


NARROW RIVER NOTES

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



As the sun sets on Pettaquamscutt Cove in the Narrow River – reflections on 2024 and new energies for the coming years

Presidents Cove

River Connections

Dear Friends of Narrow River,

Hope you are enjoying the articles about family life on Narrow River by Louisa La Farge. Her father, W.E.R. La Farge, was on the Board of Directors of NRPA for my first few years serving on the Board and he had a reputation as a staunch environmentalist and as an advocate for the greater good. I learned a lot from him. The La Farge family has been entwined with Narrow River for several generations so imagine my surprise to be in Maryland, in a small town on a river, and find a stone monument erected there in 1934 in memory of an early settler that was designed by W.E.R.'s father, Christopher Grant La Farge! There is one road to St. Mary's City (MD5) in southern Maryland and the monument is on the west side, on the corner of South Snow Hill Manor Road (see photo). Because Christopher grew up spending summers on River Farm on Upper Pond (as did W.E.R. and Louisa), with his family who advocated for civil rights and social justice, I like to think that gazing out over Narrow River helped inspire him when he was asked to design this monument to Father Andrew White who established a settlement on the St. Mary's River as "a land of sanctuary where they and their descendants might live in civil and religious freedom".



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

Take care,

Veronica M. Berounsky, Ph.D.
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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Kathleen Couchon

Kathleen Dolan

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Submissions and correspondence to nrpa@narrowriver.org

Join NRPA!

Membership is NRPA's largest source of funding and connects you with all of NRPA's activities, events and advocacy. We accept checks payable to NRPA, credit cards, or your registered PayPal account. The mailing address is NRPA, P.O. Box 8, Saunderstown, RI 02874



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.

NRPA Annual Meeting *Written by Marianne Chronley*

At its annual meeting at the Coastal Institute on October 1, Narrow River Preservation Association reviewed the past year's events and news, held elections for their Board of Directors and Officers, hosted two informative speakers, and gave out its yearly Environmental Awards.

A moving and relevant welcome and land acknowledgment was given by Lorén Spears, the Executive Director of the Tomaquag Museum. Spears also treated attendees to a beautiful song in the Narragansett language.

Events Coordinator Marianne Chronley, gave an overview of NRPA's 2024 Events. Chronley, who has overseen NRPA Events for two seasons, is stepping down, and will be replaced by Skylar Ceceri, who was introduced to the audience by President Veronica M. Berounsky.

NRPA President Berounsky and Vice President Craig Wood ran through the "Year in Review". They tag-teamed on the highlights of 2024. One project unique to 2024 was an Eelgrass Survey that NRPA commissioned in response to a decline in eelgrass that was reported in 2023.

Vice President Wood said that NRPA continues to work with the Town of Narragansett to examine



NRPA BOD member Christine Ariel chatting with Director of Tomaquag Musuem Lorén Spears

options for the mouth of the Narrow River that will allow safe recreational boating while maintaining and preserving critical habitats within the estuary. Wood is NRPA's liaison to the Narrow River Land Trust (NRLT), so he updated the audience on NRLT achievements and goals.

Retiring from the Board are Kathy Byington who has been treasurer of NRPA for three years, she gave her final but positive Treasurer's Report. Also leaving the BOD is Nate Vinhateiro who has served for eight years. Vinhateiro will stay on as a member of NRPA's Advisory Board.

Administrative Coordinator Shirley Freitag conducted the elections and welcomed five newly elected

Board of Directors: Dave Allaire, Kathy Couchon, Kate Dolan, Brian Mattiucci and Denise Murphy. Three current Board of Directors Craig Wood, Paula Santos and Jim Vogel, whose terms expire this year, were all re-elected. They are joined by Veronica M. Berounsky, Sally Sutherland, Peter Gelhaar and Christine Ariel, whose terms on the BOD expire in 2025.

The twelve Board of Directors named above voted on their officers, as follows: President - Veronica M. Berounsky Vice President- Craig Wood Treasurer- Dave Allaire Secretary- Paula Santos

After the elections, Katherine Thompson, a PhD student at URI GSO, gave an informative talk titled "Three decades of Monitoring, Web-based Geospatial Evaluations of the NRPA River Watch Monitor Program". Thompson has been studying the use of GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping technology to graphically represent decades of data collected by volunteers in NRPA's River Watch program.

