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# NARROW RIVER NOTES

Narrow River Preservation Association: Protecting, Preserving and Restoring the Narrow River Watershed Since 1970 / December 2022

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## Dredging at River Mouth

By Craig Wood, Nathan Vinhateiro, and James Dean Vogel

Those who regularly visit the mouth of Narrow River know that the channels and sand spit are constantly reshaped in response to coastal storm events, beach erosion, tides, and currents. These are natural coastal processes.

During the past two years, the combination of coastal storms and alongshore sediment transport from the town beach has dramatically increased the volume of sand within the flood tide delta (“sandbar”) just inside the mouth of the river. This has presented a challenge for boaters on the river, particularly following storm events, as the channels near the mouth reorganize and can be difficult to navigate.

It is important, however, to recognize that flood tide deltas (like the sandbar at the mouth) are naturally occurring deposits that form inside tidal inlets and are dynamic landforms that will continue to change as sediment is

transported by storm surges, tidal currents, and ocean waves.

Due to the difficult navigation of the mouth, Tony Columbo, President of the Mettatuxet Improvement Association (aka Mettatuxet Yacht Club), championed an effort to dredge the sand deposits to the Town of Narragansett. Correspondingly, the Town of Narragansett has hired an engineering firm to develop solutions which aim to restore safe recreational boating while maintaining and preserving critical habitats within the Narrow River. The RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) Narrow River Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) includes provisions that allow the river mouth to be dredged periodically. The dredged sand would be used to replenish the Narragansett Town Beach. Dredging is only allowed to support safe recreational uses of the river under the SAMP.

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## 2022 NRPA Lesa Meng Scholarships

By Sally Sutherland

Since 1993, NRPA has awarded scholarships to seniors graduating from high schools in the Narrow River Watershed, in honor and fond memory of a former NRPA Board Director, Lesa Meng. The scholarship application process is managed by Sally Sutherland, NRPA Board Director and Chair of NRPA’s Education Committee.

Applicants 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. We are pleased to announce our 2022 NRPA Lesa Meng Scholarship winners: Parker McGregor, Daniel McGovern, and Liam McGovern.

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## Inaugural College Internship - Summer 2022



*NRPA Intern Hannah Wyllie using NRPA’s new deep-water probe, a tool purchased through funds awarded by an Ocean State Charities Trust grant. (Photo credit Veronica Berounsky)*

This year, NRPA welcomed Hannah Wyllie, an environmental science student at Colby College of Maine, as our summer intern. Hannah spent ten weeks from May to August working with NRPA Board Directors and Program Director, Rebecca Russell.

Hannah spent valuable time working with Rebecca, learning how a nonprofit organization operates. She assisted with event coordination, member, donor, and volunteer data organization, email marketing, and social media outreach. Hannah assisted NRPA event delivery throughout the summer including the Turnaround Swim, Art on the River, and the Pettaquamscutt Paddle.

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## Presidents' Cove

Dear Watershed Friends:

Our recent Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) Annual Meeting highlighted one success after another during our 52nd year. It was our first year with a return to all our programs since the COVID pandemic started and it was a joy to be able to interact with you, our members, at many events. We have a new Board of Directors and a new slate of Officers (see adjacent list), and they are all familiar faces since one of the hallmarks of NRPA is longevity of our Directors.

Our Annual Meeting underscored the importance of our volunteers and followed our Volunteer Appreciation Reception which was held in conjunction with the opening of our Online Art Auction. The setting was stunning as we were surrounded by landscape paintings of Narrow River and other nature-inspired artwork.

This year's annual membership appeal comes right in time for the winter holidays and giving season! Thank you for volunteering and for renewing your membership and allowing NRPA to continue doing all that we can to preserve, protect, and restore the Pettaquamscutt Estuary (Narrow River).

Here's wishing you a wonderful winter holiday season and end of 2022!



Richard B. Grant and Veronica M. Berounsky, NRPA Board Co-Presidents



**River Watch Volunteers Needed**  
**Sign up now for 2023!**

All training provided in the Spring by URI Watershed Watch and NRPA.

