization.

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter August
Treasurer