

WATERSHED

A Newsletter of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

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Summer 2012

History in the Making by Chris Fox

The Lawson M. Cary Jr. Memorial Fishway on the upper Pawcatuck River is now up and running. The fish ladder, located at Horseshoe Falls in the village of Shannock, has been under construction since June of 2011. WPWA is nearly ready to transfer the ownership of the fish ladder to the Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) for operation by its biologists. The ladder and eelway will be fully operational for the 2013 fish and eel migrations.

The ladder was formally dedicated on October 20, 2012 in honor of Lawson Cary, a longtime WPWA and Trout Unlimited volunteer. Lawson and his volunteers worked tirelessly to map and assess every bridge, dam, and culvert in the watershed and rate them for fish passage. This Stream Continuity Report prioritizes each obstruction and assists WPWA in securing



DEM fisheries biologist Phil Edwards holds one of the alewives that spawned and flourished in Worden's Pond.



View of Horseshoe Falls and the completed fish ladder and eelway from Shannock Village Road.

grant funding to restore fish passage throughout the watershed in a systematic way.

The ladder construction was as challenging as its planning was. Most don't realize that every visual aspect of the project was dictated by the State's Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission and the Department of Transportation's Scenic Highway Committee. To satisfy the state and local historic requirements, under no circumstances was the fish ladder to block the view of the iconic dam from Shannock Village Road, a designated RI scenic highway. New eelway technology had to be

created by our engineers just to eliminate the need for an unsightly solar panel. However, this new "floating" eelway exit will benefit countless other projects worldwide.

With all the focus on preserving and enhancing the historical aspects, the project team tends to lose sight of the history we are creating. It's not just the fish ladder itself that will someday be historic. The success of restoring free access to Worden Pond for the first time in hundreds of years will as well.

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From the Executive Director

Each year WPWA monitors water quality at 40 locations throughout the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Our volunteers have tirelessly collected water samples in local rivers and ponds for decades and the information they have gathered is priceless. But the laboratory analysis of these water samples is not! Each year WPWA must find nearly \$10,000 in our budget to pay for the water sample testing.

Thankfully URI's Watershed Watch performs this analysis for us at a much lower cost than a private lab would charge. However, your financial help is desperately needed to ensure that we will not be forced to reduce our sampling locations for financial reasons in 2013-14.

When you receive your WPWA Annual Appeal request this November, please give generously and know that your financial support is helping to pay for this water quality monitoring that is so vital to tracking the health of this beautiful watershed.

May this holiday season bring you and your loved ones health and happiness.

Thank You For Your Support,

THE WATERSHED GREEN CORNER

These articles are brought to you by RI NEMO - Produced by URI Cooperative Extension for RI Stormwater Solutions, a project funded by the RI Department of Transportation, in partnership with the RI Department of Environmental Management and RI municipalities. Articles have been formatted by WPWA to fit this space.

What Do Leaves And Storm Drains Have In Common? Hopefully Nothing!

by Lisa DeProspero Philo and Lorraine Joubert, RI NEMO

The brilliant orange, red, and mustard colors dazzle us for a few brief weeks, and then we face a daunting task: raking up all those leaves that cover the lawn! October in Rhode Island is usually a month in which you can still enjoy the outdoors without bundling up too much, so it's a perfect time to get those leaves off the ground! Just be mindful where you rake them!

It can be tempting to rake leaves to the street, assuming that they will wash away. Some people even take their leaves all the way to the nearest storm drain. The bad news: storm drains provide no filters and no treatment. So those leaves (like anything that enters a storm drain) either wash directly into local waters or wind up clogging the storm drain system, causing nuisance flooding.

And although leaves seem natural enough, large quantities don't belong in our rivers and streams.

So, when you're raking this fall, please keep in mind:

- You can bag your leaves for Town recycling or create a compost pile on your property (but not in a wetland area).
- Never rake leaves or any lawn debris onto a paved surface or toward a storm drain.

