



The Hoosic River Voice

News from the Hoosic River Watershed Association Winter 2013
Clean Water Habitat Restoration River Access Watershed Recreation

HoorWA holds its 27th Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Hoosic River Watershed Association was held on January 7, 2013. Re-elected to the Board of Directors were Lauren Stevens and Tom Hyde of Williamstown, Judy Grinnell of North Adams and Thom Gentle of North Bennington. New Board members were Karin Landry and Elayne Murphy of Williamstown. The Board recognized outgoing Board member Drew Jones for his many years of service to HoorWA. During the monthly meeting of the Board, Tom Hyde was elected President, Thom Gentle, Vice President, John Case was elected Secretary and Harold Brotzman, Treasurer. After the business portion of the meeting, a slide program was presented by Richard Doucette and Felipe Aedo, both students at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Doucette and Aedo spoke on their Hoosic River Watershed bacterial source tracking project which was conducted in 2012. Their project was funded by the EPA and managed by the Berkshire Regional Planning Association and Professor Elena Traister of MCLA. The study identified location where the presence of E. coli bacteria were above levels considered safe by the EPA and the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection.



Fish Tales and Walkabouts – On the Watershed

It is fun to share our favorite fish stories or tell friends about the enjoyment on a morning hike or ride.

We would like to include your stories in our newsletter and encourage our members to get out and experience the beauty of the watershed.

Like Lou Baker, who came into our office early this winter and shared the picture of the trout he caught while fishing with his son on the Hoosic in Williamstown. Lou enjoys the river and this family activity is one he does whenever he can. Share your story and photo by emailing office@hoorwa.org.



Lou Baker with a trophy trout from the Hoosic

Lauren Stevens, past-President of HoorWA, has written a history of the Hoosic River Watershed, which is posted in the "River" section at www.hoorwa.org. We invite you to send us your comments on this posting. Thank you!

Hoosic River Revival Is on its Own

HoorWA congratulates the Hoosic River Revival (HRR), which recently received approval from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be a 501(c)3 organization. As an independent non-profit, HRR can build upon its strong identity and seek grants and donations from federal or state agencies as well as foundations, businesses, and individuals.

The River Revival is a community-based organization composed of area residents whose mission is to make the Hoosic River a community asset in downtown North Ad-

ams. To that end the River Revival's Board of Directors' goal is to make the Hoosic and its adjacent corridor suitable for recreation and business development, while ensuring continued flood protection for the city with 21st century engineering. After months of consultation with Milone & MacBroom, its river restoration consultants, HRR is now presenting to civic, religious, and private organizations conceptual drawings which outline various river revitalization options. For further information, visit hoosicriverrevival.org.



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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 Post by Lauren Stevens

HoorWA had a highly satisfactory and significant 2012. For me and, I think, for the entire board, Executive Director Steve McMahon, in his first full year, was the most important factor in our success. We hired Steve in 2011, after going several years without an ED. The sense of leadership and direction was palpable. A quick learner, Steve led us through a goal-setting exercise and personally had many accomplishments for the year; perhaps more important to me, though, was the day-to-day sense of a hand on the tiller.

Our colleague Caroline Scully pulled together a seminar in the summer at which seven HoorWA-affiliated interns presented their work. It was clear that the river benefits from our students. And we were able to see how these men and women so committed themselves to their work that, in effect, the river was helping shape their lives.

We have been putting on two, major, outdoor public events for many years. Riverfest has become a staple of family life in these parts each year in late May. The Hoosic River Ride, in late August, has continued to grow, with more than 200 bike riders last year. We appreciate the support of businesses and local organizations for these events, especially the Williamstown Savings Bank, the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council, and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics.

Our state of the River conference, "Irene + 1," was especially timely, as we reviewed what had happened a bit over a year ago when a tropical storm hit the area. The conference provided fodder for lots of lively discussion about climate change, Irene, river stewardship and the future.

Our success continues, in no small part, to the continuing generosity of our members and the time and commitment of our Board of Directors.

Thanks to all of you. Lauren

Our many thanks to the members and supporters of HoorWA!

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THANK YOU!

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

In this issue:

- Annual meeting
- Hoosic River Revival update
- Thanks to 2012 members
- Greenway gala a success

Winter 2013



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Greenway Gala

The New Year's Eve Gala Celebration held at the Hoosick Falls Country Club netted \$2,145 for the Hoosic River Greenway initiative. Ninety-one tickets for the evening of dining and dancing were sold. Two raffles were held. (Marcus Martinez donated his 50-50 raffle winnings to the Greenway). And two area businesses – the Hoosick Federal Credit Union and Thorpe's Pharmacy – each



donated generously. Thanks to the Country Club, DJ Ric DiDonato (left), and all those who attended the event.

Did You Know?

- That the Clean Water Act legislation is entering its 41st year, that everything HoorWA does in connection to water quality is based on it, and that its author, Tom Jorling, is a Hoosic Watershed resident?
- That the amount of the water on the earth, millions of cubic miles of it, has remained the same throughout time, BUT less than one-half of one percent of this water is clean and usable while the number of people needing water to live is growing every day?



Adams Images



Thunder Brook trout (by Nick Wildman)



New culvert over Thunder Brook allows young fish to access clear waters (by Steve McMahon)