**All details at**  
**[narrowriver.org/riverwatch](http://narrowriver.org/riverwatch)**

*Flexible schedule (2 teams per site).  
Some locations accessible by foot,  
some by boat or kayak.  
Be a part of volunteer science!*

### 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 Estuary) River and Watershed.

### NARROW RIVER PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

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James Dean Vogel

Rebecca Russell, Program Director  
Submissions and correspondence to  
[nrpa@narrowriver.org](mailto:nrpa@narrowriver.org)

### Join NRPA!

Membership is NRPA's largest source of funding and connects you with all NRPA's activities, events, and advocacy! Our annual membership cycle runs from January 1 through December 31 each calendar year. Renewals or sign-ups received after our membership drive in the fall, are considered active from date received through the end of the following calendar year. If memberships are renewed in the spring, they will be active through the end of that same calendar year. To get the most from your membership, we encourage renewal or sign-ups in the fall or winter or simply schedule recurring annual donations from your registered PayPal account. Join by sending a check to NRPA, PO Box 8, Saunderstown, RI 02874 or online at [narrowriver.org/join-donate](http://narrowriver.org/join-donate). Thank you!

United Way of  
Rhode Island



You can give back to NRPA through your **United Way workplace campaign**. Simply write in Narrow River Preservation Association on your pledge form or search/write-in and add us via electronic pledging.

Rhode Island  
Rivers Council



Rhode Island Rivers Council has designated NRPA as the official watershed council of the Narrow River and its watershed.



## URI Honors Class focused on media about Narrow River



Spring 2022 URI Honors Class flanked on the left side of photo by Veronica Berounsky, Richard Grant, and URI Professor Jose Amador. On the far-right side of the student group is Professor Roy Bergstrom. Two students were not pictured here. (Photo credit Rebecca Russell)

This Spring, seven students enrolled in University of Rhode Island course HPR344, *Student Productions of Digital Media for Environmental Communications: The Narrow River Watershed*. Like this one, many Honors courses emphasize smaller class sizes in which all of the students are URI Honors students.

Students' majors included Business, Chemistry, Communications Studies, English, Environmental Science and Management, Film Media, and Pharmacy. The class was taught by URI professors Roy Bergstrom (former NRPA Board member) and Jose Amador. The students contacted several NRPA Board Directors to conduct informational interviews, and then prepared a final presentation using various methods in media, film, journalism, and art to showcase a topic they gravitated towards. Thank you, Jose and Roy, for selecting this great course topic for URI Honors Students.

## NRPA's High School Internship

By Catalina Martinez and Sandrine Martinez



NRPA Intern Sandrine Martinez, Board Director Catalina Martinez, and Intern Hannah Wyllie observing hermit crab behavior in the Pettaquamscutt Estuary. (Photo credit Jose Martinez)

NRPA Board Director Catalina Martinez hosted her 16-year-old niece Sandrine Martinez this summer for her first environmental internship with NRPA. Sandrine is in her junior year at Newton South High School of MA, and has been interested in marine science since

she was a little girl. Years ago, Sandrine and her older brother Vladimiro accompanied their Aunt Catalina during RI coastal Environmental education programs.

As hosting a high school intern was new to NRPA as well, Sandrine's experience was crafted broadly, providing a platform for her to experience field sampling, and gain a basic understanding of the ecological significance of Narrow River habitats. Three study sites were selected along the length of the river, taking into account the variation in salinity and ease of access. Basic parameters observed and measured included salinity, temperature, nutrients, and marine organisms collected with seine and dip nets. These parameters were measured twice a week for two weeks in July and August. Sandrine also recorded general observations of the environment, organism interactions, weather and tides, and assessed human influences at each sampling site. One of the more interesting observations included what appeared to be a parasitic copepod infection in the silverside population. This was verified through working with Dr. Sharon MacLean, NOAA NMFS (Ret.) fish pathologist.

Catalina Martinez says "We were fortunate to have Sharon (MacLean) and NRPA undergraduate intern Hannah Wyllie join us on several sampling days. It was a glorious summer, and Sandrine's first internship experience was truly wonderful!"

