

**Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility
&
Lower Shannock Falls Dam Removal
Public Outreach**

Letters of Support - Overall Project Approval

10/09/08	RIDEM Div. of Fish & Wildlife	<i>Mark Gibson, Acting Chief</i>
12/07/07	Town of Richmond	<i>Joe Reddish, Council President</i>
01/10/06	Town of Charlestown	<i>Jodi LaCroix, Town Clerk</i>
12/15/05	USDI, USFWS	<i>William Neidermyer, Asst. Supervisor</i>
10/31/05	RIDEM Div. of Fish & Wildlife	<i>John O'Brien, Deputy Chief</i>
10/07/05	Town of Richmond, Cons. Comm.	<i>Lynn Tondat-Ruggeri, Chairperson</i>
No Date	Charlestown Abutter	<i>Jeffrey Marlowe</i>

Letters of Support - Fundraising

12/01/07	Lower Shannock Dam Owner	<i>Broderick Macari</i>
12/15/05	USDI, USFWS	<i>William Neidermyer, Asst. Supervisor</i>
12/13/05	Narragansett Bay Estuary Prgm	<i>Tom Ardito, Dir. of Policy & Comm.</i>
10/06/05	Town of Richmond, Cons. Comm.	<i>Lynn Tondat-Ruggeri, Chairperson</i>

Public Informational Meetings

08/08	Town of Richmond	<i>Knowles Mill Conceptual Design Presentation WPWA attends to present Dam Removal</i>
03/31/08	Richmond Con. Comm.	<i>Removal Progress Report by J. Turek at Mtg</i>
12/03/07	Richmond Town Council	<i>Council Approves Removal Strategy</i>
05/30/07	WPWA	<i>Public Workshop, no opposition to removal</i>
11/30/06	WPWA	<i>Public Workshop, Feasibility Study</i>
05/15/06	WPWA, FS Bid Conference	<i>Advertised and Open to public</i>
05/11/06	WPWA	<i>Public Workshop, Feasibility Study</i>
03/22/06	Tribal Historic P.O.	<i>Met with THPO, no opposition to restoration</i>
01/09/06	Town of Charlestown	<i>Council Approves Feasibility Study Initiation</i>
10/04/05	Town of Richmond	<i>Council Approves Feasibility Study Initiation</i>

Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility & Lower Shannock Falls Dam Removal Public Outreach

Press Articles and Releases

* *Articles which refer to project*

WATERSHED, vol. 25 no. 3

"*Bradford Fish Ladder Modification is Underway*"

The Westerly Sun, 10/10/08

"*Dams and Fish Ladders: New WPWA Director to Oversee Historic Work*"

The Wood River Press, 10/9/08

"*Dams and Fish Ladders: New WPWA Director to Oversee Historic Work*"

The Charlestown Press 10/9/08

"*Dams and Fish Ladders: New WPWA Director to Oversee Historic Work*"

The Westerly Pawcatuck Press 10/9/08

"*Dams and Fish Ladders: New WPWA Director to Oversee Historic Work*"

*The Westerly Sun 09/13/08

"*Richmond, Consortium apply for Additional Knowles Mill Grant*"

*The Westerly Sun 08/08/08

"*Plans for Park Moving Forward*"

The Westerly Sun 02/04/08

"*Shannock Fish Passage Gets Funding From Oil Spill Grant*"

*The Providence Journal 01/29/08

"*CRMC Announces Funding for Six Habitat Restoration Projects*"

WATERSHED, vol. 24 no. 4

"*Fish Passage Alternatives Presented in Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility Study*"

The Westerly Sun 5/14/07

"*Final Workshop on Shannock Fish Passage Scheduled*"

The Westerly Sun 5/12/06

"*One for the Fish: Watershed group project designed to improve passage and revitalize fish species in area rivers*"

The Westerly Sun 5/8/06

"*Fish and Shannock Dams targeted by Watershed Panel*"

The Providence Journal 5/5/06

"*Classified Ad, RFP Advertisement for Feasibility Study*"

The Providence Journal 5/2/06

"*Meeting Slated on Plan to Study Fish Passage on Rivers*"

*The Westerly Sun 2/19/06

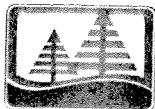
"*Richmond, Charlestown Get Funds from CRMC*"

* The Westerly Sun 1/28/06

"*Mill Demolition Plan Advancing*"

Wood River Press 9/15/05

"*Fishing for a Change*"



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203 Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832
401-539-9017
info@wpwa.org

Shannock-Kenyon Fish Passage Feasibility Study

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 30, 2006
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

H.L. Arnold Fire and Safety Complex
208 Richmond Townhouse Road (Rt. 112)
Richmond/Carolina, RI

A G E N D A

Welcome and introductions

Lori Urso
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Discussion of Study Process and Field Observations

Jim MacBroom, P.E. and Jeanine Bonin, P.E.
Milone and MacBroom, Inc.

8

Report on Field Sediment Sampling

Jim Turek
NOAA Restoration Center

Public Comment and Input

Adjourn 8:00P.M.

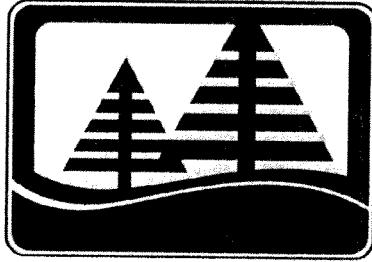
Shannon Fish Passage Study

- PUBLIC WORKSHOP -

THURS. NOV 30, 2006 6-8PM

SIGN-IN

NAME	ADDRESS & TOWN	PHONE / EMAIL
SANFORD NEUSCHARTZ	BOX 286 SHANNON 02875	INFO@driftways.com
Lynn Tondat Ruggen	2 Fox Ridge Drive	Hruggen@Verizon.net
Phil Edwards	2776 Great Neck Rd	phillip.p.edwards@DEP.RI.GOV
SAVE SAU	317 Swanson Road Hope Valley	364-7403 S461.Sau@att.net
Tom Halauk	50BEND RD USW5 Charlestown, RI 02813	364-9124 x 37 Tom.Halauk.USW5.Gov
LISA CAVALLARO	NOAA 28 Tarzwell Dr Narr RI 02882	782-3281 lisa.cavallaro@noaa.gov
Jeanine Bonin	Milone + MacBroom, Inc.	jeanine.b@miloneandmacbroom.com
BETH CABRAL	Kenyon Industries - EHS	bcabral@kenyonindustries.net
ROBERT J. SCHIEDLER	P.O. Box 1479, CHARLESTOWN 02813	R.Schiedler@AOL.COM
JIM TUREK	Richmond ConComm	James.G.Turek@RCCOM.COM
11-91171	Same Town 1451 Kingsfactory Rd Charlestown	RI 02840



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

and

Richmond Conservation Commission

invite all interested citizens to a

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

regarding the

SHANNOCK FISH PASSAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY

**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2006
7:00 P.M.**

**CAROLINA VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION
RICHMOND TOWNHOUSE ROAD (ROUTE 112)
RICHMOND RI**

Representatives of WPWA and partner agencies will be on hand to share what they hope to learn from a feasibility study of fish passage at the Lower and Upper Shannock dams. Long-term goals look to reopen access to the historic upstream spawning grounds of the Pawcatuck River system for sea-run trout, river herring, shad, and other anadromous fish. The feasibility study will assess the potential for fish passage at each site, and alternative methods of achieving passage where possible.

Project Partners include Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Town of Richmond, Town of Charlestown, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Fish and Wildlife Service, Narragansett Bay Estuary Project, and RI Department of Environmental Management.

Funding for the study is provided by RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Trust, and the NOAA-American Rivers Partnership. For info visit www.wpwa.org, or call 401-539-9017.

MEETING 5.11.06

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Shawnee Fish Passage Study

SIGN IN

Name	Address + Town	Phone/Email
Lynn Ruggen	Richmond	539-0194 ltruggen@verizon.net
Jim Cole	Charlestown	377-1033 JMCOLE@HOTMAIL.COM
Mike Denat	Providence	mdenat@avisberger.com
Melanie Jewett	Town of Richmond	townplanner@richmondri.com
Bob Schieller	WPWA	R.Schieller@aol.com
Sanford Neuschatz	SHAWNEE	364-7028
Dennis Erkall	Richmond	old.mil@cox.net
Mal Grant	Hope Valley	539-7974 malgrant@earthnet.net
Erik Creaner	Westport Sun	
Tom Cappa	EA Eng.	(401) 736-3440 tccappa@eaest.com
J. Matthew Bellisle	Pare Engineering Corp	(401) 334-4100 mbellisle@parecorp.com
Tom Halavik	USFWS	401-364-9124 tom_halavik@fws.gov
Adam Hill	Brownstone Construction	331-6694 / Adam.Hill@dev.ri.gov

MEETING 5.15.06 Publicly ADVERTISED IN LOCAL PAPERS

Shannon Fish Passage Study - Bid Conf.

SIGN IN

8:15 AM

Name

Address +

Town

Joe Klinger, 1 COMM ST, INC
1130 TERN ROAD
W. KINGSTOWN RI 02852

Phone/Email

jklinger@comcast.net

401-294-1155 comcast.net

David Tulkotte, PI GROUP, INC
197 TUNTON AVE
EAST PROVIDENCE, RI 02814

401-482-1022 tulkotte@rgt-eng.com

MIKE WEBB, BURGESS ASSOC. INC.
12 BLACKSTONE VALLEY PL
LINCOLN RI

401-722-7616

John S. Blangstedt, Klein Schmidt Essex CT
35 PRATT ST

860-722-2212

BRISCOE LANG PARE ENGINEERING & BLACKSTONE VALLEY PL (401)334-4100
LINCOLN RI

KEVIN NAGLE GORDON R. ARCHARD INC. 200 MAIN ST.

726-4084

Patty Gambarini, Essex Partnership, 74 Parkwood Drive, Kingston RI 02881 (401)783-4246 com
pgambarini@verizon.net

Louis Rizzo Louis Berger Group 295 Pleasant St.
Providence RI 02903 Lrizzo@louisberger.com
401-521-5980

Tom Cook

5.15.06 SITE AGENDA

508 829 6000 x 452

T.Cook@ALDINJLAB.com

Tom Whalen

- SIGN-IN / HAND OUT MAPS

401-736-3190 ext. 101 or 102

Tom Soppi

- GREET / INTROS / AERIAL

401-736-3977 ext. 101 or 102

Jeffrey Peters

~~MAPS~~ MAPS

401-736-3977 ext. 101 or 102

Jim Marc Blue

- PARKING AT OTHER SITES

401-736-3977 ext. 101 or 102

Bill Ladd

- LOWER FALLS

401-421-4140 / wladd-1@jta.org

- MELANIE - KNOWLES DEMO

401-421-4140 / wladd-1@jta.org

- WALK OUT

401-421-4140 / wladd-1@jta.org

Q+A - ? LISA FEMA

401-421-4140 / wladd-1@jta.org

CEED →

401-421-4140 / wladd-1@jta.org

3.22.06 Mtg w/ Narragansett Tribe

2pm Doug Harris, John Brown, Linda Madison

- JB - ? upwra as co-applicant w/ NRCS on another study
- NRCS wants to work w/ tribe on river restoration
 - partner w/ Land & Water Resource Commission under tribe, or w/ tribal HPO - renders WPWS insurance from suit.
 - money for study
 - money for hog waste disposal
 - money for removal

On loss of historic properties - state has more control over industrial

Impact mitigation - state h po compensated

Rick Greenwood

- historic uses may supersede historic structures

Try to establish historic use by the tribe at Shannock Dams. Tribe has aboriginal rights to min. land claim settlement.

JB will communicate w/ Lisa @ NOSS - addendum program funds for tribal participation.

Shannock Village Public Notice

Notification of a Public Meeting Regarding the Environmental Assessment and Remediation of the Proposed Park at the Former Knowles Mill

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a Brownfields Cleanup Grant to the Town of Richmond for the former Knowles Mill site located at 5 Railroad Street in Shannock Village. In accordance with the Community Relations Plan for the site and Section 23-19.14-5 of the State of Rhode Island Industrial Property Remediation and Reuse Act, **a public meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on August 7, 2008 at the H.L Arnold Fire and Safety Complex located at 208 Richmond Townhouse Road (Route 112), Carolina, RI.** The objective of this meeting is to provide information to the public regarding the results of environmental assessment activities conducted at the site and to solicit information from the public that may help focus the scope and objectives of clean-up planning and park construction.

The Town proposes to place a soil cap over the site, stabilize the riverbank, and construct a public park at the site. Complete copies of pertinent environmental documents, including an analysis of remedial alternatives for the site, are available for review at the Planning Department of Richmond Town Hall, 5 Richmond Townhouse Road, Wyoming, RI 02898. To review these documents, please contact Ms. Denise Stetson, Town Planner, at (401) 539-9000 ext. 6 or townplanner@richmondri.com.

This announcement marks the beginning of a 30-day comment period. Public comments regarding the proposed cleanup plan provided prior to August 22, 2008 will be accepted. Residents are encouraged to submit written comments on the reports to Ms. Stetson at the above address or e-mail.

Charlestown/Richmond Joint Informational Meeting Immediately Following the Public Meeting for Knowles Mill

The Charlestown and Richmond Town Planners would like to invite residents and/or owners of property in Shannock Village to stay after the Knowles Mill remediation meeting on August 7, 2008 to discuss the future of the Village. Both Town Planners are interested in looking at existing zoning and uses and hearing about what Villagers plan for the future in an effort to possibly re-zone the Village for mixed use. Both Towns are interested in a cohesive and coordinated zoning designation on both sides of the river.

Si le hace falta interprete, favor de comunicarse con la Sra. Denise Stetson al teléfono (401) 539-9000 ext. 6 a lo menos 72 horas antes de la reunión pública.

Hearing tonight on proposed park in Richmond

01:00 AM EDT on Thursday, August 7, 2008

RICHMOND — A public hearing on the proposed conversion of the Knowles Mill site, in Shannock, into a public park will be held tonight at 7 at the H.L. Arnold Fire And Safety Complex on Route 112.

The mill, also known as Carmichael Mill, was razed in 2006.

Geoffrey A. Marchant, director of the Community Development Consortium, said the group will report on the contaminants found on site and the proposed cleanup plan and present the concept plan for the park, which calls for public access to the Pawcatuck River and a footbridge over the river connecting Richmond and Charlestown.

Cleanup of the approximately one-acre site will include “hot spot removal and capping” and is expected to be completed by September 2009. The Environmental Protection Agency, which provided much of the funds, has listed the site among its brownfields success stories.

There will be also discussion on changing Shannock’s zoning to allow village uses. Charlestown and Richmond officials have spoken of rezoning the village mixed commercial, which would allow by law the blend of commercial and residential uses that’s historically occurred in Shannock.

Shannock has also been discussed as a possible area for affordable-housing projects.



List of Interested Stakeholders
Proposed Park at the Former Knowles Mill
5 Railroad Street
Shannock Village, Richmond, Rhode Island

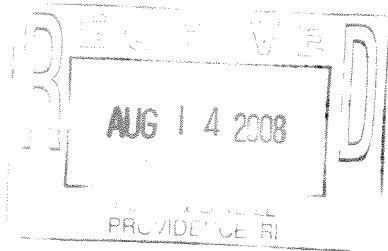
Thomas Ardito Outreach and Policy Coordinator Narragansett Bay Estuary Program URI Bay Campus Box 27 Narragansett, RI 02883	Matt Dowling On-Site Wastewater Manager Charlestown Town Hall 4540 South County Trail Charlestown RI 02813	Professor William Green Department of Community Planning and Landscape Architecture University of Rhode Island 204 Rodman Hall Kingston, RI 02881
Scott Barber Director Richmond Public Works 51 Buttonwoods Road Wyoming, RI 02898	Phillip Edwards RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife Great Swamp Field Headquarters 277 Great Neck Road West Kingston, RI 02892	Ashley Hahn Morris Town Planner Charlestown Town Hall 4540 South County Trail Charlestown RI 02813
Edward Barrett Town Administrator Charlestown Town Hall 4540 South County Trail Charlestown RI 02813	Jeffrey Emidy Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903	Tom Halavik Senior Biologist U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southern New England - New York Bight Coastal Program 50 Bend Road Charlestown, RI 02813-2503
Ann Battersby Environmental Scientist Office of Waste Management Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management 235 Promenade Street Providence, RI 02908	Joseph Ferrari United States Environmental Protection Agency One Congress Street Suite 1100, Mail Code HIO Boston, MA 02114-2023	Doug Harris Senior Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office Post Office Box 268 Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813
State Senator Kevin A. Breene Room 317 State House 1 Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908	Chris Fox Executive Director Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association 203b Arcadia Road Hope Valley, RI 02832	Geoffrey Marchant Director Community Development Consortium 125 Main Street East Greenwich, RI 02818-0111
Lisa Cavallaro National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center 28 Tarzwell Drive Narragansett, RI 02882	Grover Fugate Executive Director State of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council Stedman Government Center – Suite 3 4808 Tower Hill Road Wakefield, RI 02879-1900	Stephen McCandless Data Collector / GIS Specialist Charlestown Town Hall 4540 South County Trail Charlestown RI 02813
Suzanne Cherau Senior Archaeologist Public Archaeology Laboratory 210 Lonsdale Avenue Pawtucket, RI 02860	Cynthia Gianfrancesco Principal Environmental Scientist Office of Waste Management Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management 235 Promenade Street Providence, RI 02908-5767	Henry R. Oppenheimer 2 Theroux Dr. P.O. Box 588 Wyoming, RI 02898
Erick A. Davis Town Council Vice President 215 James Trail West Kingston, RI 02892	Kevin R. Gosper 100 Carolina Nooseneck Road Wyoming, RI 02898	



Denise Poyer Program Director Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association 203b Arcadia Road Hope Valley, RI 02832
B. Joseph Reddish, III Town Council President 23 Corey Trail Wyoming, RI 02898
Dr. Paul Robinson Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903
State Representative Joseph H. Scott, Esq. Room 323 State House 1 Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908
Denise Stetson Town Planner Richmond Town Hall 5 Richmond Townhouse Road Wyoming, RI 02898
Town of Charlestown Conservation Commission Charlestown Town Hall 4540 South County Trail Charlestown RI 02813
Town of Richmond Conservation Commission Richmond Town Hall 5 Richmond Townhouse Road Wyoming, RI 02898
Jim Turek Assistant Northeast Team Leader National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center 28 Tarzwell Drive Narragansett, RI 02882
Laura Wildman, P.E. Director of River Science Northeast Field Office American Rivers 20 Bayberry Road Glastonbury, CT 06033

Park Design – Concept Plan

- Park construction will be the cleanup
- Park design and construction funded by RIDEM Open Space Grant
- Park features to include:
 - *Canoe/kayak launches*
 - *Sitting area*
 - *Interpretive signs*
 - *Potential connection to Charlestown across river*
- Removal of Lower Shannock Falls dam under separate project



Sign-In Sheet

Public Meeting
Environmental Considerations
Proposed Park at Knowles Mill
Shannock, Rhode Island
August 7, 2008

Name	Affiliation	E-mail Address
Brian Kortz	Fuss+O'Neill	bkortz@fando.com
John Chambers	"	jchambers@fando.com
Ken Vorse		m16100@cox.net
Chris Fox	Woodstock Woodsman	INFO@WPWA.ORG
John Foye	Property advisor	—
Endy E. Foye	to the Knowles Mill	—
Ruth Waterman	Charlestown Town Council	grumm5@cox.net
Linda Fabre	Charlestown Planning Commission	lfabre3@cox.net TOWNCLERK
Deneen Stetson	Richmond Town Planner	RICHMONDRI.COM
JOE FERRARI	EPA	Ferrari.joe@epa.gov
Melanie White	Shannock Village	melmo3@cox.net
DONALD LABELLE	8 NORTH RD SHANNOCK	LABELLE3@cox.net
Ruth Platner	Planning Commission	RuthPlatner@gmail.com
Geoffrey Margaret	C'D Causalt	
Chuck Moore	RICA Partner	

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Plans chugging along for Knowles Mill park

Engineers hope to have park finished before three-year deadline

By ANDREW MARTIN

Residents and town officials gathered at the H. L. Arnold Fire and Safety Complex on Aug. 7 to hear how the Knowles Mill site in Shannock Village will be transformed into a small-scale park.

