

# A New Strategic Plan Just Adopted!



Helping the Herring Upstream in Herring Brook, Pembroke. Photo by Kathy Harrington.

his past February the NSRWA Board of Directors adopted a forward thinking Strategic Plan that sets the course of our Association for the next 5 years.

The new Plan does not change the fundamentals of our success. Rather, it strengthens our commitment to two broad strategies that have been central to our success in the past: first, to rely on **sound science** in building programs to achieve river health; and, second, to encourage current and future support for river protection by **engag-***ing people with their rivers*, especially youth and families, through education, river based recreation, and public access.

# Using Science to Restore and Protect Our Rivers

In order to realize our vision of a healthy river system that has clean water, open shellfish beds, and free runs of migratory fish we must bring sound science to bear on local environmental issues. Our scientific monitoring enables us to identify and track threats to – and opportunities for improving – the health of our watershed. Assessing the biological and physical condition of our rivers and providing that information to our communities, our politicians, and you is the primary way we seek to improve our threatened and impacted water resources.



River Adventure Campers Exploring the river. Photo by Nik Tyack.

# Engaging People in Restoring and Protecting Our Rivers

People are the key to both the problems and the answers in regard to maintaining and restoring our natural ecosystems. Only by engaging people in understanding our rivers and our work can we both sustain our organization and the watershed. Our strategy for engaging our membership and the public over the next 5 years brings to bear three complementary components: increasing public access to the rivers and their banks; offering river paddles, trail walks, and all manner of family recreation; and watershed related public education for all ages.

continued on page 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

Each January, the Board of the NSRWA holds an annual retreat to reflect on our performance during the previous year and to look forward and determine our goals for the year ahead. Looking back over 2011, we saw a year of many successes; not the least among them was the reversal of the decline in our membership that began in 2009. Turning this corner has been one of our highest priorities. A strong and engaged membership is vital to our credibility, and we thank all of you for remaining committed to the continued building and strengthening of our organization.

Among our mission related accomplishments were the opening of the South River shellfish beds, the Scituate water conservation regulations, and a comprehensive inventory of dams, culverts, and impediments in the major tributaries of the watershed. A common thread connects these achievements, and that is our scientific capability. Our goals going forward include protection, restoration, monitoring and advocacy, and all are based on the same underlying component - sound science.

As we begin 2012 we look forward to the implementation of our new five-year Strategic Plan. The goals stated above play a large role in the plan, and to achieve them it is essential



to maintain funding to support our core competency - our scientific credibility. While we have thus far successfully weathered the economic downturn, the uncertainty of the political climate has us concerned for the future of our grant funding. These funds are critical and they enable us to pursue our science based projects. We are, however, optimistic that our adoption of the new Strategic Plan will focus us on the way forward, and that the engagement and generosity of you, our members, will enable us to continue our critical mission of preserving, protecting and conserving the watershed of the North and South Rivers.

Thank you for your continued support, it is crucial to our success.

Sincerely, Craig Hannafin, 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 a foundation for making the NSRWA a strong and effective voice.

Individuals Anonymous David & Lynn DeGhetto Herb & Pauline Emilson Russ & Laura Haskell Deb & Bruce Lenahan Rick Mayfield Margery Parker Bill Stanton & Lisa Lenon Julie & Al Uhler

Organizations & Businesses Black Pond Veterinary Service, Inc RBC Royal Bank Sheehan Family Foundation

# Blue Communities Campaign Progress

## Trail Improvements at Corn Hill Woodlands Conservation Area

The NSRWA is improving the trails at the Corn Hill Woodlands along the North River in Marshfield. This 123 acres of Marshfield conservation land includes forest, freshwater wetlands,

brooks and saltmarsh. The trails and boardwalks had become degraded and difficult to traverse. Improvements include trail clearing, trail surface improvements and new boardwalks. We hope to showcase



New boardwalk over wetlands at CornHill Woodlands.

these efforts when completed this fall with a guided walk.

