



Riverbend: A Home of Our Own!

Our Angel: Dr. Bob Petranek

When Dr. Joseph R. (Bob) Petranek first saw our new Riverbend property in 1960, he found a jungle of poison ivy and bittersweet which he set about clearing, only to find hundreds of golf balls in the underbrush. There were remnants of a two-hole golf green, a summer house and a gazebo on the hilltop. Back in 1640, this had been Windmill Hill, and grain was ground here. The tall mature white pines of today were planted about 1900 – previously there was oak and hickory forest here. The former owners knew that “Dr. Bob” – who had recently been recruited to establish his medical practice in Ipswich – was in the market for property. They took a shine to him, and wondered if \$10,000 would be too much to ask for this 15 acre piece of the old Barnard estate! He’s proud to say that he paid cash to purchase the land and build his house, and that he scrounged much of what he needed to improve the property – marble slabs for the walkways are an example. “If you grow up in the Depression, you never throw anything away.”

A strong and capable craftsman, Dr. Bob loves figuring out how to make and fix things, learning new skills as he proceeds. He did his own surveying for the present house and driveway. He created the gate from pipes so perfectly counterbalanced that he could reach from his car window, touch the gate just so, and drive through in the time it took the gate to raise and lower itself. Dr. Bob also built the retaining wall below the house, chaining a stone boat to the back of his Morris Minor to move rocks around the property and levering them into place. To plan his house – our new headquarters – he studied architecture. Learning that the Deck House was among the 20 best of the year, he had one built in 1965 that is sited for the best downhill view of the dramatic bend in the Ipswich River far below. According to Dr. Bob’s specifications, the house could cost no more than \$30,000; he did much of the finishing himself – mahogany trim around the doorways is another example of his own creativity and craftsmanship.



A view of Riverbend. Photo: Tom Arnold



IRWA gains a new home! Kerry Mackin, Executive Director, Cam Steward, Treasurer, and Dr. Bob Petranek.

Dr. Bob practiced medicine in Ipswich for about 35 years. A graduate of Northwestern Medical School in Chicago, his internship and residency were at Mass General, after which he became Chief Resident at Pondville Hospital before returning to MGH. There he was an American Cancer Society Fellow and participated in a National Institute of Health Breast Cancer Working Group before coming to Ipswich.

What are Dr. Bob’s hopes for the future of Riverbend? Simply that it be permanently conserved as open space, and that the watershed itself always be well-protected. *When the Rivers Run Dry* (Fred Pearce, Beacon Press, 2006) is a book he recommends to anyone interested in the impending worldwide crisis over water resources. We at IRWA feel deeply grateful to Dr. Bob, and pledge to fulfill his expectations.

Letter from the Executive Director

What an incredible year! IRWA finally received much-anticipated legal decisions supporting stronger, more effective management of water withdrawals. Reading stopped using its Ipswich River wells that had pumped the river dry for decades, and Danvers and Middleton agreed to reduce the impacts of their water withdrawals. Just last month, Superior Court ordered the Department of Environmental Protection to correctly determine how much water can be taken out of the Ipswich River Watershed, while leaving enough in the river to support fisheries and other river values. These are major legal victories for our small organization.

Several innovative demonstration projects took root throughout the watershed. These include a green roof in Ipswich, permeable paving in Wilmington, ball fields that require less irrigation and chemicals in North Reading, and other projects. The Ipswich River Restoration Program published the Water Wise Communities manual, helped establish Greenscapes North Shore, and developed new water management and funding mechanisms to balance the water budget in Ipswich. Our RiverWatch Program completed its tenth year of monitoring the river monthly, published a 10th Anniversary summary of the data and findings, and conducted the annual herring count.

And, I've saved the best for last! Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Dr. Bob Petranek and Dr. Jay Clapp, IRWA became the proud owner of two wonderful riverfront properties. Dr. Petranek's beautiful 15-acre property with a quarter-mile of riverfront and a Deck House that overlooks the Ipswich River is now "Riverbend," IRWA's permanent home; and Dr. Clapp's property is being sold to a conservation-minded buyer, to help fund Riverbend improvements and establish a long-term sustainability fund. Riverbend is now a green building with improved energy and water efficiency, permeable paving, demonstration gardens, a cistern and a green roof. Special thanks to the Mass Riverways Program.

