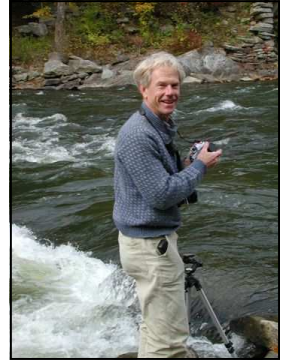


Noted Author and Photographer of America's Rivers Speaks at Audubon Barn at Bent of the River

Tim Palmer, whose handsome new book Rivers of America was published last month, gave a fascinating presentation at Bent of the River on October 14. The event, sponsored jointly by the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, the Audubon Center, and the Southbury Land Trust, began with a guided walk along Transylvania Brook and the Pomperaug. Visitors then gathered in the barn to hear Palmer talk about the significance of rivers and what communities can do to protect them. Palmer, a noted conservationist and a powerful interpreter in words and photos of the meaning of rivers, illustrated his talk with stunning photographs that capture the exhilarating beauty and variety of America's rivers.



**Photographer/writer
Palmer at work**

Palmer's 16 previous books about the natural world have won important praise and awards. He was schooled as a landscape designer but quickly found his mission as a chronicler of the beauty and power of rivers, and of the dangers that threaten them. In his passionate new book he explores rivers of every size and degree of wildness. The beautifully written text includes both personal stories and a comprehensive explanation of why rivers are vital and what must be done to preserve them. He says he wants people to be inspired by the beauty of rivers, to see the complexity of the natural world surrounding them, "to paddle along with the tug of the current for a better look at everything that is touched by flowing water."

In a recent "dispatch from the rivers," Palmer talks about photographing the Pomperaug: "The glaciers ending 10,000 years ago blocked an age-old course of the stream, rerouting it through a splendid gorge. The deep soils have nourished a forest of sycamores, maples, and oaks.... Working in tandem with the Audubon Society and [the Southbury] Land Trust, the Pomperaug [Watershed Coalition] has helped to add adjacent parcels to an old farm that had been donated for open space preservation. Piece by piece, the fabric of a natural river is being restored.

"As I explored quietly with my camera early on a sultry summer morning, warblers chattered in the high canopy and rabbits and deer scurried out ahead of my steps. The Pomperaug riffled over rocks left in the glacier's path, then quieted itself in pools filled with sunken leaves turned prematurely orange. The stream's spare flow of mid-summer was testament to the importance of the work that the Watershed Coalition is doing; if much more water for urban development is taken out, the river will be exhausted and incapable of supporting this island of nature . . . in an age of rampant growth"

The Coalition was honored to host Palmer, and we are delighted at the inclusion in his stunning book of our own local river, small in size but equal to all the others in beauty and importance.

-- Eileen Denver

Looking for the Minnow Mayfly: Coalition Holds First Macroinvertebrate Day



**Volunteers identify
insects in the river**

On September 23, Coalition volunteers under the leadership of Ingrid Davis and DEP scientist Mike Beauchene spent the day turning over rocks in the riffles of the local rivers, identifying and counting the aquatic insects that dwell in the river bottoms. The volunteers identified sufficient quantities of the "Most Wanted" species that best indicate river health. The final results of this Pomperaug Watershed hands-on water quality program will appear in the State Water Quality Report in January 2007.

**Your membership
will help us protect
your water supplies!**

See back page.

Ground-Breaking Research Helps Protect our Watershed

The Coalition has now been working for nearly three years with scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Massachusetts to gather data about the Pomperaug Watershed and to develop ways this data can be used to better protect and preserve our rivers and aquifer. In July, those scientists presented their preliminary results to Coalition staff and Directors.

The UMass Instream Habitat Program has developed a computer model for the Watershed that assesses habitat suitability for various fish species at three stages of their lives under five flow conditions. The model will help the Coalition determine the impact of watershed management decisions on the fish habitat and population as a measure of the overall health of the rivers.

USGS scientists have used two computer models in their research in the Watershed -- a precipitation simulator and a sub-surface flow simulator -- to study 64 separate areas of the Watershed. This research yields valuable information on such questions as which locations are critical in providing recharge to the groundwater that supplies drinking water.

