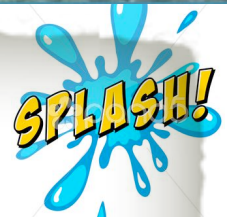




POOTATUCK
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION



Greetings to all of our friends. We hope you have been enjoying the holiday season!

We want to share with you all that the Pootatuck Watershed Association has been doing for the last year. We are proud and energized by what we've seen and done during the last twelve months. I can say this with certainty: things are looking up for the environment in Newtown!

GM GREEN – our new educational outreach program is serving almost **400 sixth-graders at Reed Intermediate School**. Over two days in October the students trekked to Deep Brook to undertake water studies, including chemistry testing, visual analysis, and macroinvertebrate sampling. This major effort involved energetic volunteers and staff from PWA, Kellogg Environmental Center, Trout Unlimited, General Motors, and Reed faculty and staff, as well as staff from Earth Force, our partner organization. PWA will continue to be involved as the students generate community-oriented projects based on their study of the stream.

CITIZEN RIVER WATCH – with the superb help of a new volunteer, Gunnar Cedergren, we installed many **signs along local watercourses**, which urge trail users to contact the town in case they observe any troubling signs of contamination in our streams. The signs, complete with labels giving GPS coordinates for each one, were designed by Gunnar. More signs will be installed as we get landowner permission.

GRANT – last month we were notified that PWA had been granted **\$40,000 to improve water quality** in our streams, with the goal of restoring wild trout habitat. We are excited to take on this new initiative and will be undertaking several initiatives toward this goal.

PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTOWN – With the support of Pat Llodra, PWA and several town departments, as well as interested individuals, have been meeting regularly since the summer regarding town practices and broader goals toward **managing our storm water** and many other important aspects of day-to-day town functioning that affect our watercourses and the broader environment.

ONGOING - we continue our **biannual water quality monitoring** and the analysis of this data, as well as public outreach and education.

COMING SOON - PWA will undertake more **storm drain marking**, warning people that what goes down storm drains enters our watercourses. **Volunteers needed!**

PLEASE JOIN US – in this valuable work! We continue to seek new members and volunteers and always welcome new ideas. For membership info, please go to www.pootatuckwatershed.org and click the membership link.

All my best for the new year,

Sarah W. Middleleer
President

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