



# WaterWatch

THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
Protecting our Waters Since 1970



North River from Couch's Beach by Jim McIntyre

## 50 Years of Global Thinking and Local Action

### 1970-2019

Fifty years ago there was a great awakening to the fragility of our blue planet that inspired people to take action. And so, the North and South Rivers Watershed Association was born. What began with a group of 400 local citizens has grown to become a regional organization with more than 1,700 household members, making NSRWA the largest environmental organization on Boston's South Shore.

As we mark the momentous occasion of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, what was true five decades ago is still true today – big change begins at the local level.

With the help of our supporters and volunteers, we continue to act as a catalyst for change by boosting the capacity of grassroots environmental groups, fostering advocacy networks, and standing up with a strong voice for our rivers and coastal waters. In 2019, together we:

- Reached more than 187,000 South Shore residents (adults and children)

with educational messages about protecting and restoring our coastal waters and watersheds. A fivefold increase compared to 2016.

- Inspired nearly 6,000 people to take action to protect their waters – by volunteering, getting outdoors, or advocating for clean healthy waters in their communities. We doubled the number of kids who ventured outdoors with us from 2018!
- Added almost 700 new members – raising our total membership to just over 1,700 – a record in our history!

### 2020 - 2070

If we are successful, by the time we celebrate our next 50 years our water will be cleaner and more plentiful, the restoration and protection of our watershed will have led to the return of more river herring on the South Shore, and young people will take care of our environment better than any other generation before.

Great challenges lie ahead – rising

sea levels, increasing intensity of rainfall and drought, and rising global temperatures. All of this will threaten our wildlife and our way of life in ways we have yet to understand. But we've faced environmental challenges before and, together, we can do it again.

The good news is, we know our approach educating and engaging local people at the grassroots level works. So, the more our membership grows, the more community-based water education programs we deliver, the more kids and families we get outside caring for their waters, the stronger we can be as a force for change. This year, in honor of our first 50 years, and to build a strong foundation to meet future challenges, we are setting an ambitious goal to grow our membership to 2,020 by the end of 2020.

Please join us. Take action. Become a member and invite a friend. Our planet needs you. Think globally, act locally has never been more true.

## **NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

Our purpose is to Protect Our Waters.

We believe that an educated and engaged citizenry will result in healthy rivers and watersheds, thus  
Educate + Engage = Healthy Rivers.

Our goals for 2020 are to:

**EDUCATE;** to serve as the primary source of watershed information in the region and to provide each student with at least one first-hand watershed experience.

**ENGAGE;** to strengthen our river based recreation and volunteer service programs to connect people to the rivers and watershed, and become a primary source of information for family outdoor activities.

**HEALTHY RIVERS;** to inspire a community of stewards dedicated to a healthy and vibrant watershed through our own on the ground restoration projects to show people what a healthy river system is and how it supports the health of their community.

### **OFFICERS**

President: Peter Hainer  
Vice President: Kevin Cassidy  
Treasurer: Rick Mayfield  
Secretary: Barbara Carney

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tad Beagley  
Sally Caverly  
Susan Darnell  
Caleb Estabrooks  
Janet Fairbanks  
Lindsey Flaherty  
Geoff Gordon  
Craig Hannafin  
Deb Lenahan  
Brendan Murray  
Margery Parker  
Martha Twigg  
Nick Vercollone

### **STAFF**

Executive Director - Samantha Woods  
  
Director of Development & Community Engagement - Gabriela Silva  
  
MassBays Partnership South Shore Regional Coordinator & Watershed Ecologist - Sara Grady  
  
Director of Marketing & Communications - Lori Wolfe  
  
Environmental Educator - Brian Taylor  
  
Community Outreach Coordinator - Terri Birkeland  
  
Financial and Operating Support - Carolyn Reynolds  
  
Lead Pontoon Boat Captain - Willard Boulter  
  
Yoga at the Rivers Edge and Columnist - Kezia Bacon

### **NSRWA**

P.O. Box 43/214 South Street  
Norwell, MA 02061  
phone: 781-659-8168  
[nsrwa.org/exploresouthshore.org](http://nsrwa.org/exploresouthshore.org)

# Letter From Our President

The year 2020 marks our 50<sup>th</sup> year of stewardship of our wonderful watershed and rivers, and my 20<sup>th</sup> year as a board member. In my time the organization has transformed itself from a relatively small but dedicated group of locally committed environmentalists to our place today as the major environmental organization on the coastal south shore. As I see it, this transformation had three notable eras, each with its own challenges.

