



**NSRWA**  
www.nsrwa.org

May 2016

# RiverWatch

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

## New EPA Polluted Runoff Rules Imminent

Would force towns to get more rainwater into ground, rather than running off into streams and rivers, bringing major benefits:

- Cleaner Rivers
- Improved Low Flows in Summer
- More Reliable and Protected Drinking Water

NSRWA will engage with towns to help implement measures.

**B**efore there were roads, parking lots, and other hard “impervious” surfaces that water can’t penetrate, rainwater and melting snow would mostly seep into the ground, recharging aquifers.

During times of low precipitation, this ground water would slowly seep into rivers and streams, maintaining a base level of streamflow even in summer and providing a reliable source of drinking water even when it didn’t rain.

Modern development brought more impervious surfaces ranging from streets and parking lots to the roofs and driveways of our own homes. The flow of water after storms changed dramatically:

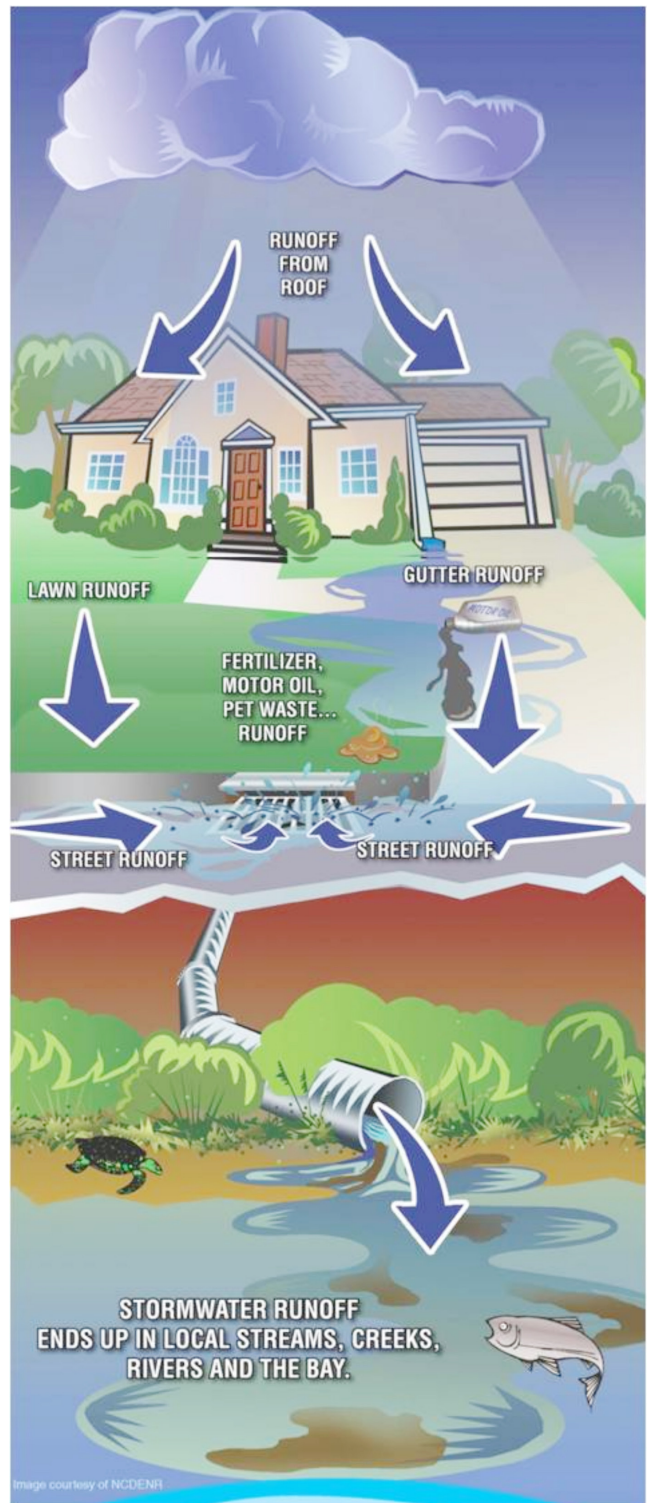
Rather than seep into the ground to recharge aquifers, water runs off the surfaces, picking up oil, grit, pet waste, trash and other pollutants, and into the nearest stream.

The new rules are part of the Clean Water Act, and while the new rules were just recently issued, the government is allowing towns two years to provide plans for complying. The new rules will reduce this pollution by getting more of the runoff back into the ground. There, it is cleaned naturally, it seeps into streams slowly like it used to do, and it maintains aquifers for our drinking water.

