WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Published May 2016

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Denise J. Poyer, Program Director
Heather M. Hamilton, Program Coordinator
Elise Torello, Program Specialist

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203 Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832
401-539-9017
www.wpwa.org
Presented at WPWA Annual Meeting
May 19, 2016

WATERSHED WATCH MONITORS

Jim Latimer
20 year monitoring Pawcatuck River and Locustville Pond

Jim Cummings
15 years monitoring Queen River at Usquepaugh

Becky Sprague & Tony Zaharie
5 years monitoring Boone Lake

BOARD OF TRUSTEES EMERITUS STATUS
Conferred upon
Ed and Linda Wood

Ed and Linda envisioned a watershed association. Working with like minded folks, their vision evolved from an idea to an organization to a successful, regionally recognized association that’s served and advocated for our beautiful part of the Northeast.
2015 brought yet another surge of high level improvements to the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed thanks to your support of WPWA! Securing a federal grant for $720,000 and bringing together the towns in the watershed to create a Flood Resiliency Management Plan is monumentally important to addressing the impacts of storms and climate change. The passage of the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act in the US Congress was… well….. like “an act of Congress”. But the protection this law provides to the watershed through its authorization for WPWA and the National Park Service to Pursue a Wild & Scenic River designation for the watershed is incalculable.

These high level watershed management efforts initiated and administered by WPWA could never happen without the support of our member donors. It is to YOU that I extend my sincerest thanks for enabling WPWA to rise to the level of capacity that exists today. A hearty thank you to all our partners and volunteers for their tireless dedication toward ensuring that all the great work that WPWA accomplished in 2015 was done with a smile. And above all, the tremendous staff that you entrust to carry out this work are tops in their field. Their unwavering persistence truly makes all the great accomplishments outlined in this report a reality. To them I extend my warmest and most sincere thanks for not only their leadership and achievements, but the love and kindness that they incorporate into all that they do.

With profound appreciation,

Christopher J Fox
WPWA Board of Trustees is pleased to report its major activities for 2015. During 2015 it undertook one major initiative regarding water quality, established a policy recognizing additional emeritus trustees, formalized WPWA’s easement monitoring procedures, continued efforts to build a development committee and initiated a membership committee. It welcomed new board members and with term limits saw some wonderful, long-standing board members conclude their terms in office.

The Trustees reviewed Water Quality data collected by the volunteer monitors and decided to initiate an assessment of that program, something which had not been done in years. The Trustees considered the location of monitoring sites, the data generated, and the costs of water sample analysis. The Trustees then authorized the development of a comprehensive report analyzing monitoring sites for the entire watershed. A Board, staff, and volunteer committee was charged with rethinking and potentially updating our monitoring strategy based on current issues, including storm water and climate change impacts. This committee reported its findings and confirmed that the majority of existing sites were providing valuable information and recommended additional sites for testing. Based on this effort the Trustees reaffirmed WPWA’s priority commitment to water quality monitoring.

In addition Trustees engaged in committee work for fund and membership development. Its activities included reaching out to past members reminding them to renew, improving WPWA’s outreach, and developing a plan to reinforce relationships with potential and exiting donors. Membership outreach identified opportunities to engage with the community at farmers’ markets and at Hopkinton Land Trust days.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the engagement and contributions of WPWA’s wonderful staff, Chris, Elise, and Denise and the invaluable efforts of WPWA’s dedicated volunteers. Collectively we are all committed through WPWA to preserving and protecting the land and waters of the Wood Pawcatuck watershed for natural and human communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Drew, President
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COOL, CLEAN ABUNDANT WATER

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Flood Resiliency Management Plan - WPWA is working cooperatively with many project partners including the watershed municipalities, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council, the RI Emergency Management Agency, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the United States Geological Survey, and the Army Corp of Engineers to develop a flood and storm resiliency watershed-based management plan for the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. Much of the flooding and erosion in the watershed and its root causes – floodplain development, stream corridor modifications, and impervious cover – have also impacted water quality and fish and wildlife species and habitat. Mitigation of flooding and erosion through strengthening natural ecosystems will also benefit the overall ecological health of the watershed.

