

# WATERSHED

## A Newsletter of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Volume 36-1

Spring 2019

***Please renew your membership today--we appreciate your continued support!***

**JOIN/RENEW**

***...and please forward this edition of WATERSHED to a friend!***

### ***Go Wild Over Your Rivers!***



In case you haven't heard... On March 12th permanent Wild and Scenic status for the rivers of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed became official! Leaders in Congress from RI and CT made sure your local rivers were included in the large Public Lands Package that had bi-partisan support. This package included many victories for lands and waters across the US, even permanently reauthorizing the Conservation Fund for continued federal funding for the environment. [Read more...](#)



### **Exciting New Programs are Coming to WPWA!**

From birds to mushrooms, WPWA is partnering with various experts to offer a wider array of fun programs for you this year ... [Read more...](#)



### **How You Can Help**

May is the time of year to renew your WPWA membership--the cornerstone of all the great work we accomplish together each year... [Read more...](#)



### **Improving River Access is a Top Priority**

Keeping the watershed healthy and accessible for all has been a consistent mission for WPWA... [Read more...](#)

### **You're Invited To**

### **"Pretzels on the Pawcatuck"**



The Malted Barley is hosting

### **WPWA's 36th Annual Meeting**

Thursday, May 23rd, 2019  
6:00pm to 8:00pm

42 High St.  
Westerly, RI 02891

Join us for an informal meeting upstairs at the Malted Barley's cozy event room overlooking the Pawcatuck River.

Our short Business Meeting will include a vote to approve new board members.



## On Wood River Time

This spring day begins like many on the Wood River, a steady flow, turtles lined up on logs, and a heron fishing patiently in lily pad bay... [Read more...](#)

Come celebrate all that we accomplished together in 2018 and stay for a presentation by Joe MacAndrew highlighting public access improvement on the lower Pawcatuck River.

Attendance is free, and no need to RSVP!!

Pretzel Bites and Soft Drinks Provided; Full Menu, Beer & Specialty Drinks Available



## Stay Safe on the Water

If you ever thought that kayaking took a lot of energy or wish your wrists didn't ache, then kayak instruction is for you... [Read more...](#)



## What Gets Wet with All This Rain

If you have ever wondered how all this rain affects the lower Pawcatuck River, you certainly are not alone... [Read more...](#)

## Go Wild Over Your Rivers!

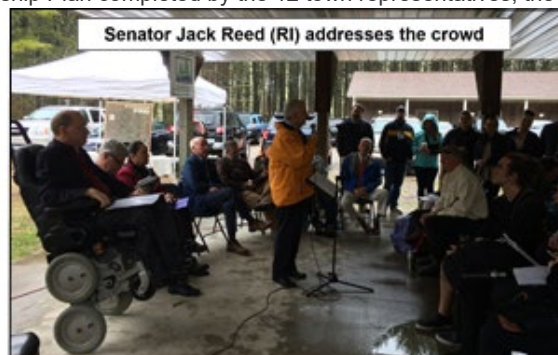
In case you haven't heard... On March 12th permanent Wild and Scenic status for the rivers of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed became official! Leaders in Congress from RI and CT made sure your local rivers were included in the large Public Lands Package that had bi-partisan support. This package included many victories for lands and waters across the US, even permanently reauthorizing the Conservation Fund for continued federal funding for the environment.



Lorén Spears

Local excitement for this prestigious designation has been evident. Action on social media, calls and emails started flooding in from WPWA members, Town Councilors and Board of Selectmen, partnering organizations and more. A celebration was called for! Over 125 attended a media event held April 8th at Wood River Access in Exeter, RI. People crowded the extra-large pavilion that had been flooded by the morning's downpours. After an opening blessing by Tomaquag Museum Executive Director Lorén Spears, WPWA Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator Kassi Archambault took the floor as host.

