

State of the River Conference

Bennington/Berkshire Bike Path Proposals

Over 45 people Zoomed in or watched a HoorWA's webinar on three proposed bike path routes from North Adams to Bennington. Mark Anders from the Bennington County Regional Commission spoke of re-utilizing the former Bennington Trolley line for bike path from Bennington to the Hoosic River. Also discussed was the extension of the Ashuwillticook Trail in Williamstown from Syndicate Road to the Spruces Park. Construction will begin this year! Finally, a video presentation was made on possible bike path routes through the Blackinton Mill complex and eventually on to MassMoCA.

To see the Willinet video presentation, follow this link: <https://vimeo.com/513986672>



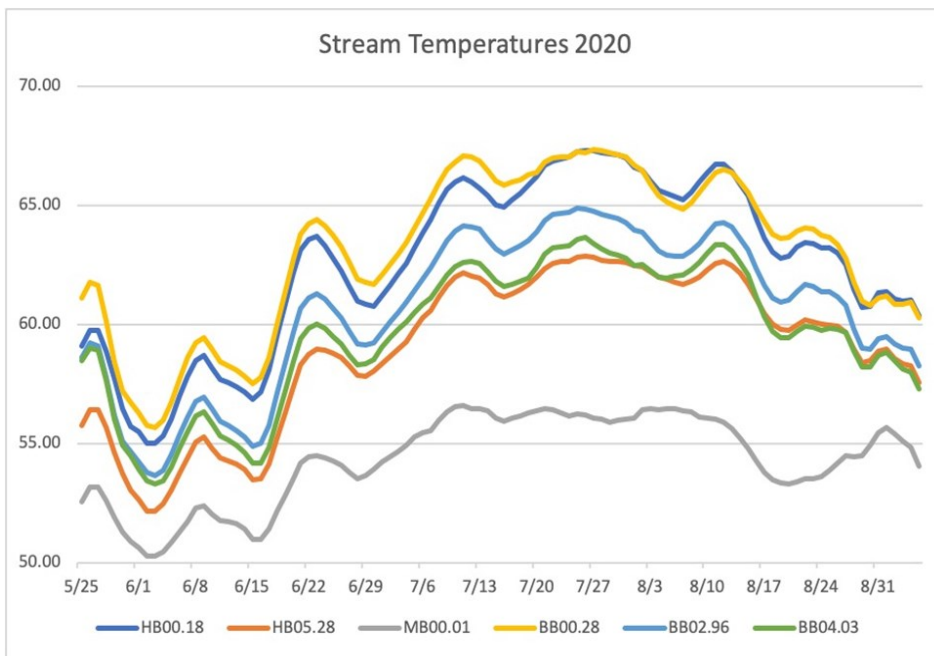
Pownal Trolley Line



STREAM TEMPERATURES — Dick Schlesinger

HooRWA started a program of stream temperature monitoring in 1999, which continued through 2005. In 2018 and 2019, we joined with Williams College to continue data collections including water temperatures. During these periods, we collected stream temperature information from 55 different locations. The Hoosic itself was sampled at 17 sites; 7 small tributaries to it were also sampled. A larger tributary, the Green River, was sampled at 11 sites and 4 tributaries flowing to it.

The 2020 program was limited to just HooRWA and water temperature sampling. Our objective was to determine the potential importance of mountain springs on the streams and to document conditions within two additional streams of importance in the Hoosic basin.



The stream temperatures follow both daily and seasonal fluctuations. A basic parameter used in cold water fisheries assessment is the maximum mean temperature over a 7 day period. The 7-day mean temperature varies considerably over the study period. The period of maximum concern for the fishery is normally found in mid to late July. And for the two stream systems studies in 2020, it was the 7 day period centered on July 26 that had the maximum mean weekly temperatures.

In 2021 temperature monitoring by volunteers Dick Schlesinger and Lauren Stevens will focus on the Green River and its tributaries. Protecting coldwater streams in the face of climate change continues to be an important HooRWA initiative.



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P.O. Box 667
Williamstown, MA 01267
413 458-2742
office@hoorwa.org
www.hoorwa.org

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

HooRWA welcomes new Board Director Martha Marvin from Williamstown!

HooRWA's annual meeting, held virtually in January, saw the re-election of Directors Gordon Batcheller, John Case and Lauren Stevens.

Welcome New 2021 Members!

Paul and Cynthia McFarland
Mary Natalizia
Paige Bartels



Riverworks 2021 -The Mohicans and the Hoosic River

This annual event will take place in October at Linear Park in Williamstown and feature mixed media art installations that reflect on the river’s Native American past. All area artists will be encouraged to participate. We are pleased that Riverworks is being supported in part by a grant from the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council (NBCC), a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.



“It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.”

