

A photograph of a brown beaver swimming in a river, with its head and back above water. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. The beaver's reflection is clearly visible in the water.

2014 Annual Report Voice of the River



*Connecting Communities,
Protecting the River*

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www.ausableriver.org

Your River Association - Your Backyard

Formed by the community and focused on our watershed for 17 years, the Ausable River Association is the community's voice for the river: your voice.

- We're advocates for clean water, healthy river and stream habitats, for brook trout and the many other native species that depend on the river.
- AsRA programs provide resources to anglers, boaters, and other recreational users; we monitor the river and share data that help us understand changes and find solutions to problems.
- We share our knowledge freely with young and old, landowners, municipal employees, and technical experts, through workshops, events, and one-on-one.
- And we restore streams to their natural function, repair damage to banks that threaten homes and businesses, and retrofit and replace culverts to reduce road damage and ensure fish passage.

We work cooperatively with a wide array of organizational partners, often behind the scenes and far from the limelight and, like the river, we're the force connecting the diverse players. We dream big, plan carefully, and then get good work done.

We hope you will join us this year. Take a look at our work in this Annual Report edition of Voice of the River. Then consider donating, becoming a member, or renewing your membership. Make a difference in your own back yard. For our river.



Larry Master
Chair - Board of Directors



Kelley Tucker
Executive Director

AsRA's New Look

You may have noticed a refreshed logo on this edition of Voice of the River. The new logo is similar to our previous one but has bolder lines, brighter colors, a fish identifiable as a trout, and stands out on web pages and publications. We are excited to be able to share it with our supporters. When you join or renew your membership you will receive a sticker with the logo on it. You can learn more about membership in the enclosed letter from AsRA's executive director.

Along with the new logo we are designing a new website. The new site will allow us to share and update information about the Ausable River, highlight our recent and ongoing work, and provide the public with a wealth of resources about the river.



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SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR

Brendan Wiltse

RIVER STEWARD

Nicole Pionteck

Science Returns to the Ausable River

An exciting new addition to AsRA's work is the establishment of a monitoring and research program. With Title 11 funds from the New York State Department of State, AsRA has been able to purchase a multi-parameter probe and temperature loggers, fund two long-term remote monitoring stations on the Chubb River, and regularly monitor several lakes in the watershed.

At the core of this work is a watershed wide bi-weekly monitoring program of the river and its tributaries. At each monitoring location temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and pH are measured. These basic parameters will help inform and target future water quality monitoring, while also providing critical data on the health of the river and its ability to support aquatic life.

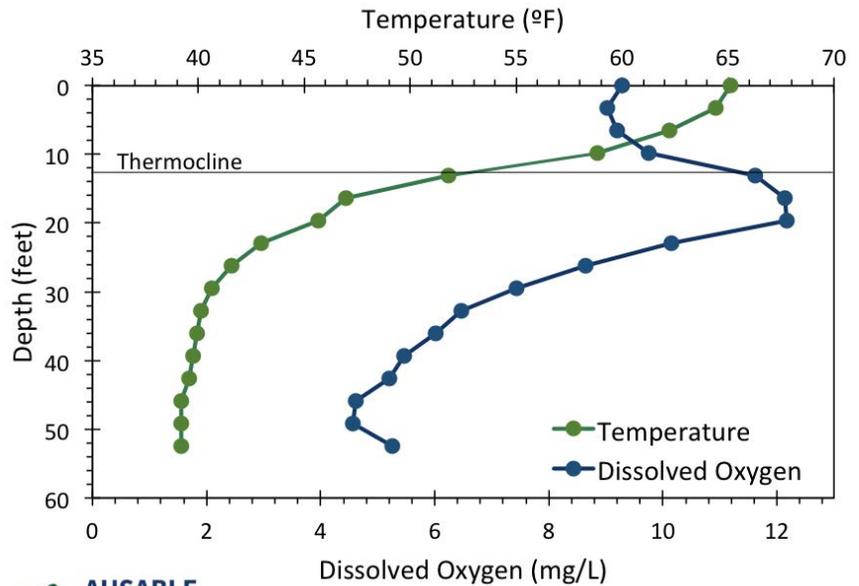
Water temperature is of particular concern.

Warmer water stresses cold-water fish species and can't dissolve as much oxygen. This summer we will be placing 13 temperature loggers in the river and several tributaries to assess the ability of these streams to support fish, particularly brook trout.

Chloride pollution from the application of road salt to area roads is one of the most significant threats to the water quality of the Ausable River. Our bi-weekly monitoring program allows us to monitor chloride concentrations in the river by modeling its relationship with conductivity. To develop a better understanding of how this pollutant is moving through our watershed we have partnered with the Adirondack Watershed Institute to place two long-term remote monitoring stations on the Chubb River. These stations will allow us to monitor the impact winter road maintenance practices in Lake Placid are having on the Chubb River. The Adirondack Watershed Institute will be processing water samples from these stations on a bi-weekly basis, which will also alert us to other pollutants such as phosphorus.



Science & Stewardship Director Brendan Wiltse's background in limnology is steering AsRA's research and monitoring efforts.



