


NARROW RIVER NOTES

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

Summer 2010

23rd Annual Narrow River Road Race Sponsored by Citizens Bank

NRPA's 23rd annual Narrow River Road Race on May 15th, 2010 was our most successful and best attended race in recent years. A total of 240 participants ran or walked the course traversing the Narrow River Watershed. The number was a sizeable increase over last year's total of 182, and there were quite a number of runners from out of state.

Once again our Presenting Sponsor was the Citizens Bank Foundation, who donated \$2,000 to support the Race. Citizens Bank certainly deserves a special thank-you for supporting this event year after year. Thanks also go out to all of the other sponsors for cash, gift certificates, or in-kind donations.

The 10K Run started at Narragansett

Beach, crossed the Narrow River at Sprague Bridge, overlooking the Chafee National Wildlife Refuge, then crossed the River again over Middle Bridge. The runners then passed the Jireh Bull Garrison and Training Lot historic sites. When they reached Treaty Rock Park, the site of Pettaquamscutt Rock and historically where Roger Williams signed land agreements with the Narragansetts, they made the turn and returned by the same route to Narragansett Beach. Participants in the 5K Run and 5K Walk were bused to Treaty Rock Park for their start, finishing at Narragansett Beach.

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The start of the 5K Run and Walk for the 2010 Narrow River Road Race at Treaty Rock Park on Middlebridge Road (photo by Veronica Berounsky).

Fifth Annual Narrow River Turnaround Swim Celebrating 5 and 40 Years Strong

Despite ice on Narrow River this winter and torrential rains this spring, it was a warm and dry summer day on Saturday, June 19th for the fifth annual Narrow River Turnaround Swim (NRTS). It was a beautiful morning for a swim, and 123 people did just that in support of NRPA. Many friends and family members joined the swimmers at URI's Campanella Rowing Center off Walmsley Lane in North Kingstown to cheer them on and enjoy the bucolic scene. It was a reunion of sorts, since most of the swimmers had been here for previous Swims. There were many friendly "hellos" as old and new friends were recognized!

With sunny skies, calm conditions, and warm water temperatures (75°F!), the quiet of the North Kingstown section of Narrow River was temporarily shattered as the swimmers made a big splash in support of NRPA. It was a colorful sight as bright green swim caps moved out from the Rowing Center beach, around a large buoy half a mile down the River and back to the start. Swim Committee members, in bright orange t-shirts, were at the beach to send off and then receive and time the returning swimmers. Various colored kayaks with more bright orange t-shirted life guards and kayakers surrounded the course to keep the swimmers

safe. The colors were set against the forested shoreline. Richard Grant, NRPA President, who called out the "GO!" to start the swim, commented that it looked

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The President's Cove

This past April, on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, I was presented with a 2010 Environmental Merit Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I was given the Award at Fanueil Hall in Boston by Curt Spaulding, the New England regional administrator for EPA (and formerly executive director of Save the Bay). The EPA Environmental Merit Awards are given to "those who have dedicated their lives toward preserving and protecting our region's natural resources."

This year there were 40 Environmental Merit Awards presented to individuals and organizations from all across New England. To be among those recipients, some of whom have created or run giant programs, was a great privilege. I was nominated for this award by Rob Leeson, Jr., a retired long-time board member of NRPA, which helped make the occasion really special.

I truly believe that the time, effort, and donations by thousands of volunteers over the past 40 years were what really made this award possible. It is all of you who have participated in making NRPA a successful grassroots watershed organization who should be complimented and recognized—who should share in the light that is generated from this award. I am sure that the recognition of our association will carry weight in the future and make NRPA a stronger and more effective organization.

Thanks to all who made this occasion possible.

—Richard B. Grant
President, NRPA



NRPA President Richard Grant (left) and Jason Considine (right), owner of Narrow River Kayaks and an NRPA Board member, with the kayak being raffled this year. Narrow River Kayaks very kindly donated the kayak for the annual raffle, which generates funds for NRPA's water, land, and education programs. The kayak is a Dimension Jolt, weighs 45 pounds, and is 10 feet, 1 inch long. It is on display at Narrow River Kayaks at Middle Bridge. Tickets for the Kayak Raffle have been on sale all summer, and the winning ticket will be drawn at the Annual Meeting on September 28th. We thank Jason for his very generous gift.

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.

