


NARROW RIVER NOTES

Narrow River Preservation Association: Preserving the Narrow River Watershed Since 1970 / Summer 2016

Annual Meeting to Feature Film on Pre-contact Settlement



“Woven in Time, the Narragansett Salt Pond Preserve,” the Marc Levitt film about the recently preserved pre-contact Native American village on Upper Salt Pond, will be the featured presentation at the 2016 NRPA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 4, in the Coastal Institute Auditorium on the URI Narragansett Bay Campus. See page 3 for details.



What's in Your River?

Young scientist Maeve LaPlante inspects a critter during *What Lives in the River* sponsored by NRPA and Narrow River Land Trust on June 11. A dozen families used seine nets, core samplers and other gear to explore the rich diversity of life in Narrow River.

NRPA will put on another edition of *What Lives in the River* on Saturday, September 17 at the Middlebridge Marina from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. as part of this year's Gansett Days. To sign up for the event, visit: narrowriver.org/calendar

President's Cove

Each year with the summer issue of *Narrow River Notes*, NRPA reaches out to all residents of the Narrow River Watershed with an invitation to our Annual Meeting and a request to join NRPA, or renew your membership, for the coming year. And per custom, we include three complimentary kayak raffle tickets to thank you for your membership contribution. Please mail in the contact portion of the tickets with your membership before the raffle drawing at the Annual Meeting on October 4.

In addition to the feature presentation by Marc Levitt, we will use the Annual Meeting to update residents about issues and events affecting the watershed. These include marsh restoration work that will begin in November, a two-year study of water quality in Pettaquamscutt Cove we recently completed to identify sources of non-point pollution, and a study now nearing completion of the proposed dredging near the mouth of the river to increase flushing and provide material to replenish Narragansett Beach. The study, funded by a grant secured by State Representative Carol Hagan McEntee and a matching grant from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, will provide a scientific basis for a cost-benefit analysis and assessment of environmental impacts.

Developments along the river are seldom synchronous with our newsletters or the Annual Meeting, so I encourage you to visit narrowriver.org, which provides more timely updates and information on the times and location for our monthly meetings. Or, contact NRPA at anytime with an e-mail to nrpa@narrowriver.org.

And thank you for your continued support of the Narrow River Watershed.



Richard Grant, NRPA President

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 within the Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River Estuary and Watershed.

www.narrowriver.org

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NRPA is part of the United Way
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Our donor option number is
6239

If you plan to give to United Way,
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a portion of your gift to NRPA.

Rhode Island Rivers Council

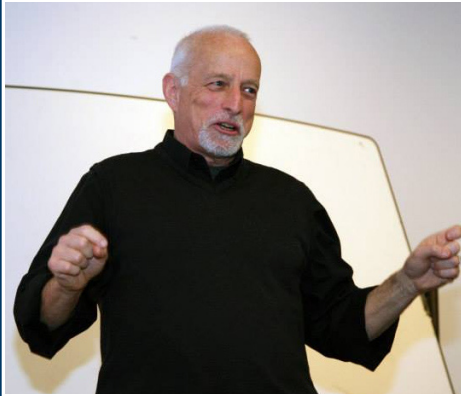


HELP WANTED

Computer savvy person
with environmental inter-
est to fill Program Coordi-
nator role at NRPA starting
September 15. Contact Ken
McShane at [ken.mcshane@
verizon.net](mailto:ken.mcshane@verizon.net)

46th NRPA Annual Meeting

Please join us for 46th NRPA Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening, October 4, at the URI Bay Campus, when filmmaker, writer and storyteller Marc Levitt will show us his



account of how the Narragansett settlement at Upper Salt Pond was preserved.

Marc will introduce the film and answer questions about the settlement known as archaeological site RI 110, which is the largest pre-contact settlement on the East Coast.

The Annual Meeting will also include:

- ❑ Reports on NRPA activities from the past year
- ❑ Updates on important issues affecting Narrow River including water and land use

management efforts

- ❑ Highlights from NRPA's education programs
- ❑ Presentation of the W.E.R. La Farge Memorial Friend of the River Award
- ❑ Drawing for this year's kayak raffle.

**NRPA Annual Meeting
Tuesday Evening
October 4
Refreshments 7:00
Program 7:30
URI Coastal Institute
218 South Ferry Road
Narragansett**

139 Compete in Narrow River Turnaround Swim

On Saturday, June 25, 139 swimmers set off from the beach adjacent to the URI Campanella Rowing Center dock competing in the 11th Narrow River Turnaround Swim. They swam around a marker a half mile down river (below), and headed back to the beach.



And here's how they did:

- ❑ Stuart Cromarty of Foster, shown below receiving a place marker from Mick Westkott at the finish line, was first with a time of 19:01 followed by Matt Gilson of Albion, who had a time of 19:38.