The celebration honored the Stewardship Plan completed by the 12 town representatives, the environmental state agencies of both states, multiple non-profits and WPWA Study Coordinator, Denise Poyer (retired). The event was a great opportunity to thank Denise for all her lasting career contributions to local conservation. This celebration also served to kick-off the newly forming Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council now charged with enhancing and protecting the designated rivers. This Stewardship Council,



Senator Jack Reed (RI) addresses the crowd

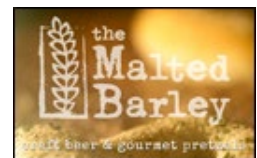
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coordinated by WPWA's Kassi

Archambault, includes representatives from the towns, state agencies and non-profits from both states. They will work together, across boundary lines, to fix water and land problems by brainstorming and implementing solutions.



The Congressional Delegation who so diligently shepherded the project through its key steps attended and spoke at the event. Those steps included authorizing the formation of a Study Committee, allocation of federal funding, securing National Park Service support, and of course, the final designation. All of the delegates who helped begin the process in 2010 joined the celebration and included Congressmen Jim Langevin (RI), David Cicilline (RI), and Joe Courtney (CT), Senators Jack Reed (RI), Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), Chris Murphy (CT), and Richard Blumenthal

(CT). Consistent themes they highlighted in their speeches included the dedication of the Study Committee and WPWA, how local support and action moves policies ahead, and the value in connecting people with the environment to foster transformational experiences.

In late May, the Stewardship Council will have their first meeting! Of the 12 towns, 10 have appointed members, with the last towns deciding by May 14th. The Narragansett Indian Tribe has an appointed member. RI Department of Environmental Management has appointed two staff members to serve. CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection staff members plan support. Two non-profit stakeholders also hold seats. In the first year, Stewardship Council members will work together to decide on what types of projects within the [Stewardship Plan](#) to act on first.

Federal funding for Wild and Scenic Rivers is decided by Congress. As newly designated rivers, it will take time to channel federal funds to the Stewardship Council. Thankfully, Congressman Joe Courtney has already taken steps to quicken the pace. He has written a letter calling for



funding and organized support from his fellow Congressmen. When secured, the funding will be directed to the National Park Service specifically for the Wood-Pawcatuck designation. A companion letter was distributed in the Senate with Senators Reed, Whitehouse, Murphy and Blumenthal all signing on in support.

Congratulations to RI and CT! Having Wild and Scenic Rivers is a major win for recreation, relaxation and wildlife. One hundred ten river miles are now federally protected, including the Beaver, Chipuxet, Green Fall-Ashaway, Pawcatuck, Queen-

Usquepaugh, Shunock and Wood Rivers. Please responsibly share these rivers with a friend and enjoy the pleasures they offer! [Return to Top](#)

## Exciting New Programs are Coming to WPWA!

From birds to mushrooms, WPWA is partnering with various experts to offer a wider array of fun programs for you this year. One of the many tasks we put to WPWA's newest staff member, Kassi Archambault, is to develop programs that are more than just paddling. And after surveying our members, she has really hit the ground running. We think you'll enjoy the programs she has

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## Watershed Happenings

Click on the event name for more information.

### WPWA Events: Registration Required:

[www.wpwa.org/events.php](http://www.wpwa.org/events.php)

### Map and Compass Workshop

Thursday, May 9, 6 to 9 pm and  
Saturday, May 11, 9 am to 3 pm  
WPWA Campus

### ACA River Kayak Trip Leader Training

Friday, May 17 – Sunday May 19  
WPWA Campus

### Mushroom Hunting in Rhode Island: Spring Season

Tuesday, June 4 6:30pm  
WPWA Campus

### Birds and Boats

Thursday, June 6 10am  
Bradford Mill

### Boats, Birds and Bats!

Thursday, August 1 6pm  
WPWA Campus

planned so far and we can't wait to hear what else she has up her sleeve.