40th NRPA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

The Narrow River Preservation Association invites you to attend our 40th Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening, September 28th, 2010. This special event will be packed with information that celebrates our many years and successes in preserving the River. NRPA Board Members (past and present) will reminisce through four decades of the organization's accomplishments and activities.

Our special guest, Dr. Arthur Gaines, Jr., has been invited to share his vast knowledge of the River. Dr. Gaines conducted the first rigorous scientific study

of the Narrow River years ago. He will talk about what makes the Narrow River so special and what inspired him to devote six years to writing his Ph.D. dissertation on this water body.

You will meet the current NRPA Board of Directors. Awards will be given to extraordinary people who have dedicated their time to preserving our favorite River. Posters, maps, and literature about the organizations that are located in the Watershed will be on display. The evening will offer opportunities to mingle and learn the status of exciting Narrow

River projects from individuals who are dedicated to the preservation of the River, and will wrap up with the drawing of the winning Kayak Raffle ticket.

Please join us at 7:00 pm for refreshments in the Hazard Room of the Coastal Institute Building, URI Bay Campus, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, with the program to start at 7:30. For directions and a map of the campus, visit www.gso.uri.edu/about-gso/directions.

Please join us in celebrating 40 years of preserving the Narrow River!

—Annette DeSilva

Narrow River Swim

(continued from page 1)

like a pod of dolphins as the swimmers' arms sliced in and out of the water with each stroke.

This is a swim, not a race, but some people like to swim fast. As in each of the previous Swims, except last year when he could not participate, Luca Spinazzola of Narragansett was the fastest male swimmer. He was also fastest overall. He was followed by Stephen Joe and then Fred Bartlett. Next was the fastest female swimmer, Bianca Spinazzola, as she had been in 2008 when she last participated. It should be noted that not only are Luca and Bianca siblings, they are also both students at Narragansett High School. Rounding out the fastest ten were David Cote, Ben Robinson, Madelyn Robinson, Thomas Gleason, Tim Morse, and Albert Garcia. A complete listing of all the swimmers and their times can be viewed at www.narrowriver.org.

We hope that the Swim raises awareness of the River as a scenic area and place to swim, and promotes open-water swimming as a lifetime activity to local residents. One of the event co-chairs, Mick Westkott, 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. The other co-

chair, Narragansett Elementary School physical education teacher Paul McCafrey, also said "We felt it was a good time

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Narrow River Turnaround Swim co-chairs Paul McCafrey (left) and Mick Westkott (right) congratulate 2010's top finishers, brother and sister Luca and Bianca Spinazzola (photo by Veronica Berounsky).

Narrow River Road Race

(Continued from page 1)

The fastest finisher in the 10K race was Jeffrey Vuono of Westerly, Rhode Island, who finished in 38:20. The fastest woman in the 10K was Trish Hillery of Greenville, Rhode Island, finishing in 40:07. Other first-place finishers in their age categories were: Rich Rudert, Kevin McCarthy, Timothy Coffey, Blake Cushing, Emma Hirse, Terri Martland, and Tracey Foster (complete results are listed below). In the 5K Run, the top two finishers were Joshua Lipinski from Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 18:01 and Joy Younkin from Johnston, Rhode Island in 20:03. This year's awards were prints of John James Audubon's painting of a Long-eared Owl, which also adorned the front of the 2010 Narrow River Road Race T-shirts.

NRPA thanks everybody who "took the extra step to make the 2010 Road Race a success"—including the runners, walkers, members of the Board of Directors, NRPA members, volunteers, and friends who made it all happen.

One of the best compliments came from a runner who said everything about the Race was about as good as it gets—things were well organized; it was easy to find the registration site, sign up, and get



NRPA president Richard Grant accepting a \$2,000 check from the Citizens Bank Foundation, the Presenting Sponsor of the 2010 Narrow River Road Race.

the free t-shirt; the start and finish were well coordinated; and the music added spice to the refreshment table.

We are all looking forward to next

year—our 24th consecutive NRPA Narrow River Run.