"Casey Farm: A Case Study in Climate Action Planning" was presented by Jane Hennedy, who



New Board members: from left Brian Mattiucci, Denise Murphy, David Allaire, Kathy Couchon, Kate Dolan, and new events coordinator Skylar Ceceri.

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Dredging Report Update

In the last issue of Narrow River Notes we provided an overview of the options being considered by the Town of Narragansett for dredging the mouth of the river, as well as important considerations to the NRPA Board of Directors and other stakeholders. In an important development, on October 7th the outgoing Town Council passed a motion to approve Alternative 4 as the selected short term alternate. This alternative involves land-based mechanical dredging with dredged material to be placed in close proximity to the dredge site that is acceptable to regulatory agencies as determined during the permitting process (see graphic below). The motion is fully contingent on the availability of funding (estimated construction cost range \$771,040 to \$1,252,940). The motion also directs the Town Manager to seek financing options for the project, continue to coordinate with Foth Engineering on the next steps for obtaining licensing permits, and engage with key stakeholders (including NRPA) to move forward with the project.

As background, a work session was held on August 5, 2024 with the Town Council and the town's consultant Foth Engineering. Three hydraulic dredging options (Alternatives 1-3) with increasing dredge volumes and the sand being returned to Narragansett Beach, were presented. The cost estimates for the three options

were substantial <https://narrowriver.org/dredging/> Hydraulic dredging relies on specialized dredging barges and pumps to remove sand and redeposit it elsewhere using hydraulic forces. This dredging method is often far more costly than sand removal via traditional mechanical dredging with long-arm excavators working from land. The Town Council recognized that there is significant community interest on this topic and this initial work session provided an opportunity to continue discussions. At a second work session held on September 16th, two additional options (Alternatives 4 and 5) involving land-based mechanical dredging were presented. Following the second Work Session, the Town participated in a meeting held by representatives of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The FWS identified conditions that would complicate the permitting process for Alternative 5, which also included dune restoration along the split. As a result, The Town Council felt the selection of the Alternative 4 will allow the project to advance to the permitting phase now so that construction could proceed in a timely manner pending available financing.

NRPA continues to track the project and provide technical guidance to decision makers on behalf of our membership.



Dredge Alternative #4: Land Based dredging with Grading. Land based mechanical dredging of approximately 44,800 cubic yards (CY) of material to a depth of -4.0' MLLW + 1' of Overdepth (OD). Graphic provided by Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC.

4 NRPA: Preserving Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt Estuary) and its Watershed Since 1970

Eelgrass Monitoring on the Narrow River

NRPA commissioned a scientist from URI to work with NRPA to conduct an Eelgrass survey of the River this year. The eelgrass coverage area in the river more than doubled from the last survey in 2021. Eelgrass beds are some of the most productive habitats on earth (rivaling midwestern U.S. grasslands) and thus are critical sinks in the global carbon cycle. Because of its importance, scientists, conservation groups, and State and Federal agencies have been monitoring eelgrass trends at regional and local scales for more than 30 years. Eelgrass surveys have been conducted for the Narrow River in 2006, 2012, 2016, and 2021 by URI. These surveys were sponsored by RIDEM and CRMC. The 2021 survey resulted in the lowest acreage (9.5) of all four of the surveys. NRPA wanted to verify these results and commissioned this study. NRPA volunteers, this summer, collected drone aerial imagery and underwater video data that resulted in an overall increase of eelgrass to 21.9 acres, more than doubling the acreage recorded in 2021. The elgrass has expanded considerably south of Middlebridge Road since 2021 and it continued to be mostly absent north of Middlebridge even though earlier surveys in 2012 and 2016 had found large eelgrass beds in this area (see map and figure). This report will be incorporated into the NRPA "Health of the River" effort. We plan to perform some form of monitoring annually and post the results to our members.

