

WATERSHED

A Newsletter of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Volume 28 No. 1

Spring 2011

BIG Changes Coming to the WPWA Campus by Denise Poyer

If you visit our campus this summer you will notice lots of changes. WPWA is upgrading the property with a two-phased project that will create a more useable space while improving protection of the river. The majority of funding for this project comes from three sources. The Champlin Foundations has provided funding for Phase I, which will serve as a match to The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (RIDEM) funding of Phase II. Funds to support the project's indirect costs have been provided by WPWA and The Lattner Family. Other local non profits such as Habitat for Humanity, Boy Scout Camp Yawgoog, and the Hope Valley Wyoming Fire Department have also benefited from our project.

Due to the timing of the grants, we will be breaking the project into two phases. Phase I will begin on April 11th, just after Opening Day of Trout Fishing Season and will end in late May. According to Program Director, Denise Poyer, "the Arcadia Road campus sees a lot of traffic during the warm weather months. Between public use of the fishing and boating access and all the programs

WPWA conducts it has become necessary to upgrade our facilities. The renovations will better serve everyone who uses the WPWA campus." The campus will be an active construction site for about a month and sections of the driveway and parking areas will be disturbed. While the office will be open most days, we recommend you call before your visit.



Members of the HVWFD practice roof ventilation during one of their evening training events at WPWA.

In November 2010 WPWA received a grant from the Champlin Foundations for Phase I to install a new on-site wastewater treatment system and a drilled well that

would service both the office and Education Center (currently our middle building), and to demolish the residential building at the front of the lot. During the project planning it was determined that removing the residential house would significantly reduce the cost of a new septic system and would allow for expanded public parking. With the front building gone, WPWA would be a more inviting site if specifically landscaped for recreational and educational use.

This phase was designed by Cherenzia Engineering of Pawcatuck, CT and they will oversee the installation of the new systems. Wilco Development of Johnston, RI has been contracted to complete all the construction under Phase I. WPWA Executive Director Chris Fox has high praise for this family owned business who in 2009 diligently repaired the Bradford Fish Ladder and portage path on behalf of WPWA. "With the construction of the Horseshoe Falls Fish Ladder dominating my schedule, I needed a contractor for this campus project that has proven to be efficient and diligent." Fox said.

Continued page 7

AMC, Narragansett Chapter Announces Appie of the Year!

The Appie of the Year Award is the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), Narragansett Chapter's highest award. It is presented at the group's Annual Meeting to the AMC member who best exemplifies the mission of the AMC to "promote the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of the mountains, rivers, and trails of the Appalachian region".

The AMC presented this award to recognize Denise Poyer's volunteer efforts and successes, to reinforce AMC ethics and culture and to inspire others to emulate the group's most generous and productive members.

After leading a number of local hikes, Poyer began leading for the Backpacking and Northern Hikes committee in 1998. She has led or co-led at least 65 activities for Northern Hikes alone. Most of these activities were weekend long endeavors, involving planning, logistics, and provisions for food and lodging, and the safety and enjoyment of participants on hiking trips in the mountains of the northeast. She has taught numerous workshops, including: hiking, backpacking, winter hiking skills and safety, map

and compass and outdoor leadership. Poyer is an active and effective member of the Northern Hikes committee, developing and mentoring aspiring leaders for the Club. She is often among the first to volunteer to help out with activities and workshops for the Narragansett chapter.

Since 2005, Poyer has been an instructor at the Club's Mountain Leadership School. AMC's premier outdoor leadership training program consists of 5 days of experiential learning including a back pack in New Hampshire's White Mountains.

Poyer also leads flat water paddling trips and is an ACA certified instructor. Each year she organizes the popular 'Source to Sea' paddling trips on Rhode Island's Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. She also leads family events and natural history tours and is a member of the Trails Advisory Committee.

As a professional environmental educator, Denise teaches countless natural his-

tory courses to children, adults and teaching professionals, and is a former board member of the New England Environmental Education Alliance.

AMC's 2011 Appie is also the volunteer Chair of the Richmond Land Trust, successfully arranging for the purchase and management of conservation lands within the town. Her volunteer duties include selecting sites, negotiating with landowners and other stakeholders, obtaining support of state and local governments, securing funds and procuring the

properties, leveraging with other environmental organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, and supervising the development of management plans and hiking trails.



Denise Poyer receives the "Appie of the Year" award

**WAY TO GO, DENISE!
WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!**

WATERSHED WATCH NEEDS YOU!

