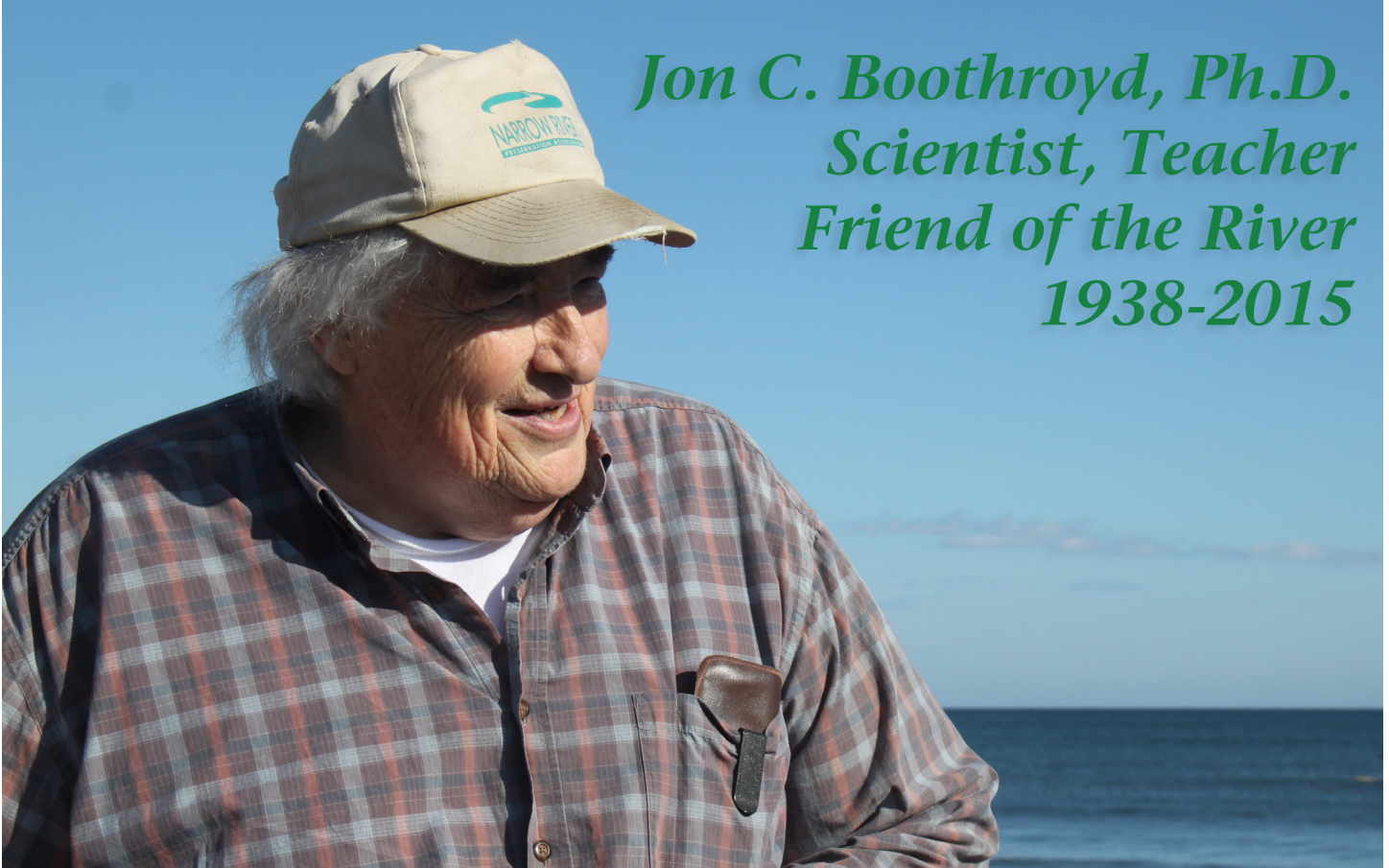



NARROW RIVER NOTES

Narrow River Preservation Association: Preserving the Narrow River and the Watershed Since 1970 / Fall 2015



*Jon C. Boothroyd, Ph.D.
Scientist, Teacher
Friend of the River
1938-2015*

We have lost a great friend

Jon Boothroyd, shown above answering questions about coastal storm hazards on a walking tour of the Narragansett Town Beach in 2012, died at his home in South Kingstown on Thursday, October 15.