The early 2000s brought an established organization with a headquarters in Norwell. Encouraged by the recent successful effort that shut off the “sewer outfall pipe” at the rivers’ mouth, we began a long and steady effort to restore the health of the rivers, identifying and mitigating pollution sources. We hired Samantha Woods as the Executive Director who was an environmental advocate with a science background and a keen understanding of watershed health. Samantha set about to redefine our role as a reactive environmental advocacy group and widen our vision to include ways we could effectively monitor river and watershed health (with real data) and educate our members and local towns about the importance of water quality and quantity. The existential threat of this time was the siting of the train layover station. Our efforts were key to ensuring that the trains were on the north side of the Driftway and to help limit the station’s scale. Samantha was the fulltime staff, buttressed by part-time help with volunteers. We wrote our first strategic plan delineating our vision, mission, and organizational goals.

2008 presented us with a serious challenge. Worried that the economic crisis would evaporate our modest budget we set about to restructure how we functioned as an organization and thought about trying to build a stable economic base. We wrote a “re-missioning” plan for the board that grouped board members into key committees each charged with a major contribution to the work of the organization. Now board members focused more directly supporting the work of Samantha and her staff. We initiated a Major Donors campaign and established our River Guardians to help create a steady financial platform. Science and science-based monitoring became a serious full-



time role as did the education outreach into 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in 10 surrounding towns. We wrote our 2<sup>nd</sup> strategic plan.

Into the modern era we emerged as a transformed organization. We increased our full-time staff, adding marketing and communication, development, and education specialist roles. We greatly increased our pool of volunteers. Our efforts were directed at community engagement, supporting local towns in the preservation of land and open space, and a major effort to remove failing dams and restore natural tributaries. We doubled our budget and received a sizable fundraising grant from the Bloomwhistle Trust, enabling us to accomplish the goals of a third strategic plan. Success has brought with it growing pains. We have outgrown our current headquarters and are trying to find a larger place on the North River that will let us expand our reach and give more people access to these wonderful natural resources.

We have gone from a small but dedicated reactive group of environmental advocates to an organization with a stable financial base, skilled and dedicated staff, with a forward-thinking approach to the challenges that the next decade will bring; notably rising sea levels and proactive preparedness for major coastal storms. Our future challenges will be onerous. Please join us in this effort and come celebrate 50 years of serious stewardship with us on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Peter Hainer  
NSRWA President



**1970****1980****1990****2000****2010**

# NSRWA - 50 Years of Problem Solving

## 1970–1980

### Problems

- Dramatic decline in birds at the Spit in Scituate – particularly Salt Marsh Sparrows
- No local entity to oversee regional natural resources

### Solutions

- North and South Rivers Watershed Association formed to provide education and advocacy for the watershed and rivers

### Impact

- US Department of the Interior recognizes the North and South Rivers as National Natural Landmarks
- North River designated as first and only Scenic Protected River in Massachusetts preserving the scenic qualities of the river for everyone

## 1980–1990

### Problem

- Sewage in rivers

### Solution

- The NSRWA hires its first professional staff and brings suit against the Scituate Wastewater Treatment Plant, forcing the town to address operational problems.

### Impact

- Today, the plant regularly emits clean effluent into the river

## 1990 – 2000

### Problem

- Water Pollution

### Solutions

- Citizen Science water quality monitoring, River Clean Up, and targeted storm-water upgrades

### Impact

- 293 acres of North River shellfish beds opened seasonally
- Water monitoring identifies the need for sewerage to clean up the South River

## 2000 – 2010

### Problems

- Herring population in serious decline
- South River still closed to shellfishing due to water quality
- Lack of dedicated funding for Open Space Acquisition in South Shore towns
- Water withdrawals lead to seriously reduced stream flows in tributaries

### Solutions

- Regional education program in partnership with 10 South Shore towns on water conservation and pollution
- Become host of the MassBays National Estuary Partnership Program to provide science and policy support to restore embayments throughout the South Shore from Cohasset to Plymouth

### Impact

- Passed funding for sewerage Marshfield
- Opened 314 acres of South River shellfish beds seasonally,
- Passed lawn watering restrictions to allow for stream flow releases for herring migration in First Herring Brook
- Passed the Community Preservation Act in South Shore towns (CPA), creating North River greenway and saving 1000's of acres!

## 2010 – 2020

### Problem

- Lack of awareness and knowledge of local nature, especially among area youth

### Solutions

- Expanded citizen science monitoring efforts to include river herring, horseshoe crabs and salt marshes
- Expanded outdoor recreation and engagement through our nature and history pontoon boat tours and Estuary Explorers for Youth programming

### Impact

- Educate over 2,500 students and 350 parent volunteers annually from 10 South Shore communities through our regional WaterSmart program
- Reconnect over 8 miles of stream for migrating and native fish through dam removals
- Grow to over 1,700 members throughout the South Shore to protect our waters

# Healthy Rivers



## Support for Veteran's Park Improvements

The dam removal process at Marshfield's Veterans Memorial Park continues! This spring we will ask Marshfield Town Meeting on Monday, April 27, to authorize spending \$263,000 from Community Preservation funds to support the next phase of this exciting project. The ultimate goal is to remove the dam, improve fish passage, and improve the park's lagoon and the operation of the fountain in the lagoon both of which are dedicated to veterans. The fountain no longer is functional due to siltation within the lagoon.

