



**NSRWA**  
therivershed.org

April 2009

# RiverWatch

THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.

## The Year in Review - Protect, Educate, Restore



### Protecting Our Rivers

In 2008 we finally passed a Federal No Discharge designation that encompasses not only the North and South Rivers but the coasts of Marshfield, Scituate and Cohasset. The passage of this designation makes it illegal for boats to discharge waste in these coastal waters.

At the same time that this was passed we obtained funding from the Bilezekian Family Foundation to develop and distribute information on pump out services and the designation to area boaters. Laminated cards and brochures are available free to boaters at area marinas and harbor masters offices. As boating season approaches please look for them at these outlets or contact us and we will send one to you!



### Teaching by Example

After three years of hard work from our staff and numerous partnerships with volunteers, schools, and garden clubs we have finally completed the installation of a demonstration rain garden in 11 South Shore towns. Each rain garden was built to filter, cleanse and replenish our watershed with clean water. The goal of the project is to educate others about these simple landscaping features that can help us maintain a healthy rivershed and hopefully inspire homeowners and towns to adopt these techniques. Please take a tour of these rain gardens this spring – see page 9 for locations near you.



### Educating the Next Generation of River Stewards

Through a generous grant from the Scituate Rotary Club we were able to take every Scituate 5th grader on a field trip to familiarize the students with their watershed, the water cycle, and to visit their water supply (the First Herring Brook) and wastewater treatment plants. This year we are going to be reaching out to conduct this field trip with more schools

in the watershed! Our ultimate goal is to provide this kind of educational opportunity to every 5th grader in our watershed. (5th grade is when Massachusetts students are taught the water cycle.)



### Protecting Land Critical to Water Protection

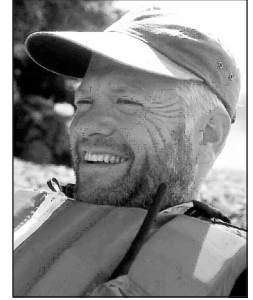
Thanks to the Marshfield members who heeded our call to action and attended the Special Town Meeting this past October to save more land critical to our watershed! Two parcels in particular were supported by your efforts-the Buckles and Board parcel along the South River on Rte 139 and a 25-acre parcel that abuts already protected land along on the North River. This shows why we should keep Community Preservation strong in our watershed.

Another year goes by and we thank you for your continued commitment to clean healthy water and rivers. We frankly cannot do it without you. Your time, activism, talents and the critical funding support you provide are what sustains this watershed.

Thank you.

*Samantha Woods, Executive Director*

# Letter From The President



## Digging in the Garden of Soul and Stewardship

I write this letter in mid-February on the first day the thermometer has pushed fifty degrees in a very long time. Despite the cold, the sun hangs higher and the mocking birds call with avidity, anticipating the heady arrival of Spring. As the melting snow reveals the bare ground, the sun warms the first few inches of topsoil and the annual return of the stirring smell of the “good earth” arrives. My wife Sarah lays out our kitchen garden on graph paper. The list of herbs, rosemary, fennel, basil, lemon grass and chocolate mint all suggest future meals prepared together during our favorite, traditional Sunday afternoon pursuit. Visions of garden tomatoes, snap peas, bell peppers and summer squash will help get us through the cruel months of March and April. Our compost bin, despite the colder temperatures this winter, is ready to be turned into the garden after the last deep frost. The last high tide has already delivered this year’s salt marsh hay right to our raised beds. The sizable dent in our stacks of cordwood has made room for next years supply. I believe there is no exercise more enjoyable than cutting and splitting firewood. I think much of the work in winter is preparing for the year ahead, cordwood and garden plans are small but tangible tributes to the faith of future.

Years ago, I worked for the Natural Resources Trust of Easton, an amazing non-profit that provided activities for a very diverse population. The NRT contracted with Easton’s Public School system. Our staff would visit classrooms and students would come to our site for continued environmental education. Our garden program was one of the most rewarding. In the Spring, third graders would plant seeds for the greenhouse, later the seedlings would be planted in designated plots in the community garden on campus, in the Summer it was the responsibility of the students to tend to their crops. The following fall, as fourth graders, students would return for our harvest program to reap the benefits of their stewardship.

