Free Flowing River

With each passing year, we are getting closer to reconnecting large chunks of important fish habitat in the Ipswich River to each other ... and to the sea! Up until about 375 years ago, the Ipswich River ran freely from source to sea and thousands of migratory fish, including sea-run brook trout, river herring, shad, salmon and sturgeon returned every year from the Atlantic. The watershed is now interrupted by more than 70 dams that block fish migration and damage important habitat such as natural riffles and rapids.

Many of the dams in the Ipswich River watershed were built to power the industry of the 1800s and have surpassed their useful lives. These obsolete dams continue to do environmental harm and dam owners must pay for regular maintenance and are liable for safety hazards.

Thanks to your support, over the past few years IRWA has been working with dam owners and partner organizations to consider restoring the river by removing unnecessary dams in the watershed. Our goal is to reconnect habitat and help make the river function more like it did for thousands of years before the dams were built. These improvements will benefit all of us that live in the region and enjoy the river and the fish and wildlife that call it home.

We expect that by this time next year, the Town of Danvers will start construction (make that de-construction) of the failing Curtis Pond Dam on Boston Brook. This will be an important milestone, as it will be the first dam removed for river restoration in our watershed! We have also seen encouraging progress on the potential projects at the South Middleton and Ipswich Mills dams (both on the mainstem Ipswich River) – studies are underway to address key questions that will influence if and how these dams will be decommissioned.

We look forward to a healthier, freer flowing Ipswich River in the near future. Your continued support will be critical to the success of these river restoration efforts ... thanks!

Leave a Legacy

Our work as the Voice of the River continues in ice, snow, rain, floods and droughts. 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.
Just after our Annual Meeting last year, the earth shook here at Riverbend, when Attorney Robert Bonsignore arrived with a check for $150,000 to support our Restoration Project for the next 3 years. THAT does not happen very often! Thanks to him, IRWA kicked off the Parker-Ipswich-Essex Rivers Restoration Partnership (PIEr²). We received additional funding from the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, Cabot Family Charitable Trust, EBSCO Publishing, Analog Devices, the EnTrust Fund, Stevens Foundation, New England Biolabs Foundation, and the Sheehan Family Foundation that enabled us to expand our restoration work and hire full-time staff. Now, we are working with our partners to develop an Action Agenda and begin tackling key priorities. This is the beginning of a long-term collaboration to restore our coastal rivers. Thank you, Robert!

More good news: the estate of Donna and Harris Smith bequeathed 5.7 acres of riverfront property that IRWA is acquiring. The property is downstream of Riverbend on the other side of the river and abuts town-owned conservation land, adding to a corridor of protected riverfront land upstream of the Ipswich town center. We’re very grateful to the Smith family and to the Trustees of Reservations and Essex County Greenbelt Association for helping us acquire this land; thanks also to Mike DeRosa and Jim MacDougall for their help.

Wouldn’t it be great to see the river run free again, after being dammed for centuries? This year, we are making real progress toward removal of several dams. I hope we can soon report the first dam removal on the Ipswich River!

Have you joined us for one of our walks, paddles, or other programs? We’ve welcomed more people than ever to Riverbend this year – do you think that free member use of canoes might have anything to do with it? We started this year with an excellent hike at Crane Beach led by Franz Ingelfinger, did animal tracking and birding walks at Riverbend, paddled from Source to Sea and had fun and treats donated by DownRiver Ice Cream at the Canoe Dock opening. Please visit often!

Our amazing volunteers continue to do fantastic work. The monitoring program is wrapping up its 15th year, and some of the volunteers have been with the program from the beginning – wow!! The herring count led by Kate Banks Hone documented 3 times as many herring as last year; huge thanks to Kate and all the volunteers! The stream teams continue to clean up the river, improve access for canoeing, lead nature hikes and canoe trips, and help educate their neighbors about the river. Trout Unlimited’s Nor’East Chapter constructed a new trail and cleaned up the property, and Denise King and our wonderful crew of gardeners are doing an awesome job keeping the gardens looking good. Special thanks to Rue Sherwood and Curt Dragon for their program highlighting our Greenscapes.

Our staff continues to do great work protecting the river. Trish Aldrich celebrated her 5th anniversary at IRWA this summer – thank you, Trish, for your steady, diverse contributions. Jim MacDougall has gotten the PIER² project off to a flying start, and is now working with Brian Kelder, our new Restoration Program Manager. Ryan O’Donnell took the reins of the monitoring and stream team programs, and Cynthia Ingelfinger continues her great work as Outreach Coordinator.

