
NARROW RIVER NOTES

Narrow River Preservation Association: Preserving the Narrow River and the Watershed

Summer 2009

22nd Annual Narrow River Road Race Sponsored by Citizens Bank

NRPA's 22nd annual Narrow River Road Race on May 16th, 2009 was a big success. The weather was just right for running, Jon and Ken had the refreshment table ready for business, there were piles of T-shirts to hand out and prizes to award, the busses getting ready to take runners and walkers to the start of the 5K at Treaty Rock park were idling at the curb, and the parking lot at the Narragansett Town Beach was buzzing with runners getting ready to go and their families and fans. The new course we created when the

new Middle Bridge was finished—from the Narragansett Town Beach to Treaty Rock Park in South Kingstown and back—was once again a big hit. Crossing the new Middle Bridge over Narrow River is an exhilarating sight and was enjoyed by runners and walkers alike.

NRPA would like to express our sincere thanks to Citizens Bank for another year as our Presenting Sponsor. We also thank all of our other sponsors for their cash, gift certificate, or in-kind donations, including A Quick Tire/Auto Service,

Abrams Allstate, All Outdoors Power Equipment, Applied Science Associates, Basil's Resturant, Belmont Market, Bird-watcher's Nature View, Buckley Heating & Cooling, Crazy Burger, CVS, Damon's Hardware, Diprete Engineering Associates, Donald Lally, Feet First, Green Ink Wickford, Green River, I-copy Kingston, Jenelle Silk Screen, Kingston Hill Store, Kingston Liquor, Laurel Lane Golf, Lawrence Goldberg Law Office, Leeson Associates, Nardolillo Funeral Home, Natural
(Continued on page 4)



The start of the 2008 Narrow River Road Race (photo by R. D. Kenney).

Swimmers go Forth (Fourth)!

Turnaround Swim Wrap-up

Despite a slow start to summer, summer did arrive in South County by Saturday, June 27th for the fourth annual Narrow River Turnaround Swim (NRTS). Under sunny skies and calm conditions, and with comfortable water temperatures (70°F), the quiet of the North Kingstown section of Narrow River was temporarily shattered as 110 swimmers made a big splash in support of NRPA. It was a colorful sight—yellow (and a few green) swim caps moving out from the beach at the URI Crew's Campanella Rowing Center off Walmsley Lane in North Kingstown, around a bright buoy half a mile down the River and back to the beach; Swim Com-

mittee "Crew" in bright orange t-shirts at the beach sending off and then timing the returning swimmers; and various colored kayaks with more bright orange t-shirted paddlers ringing the course to keep the swimmers safe. The colors were set against the bucolic setting of the forested shoreline of the Walmsley Lane and River Road area of Narrow River. Many swimmers commented that this was a beautiful spot for a swim!

One of the event co-chairs, Mick Westcott, the URI swimming and diving coach, noted "Our real purpose is to bring more awareness to people and show them that Narrow River is a place that is safe

for open-water swimming." That was definitely accomplished with a large field of swimmers from throughout New England and beyond, with many new to the
(Continued on page 3)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

President's Cove	pg. 2
Annual Meeting	pg. 3
Road Race Results	pg. 4
Storm-water Management	pg. 6
NRPA Scholarships	pg. 6
Preservation & Development	pg. 7
Narrow River Science	pg. 7
Sept-Oct Walk Schedule	pg. 8

The President's Cove



I should feel some relief as the activities of the 2008-2009 are coming to an end, but I really don't—and can't—as a new year's planning is upon us.

The Wickford Art Festival was a big success for selling Kayak Raffle tickets, but the Environmental Awareness Day festivities at the Narragansett Town Beach fell victim to this summer's weather. Both the 22nd annual Narrow River Road Race and 4th annual Narrow River Turn-around Swim were successes, and are summarized in other articles in this newsletter.

While the summer newsletter is about the Road Race, the Swim, scholarships, and other recent activities, we can not overlook saying congratulations to the volunteers who donated their time to make it all work and to the members, sponsors, and donors who provided the financing. Thank you to everyone who contributed in time and money.