If you're interested in learning about additional tips to help safeguard our waters, visit:

www.ristormwatersolutions.org



Thank You Don Bosquet for your cartoon donation!



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State and federal biologists have been working hard to stock the Pawcatuck River system with migratory fish like herring and shad. This spring RIDEM stocked Worden Pond with over 3000 adult herring. According to state fishery biologist Phil Edwards, the first crop of herring born in the pond in centuries are now on their way to the Atlantic Ocean. While in fresh water, these fish serve as food for resident species like bass, but once out in the ocean, they are forage for striped bass and bluefish, among others.

Project partner Jim Turek, a Marine Habitat Resource Specialist with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, had this to say about the new crop of “baby” herring, “I’ve never seen growth rates this high. Normally juvenile herring are two to three inches long. The juveniles in Worden are almost double that size.” Turek attributes the growth to ideal and ample food sources in the pond, as well as cooler water this summer, which put less stress on the fish. Stocking of adult and juvenile herring and shad has been ongoing throughout the Pawcatuck River system for years. The hope is that stocking will someday be unnecessary as the fish born in the fresh water of the Pawcatuck River system are imprinted to return to the river and its ponds.

When Kenyon Mill Dam is replaced in 2013 and a series of rock walls below are built as steps for the fish, free access to Worden Pond and the Pawcatuck’s upper tributaries will be afforded to resident and migratory fish and wildlife for the first time since the late 1700s. This is truly history in the making. WPWA sincerely thanks all its state, local, federal and private partners for their significant financial and technical support toward realizing this dream. Special thanks to

Jeffrey Marlowe (land owner), Fran Flynn (dam owner), and Sandy Neuschatz (land owner), for their willingness to allow WPWA to construct the fish ladder on their properties.

View the Stream Continuity Report at www.wpwa.org/reports/Stream_Meeting_4_18.pdf.

Visit the construction photo blog at www.wpwa.org/galleryOne.php?galleryID=23.


For more information on fish stocking efforts, visit www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/wrisum12.pdf.




Photo by Lawson Cary, III

Gloria Cary, widow of the fish ladder’s namesake, stands beside the new memorial plaque that commemorates Lawson Cary’s years of dedication to protecting fish habitat. The new ladder, at Horseshoe Falls, was dedicated on October 20, 2012.





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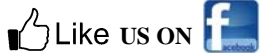
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Project Wild and WET Facilitators Workshops by Denise Poyer

What do you get when you put together a group of environmental educators with fun activities revolving around water and wildlife? You get a lot of laughs and the experience of teaching science through hands-on activities. That's just what happened at two free facilitator workshops for Projects Wild and WET put on by the RI Department of Environment Fish and Wildlife Aquatic Resource Education Program (RIDEM), Audubon Society of RI (ASRI), and the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA).

The Project Wild workshop held Oct. 3rd and 4th also included Project Wild's Aquatic and Growing Up Wild curricula. Project WET, held Oct. 17th and 18th, included WOW The Wonders of Wetlands curriculum. The new RIDEM Fish and Wildlife Education Center on the grounds of the former Camp Ee-Huntee in Exeter provided the perfect setting to teach trainers about environmental lessons. Twenty-five folks from a diverse group of informal educators had the chance to learn how to identify each other through a Kid Key Tree; put on H₂Olympics; solve a Marsh Mystery; and survive as an Atlantic salmon in Hooks and Ladders. Besides the curriculum guides, they walked away with the training and self-assurance to conduct workshops of their own.

The purpose of the workshops was to create facilitators who can turn around and train teachers and community members how to use these innovative and fun curriculums. Facilitators for either Project Wild or Project WET were required to attend both days of the training, participate in all activities, and conduct an activity of their own on the second day. They could take one or both workshops. In addition, the participants agreed to do at least one workshop for teachers within the next calendar year. As special incentive, RIDEM will provide all the curriculum guides for free to any teacher who takes one of the trainings from the new facilitators. RIDEM uses all the time that teachers and facilitators spend on the trainings as a match for their grant program.