This is not a typical dam removal. We have been working closely with Marshfield's veterans to address their needs

while balancing the underlying ecological concerns. The current fish ladder is marginal at best. Fish congregate below the dam during migration but typically can't get over it – in fact less than 9% of the fish we see at this site are seen making it over the fish ladder. In order to maintain the park's bleeding heart-shaped lagoon, dedicated to male veterans, we must create a naturalized fishway that will hold water at the top. This involves quite a bit of engineering and permitting. We are hope to harness the momentum and are applying for additional grants to advance the project and supplement the town and state's initial investments in this project.



## Peterson Pond Dam Removal Moving Forward

Third Herring Brook marks the boundary line between Norwell and Hanover, and flows through the Hanover Mall property. As the Mall begins a massive reconstruction project, we are progressing steadily with the removal of the Peterson Pond Dam, also on site. Recently we signed a contract with an engineering firm, to complete the construction bid documents and historical assessment

required for permitting. If our grant applications are successful, we anticipate that dam removal will take place this winter and open up the brook all the way to Jacobs Pond dam! Funds from U.S. Fish & Wildlife, the Massachusetts Department of Ecological Restoration, and from the Mall itself will help to ensure that our project remains on track and doesn't interfere with construction.



*Fish ladder at Old Oaken Bucket Pond on the First Herring Brook., Scituate*

## Drought Protection in Scituate

The Town of Scituate has struggled with water supply issues for years. In 2019, NSRWA found an effective way to help.

Our Ecologist and MassBays South Shore Regional Coordinator, Sara Grady, developed a Water Supply and Streamflow Prediction tool. With weekly pumping and reservoir level data furnished by the town, Grady estimated the number of days before action might be required – a water ban, for example, or turning off streamflow. The tool worked very well – with the predictive parts of the model corresponding to how the system behaved in reality. We'll put the tool to use again this year on April 1<sup>st</sup>, providing guidance to Scituate through October.

In addition to helping with analytical tools, the NSRWA continues to work with the town of Scituate to raise the town's reservoir to improve drought resiliency and fish passage. Last fall 358 people signed our letter in support of this project. Public support and benefits need to be demonstrated for the project to receive a waiver from the Wetlands Protection Act as some wetlands bordering the reservoir will be underwater for a longer period of time than under current conditions. This project is currently seeking grant funding to move it through the permitting phase. Stay tuned!



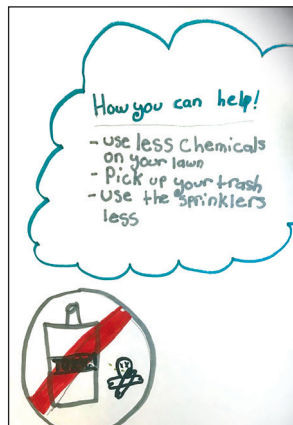


## Migrating from the Stream to the Classroom!

FISH School, Fostering Innovative Science through Herring counts in Schools is an exciting new program the NSRWA will be rolling out this spring. Fish School brings the amazing spring herring migration of the South Shore to local schools for a fun and interactive science-based experience. With the help of the Division of Marine Fisheries,

the NSRWA will be installing an underwater web-based camera in the South River to allow viewing and monitoring of herring populations and their migratory patterns on an online platform. Using innovative technology, the NSRWA will bring this program to local schools in order to excite and educate students on this

natural phenomena. On screen, students will be able to count herring in class with their classmates, or at home with their families. Counts will be submitted online, thus generating data that will be used toward helping reestablish populations of this keystone species within our coastal, inland, and estuarine ecosystems.



## Make This Summer One to Remember!

Nature hikes, fishing programs, guided paddles, and river trips are just some of the many programs we're offering. The NSRWA is also increasing our outdoor engagement by partnering with several local youth organizations including South Shore YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Marshfield, and Norwell Recreation Department. Through these partnerships, the NSRWA is expanding our ability to provide youth the opportunity to make connections with their community's land and water resources. Visit [nsrwa.org/events](http://nsrwa.org/events) or one of our partners sites to sign up for summer outdoor fun!

## Students Spring into Vernal Pool Discovery!

During the first week of March, Environmental Educator Brian Taylor gave a vernal pool presentation to the sixth graders of Gates Middle School, supported by the Scituate Education Foundation. The NSRWA has been working with the Town of Scituate and Gates Middle School to discuss vernal pools, their importance, and what we can do to help protect these valuable and often overlooked wetlands. After the program the students created public service announcement posters

highlighting the importance of protecting and certifying these fragile habitats.

Along similar lines, the NSRWA will be offering three separate Vernal Pool Discovery Walks at three different parks in our watershed in April. These events are being held on week days during school spring break and are geared toward showing kids the amazing life and important role vernal pools play in our ecosystem. For more information, or to register, check out [nsrwa.org/events](http://nsrwa.org/events).