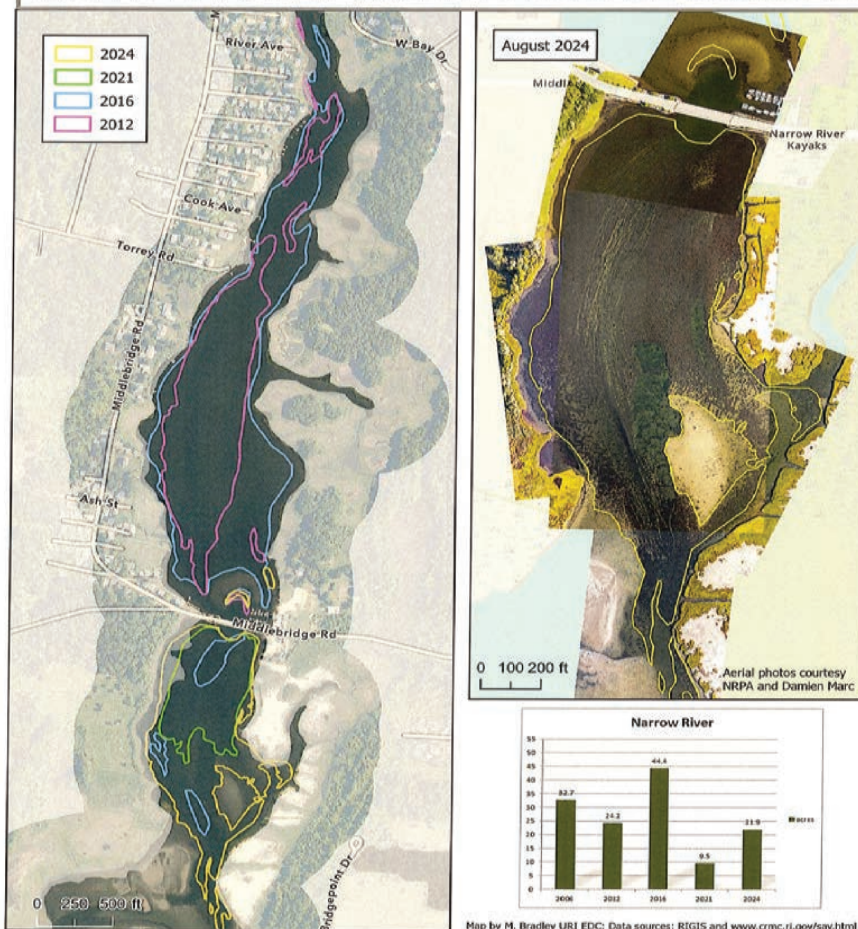
Meet New Board Member...



Dave Allaire

Dave Allaire, the new treasurer on the board for the NRPA is excited for his opportunity to develop ongoing operations for Narrow River. Dave was born and raised in Rhode Island where he resides in East Greenwich with his wife Tammy. Dave and Tammy have 3 children Abby, Lauren and Ben. He has a summer home on Marian Ave in Narragansett where they have shared deep memories. Dave and his family have been kayaking on Narrow River for over 15 years and they love spending time at the mouth of the river where it meets the ocean. Some of their favorite family memories have taken place kayaking on the river. Dave is the owner of the Retirement Planning Company of New England which is a federally registered investment advisor for over 25 years. Consistent with his background, Dave wishes to implement a long-term investment account for NRPA to help raise funds and generate income to help with ongoing expenses and special long-term projects that NRPA wishes to implement. He is looking forward to helping NRPA develop a long-term financial plan to help the river for future generations. He would like to make sure the river stays supported and remains a clean ecological environment for all to enjoy. He is delighted to be part of the board and looks forward to helping NRPA with its long-term fundraising goals.

TIER 1 NARROW RIVER EELGRASS SURVEYS



Meet New Board Member...



Brian Mattiucci

Brian Mattiucci lives with his wife Karin on Middlebridge Rd in South Kingstown, RI. They are both 3rd generation to Narrow River as their families settled here in the 1950's. To say that this place has special meaning, would be an understatement. They met at the age of 14, got engaged at the mouth of the river, and have spent the last 31 years together (along with their families), enjoying everything that this area has to offer.

