



**AUSABLE
RIVER**
Association

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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EDITOR: Stephen Longmire

PHOTOS: *Where not noted otherwise, photo credit AsRA.*

POISED AND READY.

Balanced, strong, ready to act. That’s this team of staff, board, partners, and supporters right now. The achievements of 2022 have primed us to move forward confidently. We know our science brings practical knowledge to people and communities, that communities are using this knowledge to steward our shared freshwater resources, and that, together, we’re making solutions real—restoring streams, protecting native biodiversity, and ensuring our water remains pure.

You have an important role to play. We urge you to follow our efforts, help build our purpose, engage with our methods, and support our goals. And yes, we still need your financial support. While federal and state dollars make large projects possible, these monies often focus on project infrastructure, contractors, or materials and don’t often support essential staff time. Your generosity keeps us strong, helps us surmount challenges and avoid shortfalls.

Together we make the difference.

Read on to learn about some of the great things we accomplished in 2022. We’re building new partnerships that rely on our reputation for rigorous field science, providing technical expertise in stream restoration to watersheds beyond the Ausable, testing new programs for encouraging informed stewardship of streamside properties, and so much more.

Thank you. You keep us strong. Together we’re ready to move forward. Call us, email, join us on a tour.

Kelley Tucker
Executive Director

Wally Walters
Chair, Board of Directors

Finances



Financial Position

As of December 31, 2022 (per independent review)

Assets

Cash & Savings	\$ 196,782
Other Assets	\$ 189,757
Total Assets	\$ 386,539

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$ 44,836
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 341,703
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 0
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 386,539

How your support was allocated

Programs & Communications	80%
Administration & General	18%
Fundraising	2%

A copy of the latest annual filing for the Ausable River Association, Inc. may be obtained, upon request, from the organization (AsRA, PO Box 8, Wilmington, NY 12997) or from the New York State Office of the Attorney General, Records Access Officer, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 (www.charitiesnys.com) or by contacting 212-416-8401. You can obtain a description of the programs and activities that your contribution will support by contacting us at the above address.

Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2022 (per independent review)

Support and Revenue

Income	
Contributions	\$ 277,238
Restricted Grants	\$ 276,221
Program and Other Revenue	\$ 140,968
Interest	\$ 3
Total	\$ 694,430

Expenses

Programs & Communications	\$ 607,490
Administration & General	\$ 127,281
Professional Development	\$ 8,049
Fundraising	\$ 16,076
TOTAL	\$ 758,896

Due to committed project expenses in 2022 that were covered by funds raised in 2021, AsRA closed the year in a deficit position. As of May 2023, we have covered that deficit. For further information contactus@ausableriver.org



Healthy Streams

WE RESTORE DAMAGED STREAMS.

While rivers can heal themselves, they need significant amounts of time and space to do so. Where human infrastructure cannot be moved to allow the river to heal, we intervene. Using only native stone, trees, and biodegradable fabric, we repair the channel and banks with careful planning and mathematical precision. The result, over time, is a beautiful flowing channel of oxygenating riffles and deep pools with thick buffers of native trees and plants. It's good for the river, for water quality, for biodiversity, and it's the foundation for resilient, vibrant Adirondack communities.

2022 Highlights

The Ausable River Association was awarded a \$2,000,000 federal earmark late in 2022. The funds will advance design and construction

of restoration projects along the East Branch Ausable River in the towns of Jay and Keene.

After long hours of field work exploring Ausable streams large and small, we've identified several critical reference reaches. These are stream sections with stable geomorphology—healthy banks and functional aquatic habitat. Careful study of the details that makes each of them work can be applied elsewhere, improving our restoration of damaged reaches.

Working with The Nature Conservancy, Adirondack Chapter and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we expanded our climate-ready culvert model to the Boquet watershed. AsRA surveyed and designed projects planned for construction in 2023 and 2024.





Biodiverse Habitats

WE PROTECT AND REBUILD NATIVE HABITATS.

Every living thing needs a home. We identify the ecosystem needs of native species and rebuild the native streamside habitats they rely on. While Ausable and Boquet headwater streams are mostly protected, the public and private lands spread across their lower reaches have a grand role to play in the conservation of key species: brook trout, Atlantic salmon, wood turtle, American eel, and more. We help communities build better habitats for all wildlife species that call our watershed ecosystems home.

