



### Job Announcement

#### Development Officer

The Development Officer leads NepRWA's efforts to acquire, maintain, cultivate and solicit individual donors, members and local businesses. S/he also assists with other fundraising activities. The successful candidate has a Bachelor's degree and 3-5 years of development experience, among other qualifications. The Development Officer reports to the Executive Director and works in close cooperation with other staff and Board Members. This is a permanent, part-time position. EEO/AA employer. Please see detailed job description at [www.neponset.org](http://www.neponset.org). For more information, contact Ian Cooke, Executive Director, 781-575-0354, [cooke@neponset.org](mailto:cooke@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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#### Staff

Ian Cooke, Executive Director  
Peter Chandonait, Env. Scientist  
Laura Hollowell, CWMN Assist.,  
Willett Pond Mgr.  
Kristina LaFrance, Admin. Assist.  
Steve Pearlman,  
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Laura Raymond, Develop. Dir.  
Carly Rocklen, Outreach Coord.

#### Benefactors

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Many thanks to NepRWA  
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2. a crucial turning point, 3. communities connected by water

### Water Conservation: A Hot Topic in State Government

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Joint House and Senate Natural Resources Committee are all involved in controversial proposals to change water conservation standards. NepRWA has been deeply involved in these controversies, as well.

The most contentious issue concerns conservation standards applicable to water suppliers. Last year, DEP issued a "Guidance" telling water suppliers that all groundwater withdrawal permit renewals would require that they ensure residential water consumption of no more than 65 gallons per person per day in moderate and highly stressed watersheds (80 gallons per day in other watersheds), and that they institute strong lawn-watering restrictions whenever summer streamflows get too low.

Many water suppliers reacted very negatively to this Guidance. DEP tried to accommodate them by allowing 5 years to come into full compliance and by also somewhat relaxing the outdoor watering standards. While NepRWA and other environmental groups opposed these changes, we also wanted to make sure

the Guidance wasn't scrapped entirely once the water suppliers went to Beacon Hill to try to do just that. Ian Cooke, Executive Director of NepRWA, was one of many who testified at the Legislative Hearing. He noted that DEP's requirements were easily achievable (2/3 of our communities are already down to 65 gallons of water per day per person or less) and absolutely essential to conserving groundwater supplies as well as maintaining adequate streamflows. The final resolution of this issue is unknown at this time.

DEP has also begun to address two other water conservation issues. DEP reconvened its Stormwater Advisory Committee in order to identify changes to its Stormwater Policy that would increase the amount of stormwater recharging groundwater. NepRWA is heavily involved in this process, with Steve Pearlman representing NepRWA at Committee meetings. DEP also recommended (with NepRWA's support) eliminating the requirement under Title V that bars septic



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### Help Bring the CPA to Quincy

*By Steve Perdios, Quincy Environmental Network*

The Quincy Environmental Network (QEN) wants your help to bring the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to Quincy.

The Community Preservation Act is a tool designed to help communities preserve open space and historic sites, and to create affordable housing. The CPA provides a funding source for addressing these three community goals.

A minimum of 10% of the annual revenues of the fund must be used for each of the three core community concerns: preservation of open space, preservation of historic sites, and creation of affordable housing. The remaining 70% can be allocated for any combination of the allowed uses, or for land for recreational use. This gives each community the opportunity to determine its priorities, plan for its future, and ensure it has the funds to make these plans happen.

A property tax surcharge of not more than 3%, based on the assessed value of the home and property, would account for the local share generation of the CPA funding source. The state would then match this amount raised up to 100%.

This legislation is a great way for communities to preserve open space and improve their residents' quality of life while getting the

State to pay for up to half of each project. If Quincy were to adopt the CPA, Neponset lands could also be positively affected. Several parcels along the Neponset River in Quincy are in jeopardy of development. Without a funding source to purchase some of this land, it is unlikely they will remain beautiful gems in the future.

A local ballot question must be passed in order to enact the CPA. After not gaining enough support from the City Council to put the CPA on the ballot for this November, QEN is looking towards the November 2006 election. They are looking for a 1% property tax increase which would amount to \$26 per average home (first \$100,000 value of the home exempted), with exemptions for low-income home owners and low- to moderate-income retired home owners. Much work lies ahead to get the CPA on the ballot and successfully accepted by voters. However, the benefits of bringing the CPA to Quincy would be remarkable.

To assist in the Quincy CPA effort, contact Steve Perdios: (617) 877-5975, [admin@qenet.org](mailto:admin@qenet.org). To learn more about the CPA, visit [www.communitypreservation.org](http://www.communitypreservation.org).

*QEN strives to coordinate and encourage the efforts of those who are concerned about, or have a responsibility to, the environment, in order to advocate for its protection and restoration. [www.qenet.org](http://www.qenet.org).*

## Fall Fest Festivities

More than 125 people came together on a recent Friday evening to support NepRWA and to celebrate. Together, we bid on a remarkable variety of items, enjoyed the music of the Nite Flight Jazz Ensemble, and shared a delicious

dinner—all to raise money for NepRWA's environmental work. Old friends and new, young people and old, from around the Watershed, attended. NepRWA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped to produce Fall Fest.

