



NSRWA
www.nsrwa.org

April 2013

RiverWatch

THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.
Protecting And Restoring The Rivers Since 1970

Stream Restoration and Fish Passage Programs Move Ahead



YMCA Mill Pond dam breach.



Fish ladder at Old Oaken Bucket Pond.

- **Norwell and Hanover Conservation Commissions Take Up Mill Pond Dam Removal**
- **Two New State Grants Support Improved Fish Passage in 1st Herring Brook**
- **Chandler Pond Dam Owner Begins Pond Drawdown**

Step by important, measurable step, our goal of restoring more natural flows and free fish passage along most of the North and South Rivers and

their tributaries is coming closer. February and March were very busy working on these issues. *See pages 3-5.*

THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

The mission of the North & South Rivers Watershed Association is to preserve, restore, maintain and conserve in their natural state, the waters and related natural resources within the watershed.

Our goals are to:

- Restore the water quality of the rivers by identifying and correcting adverse impacts;*
- Encourage stewardship of the watershed through public education, outreach and recreation programs; and*
- Promote responsible growth by working in partnerships to preserve open space, scenic vistas and sensitive natural resources.*

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Letter from the President

As I write this letter it is late February and recovery from the blizzard of 2013 is ongoing. Mother Nature sent us a powerful reminder of how destructive she can be. I hope for all of you reading this that the cold and the damages are already fading memories, and that Spring is finally in the air. But who among us did not pause to reflect on the tenuous and transient nature of our footprint on the natural world? Infrastructure that we depend on (and take for granted) was revealed to be highly fallible. The power and communications outages this winter were a dramatic example of this. However other instances of failing and decrepit structures are not as obvious; i.e. the numerous obsolete dams on our waterways. In over 300 years not one dam that has outlived its industrial purpose has ever been removed in our watershed.

So it is with great optimism and excitement that we view 2013 as the year when this can change. The potential removal of the YMCA's Mill Pond Dam on the Third Herring Brook is currently before the Conservation Commissions of Norwell and Hanover, who must approve any alteration of wetland areas. Late last year a waiver was obtained from the state allowing the permitting process to proceed to the local level. Thank you for the enthusiastic response of so many of you in communicating your support to the state last year and to the Conservation Commissions this February and March. It has taken many years of incremental steps to reach this point, and we believe the goal of a fully restored Third Herring Brook will be one giant step closer by years end.

We are also hopeful that our goal of having shellfishing beds open year-round will be another step closer this year by opening three months earlier -- by September 1st rather than December 1st. This has been over ten years in the making and it is a testament to the long term stability of the NSRWA that projects of this duration are able to come to fruition. This stability



is the direct result of the interest and commitment of you, our members. Your support makes possible the work that is necessary to achieve these wonderful and tangible results that directly benefit our communities and our environment.

We have a great roster of activities planned for this year and many chances for you to participate in being out on our rivers! I hope you can join us to enjoy all that your generous support has made possible. See you on the rivers!

Sincerely,

Craig Hannafin, NSRWA Board President

Thank you to New or Renewing River Guardian Circle Members

River Guardian Circle members are our most generous, making donations of \$500 or more. Their generosity is the foundation for making the NSRWA a strong and effective voice.

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David & Lynn DeGhetto
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Organziations & Businesses

Black Pond Veterinary Service
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Dancing Crow Yoga
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Third Herring Brook

The Conservation Commissions of Norwell and Hanover opened hearings the week of February 19 on the YMCA's request to remove the Mill Pond Dam. Thank you to so many of our Norwell and Hanover members who came to the hearing or signed our letter supporting the Y's request.

We anticipate Commission permits will be issued by the time you receive this newsletter, and that removal will be achieved by the end of the year. This would be the first dam in our watershed to be removed EVER! I hope we can all soon share the excitement of this historic event.

The hearings that began in February are critical steps in the dam removal process. The Conservation Commissions are required by state and local law to assure that any "alteration" of a wetland is conducted in a way that will protect various specific wetland values, and removing a dam, of course, alters the wetlands at its location.

We hope we established for the Commissioners at the hearings that the removal of this dam – and restoring streamflow in general – will result in substantial net benefits to the overall wetlands values that they are required to protect.