### Public education and NSRWA

In addition to cleaning stormwater catch basins, using new porous surfaces that water can pass through and into the ground, and many other structural requirements, the new rules require that municipalities increase their public education efforts. Two constituencies that towns must reach are their residential and business communities.

*continued, page 4*



## 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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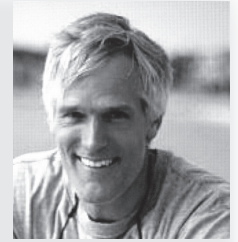
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Norwell, MA 02061

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www.nsrwa.org

# Letter from the President



**M**any people perceive our Association as focused only on the actual physical North and South Rivers, or perhaps the herring brooks that constitute their main tributaries. But our purpose is much larger than that. We have to think about where the water originates, how it is channeled, how it is used, and how to keep the entire watershed system clean and healthy for all of us.

That is a big challenge – one we cannot meet without the support of all of our members. And that support begins with engagement. Engagement is about finding purpose, identifying that thing that inspires the passion in each of us to embrace a cause and to take action.

All of our members are engaged at a basic level. You are akin to the drops of water that flow through the watershed. You may write us a greatly appreciated check, or attend a Water Watch event. And like the water droplets, you are a critically needed part of the larger whole. We could not exist without you and we need ever more of you. One challenge for us as an organization is to continue growing our basic membership.

Individual drops are important. But their power is truly felt when they join together and constitute the broader stream, the one that flows joyously over rocks and through the woods. That's where the life is, and where the fun is. When individuals become part of something larger, they find opportunities to become truly engaged and fulfilled.

We simply could not exist without our engaged and committed members, and we must continue to nurture and grow this community to ensure future success. To that end, at our annual retreat this winter, the Board decided to formally address this need and bring on a new Director of Community Engagement and Development. We are delighted to welcome Gabriela Silva to this new position!

The role of this new position is to help us find even more ways to kindle passion for the place we are blessed to live in, and to grow our community of active supporters. We know there are more people like you out there. Our task is to go find them and inspire them with our purpose. And of course, we cannot do this alone and we can use your help in spreading the message. We are all, in some way, directors of community engagement and development, if we choose to embrace the cause.

Thanks for your help.

*Peter Kelly-Detwiler, Board President*

## Legacy Circle Founding Members

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.

*Betsey and Robert Detwiler • Peter and Julie Kelly-Detwiler*

*Herb and Pauline Emilson • Craig and Danny Hannafin*

*Richard and Jackie Leach • Debbie Lenahan*

*Michael and Susan Wolfe*

We encourage other members to consider leaving bequests to NSRWA. Please contact Samantha Woods at 781-659-8168.



# What Is a Healthy River?

## How do NSRWA programs work together to achieve Healthy Rivers?

**W**e define a healthy river as one that supports a full range of both human and ecological uses.

For humans, healthy rivers have water quality and quantity that support fishing, swimming, boating, and esthetic and drinking water uses.

Ecologically, healthy rivers provide water quality and quantity, streamflow and habitat connectivity that support biodiversity and resilience to change.

These are diverse concepts, but our river restoration programs are interrelated to achieve multiple benefits. Sound science, persistence, and a focus on engagement with our communities have yielded broad results.



For instance:

### 1st Herring Brook

Scituate has a water supply problem. By working with Scituate leaders to solve their supply problem through water conservation and structural adjustments to the town's reservoir dams, we also improved streamflow in 1st Herring Brook, restored connectivity between the ocean and Reservoir Dam, and allowed the first herring in decades to swim beyond Old Oaken Bucket Dam.

### 3rd Herring brook

Norwell and Hanover also have water supply problems, but unlike Scituate their water systems only use town wells. We are working with the towns to model their water use and its stresses on 3rd Herring Brook, and together with them will detail a program of water conservation and use to both increase the reliability of their water supplies and enhance streamflow and habitat.

*continued, page 4*



## What Is a Healthy River? *continued from page 3*



### **Polluted runoff control**

Our lead article on page 1 describes new EPA rules controlling polluted runoff. NSRWA will work with towns across the watershed to implement these rules, simultaneously improving habitat by reducing pollution and increasing low flows, and increasing drinking water reliability by increasing aquifer recharge.

### **Land conservation**

The North River Greenway, a succession of protected properties enhanced in 2015 with the addition of a new 33 acre parcel, provides recreation, enhances the river's beauty, protects water quality, and assures connected natural habitat.



