

# WATERSHED

A Newsletter of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

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AUTUMN 2001

## Kenyon Industries, Bradford Dye Renew RIPDES Permits

Lori Urso

Two of the watershed's largest textile mills have applied for five-year renewals of their RIPDES (pron. "rip-dees") permits. This acronym stands for RI Pollution Discharge Elimination System. Simply put, it is a permit to discharge wastewater into a water body.

RIPDES permits provide a mechanism for regulation of industrial wastewater discharge, and set limits under which the permit holder must keep contaminants in the discharged wastewater.

Both Bradford Dyeing Association and Kenyon Industries upgraded their treatment systems within the last decade. BDA finished in 1995, and Kenyon followed in 1997. These upgrades, with price tags in the millions, were necessary to improve, among other things, the systems' abilities to remove solids. It is in these solids where concentrations of heavy metals, such as copper and lead, may be found in excess of in-stream water quality criteria.



Bradford Dyeing Association on the Pawcatuck River.

According to Joseph Haberek, a professional engineer with the RI Department of Environmental Management, the limits set for the presence of these metals in the river are very low.

Therefore, in most cases, when a violation occurs in terms of exceeding the limits, it is still at a level too low to affect human consumption of water, or

toxicity of the water as it relates to humans. He adds, "even at low levels, however, presence of metals in the water where small organisms, such as tadpoles, live, can certainly have an adverse affect on the fauna."

Regarding their records of compliance, Haberek indicates that although both BDA and Kenyon have had "occasional violations," their records of compliance and treatment are generally acceptable. He says when a

violation occurs, he works with the company to bring it back into compliance.

It is interesting to point out the difference in the physical locations of the two mills. Though both discharge into the Pawcatuck River, BDA sits on the lower Pawcatuck, where the river is wide and flows heavily, and dilution is more effective. At Kenyon, higher up on the river where the volume is less, meeting the limits can be more challenging.

Haberek said he is prepared to issue the permits as soon as he has answered in writing all questions brought forth during the public hearings. He said a

few Kenyon abutters had general comments related to their compliance records, but no public comment was made about BDA.

Bradford and Kenyon are historic mills dating

back to the turn of the 20th century. Supported by the working stretches of the Pawcatuck River, each has played a significant role in the history and economy of the watershed.



Wastewater treatment lagoon at Kenyon Industries.

## Saul B. Saila Honored For Lifetime of Achievement

Linda P. Wood

Saul Saila has received the Award of Excellence by the American Fisheries Society in recognition of outstanding science in the fields of fisheries and aquatic biology. This international award, presented annually since 1969, is the oldest major AFS award and the most prestigious presented to an individual. It recognizes a lifetime of professional experience.



Saul Saila is a home-grown Richmond boy whose parents, both born in Finland, ran a recreational camp in the same place

Saul still lives. Besides being an expert in fisheries, Saul is a founding member of WPWA and current member of the Board of Trustees, a URI Professor Emeritus, a World War II veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart. He spends his leisure time fly fishing, canoeing, biking, gardening and taking photographs.

"It is an honor and a privilege to receive this award whose first recipient was my mentor and role-model Dr. William Ricker of Cornell University over 35 years ago," said Saul.

Although he retired over ten years ago after 32 years at URI, he continues to write reports, present papers, and research new frontier concepts in mathematics, fisheries and logic.

"My biggest satisfaction was to help students become not only my equals, but better! They

have succeeded in positions world-wide," Saul said proudly.

His second biggest satisfaction was to introduce innovation into the profession. He was an early proponent of the development and utilization of quantitative models in fisheries applications. He initiated and directed the first computer lab at URI in 1960. He is currently working on applications of artificial intelligence in fisheries involving neural networks in fish and how they imitate the human brain.

As a university professor he advised and helped 65 men and women earn their PhD's, more than any other professor at URI. "My work was never work. It was always fun. It was always a pleasant experience," said Saul.

Michael Fogarty of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole said, "Saul is the re-  
*(continued on page 7)*

## RIDEM Director, Land Acquisition Committee Tour the Wood River

When you're in the business of land acquisition and environmental management, field days are a necessity.

On September 13, members of RIDEM's Land Acquisition Committee, including several division chiefs, DEM Director Jan Reitsma and Associate Director Malcolm Grant, canoed the upper Wood River, from Rt. 165 to Wyoming Dam, stopping for lunch and a briefing at WPWA headquarters.

