

# WATERSHED NEWS

Finding ways to keep our water pure and plentiful

Serving the Community Since 1999

Fall/Winter 2018-19

## Remembering Dick Leavenworth



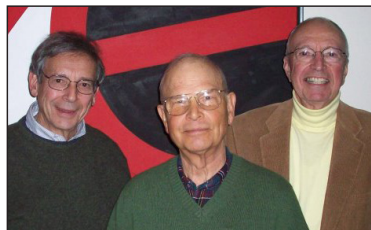
**Dick Leavenworth:  
A Beloved Friend  
and Lifelong  
Conservationist**

In early October, our community lost Dick Leavenworth, a beloved friend and lifelong conservationist. Dick will be most remembered for his decades of leadership in the preservation of land and water quality in Northwest Connecticut. He was co-founder and former Chair of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, Vice President of the Northwest Conservation District, Founder and Chair of the Woodbury Conservation Committee, a member of the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Board, and a diligent advocate for the Town of Woodbury's acquisition of the 240+ acre Trolley Bed Preserve. He was also a dedicated

volunteer at Flanders Nature Center, assisting in their acquisition of hundreds of acres of land committed as open space.

In remembrance of his dear friend, Joe Eisenberg, past PRWC Board member, wrote: "Dick led by shining a light on the path forward and creating a vision for others to follow. In doing so he created a great legacy of kindness, knowledge, conservation and compassion – a legacy we can both learn from and enjoy for the future. Dick was truly a man who worked hard to leave the world a better place than he found it and he got results that counted. He left a footprint and a path that will serve us well in his remembrance as we go forward on the trail that he forged."

At PRWC, we are honored to carry on the legacy Dick helped forged in protecting the precious and irreplaceable water resources in our community. Dick saw that the Pomperaug watershed was beginning to be seriously threatened by land development and by possible diversions of water out of the watershed. With shared concerns about the effects that land development would have on water quality and whether there was enough water available to support future development, Dick teamed up with Larry Pond and the late Dr. Marc Taylor to create a partnership of diverse stakeholders to protect our local drinking water and the rivers and streams. Together, they formed our coalition and focused on using scientific data to protect our water supplies. Thanks to the outstanding examples of leadership these men provided, the Coalition's staff and volunteers work daily on water-related scientific research projects, policy-making initiatives, conservation and restoration projects, and community education programs in effort to protect our most vital resource: water.



Dick Leavenworth alongside Marc Taylor and Larry Pond, fellow PRWC founders.

## Demonstration Rain Garden Reduces Runoff in Southbury

This summer's rain garden installation at Community House Park in Southbury, Connecticut was a big success! Over the course of four extremely hot and humid days, our Youth Conservation Corps dug and shaped the 1000 square foot bed of the garden and planted it with 350 native plants. Placed in a highly visible location along a busy state road and complete with interpretive signage, the garden serves a demonstration site for all to visit and to learn about the functions and benefits of rain gardens.



(Left) PRWC's Youth Conservation Corps team planting 350 plants in the rain garden. (Right) Mike Hunyadi, YCC Crew Leader / Dr. Marc Taylor Intern, installed interpretive signage with Jan Taylor's help.

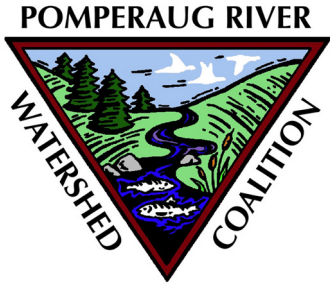
This particular rain garden has the ability to capture approximately 7500 gallons of stormwater in a 1-inch rain storm, water that would otherwise flow as stormwater runoff into South Branch Bullet Hill Brook (multiply that by nearly 52 inches of precipitation a year for a runoff reduction of 390,000 gallons). By giving this water a place to infiltrate into the soil, the rain garden also reduces the load of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the stream respectively by 2.2 lbs/year and 0.4 lbs/year.

Funding for the project has been made possible through a Watershed Assistance Small Grants Program grant administered by Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. Generous in-kind support was provided by the Town of Southbury and Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery and Landscaping. Volunteers will be needed on a regular basis to help maintain the garden (weeding, watering, and mulching). Please look for volunteer work day announcements in the spring.