Jon served for more than 20 years on the Narrow River Preservation Association Board of Directors and he always sported his tattered

NRPA ball cap in case you had any doubt about his allegiance. He was NRPA's Vice President-Science, a trusted colleague, and what made him most proud, the recipient of the 2000 *W.E.R. La Farge Friend of the River Award*.

Jon always enjoyed walks like that one three years ago (a week before Superstorm Sandy) and other opportuni-

ties to share his well earned knowledge of coastal processes and the back story of how glaciation formed Narragansett Bay and Narrow River. And he really loved a difficult question, to which he would respond with a smile and a Boothroydian answer like "Yes, you will always have the beach, it just might not be in the same place."

President's Cove

One Teenager's Vote of Confidence

It was the fourth time this year that we put on our "What Lives in the River" program at Middlebridge. The earlier sessions included a field trip for 100 Narragansett Pier Middle School students and two weekend programs for families with young children. Each of these events was special, as the children discovered river life using seine nets, plant presses and even a portable solar-powered microscope.

But the fourth session on October 7 really stands out. That's when we ran a not-so-modified version of the program for 20 special needs students from Narragansett High School. All the volunteers remarked about the students' enthusiasm and concentration as they handled horseshoe crabs and eels, made fish prints and checked out that microscope. Then one student stepped back from a huddle around a fish tank, raised both arms in the air and declared in full voice, "Science is AWESOME."

Yes, exploring the river habitat is awesome, and that very encouraging declaration was a prompt to expand "What Lives in the River" and other educational programs to reach more young scientists in the communities in and around the watershed. And as we plan to do so during 2016, we appreciate the support we received from those who responded to our annual membership drive, which is just wrapping up this month. Your contributions will enable us to produce additional materials, purchase equipment and supplies, and move with confidence to extend our outreach.

Thank you.



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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United Way of Rhode Island

NRPA is part of the *United Way Workplace Campaign*.
Our donor option number is **6239**
If you plan to give to United Way, please consider designating a portion of your gift to NRPA.



SECA
State Employees Charitable Appeal

NRPA is participating in the 2016 Rhode Island State Employees Charitable Appeal (SECA).
Our fund number is **6239**.

Rhode Island Rivers Council





NRPA Salutes Turnaround Swim Crew at 45th Annual Meeting

It's the annual Narrow River Turnaround Swim on a Saturday morning in late June and the volunteers wearing orange CREW T-shirts seem to be everywhere – registering swimmers, giving safety instructions at the starting line, paddling kayaks to keep the swimmers on course, knee-deep at the finish line recording times, and everywhere congratulating each participant who completes the one-mile open-water swim. This morning of frantic activity is the culmination of months of planning and preparation by the Swim Committee, which for 10 years has put on a safe and enjoyable event that celebrates the continued health of Narrow River.

At its 45th Annual Meeting, NRPA gave a salute to all the volunteers that have made the Narrow River Turnaround Swim

a great success, and gave special recognition to the members of the Swim Committee:

- ◆ Veronica Berounsky
- ◆ Karen DeQuattro
- ◆ Shelagh Donohoe
- ◆ Pat Gannon
- ◆ Paul McCaffrey
- ◆ Jason McNamee
- ◆ Perry Moylan
- ◆ Lori Pugh
- ◆ Felix Sarubbi
- ◆ Mick Westkott

2015 W.E.R La Farge Friend of the River Award

Veronica Berounsky had the honors of presenting the 2015 W.E.R. La Farge Friend of the River Award to Mick Westkott (below left) and Paul McCaffrey for their leadership in starting the Narrow River Turnaround Swim and building the Turnaround Swim over the last ten years into a signature event both for NRPA and local swimmers.



A Path Through Canonchet

Last month the R.I. Department of Transportation completed a feasibility study of various alternatives for the final segment of the William C. O'Neill South County Bike connecting the current southern end of the path at Mumford Road in Narragansett to the Narragansett Town Beach. The next step in the process is for the town to place construction of the segment on the Fiscal Year 2017-2025 Transportation Improvement Plan, specifying the previously recommended Sea View Route or one of the alternative routes. Placement on the TIP is required before the project can receive any Federal transportation funding. The deadline for the TIP application is January 8, 2016.

NRPA has advocated completion of the path by routing it through Canonchet Farm and favored the Sea View Route which made the most use of the abandoned grade of the Sea View Rail Road. By going through Canonchet Farm the bike path would expose visitors to the beauty of the Pettaquamscutt Cove and the town-owned woodland and

would be much safer than the on-street alternatives. While the Sea View Route would provide the best biking experience and spectacular views of the cove, NRPA recommends one of the other two routes through Canonchet Farm (2 and 3A in the feasibility study) that are completely off-street because they have much lower estimated costs, face lower (though still significant) regulatory hurdles, and are therefore more likely to be approved and funded.