## Marshfield Receives \$51,980 Grant To Reduce Polluted Runoff into South River

The town of Marshfield was recently awarded \$51,980 from the state's Coastal Zone Management program to engineer and construct stormwater treatment for discharges into the South River. This work is a direct consequence of water sampling conducted by the NSRWA in partnership with the Mass Bays program that identified three sites in the downtown area of Marshfield that were contributing bacteria to the South River. Two of those sites will be the focus of this upcoming construction project – drainage from the parking lot at the Road to Responsibility and the Marshfield library. Keep your eye posted for construction this spring.

## South River Greenway Receives Planning Grant

In February 2012 the Massachusetts Bays program provided a \$6,749 grant to the Wildlands Trust to develop a plan for the South River Greenway and establish a walking trail to restore access along the South River. The NSRWA is a partner in this project and will be providing our staff time as in-kind support. The plan will provide a long-term strategy for making a greenway and walking trail along the South River become a reality.

## Working with Scituate to Restore Flows in First Herring Brook:

# • New Lawn Watering Restriction Saved 300,000 gallons per day!

A one day a week lawn watering restriction placed on automatic irrigation systems between Memorial Day and Labor Day in Scituate led to substantial reductions in summertime water demand in 2011. Our staff scientist compared pumping data for the years 2007-2011 and found that on average the town had saved 300,000 gallons per day when compared with previous years.

Scituate's Water Department Manager Jim Debarros said "This restriction has many positive side effects besides keeping the river flowing – there is less equipment wear and tear, reduced power consumption, better water pressure, reduced risk of not being able to meet firefighting demands, reduced chemical use and the staff were not working as much overtime."

#### • Scituate Survey Reveals Overwhelming Support for New Lawn Watering Restriction

The town of Scituate recently conducted a public opinion survey about the watering restriction in the town. The results show that 82% of Scituate residents appreciated the allocation of this finite natural resource.

# 2012 Wampanoag Canoe Passage FUNDRAISER



## Donate • Celebrate • Join In The First \$2,000 in Donations Will Be Matched!

Donate or participate as a paddler in Peter Kelly-Detwiler's 72-mile journey and help preserve and protect our rivers. To paddle you must obtain sponsorship of \$250 or more, have your own equipment and paddle the North River leg (12.5 miles). **The first \$2,000 of donations will be matched!** All donors are invited to meet Peter and the other paddlers after the first leg of the trip on the North River at a celebratory party on Saturday, June 9, 2012. To donate or to get more details visit www.nsrwa. org or call (781)-659-8168.

# Using Science continued from page 1

First and foremost clean water is fundamental to our mission and the health of our rivers. Our major focus remains reducing the bacterial contamination to our rivers to meet our goal of having our shellfish beds open year round. In order to accomplish that we will provide technical support to our communities on technologies to clean stormwater and more importantly change the way we develop land so we minimize the creation of polluted runoff in the first place. We also are seeking innovative ways to minimize existing pollution in the rivers, such as by growing shellfish to act as living filters to clean the water column.

## Fishing, Swimming and Boating in our Rivers



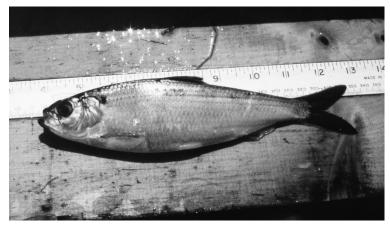
NSRWA Volunteer of the Year Sara Frazar assessing culverts for fish passage

As clean water is fundamental to our mission so is restoring the natural flow of the rivers and runs of migra-

tory fish. River herring is one such migratory fish whose populations were once abundant and now are declining, so much so that in 2011 the federal government was petitioned to list river herring as threatened. Impediments like old dams and improperly designed



NSRWA volunteers collecting biological data in support of the Green Harbor River salt marsh tidal restoration project.



culverts in streams act to fragment river habitat and prevent important migrating fish from completing their reproductive cycle. Water withdrawals and dams also alter streamflow, disrupt river habitat connectivity, and impede fish migration.