SAVE THE DATE

## WOODBURY EARTH DAY

**Saturday May 4, 2019 - Hollow Park**



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*Marianne Bette  
Andie Greene  
Curt Jones  
John Pittari  
Dan Slywka  
Bob Travers  
Christopher Wood*

*Dick Leavenworth, In Memorium  
Larry Pond, Emeritus*

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(through 2018)  
David Bjerklie, Executive Director  
(starting 2019)  
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**THE POMPERAUG WATERSHED**



**A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Our Glass Full**

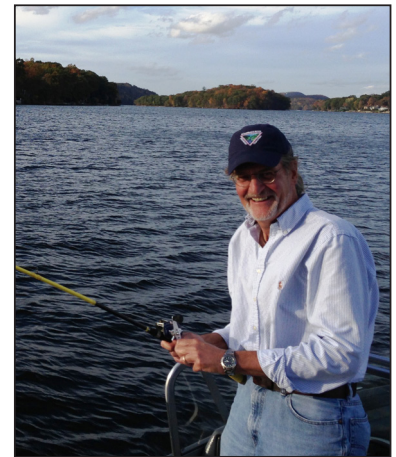
In “water guy” speak I try to look at things in a way that the glass is half full and never half empty. I’m not always successful doing so if, for example, I have a day of fishing with no catching (but at least the boat did not sink). Many of you already know that this will be the last message that you will have to endure from me as my time with PRWC now comes to an end and my move to the warmer weather of New Hampshire draws closer. As such, let me share a few parting thoughts with you.

We recently lost our dear friend and founding member Dick Leavenworth; the glass emptied for all of us. He left us, however, with an immense positive footprint on our land and lasting protection of our water resources. Dick’s legacy of environmental conservation and stewardship lives on in all of us, leaving our glass full.

In September, with their Board of Directors terms ending, we thanked outgoing Board members John Lacadie and Vince McDermott for their combined decades of service to PRWC. I had the wonderful fortune of serving as Executive Director under their leadership as Board chairmen. We also welcomed new Board members: Andie Greene (Woodbury), John Pittari (Bethlehem) and Bob Travers (Woodbury). Each individual brings a unique and significant resume of environmental activism to PRWC. The baton also passed to new Board officers: Gail McTaggart (chair), Ann Feinberg (vice-chair) and Wayne McCormack (secretary/treasurer) who have already proven themselves indispensable to the success of our mission. The past contributions and commitments forward from those above therefore leaves our glass full.

So...it’s time to close this life’s chapter but before I do - to our Board, Advisory Council, volunteers, supporters, sponsors, community officials and our State and local conservation partners, please know that I have cherished my time with you and that I will forever be grateful for the support shown to me and to PRWC. I am very pleased that Dave Bjerklie and the first-class science and other skill sets that he brings with him, will serve as PRWC’s next executive director. Lastly to Carol and Anne, thanks for EVERYTHING. My glass is full!

Gratefully, *LEN*



**Wishing Fond Farewells and Warm Hellos**



(Left) Our gratitude to exiting Board Members Vince McDermott and John Lacadie. (Center) Welcome David Bjerklie, joining PRWC’s staff as Executive Director in 2019. (Right) Introducing new board members Andie Greene of Woodbury, John Pittari of Bethlehem, and Bob Travers of Woodbury.

### 2018 Youth Conservation Corps Achievements

We were able to continue the Youth Conservation Corps program this summer thanks to generous support from the Connecticut Community Foundation and donors like you! This year's team consisted of Mike Hunyadi of Oxford serving as Crew Leader, and crew members area high school students Molly Galusha of Westover School, Sabryna Coppola of The Gunnery, Gianni Spiotti of Watertown High School, and Sam Tscheppe of Canterbury School.

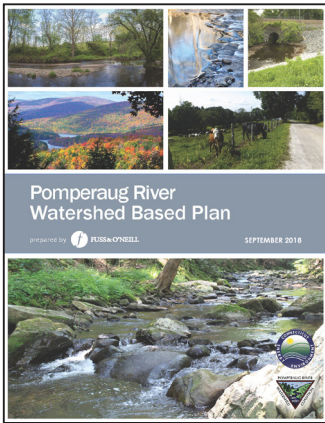
In addition to installing the rain garden described on Page 1, the team also completed the following conservation projects during their six-week season:

- Cleared an estimated five tons of invasive plant material
- Cleared one mile of new hiking trails
- Conducted in-stream and stream-side trash clean-ups
- Hosted two rain barrel workshops
- Lead two educational programs for area summer campers



2018 Youth Conservation Corps

Project site partners, including Town of Woodbury, Town of Southbury, Roxbury Land Trust, Southbury Land Trust, and Audubon Bent of the River were beyond appreciative of the outstanding work completed by the Youth Conservation Corps team as they helped complete several conservation projects that may not have happened without such collaboration.

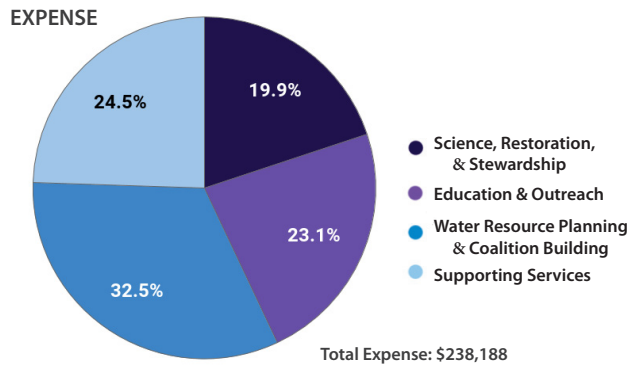
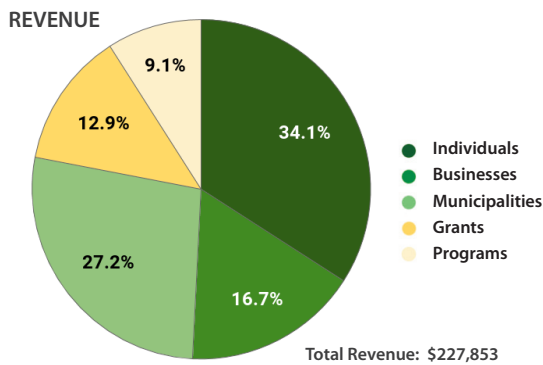