# Dredging at River Mouth

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Aerial image of the lower section of the Narragansett River, which outlets into the Rhode Island Sound. Key land and water features are annotated. (Image credit RIGIS)

As NRPA exists to preserve, protect, and restore the natural environment and the quality of life for all communities within the Narrow River, NRPA will be actively engaged in all capital projects proposed in the Narrow River watershed including dredging and dredging alternatives.

NRPA is designated by the RI Rivers Council as the “state-designated Watershed Council” for the Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt Estuary) Watershed. In accordance with General Laws of Rhode Island Section 42-28-8, NRPA has the authority to evaluate proposed actions so that any resulting concerns may be considered by the CRMC.

Issues to be evaluated by NRPA include:

- Range of alternatives to meet project objectives
- Construction methods (mechanical or hydraulic dredging, access, refueling, dewatering, haul roads, etc.)
- Short-term consequences to shorebirds, fish, shellfish and other aquatic resources during dredging activities
- Measures taken to avoid and minimize adverse impacts such as Time of Year restrictions to avoid winter flounder spawning or river herring migration
- Possible changes to tidal circulation (e.g., improved tidal flushing, changes in current speeds, increased duration and frequency of flooding on upstream salt marshes)
- Improvements to boater safety
- Effects on other recreational uses
- Options for reuse of removed sand for restoration of Town beach, dunes, or salt marsh
- Benefits to improved coastal resilience of Narragansett Beach
- Physical and chemical compatibility of sediments for beneficial reuse
- Initial construction and life cycle costs (anticipated life span/maintenance requirements)

We will update our membership with further information as the project planning advances. Additionally, NRPA has maintained a library of relevant engineering studies from the last several decades that evaluate the impacts of dredging the river mouth or the beneficial re-use of the dredged sediment. These items are linked on our website at [narrowriver.org/dredging](http://narrowriver.org/dredging) for our membership and members of the public who wish to learn more. We will continue to update these materials as information becomes available.



## Narrow River Land Trust

Did you know that the Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) and Narrow River Land Trust (NRLT) are two, completely separate organizations? The NRLT mission is to preserve land in the watershed in order to protect water and agricultural resources, wildlife habitat, and open space for outdoor recreation. NRLT preserves land through conservation easements, donations, fee acquisitions, and bargain sales of land. NRLT is growing their Board of Directors and volunteer committees for activities including trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and stewardship monitoring. For more information about NRLT, please contact [office@narrowriverlandtrust.org](mailto:office@narrowriverlandtrust.org).



# 2022 NRPA Lesa Meng Scholarships

*Continued from Front Page*



2022 NRPA Lesa Meng College Scholarship awardee, Parker McGregor, now a freshman at URI of Kingstown, RI.

**Parker McGregor** A recent graduate of South Kingstown High School (SKHS), Parker is now attending the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, where he plans to major in engineering. Parker is an avid boater; in fact his Senior Project at SKHS was about boater safety. He created a video titled *Navigating the Narrows*, which shows boaters how to operate their watercraft along the Narrow River. Parker has volunteered for numerous Narrow River clean-up events, water sampling and tidal readings. He is also a catch-and-release fisherman.



2022 NRPA Lesa Meng College Scholarship awardee, Daniel McGovern, now a freshman with Carleton College of MN.

**Daniel McGovern** A graduate of South Kingstown High School (SKHS), Daniel is now attending Carleton College in Northfield, MN. At Carleton, he plans to pursue a major in Environmental Sciences/Geology and Economics. Daniel enjoys hiking, backpacking and fishing. He especially appreciates catch-and-release fishing. Daniel loves the outdoors and even participated in an initiative to oil the eggs of Canada Geese as part of a wildlife management project. He said it was an exciting experience, until the geese got aggressive! Daniel was the elected senior class president of SKHS. He was also captain of the cross-country team and played on the tennis team.



2022 NRPA Lesa Meng College Scholarship awardee, Liam McGovern, now a freshman with University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.