Kassi is partnering with Laura Carberry from the Audubon Society of RI to bring you three exciting Birding by Boat kayak excursions this year. After twenty years of experience working at Audubon's Exeter, RI office Laura has a real passion for the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed's diverse species and landscapes. Her decades of local knowledge were invaluable in selecting the three river routes we will travel. She knows just what types of birds will be observed based on the plants, water type and the time of year. The class sizes will be kept small because quiet groups see more birds. So be sure to keep a sharp eye out this year for our emails announcing registrations so you don't miss out on this intimate experience.

The Narragansett Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and WPGA will continue a longstanding partnership as we present another "Map and Compass Workshop" on May 9th and 11th. So far this year AMC has already held a "Leadership Development" and an "Introduction to Backpacking" workshop at WPGA's facilities. Plus Kassi recently completed AMC's "Wilderness First Aid and CPR Course". From skill development to trail maintenance, the local AMC chapter has many opportunities to join this community of outdoor enthusiasts.



### Wading Birds and Boats

Monday, August 19 1pm  
Little Narragansett Bay

### Tomaquag Museum Free Weekly Children's Hour

Wednesdays 10 – 11 AM  
May 1 – August 28  
Tomaquag Museum  
390 A Summit Road, Exeter, RI

### RI Audubon Society May birding Walks

Thursdays - Bob Kenney  
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2019; 8:00-10:00 am.  
Marion Eppley Wildlife Refuge,  
Dugway Bridge Road, West Kingstown, RI

### RI Audubon Society Friday Morning Bird Walks

Fridays April 26, 2019 - May 31, 2019  
Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge  
99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI

### Westerly Land Trust 2nd Annual Bird Walks and Social

May 4, 7:30 am - 11:30 am  
Wahaneeta Preserve,  
118 Moorehouse Road  
Westerly, RI

### South Kingstown Land Trust All Ages Hike & Park Rx

Saturday, May 4 10:00 am  
Browning Woods Trail, South Kingstown, RI

### South Kingstown Land Trust Young Naturalist Backpack Program Launch

Saturday, May 4 2:00 pm  
Peace Dale Library, South Kingstown, RI

### Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center Hewitt Farm Hike

May 5, 2019  
Hewitt Farm Preserve  
Hewitt Road, North Stonington, CT

### RI Wild Plant Society Early Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Casey Farm  
2325 Boston Neck Road North Kingstown, RI

### South Kingstown Land Trust 3rd Thursday Hike: DuVal Trail

Thursday, May 16 8:30 am  
DuVal Trail, South Kingstown, RI

### Westerly Land Trust Full Moon Hike at Crandall Family Preserve

May 19 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Crandall Family Preserve, Pound Road



The Mushroom Hunting Foundation is excited to teach you what wild mushrooms are safe and delicious to harvest. The Foundation's Ryan Bouchard, author of *Gourmet Mushrooms of the Northeast 2019* and Emily Schmidt, are both experienced teachers, cooks, and photographers. They are hungry to share their knowledge, identification skills and recipes with you on June 4th. Join them for an evening presentation filled with pictures and tips on hunting for mushrooms. Those lucky enough to attend will help decide what the next class will offer. Perhaps a field trip to gather mushrooms? Or

even a cooking class!

If you attended our Learn to Fly Fish class last month, you know that John Genovesi covered topics ranging from gear and casting to ropes and stream etiquette. His class was filled to capacity, and with good reason! For decades John has traveled all over the country honing his knowledge and technique. On the first night participants checked out gear John brought, such as rods, nets and hooks aka flies. Later on in the course he used videos, and even a cat toy... okay actually a three foot pole with yarn attached. But it is a very illustrative way to safely demonstrate and practice casting. John even created an informational binder for students to take home and everyone enjoyed sharing in his knowledge and great stories.