These accomplishments would be impressive even for an organization twice IRWA's size, and are a testament to the generous support of our members and donors, and to the talent and dedication of our staff, board, volunteers and lawyers.

Thanks so much to all of you!



Kerry Mackin, Executive Director



"It's a dream come true, moving into our own home on the Ipswich River. We can't thank Dr. Bob enough for his extraordinary generosity." Photo by: Natalie Miller, Ipswich Chronicle

Kerry Mackin Named A National River Hero!

In 2007, Kerry was named a national River Hero by River Network, a national river conservation group. The River Hero Award recognizes individuals who provide leadership, inspire the work of others, use innovative strategies to achieve significant results, and foster the growth and sustainability of a watershed community. "Kerry exemplifies the spirit of the National River Hero Award," said Katherine Luscher, Program Director at River Network. "Her dedication to both her community and the Ipswich River is to be applauded. River Network is honored to recognize Kerry's inspirational work. She truly is a River Hero."

Congratulations, Kerry!



Accomplishments (January 2006—June 2007)

Riverbend: A Home of Our Own!

The NUMBER ONE STORY of the year is that the dream of having our own home on the Ipswich River is now a reality, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Joseph (Bob) Petranek and the support of many donors and volunteers. Finally, after moving so many times, we are settling into our permanent headquarters.

Riverbend is a beautiful, forested 15+ acre property with a quarter mile of riverfront. IRWA has adapted the original Deck House to meet universal-accessibility requirements and improved its energy and water efficiency. We have added a partial green roof, used permeable pavers for the parking area, planted several demonstration gardens, and installed ultra water-efficient toilets and appliances. The beautiful new windows and doors are much more efficient than the old ones, and the new roof will help us save energy and keep fuel costs low.

We look forward to welcoming the public to visit and take part in educational programs at Riverbend in the coming years. Thanks again to Dr. Bob and all who helped make our dream come true.



A view of the house at Riverbend in the fall of 2006, before projects for the adaptive reuse of the property began.

Greenscapes North Shore



Nineteen North Shore communities joined the 2007 Greenscapes North Shore program in its inaugural year. The program educates residents on how to have beautiful lawns and gardens without using excess water and chemicals.

Greenscapes North Shore is sponsored by a coalition of organizations including IRWA, Salem Sound Coastwatch, the Eight Towns and the Bay Committee, and the Massachusetts Bays and Estuary Association. This Earth Day, households in participating towns were mailed a free, 20-page Greenscapes Guide full of useful landscaping and gardening tips and money-saving offers. The Greenscapes North Shore program also offered a series of six free workshops on topics such as gardening with native plants, rain gardens, and home composting, as well as free email newsletters and discounts on native plants, rain barrels, sprinkler timers, and other goods and services.

Copies of the guide are available at our office and information is available at our web page under Programs > Greenscapes.

Workshop participants learned about native plants and then put their knowledge to work planting a new garden at Riverbend.

Policy and Advocacy

IRWA's Advocacy Campaign, begun in 2002, focuses on addressing the Ipswich River's serious low-flow problems. IRWA sued the Department of Environmental Protection in 2003, alleging that DEP failed to lawfully regulate water withdrawals. This led to issuance of modified water withdrawal permits with improved water conservation requirements; the permits were all appealed by towns, and IRWA's intervened in 13 administrative appeals and several Superior Court appeals. Special thanks to the Charles River Watershed Association, Conservation Law Foundation and Stern Shapiro Weissberg and Garin for providing legal representation in these cases.

Recently, several key outcomes have resulted from these legal proceedings and other advocacy efforts: Superior Court agreed with IRWA that DEP's failure to redetermine the safe yield of the Ipswich River

Basin is a violation of the Water Management Act. DEP must determine how much water is available for water supply, while retaining enough in the river to support fisheries and other functions.

- The Town of Reading stopped using its Ipswich River wells, and is now purchasing all its water from the MWRA. This action will put an end to decades of damage to the Ipswich River in Reading.
- The Towns of Danvers and Middleton voluntarily settled their appeals cases, agreeing to stop using their wells during low-flow periods; impose watering restrictions based on river and reservoir levels; restrict watering by private wells; and implement an innovative “Water Use Mitigation Program” to offset increased water demand due to new development.
- Hamilton, Wenham, Topsfield and Lynnfield lost their appeals claiming that DEP acted unreasonably or illegally in imposing the requirements in the modified permits. Superior Court affirmed the water conservation requirements in Hamilton’s and Topsfield’s decisions.
- DEP publicly stated that the Ipswich River is so seriously degraded that DEP will apply stricter requirements here than in other parts of the state.