Thank you for donating auction items, funds, and brainpower, and for attending! You helped us raise \$10,000. We'd also like to extend a special thank you to the NepRWA friends listed below, for their hard work on Fall Fest and generosity.



Photo Credit: Thomas Palmer & Carol Stocker

### Fall Fest Planning Committee

Christine Grady, Chair  
Jayne DiCandio  
Pete Jackson  
Pam Kane  
Mary Keally  
Taber Keally  
Paul Lauenstein  
Kathy Roth  
Karen Tracey

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Dr. Nicholas & Mrs. Thalia Zervas

### Volunteers

Alex Budnitz, invitation graphic  
design  
Christine Meimarides, publicity  
Douglas Holdridge, software  
management

### Donor Businesses

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Martha Curtis,  
Steven & Nancy Davis  
Paula Delafflor  
Jayne DiCandio

## H<sub>2</sub>O Conservation: Hot Topic, from Page 1

system owners from repairing a septic system if sewers are nearby. Properly functioning septic systems recharge groundwater with filtered wastewater, rather than sending the wastewater outside the watershed (most commonly, to Boston Harbor), as sewers do.

Finally, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has proposed an update in state Water Conservation Standards, including, for the first time, standards applicable to lawn and landscape watering. The proposed Standards include the 65 gallons per person per day rule for residential water use that is subject to so much controversy at DEP (see above). While the proposed Standards are not mandatory, they do set targets that create the basis for regulations adopted by agencies like DEP. Again, NepRWA testified at public hearings about the proposed changes, which we generally support.

## RiverArt

From watercolors to oil paints, photography to outdoor environmental art installations, this year's *RiverArt: Plein Air Art of the Neponset* juried art sale & exhibit offered up remarkable sights and new interpretations of the Neponset Watershed landscape. The RiverArt event is annually sponsored by NepRWA and the Forbes House Museum of Milton.

This year's subject matter ranged from the stone walls of old forts to busy streets, from farm markets to the Neponset salt marsh. All of the artwork was made outdoors, enabling artists to take advantage of special lighting on the landscape.

We would like to thank the following businesses for generously donating RiverArt prizes to the winning artists: The Camera Company of Norwood; Boston Frame Works of Canton, Mashpee, Boston & Cambridge; Corners of Norwood & North Attleboro; Frame-It Studio & Gallery of Milton & Plymouth; and The Village Gallery of Canton.

Please visit [www.neponset.org/RiverArt.htm](http://www.neponset.org/RiverArt.htm) to learn who this year's RiverArt winners are. We hope you'll join us, next year!

## Reduce Toxic Chemical Use

*By Leise Jones, Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow*

The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow is a statewide coalition of over 150 organizations, including Clean Water Action, MassPIRG and the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, working together to protect human health from toxic hazards.

Scientific evidence increasingly links toxic chemicals with an epidemic of diseases and disorders, including asthma, cancers, learning disabilities, birth defects, Parkinson's disease and others. People are exposed to toxic chemicals through cleaning products in our homes and workplaces, cosmetics on our skin and hair, carpeting and furniture in our homes, and a variety of other sources. These chemicals are widespread in our air, water, food, schools, workplaces, everyday use products and in our bodies.

Replacing toxic chemicals with safer alternatives is an easy and effective way to protect our health and environment. Fewer chemicals in household products will result in fewer chemicals washed down the drain and into the environment.

AHT supports legislation that calls for companies to use safer alternative for toxic chemicals. To learn more, contact Leise Jones: at 617-338-8131 or visit [www.healthytomorrow.org](http://www.healthytomorrow.org).

## It's Prime Time to Get Active with NepRWA!



### Volunteer with CWMN

NepRWA is looking for volunteers to sample streams for the Citizen Water Monitoring Network (CWMN) program. Volunteers are needed to take water samples at: Mine Brook on Nebo St. in Medfield, on the Neponset River at South

St. in Walpole, and at School Meadow Brook at Pine St. in Walpole. Volunteers sample between 6AM and 8AM on the fourth Wednesday, every other month. Please contact Peter Chandonait to learn more: 781-575-0354, [chandonait@neponset.org](mailto:chandonait@neponset.org).



### Uncover Dams!

NepRWA needs your help to update the Commonwealth's database of dams and stream-crossings in the Neponset River Watershed.

Help us investigate where local dams are and what shape they're in. Your volunteer work will bring us one step closer to restoring the health of the Neponset River and its tributaries!

Due to our Watershed's long history of human use, some dam sites are still unknown to the State. Such dams may have been overlooked by officials. Many local dams no longer serve their original purpose, and in fact stand as a barrier to wildlife and human movement. Because of the age of many of these dams, they are also a potential hazard to public safety and to the built environment.

NepRWA is asking volunteers to walk a specified length of stream, keeping an eye out for dams, and complete a questionnaire about the site. Volunteers already have discovered unlisted dams. There are more out there; help us find them!

To learn more about being a Dam Assessment Volunteer, contact Andy: (781) 575-0354, [leahy@neponset.org](mailto:leahy@neponset.org).

### We've Moved!

On August 25, NepRWA moved to 2173 Washington St., Canton, MA 02021, from 490 Chapman St., Ste. One-B, Canton. However, all of our contact information remains the same.

*Please visit.*