2022 Highlights

Our scientists completed a multi-year study using environmental DNA to identify native fish populations across the Ausable and Boquet watersheds. Knowing where native fish species live, then collecting data on those sites, helps us

recommend habitat improvements that protect them.

AsRA scientists piloted the Lake Champlain Stream Wise Program in New York. It's an innovative effort to foster stream health by recognizing streamside landowners who maintain wide, wild buffers of native plants. We assessed buffers, provided tailored advice, and for landowners that met the criteria, awarded Stream Wise certificates.

Thanks to a partnership with the Uihlein Foundation, we've established a foundation plot of native plants to serve as a nursery for future riparian habitat restoration projects. And to help plant those rich buffers of native plants, we inaugurated a volunteer planting crew program and trained 16 new volunteers.





Clean Water

WE FIND SOLUTIONS TO WATER QUALITY CHALLENGES.

Fresh water is fundamental to human health, food production, ecosystem functions, and economic growth. The Adirondack Park exists to protect water—our streams, lakes, and wetlands. Nevertheless, many challenges threaten water quality: climate change, sediment pollution, nutrient loading, microplastics pollution... We add our expertise to that of a diverse array of academic partners. Together, we work to understand incremental and abrupt changes to water quality, identifying threats, investigating potential solutions, implementing them, and tracking their success.

2022 Highlights

We merged the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation into the Ausable River Association. The merger brings additional scientific expertise and laboratory resources to AsRA and strengthens

our commitment to field research that informs solutions.

The Ausable River Association received \$500,000 in the 2022 New York State budget on behalf of a broad partnership of research institutions. The funds—made possible by the advocacy of the Adirondack Council—will advance a pioneering collaborative water quality research effort known as SCALE, a Survey of Climate Change and Adirondack Lake Ecosystems.

In partnership with Paul Smith's College, we completed a three-year technical study of road-salt effects in Mirror Lake and produced the report "Quantifying the De-icing Salt Pollution Load to Mirror Lake and the Chubb River". This partnership also completed the Lake Placid Lake Management Plan.





Empowered Stewardship

WE CONNECT COMMUNITIES TO THEIR STREAMS AND LAKES.

People make the difference when it comes to the health of our watershed ecosystems. We give residents and visitors of all ages the information, tools, and opportunities to understand, protect, and responsibly enjoy the Ausable River watershed. We believe that everyone can be a voice for the river—making informed decisions that protect our waterways, at home, at work, in our communities, and in other Adirondack watersheds.

2022 Highlights

Our river steward surveyed 10 lakes and 10 miles of stream habitat for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species and talked with over 250 anglers and river users encouraging them to check, clean, and dry boots, gear, and boats to eliminate harmful invasive species in our waterways.

In partnership with the Adirondack Mountain Club, we brought a group of teens from around the state to participate in our seventh annual Aquatic Stewardship Program—an intensive week of training in applied science including field work, water quality monitoring, stream assessment, and associated skills.

Over 150 residents and visitors of all ages joined us for 15 guided watershed tours, our biggest year yet for this program. Participants explored a variety of topics, from birds and fungi to lake ecology and the night sky.

AsRA clean-ups collected 1,000 pounds of trash, pulled invasive purple loosestrife along 15 miles of the river, and pulled nearly 100 tires from the river at Carpenter Flats.



Thank You

We rely on the support of donors who care about the Ausable River, its lakes and tributaries. Together we make a difference.



\$10,000+

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The Ausable River Association makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of this donor list. If you find any errors, please contact us.



Business Partners

We greatly appreciate our business partners for supporting our programs and events. You are making a difference for the health of the Ausable and Boquet River watersheds.



Great Range (\$1,000+)

Patagonia



The Mountaineer



Adirondack 46ers



Bike Adirondacks



Barkeater Trails Alliance



Eastern Research Group



Sentinel Range (\$500-\$999)

Golden Arrow Resort

Long Run Wealth Advisors

Whiteface Mountain Regional Visitors Bureau

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North Country Artisans, LLC

NRS

Gordon W. Pratt Agency

Tahawus Center

North Woods Engineering, PLLC

WIT Advisors

New in 22



Carolyn Koestner

Science Communication Fellow

Carolyn holds a two-year fellowship (2022-24) made possible through a partnership with Vermont-based Lake Champlain Sea Grant. She brings exceptional GIS mapping skills and an eagerness to share these tools to help people understand and steward our waterways. Since joining us last year, she trained for and received her FAA drone pilot license.

