



April 2015

RiverWatch

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

The Wampanoag Canoe Passage

*Paddling 72 miles to raise awareness of how we have degraded our rivers
and to raise funds to help bring them back to life!*

by Peter Kelly-Detwiler, NSRWA Board President

I still have the yellowed mimeographed sheet labeled “Canoe Trip,” with the directions for Boy Scout Troop 66 of Norwell’s two-day trip in the 1970’s on the Wampanoag Canoe Passage: “Put in the North River where Route 53 crosses over it at 7:00 AM Saturday morning... Take out of Taunton River at 5:00 PM Sunday at a bridge to be announced... Each canoe must have one pruning hook or pruning cutters for cutting through overgrown brooks... This trip is a high adventure. It is a historic trail older than the Pilgrims coming to this area. It has not been done in recent years. We will be pioneering it anew in many ways... Look forward to this outing as a significant experience in your young lives.”

And so it was. I still remember it fairly well, the mud and the lamprey eels, the floating dead pig on the headwaters of the Taunton River, the poison ivy and the portages. It was a significant experience, and continues to be so in my no-longer-so-young life.

The Passage has existed for eons and is in some ways timeless, like the rivers themselves. But like the rivers, it has been changed by the hand of man. Paddle the Passage, and you see the changes:

The most obvious are the dams and bridges blocking and impeding passage, ours and fish, and the plastic water bottles floating in the Taunton River, caught up against the snags.

Less obvious is change to the hydrology itself. There simply seems to be less water – except during rainy periods. In the old days, I distinctly remember being able to push canoes up streams which on the last two trips have been almost dry. We see it in our own tributaries - streamflows depleted from water withdrawals, particularly in the summer time. And more impervious surfaces – roofs, parking lots, and roads – mean that when it rains, less water is absorbed into the ground, to be released slowly over time in a regulated flow, which would otherwise keep streams at higher levels.

NSRWA’s mission is to reverse such unfortunate

continued, next page



Peter and friends traversing the Wampanoag Canoe Passage.



High and dry! Hauling canoes where there should be water.

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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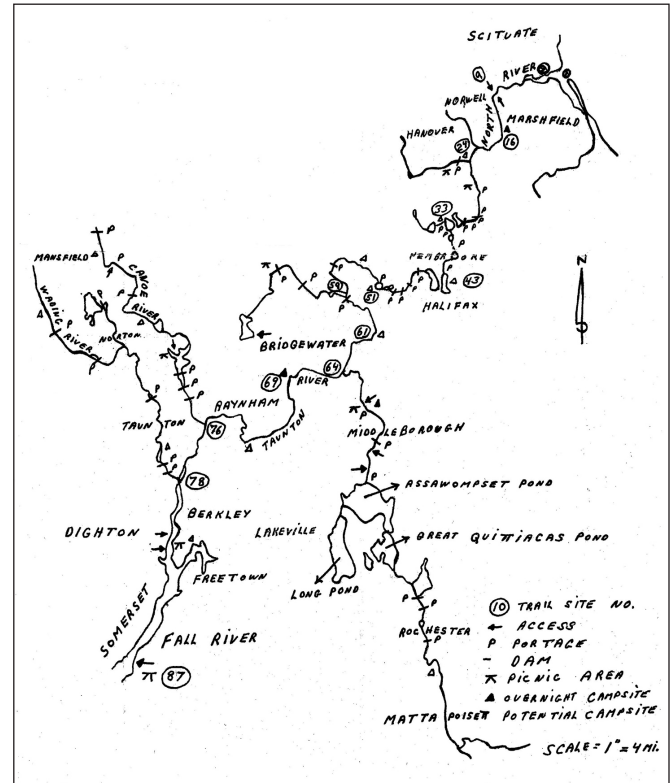
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trends, with diligence, science, and a dedicated group of people who care. The recent removal of the Mill Pond dam is proof it can be done, as is the work we have done with Scituate to lessen their water withdrawal impacts on streamflow and thus the species that depend upon it.

