

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 0

Notable Notes

Working Together



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

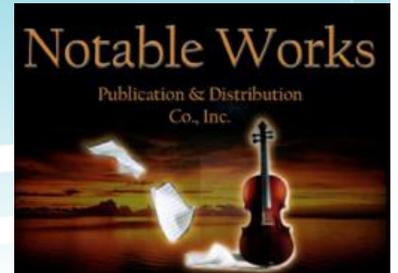
The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) is a non-profit organization that encourages, supports, and promotes the restoration and preservation of the nationally recognized Woonasquatucket River Watershed as an environmental, recreational, cultural, and economic asset of Rhode Island. WRWC began in the early 1990s as part of an initiative to improve environmental and community life in Providence by transforming the Woonasquatucket River. At that time, the river was being neglected, though it had been an economic engine for mills in the 19th and 20th centuries and prior to that, a life force for indigenous Narragansett Native Americans. In the Algonquin language, Woonasquatucket means “where the salt water ends.” Since then, our scope has greatly expanded throughout the Woonasquatucket River Watershed, which runs through six towns: Glocester, North Smithfield, Smithfield, North Providence, Johnston, and Providence and touches more than 25 percent of Rhode Island's population. To date, 75 acres of land along the river have been restored. Parks that have long been abandoned are now renewed and used by residents. Gardens now exist where trash once lay. Wetlands have been restored where rusted cars were once discarded. Neighborhoods with beautiful, affordable housing thrive in the Greenway. We hope you enjoy this glimpse of the Woonasquatucket River and that you join us on the Greenway!

www.wrwc.org

Notable Works extends our deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones and we are so thankful for the courageous work of our frontline workers. Our organization will do whatever we can to support our local community and will continue in our mission of raising awareness for social and environmental concerns through the arts. Like other performance based arts organizations, we have had to adapt to the current situation to find other means of getting our message out into the community. Notable Works has been creating virtual minis, which are then launched onto our newly created YouTube channel. We also use other social media platforms such as email links, Twitter, Facebook, Zoom, our Notable Works' website and starting with this issue, Notable Works' Newsletter will be published and distributed each month. Each of these new video and slide show presentations are produced in collaboration with other local non-profit organizations, which play a key role in our local community. For example, two of Notable Works' recent projects, *Goosewing Beach Preserve* and *The Land's Our Legacy* focus on the natural environment and our need to preserve and protect it. These slide shows were produced in coordination with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Rhode Island. The poetry and music were written by our Artist in Residence, Noreen Inglesi, and the exquisite photos for both presentations were shared by Jeanne Cooper, TNC's Shore Bird Manager and Geoff Dennis, a TNC volunteer. Here are the links to both presentations: <https://youtu.be/1XXSCopzqeY> *Goosewing Beach Preserve*

https://youtu.be/r83vyb_tVKY *The Land's Our Legacy*

Please visit www.notableworks.org to see our current projects and publications.



We are so pleased to announce the recent creation of *Notable Works Tribute to the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council*, which was produced by Maria Bilyeu, member of Notable Works' Board of Directors and Musical Ensemble. Noreen Inglesi wrote the tribute song for this video, and the lyrics are included in Notable Works' upcoming publication **Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet II**,

which will soon be released. This new video highlights the efforts of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC), which is doing such a great job of preserving and protecting this American Heritage River as well as helping to revitalize, work with and support the local communities. Notable Works is so pleased and honored that WRWC will be including this video on their website. Here is the link to view this presentation.

<https://wrwc.org/wp/woonasquatucket-river-tribute-song-by-notable->

**Sample of Poetry from
Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet**

Removing Bradford Dam

by Elizabeth Bogutt

Once there was a textile mill
next to a river with a dam
and the river is named Pawcatuck
and it stretches for 34 miles
and ends as all rivers must, in the ocean.

The dam was good for the mill
but when the mill closed, the dam was no longer needed
it barricaded the kayaks and the canoes
seeking release on the river
and the resident fish and the migrants both
could find no path to their breeding grounds

For over two hundred years the fish in the river could not
swim all the way upstream

When the rains came
the dam would force the river outward
the abandoned mill would be gulping water
and the land surrounding it would drown
in the overflow.

Without a clear pathway,
the shad, the river herring, the trout and others
would swim in circles
their eyes frantically searching for some way forward.

Then scientists and nature lovers who understand that fish
are living creatures, needing to produce more of their own
took the dam down, that dam and other dams
so the river could flow for 34 miles.

The colorful canoes and kayaks now move in symmetry
and the fish can follow their highway to where
river and ocean meet, at last.



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**Voices of Our Earth:
The Future of Our Planet**