The complete study can be found on narrowriver.org (select **Bike Path** from the left menu) and on narragansetttri.gov.

Two Join NRPA Board

Narrow River Preservation Association welcomed two members to its Board of Directors this summer:



Roy Bergstrom is a Lead Information Technologist at URI and has a part-time teaching position in film media at the school. Roy holds a Bachelor of Science

in Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology and a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Rhode Island.



Catalina Martinez, shown above seining during one of NRPA's "What Lives in the River" events at Middlebridge, is an educator/scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who recently earned an MBA. Catalina has served on the Board of the Narrow River Land Trust, and has volunteered for several NRPA events.

In announcing the two new Board members at the Annual Meeting, NRPA President Richard Grant thanked former Board members M-J Kanaczet, Ted Smayda and Lynn Wolslegel, who have left the Board after multiple years of service for each.

Marsh Resiliency Project to be Staged at Middlebridge

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Coastal Resource Management Council will stage their work to enhance the resiliency of the salt marshes in the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Reserve at the town-owned property at Middlebridge when the full-scale project gets under way in November 2016. The project involves spreading a thin layer of material dredged from Narrow River on the marshes to increase their elevation.

On November 16 the Narragansett Town Council voted to permit use of the parking lot of the kayak rental business at 94 Middlebridge Road and a portion of the parking lot of 95 Middlebridge Road. The Council also authorized the town to receive excess sand (up to 500 cubic yards) for nourishment of the Town Beach for the 2017 season.

For details on the thin layer deposition and other techniques to improve the health of the salt marshes visit narrowriver.org and click **Salt Marsh Resiliency** in the menu on the left.

It's Season Five for On Pettaquamscutt

NRPA, Friends of Canonchet Farm, South County Museum and the Maury Loontjens Memorial Library are once again sponsoring *On Pettaquamscutt: Presentations on the Environment and the History of the Narrow River Watershed*.

As with *On Pettaquamscutt's* first four, very successful seasons, the presentations are on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Maury Loontjens Memorial Library, 35 Kingstown Road, Narragansett. After each talk, you are invited to continue the conversation next door at Trio Restaurant, 15 Kingstown Road. Here's the lineup for Season Five:



On **January 31**, Furniture maker **Jeffrey Greene** (above left), author of *American Furniture of the 18th Century: History, Technique, Structure*, will describe "Furnishing the South County Plantation Homes."

Then on **February 28**, **Laura Meyerson**, Professor of Restoration Habitat Restoration Ecology in the Department of Natural Resources Sciences at URI and **Richard Enser**, Ecosystem Biologist ask "Can We Go Back to the Future?" as they explore what does "Restoration Mean in the Age of Global Change"



Finally, on **March 20**, archaeologist **Jay Waller**, shown on the left leading a tour at the Historic Robinson Cemetery in Narragansett, will describe "What R110 Tells us about the Native American Usage of the Natural Resources at Canonchet Farm." R110 is an archaeological site on the upper portion of Salt Pond just south of US-1. It is arguably the most significant pre-European contact Native American find on the East Coast.

The series is free and open to the public. However, you are asked to register in advance for each presentation as space is limited. Online registration for each event will be available on narrowriver.org and the other sponsors' websites at the beginning of each month.

NRPA to Award Four College Scholarships

NRPA will award up to four \$1,000 college scholarships to students graduating this spring from the high schools in the watershed: Narragansett High School, North Kingstown High School, The Prout School and South Kingstown High School.

In June we awarded NRPA Lesa Meng College Scholarships to **Jack Hall**, a graduate of Narragansett High School, **Erin Chille** and **Dean Kareemo**, both graduates of North Kingstown High

School, and South Kingstown High School graduate **Jacob Baretta**.

You can download a scholarship application from narrowriver.org, or pick one up at the Guidance Department at one of the four watershed high schools.

The scholarship applications are judged on:

- ◆ Student's environmentally oriented activities in and out of high school

- ◆ An original essay on mitigating an environmental problem or issue relevant to Narrow River
- ◆ Science teacher's recommendation
- ◆ Academic achievement in math and science courses.

Completed applications must be submitted to the student's guidance counselor (not to NRPA) by Monday, April 25.

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