**Liam McGovern** A graduate of North Kingstown High School (NKHS), Liam is now attending the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, where he intends to major in analytical economics. Liam would like to pursue a career in environmental economics. He has been a consistent member of the NKHS Dean's List. Liam is an avid fisherman, introduced to fishing by his father, when they would go out almost every weekend. He has been fishing the Narrow River for years and apparently has had pretty good luck catching fish here! He was a member of the NKHS DECA Business Organization. Liam was also on the NKHS track and field team and the NKHS football team helping the team win two Division 1 Championships.

# 15th Annual Pettaquamscutt Paddle

*Paddlers heading out into the sunset towards Pettaquamscutt Cove. (Photo credit Rebecca Russell)*



The 15th Annual Pettaquamscutt Paddle took place at Narrow River Kayaks (NRK) on Friday, July 29. Fifty-two participants joined NRK and NRPA for a leisurely sunset paddle. Weather made for a beautiful evening on both water and land. Paddlers and guides explored Pettaquamscutt Cove and the Narrows and then returned for dinner and refreshments with good company.

Hosted by Narrow River Kayaks, the after-paddle party was lit by decorative lamps, torches, music, and everyone's good cheer. All funds raised, nearly \$1,500.00, will benefit NRPA programs.

Thank you so much to Narrow River Kayaks for their ongoing support and generosity to NRPA for 15 years going!

*Evening after paddle party held at Narrow River Kayaks. (Photo credit Rebecca Russell)*



## Middlebridge Series: What Lives on the River (2x), Art on the River



Different marsh grasses established in the Narrow River estuarine system, selected and identified by NRPA's Craig Wood. (Photo credit Alison Kates)



Silvermoon LaRose (far right) Assistant Director of the Tomaquag Museum taught participants how to play hubbub, an Indigenous bowl game, and then taught folks how to make their own. (Photo credit Alison Kates)



NRPA Board Director, Catalina Martinez, teaching kids about the organisms that live in the Narrow River. (Photo credit Alison Kates)

On June 11, NRPA hosted our most popular outdoor educational event, **What Lives in the River**, and welcomed 25 adults and 30 children, plus 11 volunteers, including two Junior volunteers Jake Pieterzak and Maeve LaPlante. For a new educational element, NRPA Officer and Wetland Biologist, Craig Wood, picked, identified, and laid out a selection of marsh grasses for participants to view, touch, and ask questions about.

On August 6, **Art on the River**, was held at the same Middlebridge site, generously hosted by the Town of Narragansett. Local artist and educator, Silvermoon LaRose, Assistant Director of the Tomaquag Museum, facilitated an Indigenous art activity and game called **hubbub**. A key part of this game involves players exclaiming out loud "hub, hub, hub" while tapping the bowl against the ground to randomly mix the game pieces. These playful sounds led to good laughter and good times by all! In addition to the always popular fish printmaking activity, NRPA led instruction on pressed

seaweed art making and basics in drawing. Plein air painters Caroline and John Riedel demonstrated their open-air painting techniques, producing two beautiful landscape paintings. Despite the very hot temperatures, a good time was had by all. Nine volunteers made this event possible, and the art activity provided by the Tomaquag Museum was funded by a RI Foundation Community grant.

Then again on September 17, during the Town of Narragansett's **'Gansett Days** celebrations, NRPA hosted over 70 people for the second offering of our **What Lives in the River** event this year. Participants consisted largely of young kids and their attendant family members, including Boy Scout Pack 66 of Kingston. The event was supported by 18 volunteers, including five junior volunteers: Maia Hubbard, Emma Hunter, Will Hunter, Maeve LaPlante, and Jake Pieterzak. Huge thanks to everyone who participated and volunteered to make these events possible!

## Inaugural College Internship - Summer 2022

*Continued from Front Page*

Additionally, Hannah collaborated with NRPA Vice President Veronica Berounsky, collecting profiles of the deep-water anoxic basin of the Narrow River. She and Veronica worked on this project through November and at press time, they will have presented their findings at the fall New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) conference November 17-20. Hannah also collaborated with NRPA Board Director Catalina Martinez, joining Catalina and high school intern Sandrine Martinez for ecological field studies in the river. Everyone who worked with Hannah agrees she is a talented and highly motivated young woman with a very bright future ahead of her! All of us at NRPA look forward to following Hannah's ongoing studies and career development.



