



WOOD - PAWCATUCK
Wild and Scenic Rivers



**A Partnership Effort on Behalf of
the Wood - Pawcatuck Watershed**

The Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee



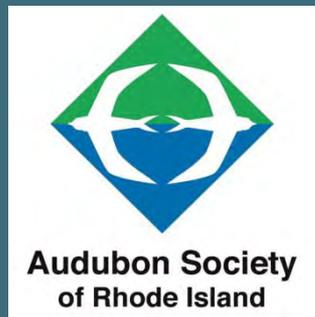
Denise Poyer

Consists of appointees from twelve watershed towns, state and federal agencies, and non-profit stakeholders

Our Partner Towns

- * CHARLESTOWN
- * EXETER
- * HOPKINTON
- * NORTH KINGSTOWN
- * RICHMOND
- * SOUTH KINGSTOWN
- * NORTH STONINGTON
- * STERLING
- * STONINGTON
- * VOLUNTOWN
- * WEST GREENWICH
- * WESTERLY

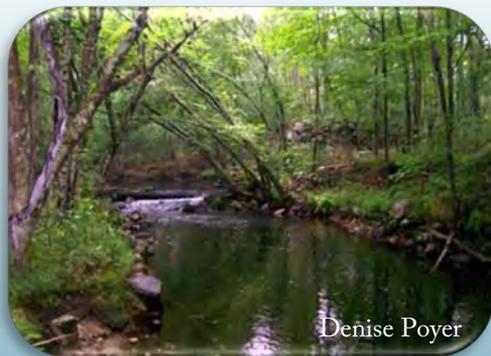
Our Partner Agencies



**What
is a
Wild and
Scenic
River?**



Falls River by Susan Shaw



From the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

1968

...certain selected rivers of the Nation which possess **outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values**, shall be preserved and protected for the benefit and enjoyment of **present and future generations.....**

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

- **209 Wild & Scenic Rivers**
(less than 0.5% of Nation's rivers)
- **8 in New England:**
Two in CT, none in RI