New facilitators take on the role of scientists during an environmental education curricula training. Facilitators will soon train teachers throughout RI to increase students' knowledge of our natural world through four water and wildlife conservation programs.

One reason for the great success of the workshops was the collaboration between state agencies and non-profit groups. All materials for the facilitators training was provided by RIDEM's Aquatic Resource Education Program. The WPWA Program Director, Denise Poyer, is the RI State Coordinator for Project WET, along with Kimberly Sullivan from RIDEM. WPWA received a grant from the RI Rivers Council with funding provided by the RI Water Resources Board. These funds covered WPWA's staff time to prepare, register, and conduct the trainings. WPWA will be developing the facilitators' handbook and correlating the Project WET Guide to the Next Generation Science Standards. Jen Klein from ASRI and Christine Dudley from RIDEM Fish and Wildlife, also provided expert instruction for the workshops. Jen and Kimberly are the State Coordinator for Project Wild. Christine, currently the Deputy Chief for RIDEM Fish and Wildlife, has many years experience with all aspects of Project WET and Wild.

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Project WET is dedicated to the mission of reaching children, parents, teachers and community members of the world with water education by publishing water resource materials in several languages, providing training workshops on diverse water topics, and building a worldwide network of educators, water resource professionals, and scientists. The Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0 continues Project WET's dedication to 21st-century, cutting-edge water education. It contains 91 water resource activities that correlate with national education standards. Suitable for educators at all levels and subjects, Guide 2.0 is only available as part of a Project WET workshop or training.

Macroinvertebrates (crayfish & caddisfly larvae) discovered at Camp Ee-Huntee during a hands-on Project WET activity.



Project WILD is a wildlife-focused conservation education program for K-12 educators and their students. Project WILD is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs among educators of students in kindergarten through high school. It is based on the premise that young people and educators have a vital interest in learning about our natural world. Emphasizing wildlife because of its intrinsic value, Project WILD addresses the need for human beings to develop as responsible citizens of our planet.

WPWA will be conducting a few workshops for teachers and other educators in our watershed in the coming year. Plans are underway to provide a Growing Up Wild workshop in January of 2013.

A Desire for Dialogue by *Danielle Aube*

A few days ago, as I laced up my hiking boots, I was reminded of how much I miss my old job. Though many of my best days were spent outside, either on a trail or on a river, it is the people who I was lucky enough to interact with regularly, that I miss the most. It was almost ten years ago when I began my post as part-time Program Assistant at the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA). I remember being so excited in those early days, feeling that my dream job had landed in my lap. It was a position that actually required that I go out hiking, fishing, and kayaking; and take other people along who would appreciate the experiences as much as I would. I didn't realize then that all of my memories would be wrapped up in the conversations that I shared with those people while we walked on well-marked trails, casted from the shores of peaceful ponds in the woods, and paddled by painted turtles on a river.

Anyone who wandered into the office during those years to renew a membership, get a new car decal, or ask about river conditions or an upcoming program knows that I also spent many hours indoors. They'd find me at the computer clicking away, while working on one thing or another, but thankfully they never hesitated to interrupt me. I like to think that they all knew how valuable that time, sharing a story or two, was to me. For me, talking with others satisfies a very basic human need and is just one of those things that I have a natural talent for. Any of WPWA's employees would attest to that, especially Denise, who, because our desks were always located so close to each other, was often the one who I talked to. A brilliant listener, she always took the time to thoughtfully respond, and, over the years, gave me some of the best advice I have ever received.