Mirror Lake - May 18th, 2015

Temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) profiles of Mirror Lake on May 18th, 2015. The spike in DO near the thermocline is likely the result of an algae bloom which is typical during this time of year.

Finally, with financial assistance from the New York State Department of State, the Mirror Lake Watershed Association, and the Town of Wilmington, AsRA has enrolled Taylor Pond, Mirror Lake, and Lake Everest in the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program. Once a month, from May through October, we will take vertical profiles of temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and pH, as well as measure transparency, and collect water samples to be processed at the Adirondack Watershed Institute.

These programs will help inform and prioritize our work on the Ausable, while also providing valuable information about the river to residents, government leaders, and scientists.

2014 In Review



Palmer Brook Culvert Retrofit

AsRA retrofitted two stream crossings on Palmer Brook. The undersized culverts had created deep scour pools and up to 3 foot water drops at their outlets – exacerbating flooding and cutting off passage for fish. Working with the Town of Black Brook, The Nature Conservancy, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a series of natural step pools were constructed to reestablish the connection between the stream and the culvert. The end result: happy fish, less erosion, and less maintenance for the town.

West Branch Riparian Planting

After a stream restoration project ends, AsRA does not walk away. We help establish a flourishing riparian buffer. Lush buffers of native river trees and plants, hardy enough to handle floods, ice, and wind are essential to a healthy river corridor. They stabilize banks with dense root systems, absorb an amazing amount of water, are essential habitat for wildlife, and provide cooling shade. Ausable River waters are warming. Riparian buffers as deep as the river is wide can help counteract this trend.



Ezra Schwartzberg

Riverlands Restoration: Before

It might look pretty, but there is a 10' high raw bank under AsRA's Executive Director Kelley Tucker. At moderate flow, the river is flat and glassy, clogged with sediment, with no evident riffles and limited fish habitat.



Brendan Wiltse



TNC

Replacing Culverts

AsRA is working side by side with Ausable River towns to replace undersized culverts like the one above. In 2014, we began initial geomorphic surveys of priority culverts so replacements will be appropriately sized to ensure public safety and fish passage.



Surveying Streams

Our ability to provide survey expertise was made possible by the generous donations of many individuals who helped us raise funds through Adirondack Gives to purchase a laser level and receiver, stadia rod, cross-section stakes, survey tapes, and more.



River Steward Funding

We did it! AsRA secured 18 months of funding to make our River Steward position year-round thus renewing our commitment to invasive species spread prevention, outreach on and off the river, clean water stewardship, and pollution prevention.

Riverlands Restoration: After

We restored over 600 linear feet of streambank, narrowing the stream, adding streambed roughness, restoring the banks, halting erosion. Notice the complex bank full of hiding places for fish, insects, birds, and other wildlife.



Brendan Wiltse

Thank You to our Generous Donors

Individual Donors & Family Foundations

Headwaters Council (\$1000+)

David Brunner and Rhonda Butler
Laura and Robert Devinney
Johanson Family
Master Family Fund 2
Meg Parker and Matt McNamara
Anne and Ken Stuzin
Jeff and Kathy Wiegand
Anonymous

\$500 to \$999

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Jim Herman and Dave Mason
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James and Parmalee Tolan
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Kelley Tucker and Stephen Longmire
Eva Turel and John Longmire
Jeanne Warner
In honor of Lawrence Wojcik
Carol Pinney

Up to \$99

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Suzanne Bohning
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John and Kathleen Braico
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Craig Brashear and Rebecca Kelly
Penelope Clute
Peter Davis and Nancy Both
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Susan Doolittle
Randy and Margaret Douglas
Tim and Kay Driscoll
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Vinny and Barbara McClelland
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James McSparron
Joseph Moore
Connie Morrison
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Marcy Neville
Stanley Orlowski
Franklin and Martha Owen
John Peipon
Seymour Preston, Jr.
In honor of Sarah Prince
Gregory and Catherine Roth
Peter Prime
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C.P. and Louise Robinson
Seth and Trudy Rosenblum
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John Ryan
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Kathleen Wiley and Jeff Leavitt
Shawn Wiltse
Chris Woods
Cecil and Gilda Wray

Foundations

Cloudsplitter Foundation
Patagonia World Trout Grants Council
The Evergreen Foundation, Inc.
William & Gayle Chorske Foundation

Business Donors

20 Main
Alpine Country Inn & Suites
Ausable Chasm
Ausable Inn Keene Valley
Barkeater Trails Alliance
Dartbrook Rustic Goods
Devins Garage & Deli
Essex County Adirondack Garden Club
Eye Peek
Feek Pharmacy
Golden Arrow Resort
Gordon Pratt Agency
Haselton Lumber
High Falls Gorge
High Peaks Cyclery & Sports
Hornbeck Boats
Hungry Trout Fly Shop
Hungry Trout Resort
Hurricane Mountain Chapter/ADK
Inspired Performance Coaching
Ironman Foundation
Lake Placid/Whiteface Mtn. KOA
McDonough's Valley Hardware
Merrill L. Thomas Real Estate
Richert Environmental Associates, LLC.
Rivermede Farms
Tahawus Center
Team USA Fly Fishing
The Birch Store
The Fallen Arch
The Little Supermarket
The Mountaineer
Trout Unlimited
Whiteface Mountain Regional Visitors Bureau
Wildwood on the Lake

