



# The Hoosic River Voice

News from the Hoosic River Watershed Association

Autumn 2010

## 6th Annual Hoosic Ride

A beautiful day drew a record-setting 186 riders and 20 volunteers, making the 2010 Hoosic River Ride our biggest ever. Riders could choose from 75-mile, 50-mile, 28-mile or eight-mile loops. Routes took riders, variously, over three covered bridges, on a detour up the Bennington Battle Monument, past Bennington's Old First Church and other historic sites, and for those on the longest run, up and over Petersburg Pass on the New York-Massachusetts border.

Lead sponsor for the ride was Heleocentric, Inc. of Williamstown. Other major sponsors were Cobble Hill Farm, Donovan & O'Connor, Greylock Animal Hospital, Mark A. Pullano DMD, and Jack Miller Contractors. Several other area businesses contributed as well.

For former HoorWA board member and perennial bike ride boss Lisa Carey Moore, this

year's ride was her sixth and her last. With her family, Lisa left the week after the ride for Syracuse, NY, where new adventures (but few hills) await them.

Lisa worked tirelessly for more than ten years to build HoorWA's programs and grow HoorWA's financial security. She was the ideal board member and member – giving of her wealth (with her own and her family's donations, and through her extraordinary fundraising efforts), her wisdom (she brought with her a background in water quality protection), and her work (hours and hours and hours!). She did so without expecting to be thanked (she once told us to save the money we'd



Lisa Carey Moore is flanked by Kate Brill (left) and Sarah Brill. Kate and Sarah were in charge of the picnic.

planned to spend on some sort of recognition of her efforts), but instead because she believed in our mission.

Whatever her expectations, however, indeed we thank Lisa for all she's done for HoorWA. We thank her very much. And we wish her and her family the very best in their new endeavors in a city much too far from here.



River Ride photos by Charley Stevenson.





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Jim Niedbalski, President  
Wendy Hopkins, Vice-president  
John Case, Secretary  
Tom Ennis, Treasurer  
Emily Brannan  
Harold Brotzman  
Rick Dovey  
Sarah Gardner  
Thom Gentle  
Judy Grinnell  
Tom Hyde  
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Wendy Skavlem  
Lauren Stevens  
Rob VanDerKar

**Staff**

Executive Director  
Position open  
Kelly Nolan, Monitoring Coordinator  
Shelly Stiles, Program Director

**Hoosic River  
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.*

**President's Corner** by Jim Niedbalski

Hello!

As fall creeps through the watershed, I hope you're able to spend some time outdoors. HoorWA can help you do that, as we've scheduled several excursions (please see the last page), including a paddle of the Hoosic in New York.

Our second fundraiser and major event of the year, the sixth annual Hoosic River Ride, was a rousing success. A special thanks goes out to Lisa Carey Moore, the founder and organizer of the ride, who has tirelessly worked to make the ride an increasingly popular annual destination for serious cyclists, families with young children, and everyone in between. Lisa and her family have since moved from the area, and we wish her all the best. No worries, though; two HoorWA members have stepped up to co-chair the ride next year.

Another thank you goes to Tom Ennis of Williamstown, Mass., who recently decided to step down from the HoorWA board of directors after many years of service, most recently as treasurer. Tom was a fixture at many HoorWA events and activities, and has helped our organization in many ways.

Part of the beauty of our watershed is that it ranges widely in elevation, terrain and natural diversity. As autumn proceeds, remember that there are innumerable locations to appreciate the annual foliage splendor, and when one area is past peak or yet to explode in dazzling color, rest assured that a long walk or a short drive will find that perfect crimson maple or golden birch. And, stop by the river or one of its tributaries, and gaze at the reflection of fall's palette.

Thank you.  
See you on the river!

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**HoorWA Seeks Executive Director**

The Hoosic River Watershed Association seeks an Executive Director to help lead us in our initiatives as the steward for the watershed. The ideal candidate will be an energetic and dynamic leader who is comfortable representing HoorWA, whether it's speaking at public meetings or wading in the river to help school children identify river life. An ecology, environmental or science background is ideal but not required; the Executive Director must have a strong interest in river protection, advocacy and recreation. Other desired skills are grant writing, non-profit manage-

ment, web site development, and excellent communication skills to work with a variety of constituencies, including board members, state and federal officials, college professors, local school educators, scientists, HoorWA members, and the general public.

The Executive Director would be charged with developing partnerships with other similar non-profits, corporate sponsors, and state and federal agencies, and to assist with various HoorWA fundraising efforts.

The director will also assist in

planning and coordinating our two signature fundraising events – Riverfest in May and the Hoosic River Ride in August.

The position is half-time (20 hours/week) with no health insurance benefits. We offer a competitive salary, two weeks' paid vacation and a flexible work schedule.

Interested applicants should e-mail a resume and letter of interest to [office@hoorwa.org](mailto:office@hoorwa.org), attention Jim Niedbalski. This is an ongoing application process and review of resumes will continue until the position is filled.




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**Summer Internship 2010** by Tommy Gaidus
 

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This summer I spent six very enjoyable and productive weeks working with the Hoosic River Watershed Association. My time with HooRWA consisted of three separate projects. My work started with trail maintenance on the Mahican-Mohawk trail, then moved to creating an historical brochure of the North Adams area, and finished with the surveying of local river crossings. Although all three projects dealt with different aspects of the surrounding area, they all provided me not only with an opportunity to learn more about the Williamstown-North Adams area, but also the ability to help improve it and make its residents more aware of what it has to offer.