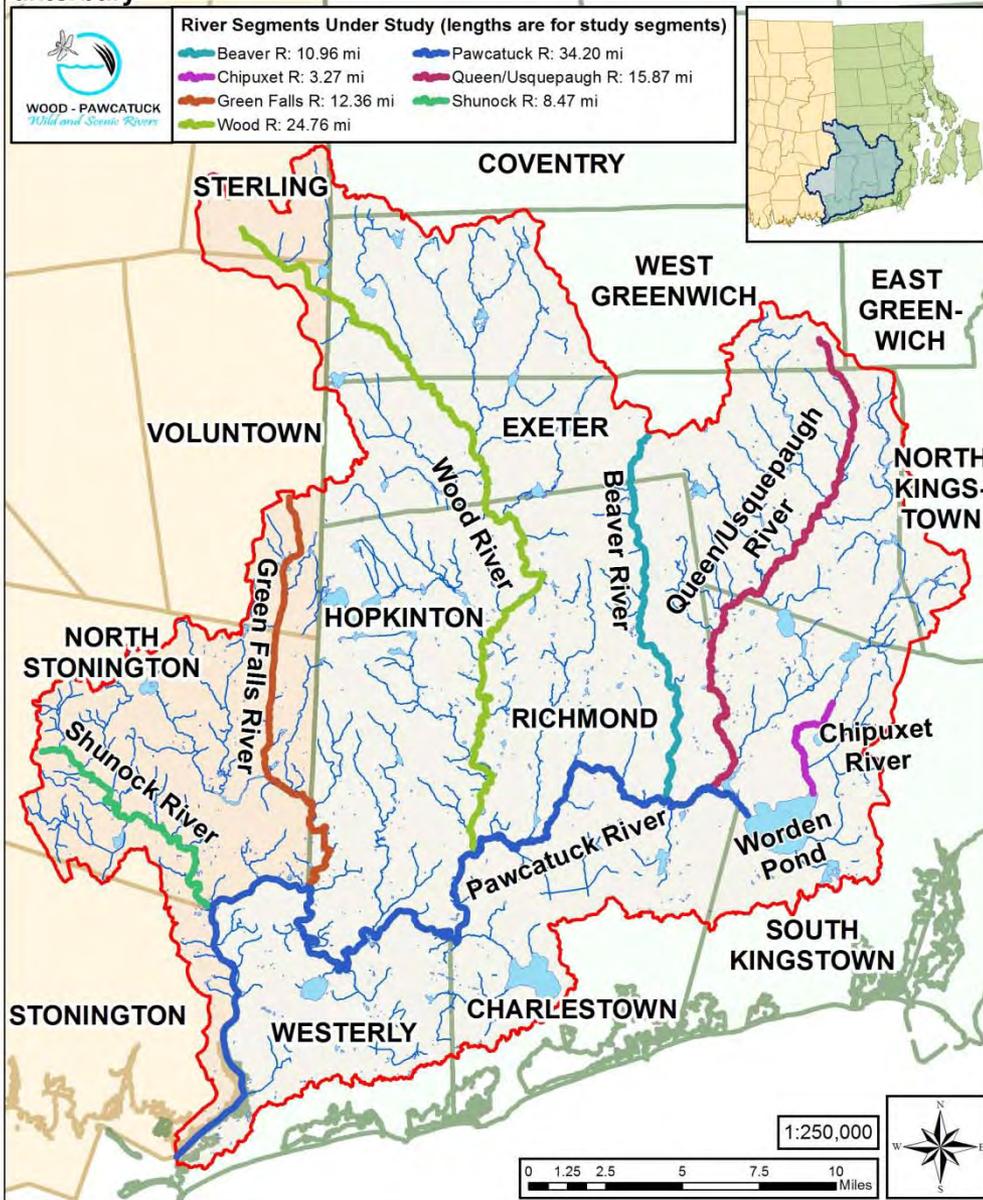
Early Process

- **Congressmen Langevin (RI) and Courtney (CT) submitted the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act to the U. S. House. The bill passed Feb 2013.**
- **U.S. Senate passed bill introduced by Senator Reed, Whitehouse, Lieberman, and Blumenthal Dec 2014.**
- **In anticipation of the bill passing NPS completed the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Reconnaissance Survey to identify Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) in the Pawcatuck Watershed in 2013.**

The Wild & Scenic Rivers Study Committee is Answering Two Questions:

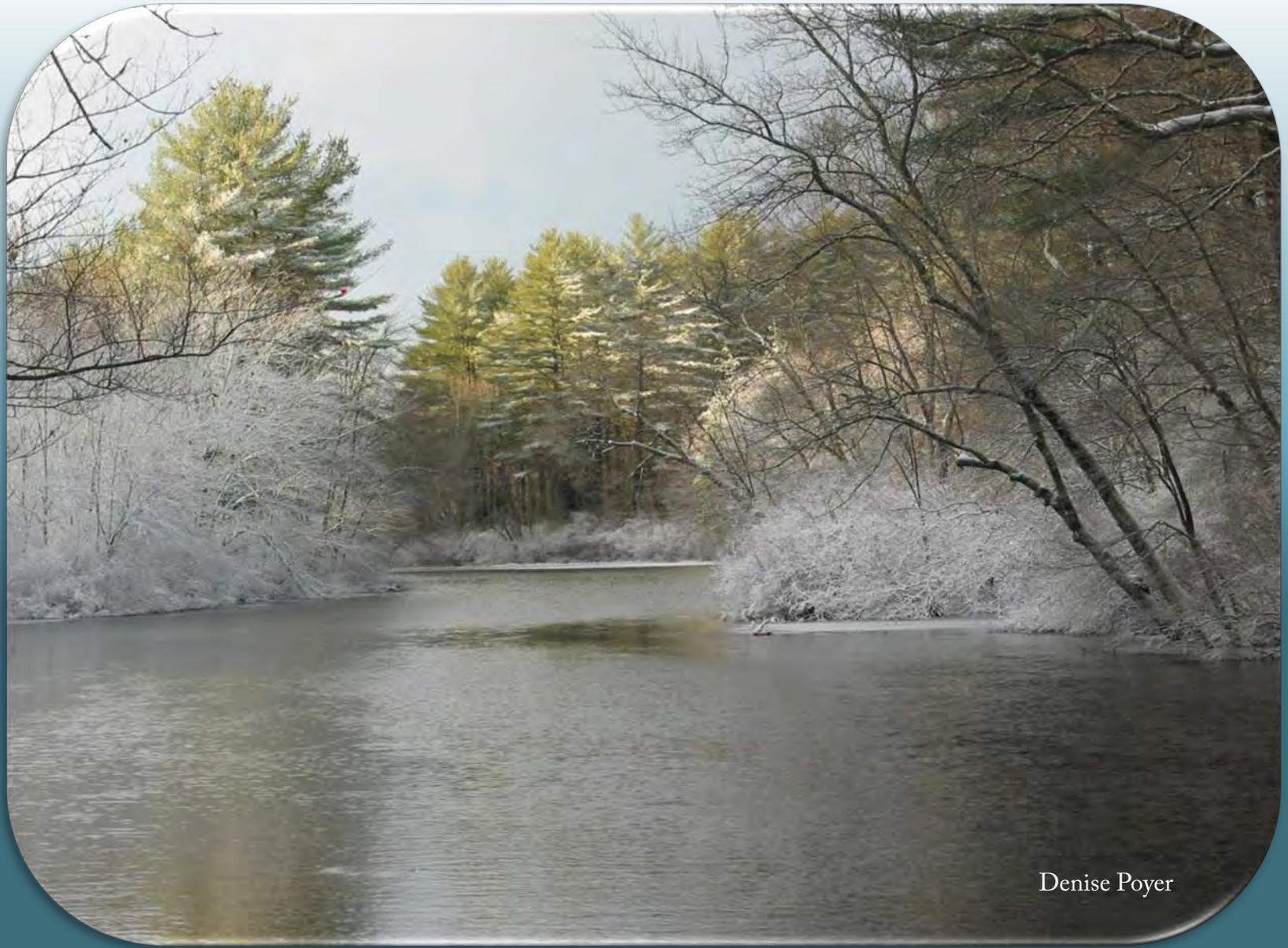
- What is special about the Rivers?
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)
- How will we protect “what’s special”
about the rivers for future generations?
Stewardship Plan