# Get Out and Explore the South Shore!

As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, we are highlighting one town in the watershed per month. You can explore the locations on our website and enter our 50 Places to Explore Contest. Enter to win a monthly prize package by visiting the highlighted properties and posting your photos on Instagram @northsouthrivers with the hashtag #ExploreSouthShore and the name of the property. Once a month we will randomly choose a winner from the posts to receive a prize package. To see info about the properties including trail maps, parking and more, go to our website.

## 50 PLACES TO EXPLORE

Wednesday, April 1	Canoe Club Preserve, Pembroke
Wednesday, April 8	Tubbs Meadow Conservation Area, Pembroke
Wednesday, April 15	Willow Brook Farm Preserve, Pembroke
Wednesday, April 22	J.J. Shepherd Memorial Forest, Pembroke
Wednesday, April 29	Herring Run Park, Pembroke
Wednesday, May 6	Round Pond Trails, Duxbury
Wednesday, May 13	South River Bog, Duxbury
Wednesday, May 20	Duxbury Beach Park, Duxbury
Wednesday, May 27	Howlands Landing Park, Duxbury
Wednesday, June 3	Couch Beach, Marshfield
Wednesday, June 10	John Little Conservation Area, Marshfield
Wednesday, June 17	Francis Keville Footbridge, Marshfield
Wednesday, June 24	Veterans' Memorial Park or South River Park, Marshfield
Wednesday, July 1	Paddle the North River, Hanover Public Launch
Wednesday, July 8	Norwell Pathway, Norwell

Read more at [www.nsrwa.org/get-outdoors/50-places-to-explore-contest/](http://www.nsrwa.org/get-outdoors/50-places-to-explore-contest/)



## Explore with Our New NSRWA Walking Club

Sometimes a great idea just comes together. Recently two new volunteers were meeting with Director of Development and Community Engagement Gabriela Silva and the conversation turned to getting outdoors and meeting new people. One thing led to another... and the NSRWA Walking Club was born. Alida Alberts and Ellen Herling decided they would be just the people to give it a go.

Alida said, "From my perspective, the minute Gabby mentioned it I knew it would be something I would want to be a part of. Having just relocated here from Colorado I was ready to meet new people and make new friends. I love to be outdoors, love hiking, biking and can't wait to kayak! I had been following the NSRWA Facebook page even before we moved and I just had a feeling this was an organization I needed to join and support. I feel their mission is of utmost importance, and I'm thankful for all the work that has been done so far to protect our waterways."

Ellen shared, "I love to be outdoors,



Ellen Herling and Alida Alberts plan walks for the NSRWA Walking Club.

especially among the trees. I love hiking, snowshoeing, kayaking and swimming. It's so much more enjoyable to experience all of this with others who are in awe of nature's beauty in all the seasons."

Their first walk was to Bates Lane Conservation Area in Scituate, and twelve new friends gathered for the hike. Marla and Rich Minier, who know the land so well, came and offered lots of info along the way. The second walk was at Nelson Memorial Forest in Marshfield.

Ellen reflected, "The Bates walk was an enjoyable well marked walk through many miles of interesting fauna and flora with cart paths, stone walls and beautiful woods with rock formations of outcroppings of granite created over 430 million years ago We felt like we were in the middle of New England history."

"The first walk proved I'm not the only one out there who enjoys being outdoors, meeting new people and chatting with other walkers. As we walked, different groups were chatting together and then they would split up and have a conversation with another group. It was a very casual and social event, and an opportunity to reach out to others and enjoy their company. Some of the walkers commented that they have lived here for many years and never knew of the Bates Lane property!", said Alida.

Ellen and Alida feel there will be "many more walks in our future and many more places to explore!"

Sign up for our E-news or check out our website Events page for information on upcoming walks at [nsrwa.org](http://nsrwa.org).



# See the Herring Runs on the South Shore

Spring means flowers, songbirds, and the annual upstream migration of river herring to spawn in the streams and ponds they were born in! These historically large migrations of fish into our freshwater streams, rivers, and ponds once supported the Native Americans, the Pilgrims, and the colonists who came after them. They would use the fish as fertilizer for planting and as a food source. But the damming of our streams and rivers to power sawmills and gristmills and then the industrial revolution – there are estimated to be 3,000 dams in Massachusetts alone – caused the first of multiple declines in their once large populations. Ecologically, river herring are considered a keystone species, meaning many other fish and birds rely upon them as part of the food chain.

Here are some of the herring runs on the South Shore you can easily visit:



## **Herring Run Pool Park Fish Ladder, Back River, Jackson Square, Weymouth**

Located behind the Venetian Restaurant in Jackson Square, at the intersection of Broad and Commercial Streets, this unlikely urban pocket park holds one of the most vigorous herring runs on the South Shore, with an estimated population of over 280,000 spawning fish! The herring run here is largely an alewife run, which prefer to spawn in ponds rather than a blueback herring run, which prefer to spawn in flowing water. Because the alewives' cue to return is water temperature about 50 degrees, your best bet to see these fish is before the end of April.

