2006 Annual Report

Photos: Eric Roth and Kerry Mackin

Presented at Annual Meeting
June 28, 2006
Including Summary of 2005 Finances
IRWA Board of Directors 2005

Officers:
Hunt Durey, President
Anne Reynolds, Secretary
Cam Steward, Treasurer

Board:
Steve Block, Bob Bradford, Matt Collins, Miriam Lasher, Cub Morgan, Peter Phippen, Bob Pulver, Trina Smith, Maria Van Dusen, Dave Williams

Staff:
Kerry Mackin, Executive Director
Trish Aldrich, Development Director
Jessica Darling, Program Coordinator
Emily Levin, Restoration Program Manager

Consultants:
Cathy Chadwick, Frances Doyle, Marie Esten, Janet Foote, Richard Marra, CPA

Interns:
Renee Malionek, Sean & Caitie O’Keefe

Celebrating Twenty Years with Peg Lawrence

Peg Lawrence, our Development Director since 2000, is retiring after more than 20 years of service to IRWA. Peg joined the Board of Directors in the late 1980’s, serving as President from 1992-94. She was instrumental in organizing the wonderful high school conferences for five years. She also served as a dedicated water quality monitor, sampling at the Willowdale Dam for ten years, and has been one of our most enthusiastic supporters. We will miss her boundless energy and great spirit, and wish her the best of everything as she begins a new chapter in her life.

New Faces at IRWA

IRWA is pleased to introduce our new Development Director, Trish Aldrich, and Program Coordinator, Jessica Darling.

Jess recently completed her master's degree in environmental management at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and holds a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Colorado. She will coordinate IRWA’s monitoring program, which has been without staff since 2003, and develop outreach programs, including materials on the impacts of dams. Jess loves being in and studying the natural world, especially rivers and wetlands.

Trish’s career in advancing non-profit organizations spans twenty years. During that time, she has enjoyed working with conservation organizations both large and small. Most recently she raised funds to safeguard Appleton Farms, the Crane Estate and Long Hill for the Trustees of Reservations. Previously she served as Director of Development for Save the Sound, The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts and Shore Country Day School. Trish has a B.A. in Plant Ecology from Hampshire College. She lived in Alaska for 10 years where she tended Musk Ox, surveyed the vegetation of the interior of Alaska and paddled many wild and cold rivers. Now she is very happy to be back in Nahant living with her extended family.

Board Changes

During this year, IRWA welcomed Matt Collins of Rockport and Cub Morgan of Ipswich to the board. Matt is a hydrologist with the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA), and Cub brings a wealth of experience in fundraising and has been involved in helping a number of other non-profit organizations.

We sadly bid goodbye to Mike Wood, IRWA’s longest serving board member, who retired recently after 25 years of service. Others who have retired from the IRWA Board this past year include Christy Donovan, John Dotson and Don Greenough. We thank them for their generosity and help in strengthening IRWA!
2006 IRWA AWARD RECIPIENTS

Environmental Leadership Award: THE TOWN OF READING
IRWA wishes to salute the Town of Reading, which has voted to cease the use of its Ipswich River wells so they would no longer cause damage to the environment. Reading has also made great strides in improving water conservation and, unlike any other town in the region, had the foresight to permanently protect all the land along the Ipswich River within the Town boundaries.

Outstanding Volunteer Award: KERRI GLYNN
Kerri Glynn has been the glue that held our monitoring program together for the past year. Kerri’s expertise in water quality, along with her excellent skills in program management, was able to handle program administration and contributed so much to the program’s continued excellence. Thank you so much, Kerri!

Outstanding Service Award: BARBARA DI LORENZO
Barbara DiLorenzo of wavepaint.com designed IRWA’s new website, offering her services pro bono. She did a wonderful job and the new web site has received widespread praise for its visual appeal, easy navigation and impressive content. Barbara was also terrific to work with, making the process smooth and manageable for staff.

Junior Service Award: RENEE MALIONEK
Renee is a recent graduate of Essex Agricultural and Technical High School, and completed an internship with IRWA this spring. She entered fish count data and drafted the project report, and was a tremendous help in answering phones, helping with filing, organizing press clippings, and keeping the office running smoothly. Renee was a pleasure to work with, and is a great credit to Charles Saulnier’s excellent environmental studies program at Essex Aggie.

Junior Volunteer Award: CAITLIN O’KEEFE
For the past three years, Caitie has helped IRWA with data entry for the RiverWatch Program. This past summer, she completed the 2004 data entry and brought the 2005 data up-to-date. Without this volunteer effort, the RiverWatch Program would not have been able to carry on. Thanks so much to Caitie for her help!
2005-06 Program Achievements

More than ever, IRWA is grateful to our dedicated staff and Board, wonderful volunteers, interns and generous donors, to whom we owe our success. Some recent accomplishments include the following:

- The **Advocacy Campaign** has achieved tremendous progress this year. The Department of Environmental Protection announced that, due to the extreme stress in the Ipswich basin, it intends to impose conditions on registered (grandfathered) withdrawals and to regulate smaller water withdrawals. Reading recently decided to obtain all of the town’s water from MWRA, which will allow discontinuation of the use of the town’s wells, which have damaged the river for many years. Danvers and Middleton agreed to settle their appeal of the water withdrawal permit, and will implement an innovative “water demand mitigation program, strict water conservation measures, and will shut off their wells during low-flow periods. Wenham, Topsfield and Hamilton will begin putting stricter water conservation measures in effect in accordance with their new permits, though Topsfield and Hamilton have appealed these decisions to Superior Court. IRWA has intervened and cross-appealed in the Hamilton case. We are awaiting decisions in the Lynnfield, Wilmington and North Reading cases. The Ipswich appeal will be heard in July; other cases are still not scheduled.