The meeting was handled mostly by Brian Kortz, senior geologist from Fuss & O'Neill, Inc., the Providence-based engineering firm handling the project. After touching on a brief history of the location, he discussed plans to clean-up and revitalize the site.

Before any revitalization work takes place, however, the soil and groundwater had to be sampled for contaminants. Kortz said three 'recognized environmental concerns' were found: Buried ash and debris from the former mill site; coal ash dumping; and solid waste dumping.

"The main environmental concern is the coal because it can have heavier metals and it can make semi-volatile organic compounds. There's evidence of that at the site," Kortz

explained. He reported a thorough sampling process that included 33 soil samples, six groundwater monitoring wells, and five sediment samples.

To combat the contaminants, Kortz said Fuss & O'Neill plans to remove one foot of soil from the site. Then, a one-foot cap of clean soil, to be monitored yearly, will be dropped down to limit direct exposure to the impurities.

Anyone who plans to dig on the property will need to obtain written permission from the state Department of Environmental Management. Also, the riverbank will be stabilized to lessen the amount of erosion currently taking place.

At just over half an acre, the proposed park will provide launching areas for canoes and kayaks. There will also be walking trails and places for people to sit and enjoy the Pawcatuck River. New areas of vegetation, including shrubbery along the property line, are also planned.

The park design and construction, which are part of the next step, will hopefully be covered by the state DEM through an open space grant, Kortz said. "It will not be a direct expense to taxpayers," he added.

John R. and Marge Fagre, who live at the PARK, 3-A

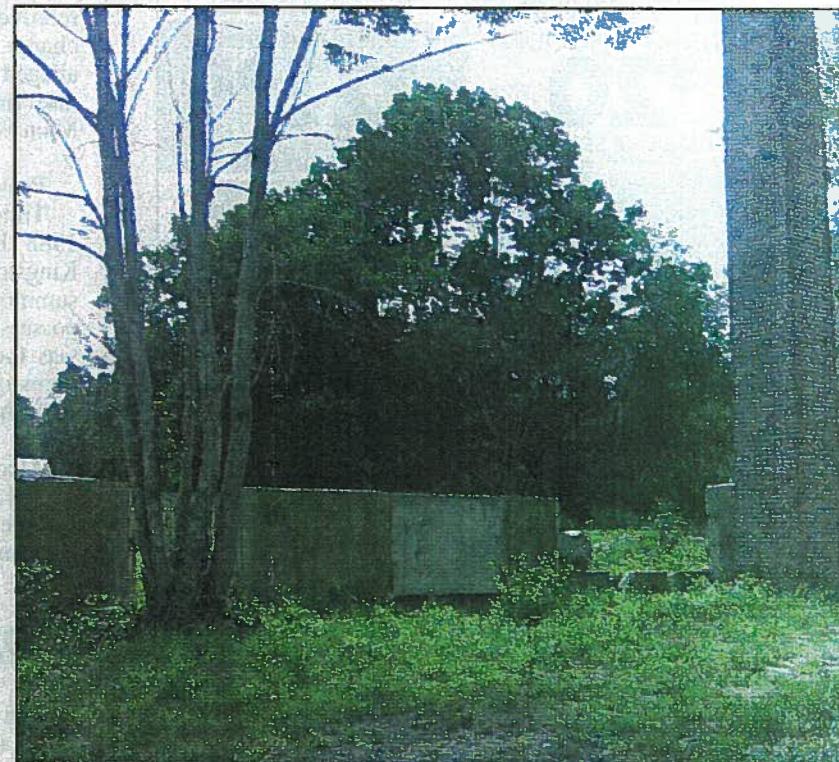
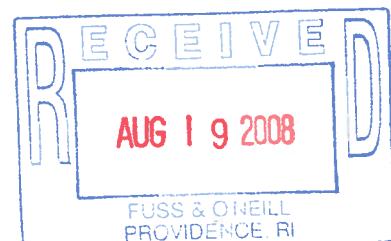


PHOTO: ANDREW MARTIN

This photo, taken Aug. 12, shows what the Knowles Mill site currently looks like. A park is planned for the parcel of land.



Park plans include removing the Lower Falls Dam

PARK, from 1-A

end of Railroad Street, expressed concern over the proposed parking lot location. The plan presented by Kortz showed the lot near the Fagre's property. They, and other residents in attendance, agreed that people should just continue to parallel park as they do now. Kortz said he will take that into consideration.

Although an estimated completion date was not given, Kortz said the project should be finished before the EPA's grant deadline of three years. The \$200,000 Brownfields grant, which Richmond received in late June, kicks in this October and expires in 2011. "We hope it will be done faster than that if possible, but that is the deadline," Kortz said.

The ultimate plan is to include the Charlestown side of the area in the project. When that will happen, however, is currently unknown. But Kortz said there is hope to re-build a bridge that once allowed people to cross the Pawcatuck to Charlestown. There are some abutments left from the old bridge that could be used, he added.

"The concept plan throws in a bridge and some trails, but right now there is only money for Richmond's side. We're handling it one side at a time," Kortz explained.

Another part of the project is removing the Lower Falls Dam. This would allow for better fish passage and would restore the falls to their natural state. Kortz called it the "last piece."

The property, located on the Charlestown-Richmond border in Shannock Village, was once a textile mill complex. Originally built in 1835, the Knowles Mill burned down in 1850. A second building, the Carmichael Mill, was constructed in 1885 and operations continued. By the 1970s, however, the site was abandoned and slowly deteriorating.

The Carmichael Mill was almost completely demolished in May 2006. The remains of the site are the free standing chimney, which will be preserved, and bricks that outline the mill's foundation.

The land adjacent to the mill is also of historic significance. It was the location of a 1636 battle

between the Narragansett and Pequot Indians for fishing rights. A stone marker sits there now to show where the battle occurred and it will remain intact during the park's construction.

Plans to possibly re-zone Shannock

Richmond and Charlestown Town Planners Denise Stetson and Ashley Hahn-Morris discussed their plans to get both towns involved in turning Shannock into a mixed-use village. Currently, there are nine types of zoning split between the two sides, which Hahn-Morris said "might not make so much sense."

Currently, the planners are just trying to get residents involved to form a focus group that could hold workshops regarding how to re-zone Shannock.

"We can talk about what we



PHOTO: ANDREW MARTIN

The park will include launching spots for people looking to canoe or kayak in the Pawcatuck River, seen above. In the background you can see remnants of a mill on the Charlestown side.

have now ... and then do some visioning of what you want Shannock to look like as well as do the correct zoning to make that happen," Hahn-Morris explained.

If you are a resident interested in assisting the planners in this process, contact Stetson at 539-9000, ext. 6, and Morris at

Plans for park moving forward

By Chris Keegan
The Sun Staff

RICHMOND — A proposed park at the site of the former Knowles Mill in Shannock could be built as soon as next fall, but plans to remove the Lower Shannock Falls Dam are expected to delay the project.

Geoffrey A. Marchant, director of the East Greenwich Community Development Consortium, acknowledged Thursday that the park could be built as early as September 2009, though the dam's removal — which is subject to the state's wetland permitting process — could pose a setback.

The removal of the Lower Shannock Falls Dam would improve fish passage, and is considered to be a separate tie-in project led by groups such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Resources Conservation Service.

"We'd prefer not to wait," Marchant said, not-

See Park, Page 5

8/18/08

★ Park

from page 1

ing that a completion date for the park project has not been determined.

Earlier this year, the town of Richmond received a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to clean up the Knowles Mill site. It has three years, or until October 2011, to use the funds.

The half-acre property off Railroad Avenue is home to the historic stone foundations of the Knowles Mill (built in 1834) and the Carmichael Mill, which was built in 1885 and razed two years ago. The town acquired the property in June.

Consultant Brian E. Kortz, a senior hydrogeologist with Fuss & O'Neill of Providence, said both foundations, along with the Carmichael Mill's stone chimney and a stone marker commemorating a 1636 Indian battle over fishing rights, will remain at the site as an ode to the property's history.

"There's a lot of different history on this piece of small land," Kortz said, during an update on remediation efforts Thursday night at the H.L. Arnold Fire and Safety Complex.

Kortz said an environmental assessment identified soil contamination throughout the site from

coal storage and ash dumping that were part of the site's industrial past. The polluted soil, which contains high levels of metals and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) that are dangerous to ingest, is also a potential threat to the Pawcatuck River due to erosion.

To limit human exposure to the toxins, Kortz said the top foot of soil will be removed from the site and replaced with a cap of clean fill. The riverbank will be stabilized to prevent erosion, and a land use restriction will be recorded with the property's deed that prohibits the soil cap's disturbance, he said.

The town will be required to inspect the cap annually, and issue its findings to the state Department of Environmental Management.

Kortz said the park is envisioned to include a canoe/kayak launch, a sitting area near the Carmichael Mill's foundation, a small parking lot, trees, signage and — potentially — a pedestrian bridge connecting the park to the Charlestown side of the river.

Its design is contingent upon \$100,000 in state Passive and Historic Park Development/Recreation Grant funds administered through DEM, which have yet to be distributed. State

residents approved the funds via an open space bond referendum in 2004.

Railroad Avenue resident Ken Vorze, who lives across from the mill site, said he opposes plans for a parking area near the Carmichael Mill's foundation. Several other residents who attended Thursday's meeting agreed that parallel parking along the dead-end street is a better option.

"I really don't want parking there," Vorze said. "I don't want people coming in and out."

Kortz said later that landscape architecture consultants will consider other areas for parking.

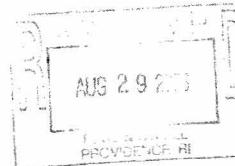
In related news, town planners from Charlestown and Richmond are looking for Shannock area residents to take part in a focus group

that will consider future land use throughout the village. Between the two towns, there are currently nine zoning designations in Shannock.

"You can't rebuild what's there under the current zoning," said Charlestown Town Planner Ashley V. Hahn-Morris.

Richmond Town Planner Denise Stetson said the focus group will consider defining Shannock's geographical boundaries, as well as the implementation of mixed-use village zoning — similar to Charlestown's two-year-old Traditional Village District (TVD) zone along Old Post Road.

Hahn's office can be reached at (401) 364-1225, while Stetson's office can be reached at (401) 539-9000, ext. 6.



Environmental Equity and Public Participation Status Report

Town of Richmond
Former Knowles Mill

Shannock Village, Richmond, Rhode Island

September 2008



Fuss & O'Neill
317 Iron Horse Way, Suite 204
Providence, RI 02908

Richmond, consortium apply for additional Knowles Mill grant

ris Keegan

Staff

RICHMOND — The town is looking for a little "insurance" in its plan to create a park at the former Knowles Mill site in Rock.

The town of Richmond and the Greenwich Community Development Consortium recently applied for a \$75,000 Riparian Erosion Grant from the Department of Environmental Management, in hopes of thwarting erosion at the half-acre mill site off Railroad Avenue.

'It's an insurance policy, to some extent. I'd rather have too much money than not enough.'

Geoffrey A. Marchant, director of the East Greenwich Community Development Consortium about a grant sought for the Knowles Mill site

Consortium Director Geoffrey A. Marchant said the grant would enable the stabilization of the Pawcatuck River bank and the planting of native vegetation along its course — and would be combined with a 40-percent match

from other sources. Soil throughout the mill site, which is in the process of being removed, includes metals and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) from the site's industrial past — and poses a potential threat to river water

quality.

The Knowles Mill site is also located within or adjacent to a community wellhead protection area, which is the source of drinking water for the Shannock Water District and its sole source aquifer, according to the grant application.

"It's an insurance policy, to some extent," Marchant said of the grant request. "I'd rather have too much money than not enough."

The town currently has up to three years to use a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant totaling \$200,000 for envi-

ronmental cleanup efforts at the mill site. DEM announced last month that the park project will also receive a \$100,000 recreation development grant, as part of \$1.28-million allotment to 13 communities across the state.

The funds, known as Passive and Historic Recreation Development and Rehabilitation grants, come from a larger, \$1 million bond approved by Rhode Island voters in 2004.

In related news, Richmond town councilors voted last week to give the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed

See Knowles, Page

9/13/08 THE WESTERLY SUN

★ Knowles

from page 1

Association access to the Knowles Mill property to observe site restoration efforts. The environmental group helped select consulting firm Fuss & O'Neill, which is coordinating both the site remediation and a related dam removal initiative.

Marchant acknowledged in August that it could take up to a year to receive permitting approvals for the removal of the Lower Shannock Falls Dam — which has been proposed in tandem with plans to create a canoe and kayak launch at the park. Other features include a sitting area near the Carmichael Mill's foundation, a small parking lot, added trees and signage.

A footbridge connecting the Richmond side of the river to the town of Charlestown's side has also been envisioned, though it is not currently part of the project.

ckeegan@thewesterlysun.com

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ing that a completion date for the park project has not been determined.

"Earlier this year, the town of Richmond received a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to clean up the Knowles Mill site. It has three years, or until October 2011, to use the funds.

The half-acre property off Railroad Avenue is home to the historic stone foundations of the Knowles Mill [built in 1834] and the Carmichael Mill, which was built in 1885 and razed two years ago. The town acquired the property in June.

Consultant Brian E. Kortz, a senior hydrogeologist with Fuss & O'Neill of Providence, said both foundations, along with the Carmichael Mill's stone chimney and a stone marker commemorating a 1636 Indian battle over fishing rights, will remain at the site as an ode to the property's history.

"There's a lot of different history on this piece of small land," Kortz said, during an update on remediation efforts Thursday night at the H.L. Arnold Fire and Safety Complex.

Kortz said an environmental assessment identified soil contamination throughout the site from

coal storage and ash dumping that were part of the site's industrial past. The polluted soil, which contains high levels of metals and semi-volatile organic compounds [SVOCs] that are dangerous to ingest, is also a potential threat to the Pawcatuck River due to erosion.

To limit human exposure to the toxins, Kortz said the top foot of soil will be removed from the site and replaced with a cap of clean fill. The riverbank will be stabilized to prevent erosion, and a land use restriction will be recorded with the property's deed that prohibits the soil cap's disturbance, he said.

The town will be required to inspect the cap annually, and issue its findings to the state Department of Environmental Management.

Kortz said the park is envisioned to include a canoe/kayak launch, a sitting area near the Carmichael Mill's foundation, a small parking lot, trees, signage and — potentially — a pedestrian bridge connecting the park to the Charlestown side of the river.

Its design is contingent upon \$100,000 in state Passive and Historic Park Development/Recreation Grant funds administered through DEM, which have yet to be distributed. State

residents approved the funds via an open space bond referendum in 2004.

Railroad Avenue resident Ken Vorse, who lives across from the mill site, said he opposes plans for a parking area near the Carmichael Mill's foundation. Several other residents who attended Thursday's meeting agreed that parallel parking along the dead-end street is a better option.

"I really don't want parking there," Vorse said. "I don't want people coming in and out."

Kortz said later that landscape architecture consultants will consider other areas for parking.

In related news, town planners from Charlestown and Richmond are looking for Shannock area residents to take part in a focus group

that will consider future land use throughout the village. Between the two towns, there are currently nine zoning designations in Shannock.

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Plans for park moving forward

By Chris Keegan
The Sun Staff

RICHMOND — A proposed park at the site of the former Knowles Mill in Shannock could be built as soon as next fall, but plans to remove the Lower Shannock Falls Dam are expected to delay the project.

Geoffrey A. Marchant, director of the East Greenwich Community Development Consortium, acknowledged Thursday that the park could be built as early as September 2009, though the dam's removal — which is subject to the state's wetland permitting process — could pose a setback.

The removal of the Lower Shannock Falls Dam would improve fish passage, and is considered to be a separate tie-in project led by groups such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Resources Conservation Service.

"We'd prefer not to wait," Marchant said, not-

See Park, Page 5

Shannock fish passage gets funding from oil spill grant

■ Project is one of six to receive money from tax on oil imports.

PROVIDENCE (AP) — The Shannock Falls fish passage in Richmond is among the projects being funded by grants from a fund created by taxing oil imports.

Six coastal improvement

projects have received a total of \$225,000 in grants.

The tax on oil imports, imposed after the North Cape oil spill in 1996, originally was for responses to oil spills.

The Shannock Falls project has received \$35,000.

But the General Assembly later directed some of the proceeds to coastal habitat restoration.

The grant winners:

- Ten Mile River Fish Passage in East Providence, \$100,000;
- Woonasquatucket River Paragon Dam Fish Passage in Providence, \$40,000.

- Blackstone River Fish Passages in Pawtucket, Central Falls, Cumberland and Lincoln, \$35,000.

- Silver Creek Salt Marsh Restoration in Bristol, \$10,000

- State of Rhode Island, \$5,000.