## **Herring Run Park Fish Ladder, Herring Brook, Pembroke**

The highest population of river herring in the North and South Rivers Watershed, the Pembroke Herring run is best viewed at Herring Run Park off of Route 14. Here the herring have come from Massachu-



*Beneath the Surface, Pembroke by Sean Maiorano* **TIP: Use polarized sunglasses to see through the water.**

setts Bay, entered into the North River, and have traveled 12 miles from the ocean to the Herring Brook! Gorham Mill, Oldham, and Furnace Ponds are their spawning destinations and they have multiple dams and fish ladders to traverse. This run's population at one time was decimated, but from 1995-1997 it was restocked and today the fish population appears to be rebounding. At last count there were over 480,000 fish estimated to use this area to spawn, still low compared to historical numbers, but by far the best in the North and South Rivers system. Like the Weymouth run, this is largely an alewife run so April is the best time to see the fish here.



## **Luddam's Ford Park Fish Run, Indian Head River, Hanover and Pembroke**

A great place to take the family, Luddam's Ford Park at the Indian Head River, is where you can view the herring as they wait to enter the fish ladder downstream of this dam. At the right time, thousands of fish can be seen downstream of the dam and ladder. Unfortunately, due to the location of this fish ladder in the middle of the spillway we can't figure a safe way

to monitor or maintain the fish as they pass here and have no idea of their success rate getting past this dam, but we know that the Indian Head River is a potential jewel in the crown of herring runs to be restored.



## **Veterans' Memorial Park, South River, Marshfield**

Located at the corner of Rts 3A and 139, this beloved park dedicated to our men and women of service has a fish ladder located on the dam. The South River fish run has struggled as the fish ladder is not well designed and requires daily manipulations to allow fish to pass. Our volunteers often note thousands of fish downstream unable to make it over the fish ladder. We are currently working to restore the South River and remove dams as they no longer serve their original purpose.

Currently the best time to see fish at this site is in May and even into June as the run is predominantly blueback herring who prefer warmer water temperatures.

For more information on these and other herring runs, go to [www.nsrwa.org/see-herring-runs-south-shore/](http://www.nsrwa.org/see-herring-runs-south-shore/)

# Come With Us and Explore the South Shore!

## Outdoor Recreation Schedule - April through July

Get out and explore with the North and South Rivers Watershed Association! We have a wide variety of events to choose from including fishing, walks, paddling events and pontoon cruises. Check for updates and register at [nsrwa.org/events](http://nsrwa.org/events). And stay up to date by signing up for our E-news!

### Walks

Tuesday, April 21	Vernal Pool Discovery - Willow Brook Farm, Pembroke
Wednesday, April 22	Vernal Pool Discovery - Denham Pond, Hanover
Thursday, April 23	Vernal Pool Discovery - Websters Wilderness, Marshfield
Saturday, May 30	Crabby Kids at Howland's Landing - Duxbury

### Paddles

Saturday, June 20	Summer Solstice Paddle
Saturday July 25	Explore the Upper Reaches of the North River

### Presentations

Saturday, May 9	Fly Fishing Essentials Class
Date TBD	Striped Bass 101 - The Basics & More

### Pontoon Tours

Saturday, May 16	Shorebird Migration Tour
Sunday, May 17	Clamming the North River Tours
Saturday, May 23	History of the North River
Sunday, May 24	History of the North River
Saturday, May 30	History of the North River (Sunset)
Sunday, May 31	Shorebird Migration Tour
Sunday, May 31	Landscape & Wildlife Photography (Sunset)
Saturday, June 6	Shorebird Migration Tour
Sunday, June 7	Guided Fly Fishing Expedition for Stripers
Saturday, June 13	Shipbuilding on the North River (Sunset)
Sunday, June 14	History of the North River
Saturday, June 20	Landscape & Wildlife Photography
Sunday, June 21	A Tale of Two Rivers
Saturday, June 27	History of the North River
Sunday, June 28	A Tale of Two Rivers
Saturday, July 4	History of the North River
Sunday, July 5	Shipbuilding on the North River
Saturday, July 11	History of the North River
Sunday, July 12	Nature and History of the North River (Sunset)
Saturday, July 18	Landscape & Wildlife Photography
Sunday, July 19	A Tale of Two Rivers
Saturday, July 25	History of the North River
Sunday, July 26	Estuary Adventure Tour



### Vernal Pool Discovery

April 21, 22, 23

A GREAT PROGRAM FOR KIDS ON SCHOOL VACATION! Join the NSRWA on a family friendly outdoor event as we explore vernal pools. NSRWA Educator Brian Taylor will lead us on an adventure as we discover the unique life within these fascinating and often hidden wetlands.