We start the new year for NRPA on September 1st. The 2008–2009 annual meeting will be held on October 6th at the URI Bay Campus. The Annual Meeting wraps up the year in a setting that promotes discussion with the people who made it all happen. It is a casual affair and quite fun. The Annual Meeting agenda will include an engaging speaker, brief reports about our programs over the previous year and our plans for the coming year, and updates on the Army Corps of Engineers study and storm-water improvements, and wrap up with the drawing of the winning ticket in this year's Kayak Raffle.

Planning for the 2009–2010 membership drive is underway. We set a new record for members last year with 582. My goal this year is 650. We all know that donations are down because of tough economic times, but our goal—to improve the Narrow River Watershed for all walks of life—has not changed. I hope that you will become a member at any level of participation. Let's face it, increasing our member rolls, even at lower individual donations, will hopefully maintain our budget.

Please consider helping the environment by joining NRPA for the 2009–10 year.

—Richard B. Grant
President, NRPA



Swimmers in the 2009 Narrow River Turnaround Swim rounding the half-mile mark (photo by J. McNamara).

MISSION STATEMENT

The Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) works to preserve, protect, and restore the natural environment and the quality of life of all communities with the Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River Estuary and Watershed.

www.narrowriver.org

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Narrow River Notes

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NRPA is part of the United Way Workplace Campaign. This is our donor option number.

If you plan to make a United Way donation, please consider designating a portion of your gift to NRPA.

38th NRPA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

The Narrow River Preservation Association will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday evening, October 6th, 2009 at URI's Graduate School of Oceanography. This information-packed meeting both celebrates our successes in protecting the Narrow River Watershed and provides information for homeowners who need resources to help protect the River. The agenda includes the President's report with highlights of NRPA's activities in 2009, the Treasurer's report, election of the Board of Directors, and presentation of the 2009 W.E.R La Farge Memorial Friend of the River Award.

This year's feature presentation will be provided by Kate Venturini, who will

speak on a concern for all those who live in the Narrow River Watershed. Her topic "Ecological River Landscaping" will focus attention on storm-water management, habitat restoration, and resource conservation. We hope that you can join us to learn what you can do in your own backyard and neighborhood to help protect the water quality of our River. Kate's 30-minute presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

Venturini manages the Coastal Landscape Program at the Mallon Outreach Center at URI, which is a partnership between the Coastal Resources Management Council and URI aimed at educating green industry professionals and home-

owners working and living in coastal areas. Kate is currently writing a *Native Plant Design Manual for Coastal Areas* to be published this fall. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture and is working on a Master's in Marine Affairs from URI.

Please join us on October 6th at 7:00 pm for refreshments at the Coastal Institute Building, Hazard Room on the URI Bay Campus, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, with the program to start at 7:30. The meeting will end at 9:00 pm with the drawing of this year's NRPA kayak raffle winner.

—Annette DeSilva &
Rosemary C. Smith

Narrow River Swim

(continued from page 1)

Swim. The other co-chair, Narragansett Elementary School physical education teacher Paul McCaffrey, also said "We felt it was a good time to show how much the NRPA has done for Narrow River. They've been instrumental in cleaning up the River and have done a great job." Over \$2000 was raised for NRPA, which will be used to help fund our programs.

The event is a swim, not a race, but some people just like to swim fast. The fastest swimmer was Thomas Gleason of Middletown, Rhode Island, next was Albert Garcia, then Douglas Sayles, Tim

Morse, and Richard Mack. Next was the fastest female swimmer, Deanne Moosman of Lexington, Virginia, followed by Joshua Sroka, Hannah Ferree, Ben Robinson, and Michael Mancini. Special kudos goes to the last swimmer, George McDonough, who watched their child while Cortney Linville swam, then she stayed on shore while George jumped in and caught up with the other swimmers!

This year, thanks to the generosity of Picture This in Wakefield, we were able to give awards with matted photographs of Narrow River to the fastest male and female swimmers. The photo shows the area of the Swim on a calm morning and was taken by NRPA Board member and NRTS committee member Veronica Berounsky.