NRPA Vice President Veronica Berounsky and Hannah Wyllie, on a boat in the Upper Pond, profiling the anoxic basin. (Photo credit Alison Kates)



# NRPA's Online Art Auction and Art Sale

By Alison Kates



A guest visits Studio Blue to see the art available through NRPA's Art Auction in October 2022.  
(Photo credit Alison Kates)



Eleanor Gaines-Mohr purchases one of Bill Krul's floral photo prints with Sarah Gaines-Mohr and Kathy Byington, NRPA Treasurer, processing the young buyer's donation.  
(Photo credit Veronica Berounsky)

Celebrating the beauty and uniqueness of the Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River, art works featuring the charm of the area were recently featured in an art auction benefitting NRPA.

Pati Sylvia's oil on board view of Narrow River Kayaks, Christine Webb's oil on linen piece of the 'House on the Inlet' and Beau Jones' 'The Lost Shack', a photograph of the little red shack on Sedge Island, captured scenes of landscapes in the area. Other artists spotlighted some of the incredible wildlife in the area, including Chris Machinski's watercolor and gouache close-up of a clinging jellyfish (found while they were volunteering at 'What Lives in the River'), Eric Lutes' quahog, and Joe Beckham's photograph of the osprey by Sprague Bridge.

Many more pieces by local and nationally known artists were donated to benefit NRPA through an art auction and sale. More than 60 pieces were purchased via online auction an in-person and nearly \$5,000 was raised to support NRPA! Many thanks to all who purchased artwork in support of NRPA!

NRPA is extremely grateful for the generosity of our artists and art donors: Joe Beckham, Richard Benjamin, Veronica M. Berounsky, Steve Bonzagni, Ruth Kole Cargill, John Fawcett, Theresa Girard, Richard Barker Grant, Lorraine Hynes, Beau Jones, Bill Krul, Eric Lutes, Chris Machinski, Picture This Framing and Art Gallery, AJ Reilly, Lessa Shear, Matt Smith, Lorén Spears, Robert Steiner, Patricia Sylvia, Elizabeth Tener, Lisa Tener, Ashley Van Etten, and Christine Webb.

We also appreciate the support of local businesses who displayed available art in the lead up to the

auction: Bagelz, The Bluebird Cafe, People's Credit Union North Kingstown Branch, People's Credit Union Wakefield branch, Picture This Framing and Art Gallery

Special thanks also to Studio Blue, located in the Coastal Institute Building, URI Graduate School of Oceanography campus in Narragansett, for hosting NRPA's exhibition.



Chris Machinski stands with her entry in the NRPA Art Auction. The watercolor and gouache features a clinging jellyfish that Chris first saw when volunteering with NRPA.  
(Photo credit Alison Kates)

# Osprey Family 2022 Updates

By Alison Kates and Craig Wood

In 2022, our osprey pair successfully raised and fledged two chicks. A third chick hatched but perished in its early days. For some, this event was difficult to watch, but we are committed to not intervening and letting nature take its course.

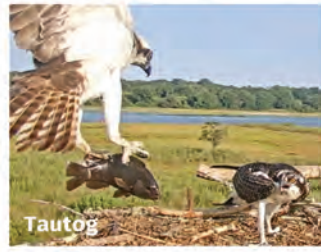
No other hawk relies exclusively on a diet of fish. Since ospreys are found on every continent besides Antarctica, their diet of fish is as diverse as the habitats they call home. A few of the fish species brought back to the nest this year and last year are pictured to the right.

According to Alan Poole in his book "Ospreys - The Revival of a Global Raptor", river herring returning to spawn are a critical part of the spring diet for local ospreys. Menhaden, or pogies, are another fish species high in fat content that is important to local ospreys later in the summer.