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic River Study



Rivers Under Study

- Beaver River
- Chipuxet River
- Queen River
- Pawcatuck River
- Wood River
- Green Fall River
- Shunock River



Denise Poyer

Wood River in Winter, Richmond & Hopkinton, RI

Special Features of the Watershed

- ❖ **Geology/Hydrology**
- ❖ **Outstanding Ecosystem**
- ❖ **Exemplary Cultural Resources**
- ❖ **Remarkable Recreation and Scenery**

Geology/Hydrology

END MORAINES OF SOUTHEASTERN NEW ENGLAND

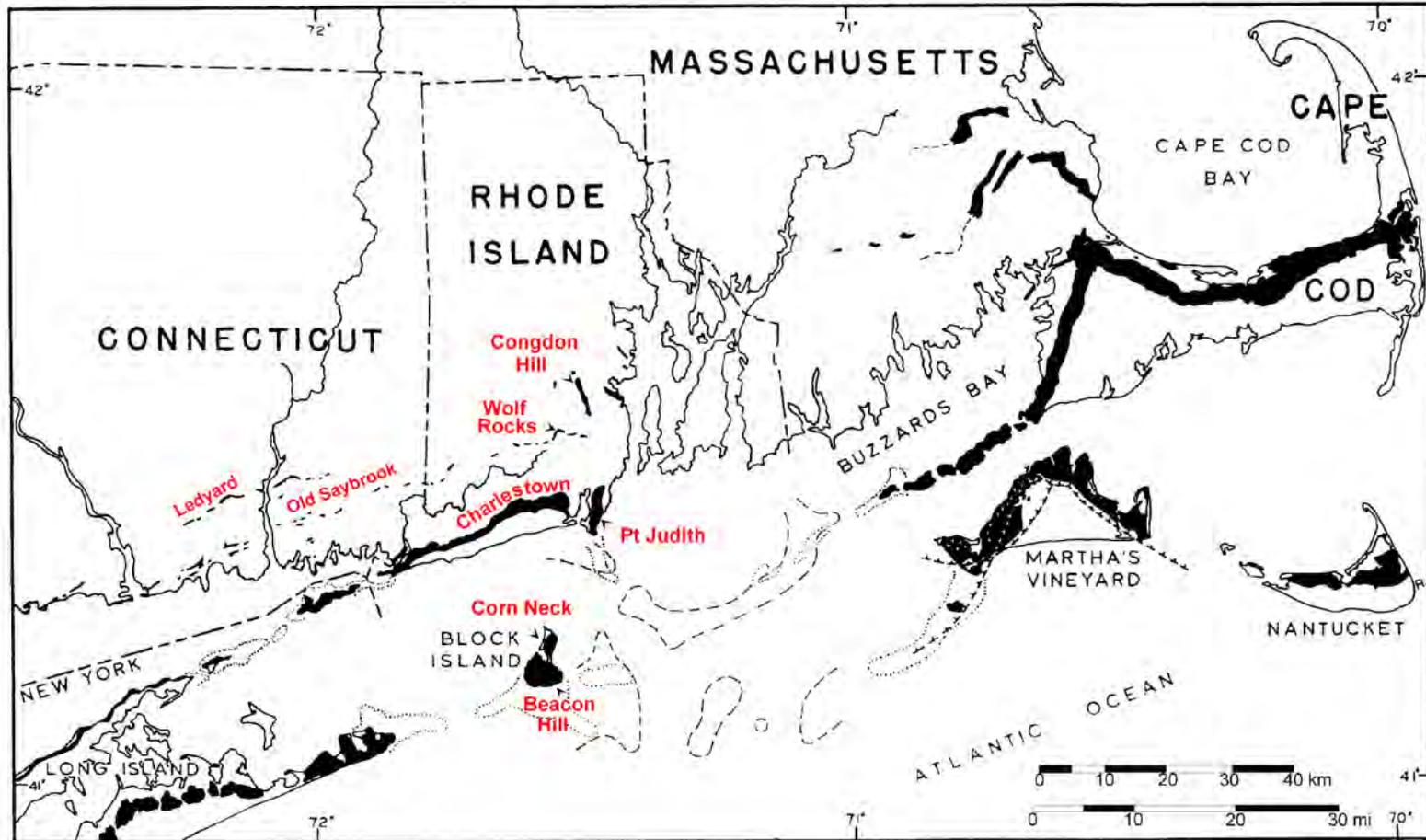


Figure 1. End moraines of southeastern New England. Black polygons are end moraines. Adapted from Schafer and Hartshorn (1965) with additions from Sirkin (1982).