It's spring and that means that WPWA and URI Watershed Watch are looking for volunteers from the community to help us with water quality monitoring in the Pawcatuck Watershed. There are lake and pond sites, which will require a boat to conduct collections, and river and stream sites, which will not. Watershed Watch Volunteers are typically assigned a local waterbody and asked to visit it at least every other week from May to October. If this seems like too big of a commitment we often have returning volunteers who are looking for others to share the schedule. Classroom training is scheduled for April 17 at 1 pm or April 26 at 6 pm, both at the URI Kingston Campus. Field training takes place in May. Water quality collections begin the week of May 19. For more information contact Elizabeth M. Herron, Watershed Watch Program Coordinator at 401-874-4552 or email emh@uri.edu. You can also learn more from their website www.uri.edu/ce/wq/ww/. You may also contact Denise Poyer at WPWA with any questions.



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone & Email _____

PLEASE SELECT YOUR LEVEL OF GIVING

- \$25 Individual \$40 Family \$50 Contributor \$100 Supporter / Corporate
- \$250 Sponsor \$500 Patron \$1000 Benefactor

In addition to my dues, I am enclosing an extra, tax deductible, contribution of _____

Checks Made Payable To: WPWA OR Circle Credit Card Type: MC / Visa

CC # _____ Exp. _____

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Please Mail to: WPWA, 203B Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI, 02832
OR JOIN ONLINE!

Join Us As We Celebrate Our 2010 Accomplishments

WPWA ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH 2011

6:30-8:30 PM

Hosted by the Nordic Lodge

178 East Pasquisset Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

www.nordiclodge.com

Featuring...

A Special Presentation "**Water in the Watershed**"
by Dr. Harold Ward, professor emeritus, Brown University

Silent Auction & Merchandise Table

Contact Chris@wpwa.org to contribute to the auction

Thank You to The Nordic Lodge for their donation - Dinner For Two!
visit wpwa.org often to view the growing list of Auction Items.

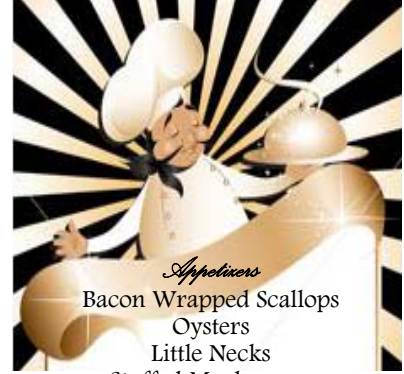
RSVP to WPWA by 5/13/11

Show your Support and Register Today

\$25 per person, pay at the door



ANNUAL MEETING MENU



Appetizers

Bacon Wrapped Scallops
Oysters
Little Necks
Stuffed Mushrooms
Steak Tips
Veggie & Fruit Platter
Cheese & Cracker Platter

Desserts

Cream Puffs
Cannolis
Belgium Chocolate Mousse Cups
Chocolate Covered Strawberries

Cash Bar:

Bottled Beer
Domestic \$4.00 Imported \$5.00
Wine - up to \$8.00/glass
Sangria \$7.50/glass
Mixed Drinks \$5.50 - \$7.50

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23, Saturday, 9am to noon - Earth Day Cleanup - Help Beautify the Watershed

Help WPWA keep the watershed healthy and beautiful by adopting a river front access site for the day. Please contact the WPWA office to get involved. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Special Thanks to On-Time Disposal for providing waste removal!

June 11, Saturday, from 9am to 3pm - Pawcatuck River Source To Sea #1

For experienced paddlers only, this trip will depart from Taylor's Landing in South Kingstown and take participants about 10 miles downstream to the Biscuit City Landing. The cost is \$15 per member or \$20 per non-member.

June 21, Tuesday, from 6pm to 8pm - Summer Solstice Paddle for Members Only!

Enjoy a relaxing evening on the Wood River while taking in the beauty of the dragonflies and swallows as you make your way up the river from the WPWA campus. This event is free; boats can be provided for a \$10 donation.

June 25, Saturday, from 9am to 3pm - Introduction to Kayak Paddling

This American Canoe Association Certified course is designed for beginners who want to learn more about safety on the water, improve their paddling skills, and practice rescue techniques. This day long course will require participants to get in the water. The cost, which includes use of a WPWA boat, is \$25 per member or \$35 per non-member.

July 9, Saturday, from 9 am to 3 pm - Pawcatuck River Source To Sea #2

Biscuit City Landing, South Kingstown to Cronan Fishing Access, Richmond. For experienced paddlers only, 8 miles, 3 portages, one section of class II rapids. The cost is \$15 per member or \$20 per non-member.