As we go to press, the dam downstream of Mill Pond dam at Tack Factory Pond on the Third Herring Brook owned the Cardinal Cushing Centers is also under discussion for removal. The Cardinal Cushing Centers is hosting an informational meeting on April 3, to provide information on the condition of their dam to the public, abutters to the Tack Factory pond, legislators and others. The NSRWA has engaged state and federal agency technical and financial support to help the Cardinal Cushing Centers with this process. The NSRWA and its partners continue to seek funding for Cardinal Cushing Centers to conduct the design, permitting and engineering phases. To date we have leveraged \$40,000 towards those next steps.



Mill Pond Impoundment in August 2012 - after dam partially breaches.



What 3rd Herring Brook will look like after the Mill Pond Dam removal is complete.

First Herring Brook

We were gratified to count last fall the first herring to return to First Herring Brook in memory – but they were few, and only managed the fish ladders at Scituate's lower reservoir dam at Old Oaken Bucket with difficulty.

The dams on First Herring Brook are necessary for Scituate's water supply and will not be removed, but we envision that with continued improvements to management of Scituate's water supplies and with improvements to fish ladders, the herring run will extend up past the second dam at the reservoir, thus restoring herring to over 60 acres of spawning habitat.

Two important state grants were announced this winter that will help repair the fish ladders at Old Oaken Bucket Dam, further engineering to determine how to get the fish up to (and out of) the reservoir, and increase awareness of Scituate's irrigation restrictions begun in 2012 in order to provide adequate flows over

the fish ladders.

The Division of Ecological Restoration provided an \$8,000 grant to continue the NSRWA's community education efforts for the project. This grant will provide funding for an analysis of the water savings by customer from the watering restriction put in place two summers ago, and allow us to install two educational interpretive signs – one at the new Grist Mill Park located on the First Herring Brook and the other to provide real time information on the First Herring Brook streamflow conditions and Scituate's water demand.

The second grant is from the Department of Environmental Protection for \$60,000 and will pay for upgrades to the Old Oaken Bucket Pond Fish ladder and to determine the feasibility of modifying the level of the upstream reservoir to enable the fish ladder to work during the fall outmigration of the herring.