This Spring Jay Boyer once again offered his renowned Fly Rod Building Class. A class this specialized is limited to five participants to ensure students get the individualized attention they need. With a patient yet demanding teacher, each of the participants learned and worked hard to create their very own personalized fly fishing rods. You could hear a pin drop on the last night as they all strove to improve their craftsmanship and finish building their rods. The three-night class wrapped up just in time for everyone to try out their masterpieces on Opening





Day of trout fishing season.

Spring season has been busy! Keep a look out for the AMC and Mushroom Hunting Foundation classes, Birds and Boats with Audubon Society of RI, kayaking lessons and trips and more as the temperatures continue to warm up. [Return to Top](#)

## How You Can Help



May marks the time of year to renew your WPWA membership. Your membership support is the cornerstone of all the great work we accomplish together each year. Without your membership support, there would be no water quality monitoring in the watershed, no children learning about watershed science, no river improvement projects, and so many other programs that enrich the lives of all those who live in and visit this beautiful watershed.

We need your help this year to expand our ability to develop the future stewards of the watershed. You will soon be receiving your membership renewal letter in the mail with an exciting win-win offer! This year we are asking you to give the gift of membership.... for free! By enrolling a friend or family this year you will be helping us reach a wider audience. By doing so you will be helping us to educate people on the responsible use of the watershed's resources. And if you enroll at the Trout Level, you are also giving someone special free access to our fleet of kayaks, canoes and paddleboards all year long. What a great gift! Please consider upgrading your membership to the Trout Level this year so you, and a friend who shares your passion for the watershed, can get out on the water and enjoy the wonders of nature. [Return to Top](#)

## Improving River Access is a Top Priority

Keeping the watershed healthy and accessible for all has been a consistent mission for WPWA. Now that your rivers are Wild & Scenic, WPWA plans to up its game by improving even more existing access areas and creating new ones. Sadly, many streamside access points allow stormwater to sweep gravel and road pollution directly into your rivers. Some also aren't designed or maintained to ensure that young and old folks alike can enjoy a safe interaction with the rivers. Thankfully, that is changing.



The Dow Athletic Field complex in Hope

Westerly, RI

### [Westerly Land Trust Thursday Hike at Grills Preserve](#)

May 30, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Grills Preserve,  
198 Bowling Lane Westerly, RI

### [Westerly Land Trust Thursday Hike at Barlow Preserve](#)

June 6, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Barlow Preserve,  
449 Westerly Bradford Rd Westerly, RI

### [The Promise of Restoration: Lecture and Potluck with Activist](#)

Thursday, June 6, 6:00 pm  
South Kingstown Land Trust Barn,  
17 Matunuck Beach Rd., South Kingstown, RI

### [Organic Strawberry Production](#)

Sunday, June 9, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Brandon Family Farm  
592 Fairgrounds Road, South Kingstown, RI

### [Using Livestock to Clear Land](#)

Wednesday, June 19, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Wild Harmony Farm  
366 Victory Highway, Exeter, RI

### [Westerly Land Trust Full Moon Hike at Dr. John Champlin Glacier Park](#)

June 19, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Dr. John Champlin Glacier Park,  
Tom Harvey Road, Westerly, RI

### [Strawberry Thanksgiving at The Tomaquag Museum](#)

Saturday, June 22, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Tomaquag Museum  
390 Summit Road, Exeter, RI

## Related News

[Kassi Archambault - Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council](#) (Audio recording)

From: Steve Klamkin & The Saturday AM News

### [Proposed Law Aims to Slow Down Running Bamboo](#)

April 15, 2019  
By TIM FAULKNER/ecoRI News staff

[Officials, activists celebrate Wood-Pawcatuck river system Wild and Scenic](#)



Valley sees thousands of visitors each year. Built on a flood plain of the Wood River it is the perfect place to fish or paddle from. Historically there has been a State maintained access point there consisting of little more than a sign, a parking area, and a rutted area of cleared streambank. Thanks to the Hope Valley Grange and Community Center and the Chariho Athletic Association there is now a handicapped accessible fishing pier and kayak/canoe put in! The two groups plan to add a covered picnic pavilion once the proper permits have been secured.