- ❑ Jessica Ackerman of Warwick was the first woman to finish and third overall with a time of 20:02.
- ❑ Tim Brown of Lincoln finished fourth and was first in the Men's Non-Wetsuit Divi-

sion with a time of 20:18.

- ❑ Jillian Schneider of Narragansett finished in 20:48 to lead the Women's Wetsuit Division and place 6th overall.

And the Last Shall Be Last



Veronica Berounsky completed the swim in 58:12, just shy of the one-minute warning to get out of the water. This was her tenth last place finish in as many tries. Some people just love to swim the river.

29th Narrow River Road Race

With generous support from event sponsors and help from many volunteers, NRPA put on the 29th edition of the Narrow River Road Race on Saturday, May 14. More than 200 runners and walkers took part in the 10K Run, 5K Run and 5K Walk. The Road Race helps fund NRPA education and preservation programs, including the NRPA Lesa Meng College Scholarship, which honors the memory of Lesa Meng, an NRPA Board

Member and many times Race Director. (right) Mary D'Arcy of Wakefield and Ray Sikorowicz of Lincoln display awards for first place finishes in the Narrow River Road Race 5K Run. Ray completed the run from Treaty Rock Park in South Kingstown to the Narragansett Town Beach in 18 minutes 5 seconds for the best time overall. Mary ran the course in 22:23 for the best



time in the Women's Division and seventh overall.



Left: Runners lean in, check their watches and take off at the start of the 10K Run in the 2016 Narrow River Road Race. **Center:** Andy Hale of Cambridge, Mass. (917) passes Andrew Skeffington of Wakefield as he crosses Middlebridge and builds his lead in the 10K to finish the run in 40:07. **Right:** Kaitlyn Hughes of Manville and Jim Valente of Middletown head to the finish line on Boston Neck Road for a 5th and 6th place finish respectively in the 10K. Kaitlyn's time of 44:34 was the best in the Women's Division.

Pettaquamscutt Paddle



Some of the 60 participants in the Ninth Pettaquamscutt Paddle do the wave on a sandbar near the mouth of the river on July 22. Many thanks to Jason Considine and his crew at Narrow River Kayaks for this always wonderful event.

NRPA College Scholarships Honor Three Enthusiastic Friends of the Environment

Since 1993 NRPA has awarded scholarships to seniors graduating from high schools in the Narrow River Watershed as part of its Youth Environmental Education Program.

The scholarship applications are judged on the student's environmentally oriented activities in and out of high school; the quality of an original essay on the river; science teacher's recommendation; and academic achievement in math and science courses.

Congratulations to our 2016 NRPA Lesa Meng College Scholarship winners:

Hayley Hebert
South Kingstown High School



Hayley has been a very active Girl Scout for 11 years, during which she participated in many environmental activities. She was also a volunteer

at the Norman Bird Sanctuary where she assisted with the local Harvest Fair. Hayley will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall and plans to major in Medical Laboratory Science with a minor in (you guessed it) Environmental Science.

Tyler Kumes
The Prout School



Tyler, shown here sporting a 2016 Narrow River Road Race T-shirt, has spent many volunteers hours with Save The Bay and NOAA caring for the New England Coast, but is now headed for the Left Coast to study ecology and environmental science at UC Santa Cruz. Tyler was a member of the Recycling Club at Prout since his freshman year, where he started the school's composting program. Tyler was a four-year member of the Cross Country

team and the Captain of the Varsity Sailing Team.

Tracy Kurdziel
North Kingstown High School



As with her fellow honorees, Tracy has demonstrated a commitment to caring for the environment. For her senior project she worked with Rhode Island Resource Recovery to improve the recycling program at North Kingstown High School. She also volunteered for several Clean Ocean Access Beach clean-ups and attended meetings for the N.K. Conservation Committee. Tracy was also a member of the Girls Track and Field Team.

This fall she will attend Lafayette College and plans to major in Electrical Engineering with the hopes of exploring alternative energy sources when she graduates.

2016 NRPA Event Sponsors

Many thanks to the generous organizations and individuals who have sponsored NRPA events this year, including the Narrow River Road Race on May 14, What Lives in the River on June 11, the Narrow River Turnaround Swim on June 25 and Pettaquamscutt Paddle on July 22.



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Three Good Reasons to Join NRPA Now



Enclosed with this newsletter are three tickets for the 2016 Kayak Raffle, a special thanks to you for becoming an NRPA Member for 2017. Enter the raffle when you mail in your contribution using the enclosed envelope. Write your name and phone number on the perforated ticket stubs and place the stubs in the envelope with your contribution. But send in your contribution and tickets now. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Annual Meeting on October 4.