

The

WINTER 2010

# WatershedNews

## *The President's Statement*

Greetings Members:

Here we go!!!! It is time to start the spring season in the watershed and what a fantastic list of activities. We have the Symposium in March, salmon stocking in April, the annual dinner and storm drain labeling in May, and we are all excited about a new activity that will be taking place in May - the Kayak/Canoe Demo Day at Hampton Ponds State Park. Coming up in June are the fish ladder open house and the canoe cruise. More details on some of these activities can be found in this newsletter.

Attention Members!!! In order to expand the organization in activities and membership we need your help. We want to hire a part time employee to get the word out, so please check our advertisement in this newsletter. I am sure that one of you or somebody you know has the experience we are looking for. What better place to look for a person than within our membership (people who have an interest in the watershed!) We are looking forward to the response to this request.

As you can see we have a lot going on in the spring. Anyone who is interested in helping out with any of the activities, please contact a board member. The theme for the year is "This is the year." Together we (the membership) will be able to look back at the accomplishments of the year and proudly say "look at what we have done."

*Bill Rose*

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## Upcoming Events

Moonlight X-Country Ski - Granville, MA:	Friday, February 26.
Sanderson Brook Falls and the H. Newman Marsh Trail	Saturday, March 13
2010 Westfield River Symposium - "Green Energy in Our Watershed"	Saturday, March 27
Salmon Fry Stocking - Granville	Saturday, April 10
Salmon Fry Stocking - Huntington	Saturday, April 24
Annual Dinner Meeting	Thursday, May 6*
Storm Drain Labeling	Saturday, May 15*
Kayak/Canoe Demo Day	Saturday, May 22
Fishway Open House	Sunday, June 6*
Canoe Cruise from Westfield to Robinson State Park	Saturday, June 19*

\*These dates are tentative. Check our website ([www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org)) for the latest information.

## Job Opportunity

By Mark Damon

WRWA seeks an administrator to better facilitate expanding our activities and growing the organization. This part-time independent contractor position would initially involve membership development and publicizing events, with potential expansion of responsibilities to be discussed during the interview process. The individual would need to be self-motivated, with good writing and computer skills. If you're interested, please send a cover letter and resume to Westfield River Watershed Association, P.O. Box 1764, Westfield, MA 01085, or email the same to Bill Rose at brose@1525comcast.net or Tom Condon at science15@russellma.net.

## Green Energy in Our Watershed

By Mike Young

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Westfield River Symposium, with a theme of "Green Energy in Our Watershed" will be held on **Saturday, March 27** in the Scanlon Banquet Hall at Westfield State College. This year's keynote speaker will be Alan Noguee, Director of Policy & Strategy, Climate & Energy Program, for the Union of Concerned Scientists, who will give an overview of renewable energy resources. Following the keynote address will be a half-hour dedicated to interactions with our exhibitors, who will include a number of local companies and contractors who deal with energy-related installations. Two sets of concurrent talks, with three talks in each session, will take up most of the remainder of the morning – with talks on wind energy, photovoltaics, biomass, and ways to save energy at home.

The morning will wind up with another opportunity for touring the exhibits, and the drawing for our raffle at 12:30. In the afternoon, we're expecting to offer two field trips. The first, limited to 20 participants, will be a tour of the new wind turbine at the

Williams Stone Co. in Otis. As this newsletter goes to press, we're still working on setting up the second trip. You can find the details, updated as they become available, at [www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org) - click on the Symposium link, then choose the 2010 event. We hope you'll join us!

## Sanderson Brook Falls and the H. Newman Marsh Trail (Chester)

Join Tom and Nancy Condon for a hike to the falls on **Saturday, March 13**. The total distance for this hike is about 4 miles. We'll start by heading up the access road to Sanderson Brook Falls. If we've had a lot of snow this winter and the melt is early, the falls can be spectacular. If it's been a long winter, the frozen falls can be lovely too. The road heads past the falls and a series of logging roads and trails will help us climb gradually to some outstanding views of the Westfield River watershed. We'll stop there for lunch and to enjoy the views before heading down the H. Newman Marsh Trail back to the start. This stretch of the trail can be steep, so come prepared. We'll take it slow and cautiously. Dress for the weather. Bring along a lunch and plenty of water. And don't forget your camera. Meet at the Sanderson Brook Falls parking lot (off Rt. 20 in Chester) at 10 a.m. and expect to be back by 3 p.m. Please call 413-564-0895 to register.

## Membership Update

By Kathy Meyer

WRWA welcomes these new members:  
Lester Hutton (Westfield, MA)  
Lou & Deborah Desi (Westfield, MA)

WRWA thanks the following businesses and organizations for their memberships:  
Southwick Conservation Commission  
A & D Hydro  
D. L. Bean  
Town of Russell  
China Star

## Salmon Fry Stocking

By Henry Warchol

Salmon fry stocking, sponsored by the WRWA, for Granville's Dickenson & Munn Brooks will take place **Saturday, April 10**. Meet at the WSC Commuter Parking Lot at 8:00 a.m. Stocking of the Middle Branch of the Westfield River will take place **Saturday, April 24**. Meet at the Gateway Regional High School in Huntington at 8:00 a.m. Stocking in other areas takes place throughout April and early May - a link to the complete schedule will be on our website ([www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org)) once it's available. Bring boots or waders if you have them and some dry clothing in case you get wet. For more information contact Bill Rose (786-0195), Henry Warchol (562-3467) or Phil Sousa (568-3982).