With fond regards,

Kerry Mackin
Executive Director

Kerry Mackin is a national River Hero (River Network 2007).
The Power of Partnerships

This year IRWA formed a new partnership to guide restoration efforts into the next decade and beyond. The partnership is called PIEr² for Parker-Ipswich-Essex Rivers Restoration. Members share a common vision: To restore and protect the health and function of the three rivers and the Great Marsh for future generations.

We are encouraged by the important strides individual organizations are making to protect our waters. Now it is time to look at the bigger picture so we can achieve the healthiest condition possible over the long term. To achieve this goal, our organizations are working together to identify the biggest conservation issues in the region and what we can do over the next 5-10 years to make our waterways healthier.

PIEr² goals include building the river community, communicating the value of our rivers, addressing threats to our waterways, and preparing for future changes. This new partnership will help IRWA coordinate our ongoing efforts with our partners and identify issues that need further attention. By working together and creating a regional plan of action, we will be able to accomplish far more than we ever could alone. For more information on the partnership and the issues, visit us on the web at http://ipswichriver.org/our-work/parker-ipswich-essex-rivers-restoration-partnership.

Keeping the River Out of Danger

The Sustainable Water Management Initiative aka “Swimmie” (SWMI) is wrapping up its second year and the outcome is uncertain. The environmental organizations taking part are making a strong case for a more protective safe yield and streamflow standards than what the state is proposing. As we write this, the state agencies are considering our recommendations, but it seems like an uphill battle. We may need to call on you for quick action – please stay tuned! Visit us at ipswichriver.org, friend us on Facebook or sign up for River News for updates.
Annual Herring Migration Count

After thirteen years, the annual Ipswich River herring count remains a fun way for families and individuals to help make a difference for river herring. In 2011, 50 volunteers completed a total of 421 ten minute counts from April 1 to June 11. Collectively, they observed 48 herring using the fish ladder to spawn. Ben Flemer performed the most counts at 71, Lindsey Williams was second with 66 counts, followed by Bruce Amazeen with 63. Sylvia Howe observed the most fish at one time with 19.

We monitor river herring migration to aid fisheries managers and scientists in understanding the status and needs of this important fish that is now in decline. This year, we are using statistical software designed by the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries to calculate herring run sizes based on visual counts. As part of our effort to raise awareness of river herring issues, we invited Greg Wells from the Herring Alliance to speak at our annual training about the plight of river herring and how changes in fisheries management can help restore their numbers. IRWA is now part of the Herring Alliance.

We are grateful to the many volunteers who make this program possible. Kate Banks Hone has been instrumental in managing the day to day operations of the count. We greatly appreciate her efforts and those of the many volunteer counters both past and present. We encourage people to get involved in the 2012 fish count. This a great way for people to play a part in helping restore river herring, giving future generations the chance to see these remarkable fish migrate from the sea to the rivers, lakes and ponds of our region.

Partners Survey Culverts to Provide Safe Passage

Ipswich River Watershed Association, Mass Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Reading/North Reading Stream Team and other members of the Parker, Ipswich and Essex Rivers (PIEr2) Partnership rekindled efforts to measure all the bridges and culverts crossing streams in the Ipswich, Parker and Essex River area.

When a road crosses a stream, the style and size of the bridge or culvert may create a barrier to the migration of fish and other wildlife. The first step in a process to restore the ecological potential of these aquatic habitats is to measure and analyze each culvert and bridge along a river, stream or brook. The information is then entered into a UMass computer to be assessed for its effect on stream continuity. This computer model is part of MassCAPS (Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System) and can be further understood visiting their web site at masscaps.org.

The PIER2 partners recognize that stream barriers are a major impairment to realizing the ecological potential of our river and wetland habitats. The information we receive back from UMass will assign priorities to each bridge or culvert and its potential for blocking fish and wildlife passage. With the new stream crossing standards, we can assist the local DPW on how to replace culverts with habitat restoration in mind.

The PIER2 Partnership organized a training session for citizens to learn about conducting an inventory of stream crossings in their Town. The training was provided by DER, UMass Wildlife Extension, IRWA and the Topsfield Conservation Commission; all are partners in PIER2.
Seventeen towns are participating in Greenscapes North Shore in 2011. In order to help towns educate their citizens on how to save water and money, this year’s Greenscapes educational materials include three new full color educational brochures (Creating a Healthy Yard, Recycling Water, and Be a Greenscaper). Greenscapes also provides four articles for local papers, access to a free homeowners workshop on compost tea and native gardens, the Greenscapes website and seasonal monthly E-Newsletters.