The next step in our work will be to integrate the UMass and USGS models in order to increase the protection of the local water supply and the habitat that fish and other wildlife depend upon. The models will allow those who make land-use decisions to predict the effect of their decisions on the overall health of the local water resources. For instance, we can work with towns and local residents to ensure that parcels critical to the recharge of groundwater are protected from development, or that development is steered to areas that are less important to our water supplies. Additionally, we can use the models to predict the effect of water withdrawals from the aquifer and rivers on fish and other wildlife habitats at specific times of the year, and thus encourage plans to time withdrawals such that wildlife is protected.

All this ground-breaking and exciting research is not only of use locally, but of great interest to the State and even nationally. Watch for more information as we bring this research to you -- our members and friends, local decision-makers, and all those who use this precious resource.

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New Directors Join Coalition Board

New Directors Ingrid Davis and Donna Lesch have been active Coalition volunteers for some time -- in fact, Davis is the Coalition's *charter* volunteer, having first approached us in early 2001 when we were just a fledgling organization.

Donna Lesch first learned of the Coalition through the local newspaper. Soon after, she and her young son Dylan came to explore the Bent of the River Audubon Center. Dylan discovered a twisted, interesting-looking piece of metal along the River, which he and his mom brought up to the Coalition office. After a bit of research, the staff determined that it was

an old muskrat trap. It wasn't long before Lesch's natural curiosity and interest drew her into the work of the Coalition. With a Bachelor of Science in biology and environmental studies from Yale and a Master's degree from Duke in environmental management with a focus on environmental chemistry and water resources, she is no stranger to the interdisciplinary issues that we face daily. Lesch has formed our new Stream Committee, which coordinates



Director Lesch with children Dylan and Kayla

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Membership Appeal *continued from p. 4*

If you have a question about membership or donations, or would like to discuss any other Watershed issue, please don't hesitate to call me at 267-1700. (Note: the list below shows current members only, and does not include donors to the Annual Fund who are not also members.)

River Steward

Edward Edelson
Joseph Eisenberg
M/M Tom McMackin

Stream Protector

Stuart Daly
M/M Allan Frew
Joyce Hornbecker
M/M Peter Laskas
Benton Leach
Frederick Leavenworth
M/M John Longstreth
Vincent McDermott
M/M Daniel Stowell
M/M Evan Walters

Stream Guardian

Dr Marc Taylor

Stream Stewards

Margaret Baldrige
Paul and Maureen Bette
Helen Blanchard
Mark Burns
M/M Pete Campbell
M/M Alfio Candido
Marguerite Starr & Peter Clark
DeLoris Curtis
Eileen Denver & Duncan Stephens
Suzanne Cottone & Thomas Ford

Laurie Giannotti
M/M Donald Goss
Jeanie Graustein
M/M Edward Hagen
Karen Huber
Samuel Klausner
M/M Michael Loeb
M/M Ecton Manning
Russell McMillan
M/M Donald Metcalf
Egbert Most and Regina Badura
M/M Martin Overton
Dr/M Scott Peterson
M/M Dennis Pistone
Mary Austin & Daniel Poor
Curtis Read
Cris Schaefer
Mark Schocken
Curtis Smith
Keith Sorensen
Southbury Garden Club
Dr/M Gary Westerman
Christopher Wood

Family/Friend

Abbey of Regina Laudis
Holly Fitzsimmons & Mark Alvarez
M/M Harmon Andrews
M/M William Anthony
M/M John Benson
Mary Ellen Olcott & Arthur Brieger

M/M Donald Briggs
M/M Mitchell Chester
M/M Raymond Coulombe
M/M Thomas Crider
M/M William Crutcher
M/M Edward Currie
M/M Henry DeVries
Kenneth Faroni
Kat Favoccia & Fred Merrill
M/M Earl Gillette
M/M Henry Hart
M/M Edmund Heebner
Sr. Emmanuelle Hutchinson

Lore Jamul
Tom Keilty
Drs William & Liann Kimball
Donna Lesch
Robert & Sharon Lieber
Nancy Liedlich
M/M Sherman London
Virginia Mason
Judy Massicotte
M/M Joel McCorkle
Arthur Milnor
Ric Sonder and Susan Monserud
John Nelson, Jr
M/M Paul Palmer
Andrew and Abby Peklo
M/M Edward Platt III
Larry Pond
Eric Roundy