Brian oversees business development efforts for Vantage Builders, a commercial general contractor based out of Waltham, MA. His primary responsibility, developing relationships throughout the architecture, construction, and engineering industries, to assist with the growth of this 25 year old firm. Brian also sits on the Board for ACE RI, an after school mentorship program for high school students interested in pursuing careers in building and design. He will bring a level of enthusiasm and positive energy to the NRPA, focused around a hard work ethic and an ability to effectively communicate. That being said, it should be noted that he was doing water testing on Narrow River for his chemistry class at South Kingstown High School back in 1996. It's probably a good thing for everyone that he decided not to pursue an education and career in science.

"I care most about having a safe and healthy Narrow River for all of us to enjoy together."

NRPA Annual Meeting

Continued from page 3

is the site manager of the Farm. She detailed Historic New England/ Casey Farms' ambitious energy use reduction and carbon usage reduction goals from now until 2050.

NRPA's Youth Environmental Achievement Award was presented to Maeve Laplante, in appreciation for the many years she has volunteered at NRPA's Middlebridge Events, Maeve is a sophomore at Narragansett High School. Many Middlebridge residents reported seeing Richard Rochette picking up



Veronica presents Maeve Laplante with the Youth environmental Achievement award.



Jane Hennedy accepts the W.E.R. La Farge Friend of the River award on behalf of Historic New England and Casey Farm.



Richard Rochette awarded the Environmental Achievement award being presented by Veronica and Marianne.

roadside litter on a daily basis, so NRPA awarded their Environmental Achievement Award to Mr. Rochette for his dedication to the cause. NRPA's W.E.R. La Farge Memorial Friend of the River Award . was awarded to Jane Hennedy and Historic New England.

The evening ended with the 2024 Kayak Raffle. The kayak, which was donated by Narrow River Kayaks, was won by Sherri Briggs of West Kingston. Concluding remarks by President Berounsky reiterated NRPA's commitment to its new Mission Statement: The Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) engages people to preserve and protect the Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt Estuary) and its watershed.

NRPA's position paper on dredging the mouth of the Narrow River, and more information on NRPA can be found at www.narrowriver.org.



Sherri Briggs is the winner of the kayak raffle

Reflecting on River Watch's 33rd Season

By Annette DeSilva

In October, NRPA's River Watch Program completed 33 years of water quality monitoring on the Narrow River! The season began with rainy weather from May to August. However, in late summer the weather pattern changed, and the season ended with drought-like conditions in the months of September and October. These weather conditions seemed to have had an impact on this year's bacteria data.

Heavy rains can increase the amount of stormwater runoff entering the Narrow River and in turn, runoff can carry bacteria, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants into the River. Bacteria can indicate the presence of sewage and associated pathogens, or disease-causing organisms. As reported in the previous Newsletter, elevated bacteria levels were observed at many of the monitoring sites south of Lacey Bridge during the rainy months. However, since the last newsletter, we have had very little rain and the bacteria levels during September and October were lower than what was observed in the earlier months.

Enterococci bacteria levels are monitored to indicate whether waters are safe for swimming. During the rainy part of the season, the Mettatuxet Beach and Sprague Bridge locations exceeded the safe swimming standard in July and August. The site just south of Mettatuxet, "End of the Narrows," exceeded the standard in July and the Middlebridge site exceeded the standard for safe swimming in August. When the weather became drier in September and October, the enterococci levels at these same sites were all within the safe swimming standard. The monitoring sites in Narrow River's pond locations continued to have low enterococci levels throughout the season and never exceeded the standard for safe swimming on any of the dates sampled.

Fecal coliform bacteria levels are evaluated to determine if waters are safe for shellfish harvesting. In September and October, the fecal coliform levels at all the saltwater monitoring locations, except for Sprague Bridge, were within the standard for safe shellfishing. Although the sample from Sprague Bridge exceeded the shellfish standard in September and October, the fecal coliform levels were much lower than during August. [It is important to note that shellfishing is closed on the Narrow River. Over the years, many of the monitoring sites have had bacteria levels that often exceed the shellfishing standard.]

Overall, the dryer weather, with reduced stormwater runoff, has had a positive impact in lowering bacteria levels in the Narrow River. The 2024 bacteria data is available on-line at: <https://web.uri.edu/watershedwatch/data/bacteria/>.

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Meet New Board Member...



Kathy Couchon

Kathy Couchon is a longtime resident of Narragansett and a retired secondary science teacher in the Narragansett School System. She came to RI from Massachusetts to earn her degree at URI and after a brief move away, she and her husband returned to live and raise their two daughters here.