The purpose of the outing was to look at some recent acquisitions, as well as other potential riparian



RIDEM Director Jan Reitsma, and Lisa Primiano, take a break at High Banks.

lands for purchase. The group walked onto the Pratt property, looked at fishing access areas that have been improved, and discussed how the acquisitions have benefited RI's premier trout stream. Brian Tefft and John O'Brien, from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, shared facts on fish species, invertebrates, and other river wildlife.

During lunch, WPWA director Lori Urso gave a briefing on the association and its priorities for the coming two years.

Just two weeks prior, Lisa

Primiano from RIDEM Land Acquisition, with O'Brien, Tefft, and South County Watersheds Coordinator Jeff Nield, visited WPWA for a power-point presentation on river access areas on the Wood and Pawcatuck, and to hear recommendations for prioritizing improvement of these access areas, and for controlling erosion on river banks.



Fred Vincent of RIDEM points out state properties along the Wood River.

WPWA continues to work cooperatively with RIDEM on protection riparian corridors. For further information, see Pawcatuck Watershed Action Plan Priority 1, Strategies 1.1 to 1.4.

**Phase I Renovations Complete**

Rental cottage ready to be called "home."

It took all of six months to finish. Our rental cottage is now completely refurbished, from ceiling to basement floor. So ends the first phase of long-overdue capital repairs to our Barberville property.

When we took possession and ownership of the property in 1993, we knew it was a "fixer-upper." We knew it would only be

a matter of time before this, and that, had to be fixed, replaced, or rebuilt. In 1995, the 8-foot retaining wall along the river's edge collapsed. This situation has quickly spread to the wall between the river and the office building.

The Board of Trustees decided 2001 was the year to do it, and made a commitment to take the necessary steps to permit a complete renovation of all three buildings on site by 2003.

The most immediate need, labeled Phase I, was the rental house. This 3-bedroom cottage sits closest to Arcadia Road on WPWA's property. In the past, executive directors have made their homes there, as well as other tenants.

The rental house represents a type of income-generating endowment to the association. By the end of the year 2000 the house was in tough physical condition, and not in compliance with local and state sub codes, mostly due to its age.

Always willing to help, Tom Black of the Kimball Foundation



Carpenter Larry Jennino puts the finishing touches on the cabinetry.

offered to provide grant monies for the work if WPWA was willing to take on the role of general contractor. The Foundation pledged \$17,000.00 to the project. WPWA trustees-pitched in sweat equity, donating their time to clean out debris, and remove the old "beaver board" walls and trim. Refuse containers were donated by Waste Management of RI of Cranston, RI and BFI of Fall River, Ma.

What's next? Phase 2: Repair of our river-front retaining wall this October, followed by driveway and landscaping, partially underway, and then renovation of our office building.

**RI Foundation Funds Watershed Initiatives**

In its second of three grant-making sessions for 2001, The Rhode Island Foundation Board of Directors approved 28 economic and community development grants totaling \$1,099,670. The largest single cluster of grants was awarded in the area of the environment, with nine grants totaling \$284,670.

The Foundation awarded Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association \$25,000 to implement the Pawcatuck Watershed Action Plan, to protect the most valuable land in the 194,000 acre watershed, to provide safe and convenient access for passive enjoyment, and to sustain a supply of safe, clean water.

University of Rhode Island Foundation received a \$30,000

grant award to aid the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) to work cooperatively with its nine towns on issues resulting from growth and development.

Grow Smart Rhode Island was awarded \$46,670 for a 3-year effort to support statewide efforts to promote planned growth through enhanced policy research and public education capacity.

South Kingstown Land Trust was awarded \$20,000 to expand a regional land trust coalition working to preserve open space in Washington County, the fastest growing region of Rhode Island.

Other projects that support our state's natural resources include:

New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, \$15,000, to expand its assistance to groups engaged in sustainable community and environmental issues; Clean Land Fund, \$20,000, to support the Fund's provision of technical assistance to community development corporations interested in redeveloping RI Brownfield sites; and \$50,000 each, to Conservation Law Foundation for the Brayton Point Clean-Up Campaign, and The Providence Plan, to support further development of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council.



Members of Washington County Regional Planning Council meet monthly.

