



NepRWA Wish List

CWMN Volunteers!
Can you spare two hours early one Wednesday morning, once every two months? NepRWA needs 2 volunteers to measure dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in local waterways. Volunteers will use a meter with a probe that is placed directly in the stream to measure DO at 5 or 6 sites per sampling session. Sites are available in Milton and Walpole. Please contact Laura Hallowell for more information: hallowell@neponset.org, 781-575-0354.

Fall Fest Auction!
NepRWA is looking for *donations* for our October benefit auction. Please consider donating auction items, purchasing an ad in our Program, or joining the Planning Committee. Contact Carly for more information: 781-575-0354, rocklen@neponset.org.

wat • er • shed (n): 1. the area of land draining into a particular body of water

Neponset River Watershed Association

NepRWA is a nonprofit conservation group founded in 1967 to protect and restore the Neponset River, its tributaries and their watershed lands. *News from the Neponset* is published six times each year. Printing by Blue Hill Press, Canton.

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2. a crucial turning point, 3. communities connected by water

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River-Swimmer Spell-binds Audience

While scooping spoonfuls of fresh strawberry shortcake, attendees of NepRWA's June 22 Annual Meeting learned about NepRWA's recent projects and the environmental issues facing communities across the Watershed. They also heard the amazing experiences of river-swimmer, Christopher Swain.

Mr. Swain brought home his experiences swimming entire rivers and massive lakes—many of them badly polluted and degraded in sections—to focus public attention on the health of these waterbodies and to urge their protection.

Mr. Swain delighted the audience with such swimming details as the reasoning behind his swimming routes, diet and equipment. He even touched upon the tastes and color of the water—often determined by local pollutants! And, he described his run-ins with aquatic wildlife like Sea lampreys.

Mr. Swain spoke of people who've been directly affected by the degradation of local rivers—by the decimation of fish populations due to the construction of dams, the flooding of towns via dam construction, and the pollution of waterways. Mr. Swain noted the sense of hopelessness he's witnessed as people discuss the degraded state of the local environment they are leaving for their descendants. He also described the pride and satisfaction he's

seen as individuals relate the healthy environment they're leaving behind. Mr. Swain emphasized that everyone can and should help to restore their local environment, and noted that everyone can get involved with river clean-ups and remove trash from the water. Mr. Swain is aiming to make it easier for individuals to be more environmentally friendly. Learn about his program *Clean Water By 9AM* at www.swimforcleanwater.org.

Mr. Swain reminded us that we're all tied to the environment - and to waterways. Our actions affect waterways, and rivers, streams, ponds and wetlands in turn affect us - our health, the aesthetics of our local environment, and our recreational, drinking water, and food resources! Mr. Swain advised the audience to continue to work toward the ideal of a cleaner and healthier Neponset Watershed—to make it into our reality.

During the Annual Meeting, the NepRWA membership also elected three new members to the Board of Directors: Peter Jackson, Katherine Roth and Doug Holdridge. Pete Jackson of Milton is a landscape architect and longtime booster for the Neponset River Greenway; Kathy Roth of Sharon is an active member of the Sharon Conservation Commission; and Doug Holdridge of Westwood is a dedicated water-testing volunteer and local environmental

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DEP Under Attack on Water Conservation: NepRWA Members Urged to Respond

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been doing its best to get communities and water suppliers in "stressed" basins like the Neponset to cut down on average daily water usage, particularly in summer months when streamflows and groundwater levels are extremely low. However, DEP's new requirements have gotten water suppliers and some municipalities up in arms.

Twelve communities in the Ipswich River Watershed have appealed new DEP permits that include these requirements. More importantly, water suppliers have gotten highly organized and are lobbying the Governor and the Legislature to make DEP roll back the new rules.

Despite all the fuss, all DEP is asking towns in stressed watersheds to do is reduce water usage to an average of 65 gallons per day per person. This goal is clearly achievable; Stoughton, Milton and Sharon have all met it. While it may be true that some towns may need to restrict summer lawn watering, this is a *small sacrifice* to ensure that streams continue to flow and that drinking water is plentiful.

NepRWA urges its members to contact their state legislators and DEP Commissioner Bob Gollidge and to write letters to the editors of local papers. Please oppose any rollback in DEP's water conservation efforts. The basic message is:



"There is plenty of water in Massachusetts if we manage it properly. DEP's new water conservation requirements are essential to preventing far more serious water shortages in the future that will dry up streams, stifle economic growth and cost the rate-payers far more. We applaud DEP Commissioner Bob Gollidge for his efforts and urge our towns and the Legislature to give him the support he needs."

Write to your legislators: Statehouse, Boston, MA 02133, or call them: 617-722-2000. Write DEP Commissioner Bob Gollidge: DEP, One Winter St., Boston 02108; call him: 617-292-5500, or e-mail him: robert.gollidge@state.ma.us. Find out who your legislators are: www.wheredoivotema.com. For more information, contact Steve Pearlman: 781-575-0354.

