



VOICE OF THE RIVER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSABLE RIVER ASSOCIATION—SUMMER 2014

15 Years of AsRA — 2013 in Review

Did you know that 2013 marked the 15th anniversary of the Ausable River Association (AsRA)? It's true. For 15 years, we've been working to protect the Ausable River—the quality of its waters, its fisheries, its recreational value and ecological diversity. We've restored stream segments that have been degraded by storms or compromised by historic uses or long abandoned management practices; we've gathered scientific information about the river—its hydrology, its ability to sustain aquatic life, the invasive species that threaten to harm it, stormwater and septic practices that can improve it, and more—and we share all this with our partners and the public.

Like you, we love the river. Ecologically it's a gem and, just as important to us, it connects our communities and defines the places where we live, work, and play. AsRA provides our community a chance to give back to the river. We consistently bring incredible resources to the community, organize them, and ensure they are used wisely. We identify and win funds for project work. AsRA convenes decision-makers, scientists, community members, and planners, and connects them in ways that keep the river healthy, keep fish bountiful, and keep roads and property safe. AsRA helps our towns make plans for river infrastructure that are effective in the long-term and financially feasible, and we help implement those plans, making a healthy and sustainable river a reality.

We work cooperatively, behind the scenes and far from the limelight, but like the river, we're often the force connecting the diverse parts. We couldn't do it alone. Expertise comes from the towns, from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the State of New York, the Clinton and Essex County, from our partners Trout Unlimited, the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Clinton and Essex County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local universities, and from our dedicated volunteers.

2013 was a great year for AsRA. We continued our dedication to stream restoration, working in partnership to restore the lower 900 feet of Johns Brook in Keene Valley. We began an exciting new partnership to identify and restore degraded culverts to improve fish habitat and build flood resilience in our communities—stay tuned for more news on this exciting program. Our expertise was recognized and integrated into the iCommunity Rising planning effort in the towns of Jay and Keene. Working with the Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District, we created Keene Valley's new Rock Cut Park. Once again, our portable toilets provided relief for residents and visitors on the West and East Branches of the river. We developed new relationships with private donors and foundations, even as our reputation for hard work garnered us a \$218,000 grant from the NY State Department of State's Local Watershed Revitalization Program. And we had fun—our 2nd annual Ride for the River in the Town of Jay was an enormous success, as was our Hornbeck canoe raffle. Last September, we celebrated our partners and volunteers at our first annual AsRA Friendraiser and Party at the beautiful Intervale Lowlands Farm.

Over these 15 years, we've grown. This newsletter provides our supporters with our first annual report of financial position. With your support, AsRA is flourishing: our board expertise has expanded, we've added an additional full-time staff position (see p. 3), our new executive director has completed training in applied fluvial morphology and stream restoration, and so much more.

Thank you for your volunteer time and your generous annual or monthly donations. We rely on your continuing support. Please donate using the enclosed envelope or via PayPal. Support the organization that works for the backyard you love—the Ausable River watershed.

Onward and Upward:

A Mission for Our Times

VOICE OF THE RIVER

Situated in northeastern New York State, the Ausable River watershed covers 512 square miles, includes 94 miles of river channel, and is fed by more than 70 small streams including its two major tributaries, the Chubb River and Black Brook. The magnificent scenery, ecological diversity, and clean waters of the Ausable River make it a jewel of the Adirondack region of New York State.

The Ausable River Association's mission is to identify, conserve and restore the Ausable River watershed's natural and recreational resources for their ecological value and the benefit of human communities. With two experienced and talented new staff, complemented by our 2014 River Steward (see following articles), AsRA has never been better poised to achieve this ambitious mission.

How? We provide scientific expertise, we help private and public landowners pursue responsible stewardship practices, and we foster collaboration and information sharing among organizations, universities, government agencies, local businesses and individuals who care about the Ausable River. We are practical and ecologically minded. AsRA identifies and implements balanced conservation solutions that emphasize the importance of a healthy Ausable River for resilient and sustainable watershed communities.