## Flowing Rivers and Free Runs of Migratory Fish

To make further progress in restoring natural streamflow we will increase our volunteer monitoring of herring returns in the spring, continue to monitor stream flows, and work with owners of dams and culverts to remove or improve them to allow for more natural streamflow and fish passage. We will build on our 2011 inventory of culverts and dams by collecting data on additional streams in our watershed, and educating our communities on the need to remedy priority impediments.

Our work with Scituate to restore more natural streamflows and herring to the First Herring Brook watershed is a great example of how sound science can help to achieve our goals. Our water monitoring and other scientific support provided Scituate needed evidence on how their water supply system adversely impacted streamflow, and why herring no longer spawned in that river system. The data we gathered then allowed us to model how the town could "fix" the problem through water conservation and changes to infrastructure to accommodate herring passage.

by Samantha Woods, Executive Director

Collecting data on herring populations.

# Engaging People with our Rivers, continued from page 1

### Increasing Public Access

The North and South Rivers have a long history of industry, and until recently the public has been largely shut off from their banks by commercial uses and private property. Providing access to the rivers and protecting shorefront properties for conservation and passive recreation has been a high priority of the Association and South Shore communities for decades.

There has been much progress: a North River Greenway is taking shape as river bank properties are protected; the South River Park is now under construction, and we hope to celebrate its opening this summer; planning funds for the South River Greenway and River Path have been awarded; and we will soon be assessing the potential for a new walking trail and more open space protection along the Third Herring Brook in Norwell and Hanover.



Winning a kayak at River Clean Up Day.

By advocating for open space and contiguous corridors all along the rivers and tributaries we hope to assure more access, increase awareness, and strengthen protection of our rivers at the same time.

## Watershed Related Education

Providing watershed and river based education programs that inspire both love for and better scientific understanding of our rivers is key to meeting our goals for improving the health of our watershed.

First, we hope to continue and expand our popular and effective Water All Around You program for 5th grade students. Water All Around You helps kids understand how a watershed works, why rainwater needs to soak into the ground to recharge the river in summer, and how pollution gets into the river.

The goal set in our new Strategic Plan is to reach all watershed and Mass Bays communities within five years, with particular attention to outreach in the currently unserved communities of Rockland, Abington, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Cohasset, Duxbury, and Plymouth. But watershed education is not just for kids! NSRWA has long collaborated with the South Shore Natural Science Center and Mass Audubon to present an annual, free Water Watch Lecture Series at the Science Center, a partnership we would like to continue and expand upon.

## **River Recreation**

Ultimately, of course, nothing builds commitment to protection and restoration of our rivers more than experiencing their beauty, the enjoyment of a paddle or walk, or the satisfaction of participating in a River Cleanup Day. NSRWA continues to emphasize the recreational use of the rivers and opportunities for stewardship through events such as our River Clean Up day, Wampanoag Paddle, River Adventures Camp and our paddles and walks.

These events throughout the watershed are integral to engaging an informed and passionate public for our rivers, and our new Strategic Plan is explicit in calling for new initiatives to increase river recreation. Our outstanding line up of upcoming walks, paddles and other unique outdoor river activities on page 11, many in partnership with other organizations and outfitters, is the fullest we have offered! We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to enjoy the rivers and related conservation lands, and that we will see you on the water!

By Samantha Woods, Executive Director



Playing in our rivers. Photo by Mike Moyers.

# Annual Report 2011

ast year was an amazing year of milestones for our rivers – the opening of the South River for shellfishing for the first time in 20 years, more land acquisitions in support of a North River Greenway, the construction beginning on the new South River park-to name a few. We also had a great time engaging more people in loving our rivers by offering innovative opportunities to get outside through walks, paddles, clamming and flyfishing. All of our efforts to protect and restore our rivers and educate the next generation of river stewards could not be done without the support of members like you. Together we are a strong voice for our rivers, the wildlife they support, and the beauty and respite they offer us. Local action and science is crucial to protecting and restoring our natural resources – indeed "this is where the rubber meets the road."