NepRWA Spring Events!

This spring, NepRWA offered a variety of fun events! Here is a quick run-down of activities and be sure to check www.neponset.org for upcoming activities around the Watershed.

River Walk Talk. NepRWA kicked-off April with a presentation to the Environmental Committee of the Quincy City Council and the public at Quincy City Hall. NepRWA members Steve Perdios (also of the Quincy Environmental Network) and Wendy Ingram presented plans for a walkway along the Neponset River in Quincy. Listing the benefits that the RiverWalk would offer, they also indicated the properties across which access is needed to make the pathway a reality. Hard copies of the plans were provided to the Environmental Committee. Learn more about the RiverWalk: www.neponset.org/RiverwalkReport.pdf.

Fowl Meadow Walk. Also in April, Jayne DiCandio, NepRWA Board member and educator, led an interpretive walk through Milton's Fowl Meadow wetland. Participants explored the greening marsh and woodlands along the *Burma Road*, a dirt path paralleling



Scanning the treetline at April's Fowl Meadow Walk.

the Neponset River. As Ms. DiCandio identified what we were seeing and hearing and answered our many questions, songbirds flew across the path, hawks soared above us, and frogs called-out from the marsh.

Wollaston Beach Walk. In April, NepRWA led a walk with the Environmental Treasures Program of the Quincy Parks Department. Participants explored Quincy's waterfront by Wollaston Beach and Boston Scientific and learned about the ecology of the salt marsh and adjacent uplands as well as the history of the surrounding lands and structures. Steve Perdios of the Quincy Environmental Network and Sally Owens of the Environmental Treasures Program introduced local environmental issues. We also learned about local waterfowl from birder Jim Edwards.

Anatomous Awakening.

This multimedia event provided a combined science and art experience for the public, giving event-goers a closer look at the lives of fish migrating between saltwater and freshwater. Environmental Artist Joseph Ingoldsbry incorporated digital underwater photographs by Robert Michelson into outdoor art installations, and organized lectures by experts in the study of anatomous fish. This Boston Cyberarts Festival event battled a remarkable number of rainy, blustery days, and engaged event-goers, nevertheless. The Awakening took place on Milton Landing, looking out over the Neponset Estuary.

Neponset Paddle. In May, NepRWA collaborated with the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Broadmoor Sanctuary to hold a canoe ride on the Neponset River, along Fowl Meadow. Canoers spanned a wide range of ages, hometowns and canoeing levels. We had a balmy day and calm water for our paddle under a light gray sky. The calls of Yellow warblers and Gray catbirds, the splashing of startled groups of Canada geese and Wood ducks, secretive herons and dragonflies accompanied us as we ducked newly leafing Silver maple branches, paddled, and enjoyed lunch on a floodplain, by newly unfurling ferns. Many thanks to John Kovich and the MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation for donating the use of their canoes.

Pine Tree Brook Ceremony. Also in June, NepRWA and the Milton Department of Public Works held a dedication ceremony for the new progressive stormwater treatment structures and improved pathway along Pine Tree Brook in Milton. NepRWA, Sen. Brian Joyce, Rep. Walter Timilty, the Milton Dept. of Public Works, the MA Dept. of Environmental Protection, the Pine Tree Brook Neighborhood Association, Cali Construction, Geosyntec Consultants and Milton residents celebrated the partnership between federal, state and local organizations that is improving the health of local natural gen Pine Tree Brook.

'Want to get involved in more such events? Today, NepRWA relies more than ever on e-mail communications. E-mail enables us to communicate rapidly with an active membership about upcoming events as well as legislative votes and other key decisions on which Watershed residents can act. Please send your e-mail to rocklen@neponset.org.

Changing of the Guard

After more than 8 years as the unsung hero of NepRWA's back-office operations, Bookkeeper Marie Hanna retired in June. Marie, who preferred to keep her role "behind the scenes," kept our finances running smoothly and had a hand in much of our basic correspondence with the members. She will be greatly missed.

Taking over for Marie will be our new Administrative Assistant, Kristina LaFrance. Kristina will not only be taking on Marie's old duties, but will also be working a few additional hours each week to help cover some of NepRWA's unmet administrative needs such as coordinating mailings and working with volunteers. Kristina earned her BS in Finance from Bridgewater State and has previously worked for both FleetBoston and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. She and her family live in Canton. Kristina can be reached at 781-575-0354 or via lafrance@neponset.org.

