



# The Hoosic River Voice

News from the Hoosic River Watershed Association Winter 2015  
Clean Water Habitat Restoration River Access Watershed Recreation

## HooRWA launches a series of programs and recreational events!

From the Ridgetops to the River, come out and join us to experience the visual and recreational pleasures of our beautiful 720 square mile Hoosic River watershed. Walks, talks, hikes, snowshoeing, biking, skiing, fishing demonstrations all await you. What is required is a love of the out-of-doors -- and the simple process of pre-registration for each person attending an event with the event leader, at least three days before the event. This allows the leader to contact you should details of the event change. Except for the “**Hoosic River Ride**”, event participation is free for HooRWA members, with a suggested donation of \$5 for each non-member attending an outdoor recreational event.

### Winter Events



#### **Saturday, January 10, 2015 – Hoosac Range Trail – North Adams**

This trail stretches along the ridgeline of the Hoosac Range. Depending on snow conditions, the outing will either be a boot hiking event or snowshoe event. Distance of the hike/snowshoe event will be determined by the group/

conditions. From the parking lot, the hike will head south along the Hoosac ridgeline and later return to the same location. Bring beverages and snacks with you. **Meet:** At the BNRC parking lot area off of Rt. 2, just 300-feet east of Western Summit by 10:00 a.m.

**Leader:** Lauren Stevens; call him at 413-458-3154 or email him at [lstevens@berkshire.net](mailto:lstevens@berkshire.net) for preregistration.

#### **Monday, January 12, 2015 – HooRWA Annual Meeting – Williamstown**

Learn about our monitoring and activity programs to help protect the river and its watershed. Learn about the Williams College environmental planning class students' effort to claim more than a mile of Hoosic frontage.

**Meet:** First Congregational Church on the Williams College campus, Williamstown by 7:00 p.m. **Leader:** Steve McMahon; call him at 413-458-2742 or email him at [s.mcmahon@hoorwa.org](mailto:s.mcmahon@hoorwa.org) for more details.

#### **Saturday, February 14, 2015 – Field Farm - Williamstown**

A hike or snowshoeing event, distance determined by the group and conditions. The location provides breathtaking views of farm fields, the Mt. Greylock and Taconic Ranges, and is a fine way to see winter vegetation and animal tracks. Bring beverages and snacks with you. **Meet:** At the Trustees of Reservations trails parking lot area off of Sloan Road by 10:00 a.m.

The driveway to Field Farm (located off Sloan Road) is 1 mile west of the Rt. 7 & Rt. 43 intersection in Williamstown. **Leader:** John Case; call him at 413-458-8023 or email him at [jocase@road-runner.com](mailto:jocase@road-runner.com) for preregistration.

#### **Friday, February 20, 2015 –**

#### **Purple Mountain Majesty**

#### **(movie/talk event) - Williamstown**

Thunderbolt Ski Runners and HooRWA present the documentary film “Purple Mountain Majesty” about Mount Greylock and the story behind the making of the movie, prior to the annual Thunderbolt Trail race on February 28. Thunderbolt Trail is an iconic (1930s) ski trail located on the east side of Mt. Greylock, and is used to test one's alpine skiing skills. It was also used in the 1940s to help train the U.S. Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division for skiing the mountainous slopes of wartime Europe. Thunderbolt Ski Runners will share stories behind the making of the movie and how the Thunderbolt Trail is used today for hiking and skiing. **Meet:** At the First Congregational Church, Fellowship Hall, on the Williams College campus in Williamstown by 7:00 p.m. **Leader,** Thunderbolt Ski Runners; however contact Steve McMahon 413 458-2742 or email him at [s.mcmahon@hoorwa.org](mailto:s.mcmahon@hoorwa.org) for more details.

(continued on page 3)



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Watershed Association**

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*HooRWA is dedicated to the restoration, conservation and enjoyment of the Hoosic River and its watershed, through education, research, and advocacy.*

The Board and Staff of HooRWA would like to deeply thank all those who supported us in our 2014 membership and appeal campaigns and those who donated "time and talent" to help us get the job done. We have had a wonderful year thanks to you!

We are already looking forward with great excitement to 2015! The Board has decided to encourage our members and friends "touch the river" by offering a series of programs along rivers and throughout the watershed, all season long. From winter snowshoeing, skiing and sledding outings to summer bike rides, walks and programs, we truly believe there is an event for everyone.

In addition, there will be our annual meeting in January, a Riverworks art program in April, and our annual State of the River program in October. Winter and spring events are listed in this newsletter.

**President's Post** *by Tom Hyde*

Perhaps the best and most exciting news that we wish to share for 2015 is that our annual Hoosic River Ride will be back on August 15 and will be hosted by the Hoosac School in Hoosick, NY.

The Hoosac School has a great campus with a spacious dining facility and acres of lawn to stretch after riding along back roads, across covered bridges and through the many villages that are part of our watershed. The school is also centrally located for the 100, 75, 50 and 30 mile rides and is easily accessed from NY, VT and MA. During the summer there will be two warm up rides to familiarize riders with the new routes.

