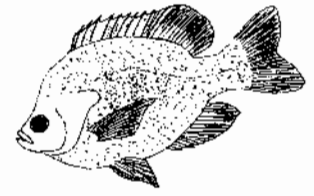




Issue 13, September 2004

*Maureen Whelan & Robin Wildman, Acting Chairs
Sue Fisher, Treasurer
Don Robadue & Dorothy Devine, Newsletter Editors*



SRHCC Hires Ginny Leslie as Executive Director

This spring the Board enthusiastically hired Ginny Leslie as our first paid executive director. This part-time position, funded by a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, enables the SRHCC to further develop education programs and recruit members, enlarging the base of support for our mission.

Ginny comes to the SRHCC with a deep understanding of watershed and river issues -- including the environment, recreation, historic preservation and economic development. Previously she was employed by the RI Department of Environmental Management and the Pawtuxet River Authority. One of her many achievements is the North South Trail, running through western Rhode Island from the Massachusetts border to the ocean.

With the Board, Ginny is working on several key fundraising opportunities, including our first membership drive and fall lecture and outdoor activity series. Starting this month, there will be three indoor lectures at the Neighborhood Guild in Peace Dale and also two walks and a bike ride. Also in the works is the first Paddle in Peace Dale event in October. This family-fun event, to be funded in part by a grant from the Rhode Island Rivers Council, will provide a rare chance to take out a canoe or kayak on Peace Dale Pond and also participate in or watch a regatta. We'll have walking tours of historic Peace Dale, a silent auction, and a display of antique and hand-made canoes and kayaks. We'll be sending out your invitation next month.



We have also started a two-pronged membership drive and publicity campaign. With funds from the Rhode Island Rivers Council, we will create a new brochure and publish more newsletters. Most likely you have already read about Ginny in the newspaper. We are now soliciting individual, organizational and business memberships. To join the Coalition, just fill out and send back the form on the back of this newsletter.

Richard Youngken

HYDROSCOPE **Wows the Community**



The Saugatucket Watershed came to life on stage this past spring as the main character in an original play called *Hydroscope*. Multi-talented community member Beth Berry not only wrote and directed this play, but she also donated her time conducting weeks of after-school practices.

Thanks to Wakefield School PTO and a matching grant from the Rhode Island State Council of the Arts, *Hydroscope* was a joint effort of Mrs. Berry, Wakefield School students, parents, staff and community members. They made costumes and props, wrote songs, sang and danced their way to a stellar show.

Two sold-out audiences were fortunate enough to witness 250 Wakefield School students, assorted teachers and parents, 25 performing artists from South Kingstown High School, Curtis Corner Middle School, University of Rhode Island and other community members act out a story of what happens to a drop of water as it travels through the Saugatucket Watershed, through the Point Judith Breachway, out to the Atlantic Ocean and beyond. The water droplet travels through tributaries of the watershed, such as Indian Run and Rocky Brook, gets caught up in the evaporation/precipitation process, and sees other drops of water wastefully flow from a faucet and end up at a water treatment facility.

Mrs. Berry artfully passed an important lesson on to both actors and audience members alike - our Saugatucket Watershed is precious and depends on us to be respectful and to take care of its. *Hydroscope* was an amazing opportunity for all who participated and especially for people, such as myself, who witnessed such a tremendously successful endeavor. Thank you to Mrs. Berry and everyone who dedicated their time and effort to bring such a wonderful and important story to the stage!

Robin Wildman

Spring Cleaning Along the River

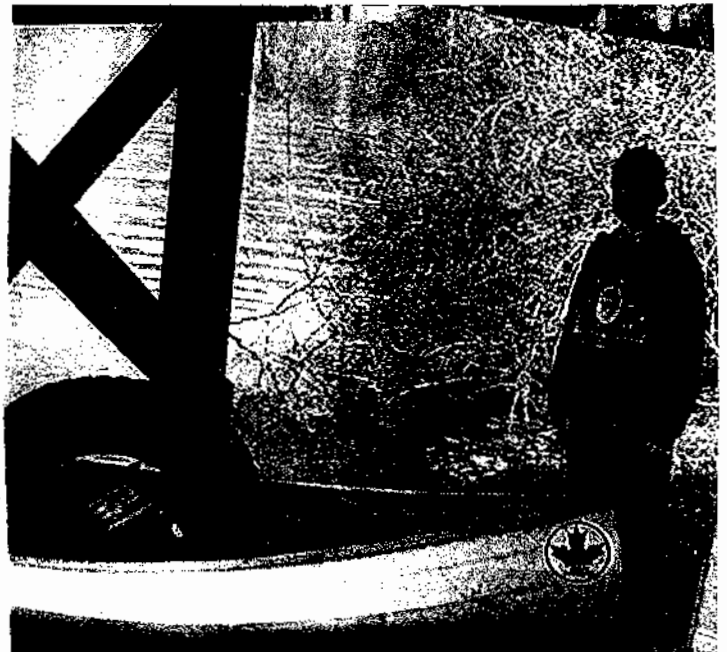
To celebrate Earth Day, volunteers from the local Wakefield Boy Scout Troop along with community volunteers from the local schools assisted the SRHCC in giving the Saugatucket River (Wakefield Pond) a spring cleaning.