## ASERP Update

By Mike Young

On January 13 the annual ASERP Orientation workshop was held at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Northeast Regional Office in Hadley, MA. A variety of speakers talked about the life cycle of salmon, sport fish restoration efforts, stream habitat restoration programs, and more. A dozen teachers from the Westfield River watershed attended, each planning to supervise a salmon tank in their classroom this spring.

For nearly a decade now, WRWA has been providing equipment (primarily a chiller, aquarium tank, and filter, but with some smaller ancillary equipment as well) to schools within the watershed, giving local children the opportunity to engage in a very hands-on science project that helps to instill a sense of stewardship for the natural world. The program has gradually grown and this year we'll be providing a total of ten

systems. The participating schools, organized by town, are: Agawam (Agawam High - 2 tanks, purchased with their own grant funds), Cummington (Berkshire Trail Elementary), Huntington (Littleville Elementary, Gateway Middle), Southwick (Powder Mill Middle), Westfield (Abner Gibbs Elementary, North Middle, South Middle- 2 tanks, and St. Mary's Elementary), and West Springfield (Fausey Elementary).

The tanks and chillers will be set up by mid-late February, with about 300 Atlantic salmon eggs delivered to each school after the February vacation week. WRWA has assisted many of the schools with their fry releases as well – helping the students to identify macroinvertebrates, and to measure the stream flow at the site of release. If you're interested in helping out with a release, contact Mike Young at (413) 572-5741 or via email to [myoung@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:myoung@wsc.ma.edu).

## Fishway Open House

By Henry Warchol

The WRWA will host an open house for the general public at the West Springfield fish ladder, pending approval from Caleb Slater of MA Fish & Wildlife, Tom Tarpey of A&D Hydro, and Mr. Southworth of Southworth Paper Co., who've generously allowed us to hold this event in the past. Registration and access will be located at 150 Front Street in West Springfield. The event is tentatively planned for **Sunday, June 6** from 10am to 3pm. A short walk along the feeder canal to the ladder is a "must see". Not many fish were recorded last year but viewers were able to see a salmon grilse that came up the ladder the day before in the holding tank. It was transferred to a fish hatchery. For further information contact Bill Rose (786-0195), Henry Warchol (562-3467) or Phil Sousa (568-3982)

# SAVE THE DATE

# SATURDAY, MAY 22\*

# DEMO DAY

**Test Paddle over 60 different kayaks & canoes**  
Demonstrations throughout the day  
Raffle Extravaganza – Win a kayak, custom-made paddle  
Learn about all the best local places to kayak & canoe

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**HAMPTON PONDS STATE PARK**  
1048 North Road (Rt. 202), WESTFIELD, MA 01085  
\$5/person or \$10/family

- 10:30-11:00 Kayaks & Equipment Basic Demo (out of Water)  
Learn about choosing the right design and features of a kayak and learn about Paddles, Life jackets and choosing the right one
- 11:00-12:00 Kayak Intro Clinic (In water)  
Experience some basic Paddle technique as you learn how to properly paddle your kayak
- 12:30-1:00 Outfitting your Kayak and gear for Safety Demo (Out of Water)  
Learn how to properly outfit you and your boat for Safety
- 1:00-2:00 Kayak Rescue Clinic (In Water)  
Experience how to get back in your boat if you happen to flip it
- 2:30-3:00 Fishing Demo (out of water)  
Learn how to outfit and fish from a kayak
- 3:00-3:30 Whitewater kayak & Eskimo roll demo (In Water)  
Learn and watch as we demonstrate the different types of whitewater boats and recreational kayaks. Watch as we demonstrate the Eskimo roll and perform whitewater freestyle tricks

Sponsored by The Westfield River Watershed Association in cooperation with Wilderness Experiences & Westfield Water Sports. For further info, call (413) 569-1287 or visit [www.weu.com](http://www.weu.com) or [www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org)

\*RAINDATE – SUNDAY, MAY 23  
**BENEFIT FOR THE WESTFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

**Here are the names and addresses of our officers and directors for 2009-2010.**

<b>Officers:</b>					
President:	Bill Rose	39 Sunset Terrace	Feeding Hills	01030	786-0195
First Vice President:	Allan Guagliardo	72 Colony Circle	Westfield	01085	568-4770
Second Vice Presidents:	Sheryl Becker	101 Regency Park Dr.	Agawam	01101	821-0818
	Heather Comee	10 Maple Street	Southwick	01077	427-5089
Secretary:	Tom Condon	80 General Knox Road	Russell	01071	564-0895
Treasurer:	Fran Siska	47 Salvatore Drive	Westfield	01085	562-4998
<b>Directors:</b>					
	Tracy Adamski	26 Aldrich St.	Northampton	01060	572-3256
	Mark Damon	54 Pleasant Street	Westfield	01085	572-9991
	Kathy Meyer	39 Rachel Terrace	Westfield	01085	568-4252
	George Reichert	75 Blair Road	Blandford	01008	848-2074
	John Shuttleworth	63 Warwick St.	Longmeadow	01106	567-3648
	Phillip Sousa	29 Yankee Circle	Westfield	01085	568-3982
	Bob Thompson	10 Lyon Hill Road	Chester	01011	354-9636
	Henry Warchol	2 Sackville Road	Westfield	01085	562-3467
	Mike Young	721 West Road	Westfield	01085	562-8498
<b>Honorary Directors:</b>					
	Dan Call	777 College Highway	Southwick	01077	569-9677
	Dave Pardoe	25 Sampson Road	Huntington	01050	

For more information on WRWA's activities, check our website at [www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org)