In addition to restoring the amount of water in the river, Greenscapes focuses on making sure the water is clean. Storm sewers often carry polluted runoff into local water bodies. To prevent this pollution of our waters, new regulations require towns to develop a stormwater management program. Greenscapes is expanding our services this year to help towns develop outreach and education materials to meet these requirements.

During the summer heat when water levels in the Ipswich River are at an annual low, demand for water peaks. The result is extremely low water levels, which can kill fish and damage the environment. Reducing water demand is the top priority in restoring the health of the river. To do so, IRWA, together with Salem Sound Coastwatch and the Eight Towns & the Bay Committee, formed the Greenscapes North Shore program, which teaches homeowners and landscapers to care for their yards and gardens using less water, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

We are inspired by the continued dedication and commitment of the volunteers of the RiverWatch program. The success of the monitoring program shows the power many individuals can have by working together. Their presence on the river demonstrates to the community that citizens can make a difference to protect the Ipswich River.

RiverWatch monitors collect valuable data to help understand trends in water quality. There are now 62 volunteers monitoring 30 sites throughout the watershed. We are pleased to note the addition of 17 new volunteers and 3 new monitoring sites. Such high participation shows people want to get involved in protecting the river. Not only that, but river monitoring is a fun activity for family and friends to get to know their own unique part of the watershed.

The RiverWatch program is now in its fifteenth year. We are grateful to the volunteers for their perseverance and accomplishments. Their presence on the river is an example of how each of us can do our part for the river by monitoring, saving water, talking to our friends and neighbors or enjoying this resource we all share.
Supporters (July 2010 — June 2011)
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 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 operating support to IRWA through membership, Annual Appeal or other gifts. Your support makes a world of difference!

Christopher & Deborah Abbott
Analog Devices, Inc
Anonymous
Biodiversity Consulting, LLC
April Bowling & Peter Phippen
David & Barbara Bristol
Cabot Family Charitable Trust
Linda & Mark Coe
Joan Cudhea
Helen Danforth
Nancy Eaton
Ebsco Publishing
EnTrust Fund
Jerome & Emily Farnsworth
Sissy ffolliott
George & Phyllis Fischer
Michael & Phyllis Greene
Institution for Savings
Miriam Lasher
Peg Lawrence & Ben Morrill
Caleb & Bonny Loring
Kerry Mackin
Nan & George Mathey
Barbie & Painey Metcalf
New England Biolabs Foundation
New England Biolabs Inc.
Dick & Snooky Phippen
Bob & Annie Pulver
Chris & Joe Sandulli
SEA Fund
Sheehan Family Foundation
Binkley & Paula Shorts
Trina Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Campbell Steward
Gilbert & Sally Steward
Teradyne, Inc.
Mark Thayer
Two Commandments Foundation
Joe & Amanda Valenzuela
Michael Wood

**Special Gifts and Grants**

**Organization Capacity Building**
Essex County Community Foundation

**Program Support**
Anonymous
Albright Family Charitable Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Ayco Charitable Foundation
Blandford Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Cabot Family Charitable Trust
Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust
Joan Prichard Cudhea Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Division of Ecological Restoration
EnTrust Fund
Henrietta Gates & Heaton Robertson Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
GE Foundation
Greenscapes North Shore
Gulf Of Maine Council
Thomas & Patricia Hughes Family Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Hurdle Hill Foundation
JustGive
Kent-Lucas Foundation
Kenwood Foundation
Mass Dept of Conservation & Recreation
Barbara Putnam Metcalf & Robert Treat Paine Metcalf Fund, The Boston Foundation
Muddy Pond Trust Fund at the Boston Foundation
New England Biolabs Foundation
Rowland Charitable Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
SEA Consultants

**SEA Fund**
Sheehan Family Foundation
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 & Sally J. Steward Family Fund, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Two Commandments Foundation
US Smokeless Tobacco Settlement Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program, The Springate Fund

**Riverbend**
Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld
John W. Peirce Fund, Essex County Community Foundation

**RiverWatch**
New England Biolabs

Robert Bonsignore delivers a check for $150,000 to help fund a partnership to restore the Parker, Ipswich, and Essex River Watersheds to the healthiest condition possible, and makes a world of difference. Photo: M. Lasher
We are honored to protect the Ipswich River in tribute to these members of the river community.