The project’s objectives are to: (1) assess the vulnerability of the watershed to the growing risks from flooding and associated storm-related threats; and (2) develop a comprehensive, watershed-based management plan that will protect and enhance the resiliency of the watershed communities against future flood damage and improve river and stream ecosystems, including water quality and habitat.

This project is being funded by a $720,000 grant from the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program. The engineering firm of Fuss and O’Neill, Inc. is conducting the field assessments and data collection to develop the Plan. During the summer of 2015 field assessments were made on 442 bridges and culverts and 44 dams. In addition, 28 river miles were assessed by geomorphic specialists. The results will be analyzed for recommendations concerning removal, repair, or replacement of the structures. The final report will include other recommendations such as creating green infrastructures or modifying regulations used by town, state, and federal agencies to better enable flood mitigation.

Temperature Monitoring - The Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited helped WPWA conduct another year of temperature monitoring in six streams and rivers of the Upper Wood River Watershed. Volunteers deployed loggers that recorded temperature every hour for three months during July, August and September. Due to the very warm, dry weather pattern this year many streams exhibited above normal temperatures. This can cause stress on the aquatic organisms inhabiting these streams. WPWA and TU plan to continue the temperature monitoring program in 2016.

Water Quality Monitoring - WPWA conducted our 28th year of Water Quality Monitoring through the University of Rhode Island’s Cooperative Extension Watershed Watch Program. Thirty-seven dedicated volunteer citizen scientists monitored fourteen ponds & lakes and seventeen river & stream sites throughout the watershed. Besides measuring clarity, temperature and dissolved oxygen, monitors collected water samples on a monthly or bimonthly basis to be analyzed for nutrients and bacteria.

Water Quality Assessment - WPWA received a grant from the Rhode Island Rivers Council to conduct a thorough assessment of our Water Quality Monitoring Program. With 28 years worth of data we wanted to be sure we were optimizing our monitoring locations to cover the watershed as completely and comprehensively as possible. Water Quality trends, geographic locations of sampling sites, and parameters measured were all reviewed. WPWA was able to identify 45 sites as our top priorities, most of which we already cover. The final report was published in March 2016 and is available on the WPWA website.
### CONNECTICUT

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<tr>
<th>Town/Site</th>
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| Locke Brook | WQ Sampling 1 site | WQ Sampling 1 site | Temp Study 1 site |
| Mud Brook | | | | WQ Sampling 1 site |
| Queen River | WQ Sampling 4 sites | WQ Sampling 2 sites | WQ Sampling 2 sites |
| Roaring Brook | | Temp Study 4 sites | |
| Sodom Brook | | Temp Study 1 site | |

| Hopkinton | | | |
| Alton Pond | Lake Sampling | Lake Sampling | Lake Sampling |
| Locustville Pond | | | Lake Sampling |
### 2013-15 WPWA Monitoring and Study Sites in CT and RI by Town cont.

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**THRIVING NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS**

**BIODIVERSITY**

**Wild and Scenic Rivers Study** - Thanks in large part to the work of our congressional delegation, Senators Reed (RI), Whitehouse (RI), Blumenthal (CT), and Murphy (CT); and Representatives Langevin (RI), Cecilline (RI), and Courtney (CT), Congress passed the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act. The Act requires that the National Parks Service (NPS) conduct a three year study to determine if the Wood, Chipuxet, Beaver, Queen, and Pawcatuck Rivers qualify for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. WPWA signed a Cooperative Agreement with NPS to be the study coordinators. A Study Committee has been formed with representatives from fourteen watershed towns, RI Department of Environmental Management, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, The RI Nature Conservancy and Save The Bay. This committee will work to identify those Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the rivers that make them unique while at the same time developing a stewardship plan to protect the rivers. Some of the values to be examined will be wildlife, habitat, fisheries, botany, geology, and history.

**White Rock Dam Removal** - WPWA was a supporting partner with The Nature Conservancy to remove the dam at White Rock, between Stonington, CT and Westerly, RI. Collaboration was critical for this project which involved two state agencies, two towns, and several federal agencies. The dam came down in October, allowing the Pawcatuck to run free in that section for the first time since before the American Revolution.

