Destiny. As you may have heard me say, it seems I was destined for this job. The majority of my childhood was spent outside in the waters and along the banks of Potter’s Brook, Howlett Brook and Hood Pond in Ipswich and Topsfield. These wonderful experiences impacted me more than anything else in life and instilled in me a deep connection to the watershed we all care so much about. By age 12 I knew exactly what I wanted to do with my career and ever since have been intimately involved in conservation work within our treasured Ipswich River Watershed. In a sense, the river made me who I am.

From an outside perspective, IRWA has an unparalleled reputation for excellence and as a tireless advocate for the river. As I write this after only two weeks on the job, I am even more impressed by the strength of this organization and the incredible passion, commitment and expertise of our staff, volunteers and supporters. Under Kerry Mackin’s committed leadership, the staff, volunteers and Board have built an incredibly effective and impactful organization that we all can be proud of. Going forward, my priority will be to leverage this solid foundation to take our collective work to the next level. To me, this means most of all that we need to significantly increase the number of people who believe in our work and are actively engaged in our mission.

Although a priority of mine is to engage many more people in our work in order to have more impact, I am committed to maintaining our unparalleled legacy of advocating for the river. There simply is no other entity which can and will stand up for the river like IRWA. I am honored for the opportunity to work with all of you in the months and years ahead to continue and strengthen the incredible organization you’ve created. Let’s get to work to protect our river, together!

The Ipswich River is a big part of what makes this a great place to live, work, visit and play. By naming the Ipswich River Watershed Association in your will, you can leave a legacy and keep it that way for years to come.

Naming IRWA in your will is not difficult, and you can designate any amount or remainder interest you wish. As you make or revise plans for your estate, please consider a bequest for clean water. For more information or to let us know your plans, please contact Development Director Trish Aldrich at taldrich@ipswichriver.org or 978.412.8200.

The Ipswich River was named one of the most endangered rivers in the nation in 2003. Together we’ll keep it out of danger and have clean, safe water for the herring, turtles, silver maples, and humans here in our neck of the woods, fields and streams.

A paddler connects with nature at Riverbend.

Thank you again for making such a big difference for the river, IRWA and for me personally.
**Dam Removal a Step Toward River Renewal**

“If you’re interested in rivers and river ecology, there’s no better thing you can do for a river than remove a dam,” says Tim Purinton, state director of Division of Ecological Restoration. For the first time, we can show pictures of a dam removal in our own watershed! The Curtis Pond Dam was removed in June as part of a river restoration project on Boston Brook in Middleton. Boston Brook is now flowing more naturally than it has in 80 years and migratory fish have already been spotted in areas that had been off limits to them since the dam was built.

The dam was built in the 1930s to power a sawmill but had not been used in decades and had fallen into disrepair. In 2009, the Town of Danvers (the dam owner) decided to remove the structure to restore free-flowing stream habitat and remove safety and maintenance concerns. The restored section of Boston Brook will benefit a variety of fish including river herring, sea lamprey and brook trout. The more natural conditions will also benefit native plants and wildlife living in and around the project area. IRWA will be monitoring the ecosystem response to dam removal over the next few years.

This project marks the culmination of a four-year effort by a dedicated group of partners. It also represents the first of what we hope will be many similar projects in the watershed. Our watershed has plenty of aging dams that no longer serve their intended purpose. Removing these no-longer-needed structures is one of the best opportunities to restore the river and sustain its resources for future generations.

This has been a long time coming, but we hope this project will provide momentum and help streamline future efforts in the region. We need all the interest we can get as we explore removing other dams. So please ask us about the projects, talk to your neighbors about them and consider continuing to support IRWA’s river restoration efforts. For more about this and other projects visit: [http://ipswichriver.org/our-work/habitat-restoration/](http://ipswichriver.org/our-work/habitat-restoration/)

**Water for a Thirsty World**

The state’s Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI or “Swimmi”) promised to develop sound policy and management guidelines for managing our rivers. SWMI produced outstanding science, but the proposed policy and management measures are inadequate. The “safe yield” proposal does not honor MassDEP’s commitment to include “the ecological health of river systems.” The current proposal would also allow more damaging withdrawals before triggering mitigation. State agencies will draft regulations later in 2012. With your continued support, IRWA will keep working to strike a reasonable balance between the many competing demands for our limited water supply.

Kerry Mockin heads into Boston to deliver 200 citizen petitions in support of fair water use. She is a determined advocate for the river and the River Hero.