Thank you to the volunteers from both organizations and the charitable foundations who generously provided funding, all of which was organized by Tony Apice of Hope Valley with some technical support from WPWA.

If you have ever visited the Gingerella Sports Complex in Westerly, you might have wondered where that muddy dirt road across the street leads to. Well it leads you to one of the town's best kept dumping secrets! If you have an old couch, household garbage, or even some deer carcasses that you need to make disappear you have come to the right place. But not for long! Sickened by this mess on the bank of the Pawcatuck River, Westerly Conservation Commission's Joe MacAndrew is taking action. With some expiring public rights of way funding he is improving the road, restoring the dumping area for parking, and inviting the public to experience the great fishing available on this section of the Pawcatuck River. Way to go Joe! WPWA looks forward to partnering with the Conservation Commission in 2019 to build a state of the art access area on the clean pallet Joe and the town has provided.

But Joe isn't done yet! His boundless energy and love of the river has led him to advocate for creating a new public access point to the Pawcatuck River at the White Rock Quarry. The town intends to purchase the land and erect a solar array over the barren landscape. Thanks to the White Rock Dam removal in 2016 there is already a stable path to the river. Joe is hopeful that once the land is town owned he can spearhead a project to create public parking and a new Pawcatuck River Access point. This location would be a great compliment to his project ongoing downstream. Join us at 6 pm for our Annual Meeting featuring a presentation from Joe on these two great improvement projects on Thursday May 23rd at the Malted Barley in Westerly.

These are just a few exciting development projects that WPWA intends to make a reality in the coming years. Our goal is to improve every access area in the watershed by 2030! If you know of an access area that is in need of help, please contact us to learn how you can become part of the solution. [Return to Top](#)

## designation

April 8, 2019

By Cynthia Drummond Sun staff writer

## Want a Healthy Lawn with No Warning Flags? Go Organic

April 10, 2016

By FRANK CARINI/ecoRI News staff

## Solar Siting Sparks Division Among Environmentalists

March 18, 2019

By TIM FAULKNER/ecoRI News staff

## Wild and Scenic bill signed into law

March 12, 2019

By Cynthia Drummond/Westerly Sun staff writer

## Bill Would Prohibit Importing Big Game for Captive Hunting

February 27, 2019

By FRANK CARINI/ecoRI News staff

## Bring Plastics Bags and Film to Stores to be Recycled

January 29, 2019

By ecoRI News staff

## Hopkinton Rejects Massive Open Space Solar Project

January 29, 2019

Videos and text by TIM FAULKNER/ecoRI News staff

## Asian Tick Found in N.E. Poses Threat to Livestock

December 03, 2018

By ecoRI News staff

## Report Finds Regional Approach to Dam Removal is Best Practice

November 29, 2018

By ecoRI News staff

## On Wood River Time



By Tom Willett

This sunny spring day begins like many on the Wood River, a high and steady flow, turtles lined up on partially submerged logs, and a blue heron fishing patiently in lily pad bay. Now a kingfisher darts ahead and an undulating garter snake makes a river crossing right in front of my kayak. But this day is one of the best. The planets have aligned and I'm paddling and fly fishing with my son Ben. We see a rise up stream and hear a big splash downstream. Our senses are piqued, anticipation intense. He puts his fly on a rainbow's nose and lands his first of the day. A great beaming smile follows and I know he's hooked. We paddle to my favorite bends, holes, stumps and overhanging branches. Some of them hold fish, some

I'm just happy to watch my fly drift in the current.