Hosted by Narrow River Preservation Association and Narrow River Land Trust, the live, osprey



Atlantic needlefish



Tautog



Cunner



Northern Puffer



Menhaden (Pogy)



Scup (Porgy)

Fish varieties brought to osprey nest along Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River 2021 & 2022.

webcam overlooking Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River is available 24 hours a day at [narrowriver.org/ospreycam](http://narrowriver.org/ospreycam). Although the osprey have left for their annual migration to South America, the webcam provides a lovely view of Pettaquamscutt Cove and Sprague Bridge. Scroll down the webcam page for dozens of videos of activity

at the nest.

Many thanks to all who make the osprey webcam possible, especially Narrow River Kayaks and the Farrell Family. The operating costs of this webcam have been donated in loving memory of Eileen Farrell by her family.

## Disappointing Annual Herring Run Count at Gilbert Stuart Stream

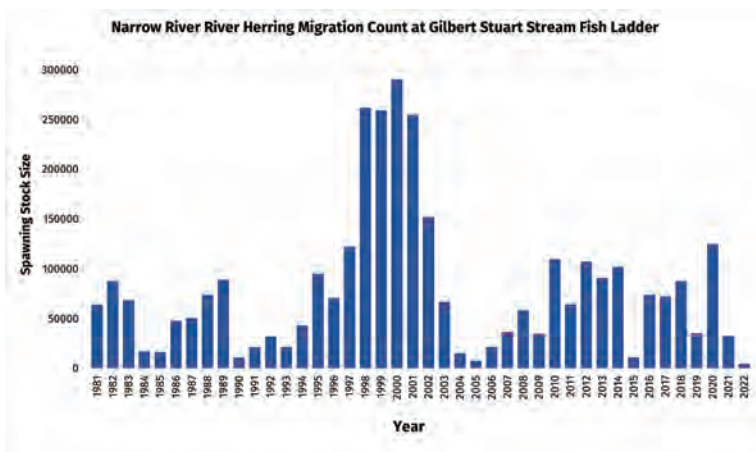


Chart showing comparisons of annual River Herring counts from 1981 through 2022. (Chart by Alison Kates)

Pat McGee, Fisheries Biologist with the RI Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife reports that 2022 was a poor year for river herring spawning stock numbers.

Pat says "This past spring, runs were down across the state, and throughout much of southern New England. At Gilbert Stuart, a normally strong run, we saw <5,000 fish ascend the fishway. The rest of the state saw similarly poor numbers. This does not fit the trend we've seen in past years and is hopefully an anomaly and not a new norm."

More information about the annual river herring migration at [narrowriver.org/river-herring](http://narrowriver.org/river-herring).



# RI Slave History Medallion Dedication and Juneteenth Celebration

By Alison Kates



RI Slave History Medallion dedicated at Casey Farm on Juneteenth 2022 honors African and Indigenous people who were enslaved on appropriated land, known at that time as the 'Narragansett Plantations'. (Photo credit Alison Kates)

Records from the R.I. Slave History Medallion (RISHM) organization indicate that Southern RI is the site of the largest African slave holdings in New England, and that for many years, African and Indigenous captives were enslaved on appropriated land, known at that time as the "Narragansett Plantations".

On the Juneteenth holiday (June 19), at Historic New England's Casey Farm, NRPA supported a celebration of the emancipation of African captives in America and an honoring of all those enslaved on Casey Farm and in this region.

The highlight of the day was the unveiling of a R.I. Slave History Medallion installation on the front lawn. The medallion includes a QR code linking to the RISHM website where visitors are invited to learn more about enslaved people in this area.

RISHM, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to documenting places and people connected to the history of slavery in Rhode Island. The RISHM marker, a permanent installation, is located on the front lawn of Casey Farm, in front of the farmhouse. All are welcome to visit the marker when the farm is open.