Gardening is an effective way to instill the values of stewardship. Stewardship teaches; commitment, planning, hard-work, adjusting to unforeseen variables, decision making and seeking allegiance with others. Gardening is just one example of the faith of future common to all acts of stewardship.

As we are mired in tough economic times, it reminds me a little bit of winter, hunkered down, optimistically challenged, waiting for a sign, wishing for gardens. Even our board meetings of late, have a doleful tenor. We struggle with budgets, investment decisions, diminished grant opportunities and membership numbers. Our staff, who have the most to lose, remind us to push forward with plans to reach and engage our younger populations! We review reports that indicate although our membership numbers dip a little, our members are giving more! Our events are packed! There are signs of optimism! Sow those seeds of faith of future! Start digging in the garden of soul and stewardship!

On behalf of the NSRWA Board, we thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the mission of the North and South Rivers Watershed Association. We share your faith in future and come about the day of the Great River Race, we will be glad to trade you twenty-five zucchinis for that early girl tomato.

Thanks and see you on the rivers.

*Doug Lowry, President*

# Rivershed Steward Profile: Doug Gray

**D**oug Gray is the owner of Billington Sea Kayak in Plymouth ([www.billington-seakayak.com](http://www.billington-seakayak.com)). He is a long time friend and supporter of rivers and watersheds, including the North and South Rivers Watershed. Doug has been donating the kayak to the NSRWA's kayak raffle every year since 1995 allowing us to raise thousands of dollars to help us protect and restore our rivers and educate the next generation of river stewards. Through his personal and business commitments Doug is an inspiration to those who work for clean and healthy rivers and watersheds.

**How long have you been a member of the North and South Rivers Watershed Association?**

I am really not sure, that's how long it has been! Well over a decade! I think it was 1993.

**How did you first come to know about the NSRWA?**

I read about the things that the NSRWA was doing to help the rivers and knew some of the people involved.

*"Please Help Raise Funds for the Watershed- Buy a Kayak Raffle Ticket!" - Doug Gray*

**Why do you support the NSRWA?**

Because it is obviously a proactive organization. For years I have said it is a bunch of nice people who do great things . . . without it the rivers' health would not be nearly as good as it is nor would it be improving.

**What has been your favorite part of participating in our events?**

I like the idea of giving a boat to the watershed for their raffle since it helps them to



*Doug Gray of Billington Sea Kayak in Plymouth*

be able to continue to work on the mission of restoring and protecting the rivers.

**What concerns you most about the future of the watershed?**

Development and its impacts worry me the most - overuse of natural resources, the disruption of natural filtering systems, the destabilization of our natural world. The proliferation of roads, paved surfaces and the creation of stormwater runoff are of big concern to me.

**Where is your favorite place in the watershed?**

My fondest memories are of Couch Beach in Marshfield on the North River. Stopping there with groups - including some of the trips we have done together. Having lunch and talking with people. A beautiful spot to be able to enjoy the river and get out of your boat.

**What is one thing you think everyone who lives in the watershed should know about the watershed?**

Having been involved with the Billington Sea Watershed in Plymouth it is surprising just how extensive the watershed really is and how few people understand the impact they can have on a body of water. Because in most of the watershed people can't see the water so they tend to forget or are unaware in the first place that how they treat their land has a direct impact. It can be pretty eye opening for people that don't see the water to understand how their actions (or inactions) can have an impact on the watershed.

*by Samantha Woods, Executive Director*

*The NSRWA Steward Profile is a series of interviews of active volunteers that have contributed their skills, hard work and commitment to the North and South Rivers watershed community. The NSRWA thanks each of our volunteers —our organization thrives because of your participation.*



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# Annual Report

www.nsrwa.org

2008 • THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

## Watersheds are Worth the Investment!

*The NSRWA would like to thank all of our members, businesses, supporters and partners for their continued support in the face of so much economic uncertainty. We know it is not easy to give when the future seems uncertain, but giving to a nonprofit is still one of the best investments you can make.*