Thank you for continuing to be the voice of the rivers. Please consider giving this newsletter to someone you know and asking them become a member. The rivers need them.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

The year 2011 saw your organization's financial health continue to improve, but the future is still uncertain, particularly regarding grants and other government funding. Membership income, a key part of our budget, has increased thanks to the generosity of its members. Membership support is so important for our mission to continue.

The endowment fund has grown to \$81,651 as of mid-March 2012, an increase from January 2011's value of \$70,453. \$5,000 of this increase was the result of a bequest from the IRA of the late Richard Clay of Scituate. The remaining growth is from increase in share values of the various funds as well as reinvested dividends and capital gains. At present all dividends and capital gain distributions are reinvested in order to grow the fund at a faster rate. Considering that the endowment fund's value in January 2010 was \$63,907 we are pleased with the growth that it experienced.

Please consider including the NSRWA in your estate planning. The growth of the endowment fund will contribute greatly to the long term financial stability of your organization. Should you have questions regarding such planning, professional assistance is available to answer any questions. Please contact the office for assistance.

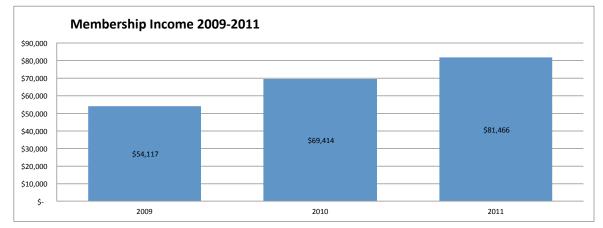
Finally, the board of directors and the staff are grateful for all financial support, both large and small, from the members who support our mission to preserve, restore and conserve in their natural state, the waters and related natural resources within the watershed.

by Richard Leach, Treasurer

Your partner in conservation, Samantha Woods, Executive Director

## North and South Rivers Watershed Association Statement of Financial Position

Balance Sheet	2011*	2010	2009
Total Assets	\$513,269	\$ 501,532	\$476,624
Total Liabilities	\$ 12,437	\$ 6,277	\$ 14,874
Net Assets	\$411,534	\$ 380,554	\$ 389,936
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$531,269	\$ 501,532	\$ 476,624
Statement of Activities			
Revenues			
Restricted Grants	\$166,210	\$ 196,056	\$ 160,140
Unrestricted and Restricted Donations	\$105,316	\$ 108,160	\$ 77,885
Program/Events	\$ 28,412	\$ 26,815	\$ 32,377
All Other	\$ 12,460	\$ 13,588	\$ 30,300
Total Revenue	\$312,398	\$ 344,619	\$ 300,702
Expenses			
Payroll	\$205,545	\$ 213,094	\$ 182,425
Contract and Professional Services	\$ 37,398	\$ 36,285	\$ 48,281
Occupancy and Utilities	\$ 11,252	\$ 9,236	\$ 9,258
Printing and Postage	\$ 18,916	\$ 16,822	\$ 20,322
All Other	\$ 39,423	\$ 44,738	\$ 51,865
Total Expenses	\$312,534	\$ 320,174	\$ 312,155
Net Revenues	(136)	\$ 30,980	\$ (11,449)
*2011 not reviewed by accountant			





# 2011 NSRWA Members

# **RIVER GUARDIANS 2011**

#### River Guardians \$2,500 +

Anonymous Richard & Jackie Leach Sheehan Family Foundation Sylvester Fund The Bilezikian Family Foundation, Inc Whole Foods Market

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

Anonymous (2) David & Lynn DeGhetto Peter & Julie Kelly-Detwiler Mark DiRico Herb & Paulie Emilson Craig & Daniel Hannafin Debbie & Bruce Lenahan Andrea Miller Julie & Al Uhler Cap Vinal

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

Billington Sea Kayak Black Pond Veterinary Service, Inc Bond Printing ESRI Horsley Witten Group Mill Wharf Restaurant

Norwell Women's Club Patricia G. Cobb, P.C. **RBC** Royal Bank Rockland Federal Credit Union Scituate Federal Savings