## From the Executive Director

Soon our website will be on line at [www.wpwa.org](http://www.wpwa.org). On this site you will find an important document: "Pawcatuck Watershed Action Plan." This is the work document guiding us to take action on priorities



relating to open space, water quality, and water resources. This plan has been approved by RIDEM as well as the Watershed Coordinating Council, a group of state and local agency heads, including RIDEM, steering the state's watershed approach to environmental management.

Take a look at this document. Call us with questions. Make suggestions. Find a way to help us achieve these goals. If you've ever wondered specifically what the WPWA is doing for the watershed, read the Action Plan.

This year has been a very energetic one for the association. We have been the beneficiary of several grant awards, some specifically for the implementation of our Action Plan, and further development of our role as Watershed Council for the Pawcatuck. These awards give us the means to work on the front line of environmental management in our watershed. WPWA has earned a credibility that has brought it into the trusted circle of advisors to many state and local agencies. All of us, including members who have supported us through the years, can be proud of that.

*Loui Ursso*

## Gaia Dialogues: Art and Ecosystem Meet

In early 2001, a group coordinated by artist and educator Ana Flores began to meet for the purpose of sharing work and creative responses to living with Gaia.



"Gaia" refers to the ancient goddess of earth, and to the scientific hypotheses that all planetary ecosystems are related. As the forum progressed into expression, an exhibit took shape inspired by scientific inquiry and artistic creation. This collaborative exhibition of visual, auditory, and tactile work was presented at the RI Foundation Gallery by artists, designers, conservationists, field biologists and educators.



*Earth Speaks Through You,* by Ana Flores.

The exhibit closed on Oct. 6 with a panel discussion: "*Healing Rhode Island: Restoring Ecosystems and Creating Prosperity.*" Said Ana, "The exhibit and panel discussion represent the beginning of a dialogue that must be ongoing."

Flores, who teaches art at RISD, was selected 2001 Environmental Educator of the Year by the Southern RI Conservation District.



*Big Thirst, Big Waste,* by Susan Masket

## South County Greenspace Protection Project Announces Regional Meeting

Here is our chance to make a case for open space prioritization. The key word here is "prioritization." The State of RI has funding for land acquisition, and wants to help municipalities plan for future open space and recreation areas. The question is, how do you prioritize individual pieces for acquisition? What qualities make certain parcels more worthy of protection than others?

This has been the charge of planning firm Dodson Associates, as well as volunteers from each of South County's nine communities, over the past several months. Now come the regional meetings, and the setting of priorities.

Your input is strongly desired! Please be a part of the first regional meeting of the South County Greenspace Protection Project.

Thursday, November 8, 2001  
5:00—9:00pm

URI Library  
Galanti Lounge

Cosponsors:  
RIDEM  
Washington Trust Company  
WPWA

Help us set priorities for open space, recreational, and cultural resources within the Pawcatuck Watershed towns. For more information contact Jeff Nield at 401-222-3434 x4405, or [jnield@dem.state.ri.us](mailto:jnield@dem.state.ri.us).

## The Worldwide Watershed

Meg Kerr

### RI Watersheds On Line

Rhode Island has many active watershed associations working together with WPWA to promote and protect local watersheds. The RI Department of Environmental Management's new web site provides a web portal to these watershed organizations around the state.

Go to the RIDEM homepage at <http://www.state.ri.us/dem/> and click on "Find Your Watershed." You will be transported to a new portion of the web site entirely devoted to watershed activities. Click on the Pawcatuck watershed (#12). You can then choose from Water Quality, Activities and Programs, Calendar/News, and a link to WPWA. You begin to get a sense of where DEM is heading with this site. Spend a bit more time and check out other watersheds in South County - the Narrow River Watershed (# 20) has a link to the Narrow River Preservation Association web site, the Saugatucket River (#23) links to the Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition. Other watershed associations accessible through this site are the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, the Pawtuxet River Authority, the Ten Mile River Watershed Alliance, and the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor.

### Watershed Management Tools

Information on watershed management abounds on the web. Here are two sites that in-

clude training and presentation material applicable to watersheds throughout the country.

The EPA watershed academy <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/> provides watershed advocates access to training modules, including distance learning opportunities on key watershed management topics, such as: Watershed Ecology, Watershed Change, Analysis and Planning, Management Practices, and Community/Social Context.