*We make every dollar donated go a long way in protecting and restoring our watershed. For every \$1 you donated last year, the NSRWA leveraged an additional \$1.75...that's a 175% return on your investment in clean, healthy, sustainable watersheds and rivers!*

*The struggle to protect and restore our water and rivers is a long and difficult road. The immediate pressures people feel every day are real and often overwhelm us, making it difficult to see the forest through the trees. But real progress has been made and will continue to be made if we are committed to making our rivers and watersheds healthy for our children and grandchildren to cherish and enjoy. We hope we can count on your continued support while we navigate these troubled waters. The watershed and rivers we leave for the next generation will be the measure of our commitment today.*

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**Memorial Gifts**

Many people love the rivers and many have generously given memorial gifts to the NSRWA in the name of a loved one in honor of their lives. We wish to thank each and every one of them for their

**Endowment Contribution**

*The newly-created NSRWA Endowment Fund was generously seeded with gifts in memory of Sarah Morse Lamb. Sara Lamb died on June 12, 2008. Mrs. Lamb summered in Humarock and Wills Island on the North River. According to her daughter, the rivers held very special meaning to her for they were the playground of her youth, the place she met her husband, where she made a living (she was the owner of the North River Packet, Inc) and most of all the rivers provided her peace and respite from daily cares. She would have been proud to know of the generosity shown in her name to help sustain the rivers that she loved.*

commitment to the rivers.

*In Memory of Ruth Ferrara*  
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*The NSRWA thanks the following 2008 volunteers and apologizes for any left off the list.*

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**Why Become a Business Benefactor?**  
 "We proudly support the NSRWA because we value the watershed ethic that the NSRWA represents.  
 Clean water is everybody's business. - Horsley Witten Group"

**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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Address Correspondence to:  
 NSRWA  
 P.O. Box 43  
 Norwell, MA 02061  
 phone: 781-659-8168  
 www.nsrwa.org

# Treasurer's Report

As with the rest of the nation our organization is feeling the effect of the economic downturn. Our grant income is declining and there is uncertainty as to the amount of future grant income. If we are to continue our mission to protect, educate and restore the watershed, we need the support of our members more than ever.

On a more positive note our endowment fund has finally come to fruition. We funded it with over \$62,000 and the money is now invested in a Vanguard brokerage account. In keeping with the prudent man rule, we are proceeding with the utmost caution. A little over half is invested in a Vanguard US government money market fund and the remainder in an FDIC insured certificate of deposit. Part of the Endowment Fund was funded by the Fairbanks family in memory of Sarah Morse Lamb. Establishing this endowment fund is an important step in the longterm financial health of the NSRWA.

Members who wish to honor a loved one's memory with a contribution to the Endowment Fund are now able to do so. Of course all contributions, for what ever reason, are welcome. The NSRWA also participates in a program for those who wish to contribute an automobile, motorcycle or boat.

Finally, as always, we appreciate the support of all of our members who value the work of our organization.

*Richard E. Leach, Treasurer*

## NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION • 2008 Statement of Financial Position

Total Assets	\$530,955	<b>Major Sources of Funds</b>	
Total Liabilities	\$ 47,265	Government Grants:	\$223,755
Net Assets	\$ 485,912	<i>Environmental Protection Agency</i>	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$530,955	<i>Department of Environmental Protection</i>	
		<i>Department of Conservation and Recreation</i>	
		<i>Massachusetts Bays Program</i>	
		<i>Town of Cohasset</i>	
		<i>Town of Hanover</i>	
		<i>Town of Kingston</i>	
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		<i>Town of Norwell</i>	
		<i>Town of Pembroke</i>	
		<i>Pine Hills</i>	
		<i>Town of Scituate</i>	
		<i>City of Weymouth</i>	
		Foundations and Trusts:	\$ 28,676
		<i>Sheehan Family Foundation</i>	
		<i>Island Foundation</i>	
		<i>Bilezikian Family Foundation</i>	
		<i>Sylvester Foundation</i>	
		<i>Scituate Rotary Club</i>	
		Individuals & Corporations:	\$146,108

**Statement of Activities**

*Revenues*

Restricted Grants	\$256,298
Unrestricted and Restricted Donations	\$ 88,652
Program/Events	\$ 32,385
All Other	\$ 21,204
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$398,539</b>

