

Spring 2018

# THE VOICE OF THE RIVER



IPSWICH RIVER  
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

& 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

*Sustainable Landscapes are Key #4ourRiver: by Rachel Schneider, Outreach Coordinator*

2018 arrived with severe storms and the damage they bring. This followed just a year after the most devastating drought and within a few years after the worst flood in our river's history. This destructive swinging between floods and drought looks increasingly like the new norm. There is another flood we are working hard to address: one of legislative and regulatory activity that could impact the future of the Ipswich River, forever. This flood includes the renewal of 20-year water withdrawal permits, attacks by the federal government on landmark environmental laws and other legislation which could mean new threats and great opportunities for our river. There is on-the-ground work that can be done, by everyone in the watershed, to protect our river and increase its resiliency to our ever-changing climate. It starts on a very small scale, no further than our backyards. If done collectively, our actions will result in a massive positive impact.

This past year marked the completion of the Great Marsh Adaptation Plan, which we wrote for our coastal communities. Its regional recommendations make this point clear for all communities: nature-based solutions are the most cost-effective and impactful way to address the challenges of weather-related threats. Natural spaces help to mitigate flooding, reduce erosion, retain and filter water and lower the impact of heat islands. More than 40% of the land in the Ipswich River watershed is conservation land, but while our population remains roughly steady, new development continues to chip away at the remaining land. How that land is cared for will determine the future fate of our river.

Our urban and suburban areas are where the benefits of open spaces are most needed. The potential to create more natural areas and build a stronger and more resilient watershed for our river is in the hands of our watershed communities. Citizens, businesses, municipalities and local groups, in utilizing eco-friendly sustainable landscape methods, can multiply the amount of open spaces within the watershed and minimize the impacts of how we use the land.



We are launching a campaign to help with our 2018 goal of increasing the awareness and implementation of sustainable landscapes within the Ipswich River watershed: #4ourRiver.

If we work as a community to expand the natural places in our watershed, then from street to street and yard to yard we'll have more support for pollinators, more habitat for wildlife, more filtration for groundwater, and less water taken out of the river. We have the power to determine the future resiliency of our watershed. The opportunity to make our river healthier starts one piece of earth at a time.

Learn more about the campaign at [ipswichriver.org/4ourRiver](http://ipswichriver.org/4ourRiver)



[ipswichriver.org/4ourRiver](http://ipswichriver.org/4ourRiver)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Be Water Wise by reducing outdoor water use, making the most of rainwater and helping to recharge groundwater.

Go Native with native drought-resistant plants to help wildlife and create a more resilient landscape.

Cut Out Chemicals in lawn care by using only organic pest control and fertilizers.

Grow Together using social media to spread the word about the benefits of eco-friendly sustainable landscaping.



## Young Voices Advocate for the River

Last summer, two Wilmington Middle School teachers, Karen Strazzera and Theresa Fisher, participated in a week-long summer institute run by our Greenscapes Coalition partner, Salem Sound Coastwatch. The course teaches about watershed ecology through field work and hands-on science. In the fall, Strazzera and Fisher encountered an opportunity to take their lessons about watersheds to the next level.

"We had just finished teaching our students a unit on [the Ipswich River watershed] which included a place-based lesson out to the headwaters," says Fisher, "when a colleague saw an article about the drought legislation bill soliciting community feedback and informed us. We decided to add a civic action piece to our watershed unit."

As residents impacted by the effects of over-withdrawals, the students wrote formal letters to the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture expressing their feelings about the bill. "The toughest part was that we only had a few days before the deadline so it was a quick lesson and turnaround to get them done. All of our 7th graders in the school participated, over 250 students," explains Fisher.

"Most people would agree that the effect that is put on towns within the watershed today is not distributed properly and is unfair, and the inconsistency of water usage is affecting every town within the Ipswich watershed," wrote student Nikhitha Biju. "Our residential consumption [increases significantly] in the summer months when we are in more danger of a drought," Emily Provost added in her letter. As Nikos Koss pointed out, "Six towns that have no state-regulated outdoor watering restrictions during drought are in the same watershed as six more towns with state restrictions."

Sofia Skye Almeida summed up the students' call to action: "We know you have a choice to make, that is why we ask you to really think about how if this bill passes, the river will continue to flow and we will all have enough water."