Dams and fish ladders
New WPWA director to oversee historic work
By David Smith / Press writer
(Created: Friday, October 10, 2008 12:06 PM EDT)

The new director of the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association has his hands full these days.

Executive Director Chris Fox, 34, who started in March, is working for an organization that has some lofty goals. While working to protect the watershed and keep it pristine, he and his organization are also working toward getting more people to appreciate its beauty and potential.

It also has its sights set on removing several dams that are hindering the migration of fish along the Pawcatuck River that runs from Worden's Pond in South Kingstown to the ocean at Watch Hill. Along the way, the Pawcatuck connects with the Wood River that flows into it just a few hundred yards below the Alton dam.

Some of these dams have been in place for centuries and hearken to a time when the rivers were a resource used to power the mills that were the lifeblood of the villages of Hope Valley, Kenyon, Shannock, Bradford and Potter Hill. The mills are gone in some places, still active in others, and elsewhere just deteriorating shells or foundations. The dams, however, are no longer used for power.

And, there hasn't been a major planned dam removal in Rhode Island since, well – never.

Fox says that hopefully, the organization's work on these projects will help streamline the process and help other organizations around the state.

To say the removal of dams is a daunting task is an understatement. But the group is giving it a try with its sights set on removing the lower falls dam in Shannock as soon as the end of 2009. WPWA currently is making improvements to the fish ladder in Bradford to supports its fish passage efforts upstream in Shannock Village. The next dam in its sights is the removal of the dam adjacent to Kenyon Piece and Dye, and construction of a fish ladder at Horseshoe Falls in Shannock.

Fox began his route to the directorship in a rather circuitous way. He grew up in Cumberland and has always had a love of the outdoors. He remembers going to a summer canoe camp at the Alton-Jones Campus in Exeter when he was 10 or 12 years old. Ironically, he remembers paddling by the home that now serves as his office on Arcadia Road.

He fell in love with Southern Rhode Island after he graduated from Cumberland High School in 1992 and headed off to the University of Rhode Island where he attained a degree in environmental management in 1996. Since then he has continued to reside within the

watershed that he was so drawn to as a child. Along the way he and his wife, Melanie were fortunate enough to rent a house on 100- Acre pond in West Kingston, before settling in Hope Valley. But there was always that love for the water.

Fox had a few jobs before landing at WPWA. He worked as a researcher for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, as the director of an environmental camp for the South County YMCA, with the state Department of Environmental Management as a supervising park ranger, Arnold Lumber Company as a special projects coordinator, as a Richmond Police dispatcher, and then for four years he ran his own home improvement company.

His introduction to the watershed organization came when he was conducting renovations on the watershed's headquarters at the Barberville Dam at the time a director was being trained to replace then director Lori Urso. The incoming director left during the training process and Fox was encouraged to apply for the job and he was fortunate enough to be hired.

"I wasn't looking for a career change, it came and found me," Fox said.

While Fox said he might have thought the organization's main goal was to serve its members, he soon realized that its purpose was much broader.

"We are here for the benefit of the public as well as the members," he said. "We need new members," he added. "We've grown to the point where being a member of the watershed is empowering, but we no longer rely solely on member dues for our operating costs."

Less than one eighth of the operating budget comes from membership revenue. The group's yearly operating budget is about \$215,000.

Fox speaks passionately about the watershed and says he doesn't mind putting in extra hours if the benefit is protecting such an invaluable resource for the community. Seeing the smile on a youngster when he catches a fish, Fox asks, 'how can you put a dollar amount on that?"

Fox is currently working without a contract but sees his tenure with the watershed lasting at least a decade "or until sea run fish are once again utilizing the 1,300 acres of spawning grounds within Worden's Pond in South Kingstown.

"I already have a lot of blood, sweat and tears invested in restoring fish passage to Worden's Pond. I'm not going anywhere until it's done," Fox said referring to the dam removal plans.

"Ultimately I would like to see myself in 20 to 25 years still at the helm of WPWA, operating in a bigger facility with increased staff and greater funding stability."

He sees the role of the organization rapidly evolving and says it will grow to support statewide efforts in conservation. With even deeper funding cuts at the state level expected in the near future, the group expects to be taking on projects for which the state now lacks the resources to administrate themselves. Fox said that he heard recently that as much as 70 percent of the R.I. Department of Environmental Management's Fish and Wildlife staff is

planning to retire in 2009.

He cites as one example a vernal pool inventory and assessment project undertaken by the watershed group in spring of 2008. WPWA's Program Director Denise Poyer worked closely with DEM staff to recruit more than 70 watershed volunteers to conduct field survey work. The goal of the study was to confirm or dispute the existence of vernal pools within the watershed identified through aerial photos.

Vernal pools are standing bodies of water which hold water for only a few months during the spring season. The pools are sanctuaries for amphibian organisms such as salamanders and fairy shrimp to breed without the threat of predation by fish. These woodland pools are critical to the overall health of the watershed.

Dams and fish ladders

The Bradford Fish Ladder, constructed in the early 1980s, has endured annual high water events that have altered the original stream channel. Erosion around the ladder, combined with high water that traditionally occurs during the spring fish migration, have led to a reduction in the number of fish utilizing the ladder.

On occasion, the entrance to the ladder is submerged, rendering it inaccessible to the migratory fish. Fish are attracted to the turbulent waters that flow from the ladder's entrance, when the entrance is submerged, fish species such as shad, herring, salmon and trout become confused and cannot locate it. As a result, many of these fish attempt to migrate over the adjacent Bradford Dye dam.

Unable to make the giant leap, a vast number of fish exhaust themselves and expire at the dam without spawning and producing next year's crop of returning fish.

The cost for improvements to the Bradford ladder are about \$80,000 and are expected to be completed by Wilco Development of Johnston by late October. This project has been made possible through funding from the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

WPWA has partnered with the state Department of Environmental Management, which owns this ladder, and with Bradford Dyeing Association, which owns the land on which the ladder sits. The engineering work for the project was provided by the firm of Fuss & O'Neill.

One benefit of the project will be the stabilization of the surrounding stream bank allowing for safer portage around the ladder by kayakers and canoeists.

Fox hopes that the improved site conditions and proposed interpretive signage might facilitate visits from school groups so that they may witness the migration up the ladder firsthand.

At its October meeting, the WPWA board will discuss signing a contract with an engineering firm to design and permit the removal of Lower Shannock Falls dam located between Horseshoe Falls and the bridge on Old Shannock Road.

While the nearly \$140,000 needed to fund the engineering has been secured, WPWA has yet to clearly identify where funding will come from to support Fox's staff time on this project.

The recent economic uncertainty has contributed to the evaporation of a significant portion of private funding which concerns Fox and the WPWA board. Without clearly identifying new sources of private funding to support staff time prior to contracting with an engineering firm, WPWA risks operating in a deficit.

WPWA is dedicated to supporting fishway restoration efforts but not if it will be at the expense of the organization's financial integrity, says Fox. The federal, state, and municipal grants toward the Shannock Restoration efforts allow for very little direct funds to be applied toward staff time and operating expenses, he adds.

Fox readily admits that the removal of the old dam on this section by the end of 2009 is a rather ambitious timetable, but it is work that needs to be done. The total cost of removing this dam is expected to run about \$750,000 and is fraught with a whole host of unknowns, says Fox.

While it would be ideal to next work on the fish ladder at Horseshoe Falls, the next project could be a smaller undertaking, removing the dam at Kenyon Piece and Dye. Work on a fish ladder at Horseshoe Falls will require a lot of time, engineering and funds, he says.

Fox admits that the fish ladder at Potter Hill is the gateway to the Pawcatuck River and improvements there are needed, but he is waiting to see what becomes of the old Potter Hill mill before making any moves. The fish ladder at the Potter Hill Dam is passing fish but needs improvements to optimize passage and support efforts up stream at Bradford and Shannock, Fox said.

Looking ahead

One of the things Fox has on his agenda is to revamp or expand the recreational and educational programs offered by the watershed group. He said it hurt him to turn away people this year from some of the outings along the river. For various logistical and safety reasons, the group can generally handle only about 20 kayaks or canoes per paddle and they had had up to 50 people wanting to participate.

One idea on the "Source to Sea" paddles would be to take the more aggressive type of paddlers out on a Saturday and reserve Sunday for the more laid back types.

Another item on the agenda is river maintenance and keeping the river open to everyone, including handicapped paddlers. Dealing with windfalls is difficult and proves problematic to many paddlers.

Fox would also like to set up a volunteer network to help him monitor the watershed in the 14 towns it encompasses.

"I need someone in each town," he says, to monitor watershed concerns at town meetings and to keep an eye on things. The volunteers would report to him when there was an issue that needed his direct attention.

A long way down the road could be construction of an in-stream hatchery for salmon. Fish stocked into the river may lack the chemical “imprint” of the river, he says, and are unlikely to return. A state run program to stock salmon has met with marginal success at best, he says.

A hatchery in the river would imprint the fry with the characteristics of the river, which could include subtle chemicals in the water that they can sense and associate with their home. This identification process or imprinting leads them back up the river from the ocean when it comes time to spawn.

The best hope for this type of project would be \$25 million in federal money that will be available next year for Atlantic salmon restoration. Fox says he is hopeful that DEM might work to amend their stocking program through these funds with some technical input from WPWA’s fisheries experts.

Ready
for a
Requiem'



The Chorus
prepares
to present
masterpiece.

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VOLUME 113, NUMBER 279

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THE SUN



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WESTERLY, R.I. FRIDAY, May 12, 2006

Cat crackdown?

By Associated Press

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island House lawmakers have approved a bill that would require cat owners to spay or neuter their pets if they are more than six months old, unless the owners have a permit or aeder's license. Rep. Charlene Lima, D-Cranston, said the bill would reduce the number of cats sterilized annually in Rhode Island by up to 35 percent.

■ Rhode Island House backs bill requiring pet owners to spay cats over the age of 6 months.

"A society is judged based on how it treats its most vulnerable," Lima said. "That's why it's so important we take care of our little furry friends."

But some animal rights advocates, while wanting to reduce the state's cat population, have argued that the bill could prompt abandonment of healthy pets if their owners can't afford the costly birth-control procedures.

The bill has a provision for low-income pet owners to receive subsidies for low-cost

spay and neuter surgery. It also exempts farmers. The Senate also approved the bill this week, meaning the measure will now go to Gov. Donald L. Carcieri for his signature.

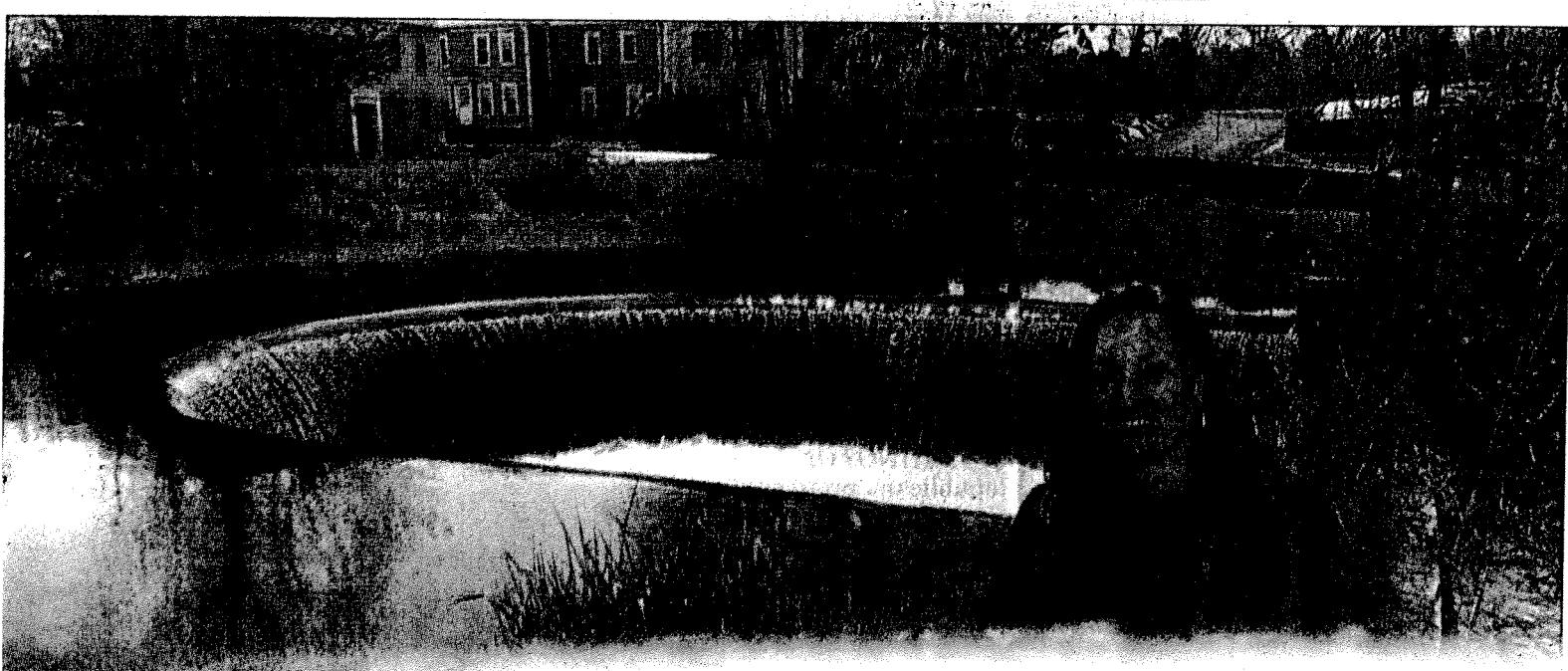
Supporters say the bill could save thousands of cats from being euthanized, save birds preyed on by alley cats and ease overcrowding in animal shelters.

The state Department of Environmental Management reports that 6,850 cats were

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'We need to evaluate issues with moving fish, determine the economic feasibility, the lowest cost and the most doable alternative.'

Lori Urso, executive director, Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association



DANIEL HYLAND / The Sun

Pawcatuck Watershed Association Director Lori Urso is spearheading efforts to boost fish passage in areas such as the eshoe Falls in Shannock.

One for the fish

Watershed group project designed to improve passage and revitalize fish species in area rivers.

ic Creamer
in Staff

CHMOND — Public support is run-high for a fish passage feasibility in a stretch of the Pawcatuck in Shannock, if comments during dic forum Thursday are any indi-

Wood Pawcatuck Watershed iation held a public meeting at ichmond Carolina Fire Station to ss its plans to look into opening s to historic spawning grounds in er Pawcatuck watershed for is local species. The study will be g at two dams: the Lower Falls ilroad Street in Richmond and orseshoe Falls on the Richmond-estown border.

we can secure enough funding he state, we can go further

upstream to the Kenyon Mill site, which is the final impediment to move fish up the Pawcatuck and into Worden's Pond (in South Kingstown)," said Lori Urso, the executive director of the WPWA. "We need to evaluate issues with moving fish, determine the economic feasibility, the lowest cost and the most doable alternative."

Urso said the association is looking to hire an engineering firm and have it undertake tasks such as identifying impacts that could occur to resources, topography, ecology, how the water is moving and how to deal with constraints such as wetlands.

She told the crowd there will be no building involved.

"This is not a construction project, and it won't become one," Urso said.

There are already species of fish in the lower fish ladders in Bradford, but

the association is looking to open the passage. Urso said before the meeting that the association may introduce species into the waters, but "they're not at that point."

The fish species involved in the study include river herring, sea-run trout, American shad and other species, according to Urso.

During the study, she also said the WPWA, along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Richmond Conservation Commission, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Project, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the R.I. Department of Environmental Management, will be taking sediment samples, checking water quality and water chemical data as well as "getting advice from local historic agencies and

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Nation

Reports of widespread phone monitoring cloud CIA pick.
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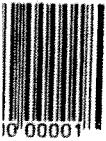
Coming tomorrow



Ripple Effect:
Oil prices forcing
business to pass on
cost to consumers.
— In Sun Business —

Visit The Sun online at:

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's daily listing
events — Page 14.

Endangered Species Day

■ R.I. lawmakers hail work at Kettle Pond Center.

By Chris Keegan
The Sun Staff

CHARLESTOWN — It's a day that marks Minnesota's admittance as the 32nd U.S. state and the creation of Glacier National Park in Montana.

But from now on, Americans in all 50 states may recognize May 11 as a day honoring the protection of rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals.

Last month, members of Congress unanimously passed a resolution introduced by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., that establishes the eleventh as Endangered Species Day — an opportunity to educate the

public about threatened wildlife and to promote conservation. The April resolution was co-sponsored by Rhode Island Sens. Lincoln Chafee and Jack Reed.

As a testament to protection effort since the passage of the federal Endangered Species Act more than three decades ago, state Reps. Arthur Handy, D-Cranston, and Peter I. Lewiss, D-Westerly, paid homage on Thursday to a local success story — the resurgence of the piping plover on Rhode Island's shorelines.

During a small ceremony at the Kettle Pond Visitor Center off Route

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★ Fish

from page 1

(Narragansett) tribal leaders."

"A report will be made public, and there will be two public forums with the consultants," said Urso.

She said bids for an engineering firm to do the study will go out next week, and "we'll try to make a decision by the end of May." She said she already has a list of 15 firms that could do the work.

"It will take a couple of months to make the report, but it's safe to say that by winter we'll have results to report to the community."

Phil Edwards of Rhode Island's DEM said the Pawcatuck River is "one of the longest herring runs in the state and the only sustaining shad run."

"We will be monitoring fish using traps, nets, electrofishing and boat fishing," he said. "We'd be providing over 1,200 additional acres of spawning habitat, which is double what the fish currently have."

Lisa Cavallaro of the NOAA said the study is "an incredible opportunity to provide access to the species, and we're excited about being involved and working with the community," while Jim Turek, also of the NOAA and a member of Richmond's Conservation Commission, told the audience they

'We're looking at a higher cost if we stretch the work out to a third dam.'

Lori Urso,
Wood Pawcatuck
Watershed Association

met with representatives of Kenyon Industries (on Route 2) in April to discuss the possibility of opening their three-foot dam.

"They were very supportive," Turek said. "A consultant could look at their dam and the cost effectiveness of doing all three dams at once instead of doing the first two right now."

Turek also said that the cost to do the study will range between \$75,000-\$100,000 for the two dams.

"We're looking at a higher cost if we stretch the work out to a third dam," said Urso.