July 15, Friday, from 9 am to Noon - Family Fun Fishing Day

Young anglers ages 4 to 14 can learn to fish at a local Trout Pond in Richmond. Bait and tackle will be supplied by WPWA and RIDEM Aquatic Ed Program. The cost is \$10 per member or \$15 per non-member. Family rate for 3 or more is \$25m/\$35nm.

July 15, Friday, from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm - Full Moon Paddle with WPWA Board Members

Join WPWA Board Members for an evening paddle upstream from the WPWA campus as the sun sets and back as the full moon rises on the Wood River. The cost is \$10 per member or \$15 per non-member. Boats can be provided for a \$10 donation.

Sincere Apologies to 2009-2010 Gifts that went sans Acknowledgement:

Richard & Ardis Holliday \$500.
Trout Unlimited Narr. Chapter 225 \$200.
Thomas Twyman \$100.

2010-2011 Report of WPA Members & Donors, Charitable Foundation & Government Grants, & In-Kind Services
** indicates Life Member*

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 Trout Unlimited, Narragansett Chapter 225
 Fly Fish Class - *Fly Rods & Reels*
 URE Outfitters
 Source to Sea - *Participatory Gifts*
 Fund Raiser - *Kayak & Paddle*

Municipal Government

Town of Exeter \$500
 Town of Stonington \$200

Corporate Donations & Grants, Etc.

Westerly Chamber of Commerce \$2,500

Charitable Foundations

Champlin Foundation \$62,235
 Lattner Foundation \$90,000
 Trout Unlimited \$25,000

Federal & State Government

Natural Resources Conservation Service \$383,131
 RI Coastal Resources Mgmt. Council \$393,180
 RI State Senate
 Coalition for Water Security \$2,000
 RI Rivers Council \$8,000
 US Fish & Wildlife \$44,122 *Bradford Fish Passage*
 \$89,145 *Shannock Fish Passage*

PADDLERS BE ADVISED**Changes to the Upper Pawcatuck River**

The recent removal of the Lower Shannock Falls Dam on the Pawcatuck River in the town of Richmond included the placement of boulders for fish passage. As with any other section of the rivers, please use caution when navigating through this section. A fish ladder will be constructed this summer just upstream at Horseshoe Falls. Your ability to portage there will be limited at times. Please continue to paddle safely and always wear your personal floatation device!

BIG Changes *continued from page 1*

“With Wilco working under Denise’s (Poyer) supervision I should have little distraction from building the state’s most complex fish passage structure in Shannock, RI this summer.”

For Fall 2011’s Phase II, RIDEM secured a grant on behalf of WPWA from the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program. We were able to utilize some of the Champlin Foundation’s private funds from Phase I to serve as the required 25% match towards the publicly funded federal grant. This grant will support the creation of an expanded permeable public parking area, landscaping, the installation of rain gardens, and a composting toilet for public use. WPWA’s offices are generally closed on the weekends eliminating access for members to our restrooms. The new Clivus composting toilet will provide round the clock relief to our members and the public alike.

Once the invasive plants are removed and the native plantings in the rain gardens are installed they will begin absorbing runoff from both Arcadia Road and the parking areas preventing storm water from reaching the Wood River. Frank Crandall, formerly of Wood River Evergreens and author of *The Essential Horticultural Business Handbook*, is volunteering his time to WPWA lending guidance for the landscape design so that it will be both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

This second phase of the project will give our beautiful campus on the Wood River a pleasant park-like atmosphere and assist our mission of promoting and protecting the river. We ask for your patience during construction. Please feel free to contact the WPWA office with any questions or to make a donation toward our new Comolli Granite sign. Visit us anytime at www.wpwa.org and have a great summer!!



A conceptual view of the Lawson M. Cary, Jr. Memorial Fishway to be installed at Horseshoe Falls, Shannock, RI, beginning July 1st, 2011

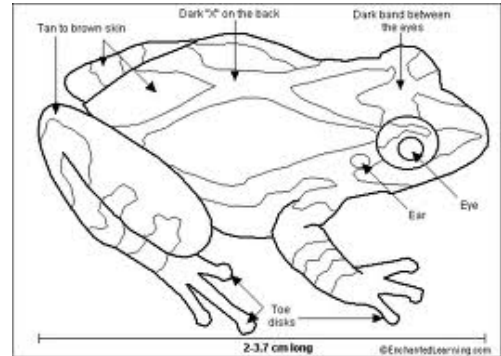
**WATERSHED
KIDS
CORNER**

This edition of **WPWA's Kid's Corner** features information about Spring! Please spend a few minutes with your child to read the article and poem together before they do the activities.