Science and Monitoring



In 2007, the RiverWatch Program celebrated its 10th anniversary! Today, the RiverWatch Program includes nearly 60 volunteers monitoring 29 sites each month. Volunteers collect water quality data that provide a record of the health of the Ipswich River. This valuable information is used to inform citizens and government officials and improve management of this precious resource. Each year IRWA collects and analyzes the data and produces a comprehensive report. In 2007, IRWA also produced a 10-year summary report that provided a longer-term overview of trends in the health of the river.

Other monitoring included the annual spring herring counts carried out in conjunction with research by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the University of Massachusetts.

Visit the Science and Monitoring page (under Programs > Science and Monitoring) on our web site for copies of the reports.

*Dedicated volunteers collect water quality data year-round.
Photo: Frances Doyle*

Stream Teams

Stream Teams are the eyes, ears, and heart of IRWA’s on-the-ground efforts to protect rivers and streams. In 2006, IRWA helped organize a new Ipswich Stream Team; volunteers have already helped to survey several streams in Ipswich, Topsfield, and Hamilton.

Stream Teams in several communities partnered with IRWA to sponsor the Source to Sea paddle, canoeing and kayaking a different segment of the Ipswich River each month. The Middleton Stream Team sponsors hikes, photo contests, and canoe trips, offers educational programs, and has built several new canoe landings in Middleton. The Reading/North Reading Stream Team and Headwaters Stream Team (in Wilmington) have been instrumental in educating their communities about the impacts of water withdrawals on the Ipswich River.



Paddlers enjoy a beautiful day on the Ipswich River during the Topsfield segment of the Source to Sea trips in July. Photo: Judy Schneider

Accomplishments

Fish and Habitat Restoration

IRWA is working with communities to assess sites and identify restoration opportunities where dams and culverts block fish and wildlife passage and reduce the quality of river habitat. In Ipswich and Topsfield, we collaborated with partners to pursue feasibility studies of fisheries restoration options at the Ipswich Mills Dam and Willowdale Dam. In partnership with the Riverways Stream Continuity program, volunteers surveyed dams and culverts on seven tributary streams, and our intern Jeff Gang analyzed the data and prioritized restoration opportunities. IRWA also produced a fact sheet on dams and culverts, offered trainings and presentations to local groups, and held a community forum on dam removal and fisheries restoration.



Native river herring migrate up the Ipswich River in the spring. Researchers are investigating the health of the population and the effectiveness of restoration efforts. Image: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Water Wise Communities

The Water Wise Communities program provides assistance to help communities with water conservation and stormwater clean-up. In 2006, IRWA published a new resource, *Water Wise Communities: A Handbook for Municipal Managers in the Ipswich River Watershed*. The handbook identifies 20 key water-wise tools that communities can use to conserve water, manage stormwater, preserve land, educate residents, and restore the Ipswich River. IRWA also collaborated with the Town of Ipswich to obtain a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management to address a major stormwater hotspot in downtown Ipswich, and gave presentations and provided technical assistance to other municipalities on water conservation and stormwater management.

Water Wise Demonstration Projects



Denise King and Emily Levin work to plant a rain garden at Riverbend. Rain gardens use drought-tolerant plants that can also cope with standing water for short periods of time.

Water-wise demonstration projects are taking root around the Ipswich River watershed. These projects are designed to teach residents and businesses how to conserve water, recycle rainwater, and treat and recharge stormwater on their site. Thanks to a generous grant from the Riverways Program, IRWA installed a series of Keeping Water Local demonstration projects at Riverbend. Visitors are welcome to visit the demonstration projects at Riverbend, which include a native plant garden, permeable parking lot, rainwater harvesting system, water-efficient fixtures and appliances, and rain gardens.

Additional projects demonstrating water conservation and low-impact development (LID) techniques are being implemented across the watershed through a partnership with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The projects include a porous parking area, rain gardens, a green roof, rainwater harvesting, and weather-based irrigation controllers. The US Geological Survey is collecting data on the water quantity and quality benefits of these projects and modeling water quantity and quality gains if these techniques were implemented watershed-wide.