- In other Advocacy work, Executive Director Kerry Mackin represents the public on the **Water Resources Management Advisory Committee**, which advises DEP about implementation of the Water Management Act. Mackin also is a member of the Water Resources Commission’s Streamflow Task Force and a number of other advisory boards and committees. IRWA continues to provide comments on policies and projects; this year these included the *Massachusetts Water Conservation Standards*, *Surface Water Quality Standards*, *Index Streamflows Report*, *Water Management Act Policy and Guidance*, and comments on several local projects of regional significance.

- IRWA’s **Restoration Program** organized the **Ipswich River Restoration Conference**, held in November and attended by about 75 people. The conference included talks by Congressman John Tierney and Secretary of Commonwealth Development Doug Foy, and presentations and panels on the state of the river, goals for flow restoration, IRWA’s restoration program, water conservation policy and practice, low impact development and advanced water solutions. The day’s programs were well received by attendees, many of whom also toured the state-of-the-art New England Biolabs wastewater treatment plant.

- IRWA completed work on the **River Restoration Outreach Project** funded by Massachusetts Environmental Trust. This included development of a presentation on river restoration, which was shown to dozens of boards and organizations. IRWA also completed the municipal handbook, *Water Wise Communities: Handbook for Municipal Managers in the Ipswich River Watershed*, a project funded by New England Biolabs Foundation and Essex County Community Foundation. This outreach will continue through a 3-year project focusing on restoration of the Ipswich River through Low-Impact Development (LID) and water conservation. A Targeted Watershed Grant provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation funds the project.

- IRWA is beginning a project with the Town of Ipswich to develop a **prototype water bank and stormwater utility**, thanks to a generous grant from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. IRWA will also be doing additional outreach to help towns meet the requirements of their new water withdrawal permits, funded by the Alces Foundation.

- IRWA’s website, [www.ipswichriver.org](http://www.ipswichriver.org), has a new look, expanded and updated content, and is easier to navigate. Thanks so much to Barbara DiLorenzo of Wavepaint Graphics, who donated her time to this project, and to Emily Levin, who took the lead in developing the website content.

- IRWA conducted the **2006 Herring Count**, which documented 57 herring returning to the Ipswich River between early April and early May. The fish count was supposed to go until the end of May, but ended abruptly on May 12th, due to the extreme flood. Trina Smith did an outstanding job organizing the count again this year – thanks, Trina!
This year, the herring count was coupled with a fish survey by the Division of Marine Fisheries, using a trap installed at the top of the fish ladder. The purpose was in part to compare the numbers of trapped fish to the ones counted by our volunteers, so there would be a better basis for extrapolation of fish count results. A surprising result was that, in addition to the 364 herring trapped, 338 sea lamprey* were captured in the trap, as well as a few American shad and other species. Also, the University of Massachusetts is conducting a two-year study tracking the movements of river herring once they are in the river system. These combined studies will help us understand the dynamics of the herring fishery and restoration efforts.

IRWA and the Massachusetts Riverways Program recruited and trained volunteers to conduct field surveys of culverts, which will be used to identify priority sites where culverts may be obstructions for fish passage and/or may exacerbate flooding.

Thanks to generous grants from the Boston Foundation and EBSCO Publishing, IRWA is beginning an outreach program focusing on dams and their impacts on the river. IRWA will produce fact sheets about dams, and hold several community meetings about the impacts of dams. IRWA is also reaching out to the community in Ipswich to identify issues pertaining to the Ipswich (EBSCO) Dam. This dam is located at the ecologically important interface between fresh and salt water, and as the most downstream dam, is the first obstruction to migrating fish. The Restoration Program is also a partner in a project to assess alternatives for fish passage improvements at the Willowdale Dam.

The RiverWatch Monitoring program has begun its 10th year, including monthly sampling at 20 mainstem and 8 tributary locations, documenting dissolved oxygen levels, temperature, depth, velocity, color, odor, and observations of wildlife and the general condition of the river. This year, thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, IRWA has done a comprehensive review of the program, including an overview of all monitoring programs in the watershed and strategic planning for the program. Thanks to Marie Esten of Loon Environmental LLC, our consultant on this project, and to the Technical Advisory Committee and all our wonderful volunteers.