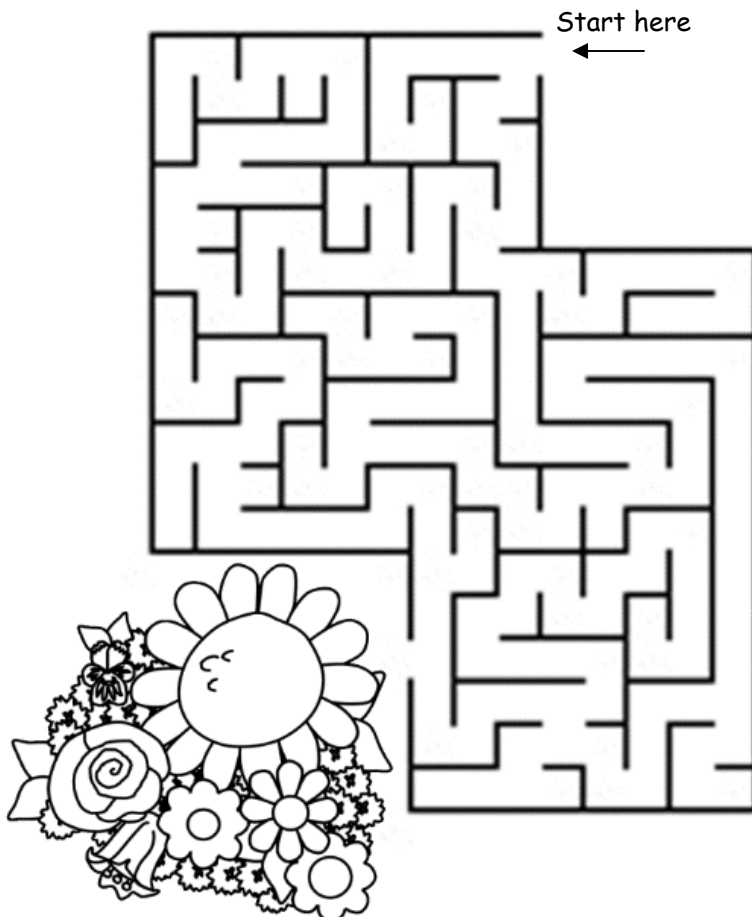


After a long, snowy winter, Spring is finally here! Although many growing things are beginning to come up through the soil, there is something else that really tells us that spring has sprung - Spring Peepers! Spring Peepers are frogs that live in marshy woods often near ponds and swamps. They are usually

brown, but they can be grayish and yellow, too. They have light colored bellies and have a dark colored 'X' on their backs. They blend in really well with tree bark and with piles of leaves on the ground. Peepers are very small but they have **BIG** voices! They make most of their noise during the evening and nighttime hours. They use their vocal sacs to make a high pitched call that sounds like the peep of a chick.



Find your way to the flower garden and then color the picture!



IN THE HEART OF A SEED

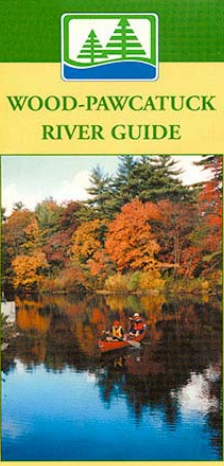
By Kate Brown

In the heart of a seed,
Buried deep, so deep,
A dear little plant
Lay fast asleep.

"Wake," said the sunshine,
"And creep to the light."
"Wake," said the voice
Of the raindrops bright.

The little plant heard;
And it rose to see
What the wonderful
Outside world might be.





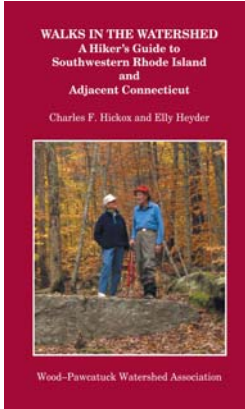
WOOD-PAWCATUCK RIVER GUIDE

You will find a wealth of fine paddling and fishing in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Conditions vary with the season, depth of water, and unpredictability of winter blowdowns. These factors and your own experience and abilities should be considered when choosing a route. Always wear a personal flotation device. Please, carry out your trash and clean up others' trash when you can. Miles are approximate; route maps are graphically simplified. The three major routes have been subdivided to provide a number of short trip options.