More information on these demonstration projects is available on our web site at [Programs > Water Friendly Demonstrations](#).

Supporters (January 2006—June 2007)

Thanks to all our generous supporters -
we couldn't do it without you!

*We are grateful for every gift received. We regret that we cannot list all of our donors.
If you prefer to change how your name is listed, please call the office or e-mail
taldrich@ipswichriver.org.*

River Stewards

This is our leadership group of givers, providing \$1,000 or more in operating support to IRWA through Membership, Annual Appeal or other gifts. Your support makes a world of difference!

Our Angel! Dr. Jay Clapp

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Riverbend Donors

A home of our own! A long-held dream has now come true thanks to the great generosity of Dr. Bob Petranek who gave IRWA his beautiful land and house overlooking the Ipswich River.

Our Angel! Dr. Joseph R. Petranek

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Photo: Eric Roth

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Also In Tribute

Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld in honor of Dr. Bob Petranek and the care he gave her mother
Frances Doyle in memory of Jim Dempsey
Karin and Marc Montlack in honor of Barbara Ostberg
Antonia M. Pollak in honor of Susie and Brinck Lowery's marriage
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Photo: Scott Jenney

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Essex County Greenbelt Association
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GE Foundation
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Massachusetts Environmental Trust
McCarthy Family Foundation
Muddy Pond Trust Fund at the Boston Foundation

Tributes

We are honored to protect the Ipswich River in memory of Dick Ostberg, a great friend of the river and IRWA.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Barnet, Jr.
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Mr. and Mrs. J. Charles Carlson
Mr. and Mrs. Murry K. Cunningham
William Effner and Gail Anderson
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Up to \$100

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Eric A. Roth
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Savoie Architecture
Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Steward
Sunshine Signs
Wavepaint Design

**Special thanks
to the Riverbend work crew
for your professional services,
cheerfulness, hard work and
many acts of kindness.**

Allsopp Design, Inc.
Jeff Allsopp
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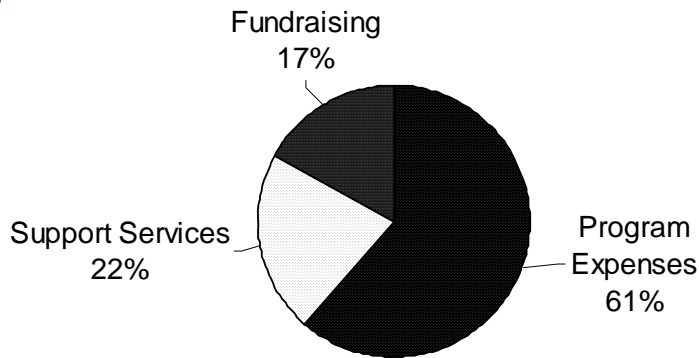
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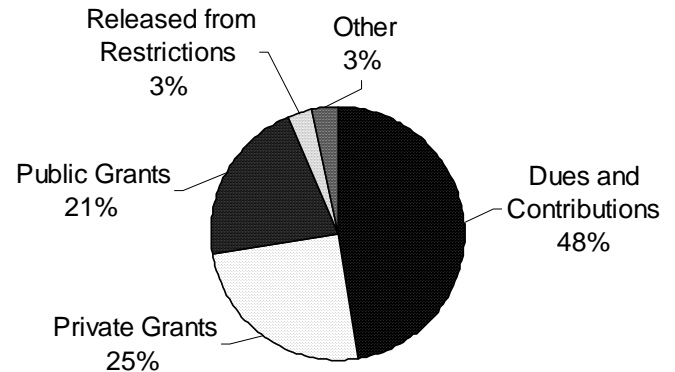
Photo: Georgia Flood