In honor of Dr. Bob Petranek for the care he gave her mother Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld
In memory of Chloe Karen Sawyer
In memory of Louise Allan Murry & Mary Cunningham
In memory of Henry Ebinger Barbara Ostberg
In memory of Gabe Kendrick Jr William Kendrick
In memory of Steve Landwehr Helen Gifford
Don & Lucia Greenough Paul & Susan Leighton
Kerry Mackin
Sara McFarlan
Linda O’Connell
Olson Lewis Dioli & Doktor
Suzanne Polizzi
Salem News
In memory of Norman LaVallee
Luis & Kristine Baez
Herman Day
Anthony Duskey
Philip Freehan
Helen Grant
Mal & Kathy Lyons
Catherine Player
Sandra Ray
AnnMarie & Sally Thumacki
In memory of Dick Ostberg
Karin Ostberg Montlack & Marc Montlack
In tribute to John Stellwagen
Anonymous
In memory of Fred Stott
Susan Stott

The Ipswich river is a great place to have fun with family and friends. Photo: M. Wertz

Over 50 people celebrate the 2011 opening of the Canoe Dock and enjoy Downriver ice cream together. Photo: F. Ingelfinger
Volunteers (July 2010 — June 2011)
You really make a difference!

Volunteers are vital to the strength and vibrancy of Ipswich River Watershed Association. They are the caretakers of the mission and the catalyst for IRWA to grow and sustain its river legacy for future generations.

Herring Count
Trish Aldrich
Bruce Amazeen
William Corkum
Michael Darisse
Jon Deuel
Katharine Deuel
Emma Dixon
Laura Dixon
Rachel Eramo
Ben Flemer
Jack Gardner
Katie Glaubitz
Connie Gourdeau
Savanna Harris
John Herron
Art Howe
Laura Dixon
Rachel Eramo
Ben Flemer
Jack Gardner
Katie Glaubitz
Connie Gourdeau
Savanna Harris
John Herron
Art Howe
Laura Dixon
Rachel Eramo
Ben Flemer
Jack Gardner
Katie Glaubitz
Connie Gourdeau
Savanna Harris
John Herron
Art Howe

Fishermen
Will Bernard
Bruce Bromby
Wayne Castonguay
Kevin Correa
Art Howe
Matt Keating
Harris Krinsky
John LeJeune
John Leonard
Nat Moody
Mike Nelson
Mike O’Neill
Jonathan Peabody
Carl Soderland
Derek Spingler
Gary Uhring
Chett Walsh
Neil Wermouth
Dave Williams
Thomas Wooldridge
Bob Young

River Friends
Dave Aldrich
Katy Aldrich
John Bacon
Jim Berry
Robert Bonsignore
Matt Bonventure
Peter Phippen
Martha Campbell
Wayne Castonguay
Linda Coe
Butch Conary
Diana Davis
Denise King
Landscape Designs
Essex County Trail Association
Sissy ffolliott
William Finch
Georgia & David Flood
Sharon Grimes
Sandra Hamilton
Dan Heiter
Kate & Brian Hone
Kim Honetschlagr & Wil Finch
Art Howe
Aldyth Innis
Richard Ireland
Norm Isler
Chuck Kollars
Miriam Lasher
John LeJeune
John Leonard
Stina MacDougall
Renee Malinek
Fran Masse
Bill McIvitt
Pike Messenger
Steve Morris
Mike Nelson
Seon O’Keefe
Mike O’Neill
Dr. Bob Peterson
Peter Phippen
Annie Pulver
Bob Pulver
Scott Pulver
Anne Reynolds
Eric Roth
Roux Associates
Peter Sacco
Joe Sandulli
Rue Sherwood
Ava Steenstrup
Martha Stevenson
Mark Thayer
Brian Tinger
Cassie Tragert
Erika Turner
Landi Van Alen
Dave Voci
Max Voci
Cheryl Yemma

RiverWatch
Donnan Barnes
Jeff Becker
Loring Bradlee
Katharine Brown
Diana Davis
Mike DeAmario
Susan DeAmario
Judy Donovan
Reene Dunn
Jack Elsey
Peter Ferris
Joan Flynn
Paul Fritz
Susan Fritz
Gayle Gleichauf
Karen Hartel
Curtis Hermann
Kim Honetschlagr
Art Howe
Ingrid Johnson
John Kastrinos
Bob Koenig
Mark Lovejoy
Wayne Mackey
John Mansfield
Fran Masse
Bill McIvitt
Larry McTierman
Ben Mendelson
David Merrill
Pike Messenger
Catie Moore
Alicia & Peter Moore
Gayle Murray
Tim Nawrocki
Deborah Nelson
Pamela Newport
Beth O’Connor
Robert O’Donnell
Barbara Ostberg
Bill Reed
Rick Rodgers
Ruth Ryan
Carol Sandberg
Karl Siebert
Gina Snyder
Ava Steenstrup
Martha Stevenson
Janet Stone
Lee Story
Suzanne Sullivan
Katie Szymbiesz
Joe Tragert
Bernadine Tragert
Jim Ugone
Siobhan Ugone
Gavin Ugone
Lee Vanzler
David Williams
Nancy Wolfe
Michael Wolfe

