

NARROW RIVER NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE NARROW RIVER PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
PO Box 8, Saunderstown, Rhode Island 02874
SPRING 1989

SECOND ANNUAL NARROW RIVER RUN

The Second Annual Narrow River Run will be held on May 20, 1989 at 10:00 AM beginning at Duke's of Middlebridge. The race this year will be 10 kilometers and will start and end at Duke's. The race course will proceed up Middlebridge Road from Duke's and then north on Boston Neck Road to Bridgetown Road, then west to Middlebridge Road in S. Kingstown, south on Middlebridge and turn east, cross the river and return to Duke's. We hope to have twice as many runners this year as last year and have enlisted the help of a great many people in the South County community. Radio station WRX has supplied free advertising for this year's race for which NRPA would like to thank them. Other major sponsors include: Corporate sponsorship from Wilson's of Wickford and Citizens Bank, Race sponsorship from Joseph Frisella, Donald Goodrich, Richard Grant, Larry LeBlanc, Narragansett Pier Sportfishing Association, Sarah and Craig Richardson, Service Auto Body, Service Auto Center and Wisheart and Associates.

If you would like to run in this year's race the cost is \$10 (which includes a T-shirt, refreshments and prizes chosen by raffle). Runners may sign up the day of the race, but please arrive early so the race can begin on time.

This year's Co-Chairmen of the River Run, Connie Carey of Narragansett and Barry Devine of North Kingstown, have done a great job. The only thing they haven't organized is the weather and for that we can only hope for the best. Come and join us on May 20 for a 10K run around one of Rhode Island most unique natural resources.

THANK YOU SOUTH KINGSTOWN

A warm thank you to the citizens of South Kingstown, who appropriated \$1500 to NRPA at their Annual Financial Meeting on April 28. NRPA will continue to work for the citizens of South Kingstown and all the residents of the Narrow River watershed through our efforts to protect and restore Narrow River.

FIRST ANNUAL FOUL SHOT

The last Sunday in February was the date for the First Annual NRPA Foul Shot. With the help of the South Kingstown Recreation Department and Hank Reitz, a member of NRPA's Board of Directors, a foul shooting contest was held at the S. Kingstown Junior High School. \$63 was raised to benefit NRPA but more important, a lot of people had a great time.

LOOK WHAT'S COMING!!!

This year NRPA is raffling off a wind surfer! Look for our mailing in July with the raffle tickets enclosed, or visit our ticket booth at the Wickford Arts Festival and the Narragansett Heritage Days. Tickets will again be a \$1.00 a piece and the proceeds will benefit NRPA.

ANNUAL MEETING

The NRPA Annual Meeting will be September 25, 1989 and we have a committee already working on an interesting and informative program. Additional information on the Annual Meeting will be available in notice sent to members and friends in August, but mark your calendars now.

BIG RIVER RESOLUTION

At the April meeting of the NRPA Board of Directors, a resolution was passed to support the position of the Citizen's Campaign for a Sound Water Policy regarding the construction of the proposed Big River Reservoir. The Board studied the issue and carefully considered the advantages and disadvantages of construction of the reservoir and the majority felt that creation of Big River would create more problems than it will solve and thus agreed with the Citizen's Campaign.

PROPOSED RIVER WATCH

The Board of Directors of the Narrow River Preservation Association has begun to investigate the possibility of establishing a River Watch program similar to the program presently in place for the Salt Ponds.

A great deal of research and planning will need to go into such a project before it can begin operation, but the impetus behind such a proposal is to establish a core of basic information on the current status of the water quality in Narrow River. It is difficult to argue against certain development proposals for the watershed if the basic scientific data is not available.

A first step in developing such a program is find out if there is any interest by the general public in a Narrow River Watch. Most of the sample taking would be done by volunteers and NRPA needs to know if there are concerned residents of the watershed willing to help with a River Watch. It may a year before such a program could be instituted, but if you think you would like to volunteer please send your name, address and phone number to:

NRPA
Box 8
Saunderstown, RI 02874

and mark it: RIVER WATCH

Thank you.

FRIEND OF THE RIVER NIGHT

On the evening of August 14, 1989 NRPA will present its first "Friend of the River Award" to Senator John Chafee during a gala evening at the Dunes Club in Narragansett. Senator Chafee through his concern for the environment and tireless efforts was a driving force behind the establishment of the Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge. NRPA considers the Wildlife Refuge to be one of the greatest steps toward the preservation and restoration of Narrow River in the history of this Association. We would like to thank Senator Chafee and honor his efforts and we invite all members and friends of NRPA to join us on August 14.

Cost of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 to 8:00 PM will be \$25 per person. Music will be provided by Charles Strauss on the piano. There will be informational displays and videos of Narrow River, the raffle drawing for the Wind Surfer and the presentation of the "Friend of the River" Award to Senator Chafee. At 8:00 PM those wishing to may join Senator and Mrs. Chafee for dinner at a cost of \$100 per plate. Additional information on the Friend of the River Night will be available in July. We hope a great many of Narrow River's friends will attend this special celebration to honor both Senator Chafee and Narrow River.

THE NEW NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL ANOTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER?

As many of you may know from articles in the newspapers the newly begun Narragansett grade school has already run afoul of the Coastal Resources

Management Council because of the failure of the Town to file the necessary applications and ask for a special exception to the Narrow River SAM Plan. The Narrow River SAM Plan was put into place to protect the watershed as well as the immediate shore line of Narrow River and NRPA is outraged that the Town of Narragansett would ignore the environmental safe guards and regulations of the Special Area Management Plan and fail to comply with CRMC requirements before beginning construction. A hearing will be held on May 23 at the Cannon Building in Providence to address the problems presented by construction of the new school in the Narrow River watershed. NRPA hopes to be present to state their position that all SAM Plan regulations be followed and that all necessary precautions be taken to protect the watershed of Narrow River from any environmental damage.

PETTAQUAMSCUTT COVE WILDLIFE REFUGE

The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced the tentative boundaries of the recently created Pettaquamscutt Cove Wildlife Refuge. It starts from Middle Bridge over Narrow River and extends southwest to the area of Kimberley and Riverside drive in Narragansett. The Narragansett/South Kingstown border runs down the center of the cove. The Wildlife Service's Regional Director will decide on the permanent boundaries of the refuge following review of any comments received by the Service as of May 1.

The refuge will include Pettaquamscutt Cove at the mouth of Narrow River, salt marshes, tidal flats and a surrounding buffer of forest that will serve as protection for the area. The Cove is considered an important migration area for black ducks and other waterfowl.

In October Senator John Chafee and former US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle presented a symbolic check for \$600,000 to the Town of Narragansett to buy about 20 acres along the cove. Pettaquamscutt Cove is the first national wildlife refuge in Rhode Island in 15 years. Several other landowners in the area have expressed interest in selling their property to the Wildlife Service.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is uncertain how much money will be allocated for land purchases this year. A coalition of conservation groups has lobbied Congress to set aside \$950,000. Maps of the proposed boundaries are available from the Narragansett Dept. of Community Development, S. Kingstown Planning Dept., the Ninigret Wildlife Refuge and the US Fish and Wildlife Service at One Gateway Center, Newton Corner, Mass. 02158.

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