These amazing teachers not only showed and taught their students about their watershed, but imparted in them the knowledge that they have a say in what happens to it. Fisher says, "They were surprised that as kids they could have a voice in government and have become very interested in the status of the bill and river as a result. This process was very satisfying as teachers, going beyond any old lesson taught in the confines of a classroom."

*In 2014 the State wrote new rules to govern water withdrawals. During this process, they determined the Safe Yield for every watershed in the Commonwealth. Safe Yield is the maximum amount of water that can be legally removed from a river each day. For the Ipswich, it was set at 29.4 million gallons per day which is roughly equal to current authorized withdrawals. This means it is illegal to take any more water from our river, forever. Thus, additional demand for water from new growth and development will have to come from reducing existing water use somewhere else.*

*This year, new rules will go into effect requiring our cities and towns to act in compliance with the Clean Water Act and reduce the amount of pollution entering our river in order to make it swimmable, fishable and drinkable throughout its entire length. By far the number one source of pollution preventing us from meeting these standards today is stormwater runoff from our developed landscapes. As our climate becomes more and more variable, both of these issues will become even more challenging to address in the future. But it doesn't have to be that way.*

*Thankfully, we have the tools and know-how to fix these problems. These practices are known by many terms including climate-smart, eco-friendly, nature-based, sustainable landscaping and the like. All are part of a suite of low impact development (LID) methods and behaviors that mimic natural systems as closely as possible which can dramatically reduce our collective impact on the environment. By implementing these measures on both our existing and newly developed areas, we can create a more resilient future.*

*While our organization has advocated for LID for decades, the time has come to dramatically increase the pace of adoption of these low cost, healthy, beautiful and nature-enhancing techniques. Please join us in our efforts to spread the word about the need to take care of our watershed—our future depends on it!*

**WAYNE**

Wayne Castonguay,  
Executive Director



Fantastic Wilmington Middle School students Emily Provost, Nikhitha Biju and Sofia Skye Almeida (left to right) wrote letters on behalf of the Ipswich River. As Sophia sums up, "If this bill passes, the river will continue to flow and we will all have enough water."

## One Person Can Change the River

Growing up near a small river in western Massachusetts started my life-long love of rivers. I even focused my graduate studies on water resources. Shortly after I moved to Reading, there was an Ipswich River event nearby and I wanted to find out more. Reading's beautiful Town Forest borders and protects the Ipswich River. For 75 years it also hosted Reading's water plant and wells which pumped groundwater from the river basin. The Town Forest is a great place to walk, but seeing the effects of pumping groundwater, a dry river bed and dead fish, just about every second or third summer, was a real call to action.

I began helping with the RiverWatch program at the Route 28 bridge in the 1990s and moved upstream to Mill Street around 1999. It's a nice spot where you can hear the birds and see evidence of beaver activity. Unfortunately, one thing that always amazes me is the amount of litter each month. Oddly, for two or three months a number of years ago I would find several pairs of clean white ankle socks rolled up and tossed over the bridge. The insult to the river and wetlands of tossing stuff into a stream is unconscionable. One of the easiest things people can do is NOT LITTER.

I first joined the Ipswich River board in 1995 and, with our Reading/North Reading Stream Team, we raised awareness on water conservation issues and petitioned to get MassDEP to coordinate clean up efforts on the groundwater pollution. It all culminated in Reading's switch to the Quabbin Reservoir for its water supply in 2006. It was great to see the result of all the work that went into limiting groundwater withdrawal; water was in the river during a year that had less rainfall than ten years previously when the Reading segment dried up for the last time.

The next big issue is stormwater. There's been a lot of development in the watershed, and there is a lot more pavement sending pollution right into the river. People can help by implementing greenscaping. For example, installing dry wells for downspouts and putting in rain gardens where they will capture runoff from impervious surfaces really makes a difference. These actions reduce pollution and provide valuable recharge to groundwater which can feed the river when there's no rain. *by Gina Snyder*



Gina Snyder, now serving her second term on our board, paddles a once habitually dry section of the river in Reading. She advises members of the watershed community to "Conserve water!"

## Leave a Legacy for What You Hold Dear



Noelene Martin (*third from right*) was an avid birder and gardener with a strong interest in environmental protection. Ipswich locals may remember her as a member of the Wednesday Walkers and the steward for a local trail.