John Stolgitis, formerly chief of the R.I. Division of Fish and Wildlife, said he'd studied fish passage and restoration from the 1960s through the '80s, and he said he wasn't sure if the Pawcatuck was a better habitat for

certain "The River tat," sites the pa It's in possibl the W Word passa ing fi time ladd Res for th "I t excite Neus owne Me Plani "I t that i with villag river, The of Ra demo will b stand

★ Species

from page 1

1, the local legislators issued a citation to Wendy Edwards for her work as a piping plover coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The small, coastal bird is currently threatened by coastal development.

"I think it (Endangered Species Day) is a real opportunity to celebrate the work of the staff here (at the center), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, non-profit groups and everyday citizens who have worked to bring back species from the brink of extinction," said Handy, who is an endangered species organizer for the Environment Council of Rhode Island.

"This is an opportunity

for Rhode Islanders to learn about endangered species," he said.

Enacted in 1973, the Endangered Species Act has successfully prevented the extinction of hundreds of species, including the humpback whale, Kirtland's warbler and bull trout, according to the Environment Council. More than 1,800 plants and animals across the country are currently considered endangered or threatened.

The Ocean State is currently home to five national wildlife refuges and more than a dozen protected animals, including the Bald eagle, the Roseate tern, the American burying beetle and several species of sea turtles.

Lewis - who recently co-sponsored a resolution in

the state House Representatives honor the day - said the extinction of species and the destruction of habitat threatens the cultivation of medicines from nature.

"Representative Han and I are among the legislators in this state who strongly believe that we have a responsibility to protect wildlife, plants and fish that are on the brink of extinction," he said. "We owe it to our children and grandchildren to be good stewards of the environment and leave behind a legacy of protecting endangered species and the special places they call home."

As plover coordinator close to three years, Edwards said plover nests are monitored locally at Ninigret Conservation Area (also known as East Beach).

Fish and Shannock dams targeted by Watershed panel

By Eric Creamer
The Sun Staff

Westerly Sun
5-8-06

CAROLINA – Fish passage at two dams in Shannock Village will be the topic of a public meeting of the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association Thursday at the Carolina Volunteer Fire Station on Route 112.

Lori Urso, the executive director of the WPWA, said the association wants to inform members of the community about fishway restoration and what the association hopes to learn from a feasibility study of fish passes local rivers. The town of Richmond is also involved in the study. The meeting is set for 7 p.m.

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Urso said the WPWA and other state and local partner "hope to someday open access to the rivers' historic spawning grounds in the upper Pawcatuck watershed, encouraging re-population by river herring, sea-run trout, American shad and other species."

Urso said that, historically, they "were important fishery resources that once flourished" in the area but are now "declining regionally due to habitat loss and degradation and other factors."

"The feasibility study will look at the potential for fish passage at each site, and the alternative methods of achieving passage where possible," Urso said. "On completion of the study, a report will be published and made available to the public."

Urso said in an interview that there "already are some species at the lower fish ladders, but once we can open it up, we can begin to count larger populations."

"Many spawning acres are in Worden's Pond (in South Kingstown)," she said, "so we'd like to see that in Shannock. We might reintroduce species into the area in the future, but we're not at that point."

The partners with the WPWA that will

also be presenting Thursday include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Richmond Conservation Commission, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Project, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the R.I. Department of Environmental Management.

The Shannock waterway, which runs between two dams (one at the Charlestown-Richmond border and another at Railroad Street in Richmond), would continue to be open for fishing.

"This won't affect fishing in our rivers," Urso said. "Most people are limited to a six-fish bag limit on trout, which is what most people are trying to catch."

WPWA is a nonprofit organization founded in 1983, and, according to its web site, www.wpwa.org, its "mission is to promote and protect the land and waters of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed."

The statement says that funding for the Shannock feasibility study is provided by the R.I. Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Trust, and NOAA-American Rivers Partnership. For more information call 401-539-9017.

ecreamer@thewesterlysun.com

**UPPER PAWCATUCK RIVER
FISH PASSAGE ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS
AND FEASIBILITY STUDY RFP**

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, on behalf of its partners RIDEM, NOAA, USFWS, & Town of Richmond, seeks a qualified engineering firm to evaluate fish passage alternatives at the Lower and Upper Shannock Dams in Richmond, RI. Evaluation to include an assessment of the condition of both dams, and various engineering and environmental studies at each site, to determine the feasibility of design alternatives, and social and environmental impacts, of fish passage at both dams, as well as the most practicable and least costly type of fish passage at each site. Mandatory pre-bid conference May 15; proposals are due May 31. RFP available at www.wpwa.org. Questions to Lori Urso at 401-539-9017. WPWA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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or the hearing date (TDD 101
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Meeting slated on plan to study fish passage on rivers

RICHMOND — A study of fish passage at two dams in Shannock Village will be the subject of a public meeting Thursday, May 11, at 7 p.m. in the Carolina Volunteer Fire Station, Richmond Town-

house Road (Route 112).

Lori Urso, executive director of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA), said the purpose of the preliminary meeting is to

SOUTH COUNTY

inform the community of what the WPWA hopes to learn from a feasibility study of fish passage at the sites.

Urso said the WPWA and other state and local partners hope to open access to the two rivers' historic spawning grounds in the upper Pawcatuck watershed, encouraging repopulation by sea-run trout, river herring, shad and other species.

Historically, these were important fishery resources that once flour-

ished in the watershed, Urso said.

The feasibility study, sponsored by the town and the WPWA, will look at the potential for fish passage at each site, and alternate methods of achieving passage where possible.

At the meeting, the WPWA will discuss various aspects of the study, including an anticipated timeline. It will be joined by several of its partner agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

tration (NOAA), the Richmond Conservation Commission, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Project, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Department of Environmental Management.

Urso said a report will be published and made available to the public when the study is completed.

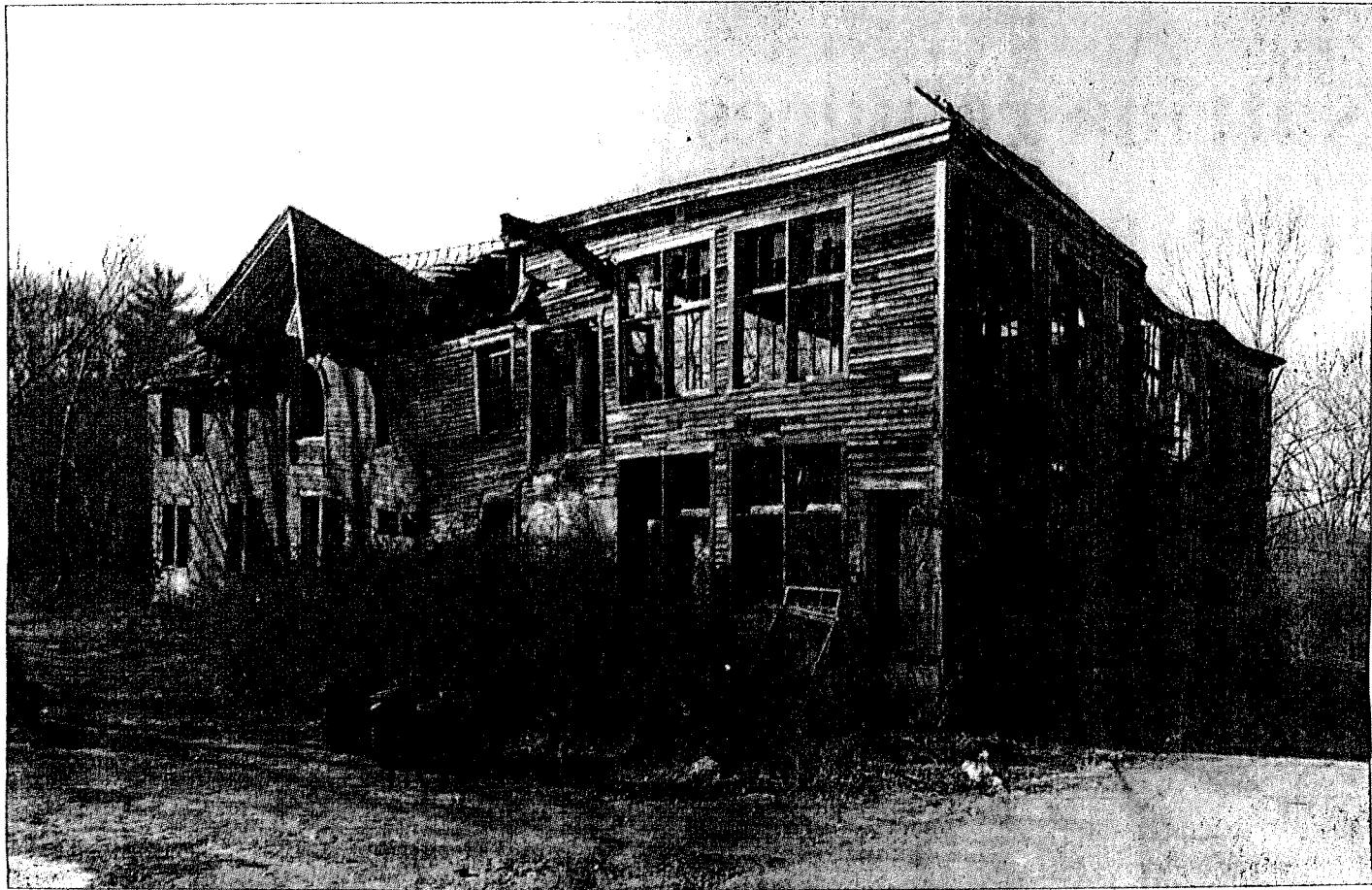
The study is being funded the NOAA-American Rivers Partnership and the Rhode Island Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Trust.

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Providence Journal

5-2-06

Mill demolition plan advancing



JOHN KOULBANIS / The Sun

Knowles' Mills, a historic mill site in Shannock, above, has long been slated for demolition, but several roadblocks have been cleared recently on the path to razing the building. The free-standing chimney, below, will remain.

Development group expects funds to raze Knowles' Mills

By Eric Creamer
and Chris Keegan

The Sun Staff

SHANNOCK — The remains of the historic Knowles' Mills building may soon be razed.

Geoffrey A. Marchant, executive director of the East Greenwich Community Development Consortium, said a plan to turn the Railroad Street mill site into a recreation area is well underway, using existing Community Development Block Grants awarded to the towns of Charlestown and Richmond.

The demolition of the mill — which is located on the Richmond side of the Pawcatuck River — has long been the plan of town officials,

though the proposal hit roadblocks last year.

"There was a line item of \$30,000 for the destruction of the mill in (Richmond's) town budget... but we had to first perform an asbestos abatement plan to remove any hazardous material, which began to use up money," Marchant said. "We received the federal grants, but it was frozen by the state."

Marchant — who oversees the distribution of federal money to local community projects — said he expects the state's Office of Municipal Affairs to unfreeze Richmond's 2004 CDBG awards next month. The thaw would allow for a \$35,000 shift in available funds towards the project, he said.

See MIII, Page 5



Several years ago, the town was awarded money for the installation of a fire suppression system at the Banonchet Cliffs elderly housing complex in Hope Valley, but the project was never finished. State officials froze the town's grant awards as an incentive to repay \$89,000 in project costs.

Bids to install the system are close to being finalized, Marchant said.

Earlier this month, Charlestown's Town Council approved a similar lift in CDBG awards to pay for the mill project. Items of \$4,000 awarded in 2000 and \$5,000 in 2002 for the completion of a pedestrian footbridge crossing the river will help pay for the mill's demolition, Marchant said.

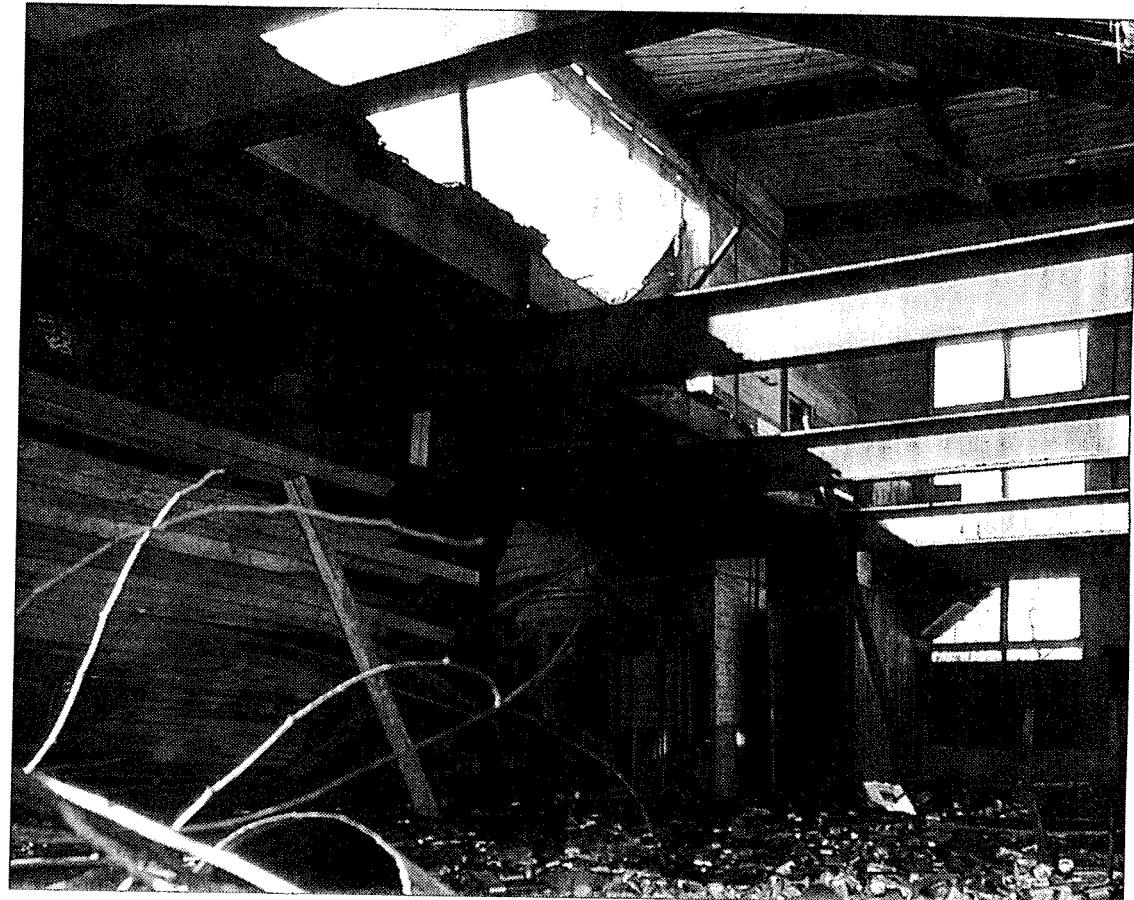
Because Shannock is located in Charlestown and Chond, Marchant said the use of funds awarded to the towns for village projects is not uncommon.

Once a demolition agreement has been signed and executed, the state Department of Environmental Management will conduct a field assessment to determine whether there are contaminants on the site. If pollutants are found, additional money will be required to clean up the property, Marchant said.

The town could then enter into a purchase and sale agreement with the property's owner at a cost of \$1.

Despite the simplicity of the plan, Marchant said the mill's undoing may not be an easy task. An initial bid to raze the building would have cost \$3,990 — a sum that Chond Town Council President W. Michael Sullivan considered too high.

Ordinarily, if a building is to come down, any asbestos and hazardous material would come out, but the mill has roof-



JOHN KOULBANIS / The Sun

The inside of Knowles' Mills in Shannock shows debris and clutter, but the East Greenwich Community Development Consortium hopes to turn the site into a recreation area.

ing paper and part of the roof caving and falling into the building, so it will have to be selectively demolished," Marchant said. "An excavator can't be used to drive right into the building. They'll have to go outside and pick away at the building because of the unusual circumstances."

Though the building would be razed, Marchant said the structure's three-story chimney will remain because it is home to chimney swifts — soot-colored birds that use brick stove pipes as communal nests.

"There's a regulation that state then when federal money may affect historical structures, the town has to get approval from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission," he said. "They want the town to preserve the free-standing chimney and the foundation, so we're accommodating that."

Originally the site of a grist mill, John T. Knowles

built a textile mill on the four-acre property after purchasing it in 1833.

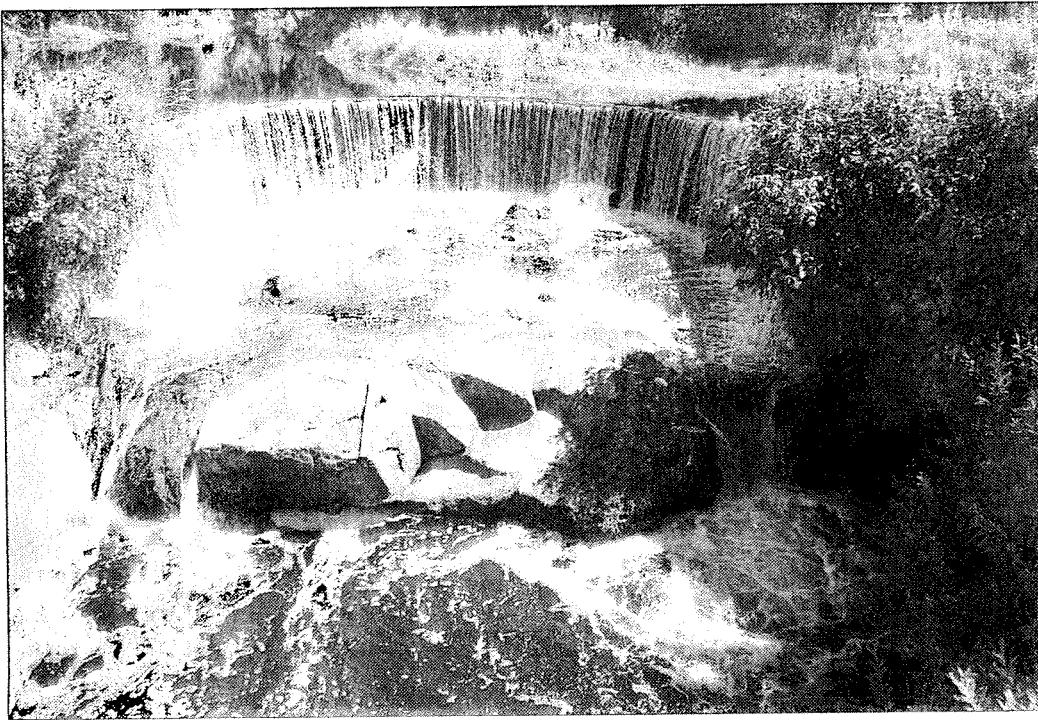
"The (Shannock) Falls that the Narragansetts and Pequots fought over for fishing rights in 1636 were dammed to produce power for the mill," wrote Carolyn Stoner in the historical text *Driftways Into the Past*. "On September 11, 1834, a five-year lease agreement was recorded between Knowles and Samuel Hoxsie for two upper rooms in the mill with half rights to the water power and the water wheel. The agree-

ment indicates that there was cotton machinery in the mill."