**Upper Pawcatuck River Fish Passage Projects** - Thanks to the efforts of WPWA, and over fifteen partners, that began in 2003 with a feasibility study for fish passage on the upper Pawcatuck River, anadromous fish are making their way from the Atlantic Ocean to Worden’s Pond for the first time in hundreds of years. First spotted in April of 2015 and seen again in 2016, river herring are entering age-old spawning grounds in the watershed. While fish are able to make their way up river there are still several obstacles that prevent the greatest number of fish from reaching spawning grounds. The focus for fish passage projects on the Pawcatuck will now turn towards the remaining dams, Potter Hill and Bradford; removing remnants of dams at Burdickville and Stillmanville; and the removing or renovating the USGS gaging weir at the Jay Cronan Fishing Access.

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**HEALTHY SALTWATER ENVIRONMENT**

**Estuary**

The estuary is the receiving waters for all the surface water that drains from the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed and it is stressed. The challenges faced by the estuary from climate change, sea level rise, and the impacts from storm water runoff and development are of great concern to WPWA. We continue to maintain strong partnership with the key organizations who’s focus area is the estuary and provide whatever technical resources we can to support their efforts. But we feel that with the acceleration of sea level rise combined with the threat of more severe storms, these organizations could use even more assistance from WPWA. We will be positioning ourselves in 2016 to better support these organization and increase our capacity to engage directly with the threats that impact the quality of life for all the wildlife and people that rely on Little Narragansett Bay.
HELPING PEOPLE CARE ABOUT THE WATERSHED

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Education – Fourteen area schools participated in twenty WPWA education programs, including full day field trips, fish sampling, and kayaking on the Wood River. Ages ranged from second graders to undergraduates from URI who came to learn about macroinvertebrate sampling. The schools were: Cole Middle School from East Greenwich, Curtis Corner Middle School from South Kingstown, Chariho ESY program, Chariho Middle School, Coventry High School, Wheeler School, Pawtucket Middle School, Calcutt Middle School and Ella Risk School from Woonsocket, Woonsocket Middle School, Greene High School, Compass School, Met School, and URI for a total of 675 kids and young adults.

As part of the RIEEA, WPWA took part in the RI Flower Show and New England Environmental Education Alliance conference. WPWA again gave workshops and judged the Aquatics section for the RI Envirothon.

Programs – WPWA offered a variety of programs for our members and the general public, including our first ever Wood River Ice Walk in February. Other programs included Winter Walk in the Great Swamp, Winter Tree Walk, Learn to Geocache, Vernal Pool Exploration, Map and Compass Workshop, Fly Tying and Fly Fishing lessons, a joint paddle with Audubon Society of RI to the Epply Wildlife Refuge, three Almost Full Moon Paddles, three Bioluminescent Paddles, and two Learn to Kayak Workshops. A total of 170 people took part in one or more programs.

Welcome Center - Due to several constraints the Welcome Center was not staffed during the summer as planned. However, it was used for many of WPWA’s programs and is the meeting location for the Wild and Scenic Study Committee and the Flood Resiliency Management Plan Steering Committee. Other community groups have used the site for meetings as well. Plans are underway to hire part time staff in 2016 so that WPWA members will be able to utilize kayaks and canoes on the weekends.

Conferences - In May Denise Poyer was invited by the EPA Urban Rivers Program to co-present at the National River Rally in New Mexico with Alicia Lehrer from the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council. Denise and Alicia had collaborated on two-year EPA grant for the Urban Rivers Volunteer Fish Monitoring Program. Their efforts produced a sustainable method to assess fish populations in urban settings while engaging community members as citizen scientist.

Wood River Ice Walk, Feb. 7, 2015
Recognitions - WPWA staff were recognized by the community for their outstanding work. Denise Poyer was awarded the 2015 RI Blueways Alliance Stewardship Award. According to her nominator, RI DEM Director Janet Coit, “Denise has made a tremendous impact over the past twenty year as the Program Director for the WPWA. With patience, passion and plain-spoken language, she brings alive the diversity and special qualities of the watershed.” Denise also received the 2014 Lawson Cary Jr. Conservationist of the Year Award from the Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited at their Annual Meeting held March 28, 2015. “Her outstanding work in conserving, protecting, restoring, and sustaining coldwater fisheries and their watersheds with cooperative, educational, and environmental activities throughout RI” was cited as the reason she was chosen to receive this award.