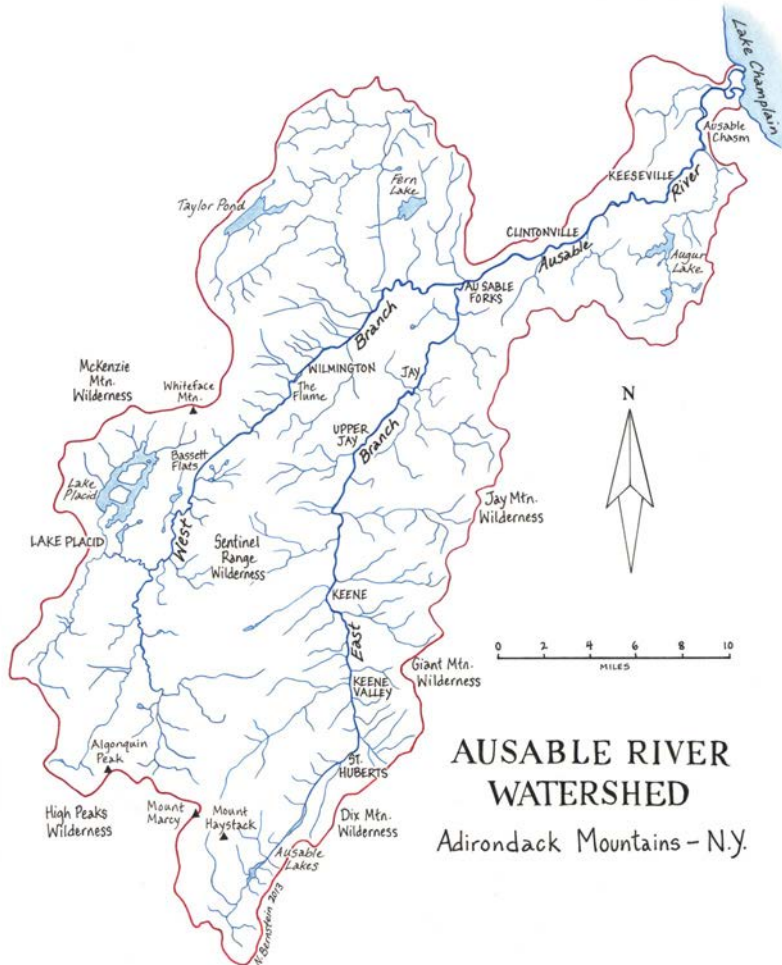
Our vision is of a vibrant Ausable River Valley where a resilient river ecosystem, rich with native flora and fauna, is cherished and protected by a diverse community of residents participating in a robust sustainable economy. Will you join us?



Larry Master, Board Chair



Kelley Tucker, Executive Director



AUSABLE RIVER WATERSHED
Adirondack Mountains - N.Y.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Evan Bottcher, Wilmington

Christian Brammer, Keene

Liz Clarke, North Elba

Ray Curran, Wilmington

Rob Farkas, Jay

Rocco Giampaolo, Jay

Susan Lacy, Keene

Larry Master, Lake Placid

Warren Radcliffe,
Keene Valley

AsRA Staff

Kelley Tucker,
Executive Director

Brendan Wiltse,
Stewardship &
Outreach Coordinator



Growing with AsRA:

New Staff and New Board Members

There's a new team at AsRA. We're pleased to have Kelley Tucker, long-time AsRA board member and former Chair, as our new executive director. Joining her in a new full-time, permanent staff position is Brendan Wiltse, AsRA Stewardship & Outreach Coordinator.

With the advent of 2014, after two and a half productive years—rethinking and rebuilding after Irene—Corrie Miller stepped down as AsRA's executive director to move back to Vermont and continue working for river protection in the Mad River Valley. Immediately after receiving Corrie's news, the AsRA board of directors set to work, not just to hire a replacement, but to take stock of the organization's recent growth, its needs, and the needs of the community and the watershed.

Kelley, a resident of Upper Jay, has worked as a non-profit conservation professional for 20 years, building, managing, and leading solution-oriented conservation programs that protect wildlife, land, and freshwater resources while working with the needs of communities. Given her desire to shift her role at AsRA, hiring Kelley seemed an excellent next step. Her depth of knowledge of the organization, the watershed, and AsRA's partnership approach has already proven a critical asset.