NRPA and the NRTS committee would like to thank the swim sponsors who provided funds and donated goods, despite the tough economic times this year. They were:

Big Fitness, Pawtucket; Brickley's Ice Cream & Cakes, Narragansett; Christopher and Regan

Insurance, North Kingstown; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Choquette, East Greenwich; Dave's Marketplace, East Greenwich; DB's Pizza, Wakefield; Elizabeth and William Moylan, Saunderstown; NewportFed Charitable Foundation, Newport; Picture This, Wakefield; Roch's Fresh Foods, Narragansett; SwimVacation, Bath, Maine; Varsity Swim Shop, North Reading, Massachusetts; URI Rowing, North Kingstown; and The Washington Trust Company, Westerly.

On the weekend of the swim, there were numerous volunteers who participated as lifeguards, safety kayakers, safety boat operators, course setters, and others who staffed the registration table, the food table, and the information tables (NRPA, URI Watershed Watch, and Friends of Canochet Farm). Thank you all very much! And last but not least, the NRTSwim Committee (Paul McCaffrey, Mick Westkott, Felix Sarubbi, Jason McNamee, Lori Pugh, Shelagh Donohoe, Perry Moylan, Richard Grant, Pat Gannon, Karen DeQuattro, and Veronica Berounsky) has been working for months to make this Swim happen smoothly—thanks!

Watch the NRPA website and newsletter for the date of the 5th annual Turnaround Swim—a Saturday in late June 2010!

—Veronica Berounsky



The start of the 2009 Narrow River Turnaround Swim (photo by V. Berounsky).

Narrow River Road Race

(Continued from page 3)

Touch, Nature Products, New England Runner, Ocean State Blueprints, Packer & O'Keefe, Patrick L. McKinney, Picture This, Pier Fuel, R. B. Grant & Assoc., Richard Travisano, SmithCo Oil Service, Sweenor's Chocolates, Town Meats, and Wickford Factory Outlet.

We deeply thank all of the runners and walkers plus the innumerable volunteers. It's your support that has kept us working and caring for the Narrow River the past thirty-seven years.

There were 182 registrants in all between the 10K run, 5K run, and 5K walk. The men's overall 10K winner was Glen Guillemeste of Narragansett, who finished in 34:04. The winning time was a bit slower than in both of the last two years. The women's overall 10K winner was Laura Pagnozzi of Scituate, Rhode Island, who finished in 40:33—nearly four minutes faster than the 2008 top woman finisher. In the 5K race, the men's top finisher, in 20:24, was Austin Gaudreau of Warwick. The top woman finisher was

Kim Chula-Maguire, from Cumberland, Rhode Island, with the fastest time of 19:39. Greenville's Kathleen Kelley finished first in her age group for at least the third year in a row. The complete results are included below, since the newspapers no longer publish the results.

The top finisher in each class was presented with a matted print of John James Audubon's painting of a Barrow's goldeneye (a sea duck), which also adorned the front of this year's Race t-shirts. Following the award presentations, a wide variety of donated prizes



John J. Audubon's painting of a Barrow's goldeneye, number 403 of 435 prints published in *The Birds of America* between 1827 and 1838—used on both the prizes and t-shirts for the 2009 Narrow River Road

and gift certificates were distributed to runners whose bib numbers were drawn at random.

—Robert D. Kenney

22nd Annual Narrow River Road Race Results

10K Run

Male, 18 and under:

[Place in age group, finish time, name, hometown, overall place]

1 53:32 Devon Marc Aurele Salem, CT 60

Male, 19-39:

1	34:14	Marc Leblanc	Natick, MA	2
2	39:19	Patrick Meacham	East Greenwich, RI	6
3	40:01	Andrew Clifford	Providence, RI	8
4	41:28	Justin Bentley	Ashaway, RI	11
5	41:37	B.J. Brackett	Narragansett, RI	12
6	44:44	Richard Clapp	Narragansett, RI	19
7	48:45	Brian Kite	Warwick, RI	32
8	49:13	Eric Benevides	Johnston, RI	37
9	49:56	Jesse Swanko	Narragansett, RI	44
10	50:06	Webb McDonald	Newport, RI	45
11	52:12	Andrew Altieri	Providence, RI	54
12	52:34	Peter Clark	Newport, RI	57
13	55:33	Andrew Mathews	Westerly, RI	68
14	56:01	Nick Malloy	Newport, RI	71
15	66:38	Cesar Martinez	Milford, CT	94