**Restoration Partnership Gains Steam**

The Parker-Ipswich-Essex Rivers Restoration Partnership (PIE-r-squared) continues to make important progress. We have assembled a diverse partnership that will help IRWA and all PIE-r-squared members plan and carry out projects more efficiently. Over the past year, we have expanded participation and developed a restoration Action Agenda to guide our work. We have also begun building a PIE-r-squared website and developing methods for measuring long-term progress toward the partnership’s goals of enough water, clean water and healthy ecosystems.

In the coming months we will transition from the planning phase to implementing projects. Even as PIE-r-squared continues to take shape, partners are already working on some exciting projects, aided by increased communication and collaboration. The partnership is about to launch a 2-year project expanding culvert surveys in the region to improve our knowledge of barriers to fish and wildlife. Trout Unlimited and the Town of Boxford (both members) are working together to redesign and replace a pair of culverts that block fish migration. These are just two examples of projects initiated or made easier as a result of PIE-r-squared.

We are ever closer to a comprehensive approach to protecting and restoring these important watersheds. Stay tuned for ways you can help as we increase our efforts to get the word out about PIE-r-squared over the next year. For more details visit: [http://pie-rivers.org](http://pie-rivers.org)

**Take Steps to Reduce Your Water Footprint**

Saving water is probably one of the easiest ways to help your local environment. By saving water, you save money and energy, and help our rivers, too! The Ipswich River provides drinking water to 335,000 people and thousands of businesses in 14 communities in northeastern Massachusetts. Water withdrawals frequently dry up parts of the Ipswich and Parker Rivers, especially during the summer heat when water levels in our rivers are at an annual low and demand for water is at its peak.

Many people do not know how much water they use or thus could save every day. This past spring, IRWA unveiled a new website, SaveWaterNorthShore.org, to help residents and businesses in northeastern Massachusetts understand their water use and how to save water. SaveWaterNorthShore.org provides people with simple tools to get started saving water, without changing their lifestyle.

We are also working to promote water conservation through the North Shore Greenscapes Coalition ([www.greenscapes.org](http://www.greenscapes.org)), where we work with 18 participating communities to educate citizens about water and chemical saving landscaping practices that have less impact on the environment.

Both of these water conservation education efforts raise awareness about the value and importance of water in our region. Saving water is easy: it just takes knowledge, planning and commitment. We can all conserve water in small ways that make a big difference.

The Soininen kids use rainwater to water their gardens. Rain barrels are an easy way to save water and help the Ipswich River. Learn more at SaveWaterNorthShore.org. Photo: L. Soininen

Jim MacDougall (right) trains interns Laura, Katie and Jon to measure the dimensions and placement of a culvert to gauge whether it is a barrier for migrating fish and wildlife. There are over 1000 bridges and culverts in the PIE-r-squared region.

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The Soininen kids use rainwater to water their gardens. Rain barrels are an easy way to save water and help the Ipswich River. Learn more at SaveWaterNorthShore.org. Photo: L. Soininen**
Supporters (July 2011 — June 2012)

Thanks to all our generous supporters — We couldn’t do it without you!

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

River Stewards

This leadership group of donors each provide $1,000 or more in support through membership, Annual Appeal or other gifts. Your support makes a world of difference!

Anonymous
Christopher & Deborah Abbott
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April Bowling & Peter Phippen
Loring Bradlee & Janet Stone
Cell Signaling Technology
Linda & Mark Coe
Jesse B. Cox Charitable Trust
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Division of Ecological Restoration
Nancy Eaton
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Wenham Lake Watershed Association
Fred & Susie Winthrop
Michael Wood

Program Support

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Joan Prichard Cudhea Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
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New England Biolabs Foundation
New England Biolabs Inc
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Orchard Foundation
Joanne Patton
Dick & Snooky Phippen
Bob & Ann Pulver
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Teradyne, Inc.
The Two Commandments Foundation
Wenham Lake Watershed Association
Fred & Susie Winthrop
Michael Wood

Special Gifts and Grants

We remain forever grateful to Dr. Bob Petranek for giving IRWA a beautiful home on the Ipswich River. He passed on this year, but his legacy lives on. Photo: 2007 Grand Opening

Mary & Jim Steggall Charitable Fund.
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Nathaniel & Elizabeth P. Stevens Foundation
Campbell & Grace V. Steward Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Gilbert L. and Sally J. Steward Family Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Peter Vining Family Foundation, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
The Two Commandments Foundation
US Smokeless Tobacco Settlement
Wenham Lake Watershed Association