This summer, friends and I will undertake this 72-mile trip for a third time in five years - as a fundraiser for NSRWA. We will start our sojourn on June 25th, leaving from the Driftway in Scituate, preceded by a big kick-off fundraising party on June 20th (watch for it!). We do this to celebrate the natural world around us, honor the heritage of the people who have walked (or paddled) before us, and raise funds to restore some of what we have lost in these ancient waterways. If you are an adventurer and want to join us for all or a leg of the paddle please contact our office. To make a donation in support the NSRWA's Wampanoag Canoe Trail Passage to Restore Our Rivers please visit nsrwa.org and link to my fundraising page.



Map of the Wampanoag Canoe Trail Passage

New Legacy Circle Recognizes Those Who Provide for NSRWA in their Estate Plans

Join through 2015 and be recognized as a Founding Member

To help assure that NSRWA will be strong and effective into the future, a first group of benefactors is leaving bequests to our Association in their wills. These generous individuals will be recognized as Legacy Circle Founding Members:

*Herb and Pauline Emilson
Betsey and Robert Detwiler
Peter and Julie Kelly-Detwiler
Craig and Danny Hannafin
Richard and Jackie Leach
Michael and Susan Wolfe*

We encourage other members to consider leaving bequests to NSRWA, and those who do so through 2015 will forever be recognized as Legacy Circle Founding Members. Please contact Samantha Woods at 781-659-8168.

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. Below are those who joined or rejoined since December 2014. Thank you!

Individuals

Cynthia Bayley
William Earley
Peter & Roberta Fairbanks
James Hughes
Margaret Kearns
Margery & Allan Parker
Richard Sheffield
Carol Sullivan
Peter & Katherine Tedeschi
Brian & Kathy Tedeschi
Gary & Cindy Lou Thomas
Peter & Paula Tyack

Businesses

Covanta Energy
Massachusetts Bankers Association
North River Gardeners

2014 Year in Review and 2015 Major Priorities

Education and Outreach

In 2014, more than 3,000 South Shore 5th graders learned about conserving their local water resources through our in-school “Water All Around You” program. We welcomed Duxbury and Rockland to the program. We have now passed the milestone of 15,000 kids in our program.

We have steadily expanded the number and variety of our scenic and historic walks and paddles, and in 2012 we initiated a “River Science Exploration Fridays” - formerly known as “Science Fridays in the Shed.” Targeted to kids and families, this has been oversubscribed from the start.



Students and parents learn about groundwater in our Water All Around You program in Hingham.

Introducing Pontoon Boat Eco-Tours in 2015

Recently, Paul and Netta Vercollone donated a pontoon boat to our Association, adding a whole new dimension to the excursions we can offer in 2015 and beyond.

Our staff, board members, and outside experts have been drafting an Eco-Tour Plan for 2015 which will include these highlights:

- Tours are chartered for 2 hours, will have a licensed Captain, a guide or naturalist, are tide dependent and will run between May and October.
- We anticipate running two kinds of tours: one that exposes people to estuarine ecology and science collection, and the other focused more on the scenic and historic aspects of the North River.
- Financing operations is a challenge, and a base rate of \$50 to \$60 per person is currently proposed, with expectations that many trips will be subsidized. The boat will be available for charter with Captain and guide for up to 6 people.
- Some trips will be reserved for our members and donors, but most will be advertised with such partner organizations as Councils on Aging, Historical Societies, Church groups, and summer camp programs. Where possible, our emphasis will focus on getting kids and families out on the river!
- We will equip the boat with educational and scientific equipment to make the tours a learning experience for participants.
- A partnership has been agreed with Roht Marine that secures for us an exceptional and highly visible docking location, with food, restrooms, parking, and hauling and winter storage arrangements



Take a tour with us on the North River this summer! See page 11.