---- From the Mohican Nation in Bowler, Wisconsin, sent to HoorWA via Bonney Hartley, Preservation Manager



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 20 - Valley Falls Library Talk

HoorWA Board member Gordon Batcheller will present a program on the Hoosic River and the Watershed Association at the Valley Falls Free Library, Valley Falls NY 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 24 - Tomhannock Reservoir Shoreline Clean-up

Meet at the NYS DEC public access parking lot on NYS Route 7 just before the causeway over the reservoir. Bring gloves and wear weather appropriate shoes and clothing. We will work regardless of the weather. Garbage bags are provided. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Covid – 19 protocols in place. For more information go to the Rensselaer Land Trust (renstrust.org).

Saturday, June 19 - Flyfishing Demonstration: A Beginners Clinic

Learn the basics of fly fishing and about the Hoosic River fishery. Limited number of hip boots available for use. More information to be posted on the hoorwa.org website.

Saturday, July 10 - Green River Clean Up

Join HoorWA and the South Williamstown Community Association in this annual volunteer event. Part of the town's response to the dump site clean-up. Wear wet shoes. Bags and gloves supplied. Meet at 1 p.m. by the Hart Garage on Route 7.

September, Date TBD— "Tour de Pownal" Fall Bike Ride.

Co-presented with the Pownal Recreation Task Force. A recreational ride through our scenic watershed. Watch for details on our website.

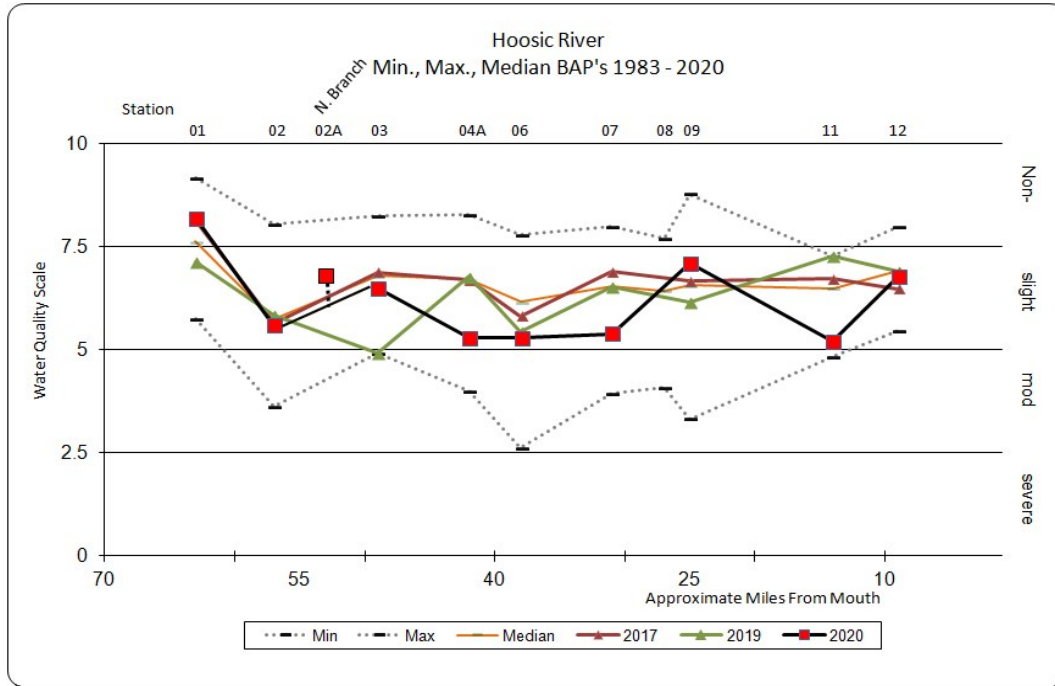


Fly fishing demonstration—2020



Ongoing River Monitoring

HooRWA continues to monitor the health of the Hoosic through benthic macro-invertebrate (river bug) sampling at 11 stations on the river from Adams, MA, to Schaghticoke, NY. We have contracted with Watershed Assessment Associates for more than ten years, and the comparative data for 2020 shows that monitoring results are similar to previous years. Visit hoorwa.org to see the detailed report.



In partnership with B.E.A.T (the Berkshire Environmental Action Team) and HVA (Housatonic Valley Association), HooRWA has applied for funding for equipment to continue sampling tributaries for high bacteria levels. This data is shared with the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection.



The Linear Park Trail

We're pleased to report that a crew from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) will begin construction on the trail in Williamstown in the summer of 2021. HooRWA is finalizing agreements with SCA. Local volunteers will be needed to assist on segments of the trail through the summer. Contact office@hoorwa.org if you wish to volunteer!

This project is funded in part by MassTrails.