The Stream Teams continue their grassroots activities as the citizen advocates, watchdogs and leaders in their communities. This year, a new stream team in Ipswich has begun work on a number of projects, including field assessments and outreach. The Middleton, Reading/North Reading and Headwaters Stream Teams continue to meet regularly and pursue an ambitious agenda of assessments, public outreach and education, advocacy, cleanups and river access improvements. The Middleton Stream Team is doing a series of Discovery Walks and Tours, and has also held a successful photo contest, which elicited a lot of public interest and participation. The Reading/North Reading Stream Team organized a rain barrel sale benefiting IRWA, and the Topsfield Stream Team held a kayak raffle for IRWA’s benefit at this year’s Strawberry Festival.


Special Thanks to…

All our Members, Supporters and Donors

Our Volunteers: We’d like to recognize the contributions of Kerri Glynn, Erika Turner, and Trina Smith, who helped organize and coordinate IRWA’s monitoring programs, fish count and culvert survey; Barbara DiLorenzo, who redesigned the website; Martha Stevenson, Suzanne Sullivan and friends, who continue to work tirelessly to improve water management in Wilmington; Will Finch and the Reading/North Reading Stream Team, who are instrumental in helping improve water management in Reading; the Middleton Stream Teams which continues to do amazing outreach; the Roths and Siwaks in Topsfield for organizing a raffle to benefit IRWA, and the new Ipswich Stream Team, which is working directly with IRWA staff on a range of issues in town.

The Officers and Board of Directors: Special thanks to Hunt Durey, who has brought a new focus as IRWA’s President, and to all the Officers and Board Members who are helping strengthen and guide IRWA. Special thanks to committee chairs Peter Phippen (River Restoration), Trina Smith (Outreach), Anne Reynolds (Board Leadership and Governance), and Cam Steward (Fundraising and Finance).


2005 Herring Count volunteers: Trina Smith (coordinator), John and Cathleen Banister-Marx, Tim Bousum, Tomas Forman, Holly Frank, Joanna & Jackson Galoski, Karen Hartel, Mike Johnson, Chuck Kollars, Peg Lawrence, Emily Levin, Kerry Mackin, Renee Malioneck, Dennis Maltbie, Shari McRae, Norm Marsh, Jim Sagris, Linda Siwak, Trina Smith, Erika Turner, David Walsh, Sally Willard. Thanks also to DMF and UMass for their research.

Many thanks to our major donors, supporting and sponsoring organizations:

Donated Legal Services: Margaret Van Deusen, Charles River Watershed Association; Peter Shelley and Susan Reid, Conservation Law Foundation; and Martin Levin and Alexandra Deal, Stern Shapiro Weissberg & Garin

Grants/Donations (2005-06): Ada Howe Kent Fund; Alces Foundation; Anonymous; Bostik, Inc.; Boston Foundation; Cabot Family Charitable Trust; Corliss Brothers Nursery; EBSCO Publishing, Inc., EnTrust Fund; ESRI Inc.; Essex County Greenbelt Association; Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; Gaffney Foundation; Green Meadows Farm; Ipswich Shellfish Company; Massachusetts Environmental Trust; Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; New England Biolabs Foundation and Corporate Giving Program; New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, Two Commandments Foundation, US Environmental Protection Agency/Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Leadership Supporters: April Bowling & Peter Phippen, Alison Chase, Mr. & Mrs. James Donovan, Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Farnsworth, Mr. & Mrs. David Gaffney, Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Ingraham, Caleb Loring, Jr., Dr. Keith Merrill, Jr., Benjamin Morrill, II, Mr. & Mrs. Binkley Shorts, Mr. & Mrs. Clark Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Campbell Steward, Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Steward, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Valenzuela, Alicia Volpicelli, and Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Support</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership revenue -- Annual Appeal</td>
<td>25,351</td>
<td>17,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership revenue -- dues</td>
<td>43,108</td>
<td>28,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other contributions</td>
<td>36,516</td>
<td>63,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event revenue</td>
<td>34,670</td>
<td>34,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants -- private</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>31,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants -- public</td>
<td>11,250</td>
<td>27,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated goods and services</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>14,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of contributed facilities</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>1,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of goods and publications</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>134,338</strong></td>
<td><strong>219,917</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net assets released from restrictions: 48,744

**TOTAL UNRESTRICTED REVENUES**

183,082

227,453

**Operating Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Expense</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>117,834</td>
<td>157,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of direct benefits to donors</td>
<td>11,251</td>
<td>11,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>37,739</td>
<td>32,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>30,960</td>
<td>33,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>186,533</strong></td>
<td><strong>234,260</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets**

-3,451

-6,807

**Temporarily Restricted Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted grants</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>54,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released from restrictions</td>
<td>(48,744)</td>
<td>(7,536)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Increase (Decrease) in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets**

-47,494

47,429

**Total Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets**

-50,945

40,622

**Statements of Financial Position, December 31, 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>39,769</td>
<td>88,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Property and Equipment</td>
<td>4,037</td>
<td>4,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,806</strong></td>
<td><strong>92,717</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>19,437</td>
<td>17,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>24,369</td>
<td>75,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,806</strong></td>
<td><strong>93,007</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IRWA's complete financial report is available to members on request.