The Center for Watershed Protection <http://www.cwp.org/> works with local, state, and federal governmental agencies, environmental consulting firms, watershed organizations, and the general public to provide objective and scientifically sound information on effective techniques to protect and restore urban watersheds. The Center has developed a wealth of technical manuals on watershed management and presentations on watershed management topics all available for purchase from the web site.

The Center also acts as a technical resource for local and state governments around the country to develop more effective urban stormwater and watershed protection programs. The Center publishes a periodic journal entitled Watershed Protection Techniques, which provides reliable and accurate summaries of the latest tools for protecting watersheds across North America. Techniques is designed to link watershed practitioners together and provide a forum in which to exchange research, ideas, and experience in the field. Many Techniques articles are available in the "Library"

section of the website, [www.stormwatercenter.net](http://www.stormwatercenter.net).

For 30 years, Sea Grant, Coastal Resources Center's coastal management outreach initiative, has given decision makers in Rhode Island and worldwide excellent scientific information and tailored training programs to implement practical, proven efforts to protect community resources. The science and hands-on training experiences that anchor all Sea Grant/CRC coastal management initiatives support the Sustainable Coastal Communities pilot programs on Aquidneck Island and in Washington County (<http://seagrants.gso.uri.edu/scc/>).

Sea Grant/CRC's next focus will be on facilitating integrated water management planning and engaging the county's robust tourism industry in resource conservation efforts that address water protection, land use, economic health, housing, and transportation. Visit the website to learn more about SeaGrant programs.

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## Grant Awards Announced

Rhode Island Foundation  
\$25,000 operational grant

Virginia C. Madiera Trust  
\$ 5,000 operational grant

RIDEM / RI River's Council  
Legislative Appropriation  
\$25,000 for Watershed Council

## Annual Appeal 2000-01

Director's Circle (\$100-249)  
Eric and Chris Bibler  
Gene S. Renz, DDS

*Thank you for your support!*

**Arts, History, Environment**  
Well blended event benefits WPWA

"I've got two-seventy-five here, give me three-hundred-where?" The familiar call of auctioneer Bob Ward during the 7th annual Art In Nature benefit art auction on September 9th. Once again, location was everything as over 100 attendees strolled through the historic Carolina Mill grounds, the re-created general store, the antique car collection. All made possible by two of WPWA's most generous benefactors, John and Lois Quinn.

What made the event especially memorable this year was the live classical music provided by Joe and Joan Ceo of Westerly, a perfect backdrop for the historic setting. A watercolor demonstration by Al Albrekson was a delight to witness. Unique artistic nametags by Sofia Warren-Flores, summertime fare, and 70 pieces of art on display made



Bidders stake their claims during the silent auction.

this an afternoon to treasure. New to the auction this year were "art of living" services, donated by outstanding chefs, boaters, gardeners, professionals, and friends. Everything from five-course Italian meals to guided canoe trips to a dragon fly walk, and a private-course golf outing were fought over during the live auction.

The event earned \$9700 to support WPWA operations and programming.

Special thanks to our dedicated committee chairs Linda Wood and Sandy Arnold, and committee members Susan Stone, Susan Shaw, Betty Salomon, Ana Flores, and Marnie Lacouture. To the artists and donors of services. To volunteers Peter Arnold, Ed Poyer, Keri Burgess, Russ Spencer, Ed Wood, Meg Kerr, Bob Vanderslice, Linda Ozga, Ardis Holliday, and Joan Ready. To Denise Burgess for her hard work. Thank you to the Ceo's, Al Albrekson, Bob Ward, Lance Vars at Village Place, and to the Quinns for their hospitality.

**RI Environmental Educators Association Plans Fall Conference**

*Bridging Coastal and Inland Habitats*

Saturday, October 27, 2001  
8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Norman Bird Sanctuary,  
Middletown RI

Open to all educators, this one day workshop offers topics such as Exploring the Forested Landscape, Identifying Seeds and Berries, Introductory Soil Science, Water Quality Monitoring for Students, and Intertidal Communities.

Registration is \$35 (\$25 for students) and includes an RIEEA Membership and lunch.

For more information contact Denise Burgess at 401-539-9017 [wpwa@mindspring.com](mailto:wpwa@mindspring.com), or Rob Fearn 401-785-3510 ext. 357 [r-p-fearn@hotmail.com](mailto:r-p-fearn@hotmail.com).