In response to Kelley's shift in roles, Lake Placid resident Larry Master stepped up to the position of Board Chair. A zoologist and naturalist, Larry helped create NatureServe after a long career at The Nature Conservancy. Several new board members joined the AsRA team in January: Evan Bottcher, owner of the Hungry Trout Fly Shop in Wilmington; Liz Clarke, a professional planner specializing in community and conservation lands planning who lives in



Brendan Wiltse at a recent AsRA event.



Larry Master and Kelley Tucker at a spring 2014 riparian restoration.

North Elba; ecologist and wetlands scientist Raymond Curran of Wilmington; and Rocco Giampaolo from Jay, a professional civil engineer working in the fields of environmental remediation and water resources.

One of Kelley's first priorities was to define a new position at AsRA and hire a talented full-time staff associate. Three months and 100 promising applicants later, Brendan came on board. He will focus on expanding opportunities for residents, visitors, and volunteers to participate in events, gather and disseminate scientific data, and protect and enjoy the Ausable River.

Another new face is the 2014 Ausable River Steward, Curtis Buker. Thanks to a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Curtis educates anglers and the public about the negative effects of invasive aquatic and terrestrial species and how each of us can quickly identify them and help prevent their spread through the watershed.

ASRA RIVER STEWARD

A Letter from our 2014 River Steward

Dear Friends,

I'm excited to be on the Ausable River this summer bringing useful information to river users while gathering data that helps all of us be better stewards of the Ausable. I've hit the ground running, attending local events and farmer's markets with a variety of fun and fascinating educational tools that provoke learning among kids and adults. Primarily, though, you will find me along the river's edge, interacting with anglers and other recreational users. One of my main goals is to administer our survey that helps assess recreational users' knowledge of invasive species. The short survey is taken streamside and, while completing it can only take a few minutes, more often than not, an interesting conversation results. There's no substitute for a face-to-face interaction about the river when you are standing next to it with someone who cares as much as you do. We learn from each other.

The Ausable River is a world-class fishery and anglers travel from far and wide to wet their waders in our river. Because of this—knowing that many invasive species can hitch a ride on waders, boots, or gear that hasn't been thoroughly checked, cleaned, and dried—continuing education and angler vigilance is a priority if we want our river to retain its incredible reputation.

If our paths haven't crossed yet along the river, please contact me. If you have questions or concerns about the health or recreational use of any part of the river that matters to you, I'll try to address them. Bringing science-based information to a broad group of users is important to me and to AsRA. Over many years we've learned that educated stakeholders make powerful river stewards and, in the end, each of us is a river steward.

See you on the river, *Curtis* - curtis@ausableriver.org



Curtis Buker-River Steward

Why a River Steward?

2014 marks the fourth summer that AsRA has raised funds to hire a River Steward to help anglers and other visitors protect the Ausable as they enjoy its incredible recreational benefits. The steward educates river users about the threats of invasive species, how to identify them, and how to stop their spread. But he is also travelling the river corridor and gathering data all the time. He's our eyes and ears on the river. He helps us gauge what river users know about invasives so we can more effectively educate; he knows where trash is piling up and arranges cleanups; he often knows where the fishing looks hot, and he's always ready to share that knowledge. It's an important niche and one we'd like to see expanded to be year-round—protecting the Ausable and bringing a consistent educational message to everyone in the watershed.

Volunteers Wanted

Do you like working to benefit the river? Join the AsRA Conservation Corps (AsRACC)! We're developing a list of folks who can give time to scoop tires out of waterways, dig a post hole, plant small and large shrubs and trees, lay mulch, haul water, collect data using scientific instruments and more. The AsRACC will come together as needed, receive training as required, and build on their experience to develop expertise in river stewardship. If you can contribute 2 or 20 days a year in one or more seasons, consider joining us. Interested?

Contact Brendan Wiltse at AsRA

brendan@ausableriver.org

Another Great Mountaineer Trail Run!

Thanks to Vinny McClelland and the staff at The Mountaineer in Keene Valley for another great Trail Run this June. Each year, they organize this event to benefit AsRA and our sister organization, the Boquet River Association.

