

Facts about the Pawcatuck River at Bradford

(from a 2005 event)

History:

The Pawcatuck River supplied plentiful water power for the burgeoning mill trade of the 1700 and 1800's. Immigrants from all over Europe came to work at the mills and live in the surrounding villages. The village of Bradford was originally called Shattuck's Weir when the first dam was erected in 1758 for a gristmill. A small custom carding and cloth factory was then built on the site, followed by a much larger flannel factory. Finally, in 1910, the Bradford Dye Association of England bought the water rights, the factory buildings, and the entire village and renamed it Bradford. BDA built the "saw-toothed roof" factory for bleaching and dyeing that is still in production today.

Facts:

- The water power potential at the Bradford Dam is 400 k.w.
- The Pawcatuck River is 38 miles long with 9 dams still in existence; the Wood River, it's major tributary, is 27 miles long.
- The Pawcatuck River drains a 300 square mile watershed (194,000 acres) that includes 10 towns in RI and 4 towns in CT. 60% of this land is forest and wetlands, which helps maintain its high water quality.
- Because of the Charlestown moraine, which was left behind by the last glacial retreat 10,000 years ago, the Pawcatuck River runs from East to West instead of North to South.
- The Pawcatuck Watershed is designated as a sole-source aquifer, which provides drinking water to over 100,000 residents.

List of organisms found along the Pawcatuck River at Bradford. (Note, this list is not all inclusive)

FLORA:

- *Acer rubrum*, Red Maple
- *Alnus incana*, Rough Alder
- *Apios americana*, Groundnut
- *Betula populifolia*, Gray Birch
- *Boehmeria cylindrica*, False Nettle
- *Calamogrostis canadensis*, Blue-joint
- *Callitriche heterophylla*, Water-starwort
- *Carex stricta*, Tussock Sedge

- *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, Buttonbush
- *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, Leatherleaf
- *Cornus amomum*, Silky Dogwood
- *Decodon verticillatus*, Water-willow
- *Eupatorium dubium*, Joe-Pye Weed
- *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, White Boneset
- *Fraxinum americana*, White Ash
- *Iris versicolor*, Blue Flag
- *Kalmia anustifolia*, Sheep Laurel
- *Lemna minor*, Duckweed
- *Lobelia cardinalis*, Cardinal Flower
- *Lythrum salicaria*, Purple Loosestrife
- *Mikania scandens*, Climbing Hempweed
- *Nyssa sylvatica*, Black Gum Tree
- *Onoclea sensibilis*, Sensitive Fern
- *Osmunda regalis*, Royal Fern
- *Peltandra virginica*, Arrow-arum
- *Pontederia cordata*, Pickerel-weed
- *Potamogen epihydrus*, Pondweed
- *Quercus alba*, White Oak
- *Quercus palustris*, Pin Oak
- *Quercus velutina*, Black Oak
- *Rhododendron viscosum*, Swamp Azalea
- *Rosa multiflora*, Multifloral Rose
- *Rosa palustris*, Swamp-rose
- *Rubus allegheniensis*, Common Blackberry
- *Sagittaria latifolia*, Broad-leaved Arrowhead
- *Salix sp.*, Willow Trees
- *Sambucus canadensis*, Common Elderberry
- *Scirpus Validus*, Bulrush
- *Sium suave*, Water-parsnip
- *Solanum dulcamara*, Deadly Nightshade
- *Sparganium sp.*, Bur-reed
- *Typha latifolia*, Broad-leaved Cattail
- *Viburnum dentatum* var. *lucidum*, Northern Arrowwood

FAUNA:

Birds

- *Aegolius acudicus*, Northern Saw-whet Owl
- *Agelaius phoeniceus*, Red-wing Blackbird
- *Aix sponsa*, Wood Duck
- *Anas acuta*, Northern Pintail
- *Anas playtryhynchos*, Mallard
- *Anas rubripes*, American Black Duck
- *Anas strepera*, Gadwall