## **New Runoff Rules** *continued from page 1*

NSRWA can help. We worked with Scituate to educate residents about water conservation, and our town-supported Greenscapes program already takes conservation education into eleven South Shore communities. We have initiated our first water-use education program focused on our South Shore business community, WaterSmart Business (see next article).

We believe it is a natural fit for NSRWA to expand these local partnerships, and contract with communities to help educate residents and businesses about both water conservation and polluted runoff.

## **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**

Anonymous  
Cynthia Bayley  
Kevin Beggs & Stephanie Whiting  
Mark & Joell Bianchi  
William and Susanne Bottiggi  
Donna Burrell & Jane Eggerstedt  
Liz Carreiro  
Sally Caverly  
Brian & Gracemarie Concannon  
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Keith & Colleen Walo  
Kate Welch & Joseph Straub

### **Organizations & Businesses**

Airxchange  
Battelle Memorial Institute  
Clean Harbors  
Coastal America Foundation  
Eaglemere Foundation  
Island Foundation  
McKim Family Foundation  
North River Gardeners  
Rice, Heard, & Bigelow  
Rockland Federal Credit Union  
Sylvester Fund



# Water Smart Business: Promoting Water Conservation and Controlling Polluted Runoff Through Direct Business Education

**O**ur South Shore rivers and streams are among the most stressed in Massachusetts, and low flow, especially in summer, is one of their gravest threats.

Water conservation directly enhances stream-flow by keeping water in the ground to seep slowly into the river during periods of low precipitation. And controlling runoff after storms, so that it seeps into the ground rather than rushing over parking lots and quickly into the rivers, not only reduces pollution but also helps to recharge aquifers.

With better information, many of our South Shore businesses could reduce their water use, reduce polluted runoff, and save money at the same time. The goal of WaterSmart is to help them accomplish that.



## How WaterSmart works

Enrolled businesses will receive a water-use report that details consumption patterns and ways to reduce polluted runoff. The business owner will then be presented options to reduce water consumption and polluted runoff.

Assessments for Cardigan Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Scituate and Planet Subaru in Hanover are already completed, and we are recommending 30% and 50% conservation measures respectively. ProtectoWire in Pembroke, Clean Harbors in Norwell and Cravings in Kingston are also participating in the program.

With initial funding from local towns and the McKim Family Foundation, our goal through June is to have engaged ten businesses in this new program. While ten businesses is a small number, we expect that many more in later years will embrace this opportunity to save money while doing the right thing.

# Annual Report 2015



“Boundaries don’t protect rivers, people do.”

*Brad Arrowsmith, landowner along the Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska*

## 2015 TREASURER’S REPORT

by Rick Mayfield, NSRWA Treasurer

**F**irst, I am excited to be your new treasurer. Having lived on the North River now for ten years, seeing our mission in action has continued to expand my point of view on our watershed and the need for NSRWA.



From a financial perspective, 2015 was a good year. I credit great fiscal leadership from Samantha and her team, and the engagement and support by you our members; without you we would not be able to do all that we do! Richard Leach, our treasurer for the past twelve years, laid a solid financial foundation for our organization and we sincerely appreciate his dedication.

Membership income for 2015 was the second highest in the organization’s history and exceeded our 2015 plan, however it was 8.1% behind the record 2014 year. As in past years we continue to look for members who can step up to our River Guardian Circle by contributing \$500 or more annually to the NSRWA. While every member is important, our River Guardians provide us the incremental lift necessary to achieve our goals. This group represents just over 5% of our members but contributes nearly 60% of our membership income.

The value of our endowment fund at the end of 2015 was \$123,088. We began the fund in 2008 to provide NSRWA with a long term financial stability vehicle and now have more than doubled the initial investment. In the first quarter of 2016 we added \$25,000 to the fund which will bring the total to over \$148,000. This new investment is the result of a bequest from the estate of Mary Eliot.

We established the Legacy Circle in 2014 to recognize those generous individuals like Mary who planned to leave bequests to the NSRWA. Gifts like these are essential to supporting the long term mission of the NSRWA and we encourage others to consider including the NSRWA in your estate plans. Should you have questions regarding such planning, please contact the office for assistance.

From a program perspective, 2015 was a good year. As many of you know we received a gift of a pontoon boat late in

2014 which allowed us to take people for eco or history tours of the North River. We exceeded every expectation for this new program, and plan to expand it in 2016 with the addition of a youth ‘Science on the Rivers’ program supported by a grant from the Battelle Institute. Also this past year our president Peter Kelly-Detwiler and his pals raised over \$11,000 by doing the historical Wampanoag Paddle. (Again!)