2006 Financial Summary

2006 Expenses



2006 Income (Except Property Donations)



2006 FINANCIAL REPORT			
Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31,		2006	2005
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS			
OPERATING SUPPORT			
Membership Revenue - Annual Appeal	43,886	25,351	
Membership Revenue - Dues	23,298	43,108	
Other Contributions	43,074	36,516	
Event Revenue	1,187		
Grants - Private	57,775	17,000	
Grants - Public	49,037	11,250	
Donated Services	5,917	825	
Donated Real Property	1,520,000		
Sale of Goods and Publications	269	111	
Investment Income	237	177	
TOTAL	1,744,680	134,338	
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	7,471	48,744	
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED REVENUES	1,752,151	183,082	
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Program services	145,363	117,834	
Support Services	51,448	37,739	
Fundraising	40,119	30,960	
TOTAL	236,930	186,533	
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	1,515,221	(3,451)	
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS			
Temporarily Restricted Grants	77,325	1,250	
Released from Restrictions	-7,471	(48,744)	
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	69,854	(47,494)	
TOTAL INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	1,585,075	(50,945)	
Statements of Financial Position as of December 31,		2006	2005
ASSETS			
Current Assets	102,636	39,769	
Net Property and Equipment	1,516,911	4,037	
TOTAL	1,619,547	43,806	
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities	10,103	19,437	
Net Assets	1,609,444	24,369	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,619,547	43,806	
IRWA's complete financial report is available upon request.			

2007 Award Recipients

Environmental Leadership Award: MARGARET VAN DEUSEN

Margaret Van Deusen, General Counsel for the Charles River Watershed Association, has provided IRWA with incredibly effective legal representation in our Advocacy Campaign, and is also a leader in improving the Commonwealth's water policies and regulatory programs. Her dedication to protecting rivers across Massachusetts is inspirational.

Outstanding Volunteer Award: CHUCK KOLLARS

Chuck Kollars, principal of Kollars Informatics, donated 80 hours of IT services, was a pleasure to work with, and was the brains behind a smooth conversion to IRWA's new database, Giftworks. Chuck put his extensive Information Technology skills to use to assess needs, and identify and resolve problems. We would have been lost without him!

Outstanding Riverbend Volunteer Award: DENISE KING

Denise King of Denise King Landscapes Designs was instrumental in designing and planting the beautiful new native plant garden and rain gardens at Riverbend. Denise generously donated her professional services to design the gardens and order plants, then went above and beyond the call of duty by supervising the plantings, recruiting volunteers, and getting her hands dirty putting plants in the ground, weeding, mulching, and even moving rocks. Denise was a delight to work with and has become a treasured friend and neighbor of IRWA.

Outstanding Intern Award: MEREDITH EMERY

Meredith has helped with everything from drafting fact sheets to planning work days. Her talent for organization has helped us keep on top of projects and deadlines, even while she holds another full-time job and plans her September wedding. Thank you so much, Meredith, we couldn't have gotten through this spring and summer without you!

IPSWICH RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

The Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA) serves as the voice of the Ipswich River. Through education, outreach, monitoring, and advocacy, we seek to connect the people, communities, and ecosystems integral to a healthy watershed.

Board of Directors

Bob Pulver, *President*

Trina Smith, *First Vice-President*

Peter Phippen, *Second Vice-President*

Anne Reynolds, *Secretary*

Cam Steward, *Treasurer*

Steve Block

Bob Bradford

Peter Curry

Hunt Durey

Miriam Lasher

Cub Morgan

Scott Pulver

Maria Van Dusen

Dave Williams

Staff

Kerry Mackin, *Executive Director*

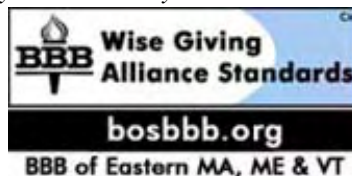
Trish Aldrich, *Development Director*

Jess Darling, *Program Coordinator*

Carolyn Favazza, *Bookkeeper*

Emily Levin, *Restoration Program Manager*

IRWA has the Better Business Bureau seal of approval! We meet all 20 BBB Standards for Charity Accountability.



IRWA has been selected for the Massachusetts 2007 Catalogue for Philanthropy. The Catalogue profiles 50 of Massachusetts' outstanding environmental, cultural and human service agencies for exemplifying the best in Massachusetts philanthropy. IRWA was chosen in rigorous competition by professional reviewers from a pool of over 390 applicants. To see IRWA's page in the Catalogue visit <http://www.cfp-ma.org/2007>.

Back Cover: Ipswich River at Riverbend by Tom Arnold; Ipswich River kayakers by Valerie Fox; RiverWatch volunteer Kim Honetschlager by Rosanne Skirble; RiverWatch volunteers Martha Stevenson, Suzanne Sullivan, and Janet Stone by Cale Hendricks.



Connecting Communities from Source to Sea

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www.ipswichriver.org