RiverWatch

New England Biolabs

Business Support

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Cell Signaling Technology
Institution for Savings
$5,000 and up
New England Biolabs Inc.
$1,000 and up
Denise King Landscape Designs
Rox Associates
Teradyne, Inc.
$100 and up
Alsepp Design And Construction
Biodiversity Consulting
Corliss Brothers Nursery
Delosa Environmental Consulting
Georgia Flood Design
Ipswich Shellfish Fish Market
Jacqueline’s Gourmet Cookies
Mercury Brewing Co.
Mill River Winery
Newbury Tool & Die
Pitzer
Tedford’s
Wenham & Sampson Engineers
Zumi’s

Up to $100
Avalon Realty
Benjamin Nutter Associates, Architects
Cricket Press
D.L. Clark, Inc
GoodSearch
H. L. Graham Associates, Inc
HP Employee Charitable Giving Program
IBM Corporation
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Millennium
Varian Semiconductor Equipment

Public interest watchdog Robert Bonsignore delivers $150,000 from an anti-trust settlement to help fund the Parker, Ipswich and Essex River Restoration Partnership for three years. Photo: M. Lasher

Financial Support

Special donations and River Concert proceeds fund the Leave a Legacy Fund, with income to support Tune into the River projects, including summer internships for students.

Trish & Dave Aldrich
Tony & Gail Annis
Donald & Ursula Bade
Kathleen Baskin
Sue Bass
Ed & Sheila Becker
Julia Blatt
Robert Bonsignore
April Bowling & Peter Phippen
Loring Bradlee & Janet Stone
Marie Brescia
BTA/BLT
John & Susan Buck
Donald & Martha Campbell
Jay Clapp
Linda & Mark Coe
Russell Cohen
Susanna & Moose Colloredo-Mansfield
George Comiskey
Joan Maxwell Cook
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Murry & Mary Cunningham
David & Mary Dearborn
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Alan Feldman & Carol Setchick
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George & Phyllis Fischer
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Angele Getchell
Judy & Martin Gore
Bob & Kathy Gravino
Michael & Phyllis Greene
Nancy Hammett
Jesse & Cale Hendricks
Art Howe
Lily Rice Huia
Cynthia & Franz Ingellinger
Institution for Savings
Jacqueline’s Gourmet Cookies
Brian & Betsy Kehler
E. R. Khalia
Joan & John Kimball
Beth Lambert & Rob Vincent

Don Hafer, Bill York and other New England Biolabs volunteers lay an apron of permeable pavers to increase parking and reduce polluted runoff.

Tune Into the River Special Gifts

Miriam Lasher
Catherine & John Lastavica
Emily Levin
John & Tracy Lutz
James & Christina MacDougall
Jonathan & Laurie Matson
Mercury Brewing Co.
Barbie & Painey Metcalf
Donna Martin & Rick Rousseau
Peter & Alicia Moore
New England Biolabs Foundation
John Nove
Ryan O’Donnell
Barbara Ostberg
Samuel & Lisa Otis
Joanne Patton
Karen Peito
Dick & Snooky Phippen
Nathaniel & Holly Pulsfifer
Robert & Ann Pulver
Ed Rauscher
Pamela Resor
Reid & Iva Rideout
Miranda Russell
Chris & Joe Sandulli
Michael Searles
Binkley & Paula Shorts
Trina Smith
David & Muriel Standlee
Bradley & Martha Stevenson
Mr. & Mrs. Campbell Steward
Suzanne Sullivan
Teradyne, Inc.
Sally Thomson
A. David & Helen Tory
Margaret Van Deuren
Maria VanDusen
Stephen & Margie Veron
Ed & Eva Walker
William & Mary Wasserman
Club & Nicole Whitten
Hope Wigglesworth
Dave & Mary Williams
Fred & Susie Winthrop
Michael Wood

We remain forever grateful to Dr. Bob Petranek for giving IRWA a beautiful home on the Ipswich River. He passed on this year, but his legacy lives on. Photo: 2007 Grand Opening
The water monitoring programs at IRWA have enjoyed continued success over the past year. Volunteer participation remains high. The high quality and variety of monitoring programs are only possible with your help.

The RiverWatch Program, now in its sixteenth year, involves volunteer monitors collecting valuable data to help understand trends in water quality. We continue to observe dissolved oxygen levels falling below Mass. water quality standards in the summer months and especially in the upper watershed. We also sample macroinvertebrates (bugs) in the river to measure water and habitat quality. This work shows how important it is to maintain adequate flows in the river to protect and sustain a healthy community of fish and other aquatic organisms. Please see our website for the 2011 RiverWatch Monitoring Report.