Each bend in the river refreshes memories of paddles past – a hunting bald eagle, petulant beaver slapping his tail, an osprey snatching dinner. Then there's the overhanging branch that many years ago tangled my line and broke off the biggest trout I've ever hooked. We come upon the overhanging tree where a rising brookie finally took my fly after at least 30

## WPWA Board and Staff

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Jack Cross  
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Joseph MacAndrew  
Jon Waldstein

### Staff

Chris Fox,  
Executive Director  
Kassi Archambault,  
Wild & Scenic Rivers Coordinator



casts and 5 different offerings. The current transports us in slow motion past blooming white water lilies, yellow floating hearts, and fragrant sweet pepperbush.

In the early spring when leaves just begin to pop, dappled sunlight streams through the bright green canopy lighting it up like a fine mesh veil. Later in the heat of the summer my wife Barbara and I will drift through a tunnel of cool green shade and become immersed in the environment together. Thoughts of upcoming life issues or obligations dissolve. We transition. We're on river time.

The natural experience of the river is profound but the people I go to the river with create a *special bond*. *Those shared experiences create memories and cement relationships. I may easily forget what happened in some movie I saw last year but I will always recall:*

- Annual paddle down from 165 and bike ride up Blitzkrieg Trail with my wonderful and "always ready to go for it" wife Barbara. Whenever I hint that the river is calling she says "do it". Life is good.
- Fishing the nocturnal hex hatch with Brian – a magical entomological event.
- The annual early spring and fall fish and paddle with Durbin.
- Anytime I fish or paddle with my sons
- When I just want to go it alone and fish every likely spot between 165 and Frying Pan Pond.

I discovered the Wood River about 20 years ago and always took my father there when he made his annual spring and fall trips from Michigan. His name was Woodrow, everyone called him Woody. May 1st, his birthday, always found us on the Wood. Seems he always had the best luck and was always the most patient. As he progressed into his late 80s we started packing a folding chair into our favorite hole at the bend in the river. Dad was no longer able to cast and tie on those fuzzy little brown and grey things so I substituted what we called a superfly on his line - a meal worm hooked up with a tiny marshmallow. I would toss it in a



likely spot and he would hold the rod. It always did the trick. We never told anyone our secret. One glorious October day when the maples blazed crimson and gold along the riverbank, Woody released his final brown trout at the age of 89. I can still picture the bend in the river and his great beaming smile. The Wood River chapter of our lives was in the books.

*There is no rushing a river. When you go there, you go at the pace of the water and that pace ties you into a flow that is older than life on this planet. Acceptance of that pace, even for a day, changes us, reminds*

*us of other rhythms beyond the sound of our own heartbeats. -- Jeff Rennie, River Days*

*Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day. – Winnie the Pooh*

PostScript: Rest in Peace Carl Norcross, my nephew's father who released his final Wood River trout in 2018.

*Tom Willett is a passionate WPWA member who can be found fishing the Wood River on many Wednesday mornings. Thank you for sharing your story Tom!* [Return to Top](#)

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## Stay Safe on the Water

If you have ever thought that kayaking took a lot of energy or simply wish your wrists didn't ache at the end of the season, then kayak instruction is for you. There are core principals to kayaking. Several principals overlap with other activities, making them intuitive and easy to apply. Easy examples are... look where you are going and keep the paddle shaft parallel to your shoulders.

