

2023 Annual Report

You supported a pivotal year, allowing us to grow into our next chapter.



- 17 miles of stream made accessible by the Howlett Brook Dam
- 5 Culvert upgrade projects fully permitted
- 200 staff and volunteer hours engaging the public in the downtown Ipswich pop-up shop for the Ipswich Mills Dam project
- 21,000 square feet of floodplain forest restored at Riverbend via invasive species removal
- 10 comment letters submitted
- 100+ hours spent working on North Shore Water Resiliency Task Force
- 1 Drought Bill successfully reported out of committee
- 17 legislators and staffers welcomed to paddle at Riverbend
- 68.5% of Ipswich Town Meeting attendees expressed support for dam removal
- 50 hours of action taken at River Action Parties
- **2,500 water quality measurements** collected by volunteers and staff and shared with MassDEP
- 2,400 volunteer hours served
- 100 Volunteers engaged in monitoring programs
- 142K views of Seal Reel on Instagram
- **2,500 fifth graders** educated via Keeping Waters Clean Program
- **650 youth** educated through the Floating Classroom through the end of 2023
- 6 area high schools added to our network to engage students on the watershed in their backyard
- 14 towns served with educational programming in the Ipswich River community
- 140 adults and children on public paddles

Transitional Growth

As any gardener knows, life is cyclical. Each spring here in New England, new growth shoots up from the dark soil, full of vigor and promise. In the hot summer sun, these plants mature to produce flowers or fruit which nurture and sustain life. When fall comes again, these plants drop off to nurture the soil from which they came so that life can spring up anew next year. Nature is always on the move, always in transition, because the old must continually make way for the new in order for life to sustain.

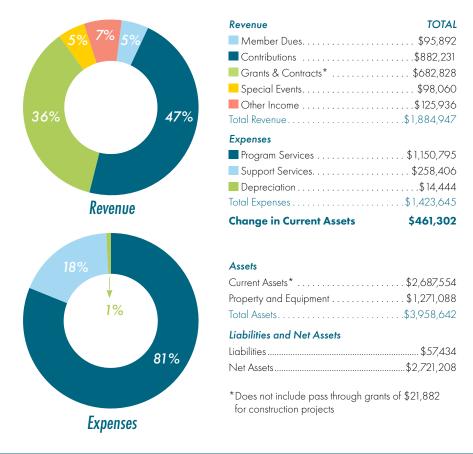
Transitional Growth is the phrase which seems to best describe IRWA in 2023 because there were a few key endings about which we might feel sad or nostalgic but which will make way for so many new beginnings to take root. Most notably, the leadership term of our long-time Executive Director, Wayne Castonguay, came to an end. Wayne was intimately involved in the development of our 2024-2028 strategic plan which will build on his legacy by continuing to grow and strengthen the organization he loves and led. 2023 also saw the addition of 3 new IRWA staff members who will be critical to our ability to bring this strategic plan off the page and into the world. This change also introduced a new level of staff squeeze in the top floor of our quaint little deck house here at Riverbend, necessitating a need to expand our office space into our entire building in 2024.

We are scaling back Paddle-a-thon to make way for RiverFest — a free, family-friendly, public event to be held this year in the upper watershed so that we can more deeply connect with those communities and engage residents in the work of our mission. In 2023, we significantly furthered the process to remove the Ipswich Dam by helping to bring about a non-binding, Town Meeting vote with the majority in favor of removal. Yet to many, the dam is a known and loved feature of the landscape and so the Select Board decided that more conversation was needed, extending this effort into 2024. While many enjoy the dam's history, it has outlived its useful life and now only serves to degrade river health and hinder climate resiliency.

In 2023, we secured an additional \$1.0M grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to fund critical river and marsh restoration projects. In a way, these funds represent transitional growth because we will use them to help us all move beyond our old ways of interacting with our river, when we assumed that it could withstand human impacts without harm. If we do not change, the river will not sustain us. IRWA's growth over the last year enables us to expand our work to grow new attitudes, habits, and practices in our collective relationship with our river so that it can flow freely, support life, and sustain us all.

