

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



May 2022

**Lynn Werner, Executive Director, Housatonic Valley Association
Nominator: The Federated Garden Club of Connecticut, Inc.**

Lynn Werner, Executive Director, heads the water, land, and recreation conservation nonprofit. Its mission is to protect the natural character, environmental health, and economies of the Housatonic River Valley watershed for present and future generations. The Housatonic Valley Association was founded in 1941 in Cornwall Bridge Connecticut.

The Housatonic River Valley boasts world-class fishing, biking, hiking, paddling, history, and sightseeing. The source of the watershed starts in the Berkshire Mountains and stretches 149-miles across Connecticut, culminating in the tidal marshes of Long Island Sound. It includes mountain waterfalls, rolling hills, covered bridges and a section of the Appalachian Trail. It is one of the oldest watershed conservation organizations in the nation!

As Executive Director, Lynn oversees the day-to-day management of the association including collaborating with individuals, groups, and agencies with the goal of maintaining a healthy river system. HVA is recognized across the region as an effective, efficient, and science-based organization.

Some of HVA's accomplishments:

- Restored the Furnace Brook Fishway in the town of Cornwall that allowed trout to swim upstream to spawn for the first time in 20 years.
- Demanded General Electric and the Environmental Protection Agency clean up the PCBs in the watershed system.
- Created the *RiverSmart* campaign to study the impact of polluted runoff and how to reduce it.
- Successfully fought to reroute a natural gas pipeline away from the watershed.

- Stopped a superhighway route through the scenic ridgeline and saved 6,000 acres of river valley from developers.
- Launched 'Follow the Forest' to emphasize the need for a wildlife corridor.
- Conduct educational programs for kindergarten to high school students on biology, ecology and chemistry of the watershed.
- Offers free paddling workshops for families.
- Plans hikes for naturalists, scientists, and historians.

Lynn takes pride in saying that due to the HVA conservation efforts, the residents of Connecticut enjoy 100,000 recreational acres for PLAYING OUTDOORS.



Lynn Werner Executive Director of Housatonic Valley Association

AOE winner 2022-Housatonic Valley Association, The Federated Garden Club of Connecticut, Inc.