Peter Chandonait of West Newton has also joined the NepRWA staff, having taken over Wendy Parisi Roemer's position of Environmental Scientist. Previous to NepRWA, Peter worked as an environmental consultant and as an Environmental Health and Safety Manager for chemically-intensive industries, helping to establish programs to reduce their negative environmental impact. Peter also worked in the remediation of contaminated groundwater sites as well as with municipal wastewater treatment facilities to reduce their environmental impact on surrounding communities. Peter has a Masters degree in Public Policy and in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Tufts University, a B.S. in Marketing Management from Bentley College, and an A.S. in Applied Chemistry from the University of Massachusetts in Lowell. Peter also volunteers in Guatemala to develop water and sanitation systems for rural communities.

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Fall Fest!

Mark your calendars—NepRWA's third annual Fall Fest benefit auction is *this October*, and you're invited! We're also looking for help in making this event better than ever. Please join us!



Donate Auction Items!

Please donate restaurant certificates, admission passes, wine, painted furniture, quilts, stays at summer homes, theatre tickets, frequent flyer miles and romantic get-aways; all have done very well in past auctions. Donating an auction item is an effective method of advertising your business; we list donations and donors on our website and in the Fall Fest Program. To donate an item, download a *Donor Receipt Form* from www.neponset.org/FallFest05.htm or request a Form from Carly at NepRWA.

Purchase Program Ads! We're offering ads in the Fall Fest Program—a booklet that is distributed to event attendees and which lists Fall Fest donations, donors and advertisers. To place an ad, print an *Ad Form* at www.neponset.org/FallFest05.htm, or request one from Carly.

Join the Planning Committee! Committee members coordinate Fall Fest—from booking the venue, to organizing auction items, to setting-up on the night of the event. Previous experience with auctions is helpful but not required. Contact Carly for more information: 781-575-0354, rocklen@neponset.org.

River-Swimmer, from Page 1

Two Board members also retired: Steve Davis of Walpole, who served ably as NepRWA's Treasurer for two years, and Donna Morin of Quincy. Both were recognized for their tremendous contributions. Current Board members Pat Hogan of Stoughton, Jayne DiCandio of Canton and Taber Keally of Milton were installed as the new President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Board, respectively. We offer many thanks to all new, continuing and retiring Board Members for their hard work on behalf of the Neponset River and the 14 Watershed towns!

Marie Hanna, NepRWA's long-time Membership Coordinator, and Karen Pello, River Restore Coordinator at the Massachusetts Riverways Program, also received special recognition. Each is leaving her position after many years. Marie is retiring after eight dedicated years at NepRWA, and Karen is leaving Riverways after tirelessly working to conserve rivers throughout the state. Her work has especially facilitated the restoration of the Neponset.

Many thanks to all who attended the Annual Meeting and who volunteered their time and resources! Also, we offer special thanks to Java Jo's Coffee House of Milton for donating coffee, to Ward's Berry Farm of Sharon for growing such sweet strawberries, to Blue Hills Trailside Museum of Milton for opening their facility to us, and to Christopher Swain for motivating us all!

New River Access

In June, NepRWA reached a settlement with Conroy Construction Co. regarding a proposed waterfront residential development at 2 Hancock St., Quincy. The settlement includes the addition of 1,000 feet to the Quincy Riverwalk, a beautiful, public waterfront park, a fishing pier, and a small boat and canoe launching ramp and floats. For more information about this public open space victory, please contact Steve at pearlman@neponset.org or 781-575-0354.

Pump-out Parties!

NepRWA and the Walpole Board of Health (BOH) are working together to improve the quality of Walpole's water resources. Soon, residents will have an opportunity to learn how to best maintain their septic systems, thereby ensuring the quality and safety of local waterways.

NepRWA and the BOH are planning *pump-out parties* and looking for party hosts and attendees! What's a pump-out party? Pump-out parties consist of a gathering of friends and neighbors, an educational presentation by NepRWA and BOH about septic system maintenance, and a demonstration septic system pump-out. Party hosts receive a discounted septic system pump-out! Contact Carly to become a party host or to attend a pump-out party: rocklen@neponset.org, 781-575-0354.



RiverArt

RiverArt is an annual juried art sale and exhibit sponsored by NepRWA and the Forbes House Museum of Milton. From September 21-28, the *plein air* art of local artists will be on display and for sale at the Forbes House Museum, 215 Adams Street, Milton. Come to view photographs, paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolor, drawings, and a variety of other media portraying scenery from around the Neponset Watershed.

You can also participate in RiverArt as an artist! Just download a *Call for Entries* from www.neponset.org/RiverArt.htm, or request one from Carly at NepRWA: 781-575-0354, rocklen@neponset.org. NepRWA can also provide directions to scenic areas and maps of the Watershed.

Plein air art is made outdoors to take advantage of the special lighting and the feel of the environment. Artists finish all or most of their renderings outdoors, onsite. English landscape painter John Constable did *plein air* art, as did artists of Barbizon, France, who rebelled against the Industrial Revolution by painting the beauty of rural peasant life and manual labor. Manet and Monet and other Impressionists were also *plein air* artists.