—Richard Grant

23rd Annual Narrow River Road Race Results

10K Run

Female, 18 and under:

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

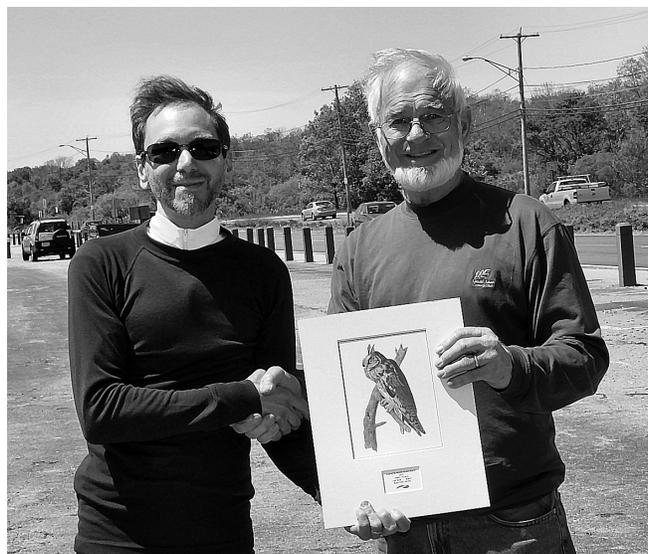
1	56:55	Emma Hirse	Wakefield	102
Male, 19-39:				
1	41:08	Blake Cushing	Providence	6
2	42:21	Chris Shardlow	Scituate	8
3	44:31	Mike Kendra	Cranston	15
4	44:46	Rich Falvo	Cranston	16
5	45:40	Robert Hancock	Bristol	21
6	47:06	J. Edward Cullen	Wakefield	27
7	47:18	Webb McDonald	Portsmouth	29
8	47:25	Keith Gussi	Woodstock	31
9	47:46	Kevin Reilly	Braintree, MA	33
10	48:01	Michael Gulick	Middletown	36
11	50:00	Ethan Brown	Newport	45
12	50:01	Patrick Flight	Providence	47
13	50:37	Nick Dorich	Narragansett	48
14	50:43	Jesse Swanko	Narragansett	49
15	50:44	Ernesto Rocha	Providence	50
16	50:50	Keith Borge	North Kingstown	52
17	50:54	Matt Zannelli	West Warwick	53
18	51:12	Weyun Jensen	South Kingstown	58

19	51:49	John McGreevy	Saunderstown	64
20	52:41	Patrick Gerhardstein	Niceville, FL	67
21	52:45	Tim St. Lawrence	East Greenwich	69
22	53:10	Andrew Altieri	Providence	72
23	53:46	Marc Matt	Coventry	75
24	54:15	Kevin Rio	Providence	78
25	54:18	Joshua James	West Kingston	79
26	54:47	Dan Matoney	Wakefield	89
27	56:24	Rob Arnold	Hopkinton	98
28	58:24	Andrew Mackay	Narragansett	112
29	58:32	Eoin OConnor	Cambridge, MA	116
30	58:59	Guillermo Mendoza	Seekonk, MA	118
31	60:10	Seth Smiley	Bellingham, MA	126
32	62:38	Christopher Berry	Pawtucket	137
33	62:59	Jeff McDonald	Middletown, CT	139
34	66:29	Tom Kenworthy	East Greenwich	149
Female, 19-39:				
1	42:44	Tracey Foster	West Kingston	10
2	44:56	Nicole Rattay	Newport	18
3	46:52	Diane Senecal	Wakefield	26
4	48:57	Rachel MacCoss	Brookline, MA	40
5	49:20	Melissa Thaxton	Newport	43
6	50:45	Jen Avedisian	Wakefield	51
7	51:14	Angelique Murray	Dedham, MA	59
8	53:26	Jennifer Bulcao	Middletown	73

9	53:47	Jennifer James	West Kingston	76
10	54:04	Monique Perron	Charlestown	77
11	54:23	Megan Brock	Wakefield	82
12	54:25	Crystal Erazo	Warwick	83
13	54:43	Jen De Wardener	Wakefield	87
14	54:43	Alejandra Turmero	Pawtucket	88
15	55:00	Emily Abbott	Providence	92
16	55:30	Andrea Mislak	Brookline, MA	96
17	56:31	Jennifer Thoss	Wakefield	99
18	56:46	Carrie Vallee	Exeter	100
19	57:23	Siobhan Shannon	Wakefield	104
20	57:41	Jackie Dube	Middletown	109
21	57:46	Heather Kendra	Cranston	110
22	57:59	Mary Previte	Narragansett	111
23	58:23	Jonathia Ang	Providence	113
24	58:25	Kristen Stone	Uxbridge, MA	114
25	59:15	Liz Tuppen	West Greenwich	119
26	59:33	Jessica Ouellette	Providence	120
27	60:00	April Stevens	Cranston	123
28	60:10	Meg McDonough	East Greenwich	129
29	60:12	Julie Smiley	Bellingham, MA	127
30	60:19	Cordelia Wheelock	Providence	130
31	60:38	Islay Taylor	Providence	132
32	60:43	Nancy Keeley	Coventry	133
33	61:18	Catie Mills	Braintree, MA	135
34	61:58	Lisa Garzilli-Williams	Narragansett	136
35	62:58	Wendy Lucht	Kingston	138
36	65:10	Cherie DSouza	Narragansett	145
37	66:42	Carolyn Odell	Newport	150
38	66:51	Alicia Calasabette	Charlestown, MA	151
39	66:53	Erica Dickson	Providence	152
40	68:33	Amanda Kelly	Sterling, CT	155
41	70:10	Amy Cogan	Woonsocket	157