2023 Financial Summary

Thanks to the generosity of our members and individual donors, the Ipswich River Watershed Association ended fiscal year 2023 in a strong position. A copy of our audited financial statement is available upon request.



The Ipswich River Watershed Association is the voice of the river. We work to make sure there is enough clean water for people, fish, and wildlife, now and for years to come. Together with scientists, the watershed community, and volunteers, we develop solutions to the river's problems and provide opportunities to connect with the river.

2023 Staff

Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director
Erin Bonney Casey, Resiliency Program Director
Emma Hughen, Environmental Educator
Deborah Lindahl, Office & Administrative Manager
Ryan O'Donnell, Programs Coordinator
Neil Shea, Restoration Program Director
Tracy Sopchak, Director of Development & Engagement
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Leah Feeney, Graphic Designer
Molly Courson, Watershed Resiliency Planner

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Every friend of the River is special to us. Thank you.

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Conservation-minded pilots from LightHawk Conservation Flying took us 1500 feet above the watershed and we got this view of the Rowley River.

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Levi Kafka Naomi Kahn Artemis Kalivas Mark Kaluzny Jessica Kane Samson Karbrn Eamon Keating Jake and Renee Kelly Kathleen Kelly Paul M. Kelly and Denny Dart

Phyllis and Kate Kennedy Kristin Kent Mark Khayter

Alla Kholostenko Betsy Kidder Sara-Jane Kiesling Stephanie Kilgour Glen Kimmel David and Kandes King Schuyler King Nick and Aggie Kip Anna Kjoss Sara Klee Aleta Klein Dorothea Klein Ryan Knowles Julie Knowlton Eric Knudsen Richard Kosian Gregory Koulas John and Janet Koza Katie Krathwohl Michele Kulick Marc Lacroix Marlene Ladderbush Lori LaFrance Suzie LaMont Brad Landaraf Benjamin Lane David Lane Katharine Lange Sarah Laporte David Larson Ramona Latham and Kelley

Sullivan Steph Laubner Paul Lauenstein Sarah Lawrence Sean Leach Emily LeBrun Russell Leibe Nancy Lennhoff Leonard Letendre Sarah E. Leuschner **Emily Levin** Robert Lewis Stephen R. Lewis Gabby Li Angela and Ross Light

Lora H. Lipman Mark Logsdon Thomas E. Loring Tuulikki Loring Claire Lotus

Roger and Iris Louis Rebecca Love Anne Loyer Lydia Lucas Doug Lucey Ernie Lyman Nancy Macleod John Macone George and Augusta Macrokanis Jeanne Magazu

Douglas B. Maitland Jim Maitland Mark Malatesta Lindsay Malboeuf Joseph Malek Patricia Maloney Marie L. Mancinelli Barbara B. Mann Cindy Mapes John Marold Brenda Marris Steve Marrow

Norm and Mitzi Marsh Roger Martell and Margaret Črocker

Mary Martin Joe Martinez Cathy Mason

Helen Maynard and Dana B Rudolph

Tracy Mayor Teddy McAveeney Bridget McBride Carrie McBride Carole McCauley Daniel McCormick Bill McDavitt Stephanie McGowan Michele and Tucker McGrath Kathy McGreevey Hunter McKay Zenaida Mclain Susanna L. McLaughlin Todd McMillan Meredith McMorrow Maura and Alfred McNiff Mike and Pam McRae Debbie and David Mearns Monica Medeiros Solano

Mike Menesale

Marc Mercier

Pieter Messelaar

James Messing

John and Helena Mercier

Elizabeth Meyer Wayne Meyer John Michael and Lisa Curley Paul Miller Sally Miller Jasmine Mitchell Mary Mitchell Susan Mitchell Adriana Mollo Jean Monahan Patricia Montaperto David Moon Frances Moore Anthony Morais Deanna Moreau