Female, 19-39:

1	40:33	Laura Pagnozzi	Scituate, RI	10
2	44:18	Elizabeth Korodowski	Perryville, RI	17
3	48:27	Rebecca Allen	Wickford, RI	30
4	48:51	Stacey Leitz	Carolina, RI	34
5	49:09	Ashley Klesmont	Gulfport, MS	36
6	49:32	Nancy Zarrella	Wakefield, RI	42
7	52:02	Huidi Ji	Warwick, RI	56
8	54:01	Shelby Hayhoe	Providence, RI	62

9	56:58	Allison Greenberg	Rumford, RI	74
10	57:00	Angela Ferendo	Westerly, RI	75
11	57:58	Jennifer Thoss	Wakefield, RI	78
12	59:09	Carie Goral	Providence, RI	83
13	59:59	Katie Balzano	Johnston, RI	84
14	60:52	Ashley Dewardener	Narragansett, RI	85
15	62:10	Tara George	Wakefield, RI	87
16	62:08	Jennifer Dewardener	Wakefield, RI	88
17	62:36	Jennifer Krueger	Wakefield, RI	91
18	64:58	Christina Barron	Jamestown, RI	92
19	66:32	Amanda Eckler	Milford, CT	93

Male, 40-49:

1	34:04	Glen Guillemeste	Narragansett, RI	1
2	35:27	Michael Tammard	Kingston, RI	3
3	37:07	Timothy Coffey	Wakefield, RI	4
4	38:16	John Lariviere	North Scituate, RI	5
5	39:46	David Tetreault	Narragansett, RI	7
6	41:52	Peter Aldrich	Narragansett, RI	13
7	44:33	David Reavill	Walpole, MA	18
8	46:25	Eric Shuman	Cranston, RI	24
9	47:06	Thomas Cloud	East Greenwich, RI	26
10	48:48	Brien Lary	Cranston, RI	33
11	50:41	Skip McCabe	Narragansett, RI	50
12	50:44	Richard Rossi	Wakefield, RI	51
13	52:24	Timothy O'Neill	Wakefield, RI	55
14	52:58	Roger Messier	Warwick, RI	59
15	54:32	Tom Bradley	Wakefield, RI	63
16	54:45	Mark Barrett	East Greenwich, RI	64
17	56:43	Christian Vye	Wakefield, RI	73
18	58:56	John Conroy	Narragansett, RI	81
19	59:04	Scott Gambogi	East Greenwich, RI	82

Female, 40-49:

1	49:01	Hollie Harder	Jamaica Plain, MA	35
2	49:14	Sue Bush	Narragansett, RI	38
3	51:00	Nancy Davis	Griswold, CT	53
4	58:44	Paja Faudree	Providence, RI	80
5	62:09	Cheryl Dewardener	Narragansett	89
6	62:22	Melissa Barrett	Warwick, RI	90

Male, 50-59:

1	40:07	Peter Barbera	Wakefield, RI	9
2	42:18	Stephen Grilli	Narragansett, RI	14
3	42:25	Kevin McCoy	Johnston, RI	15
4	43:40	Joe Hall	Newport, RI	16
5	45:04	Hank Ward		20
6	45:21	Alfred Garceau	Wakefield, RI	21
7	45:48	Michael Darigan	Coventry, RI	22
8	46:18	Tim Kobylenski	Narragansett, RI	23
9	46:45	John Curran	Carolina, RI	25
10	48:20	Jon Witman	Chepachet, RI	29
11	48:30	Bob Vickers	Jamestown, RI	31
12	49:35	Jim Cotter	Wakefield, RI	43
13	50:39	Barry Blatt	Coventry, RI	49
14	50:46	Steve Bonzagni	Narragansett, RI	52
15	53:41	Rick Curran	Warwick, RI	61
16	55:00	Clifford Lombardo	Cromwell, CT	65
17	55:16	Randy Wilson	Narragansett, RI	67
18	56:03	Terry Baron	Hope, RI	72
19	57:38	Robert Jachowicz	Southboro, MA	76
20	57:41	Robert Falcone	Wakefield, RI	77
21	58:27	Vinnie Joyce	Charlestown, RI	79
22	67:05	Mark Heffner	Warwick, RI	95