South River: Public Access and Flow Restoration

Focus during 2014 included continued management of Japanese Knotweed at the South River Park, and securing funding for design and engineering through Marshfield for a proposed canoe and kayak launch at the Keville Footbridge. But the most important achievements were securing state designation of the river as a “Priority Restoration Project,” and, through the efforts

of Representative Cantwell, inclusion in the 2014 Environmental Bond Bill of authorization of \$650,000 for removal of Temple Street and Chandler Pond Dams, and clearing cranberry bog sluiceways further upstream (see sidebar on “authorized” bond funds).

Priorities in 2015 will include: continued removal of Japanese Knotweed and installation of interpretive signage at South River Park; downstream construction of the kayak/canoe launch at

First Herring Brook: Reservoir Fish Access

Much has been achieved on IHB: Scituate water use has dropped substantially; flows have been better managed; herring for the first time have been counted above Old Oaken Bucket Dam; structural improvements to the fish ladder at the Old Oaken Bucket dam were completed; and plans have been detailed for the next major steps, raising the reservoir levels and improving the fish ladder exitway at Reservoir Dam.

While continued efforts are needed to conserve water in the system, the last infrastructure work required to allow herring to return to the upper Reservoir and increase the drought resiliency of the town’s water supply is raising of the reservoir by 1.5 ft. We were extremely pleased that last fall, along with the South River funds noted above, the Environmental Bond Bill also authorized \$1.3 million for this work in Scituate.



Old Oaken Bucket Fish Ladder

South River Greenway and Trail



Please vote yes on April 27th at Marshfield Town Meeting for the funding to construct a kayak/canoe launch at the Keville Foot Bridge and for improving trails and parking at the Pratt parcel.

the Keville Footbridge; and public access improvements for the recently acquired Pratt parcel. As a result of the Priority Habitat Restoration status granted in 2014, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration is completing a \$40,000 engineering study which examines feasibility of removing Chandler’s Pond dam. The results of that study should be forthcoming in the spring. Please stay tuned to our Rivernet emails to find out when the public meeting to hear those results will be held.

“Authorizing” bond funds vs. “Appropriating” operating funds

When the state legislature “appropriates” funds in a budget for operating expenses – to pay for salaries, supplies, and everything else in a fiscal year – those funds are expected to be spent.

“Authorized” bonds are different. A single bond bill might authorize funding for different projects many times higher than what funds can prudently be spent in a single year. Project proponents must compete annually to be included in the capital expenditures actually made. Such authorized expenditures will be spread out over many years – if they are ever made at all.

Securing release of the South River and IHB funds for restoration projects will be a major advocacy challenge over the next few years.

3rd Herring Brook: Dam Removal Work, Plus Water Management

The highlight of 2014 has to be final removal of the YMCA's Mill Pond Dam. This is the first dam EVER to be removed from the North and South River systems. We must continue to monitor and treat the Mill Pond site for invasive species.

In 2015, our next priority is removal of the Cardinal Cushing Center's Tack Factory dam. Permits have just been obtained from the Norwell and Hanover Conservation Commissions, and we will be pursuing with the Center during 2015 final design work and fundraising from a variety of sources – \$350,000 will be needed.

Discussions continue with the Hanover Mall to begin the process of removing its dam, and fish ladders at Jacob's Pond Dam remain a longer term goal.

But dam removal is only half the solution; fish passage also requires sufficient flow in the stream. So just as we worked with Scituate over the past decade to increase flows in 1st Herring Brook through a combination of water conservation and management of reservoir levels, NSRWA is pursuing a partnership with Norwell and Hanover to better manage their water withdrawals and water use to increase flows in 3HB. Norwell has applied for and just received a state grant to kick-start this partnership.



The newly formed channel on Third Herring Brook after removal of the YMCA's Mill Pond dam in October 2014.



Sara on the Mill Pond spillway.



Massachusetts Bays Program Partnership

The NSRWA is relatively small organization - our budget hovers around \$350,000 per year with 2 full time and 2 part time staff. We rely upon partnerships to move forward with our own mission and provide environmental leadership on the South Shore.