Alan Messmer

Kenneth and Jennifer Moran Jon and Pam Frost Morris Dan Morse Lawrence B. Morse John Muldoon Patricia A. Mullen Michael Muller Pamela Mulvihill James Murdoch Nikki Murdoch Edith Murnane Monica Murphy Mark and Melanie Murray-Brown

Patti Myatt Marnie Nair Luke Nason Taylor Newhall Jeff and Nicole Nichols Janet Nicosia Charlie Nielsen Keith Nobil Jessica Nolan Josephine Noonan Charise Nulsen

Carl and Lisa Nylen Eric O'Flaherty Michael J. O'Hare Daniel O'Leary John O'Leary John O'Neil

Aisling O'Shea Richard and Rosemary Obey Robert Ogden

Pam Okerholm Anthony and Jennifer Onello

Bruce Orr

Janice K. Pagano

Ann Paladin George L. Pardi Katherine Parker

Frank and Theresa Pergal Robert and Dianne Perry

Laurie Peterson Catherine Petrie John and Tina Pezza Julia Phelps

Nancy Phinney Jeanne Pickering Deirdre Pierotti

Karen Pischke David and Linda Platt

Pamela Irwin Poleo Zoltan Poleretzky William Porter

Vladimir Potapov Colby Poulin Ross Povenmire

Christine Pszenny

Steve Pucci Christopher P. Putnam Don and Sally Putney Dennis Pyburn, Jr. Alicia Quimby

Gary and Anne Rand Jessica Randolph Damian Raptopolous Svetlana Rashkova Stephanie Rauseo

Amber and Ryan Redmond

Cyndi and George Régnier David Reichard Andrew and Jessie Reid

Nancy Reid Lillian Reilly

Carole Rein and Paul Schwartz

Steve and Lea Parson George Pawle Holly Peek Meegan Petersen Ben Pike Nick Pioppi Sarah Player and Tim Galanis Caroline Playter Kosta Prentakis Mary Pryor and Bronwyn West Lawrence J. Pszenny Sean Quinlan Jordan Radek Elizabeth Raycroft Dr. George Tittmann Record Joan Rees

Qiuting Ren Kevin and Susan Rich Cheryl Roberts Katherine Roberts Dave Robinson Simon Rogers Tom Rogers Ed and Chris Roman Christian Roop David and Justine Ross Isaac B. Ross Paula Ruelle Spencer Rumsey Kelly and Scott Russell Marianne Rutter Brianna Ryan Elizabeth Ryan Martha Ryan Randy Rydbeck Jonathan Salt Dave Samson Carol Sandberg Joe and Jen Sanders Carol Sanger Elizabeth Santagati Elias Santoro Marjorie Satinsky Patrick Saunders Donna Savarese Sue Savarese Jana Sbardellati Frank and Nancy Scanzani

Frank and Kathy Scarpa Juergen Scharner Amy Scheetz

Donald Schemack and Chris Schena

Kathy Schlundt Deborah Schnabel Juliana Schneider

Rick and Marilyn Schrenker Anne Schwartz Jacqueline Scott

Kristen Scott Bert Seager and Renee Loth David Searles

Christine Seibert Donna Seibert

Carol Seitchik and Alan Feldman Dr. Barbara and Oney G. Shade

Neil and Molly Shea Douglas A. Shealy Michael Shenefelt Deborah Shih

Derrek and Beth Shulman Andy Shumaker Charles H. Shurcliff

Sarah Simon Judy Sinclair David Skomurski Marianne Skomurski Shelley Sloboder

Courtney Smith Gail Smith Jessica Smith Laura Smith

Lisa Smith Mary and Charlie Smith Zeus Smith

Christopher Sobotows Nils Sorensen

Gail and John Sorenson Danielle Spang

Jane Spellman Carol Spence Ralph Spiegel

Lucy Sprague Mary Stacey Nancy Starks-Cheney

Gary Stein Meredith Stein Nate and Tami Stein

Jackson Stevens Karyl Stoia and Joe Wilson Michael J. Stroman

Jana Sulkowski Barry and Roseann Sullivan

Beth Swan

Sean James Sweeney Anne Swetland Reid and Janice Swetland Nancy K. Swindell-Lucas

