

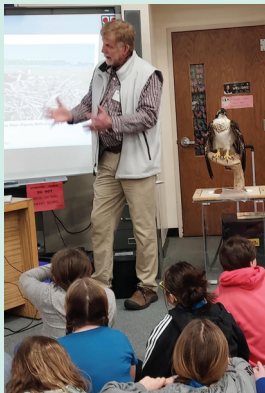
# NARROW RIVER NOTES

Narrow River Preservation Association: Protecting, Preserving and Restoring the Narrow River Watershed Since 1970/ June 2024

## OSPREY EDUCATION:

Fourth graders at area schools learned all about ospreys when Craig Wood, NRPA Vice President, presented to them over April and May. Schools participating this Spring included Monsignor Clarke, Narragansett, Hamilton, West Kingston, Matunuck, and Peace Dale Elementary Schools.

“Thank you so much for coming to Matunuck and sharing all your knowledge about osprey! We loved it and the kids were very engaged!” said Shelly McConnell, fourth grade teacher at Matunuck Elementary School (South Kingstown).



Craig Wood presenting about osprey to fourth graders at Matunuck Elementary School  
PHOTO: Shelly McConnell

NRPA's Osprey Education Program teaches fourth graders in Narragansett, North Kingstown and South Kingstown about the life cycle and natural history of ospreys. When teaching about ospreys, we incorporate important concepts of ecology which most are exploring at this time in their science curriculum. We also include video from our live osprey webcam and introduce our own juvenile female osprey mount (currently on display in the Narragansett Town Library). This outreach is provided at no cost to the school systems. Since its inception in 2014, the Program has reached many hundreds of school children instilling the importance of preservation, stewardship and conservation.

Learn more about NRPA's osprey program at [narrowriver.org/ospreyprogram](http://narrowriver.org/ospreyprogram).

*Continued on page 6*

## Narrow River Watershed Clean-up

On April 27, NRPA cleaned up the Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River and its Watershed in a big way. More than 60 volunteers picked up 1200lbs of trash from the banks of the Narrow River, and the parks and roadways of its Watershed.

Administrative coordinator Shirley Freitag and BOD member Christine Ariel worked the registration table. Events coordinator Marianne Chronley handed volunteers a map of the watershed with their assigned area highlighted. Finally, they got grabbers and bags from Keven Carmignani of Ocean Recovery Community Alliance (ORCA) and fanned out across the watershed.



NRPA Events Coordinator Marianne Chronley handing out maps of the Watershed to clean-up volunteers.



Fly fishers and friends came dressed to clean-up

Several groups pitched in on that beautiful Saturday, and we're lucky they did. Cub Scout Troop 66 led by Harry Rosenblum, true to their motto "did their best" at Sprague Park in Narragansett.

Eight fly fishers from The Rhody Fly Rodders and RI Saltwater Anglers Assn. Fly Fishing Committee, wearing waders and brandishing wire cutters, succeeded in ridding the Narrow River of tangled heaps of snow fencing that winter storms had pushed up as far as Middle Bridge.

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# Presidents Cove

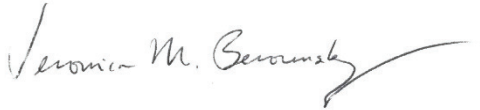
## A Matter of Scale

Dear Friends of Narrow River,

I'm writing this while on a trip with my family visiting US National Parks, US National Monuments, Tribal Parks and State Parks while driving through the states of Nevada, Arizona and Utah. Coming from Rhode Island, the vastness and scale of these canyons, riverbeds, hoodoos (rock pillars), monuments, and other landforms is almost hard to comprehend. In many places, preserved and protected land stretches as far as you can see. Sometimes, in the distance or deep in the canyon, you can see a river. At Zion National Park, we were able to walk a path along the Virgin River. As I look around me and see many other people also enjoying these places, I am reminded how fortunate we are that people decided to preserve and protect this land and water, starting in 1919. Since 1970, the Narrow River Preservation Association has been engaging people to preserve and protect our watershed and river. Even though the Narrow River watershed is much smaller in scale than the parks of the west, it provides many local people and visitors with an opportunity to see natural lands and waters up close and personal. And that is what matters.

Thank you for all YOU do for Narrow River and its watershed.

Take care,



Veronica M. Berounsky, President, NRPA Board of Directors

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) engages people to preserve and protect the Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt Estuary) and its watershed.

### NARROW RIVER PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

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## 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 the 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 renewals and 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!



**JOIN  
TODAY!**

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.