Male, 40-49:

1	38:20	Jeffrey Vuono	Westerly	1
2	39:50	Ian Kulin	North Kingstown	3
3	40:59	David Tetreault	Narragansett	5
4	43:12	Craig Duffy	North Scituate	11
5	44:16	Paul Nucci	Cranston	14
6	44:51	John Vallone	East Greenwich	17
7	45:29	Miles Cahill	Hopkinton, MA	20
8	45:50	Eric Shuman	Cranston	22
9	47:23	Jeff Jakuboski	Whispering Pine, NC	30
10	47:54	Stephen Schonning	Westerly	35



Overall first-place finisher in the 10K Jeffrey Vuono (left) accepting his award from NRPA president Richard Grant (photo by Veronica Berounsky).

11	50:00	Richard Lucia	Wakefield	46
12	51:09	David Sinotte	North Kingstown	57
13	51:15	Frank Baker	Riverside	60
14	51:23	Tom Bradley	Wakefield	61
15	51:49	Mark Nadeau	Kingston	65
16	53:07	Brian Cunningham	Sauderstown	71
17	54:29	Charles Buckley	East Greenwich	84
18	55:03	Insa Wood	Barrington	93
19	55:14	Peter Johnson	Coventry	94
20	58:32	Roger Messier	Warwick	115
21	60:04	Chuck Burghardt	Warwick	125
22	65:53	Blaine Smith	Spencer, MA	148

Female, 40-49:

1	40:07	Trish Hillery	Greenville	4
2	45:55	Marie Labriola	Westerly	24
3	47:33	Hollie Harder	Boston, MA	32
4	47:54	Polly Chorlton	Westerly	34
5	49:09	Lisa Charette	Southington, CT	42
6	51:38	Patricia McGuinn	Narragansett	63
7	54:21	Susie Lombardi	Sauderstown	81
8	54:38	Leslie Battle	Warwick	86
9	57:24	Maura Kavanagh	Hudson, MA	105
10	59:38	Rebecca Paquette	Kingston	121
11	60:15	Stephanie White	Wakefield	128
12	60:19	Mary Brown	Wakefield	131
13	61:03	Faith Sands	Charlestown	134
14	65:13	Kerri Dacey	Coventry	146

Male, 50-59:

1	38:51	Timothy Coffey	Wakefield	2
2	42:14	Peter Barbera	Wakefield	7
3	43:57	Ken Abrams	North Kingstown	13
4	45:03	Hank Ward	Middletown	19
5	48:37	Jon Witman	Providence	37
6	48:45	Pasquale Dinonsie	Peace Dale	38
7	48:55	John Almlof	West Greenwich	39
8	48:58	Ray Isacco	Portsmouth	41
9	49:48	Ric Thornton	North Kingstown	44
10	50:57	Herve Dannelongue	Belmont, MA	54
11	51:03	John Anderson	Greenville	56
12	52:27	Kent Landrum	Woonsocket	66
13	52:43	Mark Versavel	Arlington, MA	68
14	52:53	Steve Bonzagni	Narragansett	70
15	53:32	Tim Kobylenski	Narragansett	74
16	54:34	Barry Blatt	Coventry	85
17	55:16	Bob Botsford	East Greenwich	95
18	55:35	Wayne Fougere	Warwick	97
19	56:57	Terry Baron	Hope	103
20	57:40	Vinnie Joyce	Charlestown	108
21	63:49	Robert Jalhquie	Southboro, MA	142
22	64:13	Mark Heffner	Barrington	143

Female, 50-59:

1	46:02	Terri Martland	Newport	25
2	58:47	Sherri Tedeschi	Coventry	117
3	59:57	Patricia McCarthy	Portsmouth	122
4	63:04	Pamela Allen	Jamestown	140