*Expenses*

Payroll	\$187,714
Contract and Professional Services	\$125,110
Occupancy and Utilities	\$ 11,353
Printing and Postage	\$ 26,432
All Other	\$ 49,424
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$399,933</b>
<b>Net Revenues</b>	<b>\$ - 1,494</b>

*\*Not reviewed by Accountant*

**Thank you for your support.**





# Spring is For Rain and Gardens

## Take a Tour of Rain Gardens on the South Shore!

**F**or the past three years we have been working to install a raingarden in almost every South Shore town, thanks to a grant from the EPA. Along the way, we have worked with schools, environmental organizations, garden clubs, libraries, and lots of helpful volunteers to dig out our gardens, fill them with “raingarden soil mixture”, and plant them with beautiful and drought-tolerant native plants.

As you may recall, a raingarden is a lot like a regular garden, except it has a more sand-rich soil mixture that allows water to percolate into the ground faster, and

is usually located in an area that receives stormwater runoff either from a parking lot or rooftop. Instructions for building your own raingarden can be found at the Greenscapes website ([www.greenscapes.org](http://www.greenscapes.org)). As you will see if you go look at the gardens we constructed, they can be any size and shape you want.

If you go when it is raining you will see how the water ponds within the rain garden - go back in 24 hours and it will have drained away - replenishing our watersheds and cleansing stormwater at the same time! Not only are they functional but they are also attractive landscaping features.



*by Sara Grady*

## Take a Raingarden Tour!

Check out our rain gardens all over the South Shore.

### Hull

- Weir River Estuary Center, 333 George Washington Blvd., Hull, along the front of the parking lot.

### Weymouth

- Maria Weston Chapman Middle School, 1051 Commercial Street, East Weymouth, on the right side of the building (looking at main entrance).

### Hingham

- Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt Street, Hingham, on the right corner of the building (facing main entrance).

### Norwell

- Grace Farrar Cole School, 81 High Street, Norwell, back of the school on the left end of the “outdoor classroom” near the playground.

### Hanover

- Riley Hall (parish hall for First Congregational Church), intersection of Silver Street and Hanover Street, Hanover, at the far corner of the parking lot.

### Pembroke

- Lydia Drake Library, 340 High Street, Pembroke, along the front of the library property.

### Scituate

- Scituate High School, 606 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy (Rt. 3A), Scituate, off the parking lot near the playground and town hall.

### Marshfield

- MassAudubon North River Sanctuary, 2000 Main Street, Marshfield, corner of the sanctuary office.

### Duxbury

- Bay Farm Montessori Academy, 145 Loring Street, Duxbury, along the walking path.

### Kingston

- Jones River Landing, 55 Landing Road, Kingston, along the side of the building nearest the street.

### Plymouth

- Plimoth Plantation, 137 Warren Avenue, Plymouth, the edge of the parking lot closest to the road, across from the barn.

# Chasing Fireflies

I went chasing fireflies today.

Those five words are usually enough to evoke childhood memories of warm summer nights running through the fields with a net and a mason jar full of glowing fireflies. So you might be surprised to learn that the “today” I am speaking of is not in the summer, and it is not at night, and my fireflies aren’t glowing.

“Today” is February 11. While it is rather warm for February here in New England - about 60 degrees - there is still a foot of snow on the ground. The time is 2:00 in the afternoon. My fireflies are not glowing because they can’t. They don’t have light organs.

*Ellychnia corrusca* is one of the many types of fireflies that live here in Massachusetts. *Ellychnia corrusca* is the scientific name. They have no common name, so I will just refer to them as *Ellychnia*. While they look like just about any other kind of firefly, they have evolved quite a different lifestyle than the fireflies we are so familiar with.

We think of fireflies as creatures of the summer. The adults live for only a few weeks during the warm weather - just long enough to attract a mate and lay their eggs. Then they die. The larval fireflies spend the winter under

ground, usually for a couple of years, and then they emerge in late spring or summer as adults.