## Watercraft Safety Event "Navigating the Narrow River" (by Elizabeth Archibald)

On Saturday, April 6 the Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) and the Mettatumet Improvement Association sponsored an informational session with a panel of representatives from several agencies and organizations. The meeting took place at the Mettatumet Yacht Club from 10 to 12, and association members as well as the general public participated in a lively discussion concerning best practices for preserving both the Narrow River and the safety of those who enjoy recreational activities on it.



The panelists at Narrow River Preservation Association's "Navigating the Narrow" discussion were, CRMC Executive Director Jeffrey Willis, Mettatumet Yacht Club President Anthony Columbo, Two RI DEM Environmental Police Officers, NRPA BOD member James Dean Vogel (moderator), American Canoe Association RI State Director Mark J. Marosits, USCG Auxiliary Area Sector Coordinator Nick Butziger, and South Kingstown Harbor Master Michael Stach.

Various panelists highlighted the most important aspects of personal safety for boaters and paddlers. Mark Marosits, State Director of the American Canoe Association, emphasized that kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes are considered "vessels" and therefore require the use of Coast Guard-approved life jackets. In addition, paddlers should wear a sound signal, carry a visual distress signal, and before launching, leave a "float plan" with a friend or neighbor. Motorboats must give right of way to paddlers except in narrow channels when the power vessel has right of way.

Michael Stach, the South Kingstown Harbor Master announced the availability of special decals that can be left in the paddle craft. These can be labeled with contact information in the event the craft is found adrift or beached.

For motor boaters Nick Butziger of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary stressed the importance of wearing an engine cutoff key. This applies to recreational vessels less than 26 feet in length. Boaters must observe No Wake Zones for both the safety of paddlers and to prevent damage to the ecosystem.

There was further discussion of clean-up and maintenance of the river and watershed. Tony Columbo, President of the Mettatumet Association emphasized this group's commitment to helping with any problems that come up for those who use the river or live near it. All panelists stressed the importance of communication and collaboration between users and the agencies with jurisdiction over the river and watershed.

Much more information is available by going to the NRPA website at [narrowriver.org](http://narrowriver.org)

## Narrow River Watershed Clean-up *continued from page 1*

Cozy RI came from Providence with six crew and Marianne sent them north to Shady Lea Fishing area. They filled several bags of debris and a cleared a discarded grill and a bunch of paint cans from Silver Spring Lake area in North Kingstown. We received several donations for the clean-up. The Beach Hut in Saunderstown donated the door prize, a big basket of Rhode Island beach essentials. Some Narragansett Pier businesses supported NRPA too: Queen of Cups donated coffee, hot chocolate and delicious macadamia-nut cookies. Nana's Ice Cream and Gansett POKE gave discount coupons for the volunteers. Thanks to Town of Narragansett and The Dunes Club for use of their dumpsters.



Cozy RI crew picked up at Silver Spring Lake in North Kingstown



Winter storms pushed this fencing in all the way from Narragansett beach to Middlebridge.

A \$750 micro-grant from Governor and Mrs. McKee's Litter-Free Rhode Island initiative

was helpful, it was nice to have some money to spend on printing, publicity and gear. Do your part to keep Rhode Island beautiful and: "Take the Pledge" at [litterfree.ri.gov/](http://litterfree.ri.gov/)

Parts of the Watershed had been picked-up prior to April 27: the Middlebridge area is cleaned continually by resident Richard Rochette, and Friends of Canonchet and Narrow River Land Trust had clean-ups the previous weekend. Gilbert Stuart Museum cleans up their area, so 20-25% of the Watershed was already done. NRPA's volunteers cleaned almost all the rest, from Narragansett's Crooked Brook Trail all the way to Silver Spring Lake in North Kingstown.

## NRPA Benefits from the generosity of the Narragansett Lions Club



On January 1, 2024, hundreds of people from all over the area lined up to plunge into the chilly waters of the ocean at Narragansett Beach for the annual Pier Plunge run by the Narragansett Lions Club. The Lions Club generously chose Narrow River Preservation Association to be the recipient of the proceeds from this event.

Members of NRPA along with Board President Veronica Berounsky and Board member Peter Gelhaar joined the plungers.

Lions Club Secretary and former President Eric Menke (far left in the photo) presented the \$5000 check to Shirley Freitag, NRPA administrative coordinator, Marianne Chronley, NRPA events coordinator, Veronica Berounsky, NRPA president, and Craig Wood, NRPA vice-president.

Many thanks to Lions Club member Ethan Farrell for his hard work organizing and running the Plunge, the many volunteers, and the valuable sponsors. We also appreciate the support from the Plungers, the DJ who kept the spirits lively, and the Town of Narragansett and their crews for their assistance.