The herring count just finished its fourteenth year. In 2012, 49 volunteers completed a total of 328 ten-minute counts from April 1 to June 2. Collectively, counters observed 53 herring using the fish ladder to spawn. Lindsey Williams performed the most counts at 142. Ben Flemer was second with 76 counts, followed by Bruce Amazeen with 56. Kerry Mackin observed the most herring using the fish ladder to spawn. Lindsey Williams performed the most counts at 142. Ben Flemer was second with 76 counts, followed by Bruce Amazeen with 56. Kerry Mackin observed the most herring using the fish ladder to spawn.

**REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Contributions</td>
<td>89,462</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Non-cash Contributions</td>
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<td>Programs, Rent, Sales, Investments</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<td>Support Services</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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**ASSETS TOTAL**

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**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

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<tr>
<td>Net Assets or Fund Balances</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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IRWA’s complete financial report is available upon request.

**INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS**

- Increase (decrease) in net assets: $(7,020)
- Includes $33,176 depreciation expense

On a guided trip, IRWA members explore the river near Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield. Join us on the river. Photo: J. Schneider

Your Local Heroes Make a Difference

**Mass River Alliance**

Under Julia Blatt’s leadership, the Mass Rivers Alliance has become an effective voice for river protection in Massachusetts. She is instrumental in keeping the environmental community focused on protecting natural flows, reducing polluted runoff and conserving fish and wildlife.

**Pike Messenger and Fran Masse**

Pike and Fran have worked together for many years, protecting the river and bringing many others along to enjoy it with them. They are regular RiverWatch monitors and active members of the Middleton Stream Team, lead many hikes and canoe trips, and have made many friends for the river along the way. In addition, Pike served on IRWA Board of Directors, writes the weekly Water Closet that appears on IRWA’s blog and in area newspapers, and just published a book, The Water Closet: Ipswich River Watershed and Beyond.

**Mary Landry**

Many thanks to Mary for her unwavering good cheer and help with the River Concert. Mary did whatever needed doing including securing donations, recruiting great volunteer help, securing corporate donations, picking up beer and soda, and putting the FUN into fundraising.

**Linda Coe: Above and Beyond Award**

For not only designing our annual report and quarterly newsletters (as she has for many years), but also stepping up this year to design the water bottles, invitations, posters and programs for the River Concert and being a complete pleasure throughout, Linda is staff pick for the 2012 Above and Beyond Award.

**Mary Whitney**

Mary has been a tireless volunteer and supporter of IRWA and the Ipswich River for many years, both as a member of the Board and working the desk and helping as a volunteer at events. She is our first choice for answering the phone, typing the newsletter and just about any other task around the office. We greatly appreciate all she did.

**Trish Aldrich**

Trish is the long-time leader of the Middleton Stream Team. She and her partner Pike have worked together for many years, protecting the river and bringing many others along to enjoy it with them. Photo: J. Schneider

**Fran Masse (left) and Pike Messenger have worked together for many years, protecting the river and bringing many others along to enjoy it with them. Photo: J. Schneider**

**Ipswich River Watershed**

The Ipswich River Watershed Association is the voice of the Ipswich River. It restores the river to health and ensures clean water for all.

**Staff**

- Kerry Mackin, Executive Director
- Wayne Costonguay, Executive Director (Incoming)
- Trish Aldrich, Development
- Carolyn Favazza, Bookkeeper
- Cynthia Ingelfinger, Outreach
- Brian Kelder, Restoration
- Jim MacDougall, Naturalist
- Ryan O’Donnell, Programs

**Board of Directors**

- Peter Hippen, President
- Beth Lambert, Vice President
- Christine Sandulli, Vice President
- Campbell Steward, Treasurer
- Dave Williams, Secretary
- Hunt Durey
- Arthur Howe III
- Miriam Lusher
- R. T. Paine Matzolf
- Bob Pulver
- Suzanne Sullivan
- Maria Yani Dusan
- Mary Whitney

**Summer Interns**

We had four outstanding summer interns this year. Jon Hart, Laura Josephson and Katie Achilles are Environmental Engineering undergraduates. They worked on surveying road stream crossings as part of a regional project to score such structures for their degree of impairment to wildlife passage and habitat connectivity. They also produced an excellent video demonstrating our water monitoring procedure.

Yashika Dewani is an Environmental Science graduate student. She worked on analysis for dissolved oxygen data and helped to develop an interactive map for our website. All four interns helped sort macroinvertebrate specimens, did gardening work and other tasks around the office. We greatly appreciate all they did.

IRWA staff gather at the river. Ryan, Trish, Jim, Cynthia, Kerry and Brian.
The Ipswich River is a big part of what makes this a great place to live, work and visit. Together, we’ll keep it that way.