*Ellychnia* is on a different time schedule. The adults first appear in late August, after other fireflies are gone. They feed on the nectar of fall plants until the approach of winter. Then they find an appropriate place to ride out the winter. A good place for them is a crevice in the bark of a thick-barked tree like the white oak. Here they somehow survive the cold and wait for the coming of spring. When the weather begins to warm, usually in March, but occasionally on a warm day in February, they become active again. Now is the time to go firefly chasing. They are pretty easy to spot, walking along the bark of the trees looking for a mate, or having found one, attached to their mate end to end. They may search for a mate on the tree where they spent the winter, or they may leave the tree and look elsewhere. In past years, I have often seen fireflies fly around and alight on the side of my house in early spring. At the time, I didn’t know what I was looking at and was surprised to see them flying so early in the year, and active during the day. Now I know.

Daytime fireflies have no need to flash. The flashes

would not show up on a bright sunny day. Therefore, they don’t have light organs and couldn’t flash if they wanted to. If you catch a firefly and turn it over to look at its abdomen, you will see that either the second to last segment or the last two segments are white, depending on the type of firefly and its sex. These are the light organs. However, if you don’t see these white segments on the abdomen, you are looking at one of the daytime fireflies like *Ellychnia*.

Most fireflies use their flash to attract a mate. Since *Ellychnia* can’t flash, it must have some other method of attracting a mate. This it does with pheromones, or chemical signals. Not nearly as spectacular to us who watch fireflies, but it works for them just the same.

Scientists believe that in the not too distant past, *Ellychnia*’s ancestors were active during the summer, flew at night and had the ability to glow, just like most fireflies. However, something caused them to slowly evolve the habits they exhibit today. The scientists speculate that the something was...other fireflies.

If you catch a firefly and give it a little pinch, you might no-



tice that you caused it to bleed. As long as you haven’t pinch too hard and actually injured it, this bleeding was done on purpose. It is called reflexive bleeding. These fireflies are exuding blood from around their leg joints and wings. This blood contains a poisonous chemical that will deter many other animals from trying to eat the firefly. The chemical is potent enough to kill lizards many times the size of the firefly, as some people have found out, much to their mortification, when they tried to feed fireflies to their pet lizards.

Most of our native fireflies have this poison in their blood. But there is one group of fireflies called *Photuris* that can’t make the poison. The only way they can acquire it is to eat other fireflies and assimilate the poison for their own use. These *Photuris* fireflies have learned to imitate the flash signal of the females of other types of firefly, luring the hapless males to their doom. This predation of one firefly by another causes the flashing signals of fireflies to evolve rather rapidly - a firefly with a that is not known by *Photuris* has a better chance of

*continued, page 15*

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# Watershed Notes

**KEEP CPA STRONG AND VOTE TO PROTECT LAND NEAR THIRD HERRING BROOK AT NORWELL TOWN MEETING MAY 12:**

There are two reasons to attend Norwell's Town Meeting on May 12...Keeping the Community Preservation Act strong and voting for to protect a parcel for open space. If you are from Norwell please consider attending town meeting May 12th and voting in favor of keeping CPA at the 3% level so you can continue to protect open space in your community. At the same town meeting is a proposal for purchasing ~12 acres land (6.26 acres for \$225K with 5.84 acres gifted to the town) off of South Street. This land is near the Third Herring Brook, a tributary to the North River and within the watershed to the town's drinking water supply. In addition, it abuts town owned school property and has existing recreational trails. Please consider voting in favor of keeping this land as open space.