*Enslaved People and their Legacy at Casey Farm*, written by Jane Hennedy, Site Manager for Historic New England at Casey Farm, and Hannah Francis, PhD candidate in history at Rice University, is a fascinating

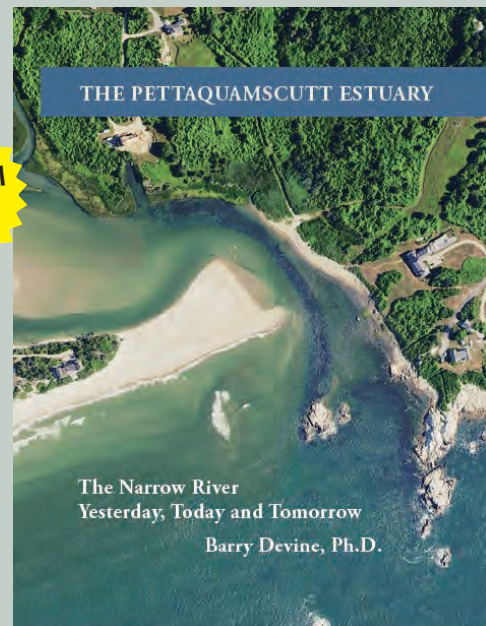
and thorough review of historical documents that shed light on the lives of Black and Indigenous people who were enslaved on of the farm, can be read in full on the RISHM website [rishm.org](http://rishm.org).

At the Juneteenth gathering, guests explored the farm on foot and by hayride. All enjoyed music by the Nettukkusq Singers, the URI African Drummers and Dancers, and Sidy Maiga & Afrimanding. Lorén Spears of Tomaquag Museum, Casey Farm's historians, and R.I. Black Storytellers (RIBS) spoke about Indigenous, African, and African American culture.



Focus your smartphone's camera on this QR code to read about enslaved people and their legacy at Casey Farm at the RISHM website.

## The Pettaquamscutt Estuary Book



Wonderful gift idea!

*The Pettaquamscutt Estuary: The Narrow River Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* by Dr. Barry Devine. Barry's book is available online at the incredible price of \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members; please visit [narrowriver.org/nrbook](http://narrowriver.org/nrbook) for details. 100% of book sales go directly to supporting programs and projects of NRPA.

# 15th Turnaround Swim

By Alison Kates



Pre-swim safety briefing by Jason 'Jay' McNamee, with 122 swimmers including 'Aquawoman', anticipating the start to the one-mile timed swim. (Photo credit Rebecca Russell)

June is a month when people of the Northeast are enjoying swimming in their local rivers, as high outdoor temperatures and mild water temperatures encourage taking a cool dip. June is also celebrated widely as National Rivers Month, bringing attention to how critical rivers are to communities, fish and wildlife, and tourism and recreational economies. To celebrate and bring public attention to the increasing health of the water in the Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River, on June 25, NRPA hosted the 15th Turnaround Swim event and fundraiser.

It was a gorgeous summer day with sunshine and blue skies with a water temperature of 75.2 Fahrenheit (24.0 Celsius) and an air temperature of 75.3 Fahrenheit (23.5 Celsius). 139 people registered and 122 swimmers participated in the 15th Swim. Of that count, there were 45 wetsuit swimmers and 77 non-wetsuit finishers.

Many volunteers made the day a big success! Special thanks to the OARS and URI Crew Club for the generous use of their space. Thanks also to the Saunderstown Yacht Club for lending us the swim course equipment. Kayak spotters, neighbors who supported the swim, registration volunteers and the NRPA Turnaround Swim Committee all contributed to the success of the event.

New award categories were well received by swimmers and the award prizes – artful mugs with images of the Narrow River designed by artist Pati Sylvia – were a big hit!

The fastest finishing time was 23:33, swum by Eric Nilsson of Boston. Eric was the overall winner as well as the fastest in the Men's Non-Wetsuit Division.

The youngest finisher, Tim Gibson of Narragansett was 11 years old on race day.

Mary Cantini-Norkin, who was visiting RI family from her home in San Francisco, CA, was delighted to win 'Eldest Finisher' at age 78.

John Sullivan, winner of the 'Middle of the Pack - Wetsuit Division' had a funny response to learning that he won the award: "Wow my mediocrity paid off - what a surprise, lol. I had a great time and will be back next year to defend my middling performance."