**What I did on my Summer vacation**



Clockwise from left: Kent students explore invertebrates; Metcalf students discuss glaciers; wildflower canoe in August; family fun fishing day at Carolina Hatchery in July. Great season!



**WPWA CANOE AND HIKING GUIDES**

Order Form

**Wood-Pawcatuck River Routes Map**

By Charlie Hickox and Polly Matzinger

\$3.50 members (\$4.50 non-members)

Navigate the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers from source to sea with this colorful folded map.



Quantity:

\_\_\_\_\_ Wood-Pawcatuck River Routes Map

\_\_\_\_\_ Walks in the Watershed

\_\_\_\_\_ Pawcatuck Watershed Report (free)

Add \$1.50 postage and handling per item.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and payment to:

WPWA

203 Arcadia Road

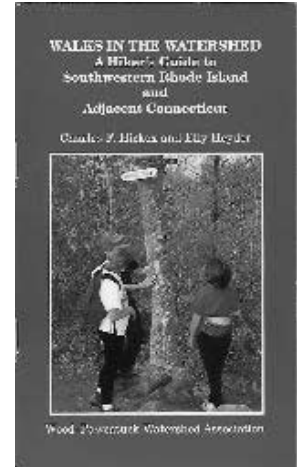
Hope Valley, RI 02832

**Walks in the Watershed**

By Charlie Hickox and Elly Heyder

\$3.50 members (\$4.50 non-members)

Sixteen of the watershed's best loop hikes contained in a handy pocket-sized guide

**Saul B. Saila (cont. from p. 2)**

recipient of numerous awards for his achievements, focusing on his roles as educator, researcher and advisor. It is fitting that the AFS now recognizes Saul for a half century of commitment to excellence, dedication and intellectual development. Saul's journey as a scientist has indelibly left its mark on the field and on all those whose lives he has touched."

Saul received a BS in agronomy from the University of Rhode Island, and an MS in limnology and aquatic sciences, and a PhD in fishery biology from Cornell. He came to URI as an assistant professor of marine biology in 1956 and became a professor of oceanography and zoology in 1967.

Saul describes himself as "a very determined" person. His

parents encouraged him to be an engineer, but he always was interested in water more than air.

Saul has been married to Jennifer Saila since 1967. Her interest in music has led him to take up the accordion again and really try to master it. It was the instrument he learned as a young boy because his family had one.

He is currently working with Lori Urso at WPWA to develop a strategic transient monitoring program to conduct short-term assessments of the quality of water resulting from discharges and adverse uses.

"I accept the award as encouragement for me to continue to do the things I can still do." Saul said with a wise smile.

**New Trustees Welcomed, Officers Re-elected**

Congratulations to Richard C. Holliday of Westerly, RI and Meg Kerr of Wickford, RI on their recent appointments to the Board of Trustees. Dick and Meg were elected at annual meeting on June 5, 2001

At WPWA's September 13th Trustees meeting, executive committee members were re-elected to serve an additional one-year term as officers. They are: Harold Ward, President, Dante Ionata, V. President, Robert Schiedler, Secretary, and Peter Arnold, Treasurer. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your willingness to serve.

Coming Soon:  
[www.wpwa.org](http://www.wpwa.org)

**Application for Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

In addition to my dues, I am enclosing an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All but \$5.00 of your dues is tax deductible within the limits of the law.

**Board of Trustees**

- Harold Ward (Woodville), President
- Dante Ionata (No. Prov.), V. President
- Robert Scheidler (Chas.), Secretary
- Peter Arnold (Charlestown), Treasurer
- Gabriel Warren (Wood River Jct.)
- Gaytha Langlois (South Kingstown)
- Linda Ozga (Stonington)
- Saul Sailsa (Richmond)
- W. Edward Wood (Hope Valley)
- John C. Levanti, Esq. (Westerly)
- Kenneth F. Payne (Providence)
- Meg Kerr (North Kingstown)
- Richard C. Holliday (Westerly)

**WPWA Staff**

- Lori Urso, Executive Director
- Denise Burgess, Program Director

**WPWA Headquarters**

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BLUE-BREASTED GROSBEEK  
*Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Opinions expressed in *Watershed* are not necessarily those of WPWA, its Board of Trustees, or staff.



WPWA office undergoing a facelift.

Bulk Rate  
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 RI

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