

WATERSHED NEWS

Finding ways to keep our water pure and plentiful

Serving the Community Since 1999

Fall/Winter 2014

Advocating on Behalf of Our Water Resources

Working collaboratively with state and local officials, land use commissions, environmental associations and water supply providers, PRWC continues to advocate on behalf of rivers, streams, and the water we drink. In recent months, PRWC has been engaged in numerous activities in support of our water resources. The following briefly highlights our effort.

In October, the State Water Planning Council (WPC) authorized a Memorandum of Understanding with UCONN to initiate the development of a State Water Plan. The WPC was charged with the responsibility for Plan through the passage of Public Act 14-163. PRWC, as a member of the WPC Advisory Group, has been and will continue to be an active participant in this important initiative. Through the same Advisory Group, PRWC is assisting with revisions to the State's Drought Preparedness and Response Plan.

Locally, PRWC has been actively engaged in numerous water resource protection matters. We are assisting our local communities with existing regulations and proposed changes for both Federal and State stormwater management programs. We facilitated a site visit meeting with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and our local community leaders as well as concerned neighbors regarding a stretch of the Pomperaug River where the channel has diverted from the historic river-course near Orton Lane in Woodbury. We provided observation and comments to the Southbury Inland Wetlands Commission on the proposal to construct Southbury Village Square (the location for the proposed movie theater), and we are currently making use of our science and research in our review of the proposed power plant in Oxford specifically related to its potential impact on water resources.

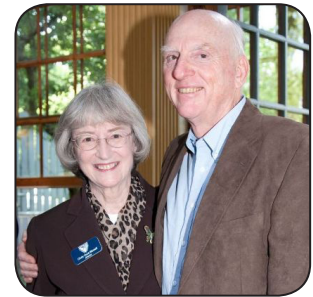


PRWC facilitates site visit to Pomperaug River with the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

For more about the topics above, contact us at 203-263-0076 or info@pomperaug.org.

Plans to Update Pomperaug Watershed Management Plan

PRWC received a grant award from CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to update and upgrade its Watershed Management Plan to a 9-Element Watershed Based Plan. This is a critical first step to be eligible for future Federal funding for corrective-action projects to improve sections of river that do not fully support recreation or aquatic life because of water-quality or habitat limitations. In particular, PRWC will develop plans to address elevated bacteria levels and alterations to the flow regime (historical channelization in particular). We will be hosting a series of public forums and seeking input from residents, municipal leaders, town commissions, health departments, and key stakeholder groups (utilities, agriculture, business owners, environmental groups, etc). To sign up for updates on the Plan process, visit www.pomperaug.org.

Cindy Hunt-Stowell:**Her Leadership and Her Legacy**

Cindy Hunt-Stowell with husband Dan.

In August, PRWC shared in a memorial remembrance with family and friends of Cindy Hunt-Stowell, who served on our board of directors for more than a decade before transitioning to an Advisory role. Cindy lent her professional expertise and enormous personal enthusiasm for environmental conservation in a number of ways over the years, as our Treasurer, IT Committee Chair, Governance Committee member, and overall "process guru." She was also a master of mischief, facilitating the "play" necessary for a group to be able to work well together. In remembering Cindy's leadership, she was noted as the type of leader who cultivated fellow leaders, not followers, and one who pushed the team to always do better. We will remember her fondly, and will always find appreciation in her legacy gift that has fully established an endowment fund for our organization. To learn more about this fund, visit www.conncf.org.

OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Thanks to generous grant support from the Connecticut Community Foundation, PRWC just launched a brand new and improved website. Check it out today, and check back frequently for continued updates!

www.pomperaug.org

2014 Watershed Support

Please help us continue to provide the knowledge, education and safeguards needed to protect the vital water resources that pulse through the heart of our community by making a tax-deductible gift.



Water concerns are greater with each passing year. Across the nation, and near to home, we are seeing dramatic changing weather patterns, new threats to water quality and a critical need for meaningful watershed education. Here are just a few examples of how your support benefits our local watershed:



\$60 funds the purchase of equipment required to conduct annual aquatic health studies.



\$125 provides funding for 20 children to participate in classroom and field-based environmental education programs.



\$250 helps fund projects that protect and restore our rivers and streams and the water we drink.