### Crabby Kids

Saturday, May 30

Grab your pail and shovel and come explore the beach and mudflats with us. Discover the unique life that calls the coast home. Look for horseshoe crabs, snails and sea worms. You may even see a fish or two!



### Clamming the North River

Sunday, May 17

Your opportunity to go clamming before the shellfish beds on the North and South Rivers close on May 31. You will be transported by boat out to the clam flats and must have your own clamming equipment and a valid Scituate shellfishing permit.

Visit us online at [nsrwa.org](http://nsrwa.org)  
and [ExploreSouthShore.org](http://ExploreSouthShore.org)

And connect with us on:

- **Facebook**
- **Twitter** @nsrwa
- **Instagram** northsouthrivers





## Citizen Science Opportunities

### River Herring

Training now  
Counts March 25-June 15

### Horseshoe Crabs

Recruiting begins March 23  
Training and surveys April 20-June 23

### Water Quality

Recruiting May 4  
Training June 10  
Monitoring June 1-Sept. 23

### Marine Invasives

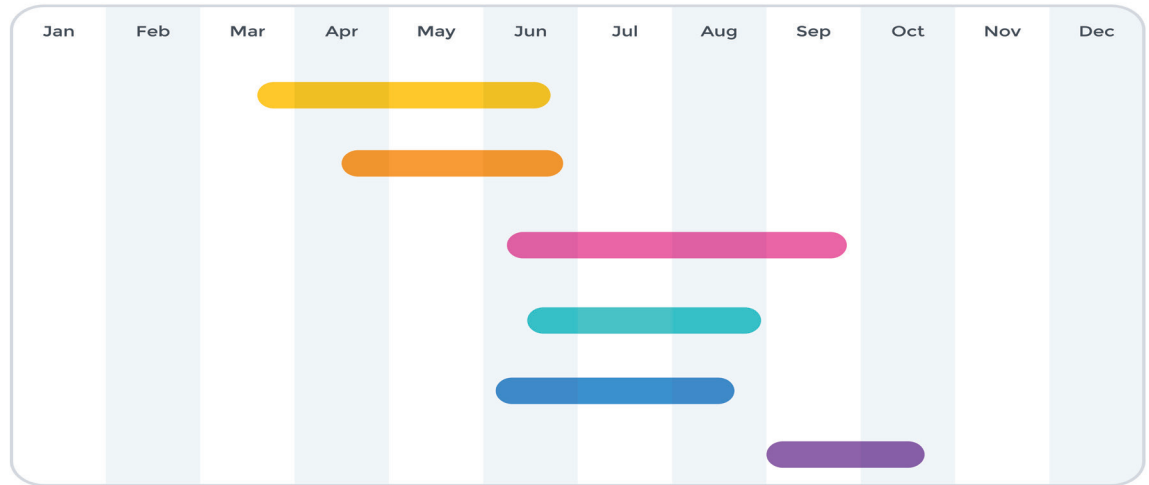
Recruiting begins May 18  
Training in June  
Monitoring June 16-August 28

### Eelgrass Blitz

Recruiting June 15, Training Aug. 3  
Monitoring Week of August 10

### Salt Marsh Sentinels

Limited ongoing recruitment  
Monitoring September-mid-October



## Get Involved in Citizen Science

From March through October, NSRWA oversees six different ecological monitoring programs. As each species reaches its peak activity, we are there to learn about it and capture another year of data. Taken holistically over a year, it gives us a big-picture view of all the activity in our environment. Compared year

to year, over many years, we can see patterns and trends emerge.

Ready to get your hands dirty – or maybe just a little bit wet? Volunteer recruitment has begun, and we need your help! Contact volunteer citizen science coordinator Jill Slankas today ([jill.slankas@gmail.com](mailto:jill.slankas@gmail.com)) to sign up!

## Team Science

Retired Pembroke couple Ken and Jeana Homola participate in the NSRWA's Citizen Science herring count each year, as well as the water sampling program. They work separately when counting fish, monitoring different sites on different days, but for water sampling, which involves visiting several locations in quick succession, they typically work as a team. Ken writes, "We feel it is important to be involved in the preservation of our natural resources and enjoy getting out and devoting our time and efforts to that end. We especially enjoy



working with the other volunteers, especially the young interns. Seeing their enthusiasm and listening to their hopes and dreams for the future makes us proud and confident that our future is in good hands."

## Environmental Family Values



Christine Hudanich and her three children – Nicholas, Christian and Lillian – have been participating in NSRWA's herring and horseshoe crab counts for

over a decade. Nicholas also helps with the eelgrass survey. From the beginning, it was important to Christine and her husband John to raise their children (now 19, 17 and 17) with as much outdoor time as possible. NSRWA's Citizen Science opportunities made it easy to do so. "You really have to start in your own backyard," Christine explains. "It's important to be aware of our impact." The result? Increased environmental awareness for every member of this family, and a strong sense of stewardship not only for Third Herring Brook and their hometown of Norwell, but for the entire planet.