Stephanie Parker

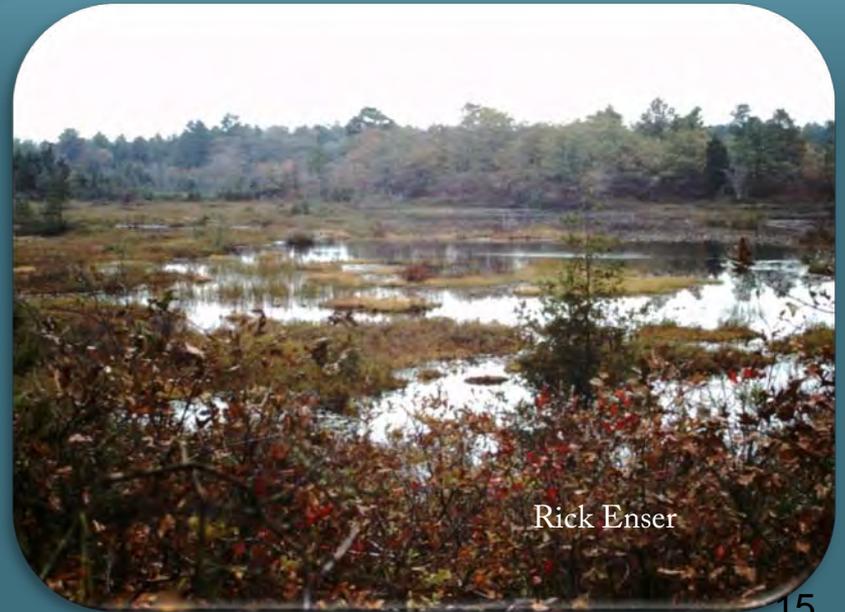
Worden Pond, South Kingstown, RI



Judy Benson

Great Swamp, Pawcatuck
River, South Kingstown, RI

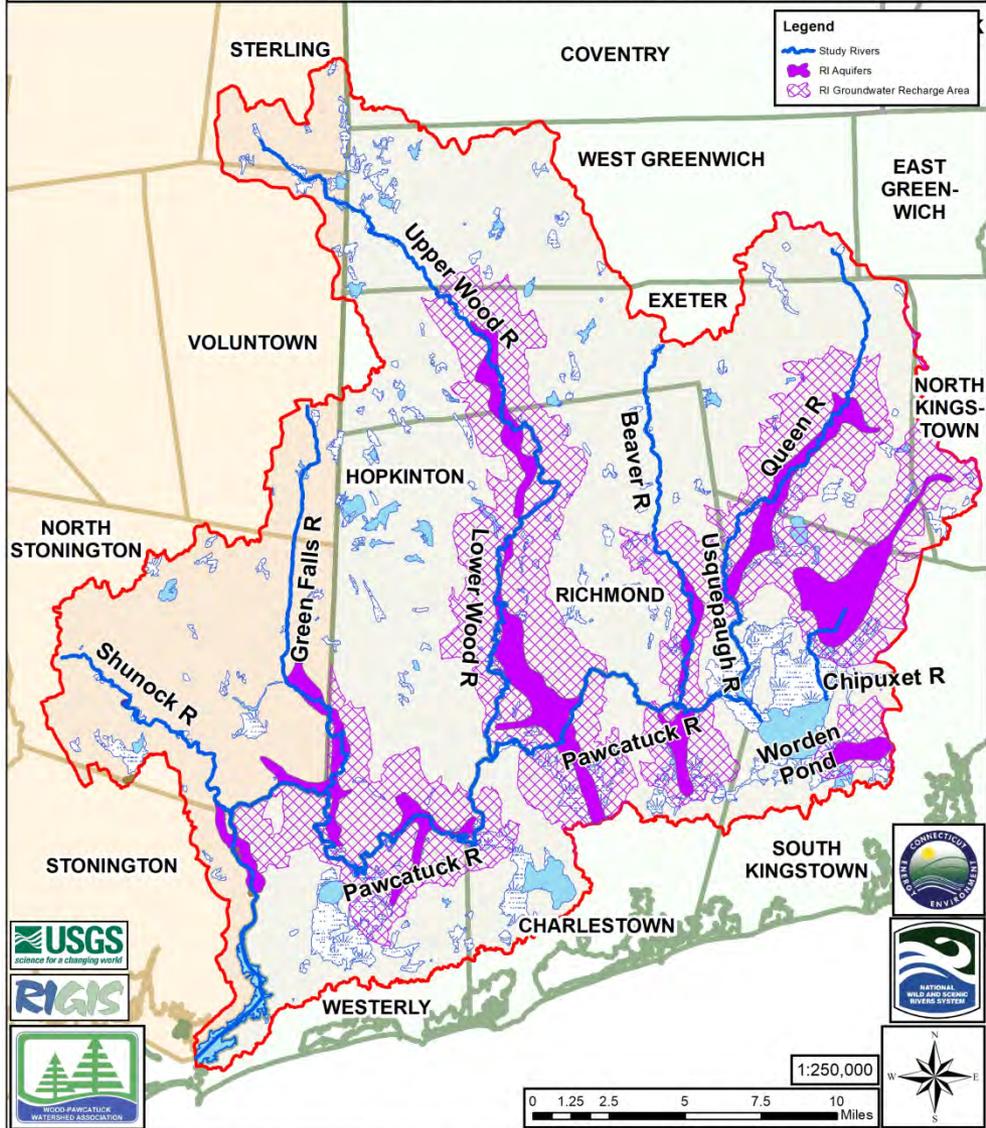
Phantom Bog, Pawcatuck
River, Charlestown, RI