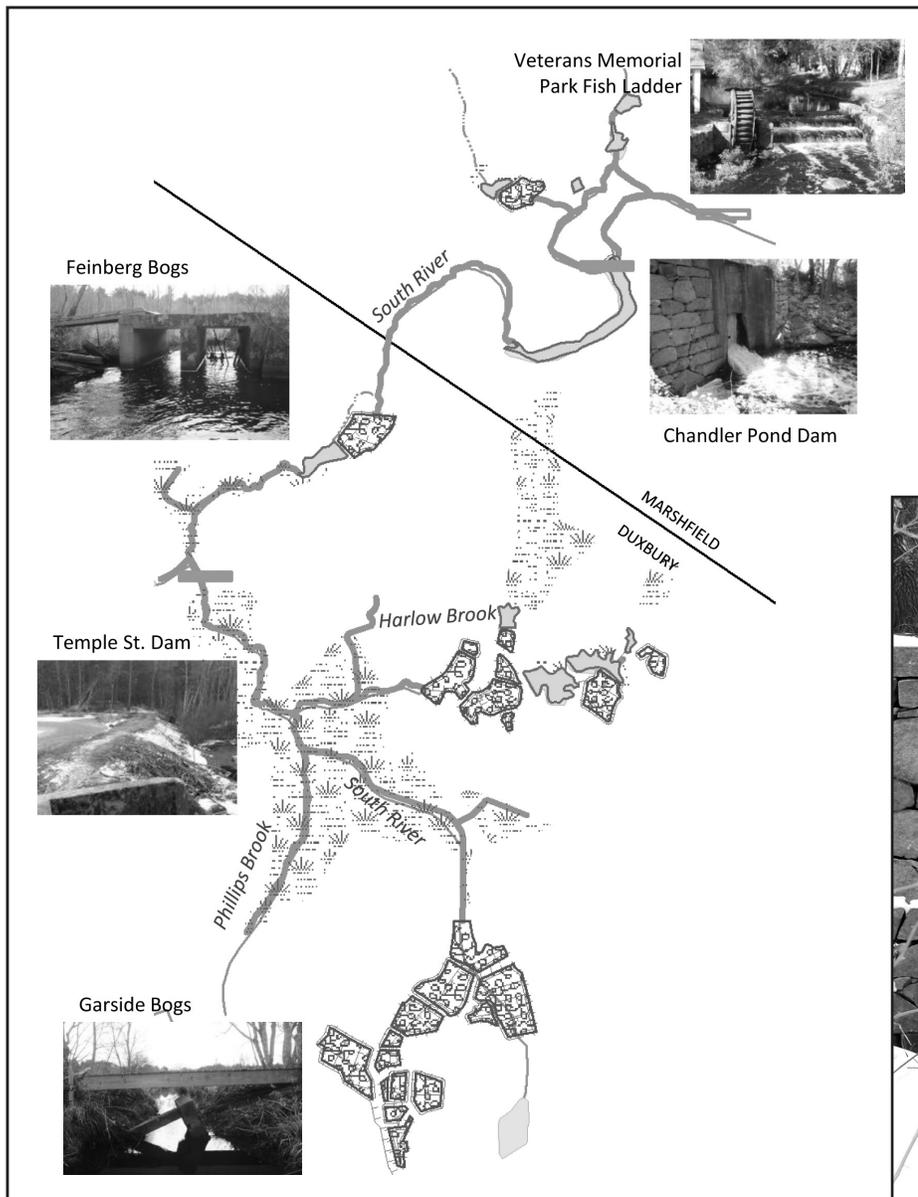
Chandler Pond and South River

The Chandler Pond Dam is the largest obstruction to free flows and fish passage in the South River along a 7 mile stretch from Marshfield's Veteran's Park fish ladder to the Old Garside Bogs upstream in Duxbury. Drawing down the pond will involve slow removal of the flashboards from the dam spillway. The dam owner after completing an engineering study found the dam to be in very poor condition; concerned with the safety of the structure the owner decided to relieve pressure on the 96 year old dam and reduce his liability by drawing down the pond levels.

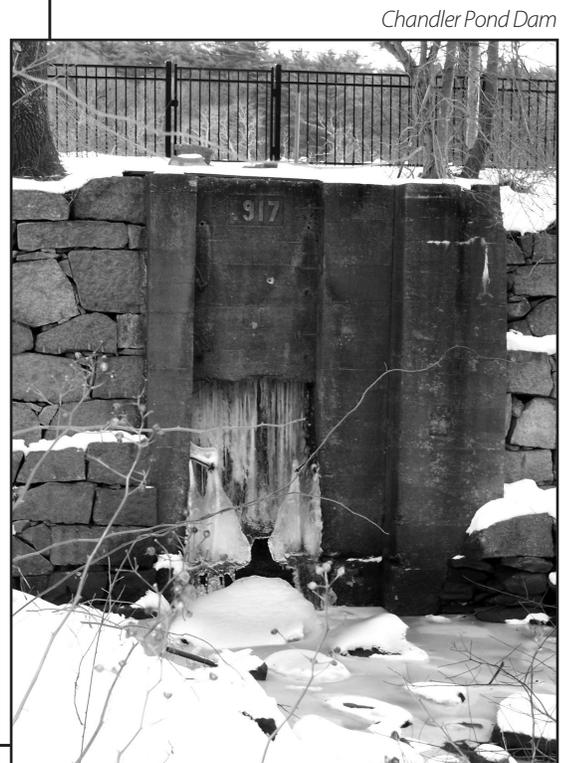
After initial meetings with this dam owner in 2012, the Association sponsored a neighborhood meeting of those who live near Chandler Pond and invited river restoration experts from the Division of Ecological Restoration to present information on dams, their liabilities to dam owners, the impacts

on river ecosystems and the process of removing dams and restoring rivers. At that time the dam owner offered to sell the dam for \$1 to the neighbors, but no offers were made.

Our Association is working with the dam owner to obtain funding for a feasibility study that would not only assess the potential removal of the dam, but also improve the operations of the Veteran's Park fish ladder and work with the Town of Duxbury, who wishes to restore the ecological integrity of the South River, to remove several obstructions upstream of Chandler Pond. These include the Temple Street dam as well as remove some old water control structures in cranberry bogs that are now owned by the Town of Duxbury.