Lastly, as we look to 2016, our new strategic plan highlighted some needed investments. We are investing in a new leadership structure to respond to increasing market demands from the towns across the watershed. In addition, we are continuing to invest in new technology to better connect and support our members and run the organization more efficiently. While these changes will require increased capital investments we feel financially we are in the best position we have been in years to invest in the future and that is in large part because of you!

### NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION Statement of Financial Position

#### Balance Sheet

	Total	% Change*
Total Assets	\$645,207	+10.8%
Total Liabilities	\$ 8,254	-58.3%
Net Assets	\$485,009	+8.6%
<b>Total Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>\$645,207</b>	<b>+10.8%</b>

#### Statement of Activities

##### Revenues

	Total*	% Change*
Membership and Donations	\$140,850	+6.1%
Grants	\$157,159	(21.1%)
Programs & Events	\$ 49,130	+31.7%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$359,656</b>	<b>(-5.1%)</b>

##### Expenses

Payroll	\$215,817	(0.3%)
Contract Services	\$ 24,914	(1.0%)
Occupancy & Utilities	\$ 9,803	+6%
Printing & Postage	\$ 13,279	(22.8%)
Programs & Events	\$ 6,814	(18.1%)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$326,556</b>	<b>(6.8%)</b>

\*2015 results are un-audited

# 2015 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 2015

### River Guardians \$5,000 +

Herb & Paulie Emilson  
Richard & Jackie Leach  
Mark & Jerilyn Tyrrell  
Paul & Netta Vercollone

### River Guardians \$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous  
Mark & Joell Bianchi  
William Earley  
Bruce & Marcia Humphrey  
Debbie Lenahan  
Rick & Holly Mayfield  
Lauren Payne & Bill Swanson

### River Guardians \$1,000 - \$2,499

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Alex & Davis Clark  
Mark DiRico  
Peter & Roberta Fairbanks  
Craig & Daniel Hannafin  
Richard & Barbara Johnson  
Margaret Kearns & Paul Nguyen  
Peter & Julie Kelly-Detwiler  
Sandra & Peter Moll  
Margery & Allan Parker  
Andrew & Jamie Sullivan  
Richard Sheffield  
Brian & Kathy Tedeschi

### River Guardians \$500 - \$999

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Kevin Beggs & Stephanie Whiting  
Len & Dolly Bicknell  
William & Susanne Bottiggi  
Sally Caverly  
Susan & David Caron  
Liz Carreiro  
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Neal & Lorrie Dahlen  
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Joseph Devine  
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Corporate Wetlands Restoration  
Massachusetts Bays National  
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Town of Kingston  
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Aquarion Water Company  
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Bayside Marine Corp.  
Billington Sea Kayak  
Black Pond Veterinary Service  
Bond Printing  
Cavanaro Consulting  
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## NSRWA's Spring & Summer Calendar of Outdoor Exploration and Recreation Activities

*Our events require registration and payment online  
unless otherwise noted.*

### SAVE THE DATE

## NSRWA's 26th Great River Race

**Saturday July 30th**

*Race Details are available online - Registration begins April 30th!*

This annual family friendly fun 7+ mile paddling event is a great way to enjoy and see the river. If you can paddle, you can participate! Race starts at 9 am from the Bridge Street Bridge in Norwell. This year you can help us keep the rivers healthy by becoming a fundraiser yourself and ask your friends to sponsor you.

## Yoga at the River's Edge

*Saturdays 8:30 - 9:45am • June 18 through September 10*

Different locations on the rivers. \$10 pp NSRWA members, \$15 for non-members. No registration required.

## Herring on the Run

*A Tour of the Herring Runs in the Watershed • Sunday, May 1, 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 off Rt 3A in Marshfield. Cost is \$15 for non members \$12 for members. Space is limited. Register online via MassAudubon.org or link through nsrwa.org*

## Guided Pontoon Boat Tours on the North River

*Discover the Nature and History of the North River  
on the NSRWA's Pontoon Boat*

Guided Pontoon Boat Tours 2 hour tours leaving from Roht Marine/ Includes professional captain and a historian/naturalist.