In 1875, A. Carmichael and Co. purchased the property at public auction, and began the manufacture of woolens and mixed goods in the mill. The mill burned in 1884, but was re-built and leased to the Shannock Narrow Fabrics Co.

The company erected the two-story structure seen today. Its current owner Broderick Macari bought the property eight years ago in a tax sale, Marchant said.

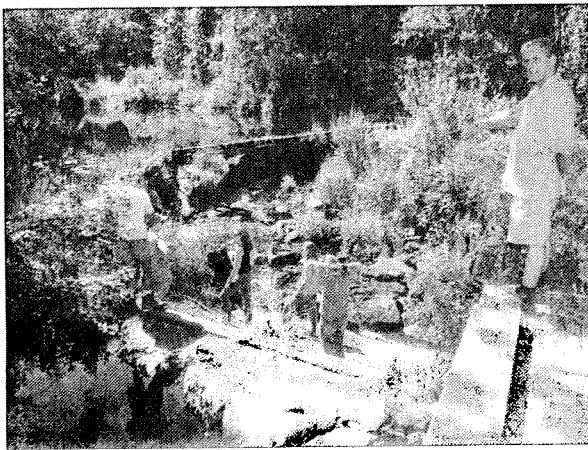
9/15/95
Wood River Press (Sun)



JOHN KOULBANIS / *The Press*

Fishing for a change

Residents and representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the Wood-Pawcatuck River Association recently toured the Horsehoe Falls in Shannock, above, and the Shannock Falls, below and right, where there is hope for the construction of a fish ladder to help fish navigate the falls.



Final workshop on Shannock fish passage scheduled

RICHMOND – The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, its partner agencies, and engineering consultants Milone and MacBroom, invite members of the public to a presentation on the final draft of the Shannock - Kenyon Fish Passage Study Report, and to offer comment on the draft report. The date is Wednesday, May 30; 6 - 8pm, at the H. L. Arnold Fire and Safety Complex, 208 Richmond Townhouse Road, Richmond.

"The workshop is being held to give area residents and recreational river users an opportunity to weigh in on the report's content, and particularly the suggested alternative methods of moving fish over and around the Kenyon Dam, Horseshoe Fall, and Lower Shannock Falls," says Lori Urso, the association's executive

director.

The draft report is currently available for public review at the Clark Memorial Library, or as a download from www.wpwa.org, the association's Web site. Urso cautions that the file is large and may require extra time to download. Study partners are also completing their reviews of the draft in advance of the meeting.

The report looks at the area's history, target fish species, its river resources, hydrology and flow. It offers architectural renderings of what various fish passage alternatives may look like if implemented at the three locations. It also makes recommendations based on computer modeling of the alternatives, and potential costs associated with those alternatives. It will incorporate a Cultural and

Historic Assessment conducted by Public Archaeology Laboratory.

The purpose of the study and report is to determine the potential for restoring fish passage along the Pawcatuck, restoring stream continuity for the benefit of native species such as the brook trout, and providing access to upstream spawning grounds of diadromous species such as river herring, American Shad, American Eel, brown trout and others.

Funding for the study was provided by the RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Trust, NOAA-American Rivers Partnership, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and WPWA. Other project partners include the towns of Richmond and Charlestown, Narragansett

Bay Estuary Project, and RI Department of Environmental Management.

Additional information is available at www.wpwa.org, or 401-539-9017.

The Westerly Sun 5-14-07

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**Wood-Pawcatuck
Watershed Association**

Photo by Jim Cook

Lower Barberville Falls on the upper Wood River, off Arcadia Road.

Opinions expressed in *Watershed* are not necessarily
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WATERSHED

A Newsletter of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Volume 24 No. 4

FALL 2007

Asiatic Clam *Corbicula fluminea* Invades Worden Pond

By Ray Hartenstein

On a visit to the Worden Pond boat launch in late August, the invasive Asiatic clam *Corbicula fluminea* was found.

The first evidence of its presence was dead Asiatic clam shells. The following day, ten to fifteen qualitative random samples were taken with a modified quahog rake, and living adult clams were found. Subsequent

collections of twenty quantitative samples within a 750 square centimeter area with the quahog rake unearthed two caddis fly cases, one juvenile *Campaloma decisum* snail, forty-one live *Corbicula*, and 76 live native Unionid mussels. It should be noted that this data is preliminary, and further sampling is planned.

The invasive adult *Corbicula* is sub-oval in shape and looks like a miniature marine Quahog clam. It is gold to gold-brown in color and typically measures 10 to 22 cm long. For physical comparison, the common native RI adult *Elliptio complanata* freshwa-

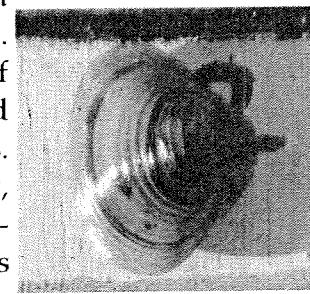
ter mussel is sub-rhomboidal in shape and measures 60 to 120 cm. It is black-brown to black in color.

In comparing the relative abundance of dead *Corbicula* shells found in Tiogue Lake in Coventry, where the clam was first discovered in 1999, to those found in Worden Pond, it appears that *Corbicula* has been in Worden

Pond for a shorter period of time and likely a more recent introduction. The recommended next investigation would be to sample several locations throughout Worden Pond to see if the Asiatic clam has been introduced widely in the water body.

There is a suspicion that *Corbicula* could alter the trophic structure of the pond. For instance, in the early 1980's the pond had a greater abundance of *Campaloma* snails, which seemed at the time to be one of the most abundant mollusks around the public boat launch.

During quantitative sampling in late August of this year how-

Asiatic clam *Corbicula* found in Worden Pond in August

ever, only one live *Campaloma* snail was found, and no dead snail shells were found. How the presence of *Corbicula* could impact the native invertebrate population is not entirely clear. What is known, however, is that large *Corbicula* populations in other lakes and or rivers do have periodic die-offs, resulting in the release of decay products. One of these is un-ionized ammonia, which has been known to kill native mussels and other invertebrates. Once these huge *Corbicula* die-offs begin to occur, the environmental conditions within the lake itself could be permanently impacted.

Worden Pond is a shallow, sand-silt bottom environment which is ideal for *Corbicula* clam growth. Populations of 10,000 to 20,000 per meter are not unheard of, and a population of this size will affect and change the phytoplankton, invertebrate and vertebrate populations, as well as the organic dynamics of the pond. The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed is the cleanest and most species-diverse watershed in

(Continued on page 6)

From the Executive Director

A season of change at WPWA

It has been my pleasure to serve as your executive director for this second tenure of seven years, as well as the earlier three.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished together, to make WPWA a celebrated leader in watershed management, and a model for other organizations.

Among my most proud occasions have been those that have celebrated others.

In the fall of 1993, I proudly stood aside Jay Cronan to dedicate our new headquarters in honor of Charles H. Wright, and I was deeply moved to stand before a Jay's friends and family this past July to posthumously dedicate the John M. "Jay" Cronan River Access to him.

It felt wonderful in May to initiate the Saul B. Saila Fellowship in honor of my friend and mentor, and to have him present for the occasion. He has given so much of himself for us.

It was bittersweet to enjoy one last lunch with Mitch and Betty Salomon together in the fall of 2005, after selling off Betty's revered orchid collection to benefit the Salomon Endowment. Laughing with Mitch that sunny afternoon is a treasured memory today.

Denise Poyer without question has been the best partner of my professional career. I want everyone to know how valuable she is to the organization, and that it is her hard work, often overlooked, that carries us. I am so glad we had the opportunity to

work together again. She is a fine and dedicated scientist and educator, and a truly irreplaceable asset.

Ray Cherenzia's willingness to share his expertise so freely with me is the reason so many of our projects have come to life. I owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his time and assistance.

Many charitable foundation leaders have also put a great deal of faith in me, and supported WPWA because of it. Tom Black, Doug Lattner, Dave King, Keith Lang, Devon Preston, Peter Arnold, and many others- I sincerely appreciate your consideration.

I appreciate our trustees' willingness to let me lead in my own way, and follow my vision for WPWA. Thank you for the opportunity to do so.

To our many friends at RIDEM- Christine, Brian, Phil, John, Lisa and others- your open doors and cooperative nature have been a tremendous part of our success.



Photo of Charlie the Heron
by Diana Norton-Jackson

Charlie
Hickox and
his name-
sake, Char-

lie the Heron-I have enjoyed your impromptu visits, and your collective inspiration.

Marty my dear- thank you for sparing me the lawn mowing!

I hear the music is playing in the background now, so to everyone else, best wishes and a fond farewell.

6/2

Brian A. Wagner appointed executive director of WPWA

Brian A. Wagner of Narragansett is the newly-appointed executive director of WPWA.

An environmental attorney who served sixteen years on staff at RIDEM, Wagner earned a Juris Doctor from Tulane University School of Law, where he was founding editor of the Environmental Law Journal. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Marine Affairs from the University of RI, and is well-trained in mediation.

Wagner will be welcomed aboard officially on October 15.

Fred Sculco of Westerly joins the Board of Trustees

Fred Sculco, a retired environmental educator, has been voted the newest member of WPWA's Board of Trustees. He will attend his first meeting on October 18.

A Westerly native, Sculco has an impressive resume of professional training and experience in the physical sciences. He holds a Master of Science degree in Virology, and has had extensive continuing education in science and biomedical disciplines.

Professionally he has received numerous awards of excellence for his teachings. He has worked at the secondary and college levels, primarily in the Greater Boston area, leading several academic departments in Biology, Biomedicine, Chemistry, and Forestry. Among his efforts is the establishment of a monitoring program for the Charles River Watershed.

WPWA CANOE AND HIKING GUIDES

Order Form

Wood-Pawcatuck River Guide (2nd edition)

By Charlie Hickox and Elly Heyder

\$ 4.00 members (\$5.00 non-members)

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



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Wood-Pawcatuck River Routes Map
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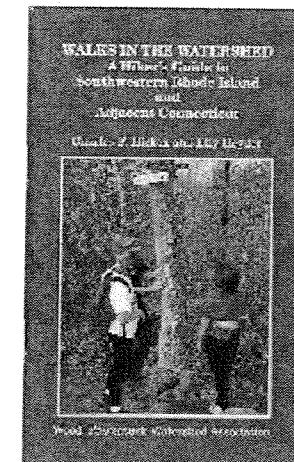
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Walks in the Watershed

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



Current water conditions delay fall trout stocking

www.dem.ri.gov, by clicking on "Fish and Wildlife" under "Offices and Divisions", then choosing "Freshwater Fisheries".

Small game, upland migratory bird hunting season posted

The RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife has set the seasons and bag limits for the Rhode Island small game hunting season that begins this year on Saturday, October 20. Seasons and bag limits for small game were set following a public hearing that was held in June. The 2007-08 Hunting and Trapping Season Abstract summarizes various laws and regulations affecting wildlife and specifies season dates and bag limits for game species. The Abstract is available from all license vendors as well

as RIDEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife offices in Wakefield and West Kingston and the Division of Licensing in Providence.

Best wishes to John O'Brien

WPWA trustees and staff extend fond wishes to John O'Brien, who recently retired as deputy director of RIDEM's Division Fish and Wildlife.

During his tenure, O'Brien worked to improve recreational fishing and hunting in RI though the acquisition of thousands of acres of open space.

A true friend and partner to WPWA, O'Brien played a crucial role in the establishment of the Barberville public access and permanent WPWA headquarters on the Wood River.

Battling blowdowns to keep paddlers afloat

By Denise J. Poyer

Paddling on the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers is a fun, healthy outdoor activity, and a great way to see this beautiful resource up close. However, because these are fairly small rivers in heavily forested areas, it is not uncommon to have trees fall across the channel, completely blocking passage by canoe and kayak. This is a natural occurrence caused most often by storm activity, or the undercutting of a tree on the bank by the river current. These felled trees are referred to as "blowdowns," and they can turn a fun trip into an arduous journey. Anyone who has had to drag a canoe up and over a blowdown, or portage around one through mud and briars, has had their patience and endurance tested.

Low water, especially as low as can occur in late summer months, can aggravate the situation and add hours onto what may have been an easy paddle in the early spring.

A common question asked by paddlers in the area is "who's responsible for clearing trees out of the river?" Unfortunately, the answer is "no one." However, for the past two decades, WPWA has taken on the task of river trail maintenance, including the periodic management of blowdowns as a service to the paddling community. Though it is difficult to respond immediately to each individual tree that

has fallen, as navigation becomes severely impaired by several obstructions, WPWA rounds up volunteers and staff, and when necessary landscape professionals, to take on these gentle giants.

Blowdown clearing for the purpose of restoring navigation is permitted as an exempted activity under the RI Freshwater Regula-

tions, Rule 6.02, Limited Cutting or Clearing of Vegetation, section J: "The cutting is performed to remove individual trees or portions thereof that have fallen over or into rivers normally accessible by canoes, kayaks, or boats."

Though WPWA has engaged the services of professional landscapers in the past, more recently the cooperation of volunteers alongside staff has been tested in the field. It seems many are drawn to an opportunity to use their chainsaws and hacksaws, and sink their teeth (literally) into this type of physical challenge.

In recent months, WPWA has been fortunate to have the open-ended energy, expertise and equipment of Susan Cerrulo, Jim Cole, Lisa Dennihy, Christopher Hawver, John Buscaglia, Sejal Harde, Charlie Hickox, Chet Hickox, Brett Mayette, and Christopher Quinn. These hardy folks have braved cold water conditions to assist staff in the tackling of heavy limbs and fat tree trunks, in order to make paddling a



Volunteer Lisa Dennihy using clippers to clear limbs from a blowdown on the Wood River.

more pleasurable experience for the many boaters who pass thru our river system. To the others who have offered, don't despair. There are plenty of trees stand-

ing by the riverside, just waiting to topple over one day.

The combined number of felled trees along with low water conditions rendered the rivers practically unnavigable this summer. Ten combined

outings were necessary between June and September to keep the rivers clear. Areas that needed particular attention included the upper Wood River, above the Barberville Dam; lower Wood from Switch Road down to the confluence with the Pawcatuck; and the Pawcatuck River from Rt. 112 to Burdickville.

In the process of clearing river obstructions, it is necessary to be sensitive to the value that this woody debris provides for aquatic species. Fallen debris creates very important habitat for all aquatic life that inhabit a river. Without woody debris in the water, there are few places for juvenile fish to hide from predators. Macroinvertebrates also colonize woody debris, and they in turn become food for the fish. Therefore, when river trails are managed, it is only to the extent necessary to allow a canoe or kayak to pass. The intent is never to remove all obstacles from the channel. This is nature, after all. The challenge of skirting around, over under, or even

(Continued next page)

Blowdowns

(Continued from previous page)

through blowdowns, provides an element of fun and interest to a river trip.

When paddling the rivers, be aware that different water levels present different problems with blowdowns. For instance, high water levels were predominant in June, during outings on the Pawcatuck between the Jay Cronan River Access on Rt. 91 and the Burdickville Road bridge. At the same river segment in September, the water level was so low that formerly submerged blowdowns became exposed and caused big problems for boaters. Clearing this segment the second time around required two days of work. Until much-needed precipitation allows the water levels to rise again, paddling may continue to be tricky on all river segments for this same reason.

The WPWA website is a resource for information on river conditions. The organization hopes to develop this feature more formally with an online blog in the future. Until then, members and river users can email denisep@wpwa.org to report obstructions and low-water conditions for posting on www.wpwa.org. As conditions improve and obstructions are cleared, the information will be updated. Remember, resource limitations and safety concerns make it impossible to respond immediately to each and every obstruction. Most of this work is concentrated in August and Sep-

tember, though some is conducted in the spring prior to the Source-to-Sea paddle in June.

For the adventurous who attempt the wild stretch from Worden Pond to Biscuit City Landing, aka the Charles River, beware. There are several natural obstructions from Beaver activity along this relatively narrow channel. As it is the most pristine section of river in our watershed, and in RI, this area is left to its own devices. WPWA makes no attempt to clear it, and does not promise to do so in the future. Should you decide to attempt it, be prepared for a challenge. Some may enjoy it, others will be overwhelmed.

The one type of obstruction WPWA opts to ignore is the beaver dam. Though pesky at times, the beavers' work is considered a natural obstruction and a normal part of the river landscape. Also, they tend to be more toward the surface of the river, as opposed to blowdowns which can rise several feet above the surface. Under normal flow conditions, most boaters can paddle over the top of them with just a little extra effort. Moreover, the removal of beaver-created obstructions is truly an exercise in futility, as no sooner is the obstruction cleared by man, nature's engineers very quickly, overnight usually, rebuild the dam.

The RI Department of Environmental Management also maintains a hand-off approach toward all beaver dams, as they are considered a part of the normal ecosystem.

Best wishes to our URI Coastal Fellow Michelle Hetu

She has spent three summers collecting bugs, deploying temperature loggers, collecting water samples, and sampling fish (and that's the abbreviated list), and now in her senior year at URI, Michelle Hetu has finished up her third and final summer internship at WPWA.

Michelle arrived earlier than us, left later, and even put in a Saturday now and again. She has been a very dedicated, Jill-of-all-trades, and we have appreciated her contributions and her company.

In her final year as an Environmental Science major, Michelle is presently weathering the storm of Frank Golet's infamous wetland class, currently suffering through Pete August's acronym-filled GIS course, and enjoying a respite of birding in the Ornithology class.

Michelle had become quite a soil scientists over the past few years, participating in several soil judging competitions. She also created and exhibited posters for WPWA at two RI Natural History Survey conferences.

We sincerely thank Michelle for her fine work and commitment to our organization. It will be very difficult to find another intern of her caliber or dedication. We wish Michelle the very best in the future.



Corbicula

(Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island. An Asiatic clam infestation could have a serious adverse impact on this. Moreover, the fact that Worden Pond sits at the headwaters of the Pawcatuck River could give rise to a downstream migration into the system.

Recently a series of press releases has been distributed to local journals advising shoreline residents to refrain from using the Asiatic clam as fishing bait, and to refrain from other activities that would encourage the spread of the clam to other regional waterbodies. Additionally, residents who pump water from these surface water sources should be advised that the clams can migrate into pipes and clog them, if they are located near the bottom or in the substrate.