From all of us —

*Happy New Year!*

*Steve McMahon for  
Tom Hyde*

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**Hoosick River Greenway adds acreage!**

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## HoorWA Winter Events (continued)

### **Saturday, February 21 – Willow Park - Bennington**

A great sledding opportunity for families to gather and enjoy the outdoors with their children or grandchildren, sledding down a hill widely recognized as a safe place to have good old-fashioned fun. Join us to have fun and refreshments afterwards. **Meet:** At Willow Park parking area off East Road in Bennington by 1:00 p.m. East Road is located approximately 1/3 of a mile east of US Rt. 7 off Kocher Drive. **Leader:** Elayne Murphy; call her at 413-458-2947 or email her at [emurphy@williams.edu](mailto:emurphy@williams.edu) for details and pre-registration. Bad weather day is February 22.

### **Saturday, March 7, 2015 – Hopkins Forest – Williamstown**

A cross-country ski event will be held on the upper and lower loops of the Hopkins Forest in Williamstown. The trails traverse through a variety of deciduous and evergreen trees and offer the skier some great views of nearby hills and fields. Distance of the skiing event will be determined by the group/conditions; however it will not be longer than 3 miles. Bring beverages and snacks with you. **Meet:** At the Hopkins Forest parking lot area off Northwest Hill Road by 10:00 a.m. **Leader:** Tom Hyde; call him at 413-458-8534 or email him at [thomas.hyde@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas.hyde@yahoo.com) for pre-registration.

### **Saturday, March 14, 2015 – Clarksburg State Park - Clarksburg**

A relatively flat snowshoeing event, through a forested area along wetlands, ponds and streams within the Clarksburg State Park. The trip will offer the participants a great way to see animal tracks, beaver huts and cuttings, and possibly moose. Distance will be determined by the group and conditions; however the distances will be no greater than 3 miles. Bring beverages and

### Spring Events



### **Saturday, April 11, 2015**

#### **MCLA Service Day – North Adams**

Join students from MCLA in a river clean up on a section of the South Branch of the Hoosic River south of North Adams center. Wear appropriate clothing; gloves will be provided if needed. Bring water and snacks with you. **Meet:** On the west river bank by Noel Field by 10 a.m. **Leader:** Steve McMahon; call him at 413-458-2742 or email him at [s.mcmahon@hoorwa.org](mailto:s.mcmahon@hoorwa.org) for pre-registration.

### **Saturday, April 18, 2015 – Bird Walk by the Hoosic –Williamstown**

Leslie Reed-Evans, Executive Director of the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, will lead a bird walk looking for local woodland and water species and spring migrants. Bring beverages and snacks with you and binoculars if you have them. **Meet:** At Cole Field near the soccer fields' entrance on the Williams College Campus by 7:00 a.m. **Leader:** Leslie Reed Evans; however, call Steve McMahon at 413-458-2742 or email him at [s.mcmahon@hoorwa.org](mailto:s.mcmahon@hoorwa.org) for pre-registration.

### **Saturday, April 18 & 19, 2015 – Riverworks -Williamstown**

This event displays creative artwork from a variety of seasoned and new emerging artists with live music, adjacent the beautiful Hoosic River. Artists will be responding to bikepath, trail and design proposals for the area. **Meet:** At Cole Field on the Williams College Campus near the soccer fields' entrance by 10:00 a.m. **Leader:** John Case, call him at 413-458-8023 or email him at [jocase@roadrunner.com](mailto:jocase@roadrunner.com) for pre-registration.

**Hoosic River Watershed Association**

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In this issue:

Winter 2015



*The Hoosic River Voice*

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**Going paperless!**

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In an effort to use less paper and save on postage, we will email *The Hoosic River Voice* to you if requested. We encourage you to print articles that interest you and share them with friends.


Please send us your current email address. We are developing a program to send out an electronic version of the newsletter but it can't be done without your help. Send an email to office@hoorwa.org. Those who still wish to be sent a print version of the newsletter will be mailed one!

In the short term, you might receive both as we 'tighten and switch'!

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**HoorWA's Annual Meeting  
January 12, 2015 7 pm**

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Join us at 7 pm on Monday evening, January 12th, in the Fellowship Hall of the Congregational Church in Williamstown for our **annual meeting** our **annual** speaker  will include Julie Jung '15 ~~Google Doodle~~ Van Wetter '15, Williams College student presenting Professor and ~~Speaker~~ **Sarah Gardie Jung** '15 and ~~the other~~ **Manning West** '15, ~~Williams College students~~ **Apple** ~~potential Professor~~ **Eric River** ~~work on~~ **Sheri Gardner** '15 ~~environmental~~ **Parthivgud** ~~class' project~~ **report** ~~on~~ **Wong** ~~as~~ **to** ~~the~~ **Hoosic** ~~Clear~~ **in** ~~the~~ **River** ~~Walk~~ **and** ~~Big~~ **pat** ~~cul-~~ **ture** surrounding the river and

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its use and mapping a possible bike path in the Cole Field area. They will give an illustrated presentation of their proposals at the HoorWA annual meeting

In addition to the presentation, elections will be held for officers of the organization and a report presented on the fiscal year.

We hope to see you there!