*Cost is \$360 (includes 2 memberships)/\$300 for members for up to 6 passengers. To book one of these tours visit nsrwa.org to fill out a scheduling inquiry form and our captain will get back to you within 24 hours. For scheduling inquiries please fill out our online inquiry form or email your phone number to Captain@nsrwa.org for a call back.*

## Calling All Golfers! Save the Date!

**NSRWA Benefit Golf Tournament at Widow's Walk, Scituate**

*Monday, September 12th • Online registration coming soon!*



# NSRWA's Spring & Summer Calendar of Outdoor Exploration and Recreation Activities

*Our events require registration and payment online unless otherwise noted.*

## SPECIALTY BOAT TOURS

### **Clamming the North River**

*Saturday May 14 11 am – 1 pm  
or 11:30 am – 1:30 pm (2 trips)  
Saturday May 28 9 am – 11:30  
or 9:30 – 12 pm (2 trips)*

You will be transported by boat out to the clam flats and must have your own clamming equipment and a valid Scituate shell-fishing permit. *The cost is \$15 for NSRWA members, \$20 for non-members.*

### **Guided Fly Fishing Expedition on the North River**

*Saturday May 28 (Rain date June 12)  
6 am to 10 am*

Guided 4-hour fly fishing expedition for Striped Bass at the mouth of the North River! 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.*

### **Sunset Landscape & Wildlife Photography Workshop on the North River**

*Sunday June 12, 5:30 – 7:30 pm*

During this 2-hour boat excursion up to some of the most preserved parts of the North River professional landscape and wildlife photographer Paul Nguyen will explain how to use the right lenses, techniques, and settings to get the best shots of nature. You must bring your own equipment. Space is limited. *The cost is \$70 for NSRWA members, \$95 for non-members and includes boat trip.*

### **Bird Watching on the North River**

*Saturday May 28th 4:30 – 6:30 pm*

Come take trip on our pontoon boat with experienced birder Sally Avery and learn about the various birds that use the marshes and banks of the river for nesting and feeding. Bring your binoculars for this one! Space is limited to 6 passengers. *The cost is \$70 for NSRWA members, \$95 for non-members.*

## NSRWA 2016 NEW BOAT SERIES

### **Exploring the Science of Our Watershed**

*Explore by boat the geology, ecology and maritime archeology of the rivers with experts in each of these disciplines. Cost for each tour is \$50 for members, \$75 for non-members (includes membership). Registration online. Space is limited to 6.*

### **Maritime Archeology of the North River**

*Sunday June 5th 6 am – 8 am*

North River maritime archaeological river tour to be led by Paul F. McCarthy, an amateur maritime archaeologist, historian, and raconteur who will engage you with a substantive and entertaining visit to our shared past.



*"The Emma" shipwreck at half tide.*

### **Geology of the North and South Rivers**

*Saturday July 9th at 9 – 11 am*

Join local Coastal Geologist, Jim O'Connell, for a tour of the geology of the mouth of the rivers. You will stop and get out at the Spit for a walking tour along this ever changing landform at the mouth of the rivers.

### **Ecology of the Salt Marsh**

*Thursday August 4th 1-3 pm*

Join Dr. Sara Grady, NSRWA's Watershed Ecologist, on an exploration of the ecology of our salt marshes. She will explain how they formed, their unique vegetation and why they are so important to preserve.

## **Kayaking on the Rivers (Kids & Adults 8+)**

### KAYAK FUNDAMENTALS

*Saturday June 4, 11 am – 1:30 pm • Sunday July 10, 4:30 – 7 pm  
Cost per Member: \$50 (includes all kayaking equipment)/Non members:  
\$75 (includes NSRWA Membership) All kayaking trips leave from the  
Marshfield Canoe Launch off Union Street.*

### SCENIC TOURS

*Saturdays, June 11; 5-7:30pm • July 23; 2:30-5pm • August 20; 1:30-4pm  
Cost per Member: \$50 (includes all kayaking equipment)/Non members:  
\$75 (includes NSRWA Membership)*

### NORTH RIVER HISTORIC TOUR

*Saturday, August 6; 1:00-5:00pm  
Cost per Member: \$70 (includes all kayaking equipment)/Non members:  
\$95 (includes NSRWA Membership)*



# RiverWatch

THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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## In This Issue:

- New EPA Rules to Clean Up Our Water
- 2015 Annual Report
- River Recreation Opportunities
- Mark your calendars - Great River Race is Saturday July 31st



Connect with us on Facebook

## Thank you, Paula!

It is hard to imagine but at the end of 2015 **Paula Christie**, NSRWA's Assistant Director, retired after 20 years of caring for the rivers, organizing and managing events that engage other people in caring for them and making sure our office ran smoothly. We are all going to miss Paula's passion for making our events successful and fun for all and wish her the best in her retirement. Her legacy lives on!



## Thank you, Gayle!

Special Thank You to artist Gayle Loik for sharing her talent and designing the Great River Race t-shirts for the last decade! Her original artwork made every race t-shirt a one of a kind design. Thank you Gayle for all your support.