On the trail maintenance project, I worked with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) on a 7-mile stretch of the Mahican-Mohawk trail in Florida, MA that is currently entirely "on-road". The goal of the work was to redirect this section of trail onto state-owned land in the Mohawk Trail and Savoy Mountain State Forests.

My next project was helping the Hoosic River Revival Coalition create a brochure for a walking tour focusing on the Hoosic River's history in the town of North Adams. Thankfully, the North Adams Historical Society and the Public Library had vast amounts of information related to the area's last 250 years of history. I spent many enjoyable hours there digging through old documents.

My final project was performing surveys of river crossings to meet the Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards. This project's goal is to assess the ways in which human activities disrupt the natural continuity of river and stream ecosystems. Each river crossing requires a three-page form covering three areas: fish and aquatic organism passage, river/stream continuity, and wildlife passage. I was able to complete over 20 of these surveys this summer.

Working with HooRWA this summer was a great experience. I now have a much greater appreciation for the Hoosic and its watershed and will continue to give back to it as much as I can.

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**350.org Event October 10<sup>th</sup>**

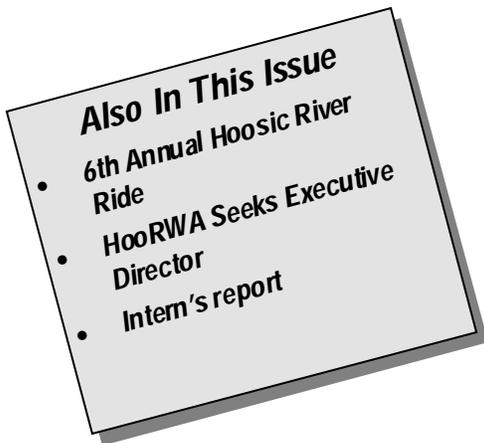

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The Williamstown, MA COOL Committee, the First Congregational Church in Williamstown, and HooRWA are sponsoring a Global Work Party on October 10, in response to a world-wide effort by Bill McKibben and 350.org to reduce climate change. Locally, volunteers will assist residents who have signed up in advance at [www.coolwilliamstown.org](http://www.coolwilliamstown.org) to install clotheslines. (Your clothes dryer uses 10 percent of your electric bill.) The event will close with a potluck dinner at the church at 6 p.m.

(Scientists say that 350 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is the safe limit for humanity. We're at about 390 ppm now. )



Above: Volunteers under the direction of MCLA Prof. Elena Traister do fish surveys using electroshocking on Thunder Brook in Cheshire, Mass. this summer. A dam on the brook is scheduled for removal shortly. Pre- and post-removal surveys will help document the effects of the dam removal on aquatic life.



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## *The Hoosic River Voice*

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### **Adventures/Excursions**

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#### **Saturday, Oct 9**

##### **Hike**

Board member Lauren Stevens will lead a hike to the Western Summit on the Mahican-Mohawk Trail via a steep 2.5-mile round-trip hike to the former Wigwam Lookout. Meet at 10 a.m. at the newly improved trailhead on Rte. 2 across from Rock Manor Mobile Home Park in North Adams, MA.

#### **Sunday, October 10**

##### **Bike Ride**

HooRWA Board member Rico Dovey will lead a bike ride from Pownal, VT to Buskirk, NY. Meet at the Pownal Post Office (on Rte. 346 just west of Rte. 7) at 10 a.m. for a leisurely 40-mile ride through the Hoosic valley to the Buskirk covered bridge and back. Average grade is 2%. A diner near Eagle Bridge could be the lunch stop. (The group will decide.) Bring water and energy bars for about 4 hours on the road in case we do not stop at the diner. (Contact [office@hoorwa.org](mailto:office@hoorwa.org) for a cue sheet.)

Important! Those planning to participate should send e-mail addresses to [ricobgoode@yahoo.com](mailto:ricobgoode@yahoo.com) so that he can notify you two hours in advance of any change in plans due to weather etc.

(Riders might want to stop in afterward at the Pownal Elementary School gymnasium for the Fifth Annual Taste of Pownal. As always, the focus is on food - local food - great food - made in Pownal kitchens, including pies made by the Pownal Historical Society.)

#### **Saturday Oct. 16**

##### **Float**

HooRWA board member John Case will lead a canoe/kayak trip from the Eagle Bridge River Access to the Johnsonville Dam, about seven miles. Participants should gather at the Williams Inn in Williamstown at 10 a.m. or meet at the Eagle Bridge Access at 10:30 a.m. (This canoe access is on the right [heading west] just beyond the village of Eagle Bridge on Route 67.) This trip will involve a car shuttle to the John-

sonville Dam, so some paddlers should be prepared to make the drive down to the dam. Please pack a lunch, PFDs, and warm clothing. This trip is Class I flat water backed up by the dam.

Please John know by Oct. 13 if you plan to paddle. Call 413-458-8023 or e-mail [jocase@adelphia.net](mailto:jocase@adelphia.net).

#### **TBA (sometime in November)**

##### **Owl Prowl**

Board member Drew Jones will lead an owl prowling in Hopkins Forest, a Williams College facility. See our website for details.