Carolyn has a B.A. in environmental science from Skidmore College and has worked in a variety of roles that combine her passions for conservation and GIS, serving as a river steward for the Housatonic Valley Association and, most recently, as strategic conservation planner with the Lake Placid Land Conservancy. In her free time, she serves as a community stakeholder and member of the Saranac Lake Climate Smart Community Task Force.



Phil Snyder

Water Quality Research Manager

Phil joined us after 23 years at the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation as a chemist, laboratory manager, field researcher, and most recently, as program director. Phil participated in the collection, analysis, and quality control of over 30,000 samples as a part of the Adirondack Long-Term Monitoring Program. His recent work included looking at chemical metrics to determine the success of brook trout reintroduction and spawning in acid-impacted lakes and overseeing the analysis of cloud water samples for the Whiteface Cloud Monitoring Program.

Phil has a bachelor's degree in environmental chemistry from SUNY Plattsburgh, where he is pursuing a master's degree in natural resources and ecology. In his free time, he can be found in, on, and around the waters of the Adirondacks, hiking, paddling, and fishing with his wife and two daughters.



Madison Stroud

Operations Director

Madison joined the Ausable River Association in October of 2022 and oversees the day-to-day operations of the organization, helping to ensure that procedures, tools, services, and funds are in place to support AsRA's staff. She organizes our events and will be working increasingly with our donors and supporters. Prior to joining AsRA, she worked for several local nonprofit organizations, serving as the shelter director at Tri-Lakes Humane Society and the program manager and volunteer coordinator at North Country SPCA.

Madison has a B.A. in English from Skidmore College and a Master of Science for Teachers from SUNY Plattsburgh. In her free time, Madison enjoys walking in the woods with her dogs, hiking, foraging, painting, and learning more about the flora, fauna, and ecology of the Adirondacks.

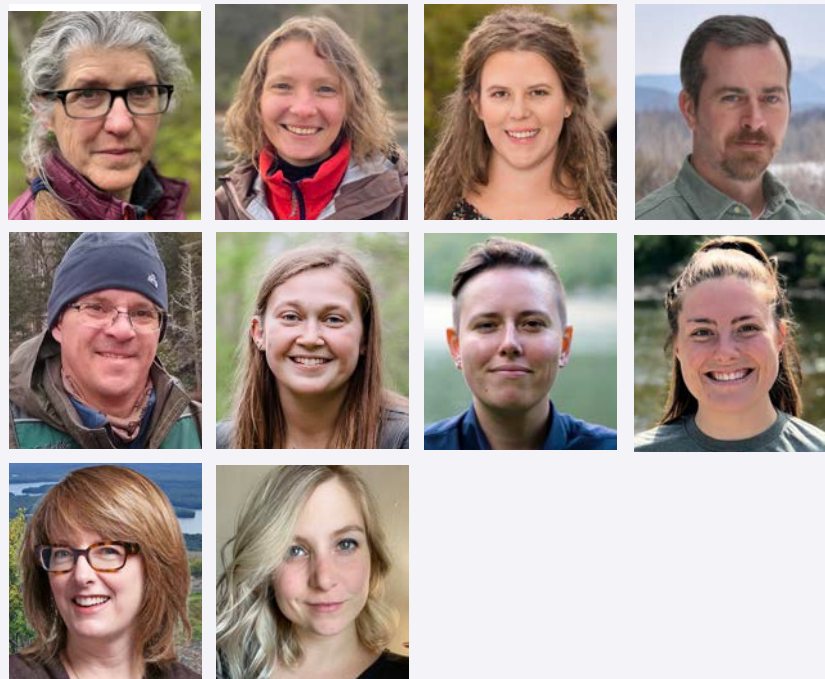


Science + Stewardship = Solutions
1181 Haselton Rd | PO Box 8
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Our mission is to help communities protect our streams and lakes.

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CONTACT
Ausable River Association
(518) 637-6859
contactus@ausableriver.org
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STAFF (*left to right, starting top left*)
Kelley Tucker - Executive Director
Madison Stroud - Operations Director
Carrienne Pershyn - Biodiversity Research Manager
Gary Henry - Stream Restoration Manager
Phil Snyder - Water Quality Research Manager
Liz Metzger - Research Associate
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