Female, 50-59:

1	49:28	Karen Carlsen	East Greenwich, RI	41
2	55:15	Andrea Wilson	Narragansett	66
3	55:39	Kim Gilchrist	Brooklyn, CT	69
4	55:57	Laurie Ruth	Wakefield, RI	70

Male, 60-69:

1	47:34	Fred Thorne	Warren, RI	28
2	50:08	J. Matoney	Narragansett, RI	46
3	50:37	Joseph Behl	Charlestown, RI	48
4	52:49	John Cory	Cranston, RI	58

Male, 70 and over:

1	61:40	John McGowan	Warwick, RI	86
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Male, age not provided:

-	47:27	Marc Mott	Coventry, RI	27
-	50:30	Mike Rogers	Wakefield, RI	47

Female, age not provided:

-	49:16	Kathy Lafond	Wakefield, RI	39
-	49:19	Karyn Stroud	Coventry, RI	40

5K Run & Walk**Male, 18 and under:**

[(W) = registered as a walker]

1	22:40	Ben Lee	Narragansett, RI	7
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Female, 18 and under:

1	27:39	Ellie Sharpe	Saunderstown, RI	23
2	35:17	Emily Pietrzan	Saunderstown, RI	47
3	52:04	Lacia Falcone (W)	Wakefield, RI	66

Male, 19-39:

1	20:37	Frank Messino	Coventry, RI	3
2	26:40	Max Greene	Providence, RI	19
3	27:26	John Woodmansee (W)	Carolina, RI	22
4	27:46	Steve Geisler	Saunderstown, RI	24
5	29:58	David Gee	Wakefield, RI	33
6	30:17	Siobhan Welsh	Newport, RI	36

Female, 19-39:

1	19:39	Kim Chula-Maguire	Cumberland, RI	1
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2	22:10	Joy Younkin	Johnston, RI	6
3	25:30	Traci Rainone	East Greenwich, RI	13
4	26:10	Maureen Halliday	Lincoln, RI	16
5	26:16	Molly Lorincz	Cumberland, RI	17
6	27:16	Regan Early	Providence, RI	20
7	28:01	Bethany Meserve	West Springfield, MA	26
8	29:41	Kristen Roberts	Brookline, MA	31
9	30:05	Kristin O'Connor	Glenmont, NY	34
10	31:27	Summer Allen	Providence, RI	37
11	32:28	Beth Mattis	Brooklyn, NY	39
12	33:40	Tammy Mellon	Warwick, RI	44
13	34:47	Kirsten O'Neill	Wakefield, RI	46
14	42:44	Katy Menihan	North Kingstown, RI	58
15	46:51	Crystal Pearce (W)	Narragansett, RI	62
16	47:43	Sharon Ryan (W)	Providence, RI	64
17	52:03	Joanna Falcone (W)	Wakefield, RI	65

Male, 40-49:

1	21:54	Richard Lafond	Wakefield, RI	5
2	23:09	James Harder	Jamaica Plain, MA	8
3	24:27	Shawn Burns	Newport, RI	10
4	25:17	Chuck Allen	Wickford, RI	12
5	28:31	Robert Strait	Westerly, RI	28
6	43:21	David Robinson	Cumberland, RI	59

Female, 40-49:

1	24:54	Ilene Guttin	Wakefield, RI	11
2	26:33	Mary Lynn Leclair	Chepachet, RI	18
3	27:57	Melita Motherway	Mystic, CT	25
4	28:02	Fran Vaudreuil	East Greenwich, RI	27
5	30:12	Dorothy Zullo (W)	Wakefield, RI	35
6	31:57	Alison Blanchette	Coventry, RI	38
7	33:29	Lori Dowding	Warwick, RI	43
8	33:41	Kelly Demarco	Coventry, RI	45
9	35:58	Maureen Rogers (W)	Wakefield, RI	48
10	36:59	Karen Flint (W)	Narragansett, RI	49
11	47:14	Clare Blackner (W)	Cranston, RI	63