### Kassi practicing kayak rescue during her training



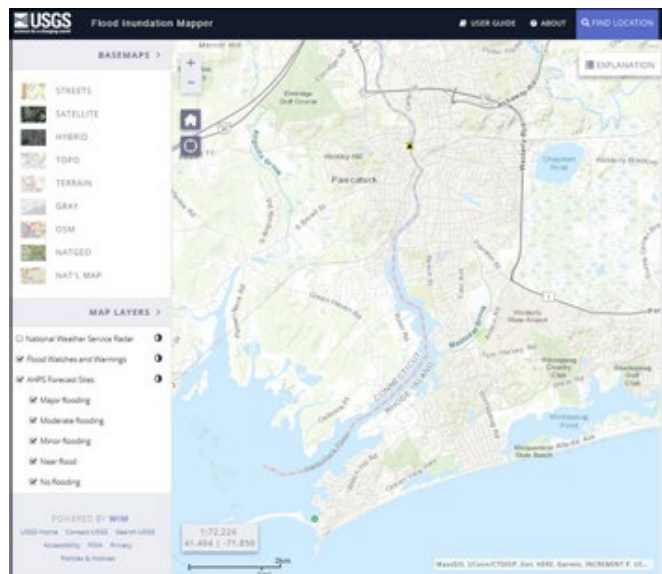
This keeps the front of the boat straight, while using muscles in your core. Yet...did you ever think of using your lower body? There are neat ways to drift the boat around a corner using your hips and a leg! There is an effective way to move your boat directly to the side, not cornering, but from a standstill. Ever wonder how to use those foot pedals? These examples are just the start! Join the fun with WPWA this summer.

Between spring showers one April weekend, WPWA staff member Kassi Archambault took a Kayak Instructors course hosted by Osprey Sea and Kayak Adventure in Westport, Mass. Thanks to Osprey's dry suits, the class stayed warm and dry! The class was small, with four total participants and two instructors. The group practiced paddling effectively, techniques for teaching on the water, methods of emptying a flooded boat, getting a kayaker back in their boat, and more. As an outcome of the weekend, Kassi passed the exam and earned an American Canoe Association certification for Kayak Instructor.

Now that Kassi is officially an instructor WPWA can begin offering paddling lessons this spring. These trips will be specifically geared toward beginner paddling. The Westerly Land Trust offered to help advertise this idea, and several of their members expressed interest. Already a fairly experienced paddler? WPWA and Osprey Sea and Kayak Adventure have partnered to offer a Kayak Trip Leaders training in Hope Valley. The dates are May 17th – 19th and there are just two spots left! RI Canoe and Kayak Association offered several scholarships for their members to attend!

In addition to these lessons and training, WPWA will host fun trips on the water this summer to see the full moon, find wildlife such as painted turtles and great blue herons, and explore the wonders of the watershed by boat! We generally wait until the weather looks clear to schedule our outdoor events, so keep an eye out for WPWA emails calling for registrations to all our diverse programs. [Return to Top](#)

## What Gets Wet with All This Rain



Is there such a thing as too much rain? If you love to get outside you're probably saying YES, because it sure has been a wet fall, winter and spring! If you have ever wondered how all that rain affects the lower Pawcatuck River, you certainly are not alone. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has created a series of 11 digital flood-inundation maps for a 5.5-mile reach of the lower Pawcatuck River in Westerly, Rhode Island, and Stonington and North Stonington, Connecticut. Now you can see just what goes underwater whenever you hear a meteorologist say "a flood warning has been issued for parts of the Pawcatuck River".

The coverage of these cool interactive maps extends from just below Potter Hill Mill to the Route 1/Broad Street bridge on the state border between Westerly, Rhode Island, and Stonington, Connecticut. According to the USGS's companion report, "The hydraulic model reflects the removal of the White Rock dam during 2015–16, and was calibrated using the stage-discharge relation at the USGS Pawcatuck River at Westerly, Rhode Island, streamgage and documented high-water marks from the March 30, 2010, flood, which had a peak flow slightly greater than the estimated 0.2-percent annual exceedance probability flood flow." Don't let this engineer-speak scare you, it just means the model that you can play with is super accurate. Anyone who can navigate a Google Map can use this model to see what will flood on the lower Pawcatuck River.

The flood-inundation maps depict only riverine flooding and do not depict any tidal backwater or coastal storm surge that could occur in the lower part of the river reach. The flood-inundation maps can be accessed through the USGS Flood Inundation Mapping Science website <https://fim.wim.usgs.gov/fim/>. This is a national interactive map that allows you to zoom in on the Lower Pawcatuck. Just click on the yellow triangle to get started. For more information on the overall project, visit <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20185112>. [Return to Top](#)