## NSRWA's New Science Coordinator

Hingham resident Jill Slankas participates in most of NSRWA's annual Citizen Science initiatives, including herring counts, the horseshoe crab and eelgrass surveys, water quality sampling, and the Salt Marsh Sentinel program. She also serves as our volunteer citizen science coordinator. Typically Jill works alone, but when she can, she enlists the help of her children (ages 12, 10 & 4). Prior to motherhood, Jill worked in the field of watershed management and environmental science. She writes, "I enjoy being outdoors, learning new things, interacting with people, and the opportunity to be involved."

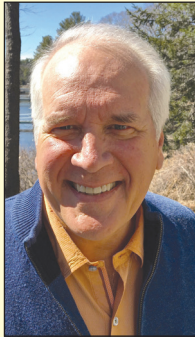
Jill was honored at our 2019 annual meeting with the Citizen Science of the Year Award for her volunteer efforts to help coordinate and lead others to take the pulse of our waters.



# North and South Rivers Watershed Association 2019 Annual Report

## Securing Our Future

Looking back on 2019, as a member and supporter of NSRWA, I could not be happier with the engagement and education accomplishments of the organization. Without your support, we clearly would not have the financial stability to have been able to take on our broader agenda.



From a financial position, we finished the year with net income of \$585,000 marking the second year in the organization's 50-year history to cross the \$500,000 threshold. With this achievement, we are now required to have a full scope audit of our financials. I am proud to share that our first-year audit of 2018 came with a clean opinion from our outside auditors and we fully expect the audit of 2019, which is underway, to have the similar results.

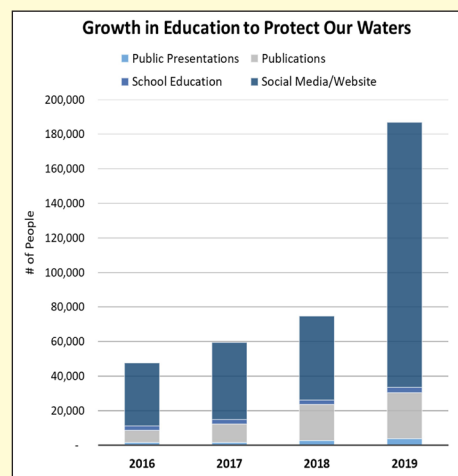
With net income of \$585,000, our annual expenses for the year were \$605,000 which produced a net cash loss of just under \$20,000. We had forecast this deficit for the year due to our planned increased investments in programming for education, more active engagement across our communities, the finalization and launch of our new website, and investments in our technology platforms. We noted in 2018 a change in our revenue diversification and 2019 proved that the mix of Individuals, Corporate, Foundations and Grants continues to change but through it all we have been able to grow the base now for the past four years in all categories.

2019 was another year of tremendous donor support as we closed out the Bloomwhistle Charitable Fund \$200,000 matching challenge

early in the year and had two additional anonymous \$10,000 challenges put forward and matched before year end. Each of these were targeted at membership growth and we closed the year with 700+ new members. We also had continued support for our Campaign For Growth which has now raised \$515,000 of our \$600,000 target since its inception. Lastly, our Endowment fund grew by 22% and was at \$220,000 at year end.

2020 is a tremendous milestone for NSRWA as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. As you can only imagine, we have a lot planned for the year and more importantly the next decade. In 2015 I wrote; "over the next five years we will need to invest in our future to be able to fulfill the increasing market demands from towns across the watershed." Because of you, we have been able to make the needed capital investments to grow and support our communities and are in a great financial position to focus and deliver on the next 50 years.

Rick Mayfield  
NSRWA Treasurer



## 2019 Accomplishments

### Educated

- 4,000 Adults
- 3,300+ Students
- 7,000+ E-news subscribers
- 47,000+ Website visitors
- 4,000+ Facebook Followers
- 100,000+ Facebook Reach
- 1,315 Instagram Followers

### Engaged

- 800+ Volunteers
- 2,500+ in outdoor programs
- 1,045 attended presentations

### Advocated

- Hanover Mall stormwater
- Fireworks site cleanup
- Scituate reservoir raising

### Advanced

- Dam removals in Duxbury, Hanover, Marshfield, Norwell

### Launched

- ExploreSouthShore.org
- NSRWA Guide Map

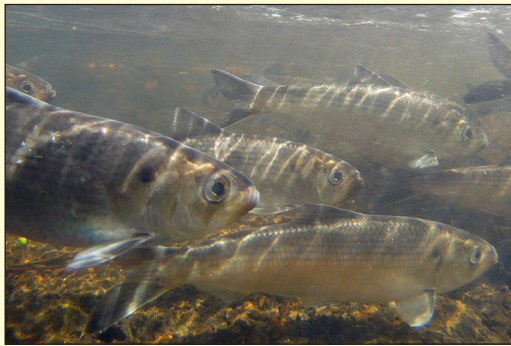
### Expanded

- 500 New members
- Water quality, eelgrass, and salt marsh monitoring
- Hired full time educator

### Supported

- Plastic bag bans
- Cold Water Fisheries Designation





## Protecting Our Waters. For Everyone. For Good.

- We believe in free-flowing rivers and oceans full of fish.
- We care about vibrant nature trails and waters for humans and wildlife to enjoy.
- We believe everyone on the South Shore deserves waters they can play in and eat from.
- We value shellfish beds full of clams, marshes free of invasive species and pollution free waters.
- Along with our members and partners, we work every day to preserve a natural world we are proud to pass along to our children and grandchildren.