**NEW MASSACHUSETTS AND SCITUATE STORMWATER REGULATIONS:** The Mass DEP is proposing new stormwater regulations that will regulate stormwater coming from sites that have 5 acres or more of paved surfaces. This largely means commercial real estate development like malls and industrial parks would be required to perform sweeping and other housekeeping types of activities to prevent stormwater pollution in the first place. In addition, for new and redevelopment in some cases there would be requirements for upgrades to stormwater treatment. The NSRWA provided testimony at public hearings and asked our members to support this first step by the Mass DEP to prevent stormwater pollution in upland portions of the watershed. Stormwater was a hot topic in Scituate as well this past spring as the Town of Scituate held public hearings to enact regulations in support of the Stormwater Bylaw that was passed at Scituate's 2008 Town Meeting. The NSRWA and its members provided support for these regulations at public hearings this spring.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION LEGISLATION SPONSORED AT STATE HOUSE:** Thanks to the collective hard work of community preservation advocates (like yourselves!) 81 state Senators and Representatives signed on to co-sponsor the CPA legislation, An Act to Sustain Community Preservation. This legislation will stabilize the Community Preservation Act Trust Fund and allow CPA funds to be used to rehabilitate existing recreational lands that were not purchased with CPA funds. Currently the CPA legislation requires that improvements for recreation and open space only be allowed on lands that were purchased using CPA funds. To read a bill summary or the text of the filed legislation please visit the Community Preservation Coalition website [www.communitypreservation.org](http://www.communitypreservation.org). Since being signed into law in late 2000, CPA has been adopted by 140 communities, representing 40% of the Commonwealth's cities and towns. Using CPA funds, municipalities have preserved 10,274 acres of open space, including important wetland resources such as lakes, rivers, and saltwater ponds. A special thank you to the legislators in our watershed who are co-sponsoring the bill: Senator Robert Hedlund, Representative Thomas Calter, and Representative James Cantwell.

**Community Preservation Trust Funds From State to  
Communities in the North and South Rivers Watershed**

Duxbury	\$6,595,539	Norwell	\$3,448,706
Scituate	\$4,353,334	Marshfield	\$5,056,042
Pembroke	\$141,606	Hanover	\$1,748,675
Hingham	\$3,562,553	Weymouth	\$1,307,031

\*information provided by the Community Preservation Coalition

**WHAT COMES NEXT?** Soon, the legislation will be given a bill number and assigned to a legislative committee. After that, the committee will hold a public hearing to solicit comments on the bill. The Coalition will certainly testify, and we encourage you to submit written testimony - or even come to the State House and testify in person. We'll keep you updated each step of the way.

# Watershed Notes

**NEW WEBSITE WITH NORWELL WALKING TRAILS:** Thanks to Justin Ivas, the Town of Norwell now has trail maps for conservation lands in their town. If you want to go for a walk in Norwell please visit <http://www.geocities.com/norwelltrails/frameset.htm>

**GOT GEESE?** If you live near the river or a body of water and suffer from Canada Geese and the waste they leave behind you might want to give consideration to this testimonial from one of our members. An NSRWA member in Marshfield had suffered from this problem and was told by our Director, Samantha Woods, to plant a vegetative buffer between his lawn and the water body or just let the vegetation grow in between the lawn and the water. The geese have a natural affinity to open land and water where they have a straight line of sight. Why? If you have ever seen them take off and fly you would know they are not exactly nimble. They prefer the open sight line to see predators coming their way in time for them to take off. Building that vegetative buffer also serves a natural filter, preventing any pollution from running into the water as well as wildlife habitat. Since our member stopped mowing up to the edge of the water a few years ago the geese have been nowhere to be seen!

## Upcoming Citizen Scientist Volunteer Opportunities

### Top Five Reasons to Volunteer for the NSRWA

- 1) You will have an excuse to get outside.
- 2) You will learn new skills.
- 3) You will meet other cool people.
- 4) You can feel good about yourself.
- 5) Your rivers need you!

### Third Herring Brook Gage Reading

*Go with the Flow - help us to monitor flows in the Third Herring Brook*

**Timing:** Any time of day (that you can see!), year round.

**Location:** Any of our three sites on the Norwell/Hanover town line - River Street/Broadway, Mill Street, and Rt. 123/Jacob's Pond.

**How long will it take?** Quick (< 1 minute once you get there)

**Training:** Contact Sara and stop by the NSRWA office for an info packet and datasheet.

### Herring Counts "One Fish Two Fish"

**Timing:** April 1- May 31, within one or more "time blocks" (7-11am, 11am-3pm, 3-7pm), 3-7 times a week (more is better). You don't have to do it all - the more volunteers the more we can spread out the workload!