As a final note, this clam is edible, and in lakes of sufficient water quality, it may be harvested just like fish. However, elevated levels of mercury are often found in freshwater lakes in RI. So consumers should be advised that any limits on consuming fish in those ponds would also apply to Corbicula clams.

Ray Hartenstein is a RI Watershed Steward, and a WPWA Volunteer. He can be reached at 401-456-1905.

River House for Rent

WPWA is officering for lease a three-bedroom cottage that sits on the property of our Barberville campus, alongside the upper Wood River.

The house has an eat-in kitchen, living room, bathroom with tub and shower, full basement, and lots of closets..

The monthly rent is \$1250. Minimum one-year lease. Occupancy is available for November 1. WPWA prefers non-smokers and no pets.

Interested parties may call 401-539-9017 for more information.

In terms of monitoring the

WPWA participates in Trail Planning and Design Session

The Trail Planning and Design Workshop for Rhode Island Land Trusts, Watershed Organizations, and Other Grassroots Groups, was held at the Audubon Society Headquarters in Smithfield RI on October 13. The event was sponsored by RI Land Trust Council, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, and the National Park Service, and was organized on behalf of the Land and Water Partnership by Meg Kerr and Rupert Friday.

John Munroe of the National Park Service was the workshop instructor. He began the event with a discussion of the Guiding Principles for trails, and how they mesh with each organizations mission.

More than 35 individuals from various statewide organizations attended the event. Participants looked at trail planning and design using their groups mission statements and specific geographic areas as guides. The process of working with private landowners to establish trail easements was discussed, as well as the wetland permitting process . Field sessions included identifying trail problems and brainstorming possible solutions.

All of the workshop information is available online at www.landandwaterpartnership.org/library.

Fish passage alternatives presented in Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility Study

The recently completed Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility Study, compiled by engineering consultants Milone and MacBroom, Inc. of Cheshire, CT, outlines several alternatives for achieving fish passage on the upper Pawcatuck River and the Worden Pond spawning habitat.

The study, funded by RI Coastal Estuaries Habitat Trust, NOAA-American Rivers Partnership, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and WPWA, began in the summer of 2006. The scope of work included field inspections at three dams in Shannock and Kenyon, namely the lower Shannock Falls dam, the upper Shannock Horseshoe Falls dam, and the Kenyon Dam at Kenyon Industries; review of available mapping and storm data; preliminary historic and cultural investigations; and field sampling of sediment and water quality parameters. Following this, potential alternatives for restoring passage were analyzed by running their scenarios through engineering models of river flow and conditions.

Three public meetings were held during the process to gauge public interest in the potential alternatives, to collect locally-known data and information about river use and history, and to generally give the public an opportunity to express their

opinions about the structures.

The resource value of achieving successful passage at the three obstructions is the potential to open up nearly 1300 acres of spawning habitat for diadromous species that historically ran the system, and freshwater fish species that are known to reside year round.

It is WPWA's further intent to use this passage to improve aquatic habitat for the native Brook Trout, encouraging design that accommodates this weaker swimmer.

Now that the feasibility report is complete, the next step is to determine consensus on the part of partners and stakeholders with regard to which alternatives to pursue at each location. Once determinations are made, funding can be sought for design and planning for alternatives, and the next phase of necessary additional archaeological and historic investigations.

Grant monies are available for fish passage projects from various state and federal sources, and private interests.

The Feasibility Report is available for review at WPWA. The Richmond Town Planner also has a copy. Advance appointment is recommended.

URI Watershed Watch 2007 season comes to a close

WPWA is especially grateful to our Watershed Watch volunteers for twenty-six weeks of monitoring our surface waters this season.

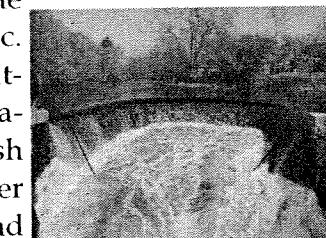
Carol Ann and Mark Baker, Harvey Buford, Pat Fontes, Criag Hotchkiss, Lorraine Joubert and George Loomis, Bill Hixson, Tony Imbriglio, Bruce Burns, David Smith, Patrick Gallagher, Al Ball, Lawson Cary, Mike Walsh, Thomas and Michele McCormick, Kristin and Don Chambers, Anne Marie Tavares, Werner Wiskari, Marie and Paul Leinhaas, Karen and Mike Cryan, Sandy Neuschatz, Judy Kaplin, Keith Manning, Sam Curry, Sue Cerullo, Jim Cummings, Peter and Ginny Stack, Sindy Hempstead, Virginia Wootten, Chris Turner, Deb Luz, Gerri Miceli, Anne Sheffield, J. Benjamin Bradley, and Sher and Jim Schroer—many many thanks for your time and efforts. Linda and Elizabeth may now enjoy running your samples all winter!

Year-end opportunity to make charitable gifts from your IRA

The two-year IRA charitable rollover provision, adopted for 2006 and 2007 only, permits individuals aged 70 1/2 or older to make gifts to non-profits directly from their IRA, tax-free.

This special provision allows transfers of up to \$100,000. You may ask your IRA custodian to transfer money directly to charities, such as WPWA, to exclude that distribution from your taxable income.

To initiate an IRA charitable rollover, speak with your IRA administrator. You may designate your gift anyway you'd like, for general support or endowment purposes.



Shannock Horseshoe Falls on the upper Pawcatuck River

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WATERSHED

A Newsletter of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Volume 25 No. 3

FALL 2008

**On the Passing of Lawson Cary:
A True Champion of Our Local Waters**

By Denise Poyer

It is with deep regret that I write about the passing this past spring of Lawson Cary, Jr. In my capacity as the Program Director for WPWA I have been privileged to work with many volunteers over the last fourteen years. All of them are caring, enthusiastic people who really want to help the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. For many reasons, the volunteer who stands out the most has always been Lawson. Ask anyone who knew him and you will hear terms such as tireless, committed, dedicated, tenacious, loyal, responsible, dependable, and honorable. It was not only his friends and family who could depend on Lawson, but also the many organizations for which he volunteered.

According to his son, Lawson Cary, III, Lawson became very involved with volunteerism around the time of his retirement in 1995, after thirty years of employment with the Hoechst Celanese Corporation. It was his passion for fly fishing, particularly for native brook trout in the Falls and Wood Riv-

ers, that lead to his two other passions - bringing others into the sport and protecting brook trout habitats. It was his deep commitment to the sport that gave him so much pleasure and also drove him to put most of his time and energy into assuring that this same opportunity would be there for future generations. This drive naturally led him to taking an active part in the running of the Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited (NCTU). From there he started to volunteer conducting water quality monitoring on the Falls River for URI Cooperative Extension's, Watershed Watch. Although WPWA sponsors water quality monitoring on most of the sites in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed (i.e. provides volunteers and funds), Lawson arranged to have NCTU cover the cost of the Falls River monitoring. He expanded the monitoring activities to include flow measurements, helped purchase a flow meter for Watershed Watch, and even built a case to house the instrument. Lawson never left things half done.

My association with Lawson started around this time be-



Lawson Cary (left foreground)
Leading one of many Fly Tying Workshops

cause his intense interest in preserving and improving brook trout habitat matched WPWA's goals. While it is not possible to cover every project Lawson accomplished, I will just mention a few. With the Arcadia Management Council he had erosion control structures installed at several high traffic fishing accesses on the Wood and Falls River. He was instrumental in helping WPWA receive grant funding from the National Trout Unlimited program to research sea-run brook trout on Red Brook in MA. More recently he was the driving force behind a stream continuity project to assess the effects that road (Continued on page 3)

From the Executive Director

This summer our campus was filled with the sounds of excited children as they paddled the calm waters just outside our office windows. Many visitors came to take advantage of our low cost paddle programs or simply spend the day fishing from our public dock. I was grateful to meet many of our members this summer as they brought their families to enjoy the beautiful weather and all we offer at WPWA.

Our efforts to optimize fish passage on the Pawcatuck River could finally be seen late this summer as the Bradford Fish Ladder Modification went into the construction phase. Behind the scenes, groundwork was laid to begin engineering the removal of the Lower Shannock Falls Dam. WPWA hopes to bring the engineering firm of Fuss & O'Neill on board soon to begin the design and permitting for the Lower Falls removal.

The Vernal Pool volunteer program was a tremendous success! Nearly 100 volunteers offered their time on the weekends to make this project a reality. Families made up the core of the volunteers giving their children a first opportunity to become stewards of the watershed. This project clearly demonstrated how many of you enjoy combining learning with recreation. One of our missions for the upcoming year will be to adopt the "No Child Left Inside" initiative which will get our youth back out in the wild while helping to bring families closer together. We hope to see all of you paddling the river, hiking the trails, or casting your lines in 2009!

HopArts Teams Up with WPWA For 2008 Trail

By Chris Fox & Leah Grear

The HopArts Studio trail was founded in 2006 to build and strengthen our communities through the arts. WPWA follows the same mission by involving the local townspeople in their natural environment. Many of the HopArts artists, inspired by our wild surroundings, choose to work with natural mediums and depict wildlife or nature in their art. This connection to the environment inspired the partnership between the WPWA and HopArts. "As we came together as artists, it was our realization that most of the artists chose to reside in this part of Rhode Island because of their love of the area and the watershed" says HopArts coordinator Leah Grear. "We hope through this partnership to continue building connections with

Third Annual

HOPArts

studio trail

October 18 and 19, from 10 am to 4 pm
Rain or shine

Enjoy a tour through the studios of
artists and artisans from rural
Hopkinton and adjacent communities.
Take a day to stroll from studio to
studio amid the autumn foliage and
discover the rich culture hidden in
our communities.

Brochures / Maps can be picked up at numerous locations.
Visit www.HopArts.org for more information.

each other, with the arts, and with the environment".

As part of this partnership WPWA will host two artists at its Barberville Campus in 2008. Serena Bates, nationally renowned sculpture and students from the Chariho Regional School will utilize our conference room and education center to display their creations. This year's trail will include over 35 artists many opening their studio doors to give the public and inside look at where they craft their masterpieces. For those artists unable to host a stop on the trail, local businesses and non-profits like WPWA will provide space for artists to display their art.

The WPWA is proud to announce its partnership with HopArts and predicts this year's trail will be an overwhelming success. Last year nearly 500 people followed the trail and even more are expected to participate this fall. The studio trail is free,

open to the public, and is schedule for October 18 and 19th, 10am to 4 pm, rain or shine. For more information on the artists and map pickup locations please visit www.hoparts.org. Show your support for the arts and environment, be sure to make WPWA's headquarters a priority stop for you on this year's trail!

Leah Grear, Artist
Chris Fox, WPWA
Exec. Dir.

WPWA CANOE AND HIKING GUIDES

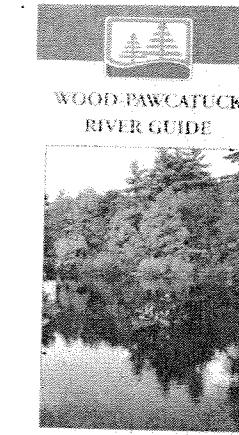
Order Form

Wood-Pawcatuck River Guide (2nd edition)

By Charlie Hickox and Elly Heyder

\$ 4.00 members (\$5.00 non-members)

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



Wood-Pawcatuck River Routes Map
Walks in the Watershed

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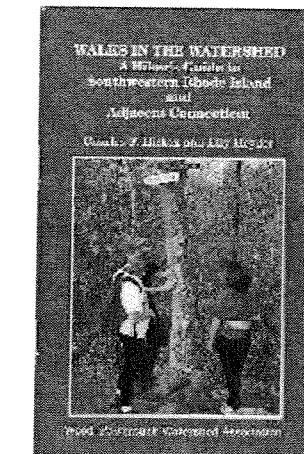
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Walks in the Watershed

By Charlie Hickox and Elly Heyder

\$4.00 members (\$5.00 non-members)

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



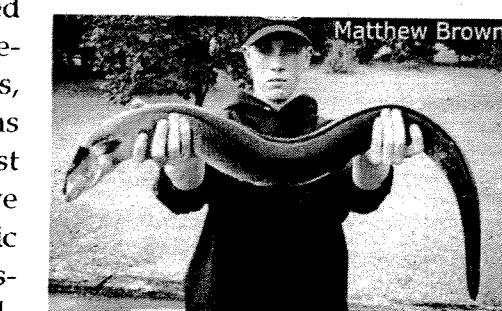
Interestingly, the European eel, a closely related species, spawns slightly to the east of the American eel in the Sargasso Sea. The larval European eel drifts eastward for a period of two to three years before it reaches the European coast. There the European eels ascend rivers to feed and then, eventually, return to their spawning area. The American eel can be distinguished from the conger eel, which is found exclusively in our marine waters, by the fact that the dorsal fin of the American eel begins far behind its pectoral fin.

Freshwater eels are considered a delicacy in Europe and Japan. This is not generally true in the United States. My father, who was born in Finland, pre-

ferred eels over any other fish I caught as a youth. Regrettably, there seems to be some evidence for a recent significant decline in the population of American eels from several regions of the North American continent. There are no specific explanations for this decline over the past decade or more. However, I believe that the demand for glass eels and elvers in Asia fostered an intensive (and sometimes illegal) fishery in the United States, with prices reaching as high as \$800 per kilogram. An east coast wide eel management incentive has been taken by The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to limit and control mortality and to enhance available habitat several years ago. It is hoped that this incentive will

improve our knowledge and provide suitable controls in order to sustain an active fishery for this remarkable and interesting fish. By the way, I think that smoked American Eel is a real delicacy!

**Dr. Saul Saita,
WPWA Board Member &
International Fisheries Expert**



Matt Brown shows off this HUGE American Eel, what a catch!!!!

Bradford Fish Ladder Modification is Underway

By David Smith & Chris Fox

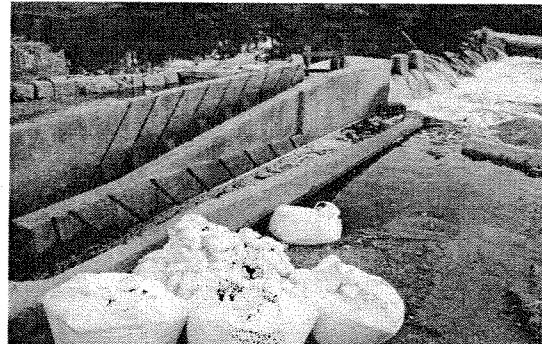
WPWA is proud to announce that the Bradford Fish Ladder Modification project is underway. The Bradford fish ladder, constructed by RIDEM in the early 1980's, has endured annual high water events that have altered the original stream channel. Erosion around the ladder, combined with high water that traditionally occurs during the spring fish migration, has led to a reduction in the number of fish utilizing the ladder.

On occasion, the entrance to the ladder is submerged, rendering it inaccessible to the migratory fish. Fish are attracted to the turbulent waters that flow from the ladder's entrance, when the entrance is submerged; fish species such as shad, herring, salmon and trout become confused and cannot locate it. As a result, many of these fish attempt to migrate over the adjacent Bradford Dye Dam. Unable to make the giant leap, a vast number of fish exhaust themselves and expire at the dam without spawning and producing next year's crop of returning fish.

One benefit of the project will be the stabilization of the surrounding streambank allowing for safer portage around the ladder by kayakers and canoe-

ists. WPWA hopes to bring school groups to the view the ladder during the spring 2009 fish migration.

Bradford Fish Ladder During High Water



must be functioning at their optimal levels. This will maximize the number of fish returning to Shannock and with the planned dam removals and fish ladder additions there, hopefully restore passage to the 1300 acre pond. This historic spawning ground has been inaccessible to migratory fish for generations and its restoration as a breeding ground will benefit fish and fishermen alike. WPWA hopes this restoration plan will help support the dwindling off shore fish stocks and revitalize the breeding stocks.

These projects come with a high price. The dollars and time required to make these projects a reality is enormous. The WPWA is the only local organization with the capacity to take on such projects but continues to struggle to find the time and funds required to implement these historic fishway restoration efforts. Your help is needed to make these valuable projects a reality. Please contact us to find out how you can help restore migratory fish to Wordens Pond for the benefit of future generations!

David Smith is the Editor of the Wood River Press & Friend of the WPWA



WILCO DEVELOPMENT

Vernal Pool Project is a "Splashing" Success

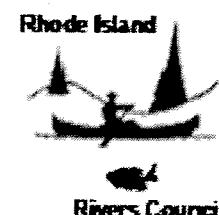
By Denise Poyer

This past spring WPWA launched a pilot project to see if volunteers could be trained to assess whether or not small pools in the watershed were vernal pools (see "Watershed" Spring 2008). At a follow up meeting with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) it was agreed that the project was an overwhelming success. A preliminary report showed that 75 WPWA volunteers assessed 140 potential pools in seven towns in the watershed. RIDEM staff also conducted the same field assessments, basically volunteering to work on this project by special arrangements with their department heads. Together, WPWA volunteers and RIDEM staff visited over 350 pools in nine towns during April and early May. Of the pools assessed, over half were confirmed to be Vernal Pools. This means volunteers found evidence indicating that obligate vernal pool amphibians were using the pools for breeding. In many cases volunteers saw egg masses from spotted salamanders or wood frogs. Often fairy shrimp were found alongside the egg masses. Later in the project, tadpoles could be seen in the many of the vernal pools. On rare occasions a few of the adult animals were seen.

This project was also deemed a success because of the opportunity for education and outreach to the public. Many people volunteered so that they could learn more about vernal pools. Most of the volunteers had never seen wood frogs or amphibian egg masses before. When returning forms and equipment, almost every volunteer exclaimed about how much fun they had. It also mattered to them that their efforts will be translated into usable data for future land management.

A final report will be produced by RIDEM from the data sheets completed by WPWA volunteers and RIDEM staff. RIDEM will also provide WPWA with maps showing assessed and confirmed vernal pools, which will be published later on our website. At this time WPWA and RIDEM are working on plans to continue the project next spring to assess potential vernal pools on protected property in the watershed.

WPWA was supported in this project by generous grants from the Cornell Douglas Foundation, Kayla Jean Ricci Memorial Foundation, and Rhode Island Rivers Council.