Born in New Zealand, Noelene received her training in library science in New Zealand. She and her husband Murray, both librarians, came to the United States when they were both offered jobs in the library at Penn State. When they bought a home in Ipswich, Noelene kept her job at Penn State and became an intrepid commuter, back and forth between Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Even after she retired, Noelene would drive to Penn State every few weeks to see friends, continue in her book club, and attend concerts and university talks.

Noelene loved the water. In her home, she had a high perch that allowed her to look across the marshes toward Plum Island. This view sustained her even when health problems slowed her down. Noelene died peacefully on Thanksgiving Day, 2017, after celebrating the day with her Seaview Avenue neighbors. She had wanted to remain in Ipswich as long as she could, and we're sure she wanted to leave behind a legacy which would help protect the beauty and waters of her adopted home.

In 2016, Noelene updated her will to include a gift to the Ipswich River Watershed Association. Her generosity and commitment to environmental protection and stewardship will live on for years to come. We are very grateful and honored to safeguard the Ipswich River for future generations in her memory.

You too can leave a legacy for what you hold dear. It's easy to include the river in your will. Contact Trish Aldrich at 978-412-8200 or [taldrich@ipswichriver.org](mailto:taldrich@ipswichriver.org) or visit [ipswichriver.org/Leavealegacy](http://ipswichriver.org/Leavealegacy) for sample language and more information.



**IPSWICH RIVER**  
**WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**  
*The Voice of the River*

PO Box 576  
Ipswich, MA 01938-0576  
(tel) 978-412-8200  
(fax) 978-412-9100  
[www.ipswichriver.org](http://www.ipswichriver.org)  
[irwainfo@ipswichriver.org](mailto:irwainfo@ipswichriver.org)



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## Paddle-a-thon 2018 REGISTER TODAY!



Whether you love paddling as a family, powering through a race or simply having fun on the river, the Paddle-a-thon is for you! We are paddling to raise funds and awareness for the Ipswich River, named one of the most endangered rivers in the nation because it dries up. Together, we'll change that. Paddle for clean water! To register or get more info, visit [ipswichriver.org/paddle-a-thon/](http://ipswichriver.org/paddle-a-thon/).



## Spring Calendar

- Garden Days** April 26 at Riverbend, RSVP appreciated, not required.
- Annual Meeting** April 26, Boxford, RSVP required.
- Show Me Your River** May 3, Riverbend, RSVP required.
- Rain Barrel Workshops** May 5, North Reading, RSVP required, \$20
- Dock Opening** May 6, Riverbend, RSVP appreciated, not required.
- Fireside Advocacy Chat** May 15, Riverbend, RSVP required.
- Save Water Workshop** May 27, iFarm, Boxford, RSVP required, \$35
- Riverwide Clean Up** June 2, Multiple locations (details at [www.ipswichriver.com/support/event-calendar/](http://www.ipswichriver.com/support/event-calendar/)), RSVP required.
- Birding Festival** June 9, Multiple locations (details at [www.ipswichriver.com/support/event-calendar/](http://www.ipswichriver.com/support/event-calendar/)), RSVP required.
- Paddle-a-thon** June 16, Topsfield Fairgrounds, Route 97 field, Sign up today!
- Beginners Paddle** June 22, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22 Riverbend, Limited to 20 boats, including guide. RSVP required.
- Greenbelt/IRWA Paddle** June 24, RSVP required

Details for all events can be found at:  
[www.ipswichriver.org/support/event-calendar/](http://www.ipswichriver.org/support/event-calendar/)

# THE VOICE OF THE RIVER



IPSWICH RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

*When People Show They Care, the River Thrives* by Rachel Schneider, Outreach Manager

Walking or driving locally in the late spring and summer, you will pass through many residential areas. Very likely, you will witness many acres of green lawn. These lawns may also be devoid of people, save for teams of landscapers, empty of activity save for the spray of sprinklers. Some of these yards have private well water; some are on municipal wells or reservoirs. Regardless of how their water reaches them, they all share a common water source: the Ipswich River watershed.

As any 5th grader who has participated in our Greenscapes program can tell you, all water in a watershed is connected by groundwater. It's all the same water, but the rules governing usage are not the same. Some towns have no water conservation restrictions; others may have chosen to have regulations, but disagree on what they should be. This year will be pivotal for influencing this situation and there will be many opportunities for you to address this disparity and unfairness.