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

Kezia Bacon Mark & Joell Bianchi John & Linda Bodenmann Susan & Elisa Caron Paul Coolidge Mary Eliot Peter & Roberta Fairbanks John Grady Russ & Laura Haskell Alan & Janet Holbrook James Hughes Richard & Dorothy Krause Mark & Sally Moore Kim Peters Marty & Adria Pitkow John & Laurie Schneider Bill Stanton & Lisa Lenon Karen Stone & Michael Waddell Carol Sullivan Susan & Michael Wolfe Samantha Woods & Lanny Day

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#### Sponsor \$100 - \$249

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■ 2011 Revenue

2010 Revenues

2009 Revenues

All Other

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#### <u>Supporter \$50 - \$9</u>9

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Special Thanks to Harvest Moon Feast Vendors 5 South Main Baking with Joy Circe's Grotto Ellen MacKenzie Caterer, Inc. Hola Mill Wharf Restaurant Mullaney's Seafood Nantucket Wild Gourmet & Smokehouse Ob La Da PJ's Country House Restaurant & Pub The Chef's Table The Silent Chef Tinker's Son Yankee Trader Seafood

# Exploring the "Outer Limits of Our Watershed" Walk Series

These walks are free for NSRWA members, \$5 for non-members. Space is limited, registration and details on where to meet can be found at www. nsrwa.org. Children are welcome but please leave your dog at home.

Did you know that the entire watershed to the North and South Rivers contains 12 towns, 93 square miles or 59,000 acres. Come with us to explore some of the farthest reaches and most fascinating places that you didn't even know you were connected to by water!

#### Sunday, April 22, 1 p.m. Explore the Indian Head Bogs – Hanson's Newest Conservation Area

Hanson's newest conservation area, the 103acre Indian Head Bogs, illustrates the environmental history of southeastern Massachusetts. Join Phil Clemens, a naturalist and historian, on this walk to gain insight into the human uses of our watershed from agriculture and recreation to the historical bog iron industry.

#### Sunday, May 20th, 1 p.m. Visit Enchanted George Anderson Forest

Cross braided streams over 16 charming bridges in this magical fern filled forest. George Anderson (the namesake of this property) will again lead this captivating walk in Rockland. For the last 28 years, George and a group of devoted volunteers have transformed this conservation area, building wandering stone paths and foot bridges over bubbling streams that feed French's Stream, a headwater tributary to the North River system.

#### Sunday June 3rd, 1 pm Explore the Future New Conservation Area at the Weymouth Air Force Base

Join renowned wetland scientist/naturalist Steve lvas to explore the future conservation area and observe the progress of a river reclamation project that will uncover the Old Swamp River. Several different ecosystems at the headwaters to the North River will be explored including, French's Stream, a vernal pool, an Atlantic white cedar swamp and the Twin Ponds.

# Paddling & Camping Opportunities for Members!

To find out the time, place and more details about each of these fun paddles, go to our website, www.nsrwa.org, or call 781-659-8168 or email paula@nsrwa.org. **Registration required in advance** for paddles. All paddles require membership in the NSRWA – individual membership is \$25 and family membership is \$35. Pay once to paddle as a member all season long! **Kayaks and equipment are provided.** Children 8-14 are welcome when accompanied by an adult. Kayak paddles are in partnership with Coastal Kayak Educators.

# INSTRUCTION

#### Learn How to Stand Up Paddle on the South River

#### Monday evenings at 6 pm • May 14th, 28th and June 11th

Stand-Up Paddle Instruction will be offered by Luminate Skate & Surf. The 1 1/2 hour course includes full instruction on technique and safety. All equipment is provided, including wetsuits, if needed. *The cost per person is \$35 for NSRWA members and \$60 for non-member (includes NSRWA membership)*.

#### Kayak Paddling Instruction on the North River

The cost per person for each session is \$35 for members and \$60 for non-member individual/\$70 for non-member family (includes NSRWA membership).