Male, 50-59:

1	21:49	Gary Gilbert	North Kingstown, RI	4
2	27:17	Thomas Green	Wakefield, RI	21
3	29:49	Paul Natale	Charlestown, RI	32
4	32:38	Mark Zullo (W)	Wakefield, RI	40
5	32:39	Rick Moffitt	South Kingstown, RI	41
6	33:20	Keith Urban (W)	Narragansett, RI	42
7	41:37	Paul McGrane (W)	Charlestown, RI	55

Female, 50-59:

1	28:40	Shirley Freitag	Narragansett, RI	30
2	40:24	Donna McGrane (W)	Charlestown, RI	53
3	44:01	Nora Denny (W)	Fiskeville, RI	60
4	46:52	Elizabeth Pearce (W)	Charlestown, RI	61
5	52:12	JoAnee Avedisian (W)	Warwick, RI	67
6	52:21	Kim Falcone (W)		68
7	52:30	Cynthia Falcone (W)	South Kingstown, RI	69
8	52:38	Elena Falcone-Relvas (W)	South Kingstown, RI	70

Male, 60-69:

1	28:36	Richard Geisler	Saunderstown, RI	29
2	40:54	Jim Bradley (W)	Narragansett, RI	54
3	41:54	Claude Lavarre	Newport, RI	56
4	42:12	Alan Ryder (W)	Cranston, RI	57

Female, 60-69:

1	37:34	Kathleen Kelley	Greenville, RI	50
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Male, 70 and over:

1	24:09	Wayne Peacock	East Greenwich, RI	9
2	25:58	Thomas McIntosh, Jr.	Coventry, CT	15
3	38:38	Michael Hoffer (W)	Narragansett, RI	51
4	40:19	Russell Brown (W)	Wakefield, RI	52

Female, 70 and over:

1	63:00	Eleanor Earle (W)	Narragansett, RI	71
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Male, age not provided:

-	20:24	Austin Gaudreau	Warwick RI	2
-	25:51	Stephen Holes	Saunderstown, RI	14

Storm-water Management in Narragansett

The Town of Narragansett is a leader among municipalities with a multi-faceted approach to storm-water concerns. As part of their efforts, the Town engages the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District (SRICD) to monitor its storm-drain system. In the Narrow River Watershed, the first monitoring task was detective work: finding the drains. The Town of Narragansett had maps of where they were located, but, as John Lawless, Town Project Engineer, said, “You would have to be a deer to get into some of those drains.” In this case, the “deer” was Clare Stone of SRICD. Clare and her family live in the Narrow River Watershed, so her deep love and care for the River inform her work. Her studies in aquatic biology have honed her observation skills, and this, too, enhances the quality of her reporting.

Clare started dry-weather monitoring of the outfalls in Narragansett during the fall of 2007, and monitored, again, in the spring and fall in 2008. At this point, not only have accesses been cleared following her reports, but additional outfalls have been identified, both by Clare and by Town staff.

“Monitoring is required, now, by law, but not many towns are doing it,” says Clare. Narragansett is ahead of the curve on storm-water issues. This past year’s activities included: watershed teaching in the elementary school; working with high

school teachers to involve students in monitoring, testing, and analysis; discussions with landscape professionals regarding organic lawn care and wise water use; providing them with educational materials; updating residents on work resulting from TMDLs; adding two new “mutt mitt” sites with plans for ten more; and sponsoring a rain barrel event.

As you know, RIDEM’s TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load for pollutants) study for the River, like other and older studies, cited high levels of fecal coliform. Fecal coliform bacteria are present in all warm-blooded animals, and there is twice as much in dog poop as in human waste.