Map of South River Fish Passage Impediments



Chandler Pond Dam

Additional 2013 Program Goals

In addition to the stream restoration projects discussed in this newsletter's lead article, the Association's work this year includes a series of varied other program goals:

Trails and Greenways

- The Association hopes that someday a **Third Herring Brook Trail** will connect the NSRWA office with the YMCA and the South Shore Natural Science. Our goals for 2013 are to begin discussions with stakeholders, and if the Hanover Mall (which owns critical property) is willing, to seek funding for a pedestrian bridge over the brook. Clearing the trail path itself, if the brook crossing is achieved, could be done as a volunteer project cooperatively with the YMCA and the Science Center.



Removing Japanese Knotweed in South River Park.

- The **South River Park** in Marshfield was opened last fall, but work continues and the larger vision of a **greenway and loop trail** along both sides of the river will take years to complete. Our goals for 2013 are to install new interpretive signs and continue with Japanese Knotweed removal at the park; and to work with the Wildlands Trust to gain public access permission from riparian owners along the river in downtown Marshfield. We hope the Marshfield Open Space Committee will take on the project with us, and adopt a detailed plan for completing the greenway and trail.

Fifth Grade School Programs and Public Education

- Bring in new communities that are not regulars, such as Duxbury and Rockland
- Develop new stormwater education materials

Shellfish Reef Restoration and Gardening

- It was an important milestone two years ago when the Division of Marine Fisheries reopened the South River shellfish beds after decades of pollution. We look forward this year to the shellfish season being extended from a December 1 opening back to September 1.

And our Association looks forward to pursuing other approaches to expanding shellfish populations and shellfishing opportunities.

During 2013, our goals are to seek an intern to complete an assessment of the North and South Rivers estuaries for potential sites for restoration of shellfish reef habitat (oysters and mussels) and the feasibility of growing shellfish suspended in the water column for the purpose of filtering and reducing pollution in the water column. Part of the intern's work would investigate how and if the laws that govern the propagation of shellfish in Massachusetts could be met in order to implement such a project.



Clams harvested from the South River.

Annual Report

2012



TREASURER'S REPORT

The year 2012 saw a continued stabilization of the financial health of your organization, given that we did not have any matching challenges as we had in 2010. We overcame a projected \$25,000 shortfall in our budget and ended with a small net income by year's end. This was not the result of just one factor or event, but many, including unexpected income as well as a decline in some projected expense items. We do face some uncertainty as we progress into 2013. Government funding, always an uncertainty, is even more so in 2013. We rely on this funding to provide for our scientist as well as our restoration budget items.

We are pleased to announce that the value of our endowment fund exceeded \$92,000 in early March 2013. We began this fund in December 2008 with \$62,776 and in just over four years it has grown to just over \$92,000. Our fund has grown in a number of ways. Memorial gifts of cash have increased the fund. In addition, we were left a bequest from an IRA of a late member and we also received a gift of appreciated stock from a current member. The fund's shares have increased in value and, rather than take income at this time, we continue to reinvest dividends and capital gains back into the fund in order to grow the fund even more.

The qualified charitable distribution provision from a traditional IRA has been extended to 2013. This means that an individual who is at least age 70 1/2 and taking required minimum distributions from their IRA can exclude from gross income up to \$100,000 that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. This qualified charitable distribution can be used to satisfy any IRA required minimum distributions for the year. Such qualified charitable dis-

tributions cannot also be taken as a charitable deduction.

Also in March, as a result of an earlier vote by the board of directors, the NSRWA has established a retirement plan for our staff of four. The unanimous feeling was that this was the right and fair course to take. The NSRWA will match 3% of each employee's salary, although each employee may contribute more than 3%. The success of the organization's mission is due in

no small part to the dedication and efforts of all of our staff and the board recognized this.

Finally, the board of directors and the staff are grateful for all of the financial support, both large and small, from the members who support our mission to preserve, restore and conserve in their natural state, the waters and related natural resources within the watershed.

by Richard Leach, Treasurer

NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION Statement of Financial Position

Balance Sheet

	2012*	2011	2010
Total Assets	\$ 511,074	\$ 513,300	\$ 501,532
Total Liabilities	\$ 7,052	\$ 16,230	\$ 9,795
Net Assets	\$ 413,975	\$ 413,974	\$ 411,534
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 511,074	\$ 513,300	\$ 501,532