Kayla Jean Ricci Foundation

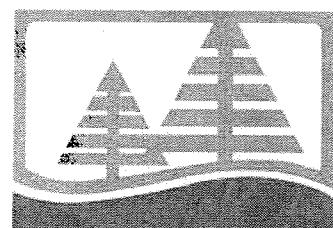
HOPARTS TRAIL

October 18 & 19

10am-4pm

Free To All

Join Serena Bates & Chariho School Artists at the WPWA Campus



WPWA

Calendar of Events

CAROLINA-SOUTH TRAIL HIKE

Saturday, November 15 from 10am-1pm

BULLET AND HIGH LEDGES HIKE

Saturday, November 29 from 10am-1pm

WESTERLY TOWN FOREST HIKE

Saturday, December 20 from 10am-1pm

LONG & ELL POND HIKE

Saturday, January 10 from 10am-1pm

LEARN THE ART OF FLY TYING

Saturday, January 24 from 9am-12pm

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The American Eel A Fascinating Fish

By Dr. Saul Saila

Whenever WPWA has done fish sampling, we inevitably find American eels of all sizes. Although they are common throughout our streams, this fascinating fish lives a secretive and intriguing life beyond the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. They are considered a catadromous fish, meaning they spawn in salt water but spend much of their lives feeding in fresh or brackish water. This is the opposite of an anadromous fish, such as the Atlantic salmon, who spawns in fresh water but spend most of their lives feeding out at sea. While American eels are found from Florida to Nova Scotia, much of their life history is still mysterious.

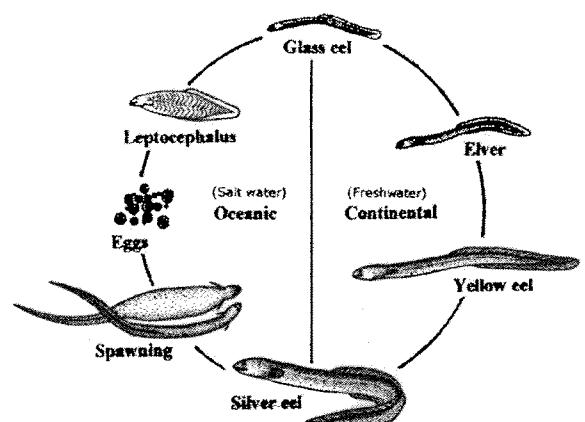
It was common knowledge that young elvers (the newly pigmented eels) move into freshwater streams in the early spring, and that adults migrated downstream to the sea in the autumn. Until the beginning of 20th century, however, their full life history remained unknown. A Danish scientist named Johannes Schmidt discovered the breeding place by tracking larvae in various stages of development from towed net catches. From this process he was also able to describe the early life history stages in some detail.

All American eels start life in the Sargasso Sea, south

and east of Bermuda. Female eels are extremely fertile, producing as many as ten million eggs. Each egg is only about one millimeter in diameter. The females all die after spawning and do not return to their original feeding grounds. The eggs, spawned in relatively deep water, hatch into transparent larvae, termed leptocephali. These newly hatched eels retain their larval flattened form for about one year, during which time they passively drift near the surface of the sea. Some of these drifting larvae are swept up in the Gulf Stream which carries them to the American coast, including our watershed area.

A metamorphosis occurs when the larvae are near the edge of the continental shelf. There, the flattened larvae turn into transparent glass eels which are eel-like in appearance. The glass eel then becomes pigmented when entering estuaries or mouths of streams.

American eels may spend from five to twenty years in fresh or brackish coastal waters where they feed and grow. Eels are both predators and scavengers, and they will eat almost anything they are able to swallow. They are nocturnal in habit and spend the daylight hours



(Continued on next page)

under cover or buried in the sediments. American eels can grow to a size of more than three feet. Individual eels over sixteen inches in length are almost exclusively females, which tend to ascend upstream much further than the male. In general, the male eels are likely to remain near the mouth of the rivers or in brackish water.

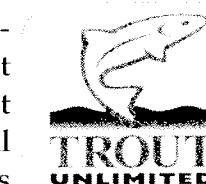
At the end of the growing period (which is quite variable) the American eel stops feeding and the process of sexual maturation begins. Firstly, the pigment of the eel changes from a brownish green color to a dark grey or black upper body and a pure white color below. The eyes enlarge greatly and

the pectoral fin becomes larger and darker in color. Both males and females now become silver eels and begin migration to the Sargasso Sea. Mature eels near the Atlantic coast need to swim a distance of several hundred miles in order to reach their traditional spawning grounds. We do not yet have sufficient details on neither the migration path nor the directional cues used to make this remarkable journey. Nor do we have sufficient knowledge about the actual spawning act at this time.

Lawson Cary (cont. from page 1)

crossings had on streams in the Wood, Beaver, and Queen Rivers' subwatersheds. Lawson taught a number of fly tying and fly fishing programs, not only for WPWA, but also for local schools and organizations such as Women in the Outdoors. One of his most rewarding volunteer efforts was to teach fly fishing to cancer survivors at the Deer Creek Camp in Foster, RI. Every April he facilitated WPWA's Opening Day of Trout Fishing Program, choosing always to be at the "children-only" Frosty Hollow Pond.

It is important to remember that Lawson did not accomplish all these projects alone. Perhaps his greatest



Narragansett Chapter

achievement was his ability to organize, inspire, cajole, harry and encourage others to share in his work and goals. As a member of Trout Unlimited he served on the board of the local chapter for fifteen years and held the position of president three times. Besides WPWA and Watershed Watch, Lawson worked with the RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Research Council and Development of RI (RC&D), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Women in the Outdoors, Chariho Middle School, and a host of fishing clubs including United FlyTyers of RI. Whenever someone was needed to spearhead a

Lawson's Awards Include

2001 WPWA Volunteer of the Year for URI Watershed Watch

2003 Founders Award
Alfred L. Hawkes Environmental Achievement Award from RIDEM 2005

2005 RI Rivers Hero Award from the RI Rivers Council

Citations from the Office of Lieutenant Gov. and RI House of Representatives 2005

NRCS Friend of Conservation Award 2007

RC&D of RI Council 2007 Spirit Award

RIDEM Forest Environment 2008 Certificate of Appreciation

Shortly before his passing, a fishing access on the Falls River in the Arcadia Management Area was dedicated in his honor. Lawson appreciated and was proud of every one of these honors.

I believe that Lawson would like to be remembered for something else - above all he was a skilled fisherman. He built his own rods, tied his own flies, and traveled to beautiful areas of the country to enjoy fly fishing with his friends. He was known for a few of the flies he developed, most notably his own special *Lawson's Horse Fly* and the *Yellow-Jacket Fly*. Last fall Lawson approached WPWA to set up an informal, weekly fly tying group at our campus during the winter. Every Wednesday morning a group of mostly retired men would get together to tie flies and chat. This was more than just killing time until spring fishing, for this was a group that kept in touch with each other, supported each other, and welcomed anyone who wanted to learn or improve their fly tying skills.

Lawson's greatest legacy may be that the feisty little native brook trout that he worked so hard to protect will always locally be connected to him. I heard a fitting comment this past summer, when I was speaking with a fly fisherman on the Wood River. I asked how the fishing was and, referring to the brookies, he said, "I caught a couple of, what we call, 'Lawson's trout'." Lawson will be missed by each and every person whose life he touched, both directly and indirectly.

Denise Poyer
WPWA Program Director



Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

401 789-3094
FAX 401 783-4460

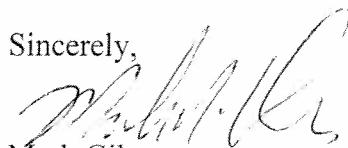
Christopher Fox
Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

March 26, 2009

Dear Chris,

This letter is in response to the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association and partner's efforts to apply for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to restore anadromous fish to the upper Pawcatuck River. The proposed anadromous fish restoration projects at Lower Shannock Falls, Horseshoe Falls, and Kenyon Mill Dam will provide river herring with an additional 1,300 acres of spawning and nursery habitat, create connectivity along the river for resident species and improve overall riverine habitat conditions. Currently the Division operates and maintains two Denil fishways on the lower Pawcatuck River and conducts numerous scientific research projects on the system. The upper Pawcatuck River is a high priority for anadromous fish passage, therefore the DEM/Division of Fish and Wildlife supports the association with this restoration project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (401) 789-3094.

Sincerely,



Mark Gibson
Acting Chief

Cc: Christine Dudley
Phil Edwards



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159 Waterman Street
Providence, RI 02906

tel [401] 331.7110
fax [401] 273.4902

nature.org/rhodeisland

March 17, 2009

Chris Fox
Executive Director
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Dear Chris:

Please accept this letter of support for the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association's (WPWA) application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for financial support from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for fish passage on the Pawcatuck River.

The Nature Conservancy, along with NOAA, WPWA, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), and other agencies, has identified restoring connectivity as a key conservation strategy for the Pawcatuck watershed. We are thrilled that WPWA has taken on three key and challenging projects in the Pawcatuck River, namely the removal of the Lower Shannock Falls and Kenyon Mill dams and the construction of a denil fish ladder at the Horseshoe Dam.

All three projects have been discussed for years, but now WPWA is providing the leadership necessary to make these projects a reality. These projects will create an economic impact by employing heavy equipment operators and engineers to remove the dams or build the fishways according to already-developed design criteria. The Conservancy is hoping to eventually contribute staff time to these and other restoration projects in the watershed, building on the partnership created by WPWA, NOAA, and DEM, and facilitating their completion.

These projects will have significant environmental impact by restoring resident and anadromous fish passage, improving flow regime, improving temperature conditions, and by improving sediment regimes. The projects are high priorities from a watershed-wide perspective and, when completed, will create new restoration opportunities elsewhere in the watershed when complete. Dam safety issues will be resolved by completing these projects as well, minimizing the risk of catastrophic flooding to downstream residents.

The Conservancy is fully supportive of WPWA's application and would be happy to discuss our interest in the projects at any time. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Essington".

Kevin Essington
Director, Pawcatuck Borderlands Project

cc: Janet Coit, Kathleen Wainwright, Mark Smith (TNC)



United States Department of the Interior

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Craig Woolcott

NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA Fisheries
1315 East West Highway, Rm 14853
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: NOAA's Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA) Restoring Diadromous Fish Passage to the Pawcatuck River, Shannock, RI.

Dear Mr. Woolcott,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5 is pleased to support the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association's (WPWA) Restoring Diadromous Fish Passage to the Pawcatuck River, Shannock, RI proposal for NOAA's Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. This riverine habitat restoration would further our mission to protect and recover federal trust species through local, state, and federal partnerships.

The coast-wide diadromous fish stocks that include; Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), Blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) and American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) populations have experienced alarming declines in recent years. These fish stocks have been severely impacted by dams and other obstructions in rivers, hydropower plants, overfishing, and more recently predation and competition. Habitat restoration actions to reverse these trends are imperative.

The Pawcatuck River watershed has been targeted by NOAA and USFWS as a regionally important fishery restoration priority as well as a high priority for the State of Rhode Island restoration program. As early as 1992 an Interstate Management Plan, for The Pawcatuck River Estuary and Little Narragansett Bay also prioritizes restoration of anadromous fish passage in the Pawcatuck River system as a goal. Specific barriers and potential fish passage alternatives at the Lower Shannock and Horseshoe Falls dams are outlined in the RIDEM 2002 Strategic Plan for the Restoration of Anadromous Fishes to Rhode Island Coastal Streams. The Service working with NOAA, NRCS, RI DEM, WPWA and other NGO's through its Partners for Wildlife, Coastal and Fisheries Programs have provided significant technical assistance and funding to develop the Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility Study and the Cultural Resources Assessment. The grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding will support the preferred alternatives indentified in the study for fishery restoration; full removal of the Lower Shannock Falls Dam and Kenyon Mill Dam as well as the addition of a Denil Fish Ladder at Horseshoe Falls. This priority habitat restoration will achieve fish passage restoration to nearly 1300 acres of spawning habitat associated with Wordens Pond and the upper Pawcatuck River.

We strongly endorse this project for funding under the NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This habitat restoration project partnership has invested years of planning to make this project viable and it is shovel-ready.

Sincerely,

Thomas Helanik, Acting PL
for

Sharon Marino, Project Leader



Rhode Island Sea Grant
URI Graduate School of Oceanography
Narragansett, RI 02882
tel: 401.874.6800
web: seagrant.gso.uri.edu

Rhode Island Sea Grant Program Administration

17 March 2009

Christopher J. Fox
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

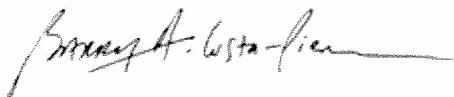
Dear Chris,

Please accept this letter as assent of support for the efforts of WPWA to remove barriers to the migration of anadromous fishes in the Pawcatuck River watershed. Free movement of water and fish between estuary and headwaters is an important aspect of sustaining healthy coastal ecosystems, and in promoting the concepts and implementation of ecosystem-based management. Rhode Island Sea Grant strongly supports these concepts and encourages such efforts that promote increased porosity between saltwater and freshwater habitats.

Rhode Island Sea Grant has engaged in past efforts for improving management of the Pawcatuck River and estuary interstate resource (e.g., interstate management plan; water management plan), and supports WPWA's efforts to remove barriers to anadromous fish movement and to restore runs of these fish in the watershed ecosystem. Rhode Island Sea Grant is currently engaged in developing a project in partnership with WPWA to assess the potential for the enhancement of sea-run brook trout in the Pawcatuck River watershed, and their receipt of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to remove barriers to anadromous fish in the watershed would improve the odds of success in our partner effort considerably.

Rhode Island Sea Grant endorses the WPWA request for funds to support their work on the restoration of anadromous fish runs in the Wood and Pawcatuck River systems, and considers an investment in their efforts as both meaningful and worthwhile, and that such investment will pay dividends in enhanced ecosystem health and recreational fishing opportunities for all communities sharing watershed resources.

Sincerely,



Barry A. Costa-Pierce, Director
Rhode Island Sea Grant

**Michael R. Bottaro
36 Plantation Drive
Saunderstown, RI 02874
(401) 474-5778**

March 18, 2009

Mr. Christopher J. Fox
Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Re: Pawcatuck River Projects

Dear Mr. Fox:

I write in support of WPWA's application for project funding relating to the restoration of stream continuity on the Pawcatuck River.

Just last weekend, my family traveled along portions of the Pawcatuck River. While many of the mills and homes of yesteryear have come and gone along the Pawcatuck, the late winter sunshine reflected majestically off the lively river. We could see the potential for the Pawcatuck River not simply to persevere, but to thrive as a home to a variety of aquatic species, including ultimately, wild trout.

Now is the time to restore this river as a healthy natural habitat and WPWA's planned projects would meet this worthy goal. As a fly fisherman and member of Trout Unlimited and the Wood River Fly Fishing Club, I understand how important river restoration is to our community in terms of education, recreation, and conservation for future generations.

Please pass along my enthusiastic support for WPWA's Pawcatuck River projects.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bottaro

**Burt Strom
418 Pond Street
Wakefield, RI 02879**

March 15, 2009

Chris Fox
Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Dear Chris:

It has come to my attention that WPWA is applying for funding for certain projects involving restoration to stream continuity on the Pawcatuck River.

As outlined in your letter, the completion of these projects will help restore upstream migration on the river that has been obstructed until now by dams and damage. Restoration of this stream continuity would be of historic and environmental consequence.

It has my heart felt support and I know that my friends in Trout Unlimited, the Wood River Fly Fishing Club, the United Fly Tyers of Rhode Island, the Salt Pond Coalition and others feel the same way.

Please let me know of any assistance that I can provide.

Sincerely,

Burt Strom

Burt Strom

**Robert A. Santos
3 Cross Street
West Warwick, RI 02893**

March 15, 2009

Chris Fox
Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Dear Mr. Fox:

It has come to my attention that WPWA is applying for funding for certain projects involving restoration to stream continuity on the Pawcatuck River.

As outlined in your letter, the completion of these projects will help restore upstream migration on the river that has been obstructed until now by dams and damage. Restoration of this stream continuity would be of historic and environmental consequence.

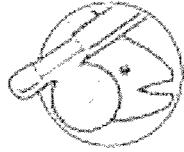
It has my heart felt support and I know that my friends in Trout Unlimited, the Wood River Fly Fishing Club, the United Fly Tyers of Rhode Island, the Salt Pond Coalition and others feel the same way.

Please let me know of any assistance that I can provide.

Sincerely,

Bob Santos

Robert A. Santos



Jim Jaques
395 Shippee Road
East Greenwich, RI 2818

March 16, 2009

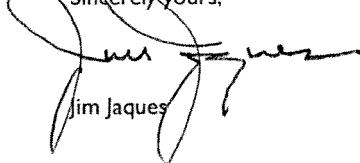
Chris Fox
Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Dear Mr. Fox:

I understand that the WPWA is requesting funds for projects pertaining to the Pawcatuck River. Stream restoration is an important practice for the well-being of the natural habitat and I am a proponent of any such undertaking.

This river is important to the health of Rhode Island's watershed and the maintenance of these waterways is critical to its success. I applaud any effort that safeguards our native environment and hope you achieve your objective.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Jaques

*Ron Marafioti
40 Kristen Court
Warwick, RI 02888*

March 19, 2009

*Chris Fox
Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832*

Dear Chris:

I am a recent transplant from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Based on discussions about trout fishing and kayak paddling in a couple of the neighboring community angler meeting spots (particularly the River & Riptide Anglers in Coventry), I joined the WPWA and participated in the fly tying class held in your Hope Valley facility earlier this month. Through Burt Strom at the local Trout Unlimited, I heard that WPWA is applying for funding for certain projects involving restoration to stream continuity on the Pawcatuck River.

As outlined in your recent letter, the completion of these projects will help restore upstream migration on the river that has been obstructed until now by dams and other obstructions. Restoration of this stream continuity would be of historic and environmental consequence.

Your efforts have my heart felt support and I know that my angling friends in Trout Unlimited and other local fishing/conservation organizations feel the same way.

Please let me know of any assistance that I can provide.

Sincerely,


Ron Marafioti

**John Richardson
48 South Road
North Hampton, NH 03862**

March 16, 2009

Chris Fox
Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Dear Chris:

Though friends at TU, it has come to my attention that WPWA is applying for funding for certain projects involving restoration to stream continuity on the Pawcatuck River.

As outlined in your letter, the completion of these projects will help restore upstream migration on the river that has been obstructed until now by dams and damage. Restoration of this stream continuity would be of historic and environmental consequence.

I am writing you to support this worthy undertaking. I look forward to hearing that the project is funded.