## Other winners were:

Stuart Cromarty of Foster, RI – Men's Wetsuit Division

Abby Bauman of Saunderstown – Women's Non-Wetsuit Division

Kate Porter of Tiverton, RI – Women's Wetsuit Division

Paul Dow of Middletown, RI – Middle-of-the-Pack Non-Wetsuit Division

Thank you and congratulations to this year's swimmers and their friends and family who showed up to show support!



Turnaround Swim awardees from various award categories. (Photo credit Veronica Berounsky)

## NRPA is seeking our next Program Director!

NRPA's Board is accepting applications for a 30-35 hours/week independent contractor position with an early January start date. Work-from-home administrative position requires reliable WiFi and vehicle access for office errands and in-person meetings. Proficiency in Microsoft 365 software (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Adobe Acrobat, database management, and bookkeeping is required. **Submit resume and cover letter to [nominations@narrowriver.org](mailto:nominations@narrowriver.org) with subject 'Program Director application'. Preference will be given to applications received by the evening of December 23.**



# Volunteer Appreciation Reception and 52nd Annual Meeting



NRPA volunteer, Felix Sarubbi, receiving NRPA's prestigious W.E.R. La Farge Friend of the River award. (Photo credit Rebecca Russell)

On October 7, during NRPA's Art Auction Gallery Opening, NRPA hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Over 550 past and present NRPA volunteers from across NRPA's five decades and many programs, were invited to attend.

Volunteers enjoyed complimentary appetizers, hot cider, and good company over an exhibition of local art. All volunteers in attendance received five raffle tickets to enter into a giveaway prize raffle. Prizes included twelve gift cards to local businesses including TRIO/Newport Restaurant Group, The Coast Guard House, Bess Eaton, Stedman's Bike Shop, Laurel Lane Country Club and more. This was our way of saying 'Thank You' for all NRPA volunteers do (or once did) to help preserve, protect, and restore the Pettaquamscutt Estuary (Narrow River) over the past 52 years.

Soon after the raffle drawing for giveaway prizes ended, everyone made their way into the auditorium to participate in NRPA's 52nd Annual Meeting. This was an hour-long program including a review of 2022 programs and events presented by NRPA Co-Presidents Veronica Berounsky and Richard Grant, the annual election of the Board of

Directors and Officers, and a special presentation by NRPA Vice President Craig Wood on the topic of dredging sand plugging the mouth of the Narrow River. Merit awards were presented including NRPA's prestigious W.E.R. La Farge Friend of the River award given to Felix Sarubbi for his 15 years of dedicated leadership and volunteerism with NRPA's Turnaround Swim fundraiser event. Environmental Appreciation awards were given to Dick White, Jeremy Collie, and Jason McNamee for each of their 15 years of dedicated volunteerism. River Watch volunteer monitor anniversaries were acknowledged with a special gift and certificates including recognition to David Smith, Margaret Bradley, and Elizabeth Donovan for their 10-, 5- and 5-year anniversaries monitoring water quality and protecting the health of the river and its watershed.



NRPA Turnaround Swim committee volunteers (from left) Veronica Berounsky (also NRPA Board Co-President), Mick Westkott, Felix Sarubbi, and Jeremy Collie at NRPA's 52nd Annual Meeting held on Friday October 7. Several committee members are absent from this photo. (Photo credit Alison Kates)



Steph Dutkiewicz receiving her Old Town Heron 9XT kayak along the Narrow River outside of Narrow River Kayaks. (Photo credit Jason Considine)

## Kayak Raffle inner

Stephanie "Steph" Dutkiewicz was the lucky winner of this year's Annual Kayak Raffle. Steph, a resident of Narragansett and an NRPA member, was very happy to learn of this win. She had this to say, "I don't think I've ever won a raffle - and what a win! I am already enjoying the kayak - what a wonderful way to explore the river. Big thank you to NRPA for your work for the river, and to Narrow River Kayaks for the kayak!"

Many thanks to Narrow River Kayaks for their sponsorship of this raffle!

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