Beginning with her husband's family history with the Middlebridge area and continuing with creating scientific curriculum connections with her students at the Narragansett Pier and High Schools, her association with Narrow River and the NRPA feels special. In xxx Kathy received the NRPA Environmental Educator Award. A National Board Certified educator and a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science teaching, Kathy is excited to use her educational experience to promote the Narrow River, and especially contribute to the NRPA family and outreach activities.

Kathy enjoys traveling with her husband to visit their daughters' families and four grandchildren and other extended family around the country. Locally, she likes to bike, hike and kayak, and to continue to cultivate her native pollinator gardens.

Meet New Board Member...



Kate Dolan

Kate Dolan graduated Western Connecticut State University with a BA in English and Fordham University, Bronx NY, with an MS in Theology. After teaching in New York City and Mississippi with the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, she spent 23 years teaching high school in an inner city school in Yonkers, NY. Complementing her love of literature she is certified in Kripalu yoga, mindfulness meditation, and campus ministry. An avid walker, she also enjoys salsa and line dancing. In the nineties, while living in Sleepy Hollow, along the Hudson River, Kate became acquainted with Riverkeeper. It was her first introduction to the power of a local group of concerned residents who were determined to make a difference in a threatened watershed area. Having spent many summers in Quonochontaug, RI, she was delighted to finally have a home on South River Drive in Narragansett where she has been swimming and kayaking along the Narrow River since 2001. Kate volunteers at Dorcas Immigration Center in Providence and also with the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame. She has always been impressed by the work of NRPA and its outreach to the community. "I made a promise to myself that once I was able to, I would try to be involved with the needs of the fragile Narrow River watershed that I am so privileged to be a part of, especially now when this river is facing new challenges.

Reflecting on River Watch's 33rd Season

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Bacteria is just one parameter that is measured and analyzed as part of the River Watch Program. Other monitoring data includes temperature, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, and nutrients. As this data is compiled and becomes available in the coming months, NRPA will review the new data to more fully assess the water quality conditions of the River.

In 2024, 34 volunteers participated in NRPA's River Watch Program by making measurements and collecting water samples. It is through their efforts that we are able to learn more about the quality of the Narrow River waters. Their assistance and dedication are greatly appreciated! This year's volunteers included: Veronica Berounsky, Jessica Bishop, Rich Bourbonnais, Margaret Bradley, Deborah Casey, Michael DeBenedetto, Elizabeth Donovan, George and Suzanne Faucher, Michelle Goldman, Chris and John Gouveia, Marcia Izzi, Karen Killian, Eric and Jennifer Kohlsaar, Alison, Ted, and Lily Kutcher, Marc Lamson, Jeri Levesque, Nancy McLean, Betsy Motyl, Jill O'Neill, Elizabeth Potenza, Michael Remington, Paula Santos, Rick Schultz, Mark Silverman, Rosemary and David Smith, Karen Sullivan, and Craig Wood. NRPA greatly appreciates the many hours of service provided by these volunteers. Thank you very much!

If you are interested in volunteering for the River Watch program next year, please contact nrpa@narrowriver.org for additional information. Training for new volunteers will take place in late winter 2025 (February/March).

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County

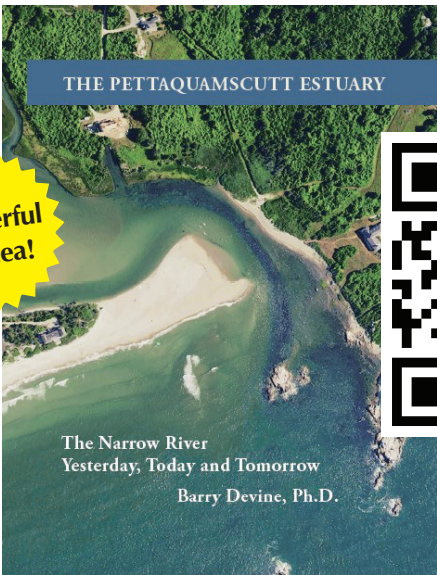
Thank You

At our annual meeting on October 1, Barbara Beckwith from The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County (in Peace Dale, RI) presented President Veronica Berounsky and Admin Coordinator Shirley Freitag with a check in the amount of \$445.68 in appreciation of the work that NRPA does to protect and preserve the watershed environment. This was from their "Share the Plate" community outreach program With sincere appreciation for their generosity and for thinking of NRPA.