Pat and Robert Swisher Marjorie Talacko Alan Taubert

Elizabeth Bernick and Hugh Taylor Caroline Teague

Karen Teeley Alyssa Teixeira Rick and Deborah Telep David Tetrault

Kristin Tetreau Jessica Theriault Maggie Thomas Judith Thurston Stefani Timmons Russell Tobias William Todd Elizabeth Townsend Robert and Leslie Tragert Paul Tremblay

Ana Tripp Erline Trites Karen Collari Troake Conrad Troller Robert Tuffley Katherine Tuohy Jamie Turner

Erika and John Goldsborough

Turner Martha Valleriani Jan Van Almkerk Allan P. Vaughan Scott Veggeberg Beth Viehmann Rebecca Vienneau Jo/Bob Vietro Dave and Nina Voci Kurt Wahtera Patience Wales Scott Wallace Susan Wallingford John Walsh Jane Ward

Nina Warmboe Dorothy Wass Kenneth Way Bob and Sandy Weatherall David and Clare Weaver

Anna Webb Paul Weingartner Bradley Welch Dan and Andrea Welch Mark and Debra Welling

Alain-Marc Werner Mary Whalen Gen Whaley Charles Wheeler Debra and Roger Wheeler Debra White

Megan White Donn and Pamela Whitmore William and Kelly Whitmore

Daniel Wilder Carol Williams Matthew Williams Carla Williamson Iwona Wilt

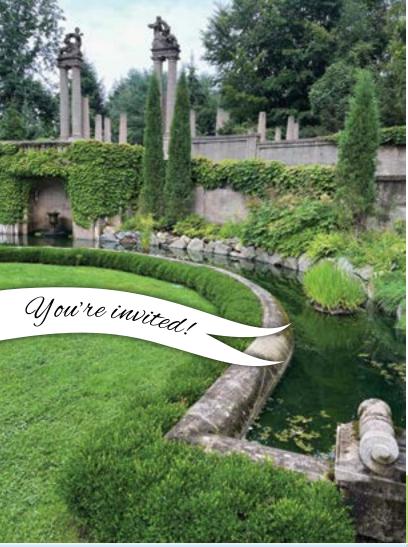
Penelope and George Wingate

Lena Winston Stanley Wood Kathleen Woods Joanne Wright Andrea Young Diane J. Young Michael Young Lee Zalinger

Paul and Debi Zanotti



This past fall we daylighted this stream that had been underground for 100 years on our property at Riverbend.



2024 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 6-8 p.m.

at Castle Hill on Crane Estate | 290 Argilla Rd, Ipswich, MA

AGENDA

6:00 p.m. Food, Drink & Social —

We can't wait to catch up with you!

6:50 p.m. Welcome by Peter Pinciaro,

Director of Crane Estate, The Trustees

6:55 p.m. Opening Remarks, Ken MacNulty,

Board President

7:00 p.m. Special Guest: Beth Lambert,

Director, Massachusetts Division

of Ecological Restoration

7:20 p.m. Business Meeting

8:00 p.m. Meeting Conclusion

Come early at 5 p.m. to see our watershed from a new view — from the rooftop at the Castle.

Thank You for 27 Years

Loring Bradlee and Janet Stone have been RiverWatch monitors at Salem Road in Topsfield since 1998. The RiverWatch program has been active in its current form since 1997, collecting monthly data for measures of river health including water temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and chloride. They decided last year was the right time to complete their monitoring career and spend time with other activities. They valued their time monitoring and said it was an important part of their lives for the past 27 years.

Our heartfelt thanks to Loring and Janet for their dedication and commitment to the river. Volunteers are an important part of our mission to protect the river and we are grateful for all who participate in science and monitoring programs, help out at Riverbend or in the many other ways that make the Ipswich River a great place for all to enjoy.

Interested in volunteering?

Email us at irwainfo@ipswichriver.org.



Loring Bradlee and Janet Stone pictured here at the Salem Road Landing.