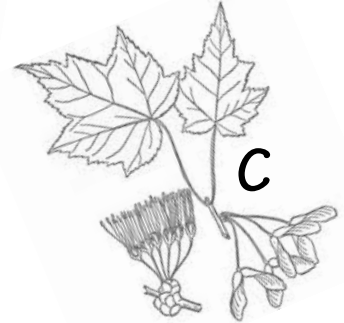
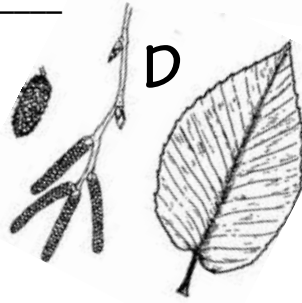
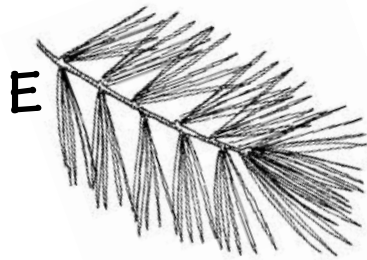
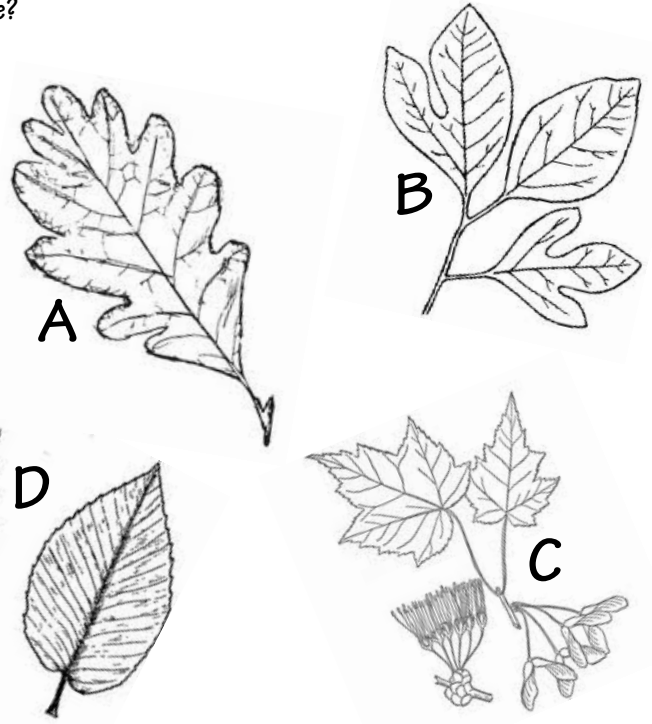
I could write so much more and recount all the times I got lost in conversations with other employees, board members, volunteers, fly tiers, educators, WPWA friends and members, little kids trying to hook their first fish, and strangers who I met on the blue and green trails. I value those times so greatly and sorely miss having the opportunity to make connections through our stories that, in the end, are all beautifully entwined. I look forward to now becoming one of WPWA's treasured volunteers and know that the only option is for the story to continue.

WATERSHED KIDS' CORNER

It's that time of year again! Look outside and you'll see that the leaves have changed color and have fallen to the ground. Take this opportunity to learn more about the trees in your neighborhood, at your school, or even in your backyard!

Unscramble these tree names. Can you match the leaf shape to the name?
(Answers at page bottom. Don't peek!)