### 9-Element Pomperaug Watershed Based Plan Finalized and Approved

At the end of September, PRWC adopted the final Pomperaug Watershed Based Plan (WBP or Plan) prepared with support from Fuss & O'Neill, an environmental consulting firm. The focus of this EPA-approved, 9-element WBP is to reduce the amount of bacteria entering the local streams which are listed as impaired by CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and EPA. The Plan serves as a guidance document that seeks to resolve surface water quality impairments and related water resource issues within the Pomperaug watershed. This document is not intended to "point fingers" but is to help make all aware of how individual and collective actions are interconnected and can impact the Pomperaug's water resources. The recommendations in this Plan for specific projects/actions are intended to be voluntary undertakings, carried out with willing, cooperative partners, working together to protect and improve water quality. Towards this end, this Plan identifies potential partners and funding sources to assist with achieving the recommendations presented, which include implementation of best management practices, enhanced education and outreach programs, and expanded stream monitoring efforts. To view the Plan, visit: [www.pomperaug.org/water-resources-management-plan](http://www.pomperaug.org/water-resources-management-plan)

**Final Pomperaug Watershed Based Plan Now Available Online**

### Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Summary



The charts above summarize our revenue and expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Each revenue category is critical to the balance for the overall funding required for us to be successful in our mission. The expense summary shows how we utilize that funding support for our core areas of work. **You'll see that your financial support truly makes a difference and comes with our heartfelt appreciation!**



**Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition**  
 39 Sherman Hill Road, C103  
 Woodbury, CT 06798  
 info@pomperaug.org

*Donor Recognition List Inside!*

### Resource Planning & Policy Updates: Balancing Between “the Fish and the Faucet”



As you know, we work daily on water-related scientific research projects, policy-making initiatives, conservation and restoration projects, and community education programs. Among our recent work has been active participation in reviewing CT DEEP’s proposed **Streamflow Classifications** for the

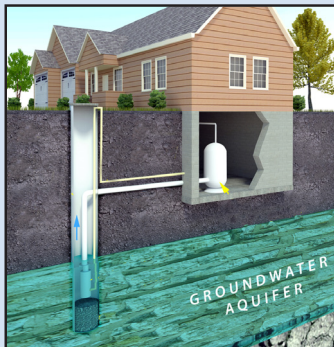
Pomperaug basin along with continued involvement in the development and implementation of the draft **State Water Plan**. We have also been working closely with the Town of Southbury and Heritage Village Water Company to create a **Pomperaug River Low-Flow Operations Plan**. Each of these activities serve as a testimony to the value of collaboration and cooperation in respect to environmental stewardship and balancing the in-stream habitat needs with human water use needs. Please visit the news section of our website to read more about these efforts.

### Your Stewardship Makes a Difference



We pledge to continue to work in earnest on your behalf, but we cannot do this vitally important work without you. *Please consider a year-end gift.* Your contributions make such a meaningful difference today and for future generations. Donations may be made online, by phone, or by mail.

### Private Drinking Water Well Resources Now Available Online



You can now find a page on our website offering valuable resources to help you learn about how your well works, how often the water should be tested and what it should be tested for. Among the resources available are copies of presentations given during the Private Well Drinking Water Forum that PRWC hosted on October 23 at Southbury Town Hall. The Forum, made possible with support from the Southbury Community Trust Fund and the Connecticut Community Foundation, featured presenters from PRWC, Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Pomperaug District Department of Health. The program also offered table top displays by a number of local well service providers and water quality analysis experts.

Learn more about private drinking water wells at: [www.pomperaug.org/privatewells](http://www.pomperaug.org/privatewells)



## THANKS TO OUR FISCAL YEAR 2018 DONORS

*On behalf of the PRWC Board of Directors, staff and volunteers,  
we extend a heart-felt thank you! As we continue our work,  
please know we fully recognize and truly appreciate your generous support.  
Your support is recognized for gifts between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.*

### Water Walker \$10,000+

Connecticut Community Foundation  
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*PRWC would also like to thank the towns of Bethlehem, Oxford, Southbury, and Woodbury, our environmental partners, those who supported the annual benefit auction, the many vendors who participated in Woodbury Earth Day, and all of our dedicated volunteers. Thank you!*