**Location:** Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Rt 3A and 139, South River Marshfield.

**How long will it take?** 5 minutes of counting fish each time you stop.

**Training:** Contact Sara

### River Watch Water Quality Monitoring

**Timing:** June 1 - August 30, 2009.

**Location:** Throughout the North and South Rivers Watershed (requires driving or we will partner you with someone who can drive).

**How long will it take?** Each sample event takes about 4 hours to complete all stations. You can sign up for one date or multiple dates.

**Training:** Training session in late May/early June. Specific time TBD.

*If interested in volunteering please contact Sara Grady at 781-659-8168 or email [sara@nsrwa.org](mailto:sara@nsrwa.org)*

To sign up or  
for more information  
contact us at  
781-659-8168 or paula  
@nsrwa.org

# NSRWA's Spring 2009 Events



## NSRWA's 22nd Annual River Clean Up Day

*Saturday, May 9th 9 am - Noon*

What doesn't belong in a river? Trash - including plastic bags, coffee cups, nip bottles, typewriters, construction debris, etc. Help the river you love and join our annual river clean up. It's a great way to get family and friends out on the river. All are invited to join us for this important community event to beautify and cleanse our rivers of debris! This is our 22nd year of scouring the shores of the North & South Rivers and their tributaries.

*We provide the trash bags, rubbish disposal and the cookout at the Driftway Conservation Area. You supply the energy and get the job done. Watch your mailbox for more information. Kids can earn points towards the Watershed Explorer's Club for participating in this event.*

## Yoga at the River's Edge

*Saturdays, 8:30-10 am,  
June 13 - September 19  
Various outdoor locations.*

Watch our website for more info, or email [hellokezia@verizon.net](mailto:hellokezia@verizon.net) to join the yoga mailing list.

## New Tax Incentives for Land Conservation A Workshop for Landowners

*Thursday, April 2, 2009, 7 pm • South Shore Natural Science Center, Norwell*

Good news for landowners! Join us for an informative evening with conservation specialists about a new tax provision allowing for a 50% charitable deduction from gross income that can be carried forward for up to 15 years. Workshop sponsored by NSRWA, Wildlands Trust, Trustees of Reservations, Mass Audubon, and the Nature Conservancy. *To reserve a seat contact [Samantha@nsrwa.org](mailto:Samantha@nsrwa.org) or call 781-659-8168.*

## "Welcome to Spring" Walk on the Bay Circuit Trail (Part 2)

*Sunday April 26th at 1 pm, Pembroke*

The Bay Circuit Trail is a 200 mile footpath through 50 communities from Newburyport to Duxbury. Now over 140 miles are open to the public. Welcome spring and join us for a walk along sections of the trail that are in the South River watershed. On Sunday April 26th at 1:00 pm (phase two of the Bay Circuit Trail walk) we will continue to explore the trail in Pembroke. *Pre-registration is required as the walk is limited to 20 participants. Parking and directions will be provided at registration. Suggested donation is \$5 per person.*

## Discover Cove Creek: Lady Slippers and Spring Ephemerals Walk

*Nelson Forest Marshfield • Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 10 am*

Join Steve Ivas, former NSRWA Executive Director and renowned local naturalist, on a walk to explore the Nelson Forest in Marshfield. This beautiful conservation land abuts Cove Creek, a tributary of the North River. This is a great time of year to look for the last of the Lady Slippers and spring ephemerals! Come learn more about this wonderful conservation land owned by the New England Forestry Foundation. *Pre-registration is required as the walk is limited to 20 participants. Parking and directions will be provided at registration. Suggested donation is \$5 per person.*

## Photographing the Upper Reaches Paddle

*Saturday, June 20, 8:30 am - 11 am*

The focus of the paddle will be photography moments on the upper reaches of the North River. The paddle will begin at 8:30 am and finish before 11:00 am to catch the beauty of a summer morning! Paddlers are encouraged to bring a camera and waterproof storage bag. This will be a gentle paddle with emphasis on not disturbing the wildlife and getting great shots of the wildlife. Paddle leader and board member Andy Hebert will supply tips to get the best shots. *Meet at the Hanover Canoe Launch by 8:15 am. Pre-registration and PFDs are mandatory; limited to 8 boats. Suggested donation \$10 per person.*

# Chasing Fireflies

continued from page 10

survival therefore enabling it to mate and pass on this new flash pattern to its offspring. Until, that is, the *Photuris* fireflies have had time to learn that pattern and the whole process starts again.