Bob McWilliam & Wesley Rouse
Stephen Sasala
Mieke Schuyler
John Setaro
M/M John Siemon
M/M Stuart Somers
M/M Stedman Sweet
M/M Norman Taylor
Albin Weber and Family
M/M John Wick
Mrs Robert Williams
Rick and Sandy Wood

Individual

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Murray Belsky
Betsey Rouse Bette
Dr Marianne Bette
Hunter Brawley
M/M Dermott Breen
Rudolph Bremser
Dr Kenneth Burke
Dr Mark Cantin
Elizabeth Connolly
Sandra Cox
Ingrid Davis
Steven DeWitte
Carol Dicks
Anna Famiglietti
Ethel Follett
M/M Donald Garber
Mary Giampietro

Barry Gorfain
M/M Duncan Graham
M/M Darton Greist
Marion Griswold
Richard Hine
Virginia Horrigan
M/M James Hummel
Walter Koons
Donna Lesch
George Maytrott
Maureen McDermott
Mary Millett
Donald Montfort
Kevin Moran
Elizabeth Nickerson
Nancy Rahuba
M/M Douglas Ritchie
Anneke Rothman
M/M Ernest Ruchman
Timothy Ryan
M/M Vincent Sienkiewicz
Elizabeth Silver
M/M Benjamin Stiles
Martha Sturgis
Dr Robert Toffler
Jean Trepani
Mary Wanag
Faith Warner
Brenda Weir
Lynn Werner
Tom Zissu

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the Streamwalk Program and develops other stream-related activities that involve the public. She has two young children and works for a New York State-based consulting firm.

A 30-year Woodbury resident, **Ingrid Davis** has two grown daughters, works as a reference librarian in Stratford, and is a member of the Woodbury Conservation Commission. A life-long passion for the natural world prompted her to enroll in Larry Pond's Geology and Astronomy classes when he was teaching at the former Mattatuck Community College, and for several years she volunteered for the CT Amphibian Monitoring Program. She organized and catalogued the Coalition's library of informational materials and has participated for several years in the Volunteer Streamwalk Program. She is a member of our new Stream Committee and most recently has assumed responsibility for updates to our website.



Retiring Administrative Coordinator Griswold and new Coalition Director Davis at the Coalition's September Macroinvertebrate Training Day

On October 31, Marion Griswold will end six years of dedicated service as the Coalition's Administrative Coordinator. From the Coalition's early days, Griswold (pictured at left) has provided important support to nearly all our major projects. It would be impossible to identify the collective impact of her contributions.

Her practical wisdom, understanding of people and situations, and her love of the environment helped shape the Coalition of today and will remain with us into the future. She is a class act and a Watershed treasure.

-- *Marc Taylor*

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Membership Appeal from Executive Director Cris Schaefer

Greetings to friends and supporters of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition. A year ago I joined the Coalition as Executive Director, and it's been a wonderful experience in every way. So I thought you wouldn't mind my making a special appeal to you.

The Coalition's individual funding comes from two sources: memberships and the April annual appeal. I wish to thank those of you who have supported us through one or both of these initiatives.

One benefit of being a supporter of the Coalition is that you receive our quarterly newsletter, *Watershed News*. The initial funding for *Watershed News* came from a grant that has allowed us to mail it for the past three years to over 1,000 Watershed residents, regardless of whether they are members of the Coalition. It's been a great way for us to get the word out about our work. But this grant funding has now come to an end.

At most non-profit organizations like the Coalition, publication of a newsletter is funded by donations from members. Thus I am asking those of you who are not current members of the Coalition to consider joining at this time.

Here's why membership is important: a large, healthy membership is critical to sustaining an organization such as ours for the long haul. Membership money funds not only the newsletter, but also the Coalition's work to protect and preserve our unique and beautiful Watershed and its aquifer, considered by many to be the best in Connecticut. A solid membership base is also critical to building a strong volunteer organization and to obtaining funding from external sources, which look at membership as an indicator of local support.

Listed on page 3 are the current, active members of the Coalition. If your name is not on this list, I urge you to use the enclosed membership card and envelope to join the Coalition today, and help us in our work to protect and preserve the precious local water resources of the Pomperaug Watershed.

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The Pomperaug in summer