1. ERD PLAME _____
2. ETWIH KOA _____
3. KABL C IHRB _____
4. ETWIH NPEI _____
5. SSSSFRAAA _____

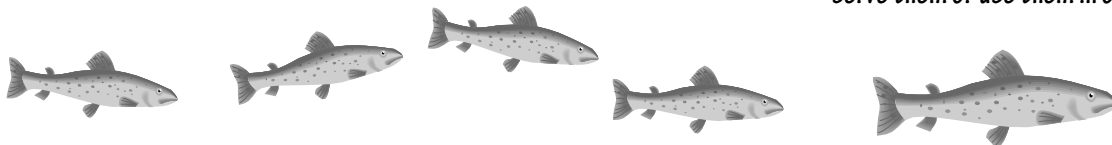


Plan Ahead for Winter Birding Hikes

- 19 January 2013-
Trustom Pond National Wildlife Ref., South Kingstown; 9-noon.
- 9 February 2013-
Francis Carter Preserve, Charlestown; 9-noon.
- 2 March 2013-
Beavertail State Park, Jamestown; 9-noon.
- 23 March 2013-
Big River Management Area; specific location TBA; 9-noon.
- 13 April 2013-
Arcadia Management Area; specific location TBA; 8-11 a.m.
- 20 April 2013-
Woodcock Walk at Big River Management Area, West Greenwich; meet 1 hour before sunset at the corner of Division Rd & Hopkins Hill Rd.
- 4 May 2013-
Great Swamp Management Area, South Kingstown; 8-11 a.m.

Fall Leaves Craft Ideas:

- Grab your favorite leaf, a piece of paper, & some crayons (peel off the paper 1st). Place the leaf under the paper, hold the paper over it firmly, & rub the crayon sideways over the leaf until your leaf appears on the paper. Try it with different types of leaves & different crayon colors!
- Use pine needles & different types of leaves that you've collected outside as a natural paintbrush! See the different types of designs & lines you can make using the different shapes.
- Make flattened rounds of salt dough or Sculpey polymer clay. Push the leaves down into the dough/clay to make nature prints. Remove leaves, allow the dough/clay to dry completely, then paint your masterpiece!
- Have you found some leaves you'd like to keep for a while? Simply dip the leaves individually into melted wax to preserve them or use them in other crafts!



Follow me to the answers!

Answers:
1. (C) red maple
2. (A) white oak
3. (D) black birch
4. (E) white pine
5. (B) sasatras




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Description	Specs	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
Carabiner Key Chain - Great for keeping keys together or using as a clip to keep important items close at hand. Laser engraving on both sides means the WPWA logo won't flake off! (<i>Not For Climbing Use.</i>)	Select Color Green Blue	\$3.00		
Reusable Sandwich Container - Put an end to using disposable baggies with this oversized sandwich container. The attached lid means no more searching for the right fit! Perfect for the back-to-schoolers in your home.		\$5.00		
Ball Cap - This washed, twill cap is 100% cotton and has a Velcro closure that tucks in on the backside, so no more hanging Velcro strips! "WPWA" & the WPWA logo are beautifully embroidered on the front.	one size fits most	\$15.00		
Green Tee - Show everyone that you support your favorite watershed organization with this 100% cotton, preshrunk, short sleeve tee by Gildan. On the back is a list of our five favorite rivers in the watershed.	Select Size: S/M/L XL/2XL	\$15.00		
Navy Polo - This classic, three-button polo is perfect for any occasion! It's a breathable blend of poly and cotton and will keep you looking good as you show your support with its high-quality embroidered WPWA logo.	Select Size: S/M/L XL/2XL	\$25.00		
Reusable Market Tote - Picking up a few groceries at the local farmer's market has never looked so good! This 100% cotton canvas bag's bottom is gusseted to ensure years of use and there is even a small zippered pocket to keep your keys and cash handy.		\$12.00		
Wood-Pawcatuck River Guide - A comprehensive fold-out map and guide to paddling the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers.		\$5.00		
Walks in the Watershed - A pocket guide detailing 20 of the watershed's best loop hikes in southwestern RI and adjacent Connecticut.		\$5.00		
Earth Friendly Alternatives - A concise guide for anyone who wants to lessen the impacts of toxins and chemicals in and around the home.		\$7.00		
Cliff Vanover's Pocket Trail Guides - The best maps of the Arcadia Management Area that WPWA has found! They are waterproof, depict topography, latitude/longitude, hike length, & note public/private lands. (<i>Note Carolina & Burlingame are together in one map.</i>)	Choose Map Arcadia Big River Carolina & Burlingame Pachaug	\$12.95 \$9.95 \$6.95 \$9.95		
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