Sincerely,



John Richardson



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

TOWN HALL, WYOMING, RI 02898

Mary E. Morgan
Town Clerk/Probate Clerk

October 6, 2005

Dr. Lynn Tondat Ruggeri
Chairperson
Conservation Commission
9 Fox Ridge Drive
Wyoming, RI 02898

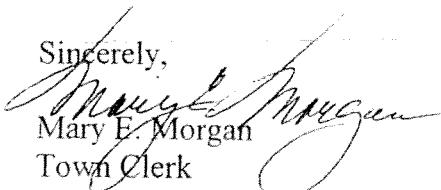
Re: Fish Passage Project, Shannock Falls

Dear Lynn:

The Richmond Town Council, at their meeting held on Tuesday October 4, 2005, unanimously voted to approve your request to apply for one or more state or federal grants to conduct a Feasibility Study for assessing passage alternatives for diadromous fishes at the Lower and Upper Falls Dams in Shannock Village and your request that the Town Planner participate in the work tasks associated with coordinating and managing the Feasibility Study. It is the understanding that there will be no financial commitment from the Town of Richmond.

Please contact me, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Mary E. Morgan
Town Clerk

Cc: Lori Urso, Executive Director
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Melanie Jewett, Town Planner

Broderick Macari
P.O. Box 529
Oneoco, CT 06373
860-564-1662

December 1, 2007

Caitlin Chaffee
RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center, Suite 3
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

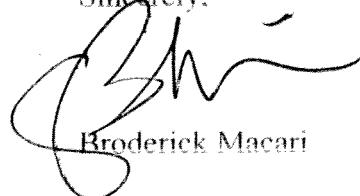
Dear Ms. Chaffee:

This letter is written in support of the funding proposal submitted by Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association to the RI Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Trust, entitled "Restoring Fish Passage on the Upper Pawcatuck River: Phase I – Lower Shannock Falls".

I am the current owner of record of the parcel identified on Map 10D Lot 11-2 in the Town of Richmond, which includes the former Knowles Mill parcel and the adjacent Lower Shannock Falls dam. I am presently under contract with the Town of Richmond for the Purchase and Sale of this property, pending environmental remediation currently in progress.

I am in support of the proposed fish passage restoration objectives for the Lower Shannock Falls, as well as those recommended for the upstream Horseshoe Falls and Kenyon Dam, as outlined in the Shannock Fish Passage Feasibility Study.

Sincerely,



Broderick Macari



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

December 15, 2005

Ms. Lori Urso, Executive Director
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203b Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Dear Ms. Urso:

We would like to take this opportunity to express U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service support for your efforts to secure funding toward a feasibility analysis of methods for providing diadromous fish passage at the Lower and Upper Shannock dams, located on the Pawcatuck River in Richmond, Rhode Island. The Feasibility Study would provide valuable information which will be used by the project partners to determine the preferred alternative for securing fish passage through the affected area.

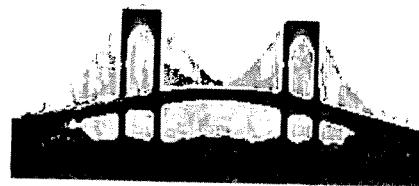
Both the Lower and Upper Shannock dams function as barriers to upstream fish migration and as impediments to downstream migration. Fish passage at these dams would provide migratory species (e.g., Atlantic salmon, American shad and river herring) access to habitat upstream from Shannock Village. Additionally, the dams represent at least a partial barrier to upstream movements of American eel. Therefore, the project, depending on the passage alternatives chosen, may benefit American eel as well.

The Feasibility Study is the first step in the process of restoring access to historical spawning and/or rearing habitat for diadromous fish species native to the watershed. Therefore, obtaining funding to conduct the analysis is critical to moving the project forward.

We look forward to working with your organization and other partners as this project moves forward. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Grader at (413) 548-9138, extension 18.

Sincerely,

William Neidermyer
Assistant Supervisor, Federal Projects
New England Field Office



Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
URI Bay Campus, Box 27
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401) 874-6492
www.nbep.org

13 December 2005

Ms. Megan Higgins, Esq.
RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3
Wakefield, RI 02879

RE: Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund Proposal
Shannock Village Dams Fish Passage Projects, Richmond, R.I.

Dear Ms. Higgins:

The purpose of this letter is to express the unqualified support of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program for the application by the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association for funding from the R.I. Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund to conduct a Feasibility Study (FS) for purposes of restoring diadromous fish passage at the Shannock Village Dams, Richmond, Rhode Island.

The Wood-Pawcatuck River system is among the most important watersheds in the state for both freshwater and diadromous fishery resources. NBEP, the R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state and federal partners have made significant investments in fish passage facilities on the mainstem of the Pawcatuck. As a result, diadromous fish passage is possible on the main stem of the Pawcatuck, and a short way up the eastern branch of the Pawcatuck, above its confluence with the Wood River.

Though it possesses excellent water quality, the Wood River tributary presents significant obstacles to fish passage due to the presence of the large dam at Alton. The eastern branch of the Pawcatuck, as covered by this proposal, therefore represents the single best opportunity to improve fish passage on the Wood-Pawcatuck system and one of the best fish passage restoration opportunities in the state. It is the hope and belief of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program that, on completion of this FS, the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association and its partners will be able to implement fish passage restoration on the entire eastern branch of the Pawcatuck, to Wordens Pond, which holds enormous potential as spawning habitat

for anadromous herring. NBEP believes that the outcome of this project will provide major ecological, economic and cultural benefits for citizens of Rhode Island. We have supported this project since its inception, and stand ready to continue to provide technical support and funding, as available, through implementation.

Thank you, Megan, for your consideration of this recommendation. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at (401) 874-6492.

Sincerely,



Thomas Ardito
Director of Policy & Communications
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Cc:

Lori Urso, Wood-Pawcatuck River Watershed Council
Richard Ribb, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program



Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

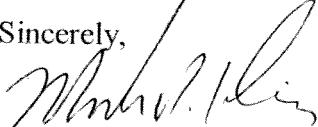
401 789-3094
FAX 401 783-4460

Christopher Fox
Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

December 9, 2008

Dear Chris,

This letter is in response to the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association and partners efforts to restore anadromous fish to the upper Pawcatuck River. The proposed anadromous fish restoration projects at Lower Shannock Falls, Horseshoe Falls, and Kenyon Mill Dam will allow river herring to access an additional 1,300 acres of spawning and nursery habitat. Currently the proposed dam removal alternative selected at Lower Shannock Falls (phase I) will provide very little additional spawning habitat but is essential for the overall success of the three-phase project. Therefore the DEM/Division of Fish and Wildlife support the association efforts with this restoration project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (401) 789-3094.

Sincerely,

Mark Gibson
Acting Chief

Cc: Christine Dudley
Phil Edwards



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

TOWN HALL, WYOMING, R.I. 02898

December 7, 2007

Lori Urso
Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203 Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, Rhode Island 02832

RE: Lower Shannock Falls Dam Fish Passage

Dear Ms. Urso:

Thank you for your request before the Richmond Town Council at our December 3rd meeting seeking our support for securing funds for the planning and design of the proposed Lower Falls Dam removal in Shannock Village for purposes of restoring anadromous fish runs to the upper Pawcatuck River. The Town Council appreciates the efforts of the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA), partnering with the Richmond Conservation Commission and others to recently complete a fish passage feasibility study of the Lower and Upper Falls Dams and the Kenyon Industry Dam. It is our understanding that the results of the feasibility study which assessed various engineering, environmental and cultural issues and design alternatives, along with the outcome of two public informational meetings, served in identifying the preferred alternative of removing the Lower Falls Dam. The Council appreciated your presentation and handout materials provided to us describing the preferred alternative, and based on this information, the Council approved by vote to support the WPWA's efforts to secure grant funds for project planning and design.

As you are aware, the Town of Richmond is in the process of securing the former Knowles Mill property along with the adjoining Lower Falls Dam. The Town is thus currently owner in equity of the dam, and will become property owner once the Knowles Mill site remediation and restoration is completed. At the December 3rd meeting, the Town Council coincidentally approved by vote to support an application to secure grant funds supplementing previously awarded funds to help complete the Knowles Mill project. The Town Council is encouraged and enthusiastic that both the Knowles Mill and Lower Falls Dam projects are progressing to completion, and will soon be an invaluable public park and river access.

The Town Council applauds the WPWA for partnering with the Town and pursuing the Lower Falls Dam fish passage project that will help in restoring important natural resources to our community, and leading to the enjoyment, stewardship and sound conservation of these river resources by our citizens.

Sincerely,



Joe Reddish, Jr.
Town Council President

cc: Richmond Conservation Commission
Denise Stetson
Mary Morgan

Jodi P. LaCroix, CMC
Town Clerk
Clerk of Probate Court
Clerk to the Board of Canvassers



TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

4540 SO. COUNTY TRAIL
CHARLESTOWN,
RHODE ISLAND 02813

Tel (401) 364-1200
Fax (401) 364-1238
e-mail: clerk@charlestownri.org

January 10, 2006

Lori Urso, Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203 Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Dear Mrs. Urso:

At the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting held January 9, 2006, the Town Council voted to support your grant proposals to Coastal Resources Management Council and American Rivers to conduct a feasibility study of fish passage at the upper and lower Shannock dams.

I have checked my files for any documentation regarding the property purchase the Town of Charlestown made in 1995 as you requested and could find nothing showing who owns the dam.

If you should need further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jodi P. LaCroix
Jodi P. LaCroix, CMC
Town Clerk

cc: Richmond Town Council



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

December 15, 2005

Ms. Lori Urso, Executive Director
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203b Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Dear Ms. Urso:

We would like to take this opportunity to express U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service support for your efforts to secure funding toward a feasibility analysis of methods for providing diadromous fish passage at the Lower and Upper Shannock dams, located on the Pawcatuck River in Richmond, Rhode Island. The Feasibility Study would provide valuable information which will be used by the project partners to determine the preferred alternative for securing fish passage through the affected area.

Both the Lower and Upper Shannock dams function as barriers to upstream fish migration and as impediments to downstream migration. Fish passage at these dams would provide migratory species (e.g., Atlantic salmon, American shad and river herring) access to habitat upstream from Shannock Village. Additionally, the dams represent at least a partial barrier to upstream movements of American eel. Therefore, the project, depending on the passage alternatives chosen, may benefit American eel as well.

The Feasibility Study is the first step in the process of restoring access to historical spawning and/or rearing habitat for diadromous fish species native to the watershed. Therefore, obtaining funding to conduct the analysis is critical to moving the project forward.

We look forward to working with your organization and other partners as this project moves forward. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Grader at (413) 548-9138, extension 18.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink that reads "William J. Neidermyer".

William Neidermyer
Assistant Supervisor, Federal Projects
New England Field Office



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

401 789-3094

FAX 401 783-4460

TDD 401 831-5508

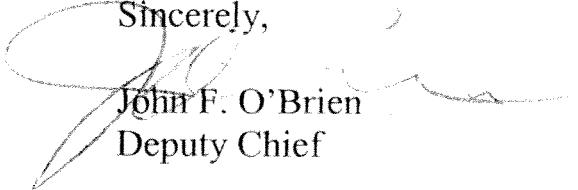
October 31, 2005

Ms. Lori Urso, Executive Director
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203 Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, Rhode Island 02832

Dear Ms. Urso:

Please be advised that the Division of Fish and Wildlife is in support of the proposed feasibility study considering fish passage at the Lower Shannock and Upper Shannock Fall dams. The Division of Fish and Wildlife manages the diadromous fisheries resource of the Pawcatuck River Watershed and concurs with the need for this feasibility and analysis. Fish passage at these two dams will provide access to very important habitat and significantly improve the existing runs.

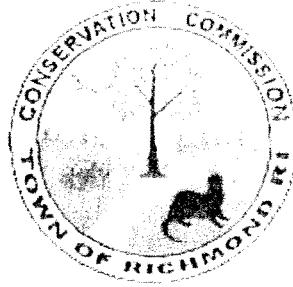
Sincerely,


John F. O'Brien
Deputy Chief



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



October 7, 2005

Lori Urso
Executive Director
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
203-B Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, Rhode Island 02832

RE: Shannock Falls Fish Passage, Richmond, RI

Dear Ms. Urso:

The Richmond Conservation Commission (RCC) is pleased to provide strong support and participation in the proposed diadromous fish passage project on the Pawcatuck River in Shannock Village, Richmond, Rhode Island. As you know, the RCC seeks to protect, conserve and restore water resources in our town, and this project well serves in addressing these goals. River herring, Atlantic salmon, American shad and American eel are important fishery resources and are clear symbols of our town's heritage. Please note that the RCC has sought and secured approval from the Richmond Town Council for participating in this exciting project, and we are committed to assisting you in seeking grant funding for project assessment, design and implementation. The Town Council has also approved the participation of Ms. Melanie Jewett, the Town Planner, to serve in an advisory role in order to assist you and the RCC manage and review materials for the proposed feasibility study. Combined, the active participation by the RCC and the Town Planner will contribute significant in-kind services to the project that can be applied as match for the state and federal grants. We plan to track person hours expended throughout the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important restoration project, and we look forward to working with you and the other project partners in conducting the feasibility study for diadromous fish passage at the two dams in Shannock Village. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

Lynn Tondat-Ruggeri, PhD
Chairperson, Richmond Conservation Commission
Phone: 539-0194
Email: ltruggeri@verizon.net

cc: M. Jewett
K. Gospers

Lori Urso
Executive Director
Wood Pawacatuck Watershed Association
203 Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, Rhode Island 02832

RE: Horseshoe Dam Property, Town of Charlestown
Shannock Falls Dam Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Urso:

I am writing the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA) to express my support for the study to assess alternatives for fish passage at the Upper Falls Dam (Horseshoe Dam) site. It is my understanding that the WPWA and the Town of Richmond Conservation Commission have applied for federal and state grant funds to complete the study. As a private property owner, who's property abuts the Upper Falls Dam, I support the study and the installation of a fishway that will result in restoring anadromous fish runs to the upper river.

I would like to be involved in discussing the options for a potential fishway on my property should the study move forward. It is my understanding that you will be contacting me once the study begins to discuss how a fishway could be located on my property. I look forward to discussing this issue with you and the project consultant so my interests can be clearly addressed.

Thank you for moving this project along.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Marlowe

CRMC announces funding for six habitat restoration projects

January 29, 2008, WAKEFIELD – The RI Coastal Resources Management Council has awarded funding for six habitat restoration projects through its RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund.

The Council approved the funding at the January 22 semi-monthly meeting in Providence. Projects approved for funding include fish passage restoration projects on the Ten Mile, Woonasquatucket, Blackstone and Pawcatuck Rivers, as well as a salt marsh restoration project located at Silver Creek Salt Marsh in Bristol. The remainder of the funding will be used to purchase low ground pressure equipment for the R.I. Department of Environmental Management (DEM), which will be made available for use in habitat restoration projects statewide.

"The CRMC is encouraged by the number and quality of restoration projects it received this year and the now extremely competitive proposal process," said CRMC Chairman Michael M. Tikoian. "It is great to see all of the good that has been done with the help of these funds through the years – numerous habitat restoration projects, fish ladder construction projects and continued support of other related work. Rhode Island's coastal and estuarine habitats will be greatly improved through these efforts and we look forward to seeing the results of this work."

The DEM was awarded \$100,000 toward the construction of Denil fishways and eel passages at Omega Pond Dam, Hunts Mill Dam and Turner Reservoir Dam on the Ten Mile River in East Providence. The new fishways will restore anadromous fish runs for river herring and American shad and the new eel passages will connect the Ten Mile River with Narragansett Bay, restoring prime fish habitat that is currently limited by obstructions. The Ten Mile River project has been identified by DEM as the most important fish passage restoration project in the state. When completed, it will provide 340 acres of spawning habitat for alewives, and approximately 3 miles of riverine spawning habitat for blueback herring and American shad.

The Council awarded \$40,000 to the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council for restoration of fish passage at Paragon Dam on the Woonasquatucket River in Providence. This project is part of a larger effort to restore fish passage on the lower Woonasquatucket River. The first fish ladder was installed at Rising Sun Mills last year and partially funded through the Trust Fund. The project partners are now working to remove Paragon Dam, which is located a quarter-mile upstream from the Rising Sun Mills fish ladder.

The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association will receive \$35,000 from the Trust Fund toward planning for fish passage restoration at the Lower Shannock Falls Dam in Richmond. The removal of Shannock Falls Dam and abandonment of the adjacent mill race is the next step in the effort to restore fish passage in the upper Pawcatuck River. This work will open the Pawcatuck River system to nearly 1,300 acres of upstream spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish.

The Blackstone River Watershed Council will receive \$35,000 to restore anadromous fish passage across two dams on the lower Blackstone River in Pawtucket. This project is part of a larger effort to restore anadromous fish runs on the Blackstone River that have been obstructed for almost 200 years by human-built structures. The project will improve the Blackstone River ecosystem, increase recreational opportunities and provide economic benefits for the towns of Pawtucket, Central Falls, Cumberland and Lincoln.

The Council awarded \$10,000 to the Town of Bristol for the restoration of the Silver Creek Salt Marsh, a 13-acre tidal estuary on the eastern shore of Bristol Harbor. The creek is tidally restricted by an old railroad bridge, the Route 114 Bridge and a town-owned foot bridge. These restrictions have impounded freshwater, diminished connectivity with the Bay and have allowed for *Phragmites australis* expansion in the salt marsh. The project goals include improvement of tidal flow and flushing, restoration of the native salt marsh plant community, and reduction of mosquito breeding habitat.

The Trust Fund also provided \$5,000 to the DEM Mosquito Abatement Coordination Unit for the purchase of low-ground-pressure utility vehicle equipment that will be used to transport soil excavated from salt marsh water management projects to upland disposal sites. It can also be used to spray herbicide in *Phragmites*

control projects. The equipment is made available for use in restoration projects statewide, and is often used as a source of non-federal, "in-kind" match for federal funding.

This year's approval also includes a new contingency list of projects. In the case that a funded project cannot move forward, the funds awarded to that project will be reallocated to the highest ranked project on the contingency list.

Habitat restoration projects are funded through the RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund and are selected from recommendations by the RI Habitat Restoration Team, established by CRMC, Save The Bay and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program in 1998. Members of the team serve as a technical advisory committee for the CRMC as required by law. Funds for the program come from the state's Oil Spill Prevention Administration and Response Act (OSPAR), established by the legislature following the 1996 North Cape oil spill. Each year, the Trust Fund and CRMC receive \$225,000 from the OSPAR account to fund habitat restoration projects in the state. To date and including this year, the Trust Fund has awarded \$1.2 million for 40 projects, which have leveraged more than \$11 million in matching funds. This year's funding leveraged more than \$3.3 million, at a leverage ratio of 15:1. The full 2007-2008 Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund report will be available on CRMC's web site at