Porta-John Donors 2014

Hungry Trout

Fallen Arch

Ironman Foundation

Barkeaters Trail Alliance

Tri-Lakes Trout Unlimited

Ausable Forks Rotary

High Peaks Cyclery

Placid Planet

Joe Kahn

Mike Battisti

ASRA STEWARDSHIP

SUMMER 2013

AsRA ED Completes Natural Stream Restoration Training

Thanks to an Organizational Support Grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Foundation, AsRA Executive Director Kelley Tucker attended and gained certificates of completion in the first two of five intensive courses in natural stream restoration. Kelley travelled to Montana in June to participate in the Basic Survey Skills and Level 1 Applied Fluvial Morphology courses with some 40 other professionals from around the country. Each course combined intensive classroom lectures with experience in the field identifying critical stream characteristics and gaining experience with stream measurement techniques. The Level I course, taught by Dave Rosgen, emphasized fundamentals of river behavior and the general principles of fluvial geomorphology, sedimentation, hydraulics, restoration, fish habitat improvement, riparian grazing management, and streambank erosion. Kelley hopes to continue to Level II this or next year to build on the basic problem solving skills she gained in watershed management, riparian assessment, fish habitat structure evaluation, and stream restoration. The Ausable River Stream Restoration partnership of AsRA, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Trout Unlimited, utilizes Rosgen methods to guide our work. Building AsRA's staff strength with these stream restoration methods has many practical benefits. We'll soon be able to survey streams—gathering data to inform our efforts. Our problem solving skills are enhanced and, over time, we hope to be able to design stream restoration solutions. Finally, we are gaining the tools to better communicate restoration project objectives and techniques to the community. It's a win-win.

AsRA Programs on the River Where You Need Them

If you travel down Route 86 along the West Branch of the Ausable River you will likely see evidence of two AsRA programs. First are those dark green Porta-Johns (POJs) located at key roadside locations between the road and river. Summer POJs are a direct response to a problem that arose several years ago: fly anglers, cyclists, and tourists spending considerable time along this stretch of the river with no access to bathroom facilities. Such heavy use and limited options for waste disposal caused an unsightly situation that was threatening the water quality of the Ausable River. AsRA now organizes the placement and funding of five POJs along the West Branch and two on the East Branch. This program is made possible by local businesses and individuals that sponsor each POJ. A big round of thanks to these generous donors for their commitment to keeping the river and surrounding areas clean and enjoyable for all river users!

You might also notice four wader wash stations at key angling location on the West Branch. To keep the Ausable free of aquatic invasive species (AIS) we work hard to spread the message of proper invasive species spread prevention measures, as well as give anglers the tools they need to limit AIS dispersal. If you fish the Ausable, please make sure you check, clean, and dry your gear before you arrive and clean your waders at the wader wash Stations at the end of the day. Invasive species have numerous negative effects on the recreational value of the river and the ecological resiliency of its natural communities. The old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is particularly applicable in terms of invasive species. It is much more costly to manage an invasive species infestation than it is to prevent one. With your help we can keep the Ausable River free of invasive species and allow the river's natural communities to thrive.

Help us spread the message of stewardship by talking to your friends and family about proper human waste disposal, aquatic invasive species, and littering. Nearly the entire Ausable River is directly adjacent to roadways, making these issues a concern throughout the watershed. Little things count—please do your part to help us protect the Ausable River.