This year marks the renewal of the 20-year state water withdrawal permits, which determine the maximum amount of water that can be legally removed from the river each day. We are working with our cities and towns on new regulations and policies as well as working with our legislative delegation and partners on statewide changes. All of this will require your voice to influence the decision-makers in the interest of our river.

But what can we do until new policies are in place? It's summer, when water use is at its highest. What can be done, right now, to keep our river from going dry?



In his 40+ years living in Middleton, Bob Lemoine has never watered or fertilized his lawn, doing his part to ensure the river will continue flowing for future generations.

Luckily, something can and is being done alongside our advocacy work. Amidst the sprinklers discharging into the street and the vacant lawns are sustainable landscapes that are making a difference for our river. The choices that we make as individuals, and inspire in others, have the biggest impact. More people, like those who participated in our two recent rain barrel workshops, are opting to use rainwater on their landscapes rather than depleting groundwater. Our ongoing #4ourRiver campaign is spreading the word about other water saving methods like rain gardens and encouraging those already saving water to educate their neighbors.

Throughout the watershed, people are making choices to save our river, one act at a time. Two summers ago, when the drought of 2016 resulted in a dry riverbed, the watershed community was brought together by a common tragedy, the loss of our river. We hope that this summer we unite again, this time in working together to make sure our river never goes dry again.

## Want to help keep water in the river?

Join our advocacy efforts by emailing [rschneider@ipswichriver.org](mailto:rschneider@ipswichriver.org). See how you can help save water at home and in your community, and win prizes through our #4ourRiver campaign at [ipswichriver.org/4ourRiver](http://ipswichriver.org/4ourRiver).



Town Water Restrictions in the Ipswich River Watershed

This map shows the disparity in water restrictions in towns drawing from the Ipswich River watershed.



## Tale of Two Tools

*Protection and restoration of our river requires two different sets of tools. One set is what we call Advocacy, which involves proactive efforts to improve public policy, laws and regulations that support and promote river protection. The other is Behavior Change, where we seek, through increased awareness and education, to voluntarily modify our everyday habits in ways that aid the river. This includes things such as water conservation, the ways we care for our landscapes and how we make use of the river. Both advocacy and behavior change require the active engagement of enough people and businesses to make beneficial change for the river. With 350,000 of us who depend on the river every day, while living our lives in diverse ways, we need both sets of tools operating in tandem to prevent harm to our river, repair prior damage and protect it for future generations. Margaret Mead's famous quote is most appropriate: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."*

*This issue highlights some of the many ways we can each drive change for the river. The task of safeguarding our river aptly fits the old saying: "It takes a village." Every one of us plays a role, through our own actions and those we support in our communities. We are incredibly thankful for all the people, businesses and communities who have joined together in our cause. We are proud to highlight just a few of them here.*

*WAYNE*

Wayne Castonguay  
Executive Director

## Making the River Accessible to All

"What a hidden gem in Ipswich! Learning about water run-off, rain gardens and wildlife living around the Ipswich River rounded out our understanding of the importance of water to our community." This testimonial from the Birth to Three Mini Greenies, who visited Riverbend recently, sums up the driving force behind our Youth Education Program.

For communities to truly value and wish to protect the Ipswich River, they first need to understand its importance. Children especially can benefit immensely from exploring and asking questions about nature. Time spent in nature has both mental and physical health benefits and early experiences in nature can be linked to conservationists' behaviors. Offering opportunities to connect with the river, for young people both within and outside the watershed, helps to safeguard this resource into the future.

These benefits make it key that we are able to provide our outdoor education and excursions at no cost. Many groups would be unable to make a journey on the Ipswich if our program were not offered free of charge. For this they, and we, have to thank you, our supporters. In just the first few months of this year's program, well over 100 kids will have visited Riverbend or had off-site staff visits. This summer and fall, more groups will learn, like the Phoenix School, how sustainable landscapes recharge groundwater. Like the Governor's Academy students, they will discover that even very small creatures like macroinvertebrates can tell us a lot about a river's health. With your help, we'll continue to build the program, helping adults and children find and cherish our gem of a river.



Top: This spring, students from Glen Urquhart School learned about migratory fish from Programs Coordinator Ryan O'Donnell and even spotted some returning herring at the Ipswich Mills fish ladder.