One of our strongest, longest-lived and most productive partnerships is with the US EPA's Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program. This partnership allows us to fund a full time ecologist on our staff - Sara Grady. Sara not only runs our own science programming, but she provides that expertise up and down the coast. She moves South Shore communities forward with addressing climate change, habitat restoration, and protection of our estuarine resources. The MassBays program is non-regulatory and provides the expertise needed to help our communities plan ahead, obtain funding, and integrate science into their communities' decision making process. We are grateful for their trust in us as a partner.

Please join the MassBays for a one-day symposium to look at the past, present, and future of the bays on April 15, 2015; from 8:30am to 3pm at the Cambridge Innovation Center - Boston, 50 Milk Street, Boston. Registration is required and is \$15 - to register visit the MassBays Program website.

Annual Report 2014



“The song of the river ends not at her banks but in the hearts of those who have loved her.”

Buffalo Joe

TREASURER'S REPORT

The year 2014 was an excellent year for the NSRWA financially, in no small part due to the support of our membership, which continues to grow. We had a surplus of income over expenses which allows us to pursue further outreach and education regarding the watershed. For example, last year we were able to fund the redesign of our website, making it more user friendly and up to modern technological standards.

The value of our endowment fund as of the end of 2014 was \$ 118,263 and we plan to use \$10,000 of our 2014 surplus to invest in the fund. We began this fund in December 2008, a time of great volatility in the financial markets, with \$62,776. With this additional \$10,000, our fund will have almost doubled in value in just over six years. The value at the end of 2013 was \$104,152 and increased by almost \$14,000 by the end of 2014. Rather than take income at this time, we continue to reinvest dividends and capital gains in order to grow the endowment fund even more. Our endowment fund has also benefited by contributions of stock from members. The growth of this fund is essential for the long term future of the NSRWA.

Recently we were given a pontoon boat which we plan to utilize for education by taking people, who normally would not have access to do this, for tours on the rivers. This boat will allow us to increase our presence on the river. Also, this gift will be an opportunity for us to further achieve our goals and mission. We anticipate expanding our outreach staff this year to support of our educational programming on the rivers and we hope you will continue

to support us as generously as you can!

This April will mark the second anniversary of the implementation of a retirement plan for our staff of four. All of our staff have taken advantage of this benefit. The NSRWA matches 3% of each employee's salary, although each employee may contribute more than 3%. The dedication and efforts of our staff are an important reason for the success of our

mission.

The board of directors and 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. Thank you and hope we see you on the rivers!

by Richard Leach, Treasurer

NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Statement of Financial Position

	2014*	2013	2012
Balance Sheet			
Total Assets	\$ 579,041	\$ 582,891	\$ 511,012
Total Liabilities	\$ 14,718	\$ 32,559	\$ 7,569
Net Assets	\$ 445,800	\$ 421,180	\$ 413,975
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 579,041	\$ 582,891	\$ 511,074
Statement of Activities			
	2014*	2013	2012
Revenues			
Restricted Grants	\$ 186,191	\$ 206,537	\$ 180,039
Donations (Restricted and Unrestricted)	\$ 132,383	\$ 110,164	\$ 97,183
Program/Events	\$ 35,046	\$ 38,559	\$ 29,588
All Other	\$ 12,742	\$ 12,690	\$ 12,786
Total Revenue	\$ 366,362	\$ 367,950	\$ 319,597
Expenses			
Payroll	\$ 216,030	\$ 217,100	\$ 199,063
Contract and Professional Services	\$ 52,220	\$ 59,149	\$ 67,368
Occupancy and Utilities	\$ 9,746	\$ 13,944	\$ 9,419
Printing and Postage	\$ 17,087	\$ 14,964	\$ 13,478
All Other	\$ 43,236	\$ 55,157	\$ 33,606
Total Expenses	\$ 338,319	\$ 360,313	\$ 322,933
Net Revenues	\$ 28,043	\$ 7,637	\$ (3,337)
*2014 Not reviewed by Accountant			
Endowment Value	\$ 118,263	\$ 104,152	\$ 87,270

2014 NSRWA Members

Members in bold have supported the Association for 15 years or more.
 Their long term commitment keeps our Association strong and we want to recognize their long standing support of our rivers.