Statement of Activities

	2012*	2011	2010
Revenues			
Restricted Grants	\$ 184,041	\$ 175,794	\$ 196,056
Donations (Restricted and Unrestricted)	\$ 97,011	\$ 105,316	\$ 108,160
Program/Events	\$ 29,588	\$ 29,912	\$ 26,815
All Other	\$ 12,789	\$ 13,316	\$ 14,626
Total Revenue	\$ 323,430	\$ 324,338	\$ 345,657
Expenses			
Payroll	\$ 198,869	\$ 201,725	\$ 213,094
Contract and Professional Services	\$ 67,478	\$ 48,030	\$ 36,285
Occupancy and Utilities	\$ 9,419	\$ 11,252	\$ 9,236
Printing and Postage	\$ 13,564	\$ 18,916	\$ 16,822
All Other	\$ 34,083	\$ 43,556	\$ 44,738
Total Expenses	\$ 323,413	\$ 323,479	\$ 320,174
Net Revenues	\$ 17	\$ 859	\$ 25,482

*2012 Not reviewed by Account

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Billington Sea Kayak
Black Pond Veterinary Service, Inc
Bond Printing
CMC Associates
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Dancing Crow Yoga
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First Parish in Cohasset
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Mill Wharf Restaurant
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Rice, Heard, & Bigelow
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Massachusetts Environmental Trust
Island Foundation
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Massachusetts Department of Ecological Restoration
Sheehan Family Foundation
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Town of Scituate
Town of Norwell
Town of Hanover
Town of Pembroke

Town of Kingston
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WALK SERIES

Exploring New or Improved Conservation Areas in the Watershed

*These walks are free for NSRWA members, \$5 for non-members.
 Pre-registration is required – go to nsrwa.org to sign up.
 More walks to come in the fall so stay tuned!*

Cornhill Woodlands Walk in Marshfield Sunday May 19 at 1 pm

Join NSRWA Director Samantha Woods for a walk through the Cornhill Woodlands off of Union Street in Marshfield. The parcel has been improved with new boardwalks that have been installed with funds from a private donation.

River Walk at the Goggin Property in Marshfield Sunday, June 16th at 1 pm

Join us for a walk to the North River led by Community Preservation chairman, Tom Whalen, who was instrumental in acquiring this outstanding property. The walk is through the Little property then the adjacent Goggin parcel that ends at the river with access to a dock to take in the panoramic views.

NEW SUMMER PROGRAM

Science Fridays in the Shed – Explore your rivers!

Join NSRWA's science staff for a morning of local ecological exploration and science. This two hour program is designed to introduce all ages to the different habitats and ecology within our own North and South Rivers Watershed. Participants will be actively engaged in collecting field data using scientific sampling gear to analyze water quality and identify plants and animals unique to these habitats.

Pre-registration is required – sign up on line at nsrwa.org. This program is limited to 10 participants. The cost to participate is \$10 for nonmembers, \$5 for members per person – kids under 12 are free.

*Friday, July 12 10 am – 12 pm
 Tidepooling and Barrier Beach Geology - The Spit, Scituate*

*Friday, July 28: 10 – 12 pm
 Salt Marsh Ecology Exploration – Corn Hill Lane, Marshfield*

*Friday, August 2: - 10 am – 12 pm
 Freshwater Tributaries – Second Herring Brook Norris Reservation*

*Friday, August 23: 10 am – 12 pm
 Freshwater Tidal Exploration – Hanover Canoe Launch, Hanover*

Paddling Opportunities for Members!

More information and event registration can be found at nsrwa.org.

Price includes kayak and equipment. All paddles require membership in the NSRWA.

Children 8 – 14 are welcome when accompanied with an adult. Kayak paddles are in partnership with Coastal Kayak Educators.

KAYAKING ON THE RIVERS

Learn To Kayak (Adults & Children 8+)

@ Union St.

Sunday, July 14 – 5:15-7:45pm

Saturday, August 10 – 3:00-5:30

Intro to Kayak is a single day course on the North River emphasizing safety with the goal to provide paddlers with the basic knowledge needed to become a successful paddler.

Cost per paddler: \$50 (includes all kayaking equipment) and \$75 for non-members (includes NSRWA membership)

Intermediate Skills Session (Adults 18+)

@ Union St.

Saturday, July 13 – 2:30-5:30

Saturday, July 27 – 3:00-6:00

Learn advanced boat maneuvering, rescues, and build paddling endurance.

