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## **WATERSHED GROUP TO FORMALLY DEDICATE PAWCATUCK RIVER ACCESS**

(Hope Valley, RI) The Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA) will hold a formal dedication on Monday July 16 at 10:00am, on the site of their newly-acquired public river access on the Pawcatuck River at Route 91 in Richmond.

The property was a gift to the association from Roy and Kim Dubs of Hopkinton. The site, formerly known as the Richmond Fishing Access, will be renamed the John M. "Jay" Cronan River Access by the association, in honor of the late WPWA trustee and retired state fish and wildlife official.

Cronan, a renowned wildlife and fisheries biologist, worked for nearly 40 years with the RI Department of Environmental Management and for a short while with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Following his retirement in 1988, Cronan remained active as a volunteer for WPWA and other environmental concerns. He resided for many years in Hope Valley on Locustville Pond, where he also served as volunteer monitor and steward.

During his tenure with RIDEM, Cronan was credited as an integral force in the acquisition of many public access areas and protected open spaces, such as the Great Swamp Management Area, Carolina Management Area, and many other key sites that are open to the public for recreational enjoyment.

"Jay truly cared about his work," remembered his wife Barbara. "He has such a passion for wildlife and the outdoors. He was very personally connected to what he did professionally."

Lori Urso, executive director of WPWA, recalled Cronan's dedication to the organization. "Jay was always ready to be of service to us, whether it was water quality monitoring, or teaching kids to fish, or helping with mailings. Jay also played an important role in helping WPWA acquire its headquarters on the Wood River in 1993. So now WPWA has a very fitting opportunity to remember and honor him for his contributions."

The dedication ceremony will bring together members of the community, including family, friends, and former coworkers of Cronan, for a brief program that will include remarks from RIDEM Director W. Michael Sullivan.

For additional information, contact WPWA at 401-539-9017 or [info@wpwa.org](mailto:info@wpwa.org).