Left: Outreach Manager Rachel Schneider teaching the Birth to Three Mini Greenies about the wildlife that depends on the Ipswich River. Never too small to be a future River Steward!

# Caretakers & Champions

Bags of dog waste, plastic water bottles, styrofoam cups and coolers, glass bottles, beer cans, little plastic nips bottles and many, many cigarette butts. This is some of the pollution found floating in the river or scattered at its landings during our annual Riverwide Clean Up event. All items were found, picked up and dutifully disposed of by 47 volunteers over a sweltering Saturday. Thank you!

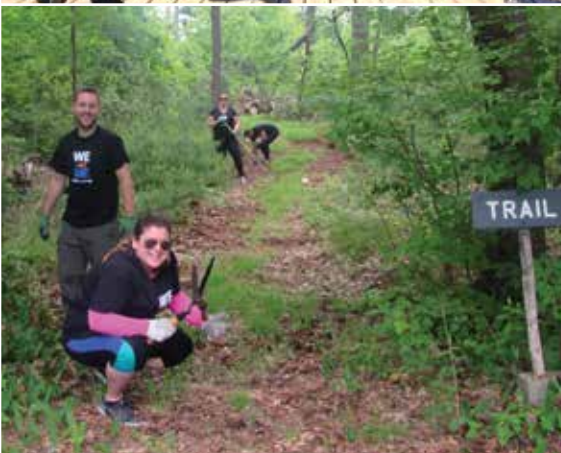
River Clean Ups on the Ipswich River are not new. This year marked the 28th clean up held in Reading/North Reading and led by Butch Conary (thank you, Butch!). Both the Middleton Stream Team and Ipswich River staff have joined these clean ups in the past, but this year marked the start of a wider effort. The event was in part a welcoming for the newly formed Topsfield Stream Team, but it was also part of a larger effort to connect the towns of the Ipswich River watershed.

While much of our membership hail from the river's namesake city, the goals we hope to achieve rely on having support throughout the watershed. Stream Teams are invaluable resources towards this effort. They are stewards, watchdogs and advocates of their portions of the watershed. It's through their support and energy that we were able to grow Butch's clean up to span across four towns. Next year, our aim is to expand the number of clean up volunteers well beyond 50, and for the event itself to reach from source to sea.

# Businesses as Community

Businesses impact the community they are a part of in physical and intangible ways. They inspire loyalty from their customers, shape community identity and can inspire change. With all this power to affect the world around them, it's heartening that so many local businesses have chosen to be friends of the river—not only by sponsoring the work that helps keep the river healthy and flowing, but also by encouraging a culture of giving back.

Volunteers, from Cell Signaling Technology (top) and Copyright Clearance Center (bottom), during their Spring 2018 visits to Riverbend to pull up invasives and tend to our native plant gardens.



Employees of our corporate partners have come to Riverbend for volunteer work days, helping with our gardens and trails, or in the case of New England Biolabs, installing and taking out our dock every year. They've joined us at events, signed up for paddles and subscribed to our monthly emails. In short, they've become a part of the Ipswich River community, and every friend of the river helps to make our voice stronger.

We are lucky to have many amazing corporate supporters, some whose names are proudly emblazoned on our Paddle-a-thon t-shirts. Some of these relationships are ones of long standing while others are newly minted. In the coming years, we look forward to what will grow from these partnerships.

If you're interested in volunteering, our youth education programs, or joining a Stream Team, please contact Rachel at [rschneider@ipswichriver.org](mailto:rschneider@ipswichriver.org). If your business would like to become a corporate sponsor contact Trish at [taldrich@ipswichriver.org](mailto:taldrich@ipswichriver.org)



The Middleton, Reading/North Reading and Topsfield Stream Teams join forces with Boy Scout Troop 750 and other Ipswich River volunteers to clean over 16 miles of the river on June 2, 2018.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of:

- River Steward \$1000
- Patron \$250
- Supporter \$100
- Family \$50
- Individual \$40
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

For:  Where needed most  New Membership  In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

You may make check payable to IRWA and mail to: **IRWA, PO Box 576, Ipswich, MA**

**Thank you for your support!**


Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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*The Voice of the River*

PO Box 576  
 Ipswich, MA 01938-0576  
 (tel) 978-412-8200  
 (fax) 978-412-9100  
 www.ipswichriver.org  
 irwainfo@ipswichriver.org

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## RiverWatch Program Funded for Another Year

Thank you, paddlers, volunteers, event attendees and sponsors. More than 140 of you joined us in celebrating the river at Paddle-a-thon 2018 and raising more than \$38,200 in net proceeds for our RiverWatch Program. Our RiverWatch volunteers will continue to



monitor the water quality of over 100 miles of river and streams with current and new tests, such as chloride and bacteria at select sites. Your efforts and generosity will enable us to collect valuable data on the river to keep it healthy.