Trout Unlimited NorEast Chapter builds a new trail to the canoe dock at Riverbend, IRWA’s headquarters in Ipswich. Thanks for helping people get out and enjoy the river. Photo: J. LeJeune
Financial Summary

2010 Operating Support

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY for year ending December 31, 2010

OPERATING SUPPORT

- Membership 110,006
- Other Contributions 164,200
- Grants 126,048
- Donated Goods and Services 4,282
- Programs, Events, Sales, Investments, Rent 19,423

TOTAL OPERATING SUPPORT 423,959

OPERATING EXPENSES

- Program Services 159,695
- Support Services 29,054
- Fundraising 56,554

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES 245,303

INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM OPERATIONS

- Depreciation (34,093)

TOTAL INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS 144,563

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

- Cash 411,050
- Other Current Assets 1,246
- Net Property and Equipment 1,357,681

TOTAL ASSETS 1,769,977

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

- Current Liabilities 13,082
- Unrestricted Net Assets 1,585,615
- Temporarily Restricted 171,280

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 1,769,977
Local Heroes Make a Difference

River Restoration Partner Award: Analog Devices, Wilmington
Analog Devices in Wilmington is a long-time supporter of river restoration in the Ipswich River Watershed. Analog has taken action to improve river health, reducing water use dramatically and using innovative site designs. IRWA is tremendously grateful for Analog’s support and leadership in protecting the Ipswich River.

Environmental Leadership Award: Beth Lambert
Beth helps towns, watershed groups and other partners evaluate complex technical issues to determine how best to restore our rivers and meet other goals. She also takes on challenging tasks for the Board of Directors. We are pleased to present Beth Lambert with our 2011 Environmental Leadership Award.

Outstanding Service Award: Robert Bonsignore
Robert recommended that IRWA submit a proposal to receive funds from a major legal settlement. Last fall, he arrived at Riverbend with a check for $150,000 to fund our restoration work for the next three years—wow! We are so grateful to Robert for his help!

Volunteer Award: Bill McDavit
Bill generously donated his expertise and many hours of his time, helping with field measurements, hydrologic modeling, research and working with the Ipswich Stream Team.

RiverWatch Volunteer Award: Gina Snyder
Gina has monitored the Ipswich River since 1997 and provides technical advice. Gina also coordinates the Reading/North Reading Stream Team and is a former Board Member. We appreciate her long-term efforts to protect the Ipswich River.

Summer Interns and Volunteers: Diana Davis, Matt Bonventre, Renee Mallonek
Renee and Matt prepared data and tools to increase our analytical capabilities. An instructor at North Shore Community College, Diana Davis, helped restart our macroinvertebrate monitoring program and will be part of the program in 2012.

Outstanding Public Service Award: Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration
Tim Purinton and his team at DER put in countless hours helping organizations take action to restore Massachusetts’ rivers to health. DER is a great example of government working for our mutual benefit. We are so grateful to Tim, Hunt, Russ, Franz, Carrie, Beth and the entire DER staff for all they do to help us protect our rivers.

Analog Devices receives environmental leadership awards. They continue to improve efficiencies in water and energy use, are leaders in toxic use reduction and have provided leadership support to IRWA for 10 straight years. Photo: Analog Devices

Ipswich River Watershed

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

Staff
Kerry Mackin, Executive Director
Trish Aldrich, Development
Carolyn Favazza, Bookkeeper
Cynthia Ingelfinger, Outreach
Brian Kelder, Restoration
Jim MacDougall, Naturalist
Ryan O’Donnell, Programs

Board of Directors
Bob Pulver, President
Peter Phippen, Vice President
Anne Reynolds, Secretary
Campbell Steward, Treasurer
Hunt Durey
Beth Lambert
Miriam Lasher
Painey Metcalf
Christine Sandulli
Maria Van Dusen
Dave Williams

IRWA staff gather at the river. Jim, Cynthia, Carolyn, Kerry, Trish, Brian, Ryan (left to right). Photo: M. Benventre