Rick Enser



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed: Aquifers and Groundwater Recharge Areas



The locations of feature boundaries shown on this map are intended for planning purposes only. This map is not intended for legal, engineering, or survey purposes. Funding for this project was provided by the National Park Service and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Map Prepared By: Elise Torello, March 2017



Roger Barthelet

Green Fall River and Gorge, Voluntown, CT

Outstanding Ecosystems

➤ **Excellent Water Quality**

➤ **High Biodiversity**

➤ **70% of rare, endangered,
or state species of concern**



Peter Marteka

Shunock River Preserve, North Stonington, CT



Margaritifera margaritifera, Pearl Mussel



Saul Sailer

Dragonfly in Richmond, RI



Elise Torello

Great Blue Heron on the Wood River

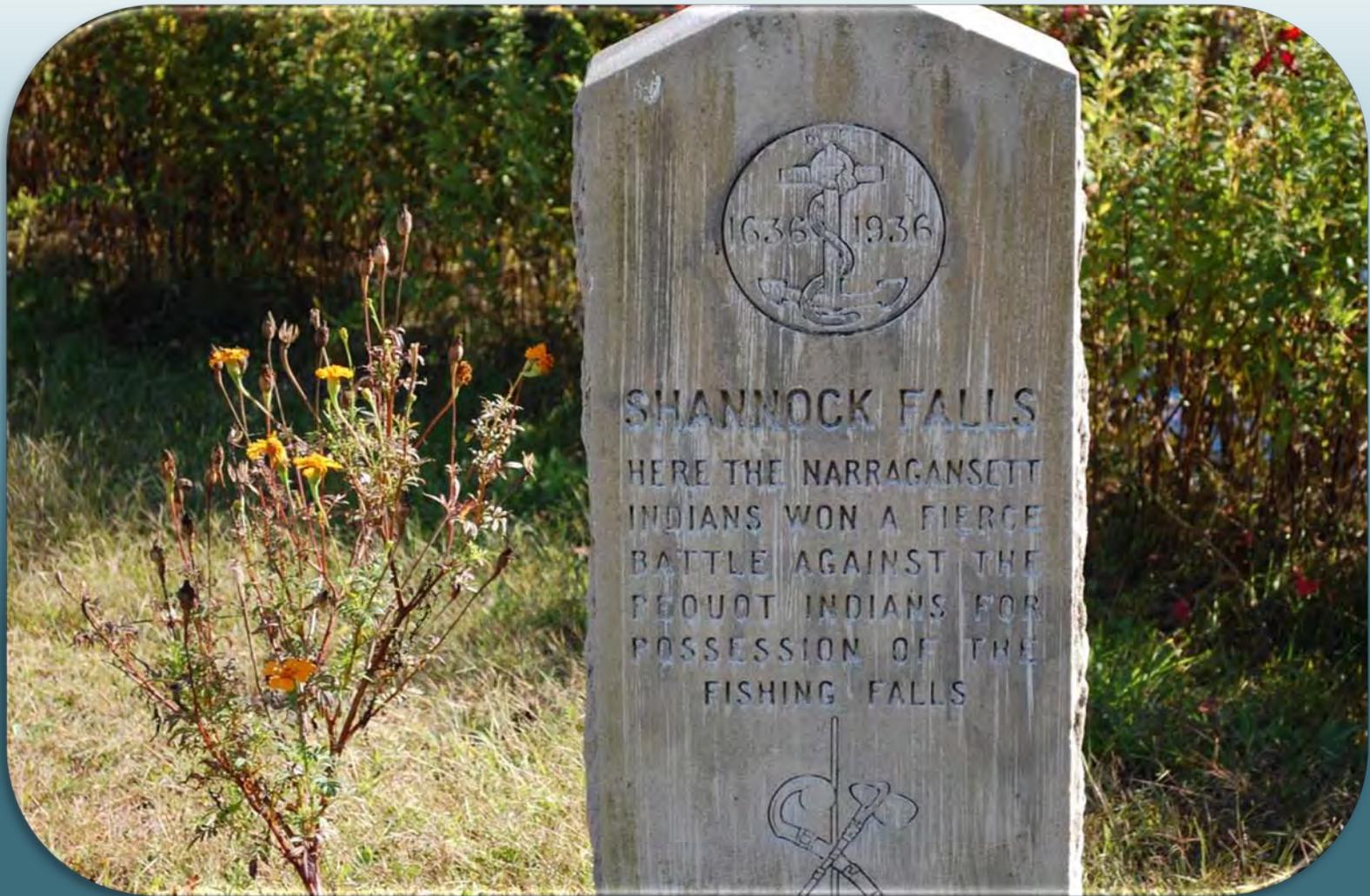


Tom Tetzner

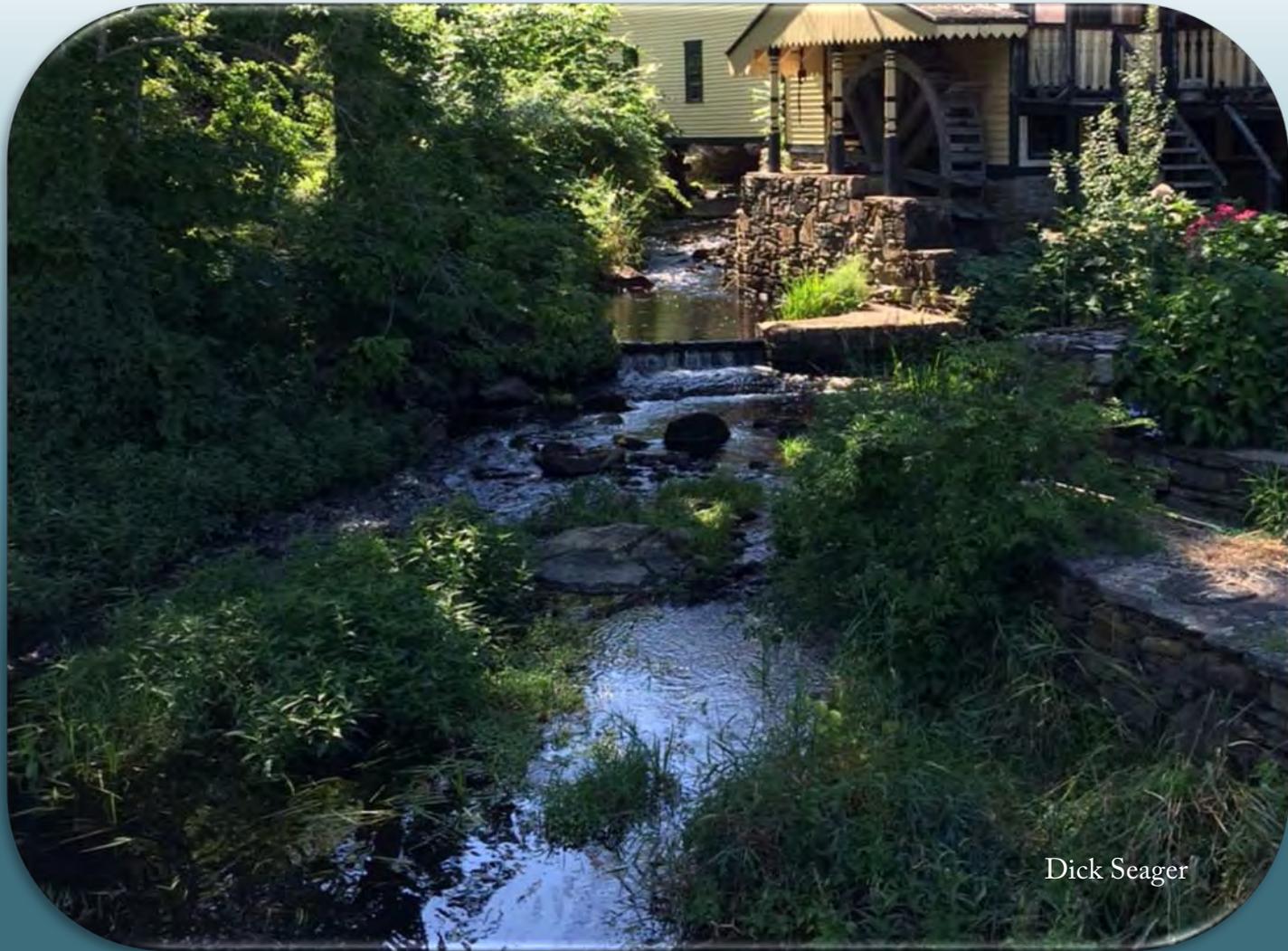
Painted turtles, Wood River, Exeter, RI

Historic Features

- **Native American archeological sites**
- **Numerous mills, dams, and mill villages throughout the watershed**
- **Ship building in the Pawcatuck Estuary**