Complete with a pirate ship, kayaks, canoes, SUP boards and a swimmer, Paddle-a-thon 2018 was a huge success!

## Summer Calendar



### JULY

**Beginner's Paddle | July 11 & 25 | Riverbend**  
 Limited to 20 boats, including guide.  
 RSVP required

**Weed Watchers Training | July 12**

**Mindfulness Paddle | July 18**

### AUGUST

**Beginner's Paddle | August 8 & 22 | Riverbend**  
 Limited to 20 boats, including guide.  
 RSVP required

**Before & After Paddle II | August 30**

Details for all events can be found at:  
[ipswichriver.org/support/event-calendar/](http://ipswichriver.org/support/event-calendar/)



Fall 2018

# THE Voice

OF THE RIVER



IPSWICH RIVER  
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

## Preparing for Our River's Future

As the old saying goes, if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. New England's climate is known for its fickle nature, but that unpredictability is becoming more common, and more of a concern. Just two years ago, we experienced the most impactful river drought in history. This summer, we had a much longer period of high temperatures than is typical. The heat kept many sprinklers going despite more than adequate rainfall for lawns. This coming winter might be mild or it could be filled with the destructive winds and ice storms of last winter.

If the Ipswich River is going to survive and thrive amid such uncertain conditions, it will need to be as resilient as possible. Ecological resilience means that an ecosystem is able to continue its normal patterns and processes after a disturbance. Though it's the current environmental buzzword, resiliency has been an important part of our work for decades. For years, field work, data collection and projects aided in making the Ipswich River more resilient, and you have been right there with us.

Friends and supporters of the Ipswich River, like you, understand what projections of growing development, more frequent and severe storms, and increasing temperatures mean for our river. These disturbances will bring more threats like increased demand on groundwater, more stormwater pollution and the spread of invasive aquatic plants which collectively may damage the river's biodiversity. The task of fighting against these oncoming challenges seems daunting, but we have a solid plan in place to combat these issues, one that is already in motion.

Guided by our strategic plan and restoration priorities, we've outlined key actions to build up the Ipswich River's resilience. Cohesively, the many components of our actions not only better prepare the river for new and growing threats, but also result in a healthier river overall. **A healthy river is a resilient river.**

Your help is and will continue to be crucial to achieving these goals. In this issue, we dive into some specific actions and outline the ongoing efforts of towns, volunteers and river advocates. *The actions we take now can make our river stronger and resilient enough to withstand all that the future brings.*



**Higher Temps • More Development  
More Severe Storms • Drought**

These are the very real problems our river, the watershed  
and our entire communities are struggling with.



In this issue, we are pleased to highlight just a few of the projects our wonderful river community is doing to improve the resiliency of our river.

Resiliency is a relatively new term that is being used increasingly, particularly as it relates to climate change impacts on our environment and communities. To us, resilient simply means healthy, and a healthy river is a more resilient river. In this sense, we've been working with you to increase the resiliency of our river since our founding in 1977. Since that time, our river has indeed become healthier, bit by bit. However, as climate-driven threats are more apparent we must increase the pace of our river protection and restoration efforts to better insulate the river from these impacts. The need for action has become even more urgent as these threats increase. Thankfully, as public awareness continues to grow, more interest and resources become available to combat these threats. That's why we recently embarked upon a campaign to increase our collective impact to improve the health of the river. As these stories exemplify, we'll get there thanks to you. We've never been more proud of our river community!

WAYNE

Wayne Castonguay  
Executive Director



### Welcome Kaitlyn Shaw

Essential to moving forward with our resiliency efforts is our new Science and Restoration Program Manager, Kaitlyn Shaw. Please join us in welcoming her to the Ipswich River staff.