*Ellychnia* avoids this predation issue by being active during the day when it is possible to see who is trying to attract you, and by conducting your business before the *Photuris* fireflies have arrived on the scene.

All of which means we humans can enjoy chasing fireflies of one type or another spring, summer and fall, and, if we are lucky, even on a balmy winter day.

*Many scientists believe that firefly populations are disappearing. You may have noticed far fewer fireflies as an adult than you did as a kid. But to really understand what is happening to fireflies, scientists need a lot of actual data, do a firefly census. If you would like to help the scientists collect this data, and learn more about fireflies in the process, consider joining the Firefly Watch Citizen Science program at the Museum of science. You can check it out at [www.mos.org/firefly-watch](http://www.mos.org/firefly-watch)*

*If you would like to read more nature stories, check out my website at [www.backyardbiology.net](http://www.backyardbiology.net)*

by Don Salvatore



## Calling All Kids and Parents!

### Our New Watershed Explorers Club Is Set To Blast Off!

The NSRWA is excited about our new Watershed Explorer's Club (WEC), geared for kids ages 8-12. We created the club to engage children and their families in fun, stimulating, educational and challenging activities to develop their knowledge about water issues. Our ultimate hope is that WEC can help us foster the next generation of river stewards.

WEC is a combination of online and real world projects and games, all of which should not take much time or materials and some of which will encourage outdoor activities. Online activities will include instructions for projects such as building a simple terrarium or a miniature water cycle, puzzles, word games and interactive computer games, all related to water issues. Outdoor activities coincide with our walks, paddles and other NSRWA events to get families outside and learning together.

Each activity that a child participates in will earn them points for prizes (like movie tickets!) Kids can earn extra points for volunteering, such as participating in NSRWA's Clean Up Day, scheduled for Saturday, May 9.

Joining the Club is easy just visit our website at [www.nsrwa.org](http://www.nsrwa.org) and check out the different activities. Have your child complete an activity, then help them complete the survey related to the activity. Enter the corresponding secret code word or answer the question for that activity and we will keep track of your points and notify you when you reach 100!

The Watershed is just waiting to be explored--talk to your kids about joining the Watershed Explorer's Club and visit our website to find out more!

Yours truly,

Wally W. Watershed

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## ADVERTISE WITH US!

Reach over 2600 environmental activists, outdoor enthusiasts, paddlers, rowers and boaters, families, fishermen, and people who love and want to protect our rivers!

Contact: Debbie at 781.659.8168 or [debbie@nsrwa.org](mailto:debbie@nsrwa.org). Download our informational brochure from [www.nsrwa.org](http://www.nsrwa.org)

# Don't Miss the NSRWA's "BIG DAY" Saturday, May 2nd

*We're having two terrific events at the Cushing Center in Norwell.  
You'll want to come to both!*

## GARDENING GREEN EXPO

*10-4, Cushing Center, Norwell*

Green your garden this year at the NSRWA's first ever Gardening Green Expo, sponsored by the NSRWA's Greenscapes program! You'll find a huge selection of plants, herbs, and vegetables to order (discounted from one of the foremost nursery suppliers in the country), products such as compost tea and rainbarrels, and advice from landscape designers and organic farmers.



Look for more information in our weekly e-mails and on the NSRWA website, [www.nsrwa.org](http://www.nsrwa.org) Admission is free, but all the organic products, information, and large selection of discounted plants are priceless.

## LA FIESTA DE LOS RIOS CINCO DE MAYO

*Translation: Party for the Rivers!*

Put on your sombrero and serape or just come as you are to our Cinco de Mayo party. Like our neighbors south of the border, we're supplying all the right ingredients for a fun-filled, toe-tapping, heart-warming evening. We'll have music, salsa and other Mexican fare, spirits such as Margaritas, Sangria and Dos Equis, dancing, and more! As this goes to press we're still working out all the details, so check out our website and weekly e-mails for more information.



# RiverWatch

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