Dry-weather monitoring is a good way to discover unknown discharges into the storm-water system. These discharges may be leaks in sewer lines, or illicit gray-water or even sewage tie-ins. An outfall is a storm-water pipe or drain leading into a river, stream, or pond. After a few dry weather days, an outfall should be dry. If an outfall is unexpectedly wet, it may be a sign of an illicit discharge. Outfalls may also be wet due to groundwater infiltration—another potential source of bacteria from cesspools or poorly maintained septic systems. Clare made visual observations of water coming out of each pipe, noting odor, color, clarity, sediment and scouring (indicating high water volume), and any floating solid matter. She then measured

conductivity (salt content), pH (acidity), and temperature, and took samples to be tested for fecal coliform. Unusual readings of any of these can also indicate one of the above types of discharge.

Sampling has been going on for nearly three years now. As a result of testing, new BMPs (Best Management Practices—civil engineering jargon for storm-water treatment facilities) are under design at Pettaquamscutt Terrace and Edgewater, in the north end of town.

With this on-going monitoring, the Town will have a baseline for what is normal, problems will be quickly pin-pointed, and efforts focused. The data on what is being carried into these waterbodies make it possible to plan effectively for future support, whether that be for more testing, citizen efforts, educational programs, or structural improvements.

Narragansett is committed to restoring and conserving our waterways. To that end, the Town collaborates with groups such as NRPA to incorporate the results of citizen monitoring and to identify new areas for study and action. SRICD and the Town of Narragansett will happily keep you informed of the discoveries we make, progress we accomplish, and planned contributions to the future of the Narrow River. Please stay tuned!

—Susan Letendre, SRICD

2009 Scholarship Winners



NRPA Board member Sally Sutherland (center) presented 2009 Lesa Meng NRPA scholarships to Elizabeth Lee and Shane McNamara at the Narragansett High School awards banquet in June.

NRPA is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2009 Lesa Meng/Narrow River Preservation Association scholarships, each in the amount of \$1000: Elizabeth Elmstrom (South Kingstown High School), Elizabeth M.J. Lee (Narragansett High School), and Shane Patrick McNamara (Narragansett High School). The scholarship honors a deceased Board member whose husband, Rick Moffitt, established a scholarship fund, enabling NRPA to provide scholarships to seniors graduating from high schools in the Watershed.

The scholarship is based on the student’s environmentally-oriented activities during high school, academic

achievement in science and math courses, a science teacher’s recommendation, and an essay addressing the topic—“Choose one environmental problem relevant to the Narrow River and discuss what you as an individual could do to mitigate the problem.” Elizabeth Elmstrom was a member and co-chair of South Kingstown High School’s Students for Environmental and Social Justice Club over four years and helped establish the school’s recycling program and greenhouse. Elizabeth Lee and Shane McNamara both participated on the school’s Envirothon and Ocean Sciences Bowl teams for several years. Both students spent time collecting water samples from the Narrow River, and Elizabeth also volunteered at numerous NRPA events.

—Melissa Hughes

Balancing Preservation and Development

NRPA board meetings have been taken up for the past few months with issues regarding the future health of the River and Watershed. In addition, board members have been attending town planning, zoning, and council meetings when topics of land development and usage along the River are discussed.

In Narragansett there are several issues affecting the River that bear consideration: the development of condos and affordable housing on Starr Drive, the division of lots in Mettatuxet for affordable housing, the substantial reduction of the no-wake zone on both sides of the Governor Sprague Bridge, and the Town of Narragansett's interest in developing expanded recreational uses of the 170+ acres of town-owned land at Canonchet Farm. At board meetings, members report on the points discussed at the town hearings. After consideration and when necessary, the NRPA board formally comments.

Dr. Jon Boothroyd, NRPA Vice Presi-

dent—Science wrote to the Town of Narragansett in June addressing concerns about the proposed Ocean Breeze Development on Starr Drive as it affected the health of Pettaquamscutt Cove and adjacent wetlands. He expressed concerns about the overland flow of storm water off the site and downhill to the Cove, that there were no plans for a detention pond to handle storm water, and that the site was not a safe place to build housing due to possible future flooding.