RIVER GUARDIANS 2014

River Guardians: **Foundations, Businesses & Partners \$2,500 +**

Eaglemere Foundation
 Island Foundation
 Massachusetts Bankers Assoc.
 Sylvester Fund
 Verc Enterprises

River Guardians \$2,500+ **Anonymous**

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Business River Guardians \$500 - \$2,499

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 Billington Sea Kayak
Black Pond Veterinary Service, Inc
Bond Printing
 Cavanaro Consulting
 Clean Harbors
 Covanta Energy
 Dancing Crow Yoga
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North River Gardeners
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 Smart Builders, Inc
 The Old Ship Church
 Whole Foods Market - Hingham

River Guardians \$500 - \$999

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Anne Duduch
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 Delaney Alden
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 Julian Anderson
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 Austin Beringer
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 Hailey Champagne
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In Memory of Mary Eliot

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Special Thanks to Our Host, Mill Wharf Restaurant, and Harvest Moon Vendors

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please forgive any errors or omissions

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Warren Winders
Jody Wood
John Zarella

NSRWA's Spring & Summer Events

Register and find more details online at nsrwa.org!

SAVE THE DATE!

NSRWA Sponsors 25th Annual

Great River Race

on Sunday, July 12th at 9am

Race Registration will be online in early June!

Yoga at the River's Edge

Saturdays 8:30 – 10 am • June 13 – September 12th

Different locations along the rivers.

\$10 pp NSRWA Members, \$15 non-members. No registration required.

Herring on the Run:

A Tour of Herring Runs in the Watershed

Sunday April 26, 1 – 4 pm

sponsored by the NSRWA and Mass Audubon's North River Sanctuary

Join us for a van tour of the local herring runs. Listen to enlivening stories depicting the history, science and social significance of herring runs and efforts to restore them. If we are lucky we might see some actual herring making their way upstream to spawn!

Van leaves from North River Wildlife Sanctuary. Cost is \$15 for non members and \$12 for members. Register online or call. Visit either MassAudubon.org or nsrwa.org.

FISHING AND CLAMMING EVENTS

Guided Fly Fishing Expedition on North River from the Spit

Saturday May 30th or Saturday June 13 (rain date: 6/14), 6-10am

Two opportunities for a guided 4-hour fly fishing expedition for Striped Bass at the Spit - the mouth of the North River! Have an experience of a lifetime fishing with those who know how to catch fish on the North River using fly fishing gear. You must have your own equipment including your own saltwater fly rod with an appropriate line and waders. Flies and leaders will be provided if necessary.

The cost is \$100 for non-members and \$75 for NSRWA members. Space is limited to 6 people per trip, includes boat ride to the Spit.

Clamming with the NSRWA on the North River

Sunday May 17th at 3pm or Saturday May 23 at 8am

Two opportunities to go clamming before the shellfish beds close on May 31. You will be transported by boat out to the flats and must have your own equipment and Scituate shellfishing permit.

Space is limited, pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10 for NSRWA members, \$15 for non-members and includes boat trip to sand flats.

NSRWA's Spring and Summer Events

Register and find more details online at nsrwa.org!

Discover the Nature & History of the North River: Guided Pontoon Boat Tours

2 hour charter for up to 6 leaving from Roht Marine/Includes professional captain and historic guide/naturalist. Cost is \$360 (includes 2 NSRWA memberships)/\$300 for members. For booking and more information please visit nsrwa.org. Customized charters are available.

TOUR #1 Historical Highlights of the North River

On this tour you will leisurely cruise the North River learning about its storied history. Discover the North River's importance to the Wampanoag people, its rich shipbuilding history and how the industrial revolution shaped our rivers and its ecology. This tour will explore upriver of Rt 3A.

TOUR #2 Discover the Nature of the North River

This tour is designed to explore the diverse estuarine portion of the North River from Rt 3A to the Spit and up the Herring River. Estuaries are one of the most ecologically rich environments and often referred to as the "nurseries of the sea." We will introduce you to how scientists collect information on water quality and explore the diverse habitats and animals that call our river home.