# Increasing River Resiliency Together

## Repairing the Water Cycle

Human demands have interfered with how water flows over and through land and water bodies, but the imbalance can be addressed.

- Conserve water to keep it where it belongs: in groundwater, streams, ponds, wetlands and the river.
- Capture rain and greywater to help address usage needs and cut back on runoff caused by nonporous surfaces.
- Increase our green spaces to facilitate the absorption of water into the ground, recharging aquifers and reducing flooding and erosion.

### Outreach & Education

Rain barrels assembled at our spring workshops, like the one held at Ipswich River Park in North Reading, are saving water and reducing stormwater pollution.

North Andover staff Jean Enright, Jen Hughes and Bernadette Curran join the towns and residents who are encouraging others to embrace sustainable landscaping through lawn signs and social media.



## Fortifying the 'Shed

Advocates are helping to keep the watershed from being overwhelmed by increased growth and development.

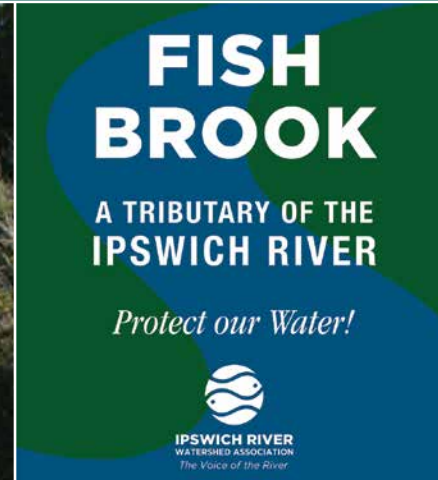
- Innovate the way we build by working with nature rather than fighting against it.
- Improve legislation to better protect our natural resources and ensure fair access to clean and abundant water.
- Empower river-supporters to build stronger communities.

### Science & Monitoring

Volunteers work together to protect our streams. RiverWatchers added new nutrient and chloride tests at select sites while Weed Watchers assess possible herring habitat.

### Outreach & Education

Topsfield and other towns are installing stream crossing signs to improve awareness and interest in their water resources.



## Holding Back the Storm

As outlined by the Parker-Ipswich-Essex Rivers Partnership's Action Plan, restoring natural systems is the cheapest and most effective way to increase the resiliency of our rivers.

- Repair streamflow by improving culverts and removing barriers to flow.
- Plant native vegetation buffers capable of reducing erosion.
- Adopt and promote best practices to prevent the degradation of our natural resources.

### Restoration & Resiliency

The Towns like Boxford are improving stream continuity by replacing culverts identified as priority areas in our recently released Barriers Report.

### Community Services

Ipswich town staff are working in partnership with us, under funding provided by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, to use green infrastructure and education to restore this section of riverbank and protect the river.






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**Join Butch and Pitch In for the Annual Appeal**

Butch Conary (with paddles) and his buddies were planning a canoe trip on the Ipswich River in 1990. It was pretty trashy, so they brought along trash bags. Eight hours later, they had filled and removed 17 bags of garbage. Butch and friends have been doing this every year since. For 29 years. We all need to pitch in to take care of the river. Please consider making a gift of \$100 or more today. Your gift protects clean water and helps keep the Ipswich River clean for ourselves, our kids and our grandkids.

**The annual Fall Appeal is our biggest and single most important fund-drive of the year. Please join Butch. Pitch in, join an event and make a donation today.**

**Fall Dates**

**Month of November**  
**Images on the Water Photo Show**  
 Riverbend Headquarters  
 143 County Road, Ipswich

**December 6**  
**PIE Rivers Annual Meeting**  
 Newbury Town Library, Byfield

Find all event details at our website:  
[ipswichriver.org/support/event-calendar/](http://ipswichriver.org/support/event-calendar/)  
 Email us at: [IRWAinfo@ipswichriver.org](mailto:IRWAinfo@ipswichriver.org)



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of:**

- River Steward \$1000
- Patron \$250
- Supporter \$100
- Family \$50
- Individual \$40
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**For:**  Annual Fall Appeal  Membership  In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!*

You may make check payable to IRWA and mail to:  
**IRWA, PO Box 576, Ipswich, MA** or click **"Donate Now"** at [www.ipswichriver.org](http://www.ipswichriver.org)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_