Cost per paddler: \$60 (includes all kayaking equipment) and \$85 for non-members (includes NSRWA membership)

Scenic Tours (Adults & Children 8+)

@ Union St.

Saturday, June 8 – 12:00-2:00pm

Saturday, June 29 – 6:00-8:00

Sunday, July 28 – 5:30-7:30

Our 2-hour Scenic Tour is recommended for kayakers with some experience.

Cost per paddler: \$50 (includes all kayaking equipment) and \$75 for non-members (includes NSRWA membership)

SCENIC RIVER TOURS AND OTHER FUN

Historic North River Tour (Adults & Children 8+)

@ Union St.

Sun. July 21 – 9 am - 1 pm • Sat. Aug. 24 – 2-6pm

Enjoy a leisurely 8.5 mile excursion featuring the cultural and natural history of the North River. Learn about the North River's role in the lives of Native Americans, colonial shipbuilders, the industrial revolution, and the modern day era and will examine how its ecology has changed throughout time. *Cost per paddler: \$70 (includes all kayaking equipment) and \$95 for non-members (includes NSRWA membership).*

Stand Up Paddle Board Instruction

Mondays, June 17, July 1, July 15, July 29

Join our partners at Luminate for a 1.5 hour group Stand Up Paddle lesson on the South River. Participants meet at 5:45 pm at Luminate for outfitting. *\$35 for members, \$60 for non-members (includes membership) all equipment included.*

Great River Race

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 20th • 10am

Fun for the whole family! Join us for this annual 7.5 mile paddling event on the North River. Registration and more details will be available on our website www.nsrwa.org in late May.

2013 Wampanoag Canoe Passage FUNDRAISER



Saturday, June 22

9am send-off at the Driftway Park, Scituate

Be a Part of Peter Kelly-Detwiler
and Nik Tyack's 72-mile Paddle
Benefiting the NSRWA

Donate
• Celebrate •
Join In

Make a donation to help preserve and protect our rivers. Donors are invited to join us in the first 12.5 mile leg of the paddle on the North River and come to a celebratory party afterwards. To donate or to get more details visit www.nsrwa.org or call (781)-659-8168.



RiverWatch

THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 43 NORWELL, MA 02061
www.nsrwa.org • 781-659-8168

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- Annual Report 2012
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Fly Fishing – 2-part Series

Wednesday, April 24 at 7 pm

Presentation: Fly Fishing for the American Shad on the Indian Head River

*Joe Danubio, fly fishing expert and author
At the NSRWA office 214 South St Norwell
Pre-registration is required, space is limited.*

Cost is \$30 for members, \$65 for nonmembers (includes membership).

This presentation by Joe Danubio, author of “The Complex Mind of an Ordinary Fly Fishermen” is a preparation for the April 28th hands-on fly fishing event at Luddam’s Ford Park in Hanover. Joe will provide insights into American shad fly fishing techniques on the Indian Head River, as well as a history of the river, industrial impacts to it and efforts underway to restore rivers locally.

*Sunday, April 28 – 10 am
Fly Fishing for the American Shad*

with Joe Danubio at Luddam’s Ford Park in Hanover

In this hands on activity you will learn where and how to fish for the American shad in our river and conservation of the species. Participants should bring their own fly rod, fishing waders, and size 10 bead head brown pheasant tail nymph flies or size 10 bead head red or metallic blue copper john flies. Some rods and materials will be available.

NSRWA’s 26th Annual River Clean Up Day

*Saturday April 27, 2013 • 10 am – 12 noon
Celebratory Cookout 12 pm at the Driftway
Sponsored by Covanta Energy and Whole Foods Market
Visit www.nsrwa.org for full details*

June 15 - September 14

Yoga at the River’s Edge

Saturday mornings at different locations along the rivers, 8:30-10am. For locations visit nsrwa.org or “like” us on Facebook (Yoga at the River’s Edge). Contact yogariversedge@verizon.net to receive weekly emails. \$10 per person for NSRWA members, \$15 non-members. No registration is required.

Saturday May 11 - 7am

Clamming with the NSRWA on the South River

Harvest clams before the shellfish beds close on June 1. Participants will be taken by boat to the beds. This event is free but Scituate shellfishing permit required. Register online at nsrwa.org