#### Intro to Kayaking – Learn How to Kayak on the North River!

#### Saturday, June 23 at 3:15 pm • Saturday, July 21 at 2:15 pm

Whether you want to learn how to kayak or brush up on your kayaking skills, this 2.5 hour course is for you. Participants will receive on-land and in-water instruction in basic kayaking techniques and safety.

# Intermediate Paddling Skills Training on the North River

#### Saturday, August 4 at 2:15 pm

This 2.5 hour session is designed for paddlers with some experience who want to improve and learn new skills including advanced paddling strokes, bracing, wet exits and rescues. This is an interactive session on the water with instructors.

# SCENIC RIVER TOURS AND OTHER FUN

#### Historic Tour of the North River from Marshfield to Hanover

#### Saturday, July 7 at 1:30 pm

Join local historian, naturalist and author, John Galluzzo and NSRWA Director, Samantha Woods for an 8 mile paddle on the scenic and historically rich North River. This will be a leisurely excursion featuring the North River's role in our local history and will examine how its ecology has changed throughout time. This trip will take approximately 4 hours. Cost per person is \$70 for members and \$95 for non-member (includes NSRWA membership).

#### Scenic Tour of the North River

Sunday, July 22 at 3:15 pm

Enjoy a 2 hour kayak tour of the only Scenic Protected river in the state of Massachusetts - the North River! *Cost per person is \$35 for members and \$60 for non-member s (includes NSRWA membership).* 

#### Explore the Hidden South River Paddle

#### Sunday, August 19 at 1:45 pm (check time)

Explore the hidden hideaways for 2 hours on the upper reaches of the South River. *Cost per person is \$35 for members and \$60 for non-members (includes NSRWA membership).* 

# Paddling and Overnight Camping

#### at Couch Beach, North River

Saturday, August 11 Depart 5 pm -Sunday August 12 – Return 11 am Saturday, August 25 Depart 5 pm -Sunday August 26 – Return 11 am

Enjoy a night on the North River! Participants will paddle from the Union St. (Marshfield) canoe launch to the campsite at Couch beach on the scenic North River. A hamburger and hot dog dinner and light breakfast will be provided. Participants must provide their own camping equipment. Coastal Kayak Educators will lead the expedition, supply the food and kayaking gear and transport your camping gear to the campsite. Children 8-14 years are welcome with parents. *The cost per person is \$80 for members and \$105 for non-member individual/\$115 for non member family (includes NSRWA membership) plus \$80 per family member.* 

#### Great River Race SAVE THE DATE Saturday, August 18th • 12:30pm

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 mid June.



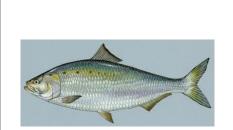
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# In This Issue:

- Science & Engagement Focus of Strategic Plan
- Grants to Help South River and Corn Hill Woodland Trail Improvements
- Annual Report 2011



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Saturday, May 12th, 10 am Flyfishing for American Shad, the "Founding Fish" on the Indian Head River

Join the NSRWA and Trout Unlimited fly fishing expert, Warren Winders, for a morning learning the art of flyfishing and the fascinating history and life cycle of the returning American Shad, the fish that fed George Washington's troops at Valley Forge! For more details and registation visit nsrwa.org.

## NSRWA's 25th Annual River Clean Up Day

Saturday April 28, 2012 • 10 am – 12 noon Celebratory Cookout 12 pm at the Driftway Sponsored by Whole Foods and Covanta Energy Visit www.nsrwa.org for full details

June 23- September 15

# Yoga at the River's Edge

Saturday mornings at different locations along the rivers, 8:30-10am. For locations visit nsrwa.org or find us on Facebook (Yoga at the River's Edge). \$10 per person for NSRWA members, \$15 non-members. No registration is required.

## Sunday May 13 - 10:30 a.m.

# Clamming with the NSRWA on the North River

Join us to learn where and how to legally harvest shellfish on the North River. This event is free (though you will have to purchase a shellfish license) and open to members and nonmembers but space is limited as we will ferry you by boat to the flats. For more details and registration visit nsrwa.org.