Male, 60-69:

1	42:43	Kevin McCarthy	Portsmouth	9
2	45:52	Robert Garvey	Shrewsbury, MA	23
3	47:09	Fred Thorne	Warren	28
4	51:00	John Cory	Cranston	55
5	51:28	Joe Behl	Charlestown	62
6	54:58	Don Clukies	Portsmouth	91
7	56:53	Mike Goodson	North Providence	101
8	63:04	Jack Campbell	Cranston	141
9	67:56	James O'Reilly	North Scituate	153

Male, 70 and over:

1	54:20	Rich Rudert	Westerly	80
2	68:23	Chuck Hyson	Lincoln	154

(Continued on following page)

Male, age unknown:

54:53	Martine Graziano	?	90
57:34	Tracy Smith	North Kingstown	106
64:29	Chad Trombly	North Kingstown	144
68:59	Albert Scartabello	Wakefield	156

Female, age unknown:

57:37	Linda Dewing	Pawtucket	107
60:03	Doreen Regan	East Greenwich	124

5K Run & Walk

Male, 18 and under:

1	23:04	Ben Lee	Narragansett	12
2	29:09	Chris Ratigan	?	42

Female, 18 and under:

1	27:09	Chloe Cullen	Wakefield	30
2	52:34	Helen Siligato	?	80

Male, 19-39:

1	18:01	Joshua Lipinski	Pittsfield, MA	1
2	19:57	A J Fournier	East Hartford, CT	2
3	22:26	Greg Rakovic	Narragansett	10
4	22:55	Nathan Charpentier	Lincoln	11
5	23:06	Aaron Powell	Haleiwa, HI	13
6	23:09	Christopher Foole	Charlestown	14
7	24:52	John Courtois	Narragansett	19
8	26:30	David McRae	Providence	25
9	26:37	Desi Vega	South Hadley, MA	26
10	26:50	William Powell	Ocean View, DE	27
11	28:24	Mat Manne	Louisville, KY	36
12	30:29	Theo Tupaz	West Warwick	47
13	30:55	Gregory Lorincz	Cumberland	49

Female, 19-39:

1	20:03	Joy Younkin	Johnston	3
2	23:36	Jen Masseur	Kingston	15
3	23:48	Leah Lewis	Wakefield	16
4	24:06	Jessie Coffey	?	17
5	25:23	Kristie Whitehouse	Wakefield, MA	21
6	25:27	Elizabeth Andrews	North Attleboro, MA	22



The top finishers in both of the 18 and under classes in the 5K—Ben Lee (left) and Chloe Cullen (right) (photo by Veronica Berounsky).

7	25:30	Lauren Killea	Coventry	23
8	26:08	Stephanie Cruff	Wakefield	24
9	27:05	Melaney Bouthillette	Newton, MA	28
10	27:08	Emily McRae	Providence	29
11	28:36	Hannah Fiten	Brooklyn, NY	37
12	28:36	Beth Hatch	North Kingstown	38
13	29:42	Emily Revens	Warwick	44
14	30:02	Molly Titos	Wakefield	45
15	31:00	Catherine Campbell	Saunderstown	50
16	31:00	Kristin OConnor	Glenmont	52
17	32:40	Rose Biron	West Warwick	56
18	34:07	Emily Sanderson	West Kingston	61
19	34:10	Stephanie Lambert French	Providence	62
20	35:15	Sonia Cuellar Mejia	Seekonk, MA	63
21	36:09	Susannah Blair	Wakefield	64
22	40:06	Tonya Hazard	Wakefield	68
23	40:31	Jennifer McKinley	South Kingstown	70
24	43:55	Coral Siligato	South Kingstown	73

Male, 40-49:

1	21:46	James Harder	Boston, MA	8
2	30:04	Anthony Porcari	East Greenwich	46
3	33:17	Stephen Bartholomew	Saunderstown	58

Female, 40-49:

1	28:07	Marjorie Muller	Providence	32
2	28:14	Lisa Sasaki	Canton, MI	33
3	33:22	Andrea Gyori	Smithfield	60
4	36:55	Karen Flint	Narragansett	65
5	43:12	Cynthia Arbige	Wakefield	72
6	45:18	Ann Marie Broccolo	Westerly	75
7	51:36	Naomi Dennis	Southboro, MA	79
8	53:55	Heinke Jager	Providence	81
9	53:55	Sharon Ryan	Providence	82