- *Ardea herodias*, Great Blue Heron
- *Branta canadensis*, Canada Geese
- *Bubo virginianus*, Great Horned Owl
- *Buteo jamaicensis*, Red-tailed Hawk
- *Cathartes aura*, Turkey Vulture
- *Cygnus olor*, Mute Swan
- *Egretta thula*, Snowy Egret
- *Egretta tricolor*, Tricolored Heron
- *Lophodytes cucullatus*, Hooded Merganser
- *Mergus merganser*, Common Merganser
- *Mergus serrator*, Red-breasted Merganser
- *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Black-crown Night Heron
- *Pandion haliaetus*, Osprey
- *Piranga olivacea*, Scarlet Tanager
- *Rallus longirostris*, Clapper Rail
- *Tachycineta bicolor*, Tree Swallow

Mammals

- *Canis latrans*, Coyote
- *Castor Canadensis*, Beaver
- *Didelphis virginiana*, Opossum
- *Eptesicus fuscus*, Big Brown Bat
- *Erethizon dorsatum dorsatum*, Porcupine
- *Glaucomys volans*, Southern Flying Squirrel
- *Lepus americanus*, Snowshoe Hare
- *Lutra canadensis*, Otter
- *Mephitis mephitis nigra*, Striped Skunk
- *Microtus pennsylvanicus*, Meadow vole
- *Mustela frenata*, Long-tailed Weasel
- *Mustela vison*, Mink
- *Myotis lucifugus*, Little Brown Myotis
- *Odocoileus virginianus borealis*, White-tailed Deer
- *Ondatra zibethicus*, Muskrat
- *Peromyscus leucopus*, White-footed Mouse
- *Pipistrellus subflavus obscurus*, Eastern Pipistrelle
- *Procyon lotor*, Raccoon
- *Sciurus carolinensis pennsylvanicus*, Gray Squirrel
- *Silvilagus transitionalis*, New England Cottontail
- *Sylvilagus floridanus*, Eastern Cottontail
- *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*, Red Squirrel
- *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*, Gray Fox
- *Vulpes vulpes*, Red Fox

Reptiles and Amphibians

- *Ambystoma maculatum*, Spotted Salamander
- *Ambystoma opacum*, Marbled Salamander

- *Chelydra s. serpentina*, Common Snapping Turtle
- *Chrysemys p. picta*, Eastern Painted Turtle
- *Clemmys guttata*, Spotted Turtle
- *Clemmys insculpta*, Wood Turtle
- *Hyla c. crucifer*, Northern Spring Peeper
- *Necturus m. maculosus*, Mudpuppy
- *Nerodia s. sipedon*, Northern Water Snake
- *Plethodon cinereus*, Redbacked Salamander
- *Rana clamitans melanota*, Green Frog
- *Rana catesbeiana*, Bull Frog
- *Rana palustris*, Pickerel Frog
- *Rana pipiens*, Northern Leopard Frog
- *Rana sylvatica*, Wood Frog
- *Scaphiopus h. hobbrookii*, Eastern Spadefoot
- *Sternotherus odoratus*, Stinkpot
- *Terrapene c. Carolina*, Eastern Box Turtle

Fish

- *Alosa aestivalis*, Blueback Herring
- *Alosa pseudoharengus*, Alewife
- *Alosa sapidissima*, American Shad
- *Ameiurus catus*, White Catfish
- *Ameiurus nebulosus*, Brown Bullhead
- *Anguilla rostrata*, American Eel
- *Catostomus commersoni*, White Sucker
- *Dorosoma cepedianum*, Gizzard Shad
- *Enneacanthus obesus*, Banded Sunfish
- *Esox americanus americanus*, Redfin Pickerel
- *Esox lucius*, Northern Pike
- *Esox niger*, Chain Pickerel
- *Etheostoma olmstedi*, Tessellated Darter
- *Lepomis aurtus*, Redbreast Sunfish
- *Lepomis gibbosus*, Common Pumpkin Seed
- *Lepomis macrochirus*, Bluegill
- *Micropterus dolomieu*, Small-mouth Bass
- *Micropterus salmoides*, Largemouth Bass
- *Notemigonus crysoleucas*, Golden Shiner
- *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, Rainbow Trout
- *Perca flavescens*, Yellow Perch
- *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*, Black Crappie
- *Rhinichthys sp.*, Dace
- *Salmo salar*, Atlantic Salmon
- *Salmo trutta*, Brown Trout
- *Salvelinus fontinalis*, Brook Trout
- *Semotilus corporalis*, Fallfish