As more information is shared on these projects, the NRPA Board of Directors will continue to speak out about the protection of the Narrow River Watershed. We encourage you to attend the town meetings about these topics. For calendars and agendas for the three towns in the Watershed, visit their websites at:

<http://www.narragansettri.gov>,
<http://www.northkingstown.org>, and
<http://www.southkingstownri.com>.

NRPA members are always welcome at

our board meetings—first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm, room 108 in the CACS Building on the URI Bay Campus.

—Rosemary C. Smith



Speakers in a session on Narrow River habitat restoration at the Coastal Zone '09 conference in Boston (left to right): Larry Oliver, Veronica Berounsky, Elizabeth Scott, and Jim Riordan.

Narrow River Science

In July, NRPA Board member Veronica M. Berounsky attended the Coastal Zone '09 conference in Boston, Massachusetts, where she gave a talk entitled: *What You Can Learn From a Watershed Association, Volunteer Monitors and Graduate Students: Grass Roots Monitoring Results and the Call for Restoration in the Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt Estuary) in Rhode Island*. This talk showed how data from

the NRPA-sponsored River Watch monitoring and from research projects by URI graduate students confirmed the need for restoration work in Narrow River. Her talk was part of a session she organized called: *Working Together for Habitat Restoration in the Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt River Estuary) in Rhode Island*. Other speakers in the session were: Elizabeth Scott, RI DEM Office of Water Resources, speaking on *The State's Role in Restoring the Narrow River*; M. James Riordan, AICP, Fuss & O'Neill, Inc., speaking on *Narrow River*

Stormwater Abatement Study and Implementation; and Lawrence R. Oliver, US Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, speaking on *Planning Estuarine Ecosystem Restoration in the Narrow River*. This session also demonstrated that the restoration work is a collaborative effort between these agencies and organizations. Veronica's attendance at the conference was mostly supported by a Leadership Development grant from the Rhode Island Foundation.

—Veronica Berounsky

Narrow River Preservation Association welcomes your support:

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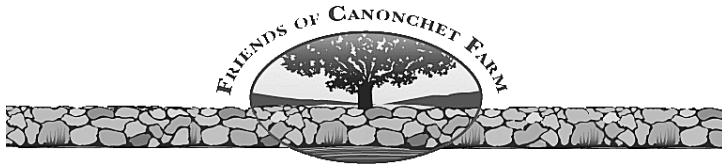
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The Narrow River Preservation Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.



September–October Walks

September 27: *Canonchet Farm After the Equinox*. Friends of Canonchet Farm President, arborist, and landscape designer Tom Fortier will lead this walk from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Tom’s knowledge of the “Farm” is extensive, interesting, and suitable for both adults and children. The walk begins on Anne Hoxsie Lane across from Narragansett Town Beach.

October 10: *Reading the Forested Landscape*. Tom Wessels, author, educator, and ecologist, will interpret the history of Canonchet Farm’s forest while wandering through it. He will unravel complex stories etched into the forested landscape. Tom was the keynote speaker at the Land & Water Conservation Summit held at URI in March. This walk is from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and begins at South County Museum at the end of Strathmore Street in Narragansett.

October 18: *Explore Canonchet Farm’s Natural History*. Prentice Stout, winner of the 2000 Distinguished Naturalist Award from the Rhode Island Natural History Survey and frequent leader of programs in South County, will discuss the biology and natural history of Canonchet Farm. This walk is from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and begins on Anne Hoxsie Lane directly across from Narragansett Town Beach.

For information call 783-3951, email FriendsCanonchet@aol.com, or visit the Friends of Canonchet Farm web page at <http://canonchet.org>.



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WRITERS WANTED

Help me to make *Narrow River Notes* your newsletter. Do you have a short poem with a river or environmental theme you’d like us to print? How about an article on local history, like the John Elder Dick pieces that we’ve re-printed? Have you taken a good photograph in the Watershed? Do you have a question about anything in the Watershed that one of our Board members might answer? Or do you just have an opinion you’d like to express? I promise to consider any and all submissions. We publish three issues per year—spring, summer, and fall/winter—with the respective deadlines at the beginning of March, July, and November. Send submissions or questions to me at NRPA.Notes@verizon.net.

—Robert D. Kenney, editor

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