Your support will help safeguard water resources for generations - your stewardship matters. Please do what you can to help by sending the enclosed envelope along with your contribution. Every gift at any level funds activities like these which fulfill our mission to ensure high quality water. We salute and thank all who recognize the importance of supporting our use of science, education and outreach in our collective roles of stewards of our environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LEN".

Len DeJong, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John".

John Lacadie, PhD - Chairman

Did you know you can securely make a donation **online?**

Go to www.pomperaug.org
to support PRWC today.

Prefer to write a check?

Simply print out and complete this page and mail to:

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition
39 Sherman Hill Road, Suite C-103
Woodbury, CT 06798

Your Watershed Support

*Working together to protect our rivers, streams
and the water we drink. Your support is
recognized for total gifts between
July 1 and June 30 at the following levels:*

Friend	\$35+
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Advocate	\$125+
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Leader	\$1000+
Champion	\$3000+
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We salute and thank all who recognize the
importance of supporting our use of science,
education and outreach in our collective roles
as stewards of our environment.

Support us online at: www.pomperaug.org



Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition

*is a 501c (3) not-for-profit organization
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Supporter Levels:

☐ \$35 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ **My check is enclosed payable to: PRWC**

☐ **Please charge my credit card:**

Acct #: _____

Exp _____ CID#: _____

Signature: _____

Dedicate my gift in ☐ honor or ☐ memory of:

Name: _____

☐ **My employer's matching gift form is enclosed.**

☐ **I am interested in volunteer opportunities.**



CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Email: info@pomperaug.org
 Website: www.pomperaug.org

PRWC STAFF

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Len DeJong
 Outreach Director
Carol Haskins
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The Pomperaug Watershed



Marking All Those Stormdrains!

As of October, volunteers have installed approximately 800 stormdrain markers throughout Bethlehem, Woodbury, and Southbury – a huge effort! Our remaining markers, roughly 200, will be installed next spring. In the meantime, you can be a watershed steward by helping keep these drains clear of leaves, debris, and ice. A clear drain works much more effectively than a clogged one! Also remember: “Only plain rain should go down the stormdrain – no dumping.” To learn more about ways you can help keep our rivers healthy, visit www.riversmartct.org.



Matt Rose, our Dr. Marc Taylor Intern, led volunteers in marking hundreds of stormdrains this summer.

PRWC Reaches Out Time and Again

PRWC met a lot of great people, led some great programs, and answered many water-related questions this summer and fall through events like the Volunteer Fair organized by the Town of Southbury, the Southbury Farmers' Market, the Make a Splash Day at Woodbury Middle School, Flanders Farm Day, the OLLI Café at UConn Waterbury, Woodbury's Trick or Trunk, and a Project WET workshop, as well as through projects like the buffer restoration effort at Cedarland Park in Southbury and our stormdrain marking effort. We hope to see you all soon! In the meantime, find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/PomperaugRiver) and tell us what you most want to learn about the Pomperaug Watershed!



PRWC was one of 50 local organizations who participated in Southbury's Volunteer Fair in August, which drew more than 1000 attendees.

Volunteers Give Back!

More than a year ago – a crew of brave (and brash) volunteers bore all (and bared all!) in support of the Pomperaug River. Inspired by the Poudre River group in Colorado who spelled out Save the Poudre, our own team spelled out “Viva la Pomperaug” – long live the Pomperaug! Each volunteer made his or her own financial pledge to participate in the photo during the 2013 PRWC Annual Benefit at Mill House, and at long last we are unveiling the image. It is first appearing on coffee mugs that are available at the PRWC office for \$12 each. Initial supplies are limited, but we will take orders for a second run.



PRWC Volunteers Give Back. To learn about our current and ongoing volunteer needs, visit www.pomperaug.org/Get_Involved.html or call 203-263-0076.



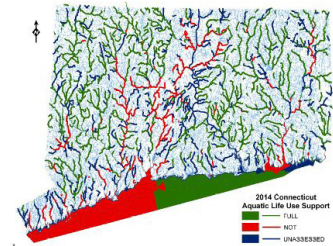
Weekeepemee River, Woodbury, CT.

Classifying Streamflow in Connecticut

In early October, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection finalized streamflow designations for rivers in the Southeast Coast region based on the State's recently adopted streamflow regulations. The next region to go through this designation process is South Central Coast, and PRWC will participate in the appropriate meetings to determine how the designations are made in preparation for streamflow designations within the Pomperaug basin (Housatonic region). No date has been set for the work in our region to begin, but it will follow after the designations are made for the South Central Coast region. To view the interactive map showing streamflow designations made for the Southeast Coast, visit: <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/sfclass/index.htm>. For more on the regulations: www.ct.gov/deep/streamflow.