Elise Torello, who recently joined your WPWA family as Program Coordinator, received the 2015 URI Watershed Watch Watershed Stewards Award. Back in 2007 Elise compiled over 20 years of WPWA’s water quality monitoring data into a database, producing reports that can be accessed online via a Google Map on the WPWA website. She then did the same for the Salt Ponds Coalition’s (SPC’s) almost 30 years of data. She has also been a frequent WPWA volunteer and has been a water quality monitor for SPC for eight years and counting.

Committee and Board Affiliations
RI Environmental Education Association Board
Science mentor for GEMS-Net
RI Envirothon Judge
RI Rivers Council
RI Trail Advisory Committee
South Kingstown Planning Board
Richmond Land Trust Board
Westerly Environmental Education Literacy Council
Wildlife Community Planning Council
Land Trust Healthy Community Meeting
YMCA Camp Watchaug Committee

Queen River/Usquapaugh Pond
Volunteers

Ira Asher
Kristy Armstrong
Danielle Aube
Peter V. August
Mark & Carol Ann Baker
Albert Ball
Clyde Belgrave
Thomas B. Boving
James Boyer
J. Benjamin Bradley
Harvey Buford
Bruce Burns
Laura Carver
Nina Rooks Cast
Lawson M. Cary, III
Kristin & Don Chambers
James Cole
James Cummings
Geraldine Cunningham
Alan Desbonnet
Joseph DiBrino
Paul Donahue
Sharon Dragon
Cindy Drake
Helen Drew & Family
Paul Drumm III
William Fallon
Thomas Ferrio
Janice Fifer
Linda Forrester
Maureen Gallagher
Caleb Grant & Family
Malcolm & Marilyn Grant
Howland & Linda Green
Ron & Nathan Guillemette
William Hahn
Heather Hamilton
Sally Hanson
Corrie Heinz
Elly Heyder
Dale Higgs
Bill Hixson
Bruce Hooke
Karen Jarret
Madeline Jeffery
Cindy Jennerwein
Doug Jones
Elwood Johnson
Judy Kaplin
Peter & Marnie Lacouture
James Latimer
Diane Laderoute
Deb Luz
Keith D. Manning
Ron Marafioti
Maureen McCarthy
Joseph McElroy
Gerri Miceli
Samantha Migdail-Smith
Sanford Neuschatz
Glen Northup
Gail & Robert Ornstein
Gary Palmer
Margaret Parsons
Robert Petrocelli
Nicholas Petrocelli
Ed Poyer
Brenda Rashleigh
Cindy & Faith Richardson
Michael Rinaldi
Kevin Ryan
James Sammons
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    Aquatic Resource Education Program
Trout Unlimited, Narragansett Chapter
URE Outfitters
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**Jay Cronan River Access Renovation:**  
$10,000 Kimball Foundation

**Campus Renovation and Equipment:**  
$32,186 Champlin Foundations

**Wood & Pawcatuck Rivers Flood Resiliency and Watershed Management Plan:**  
$346,130 The National Fish & Wildlife Federation via Sandy Relief: US Dept. of Interior, US Fish & Wildlife Service

**Water Quality Monitoring:**  
$1,000 Rhode Island Senate Grant  
$2,200 RI Rivers Council

**Various Programs:**  
$75,000 Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation  
$2,808 RI Trail Advisory Committee  
River Maintenance

**Wild and Scenic Rivers Study**  
$10,000 National Parks Service
**Fund Drive Gifts and Individual Donations**

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- Robert Ellis and Kathy Margerison
- Roseann B. Evans
- Warren Fitzpatrick and Christine Kelly
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- Mabel S. Hempstead
- Georg and Frances Hinteregger
- Duncan and Jeanne Hunter
- Evan and Catherine Jones
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- Gus Pagel
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William E. Knapp  
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Richard Pearce  
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Betty L. Connors  
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Ann Crawford  
Joseph L. Czerwinski Jr.  
Mary Anne and Jack Sumner  
Gloria M. Courtois  
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Robert and Eileen Bohler  
Kraig Conrad and Kevin Prohaska  
Marc and Helen Davis  
Alan and Charlene Desbonnet  
Frank DiZoglio  
Caleb and Meghan Grant  
Howland and Linda Green  
Richard and Ardis Holliday  
Dante and Angela Ionata  
Jennifer Mackenzie  
Thomas and Michele McCormick  
Suzanne and Peter Paton  
David Smith  
James G. Turek  
Fred N. Vocatura  
Nancy R. Weissmuller