Male, 50-59:

1	21:13	David Cote	South Kingstown	4
2	21:15	Richard Lorenson	Hope Valley	5
3	21:29	Mark Difranco	Foster	6
4	21:45	Alfred Garceau	Wakefield	7
5	22:19	Jack Powell	Ocean View, DE	9
6	24:13	Ted Andrew	Wakefield	18
7	25:04	Mike Coffey	?	20
8	27:59	Tom Green	Wakefield	31
9	28:50	Dana Gray	Hollis, ME	41
10	29:14	Mark Stenning	Newport	43
11	32:01	Tom Tessitore	Narragansett	55

Female, 50-59:

1	28:18	Peggy Stone	Newport	35
2	28:40	Susan Miller	Belmont	39
3	30:55	Melissa Hughes	Wakefield	48
4	31:07	Barbara Donley	East Greenwich	53
5	33:19	Paula Santos	Narragansett	59
6	42:16	Jane Doorley	Wakefield	71
7	48:02	Susan Revens	Newport	76
8	51:09	Liz Gilheeny	Coventry	78
9	62:16	Margaret Siiligato	?	83

Male, 60-69:

1	28:40	Richard Geisler	Saunderstown	40
2	32:40	Roger Biron	North Kingstown	57
3	40:07	Jim Bradley	Narragansett	69

Female, 60-69:

1	28:16	Shirley Freitag	Narragansett	34
2	37:39	Kathleen Kelley	Greenville	66
3	44:20	Helen Bradley	Narragansett	74
	49:15	Ann Ricci	North Providence	77

Male, 70 and over:

1	38:43	Russell Brown	Wakefield	67
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Male, age unknown:

31:37	Dan Ratigin	?	54
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Female, age unknown:

31:02	Andrea Walker	Barrington	51
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Narrow River Swim

(continued from page 3)

to show how much NRPA has done for Narrow River. They've been instrumental in cleaning up the River and have done a great job."

The swim raises money for NRPA's programs. Over \$3500.00 was raised, which will be used to help fund programs such as the Active Watershed Education (AWESome) program used in local schools and the River Watch water-quality monitoring program, now in its 19th year. Because of the long-term bacteria data collected by River Watch, Elizabeth Herron from URI's Watershed Watch program can say that the Swim site "does not exceed recreational contact levels for either indicator species even following heavy rainfall."

This year we are very happy to welcome Washington Trust Company of Narragansett and Westerly as a Presenting Sponsor. NRPA and the NRTS committee would also like to thank the other swim sponsors who provided funds and donated goods or services—Brickley's Ice Cream & Cakes, Christopher and Regan Insurance, Crosswynd Traders, Dave's Marketplace, DB's Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, Graphic Expressions, Pier Liquors, Roch's Fresh Foods, Ryan Center, Trio

Restaurant, URI Rowing, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Varsity Swim Shop. Thanks to the generosity of Crosswynd Traders in Narragansett, we were able to give Gansett Wear sweatshirts to the fastest male and female swimmers. After the swim, there was pizza by DB's Pizza for all the swimmers and workers and friends!

At the Swim, there were numerous volunteers who participated as lifeguards, safety kayakers, safety-boat operators, or course setters, and others who manned the registration table, the food table, and the NRPA information and kayak raffle table. Thank you all very much! And last but not least, the NRTS Committee (Paul McCaffrey, Mick Westkott, Felix Sarubbi, Jason McNamee, Lori Pugh, She-lagh Donohoe, Perry Moylan, Richard Grant, Pat Gannon, Karen DeQuattro, and Veronica Berounsky) has been working for months to make this Swim happen smoothly.

This is the 40th year of the Narrow River Preservation Association, so what better way to celebrate this milestone than with the 5th year of the Swim, a continuing example of how volunteers and sponsors work together to support NRPA's programs and make the Narrow River a better place for all communities of life!

—Veronica Berounsky

WRITERS WANTED

Help me to make *Narrow River Notes* your newsletter. Do you have a short essay, story, or 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

Pettaquamscutt Paddling

The Third Annual Pettaquamscutt Paddle launched on July 10th from Narrow River Kayaks at Middle Bridge. More than 30 kayakers took part. The tour in the lower stretch of the Narrow River took paddlers through the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge and into the Narrows near Sprague Bridge. Paddlers got great looks at ospreys, great blue herons, great and snowy egrets, salt marsh sharp-tailed sparrows, willets, double-crested cormorants, piping plovers, least terns, mallards, and Canada geese. They also learned about local history from the tour guides. Narrow River Kayaks donated 100% of the proceeds to NRPA, which amounted to over \$1,000.