## Thank You for Your Support!

We thank our 1,700+ members, donors, foundations, and sponsors for their financial support. Thank you to our volunteers and in-kind donors for your time, expertise, and products & services. Thank you to all who register for our main events, whether it's the South Shore Striper Tournament, the Great River Race, or Harvest Moon Feast. Thank you to our partners for helping to further our many programs and projects. Thanks to each and everyone of you for protecting our waters!

### Corporate Sponsors

Webster One Source • Gordon Atlantic Insurance • Verc Enterprises • Roht Marine • Bond Printing Co. • Fast Signs • Clean Harbors • Safe Harbor Green Harbor Marina • AirX-change • Alpha Analytical Labs • Axiom Architects • Bergsten Music Company • Coastal Heritage Bank • Harbor Mooring • Riverside Landscaping • The Jevne Team • Vertex • Indie Ferm • Bayside Marine • Black Pond Veterinary Service • Blanchards Wine & Spirits • East Computing • Hewlett Packard Enterprise • InfraNet Solutions • Joseph's Garage • L. Knife & Son • Lynch, Marini and Associates • Perry Supply • Planet Subaru •

Raven 360 • Rockland Federal Credit Union • Rockland Trust • Sea Tow South Shore • Town River Marina • Tad Beagley CFPA® Merrill Lynch • South Shore Fly Casters • Cape Cod Lumber • Dunkin Donuts Brockton • High Hook Wines • Horsley Witten Group • Hubbard Plumbing & Heating • JC's Ice-cream • M. Steinert & Sons • Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors • Rand-Handy Oil • Scott Weber Restoration • Sullivan Tire Co. • The Grande Insurance Agency • The Quarry Restaurant • Crawford Boat Building • Cavanaro Consulting • Bear's Den Fly Fishing • Belsan Bail and Tackle • Cape Cod on the Fly • Green Harbor Bait and Tackle • Hingham Shipyard Marinas • Joe Cordeiro Fly Fishing • Legit Fish Sport Fishing • Sarah Diblasi Crain Design and Illustration • Vedavoo

### Harvest Moon Feast Vendors

Mill Wharf Restaurant • Cooking with Abby • The Chef's Table Catering • Ellen Mackenzie Caterer • French Memories Bakery • Galley Kitchen & Bar • Lavishly Dunn Catering • Leena's Kitchen • Mullaney's Fish Markets • Pangea Shellfish Company • The Parrot • Riva • Rivershed • Salt Raw Bar + Fine Cuisine • Commonwealth Wine & Spirits • High Hook Wines • United Liquors • Untold Brewing • The Lance Van Lenten Jazz Quartet

### NSRWA Legacy Circle

Protecting our local waters requires constant vigilance. To help assure the NSRWA continues to be a strong and effective voice for our local waters into the future, please consider leaving a legacy gift to the NSRWA. Whether you name the NSRWA as a beneficiary in your will, retirement accounts, or insurance policy, you are ensuring your assets support the causes that are most important to you.

Making a legacy gift to the NSRWA shows your commitment to protecting our local waters now and in the future. Your visionary support will ensure future generations may enjoy and rely on precious local waters. We would be pleased to welcome you into the NSRWA Legacy Circle.

A special thank you to our current Legacy Circle members:

Herb and Pauline Emilson\*  
Betsey and Robert Detwiler\*  
Peter and Julie Kelly-Detwiler\*  
Craig and Danny Hannafin\*  
Richard and Jackie Leach\*  
Michael and Susan Wolfe\*  
David DeGhetto  
William and Susanne Bottiggi

\*Founding members



# WaterWatch

NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
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www.nsrwa.org • 781-659-8168

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## Inside This Issue:

- **50 Years of Problem Solving**
- **FISH School**
- **River Restoration Updates**
- **Explore South Shore**
- **2019 Annual Report**

### NSRWA 4<sup>th</sup> Annual South Shore Striper Tournament

Friday-Sunday, June 12-14

**\$3,000 in CASH PRIZES**  
**Including Fly Fishing Division!**

Details and registration online



### 2020 Great River Race Saturday, August 1 - Start 9:30am



### Yoga at the River's Edge – June 6–September 12

### SAVE THE DATE splash bash! 50th Anniversary Party

Friday, September 18, 2020  
5:30pm to 10:30pm  
Indian Pond Country Club. Kingston