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Mitch and Betty Salomon Endowment:  
Margit Conopask & Jeffrey Bluestein  
Judith Salomon and Jerome Weiss  
Wincheck Pond Property Owners & Taxpayers Association

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association 2016 water quality monitoring sites chosen as a result of the Water Quality Assessment Project.

Page 19
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Agencies and Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Mountain Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquatic Resource Education Center (RIDEM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Rivers</td>
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<td>Chariho Middle School</td>
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<td>Coventry High School</td>
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<td>Curtis Corner Middle School (SK)</td>
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<td>Gateway Health Center, Youth Programs</td>
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<td>HopArts</td>
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<td>Hopkinton Conservation Commission</td>
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<td>Hopkinton Land Trust</td>
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<td>Kenyon Industries</td>
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<td>Kenyon Grist Mill</td>
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<td>Trout Unlimited Narragansett Chapter</td>
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<td>University of Rhode Island</td>
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<td>Wheeler Middle School, N Stonington, CT</td>
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<td>Wood River Fly Tying Association</td>
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<td>Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear WPWA Members,

The 2015 end-of-year financial reconciliation has been completed and is presented on the following page. With a total operating budget of just over $550,000 we were right on target with income and expenses. The $137,000 in net income represents grant funds received in 2015 but expenses will not be incurred until 2016. Again, our Executive Director, Chris Fox and his staff cut expenses at every available opportunity, as is evident in our operational expenses. Furthermore, they were very successful in securing tens of thousands of grant dollars for the program.

The major challenge during 2015 continued to be the funding of water quality monitoring at a cost of $12,000. In response to that, an assessment of sites being monitored was undertaken by a water quality monitoring committee headed up by Walt Galloway. In this assessment, the committee ranked each site into three different groups of importance. It was decided by the board that the top two tiers would be monitored going forward. The fund development committee continues to seek out funding sources for this very important initiative.

Other challenges include a transition from large river restoration projects to higher level watershed-wide planning efforts. While both types of projects and the associated grants provide hundreds of thousands of dollars, little of that money is retained by WPWA for operating costs. Therefore, WPWA continues to focus on fund development through increased efforts to obtain more donations and increased membership. The staff are developing new membership packages and marketing materials to attract larger donations.

Kristy Armstrong, WPWA’s Controller for over 5 years continues to be an invaluable asset. She works tirelessly to track and minimize expenses, keep us in line with auditor recommendations and most importantly, keep the Executive Director and the Board apprised of WPWA’s financial position each month.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Peter August
Treasurer
## Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
### 2015 Financial Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordinary Income/Expense Income</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 15</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<td>Gain (Loss) on Securities</td>
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<td>Investment/Endowment Revenue</td>
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<td>PY Adjustments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cost of Goods Sold</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Add Beginning Inventory</td>
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<td>Less Ending Inventory</td>
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<td>Shipping</td>
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<td><strong>Total COGS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Profit</strong></td>
<td>701,813</td>
<td>236,285</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expense</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
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<td>53,886</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees</td>
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<td>Endowment Management Fee</td>
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Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association  
2015 Financial Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan - Dec 15</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational Programs</td>
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<td>Fund Raising</td>
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<td>Grant Expenses</td>
<td>391,593</td>
<td>12,300</td>
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<td>Membership &amp; Volunteers</td>
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<td>Outreach Expenses</td>
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<td>Payroll &amp; Benefits</td>
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<td>Recreational Programs</td>
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<td>Scientific Monitoring</td>
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<td>Special Projects Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
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<td>Net Ordinary Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized gains and losses</td>
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<td>Unrealized Gain/Loss on Securities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>137,348</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,397</strong></td>
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