—MJ Kanaczet

Participants in the Pettaquamscutt Paddle in July getting ready to launch their kayaks into the Narrow River (photo by Ron Wofford).



No-Wake Zone Back in the News

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service issued the following news release on July 22nd:

Fish and Wildlife Service acts to protect salt marshes, Refuge shoreline in the lower Narrow River.

In order to protect sensitive salt marsh wetlands of the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge at Pettaquamscutt Cove, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a special regulation against landing of boat wakes onto refuge shorelines when traveling in excess of 5 mph in the Narrow River near Sprague Bridge. The regulation applies to watercraft when traveling within 300 feet of a Refuge shoreline.

The area affected by the regulation is Refuge property from Sprague Bridge on the Narrow River upstream for a distance of 1,700 feet. Local ordinances had previously established a no-wake zone in most of this area. Enforcement of the regulation will begin July 30, 2010.

Salt marsh wetlands are one of the most highly productive and sensitive wildlife habitats on the Atlantic seaboard, yet are highly susceptible to erosion, sea level rise, oil spills, invasive species infestation, and a variety of other stresses. Over half of these wetlands have been lost in Rhode Island in the past 150 years.

Salt marshes provide habitat to wildlife species of highly restricted range which only nest within this habitat. For example, the salt marsh sharp-tailed sparrow only nests within salt marsh habitat. Their low numbers and restricted range results in high concern for their conservation. Salt marshes also serve as natural filters for water quality, are important in producing fish and aquatic life, and help buffer the effects of storms and flooding.

Because of these extraordinary values, hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent each year by a wide array of organizations to restore and to protect them.

“We have an obligation to protect Refuge lands from harm and to protect the significant investments many have made in protecting this open space” Charlie Vandemoer, Manager for the National Wildlife Refuge said. “The special regulation will protect these salt marshes, while allowing for boating-related recreational opportunities to continue” he added.

Studies conducted across the country and elsewhere demonstrate the negative impacts of boat wakes. These studies have shown accelerated erosion of riverbanks, lake shores, and stream banks. Information collected on the Narrow River is consistent with these findings. Boat wakes can result in accelerated lateral erosion and mechanical weakening of riverbanks from forcing the banks up and down as waves hit the shoreline, and may prohibit recruitment of saltmarsh due to high levels of wave action. The area where this regulation will be enforced is where boats pass very close to the shoreline at a high rate of speed, and in combination with natural erosion, is rapidly degrading salt marsh habitat.

“The Fish and Wildlife Service continues to support responsible boating. The adoption of this regulation is intended to protect habitat while continuing to allow recreational boating opportunities” Janis Nepshinsky, Visitor Services Manager said today. “We anticipate that this regulation will minimally impact travel time by no more than a few minutes” she added.

The need for protecting Refuge shorelines from watercraft-generated waves was identified in the National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan developed in 2001. Since 2005, a no-wake zone had been established 1,300 feet upstream of Sprague Bridge on the Narrow River by the town of Narragansett. The Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the Town, had purchased buoys and signs, and provided funding to support harbor management patrols and the no-wake zone. This support afforded protection of salt marsh habitat and helped enhance the safety of Refuge visitors. Last year, the Town decided to reduce the no-wake zone from 1,300 feet to 300 feet upstream of Sprague Bridge. In effect, this removed protection of the salt marsh wetlands. The Town chose not to re-establish the no-wake zone despite recommendations from conservation groups, the State of Rhode Island, and the Service.

“Our initial efforts will focus on educating boaters about the regulation and why it is being enforced. The objective is to protect the salt marsh, not to hand out citations. We are hopeful that river users

will understand the importance of conserving these lands, and will help by doing their part” Vandemoer said. Violators of the regulation may be subject to a \$50.00 fine plus a \$25.00 processing fee (50 CFR 26.22).

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

Enforcement was originally set to begin on Friday, August 6th, with violators to be given only informational warnings. Only after allowing time for signs to be posted and boaters to get used to the new regulations would stricter enforcement and assessment of fines begin.