PRWC Submits Comments on Water-Quality Report to Congress

A draft copy of Connecticut's biannual Water Quality Report to Congress was released in August for public comment. PRWC reviewed and submitted comments pertinent to the Pomperaug Watershed. Of note, six sections of the Pomperaug Watershed are considered "impaired," which total 16 stream miles of more than 200 stream miles in the Watershed. PRWC is developing a Watershed Based Plan to identify the actions necessary to restore these sections to a "swimmable" and "fishable" status. The draft report is still available and the final report will be available soon at <http://tinyurl.com/ctdeep303d>.



PRWC Helps Organize Water-Quality Monitoring Volunteer Conference

At the end of July, more than 100 water-quality monitoring leaders and volunteers assembled at Goodwin College in East Hartford for the first ever Connecticut Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Conference.

The conference was organized by several watershed and environmental agencies from throughout the state, including CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the CT River Watershed Council, the Farmington River Watershed Association, PRWC, the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Rivers Alliance of CT, and others. The conference was extremely successful in providing participants the opportunity to network, develop partnerships, learn new strategies for monitoring, and understand how their data can be used by state, Federal, and academic agencies. Conference materials, including a presentation made by PRWC, are available on the Rivers Alliance website: <http://tinyurl.com/WQVolConf>.



Jacqueline Talbot, Connecticut River Watershed Council, and Meghan Ruta, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, welcome volunteer water-quality monitors to conference.

Studying Important Little River Creatures: Our 9th Annual Macroinvertebrate Survey

This fall, we made some important course corrections in our annual Macroinvertebrate Survey under the guidelines of CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's volunteer assessment program. Rather than returning to the sites we surveyed last year and for several years now, we surveyed three brand new sites! There were good reasons for the change. To begin with, data for all the sites surveyed in 2013 will be included in the biannual water quality report to Congress, so the sites do not need to be re-sampled during the two-year reporting cycle. Instead, we chose three headwater streams that we have not previously sampled, so they too could be included in the next report. Another reason is that there is greater confidence in the results when assessment protocol is used in headwater streams (moving away from 3rd order or higher streams like the Nonnewaug and Weekeepemee). Sampling small streams is where volunteer water monitoring groups are the most valuable for helping DEEP assess more sites each year. And now, the results: Data from our three new sites all show excellent water quality! Many thanks to all the volunteers who participated this year!



Ryan and David Laird of New Milford survey Good Hill Brook at Grassy Hill Road in Woodbury.

POMPERAUG RIVER WATERSHED COALITION, INC.

39 Sherman Hill Road, C103

Woodbury, CT 06798

Email: info@pomperaug.org

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5K Run for the River Honors Dr. Marc Taylor

PRWC held its annual 5k Run for the River and awards celebration at River Glen Health Care Center in Southbury, CT on October 25 honoring Dr. Marc Taylor. It was a beautiful day for a run and a great way to honor Dr. Taylor. "It keeps the memory of what he stood for alive. He's been gone two years, but he's still impacting people in so many ways." said his wife Jan Taylor.



Almost 200 people came out to run, walk, cheer and volunteer including the Green Team from Woodbury Middle School, who won both team prizes. We extend a special thanks to our steering committee volunteers Kevin Johnson and Donna Lesch and thanks to all our volunteers, including Pomperaug High School's enthusiastic InterAct Club. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our sponsors Classic Turf, River Glen Health Care Center, Jan Taylor, Haynes Construction, Waterbury Hospital, Union Savings Bank, Newtown Savings Bank, Jack Zazzaro, DMD, Evergreen Lawn & Landscaping, and Woodbridge Running Company. Thank you!

**Haskins Receives HVA
Leadership Award**

At the Housatonic Valley Association's Annual Meeting in October, Carol Haskins, PRWC Outreach Director was presented with their River Conservation Leadership Award, one of only two awards given this year. Carol was recognized for her leadership in the River Smart initiative.



Tony Zunino, HVA Chairman and Lynn Werner, HVA Executive Director present Carol Haskins with HVA's River Conservation Leadership Award in October.