KAYAK ON THE RIVERS

(for Kids & Adults 8+)

Kayak Fundamentals

Cost per Member: \$55 (includes all kayaking equip.)

Non members: \$80 (includes NSRWA Membership)

Sat. May 16th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Sat. June 6th, 3:45-6:15 pm

Sat. July 18th, 2:30-4:00pm

Sun Aug. 30th, 12:00-2:30pm

Scenic Tour

Cost per Member: \$55 (includes all kayaking equip.)

Non members: \$80 (includes NSRWA Membership)

Sat. May 30th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Sun. June 14th, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Sun. July 5th, 2:30-5:00pm

Sat. Aug. 1st, 12:30-2:00pm

North River Historic Tour

This is a 4-hour tour.

Cost per Member: \$70 (includes all kayaking equip.)

Non members: \$95 (includes NSRWA Membership)

Sat. Aug. 15th, 12:30-4:30pm

River Science Exploration Friday

This program is designed to introduce children and their families to the different habitats and ecology within our own North and South Rivers. 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.

The cost to participate is \$10 for nonmembers and \$5 for members per person.

• **Friday July 10 - Freshwater Tributaries** 10am-12: Norris Reservation, Second Herring Brook, Norwell

• **Friday July 24 - Tidepooling & Barrier Beach Geology** 10am-12pm: The Spit, Scituate

• **Friday August 7 - Exploring North River Marshes** 10am-12: Messer Conservation Area, North River, Marshfield

• **Friday August 14 - Freshwater Tidal Exploration** 10am-12: Hanover Canoe Launch



NSRWA
nsrwa.org

NSRWA 2015 Walk Series

Exploring Historic Rail Trails in the Watershed

In the past the railroads were the dominant form of transportation, but as the age of the automobile took over rail corridors were abandoned. Many communities have made walking trails out these abandoned corridors. These old rail corridors connect communities, open spaces and rivers. Join us as we explore some of these historic rail trails throughout our watershed.

The Rockland Rail Bed Trail Walk
with Rockland Open Space • Sunday May 31st at 1 pm

The Hanover Rail Bed and New Trails
with Hanover Open Space • Sunday, June 7th at 1 pm

Scituate Rail Bed Out to the Herring River
Sunday, September 27 at 1 pm

Stand Up Paddle Board Instruction

All equipment is included.

Dates TBD - sign up for our weekly Rivernet email to be notified of dates.

Fee is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-member (includes membership)



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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In This Issue:

- 2015 Wampanoag Canoe Trail Passage to Restore Our Rivers
- 2014 Annual Report
- 2015 Priorities
- Summer Events including our new River Pontoon Boat Tours!



Connect with us on Facebook

Calling All Volunteers!

28th Annual River Clean Up Day

DATE CHANGE! Saturday, May 2nd (10 am to noon)

The NSRWA is partnering with the Towns of Scituate, Marshfield and Norwell to make this a regional event. Celebratory cookout at 12 pm at Driftway Park in Scituate. Sponsored by Covanta Energy and Whole Foods Market. Visit www.nsrw.org for sites and more information.



Citizen Science Volunteers Needed!

To sign up, please contact our office or visit nsrwa.org for more info.

Riverwatch Water Quality Monitoring Training

Thursday, June 9th 8:30 am – noon

Horseshoe Crab Monitoring in Duxbury Bay

May and June

Herring Counting

April and May

Japanese Knotweed Removal

June and September

Summer Field Science Volunteer Internships

Our volunteer unpaid summer college intern program benefits students by giving them valuable, marketable skills. Interns will provide important contributions to our work by collecting data on some of our top-priority projects. They will work on projects as diverse as researching the feasibility of increasing the mussel population in the North and South Rivers; monitoring horseshoe crabs in Duxbury Bay; assessing and managing invasive species; and analyzing salt marsh vegetation change.

For a specific job description, please visit nsrwa.org or contact Sara@nsrwa.org. Deadline for applying is May 9th. Please submit a resume, cover letter to sara@nsrwa.org