Reaction to the Service’s announcement was swift. The Narragansett Town Council voted unanimously on August 2nd to oppose the new regulations. Town Solicitor Mark McSally disputed the federal government’s rights to impose regulations on a waterway within a National Wildlife. State Representative Donald Lally and State Senator James Sheehan both criticized the Service’s decision. Lally went so far as to call it “an abuse of federal power.” On the other hand, Refuge Manager Charlie Vandemoer said that the Service was obligated under federal law to act to protect natural resources in the Refuge.

The new regulation is currently on hold, probably at least through the end of the summer boating season. The Service intends to prepare a formal Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA process includes opportunities for public review and comment, ensuring that both sides of the issue will be heard. Until a final decision is made, boaters are still required to observe the Town’s 300-foot no-wake zone in the vicinity of Sprague Bridge.

—Robert D. Kenney

The Swan and the Rose

Now wouldn't that be just the perfect name for an English pub?

I bike the length of Middlebridge Road (wearing a cap that reads "Middlebridge, R.I.") to say good morning to that swan, hatched at the Gilbert Stuart birthplace, but maimed by a jetskier and surviving only through the kindness of strangers on the banks of Narrow River at Middle Bridge. I take note of the egrets and herons, the geese and the ducks, posing for their close-ups as I pedal along. And, oddly, keeping company with Gilbert the Swan, who is shunned by his own flock due to his crippled condition of wing and webbed feet.

I also enjoy the surprise of each stand of wildflowers every Monday morning. The lilies followed by the Queen Anne's lace and the dainty asters, the boxes of petunias and then the marigolds like late sunbeams. My scarlet kayak has been keeping company in a corner of my yard with the unused hammock, and it's that mountain bicycle that has kept me on the road on visits not only to enjoy terns, plovers, and swallows at the dunes where River greets surf, but also to say hello to the folks who live at the shoreline of the waterway. They are part of the scene. This report is about them. Especially, perhaps, the Riverside Rose of Middlebridge, Rose Epstein. Once upon a time she served as sponsor, barker, mascot, of the Circus! Yess! She has been editor of these notes and columnist for our local journals. She has nobly stood as sounding board for

neighbors along these banks who are fellow writers and artists, poets and historians. She can display their images on the high walls of her home. She saves their articles and letters, meant to endure for only the day but staying (like Gilbert?) as a result of kindness.

Rose's courtesy has the proverbial (but mock) thorns of her wit and irony. She lays claim to a life without regrets and full of joys and fulfillment, but it is, in this writer's view, courage and good cheer that prompts her disclaimer of the

human condition of regrets. We argue a bit about my melancholy nature vs. her merriment. And then I mount my bike and cruise along the streets that follow the flow and curve of Narrow River, stopping to say another hello to Sue Oppenheim and Richard Travisano to share bird notes and garden issues, and to sit on the screened porch and enjoy the view of the fabulous Narrow River, with all its innate poetry and sheer beauty.

—Mike Fink, Middlebridge



A mute swan, probably not named Gilbert (photo from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Digital Media Library).

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



2010 Scholarship Winners

For the 18th year, NRPA awarded scholarships to seniors graduating from high schools in the Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River Watershed. The 2010 Lesa Meng/Narrow River Preservation Association scholarship recipients were Jennifer Castro (Narragansett High School), Alice Toll (North Kingstown High School), Clifton Bueno de Mesquita (South Kingstown High School), and Stacey Moskwa (The Prout School). The scholarship honors a deceased Board member whose husband, Rick Moffitt, established the scholarship fund, enabling NRPA to provide \$1000.00 scholarships to seniors graduating from high schools in the Watershed.

Jennifer Castro participated in

Envirothon and National Ocean Science Bowl team competitions and served as Vice President of Future Farmers of America. She will major in nursing at the University of Rhode Island.

For Alice Toll's Girl Scout Gold Award and her high school senior project, she built and installed about two dozen bluebird and wood duck boxes around Jamestown. She plans to major in biology with an emphasis on wildlife conservation.

Clifton Bueno de Mesquita was the lead student in constructing a school greenhouse and assisted in planting gardens for sustainable food; he also studied how a wind turbine could power the greenhouse. He will

be majoring in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College.

Stacey Moskwa participated in Future Farmers of America for three years and was in National Ocean Science Bowl team competitions for two years. She will major in Environmental Studies at Cornell University.

Applicants for the scholarships were judged on the quality of an original essay about mitigating the impacts of human activity in the Narrow River Watershed, their participation in environmentally-oriented activities in and out of school, a science teacher's recommendation, and academic achievement in science and math courses.

—Melissa Hughes



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