NRPA President Veronica Berounsky receives a check from Barbara Beckwith at the Annual Meeting.

The Pettaquamscutt Estuary Book



Wonderful gift idea!



Scan QR code for additional details and to order.

The Pettaquamscutt Estuary: The Narrow River Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow by Dr. Barry Devine is a book primarily about the river environment through time. Historical documents, articles, eighteen informative maps, accounts and 155 full color photographs portray the river and watershed through time.

The work of many people and organizations over more than fifty years, is meant to educate people, act as a reference and highlight this rare and matchless natural area. The book is intended to teach about the critical link between landscapes and seascapes, emphasizing the importance of the ecosystem, the impact of human beings and our responsibility as global stewards of the Earth.

Read about the geologic origins of the watershed, the history of Casey Farm and Gilbert Stuart Birthplace, conservation efforts by US Fish and Wildlife and Narrow River Land Trust, and learn about bobcats, oysters, osprey and more in the 'Wildlife in the Watershed' features.

Fifteen full color, detailed maps of the watershed each spotlight different facets of the area. From River Zones and Ecological communities to Wetlands and conservation open space, these fascinating maps provide an overview of many of the incredible aspects of the river and its watershed.

All profits from the purchase of the book benefit Narrow River Preservation Association

Barry Devine is a biologist and cartographer who has worked in the Caribbean, Florida and the Northeast. He is the author of the field guide "Island Peak to Coral Reef", about the Virgin Islands and two fictional novels. He was an early member of the Board of Narrow River Preservation Association and organized the first Narrow River Run in 1988.



Narrow River Land Trust

Narrow River Land Trust (NRLT) was founded in 1982 with the mission of preserving land in the Narrow River (NR) Watershed to protect water and agricultural resources, wildlife habitat, and open space for recreation. Since their founding, NRLT has conserved over 660 acres of land in the watershed, protecting it from development. They work cooperatively with private owners and local communities to ensure that these areas are protected for now and for future generations. Garrison House Acres, located near Middlebridge, is one of the important ones with its pastoral open space and a beautiful walking trail that abuts the river.

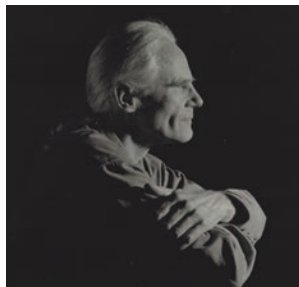
For more information about NRLT, please contact office@narrowriverlandtrust.org.

<https://www.narrowriverlandtrust.org/>



W.E.R.'s Experience at River Farm

By Louisa La Farge



W.E.R. LaFarge

River Farm was about 100 acres when my father moved there permanently in the 1980s. The property had a diversity of environments: there were two large fields, many bramble-lined paths, an historic cemetery, a small house and barn, a lot of woods and forest, and a good deal of waterfront running along Narrow River from Upper Pond south past Casey's Sill and the URI boathouse and dock.

Arthur Weeden had been the caretaker for my grandfather and continued on for my father, raising his family with his wife Beatrice in a house next to the barn. Arthur and my father shared a love of the place. They could and would talk for hours about trees and hedges and sheep and hay. Arthur died in the early 1980s, and Bob Briggs, the mechanic at Babbie's, came over to take up the role with his family. Taking on the management of River Farm never seemed a chore to dad; he always seemed to have the patience and commitment, along with the ability to bring in enough revenue to offset the expenses. He was particularly interested in the growing movement of local farming and supporting farmers in finding affordable land to farm. He invited several farmers to farm on the property, one of whom had a greens business and built a greenhouse, another who grew fresh vegetables. This was during the beginning of the local organic food movement and the move to biological agriculture. Jeffery Kamminga of Baby Greens was one of the original farmers and continues to grow sustainable produced salad greens in four energy efficient greenhouses just north of River Farm. Dad was committed to healthy eating and became a vegetarian, a decision based partly on health and partly on his respect for animals; we remember him using barbless hooks when he fished and trapping mice with a Havahart trap and driving them to an abandoned barn nearby.