Municipal Donations

Town of Jay

In-Kind Contributions

Asgard Farm
Bruce Berra
Fledging Crow
Hungry Trout Fly Shop
Hungry Trout Resort
Lake Everest Diner & Pizzeria
LeapOff Cycles
Loremans
Patagonia
Pepsi
Rebecca Bidelspach
River's Edge Emporium & Market
Sugar House Creamery
Valley Grocery

Financial Statements - 2014

Activities

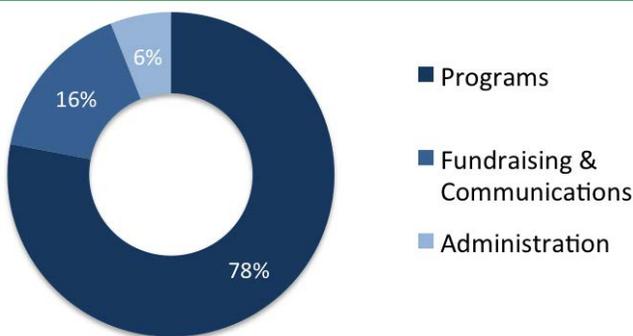
Support and Revenue

Donations	\$44,860
Grants	\$6,610
Contracts	\$51,606
Events	\$28,789
Other	\$200
Total	\$132,065

Expenses

Programs	\$26,499
Communications & Fundraising	\$6,068
Office & Technology	\$13,092
Travel	\$2,758
Personnel Expenses	\$74,794
Insurance	\$1,022
Professional Services	\$3,596
Board Expense	\$385
Total	\$128,214

How Your Support Is Allocated



Financial Position

As of December 31, 2014

Assets	
Cash & Savings	\$48,936
Pre-Paid Expenses	\$1,130
Total Assets	\$50,066
Liabilities	\$1,531
Accounts Payable	\$1,531
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$48,535

A copy of the latest annual report for the Ausable River Association, Inc. may be obtained, upon request, from the organization or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

Restricted Grants

AsRA currently manages two Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grants (LWRP) through the New York State Department of State. These grants reimburse AsRA program and personnel costs under the terms of each grant contract and must be matched 1:1 with non-federal funds.

2010 LWRP thru Town of North Elba	
Total Grant	\$39,250
Funds Remaining	\$7,875
2012 LWRP thru Essex County	
Total Grant	\$217,950
Funds Remaining	\$168,538



Sunrise over the Ausable Watershed

Brendan Wiltse

Raffle Tickets On Sale

Grand Prize: Hornbeck Canoe

Valued at over \$1,700

Includes the Hornbeck Perfect Fit Program

Runner-Up: Half-Day Guided Fly Fishing Trip for Two

Valued at \$350

Experience fly fishing on the spectacular Ausable River in the Adirondack Mountains, guided by the owner of the Hungry Trout Fly Shop, Evan Bottcher. All gear included.

Tickets are on sale at High Falls Gorge, Hungry Trout Fly Shop, and look for AsRA at the Keene Valley and Lake Placid Farmers' Markets.

1 Ticket for \$5, 3 Tickets for \$10, 7 Tickets for \$20



RIDE FOR THE RIVER

AN EVENT TO BENEFIT THE
AUSABLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND
HUNGRY TROUT RESORT

WWW.RIDEFORTHERIVER.ORG



Add your Voice,

Support the Ausable River.



Join or renew your membership today!

Friends,

The Ausable River connects our communities and, much like the mountains and valleys it helped to create over millennia, defines the places you live, work, play in, and love.

Give back to the river and to your community.

Support the local organization that protects, monitors, and restores the river in partnership with our river communities – the Ausable River Association.

Becoming a member is easy. Just fill out the enclosed envelope or visit our website.

New annual membership categories – all members receive Voice of the River, an AsRA logo sticker, and an invitation to our annual Friendraiser event, hosted this year by High Falls Gorge.

- **Member** - \$35 – *basic membership helps provide the general support that ensures our day-to-day operations.*
- **Contributing Member** - \$100 – *membership at this level keeps AsRA's science, stewardship, and survey programs on the river to collect and share information.*
- **Sustaining Member** - \$350 – *sustaining members help us restore significant river reaches, replace culverts, maintain reliable monitoring equipment, and give us the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances and urgent needs.*

*And we are excited to announce the **Headwaters Council...***

Individuals or households with annual contributions of \$1,000 or greater safeguard the continuity of our programs. In return, they receive annual opportunities to tour and explore the watershed and visit favorite sites with AsRA staff, board members, and expert advisors.

Headwaters Council members ensure a future for AsRA.

AsRA relies on the support of people who care about the river, love its natural beauty, its clean waters, the wildlife and lush plant life it supports, and the vibrant communities that call it home. Please renew your membership, visit our offices, and share your copy of Voice of the River with a friend. Join us as we protect our river and our communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelley Tucker".

Kelley Tucker, Executive Director