VOICE OF THE RIVER



Thank You to Our Generous Donors

VOICE OF THE RIVER

INDIVIDUAL DONORS & FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

\$1000 +

William & Gayle Chorske Foundation

Thomas Haas

Mary Lamy

Larry & Nancy Master

Anne & Ken Stuzin

Jeff & Kathy Wiegand

\$500 to \$999

Robert Farkas & Annie Scavo

Robert Jeffrey

Heidi & David Kerko

Laura & Robert Devinney

Jerome & Marcie Hunsaker

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Bill & Betsey Serjak

Judson & Kathleen Smith

Pete Suttmeier

Pam & Fairman Thompson

Stephen Longmire & Kelley

Tucker

Joan & Stephen Turbek

Don & Betsey Wickman

Up to \$99

Nan Boardman & Steve

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Kate Asselin

Vincent & Zandy Barrett

Paula Kurasch & Terry Blank

Suzanne Bohning

Tom & Alana Both

John & Kathleen Braico

Doris Brann

Penelope Clute

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Anne Darrel

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Kelly Mathews

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Betsey Thomas-Train

Emily Tyner

Sharon View

William Wellman

Naj Wikoff

Robert Wiley

Nick & Daui Woodin

Jerilea Zempel

BUSINESS DONORS

High Falls Gorge

Hungry Trout Fly Shop & Resort

Riverstone Wellness

Golden Arrow Resort

Barkeater Trails Alliance

The Fallen Arch

The Birch Store

The Mountaineer

Merrill L Thomas Real Estate

Dartbrook Rustic Goods

Rivermede Farms

Green Point Foods

Essex Co Adirondack Garden Club

Ausable Two-Fly Shop

Northeast Arborcultural

Associates

Devins Garage & Deli

Engels & Volker, Lake Placid

The Little Supermarket

Accounting Associates of

Lake Placid

Lake Placid/Whiteface KOA

Campground

Ausable Inn Keene Valley

Willkommen Hof B & B

Gordon Pratt Agency

Valley Grocery

Up A Creek/Great Outdoors

Alpine Country Inn & Suites

FOUNDATIONS

Ironman Foundation

The Park Foundation

Patagonia

Trout Unlimited:

-NY State Council

-Champlain Chapter

MUNICIPAL DONORS

Town of Jay

Town of Keene



Financial Statements—2013

Activities

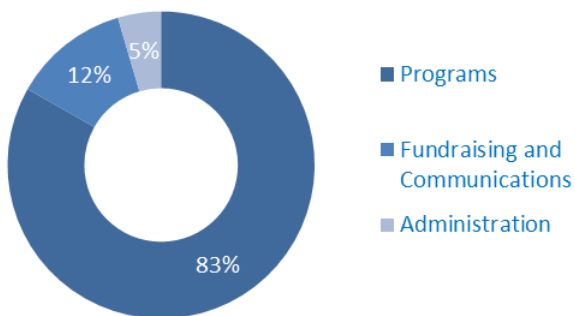
Support and Revenue

Donations	\$22,723
Grants	\$16,000
Contracts	\$14,788
Events	\$16,732
Other	\$20,200
TOTAL	\$90,443

Expenses

Programs	\$13,372
Fundraising & Communications	\$5,214
Office & Technology	\$5,917
Travel	\$2,199
Personnel Expenses	\$39,240
Insurance	\$1,019
Professional Services	\$5,800
Board Expense	\$79
TOTAL	\$72,840

How Your Support is Allocated



Financial Position

As of December 31, 2013

Assets

Cash & Savings	\$46,644
Pre-Paid Expenses	\$1,128
Total Assets	\$47,772

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$3,088
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$44,684
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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 contact and must be matched 1:1 with non-federal funds.

2010 LWRP thru Town of North Elba

Total Grant	\$39,250
Funds Remaining (2013-14)	\$7,875

2012 LWRP thru Essex County

Total Grant	\$217,950
Funds Remaining (2013-16)	\$217,950



L to R: Riparian planting, photo by Ezra Schwartzberg; Brook Trout, photo by Larry Master; Data collection on Palmer Brook, photo by Kelley Tucker

VOICE OF THE RIVER



*Connecting Communities,
Protecting the River*

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Wilmington, NY 12997
(518) 637-6859

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contactus@ausableriver.org
www.ausableriver.org

ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSABLE RIVER ASSOCIATION—SUMMER 2014



August 3rd, 2014 *Ride for the River* Wilmington, NY

Hornbeck Boats
Adirondack Made

Tickets: 1 for \$25 — 2 for \$40 — 6 for \$100
~ Canoe Value: \$1500-2000 ~ www.hornbeckboats.com



**SUPPORT THE AUSABLE RIVER ASSOCIATION:
Purchase Raffle Tickets—win a Hornbeck or a Guided Fly Fishing Trip!**

Drawing Sunday, August 3rd
at the *Ride for the River* Picnic
~ You need not be present to win ~

WWW.RIDEFORTHERIVER.ORG
FOR MORE INFO