Shannock Falls Monument, Pawcatuck River, Richmond, RI



Dick Seager

Shunock River near center of North Stonington Village, CT

Recreation/Scenery

➤ **Paddling**

➤ **Hunting/fishing/trapping**

➤ **Birding**

➤ **Hiking**

➤ **Education**



Denise Poyer

Burdickville Dam, Pawcatuck River, Charlestown, RI

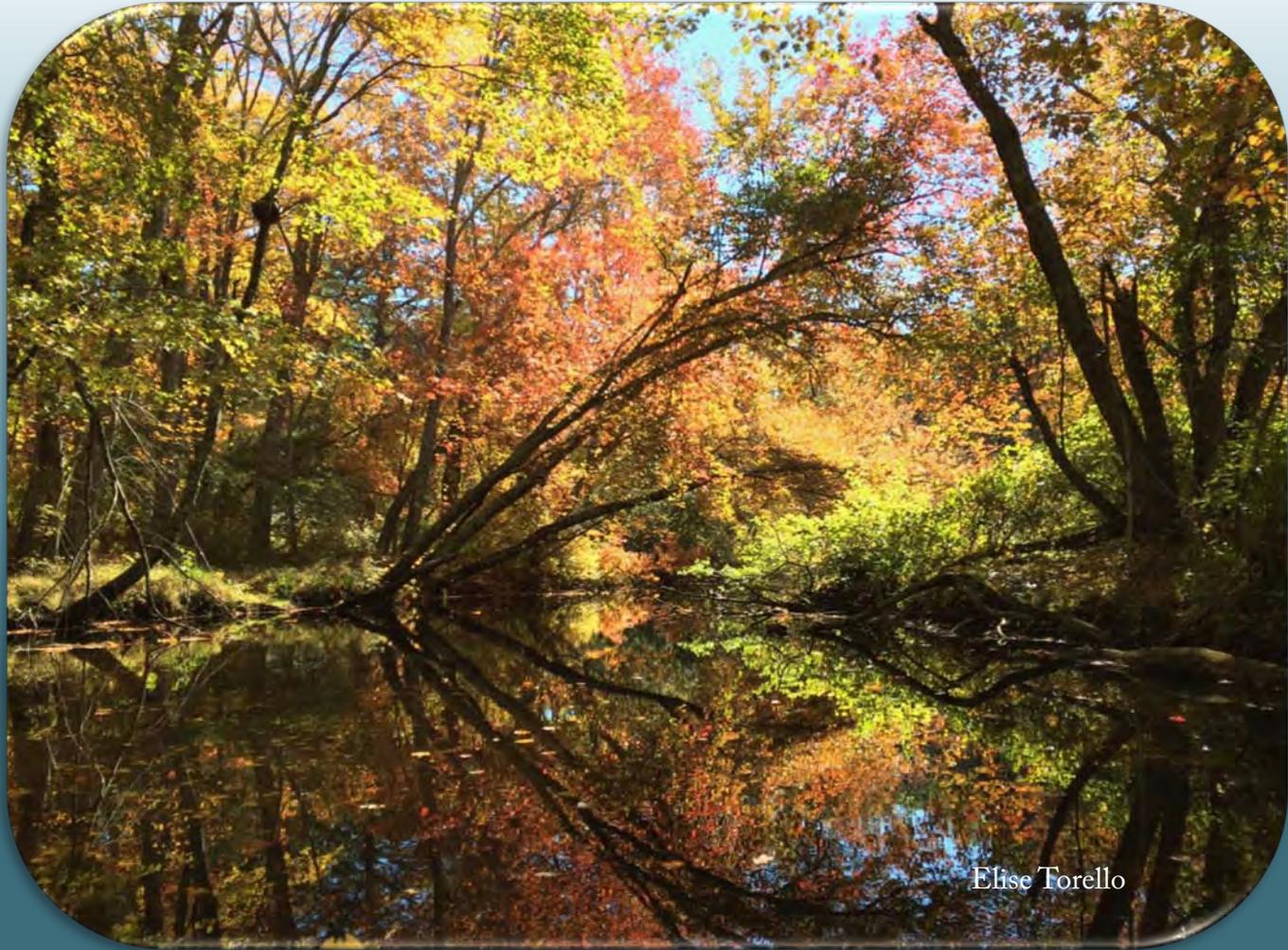


Bill McCusker

Opening Day of Trout Fishing Season, Hope Valley, RI

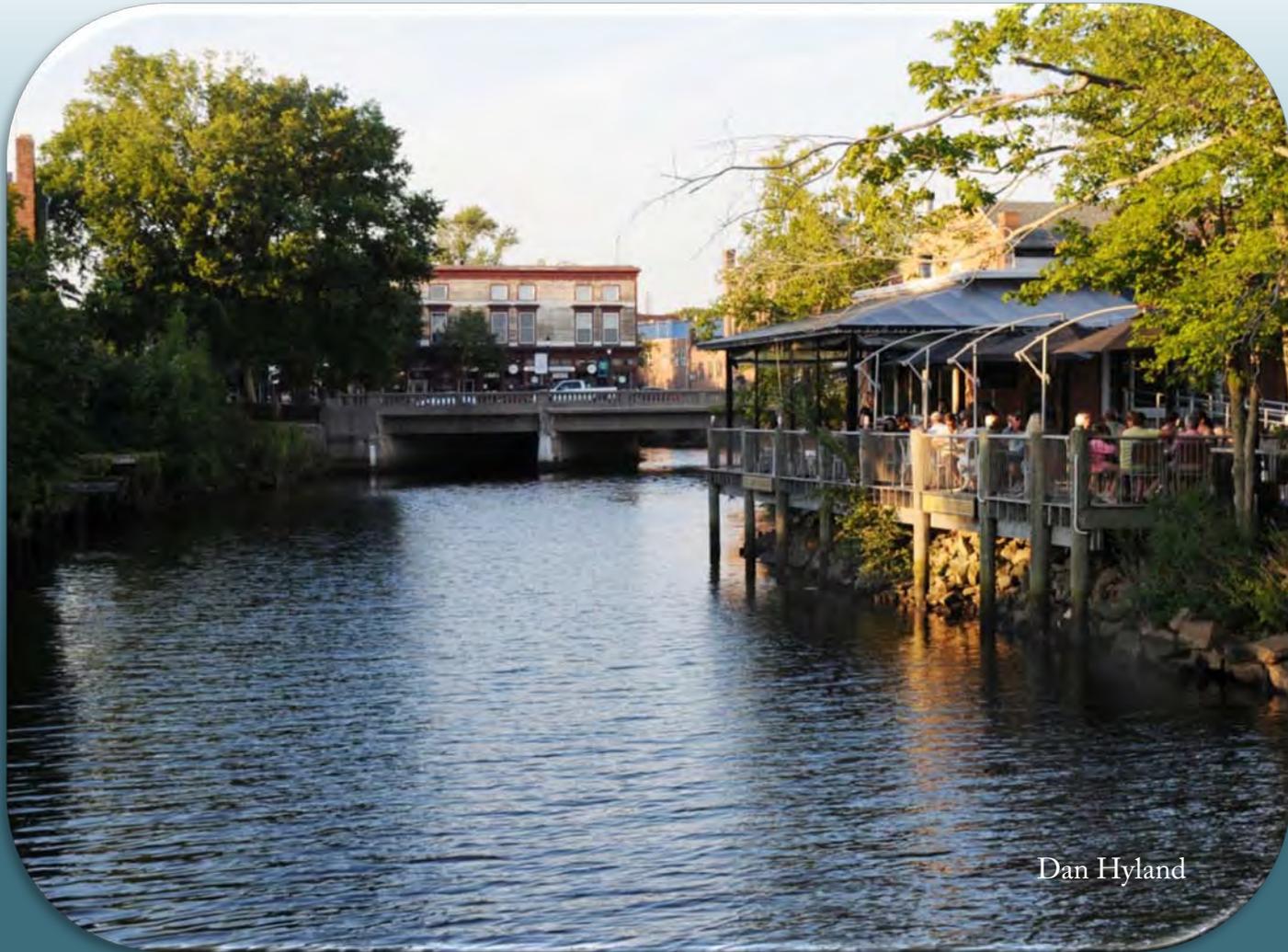


Exploring the Wood River, Richmond, RI



Elise Torello

Wood River in fall, Exeter, RI



Dan Hyland

Bridge between Westerly, RI & Stonington, CT

Benefits of W&S Designation

1. Stewardship or Advisory Committee

- A coalition of town, state, and non-profits will implement Stewardship Plan

2. Opens up funds from NPS and other federal sources

- Stewardship projects
- River conservation
- Outreach and education
- 3. Allows oversight of federal projects by NPS
- 4. Potential economic benefit to towns
 - Tourism and recreation

Timeline for Process

Throughout 2016/2017

- Study Committee and NPS developed a report verifying conditions exists to recommend designation.
- The Wild and Scenic Study Committee is developing the Stewardship Plan.

2018 (50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)

- In the spring each Town will be asked to pass a resolution supporting designation and adopting the Stewardship Plan.

Designation

October 2018

- Once we have town and state support the Study Committee will ask RI & CT Delegates to submit another bill to Congress.
- The bill will amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include the Beaver, Chipuxet, Queen, Pawcatuck, Wood, Shunock and Green Fall Rivers.

What Can You Do?



Denise Poyer

- Send letters of support letting your Congressman and Local Town Officials know that you support Wild and Scenic Rivers designation.
- Visit the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers website <http://WPWildRivers.org>.