# Annual Science Fair Awards

## NRPA recognizes excellence in local schools

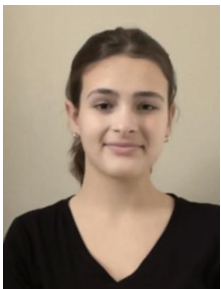
Since 1991 Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) has judged local High School Science Fairs. Separate from the Science Fair itself, NRPA judged students who use the scientific process to examine environmental conditions relevant to current issues.



**Nina Vinhateiro**, a sophomore at South Kingstown High School presented her prize-winning exhibit “Sea of Change” to the NRPA Board of Directors meeting on April 2. She examined salinity, temperature, and current speed at three different locations along the Narrow River over a five-week period. Vinhateiro’s instruments included a refractometer, a thermometer, and a device like the “knots on a rope” system of old to collect data. Results showed how normal environmental changes, including weather and tide phase (spring/neap cycles) affect the water chemistry and physics of an estuary. Her findings suggest the salinity and water temperature in Narrow River vary greatly depending on magnitude of the tides, the volume of freshwater runoff, and proximity to the ocean.



South Kingstown Sophomores **Caleb Colvin** *left* and **Sam Cadman** *right* also demonstrated their project at the April 2nd meeting. They won for “Analysis of Anti-Corrosive Agents” an experiment testing how various preservatives inhibit corrosion on iron. They coated two pieces of iron with acrylic paint, two with polyurethane, two with WD-40, and left two as controls. Four of the pieces were then submerged in fresh water and the other four in salt water. Six times over a two-week period, they made detailed observations and recorded results. They concluded that anti-corrosives greatly decreased the rate of corrosion, with polyurethane being most effective in fresh water and WD-40 most effective in salt water.



**Emily Forman**, a Junior at North Kingstown High School researched the effect of lawn fertilizer on species diversity. She first identified three lawns, one with regularly scheduled fertilizer use, one with sporadic fertilizers used, and one unfertilized lawn. She counted the number of specifications in a section of each lawn and found the lawn with the highest amount of fertilizer averaged just 4 different species while the lawn, containing little or no fertilizer averaged nine species. She concluded that the level of fertilizer adversely affects the level of species diversity in lawns.

NRPA Board of Directors members Jim Vogel and Nate Vinhateiro judged Science Fair projects at North Kingstown High School. Jim Vogel and Sally Sutherland were the judges at South Kingstown High. Projects were judged on their methodology, creativity and relevance to environmental concerns.

### People's is a Big River Giver

CREDIT UNION

The Narrow River Preservation Association recently received a \$2000 donation from People’s Credit Union in support of NRPA’s vision for “a thriving and resilient Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt Estuary) and its watershed. Pictured are NRPA President Veronica M. Berounsky, People’s Credit Union Director of Marketing Courtney Hunter, NRPA Administrative Coordinator Shirley Freitag, and Head of People’s Credit Union Sean Daly





Fourth Grade students at Monsignor Clarke School hold up NRPA's osprey wingspan banner, accompanied by teacher Carolyn Wood, NRPA Vice-President Craig Wood and, at center, NRPA's osprey mount, Pette.  
PHOTO: Monsignor Clarke School

## OSPREY NEST/CAM

Osprey watchers were delighted to see the return of the osprey pair that has been resident at the nest overlooking Pettaquamscutt Cove. The pair, who have nested at the site since 2019, appear in good health and have laid at least one egg. The nest is too deep to be able to see or count the eggs that are there, but we can be sure that there is at least one egg because the pair is incubating.

Since 2019, this pair has successfully hatched 2-3 eggs each year, all hatching in late May or early June. All are hoping for healthy chicks this year!

The nest is featured on the webcam at [narrowriver.org/ospreycam](http://narrowriver.org/ospreycam). Hosted by NRPA and Narrow River Land Trust, the operating costs of the cam are generously donated in loving memory of Eileen Farrell by her family.

Work continues to convert the webcam to a new internet provider. We appreciate your patience as we seek to make the video more stable and reliable.



The male osprey (left) is seen here bringing part of a fish to the female, who has been incubating the egg(s) in the nest. After this snapshot, the female took the meal away from the nest to eat it and the male took a turn incubating the egg(s) while she was away.

PHOTO: NRPA & NRLT Osprey webcam

## 2024 NRPA-SPONSORED SATURDAY EVENTS

**June 22**

Turn-around Swim, 9am,  
swimmers & volunteers needed.

**August 10, 9-11**

Art at the River

**Sept. 14, 9-11**

What Lives in the River



## 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).



NARROW RIVER PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

# MANY THANKS TO NRPA'S 2024 SPONSORS!



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