W.E.R. and Louisa LaFarge

River Farm was a working farm: it had chickens, one cow, pigs, and a goat; it had two fields, one used for growing hay that produced enough to feed the animals as well as a good amount for market and some profit. Arthur worked the tractor and made large, rectangular hay bales. We had a dozen or so sheep which grazed and kept the land clear of brambles and other brush. The sheep had to be shorn every spring, the males castrated, and the occasional



Louisa loved the chickens

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Meet New Board Member...



Denise Murphy

Denise Murphy is an attorney who counsels regional and national businesses on a broad variety of employment law-related issues, ranging from individual terminations to mass reductions in force. She's litigated a multitude of cases throughout the nation involving discrimination and sexual harassment matters and guided her clients through mediation and arbitration, administrative forums, as well as in state and federal courts. Denise also conducts independent, third-party investigations into allegations of sexual harassment and discriminatory practices.

Denise is a past President of the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) and founding Co-Chair of the Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Committee on Attorney Well-Being. She is a frequent lecturer at legal educational seminars throughout the region and conducts compliance training seminars for her clients. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including The Best Lawyers in America, Top 50 Women in the Law, is the recipient of Lawyers Weekly, Top Women in the Law, Circle of Excellence.

Denise resides in Saunderstown with her husband David White and is the very proud Mom to 4 children and Nana to 3 (so far) grandchildren. She enjoys swimming, reading, cooking, and living in this beautiful area.

W.E.R.'s Experience *Continued from page 4*

lamb birthed, all of which we watched in rapt excitement. Dad would sell wool from the sheep (saving some for our own blankets), and sell a lamb or two every spring, and the droppings were used as fertilizer for the gardens. Trees were thinned and wood stored for the winter and some sold. At one point there were close to 50 chickens on the property that produced organic eggs.

Dad was able to create waterfront protection easements on the land that lowered his taxes and protected the wetlands and watershed. He told me, proudly, that he ran the farm at \$0 net cost with protection always the forefront goal. Even in the 1970s, he would talk about water as a precious resource and the importance of preserving the watershed. He was a wonderful host and our friends and relatives loved to visit. He would cook, take us on walks, tell us stories about his grandparents, and taught us children (he had five plus 3 step-children) a good deal of management skills including how to clip prickly brush and feed the animals. He taught my sister and me to shoot clay pigeons in the far field with a .22-gauge shotgun, probably as a remnant of his own childhood tradition even though he had given up the culture of hunting that his father espoused. He held the annual May Day festival and many locals have told me they attended with their kids. He cooked a mean finnan haddie and had a wine cellar in the basement where he stored French wines that he bought as "futures" in the 1960s.

In 1970, dad and several other friends on the river founded

NRPA with the mission to preserve and protect the estuary and the surrounding watershed. At that point, there was the threat that Kelgrant land would be sold to developers and this spurred the creation of the organization. [A future article will review the founding of NRPA and NRLT.] Today, the estuary is clean for swimming and so many families have benefited from the hard work and dedication of NRPA. My children and I have participated in the 1-mile Turnaround Swim and we love to take our kayaks up the river and find a peaceful spot to picnic.

[With thanks to Pier La Farge who brainstormed with me as we drove across Oklahoma]



Fall at River Farm

Ocean State Rhode Races

On Saturday, October 26 twelve NRPA volunteers and Board members assembled at Sons of Liberty in Wakefield to help with the check-ins for the Ocean State Rhode Race which was being held the next day. The marathon, half-marathon, and 5K races began and ended at Narragansett Town beach. The longer events encircled the Narrow

River – running north on Route 1A and returning over Bridgetown Road and heading south along Middlebridge Road to the finish line at the beach. QR technology made it easy to check in the runners, pass out their bibs, and send them to the T-shirt tables. We processed at least 500 runners that afternoon and had a great time getting to know each

other better. Many thanks to the NRPA team and to Karen Zyons of Rhode Races and her folks for their guidance and assistance. We hope to see you next year!



Tracy Barton and Richard Rochelte hand out t-shirts.



Robyn York and Marcia Izzi run the bib pick-up.

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NARROW RIVER PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

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