Wood-Pawcatuck River Guide
 (2nd edition) Navigate over 60 miles on the Wood & Pawcatuck Rivers by canoe or kayak with this easy to read, two sided map. Unfolded map is 17" x 22"

only \$5.⁰⁰ each

Walks in the Watershed (3rd edition)
 Four new hikes & minor trail updates are included in the new pocket-sized edition. Totals over 90 miles of trails!



Please include \$1.75 postage and handling per item ordered

River Guide Qty: _____ **Hiking Guide Qty:** _____

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Mail form with payment to: WPWA, 203 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832
or order online at <http://www.wpwa.org/guides.htm>





WATERSHED TECH CORNER






This article is brought to you by RI NEMO - Thank You Lisa DeProspero Philo and Lorraine Joubert, University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension. Produced under the RI Stormwater Solutions project, funded by the RI DOT as part of the Storm Water Management program, with support from the RI DEM. *This article has been formatted to fit this space.*





Is Your Lawn & Yard Care River-Friendly?

Sprucing up the lawn and yard is part of spring for most homeowners and often that means using fertilizers and pesticides. Unfortunately, those lawn care chemicals can seep into groundwater wells where even small amounts are undesirable. They can also wash into nearby wetlands and streams where eventually they end up in the Pawcatuck River and Little Narragansett Bay. Excess nutrients from fertilizers fuel rampant growth of algae and nuisance weeds making swimming undesirable and degrading fish habitat.

This year re-think your lawn care routine and consider using the latest "green" methods. Here are a few tips for a healthy lawn that will be safe for kids and pets, and will keep local waters clear and blue.

-  **Mow high.** The general rule of thumb is never cut more than a third of the blade. The ideal length is about 2 1/2 to 3 inches to maintain healthy growth.
-  **Leave the clippings on the lawn.** It helps improve soil quality and reduces fertilizer needs by up to 50%.

-  Avoid using fertilizers or pesticides near wells or within 75 feet of wetlands and waterways.
-  Most established lawns need little or no fertilizer. If you must fertilize, September is the best month and once a year is enough.
-  If you must fertilize in the spring, wait until you have mowed the lawn three times when grass is actively growing and using the nutrients.
-  More is not better! Apply fertilizers and pesticides only as directed.
-  Skip the "step programs" offered by many lawn care companies, since these often contain herbicides and pesticides you might not need. Hand pick weeds when possible, and if you must treat weeds or insects with pesticides, spot treat them rather than applying to the entire lawn. **Always use slow-release fertilizer.** It is unlikely to run off from healthy, established turf. The label will read: *slow release, time release, or slowly available nitrogen.* Most liquid fertilizers are quick release.

-  **Consider using organic fertilizers** such as bone meal, blood meal, compost, or organic blends. These can still add nutrients to local waters so check be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions for application rate and timing.
-  Check the weather forecast before applications, and **don't apply** fertilizers or pesticides **when heavy rain is predicted.**
-  When establishing a new lawn use "elite" seeds mixes that require less water and fertilizer using fescues rather than Kentucky Bluegrass. Endophyte-enhanced seed varieties contain a fungus that makes them more resistant to stresses like disease, pests and drought. Contrary to popular belief **"URI #2 lawn seed" is not endorsed by URI** and is not a higher quality "elite" seed mix. Spending a little more on high quality seed will pay off over the long run with a higher quality, lower maintenance lawn.
-  If you use a lawn care company, ask them about their environmental options and certifications.

For More Information Visit these websites:
<http://www.ristormwatersolutions.org>
<http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes>



Thank You to our Spring Sponsor of WATERSHED



In January of this year, WPWA received a donation of an S1800 Finepix camera from Fujifilm. Gordon Tubbs, a FujiFilm employee nominated WPWA to receive the free camera, under the company's Cameras for Causes program. Gordon's daughter, Noella Tubbs, works for RIDEM Aquatic Invasive Program and suggested us to her dad. WPWA would like to thank Fujifilm, Gordon and Noella. This excellent camera will come in handy for our many programs and research projects.

APRIL 22 is EARTH DAY!

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO TIDY UP THE WATERSHED!

VOLUNTEER TODAY & ADOPT A RIVER ACCESS SITE IN THE WATERSHED.

BAGS, GLOVES, WATER & A SMALL TOKEN OF WPWA'S APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO HELP!



*Special Thanks to **On-Time Disposal** of Ashaway, RI for providing Rubbish Removal!*



To learn how your business or organization can become a sponsor of WATERSHED, send an email to: info@wpwa.org

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