In addition to getting a great turnout of over 25 volunteers, we also had less garbage to clean up along the river and park! Most of the garbage was from cups, cans, and food containers that get trapped along the healthy riverbank vegetation. In total we collected 15 large trash bags of garbage!

Thanks to a cleaner environment, we are planning on sending volunteers to other sections of the river in future clean-ups, to be sure every section gets community attention. If funding is possible, we will also attempt to do some landscaping to complement the new River Walkway being constructed behind the Main Street shops.

Fall is a great time to do some star watching at night along our spectacular (and cleaner!) river. We hope to see you out there!

Glenn Ricci



Women's Club of South County's Generosity Helps Wakefield School River Classroom



Due to the generosity of the South County Women's Club, Wakefield School students are \$2000 closer to their goal of building an outdoor river classroom. Since 2000, Wakefield School's fifth grade students have been energetically fund raising in the hopes of achieving the goal of \$40,000 so that they may have a classroom on the Saugatucket River. Ora Wry and Judith Babcock, members of the Women's Club, realized the children needed help and offered to adopt the river classroom as one of the Club's charitable projects. One thing led to another and now the Women's Club of South County is a member organization of the Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition.

Women who wanted to benefit their community founded the Women's Club of South County in 1962. This non-profit organization has several objectives, one being to support educational development. The outdoor river classroom at Wakefield School ties in nicely with this objective and the Club's work in supporting projects that protect the environment.

The outdoor river classroom funds now total \$12,000. To bring the total closer to the goal of \$40,000, grants are being written, there are plans for a fund-raising event at the October Main Street block party, and the students will also continue their fund raising efforts this fall. Anyone reading this newsletter who also believes in supporting environmental education is welcome to send a contribution to Robin Wildman at the Saugatucket River office! Please make checks out to SRHCC. Thank you for helping the children of our town achieve their goal!

Robin Wildman

Mark Your Calendars!

There's a lot going on this fall in the Saugatucket Watershed. We hope to see you! Call Ginny at 782-0149 if you'd like to help out at any of these events.

Thursday, September 16: Rhode Island Industrial Water Power Systems, lecture by Patrick Malone at the Peace Dale Neighborhood Guild, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 18: River clearing to remove low hanging branches to make canoeing easier. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot behind All That Matters.

Sunday, September 26: Bike Ride Back in Time. Meet at 3 p.m. at the mill complex across from the Pump House Restaurant, Route 108.

Saturday, October 9: Wild Plant Walk along the Tri-Pond Trail system, led by Sindy Hempstead of the R.I. Wild Plant Society. 9 a.m. at the trail parking lot on Route 108.

Sunday, October 10: Block Party, sponsored by the Historic Downtown Wakefield Merchants Association, 1 to 4 p.m. Come see us at our booth!

Sunday, October 17: Paddle in Peace Dale! A fun family event and a rare opportunity to take a canoe or kayak out on Peace Dale Pond. Includes a regatta, display of classic canoes and kayaks and a silent auction. More details to come!

Thursday, October 21: Stories of the Narragansetts by Paulia Dove Jennings. 7 p.m. at the Neighborhood Guild in Peace Dale.

Saturday, October 23: Walking Tour of Trees in Wakefield and Peace Dale with David Flanders. Meet at 3 p.m. at the municipal parking lot behind Cay Lily's.

Tuesday, November 2: Election Day. Please support Question 8 to protect open space and provide funding for anti-pollution and river restoration projects.

Thursday, November 18: Pirates and Privateers of Rhode Island by John McNiff. 7 p.m. at the Peace Dale Neighborhood Guild.

Dennis Bell is the owner of Keen Casuals on Main Street. He recently moved to a loft in the same building overlooking the Wakefield Pond section of the Saugatucket River. Maureen Whelan will continue interviewing river residents for future issues.

Q: How long have you lived on the Saugatucket River?

My father had a toy store here starting in 1958 so we played here as kids. We started the shoe store in 1975. We moved upstairs to live last November.

Q: What are your memories of the river?

I remember walking home from school and crossing the river. The river turned different colors every day depending on what dyes the mill was using. At that time no one seemed worried about it. We just didn't know enough to worry.

Q: Why did you move to this area?

I started out here and have always loved it.

Q: What do you do on/near the river?

Well, besides living and working on the river, I have grandchildren and we end up hanging out on the bridge almost every day. We also have a canoe that we put in right here behind the store. We can't get upstream further than Church Street because some big limbs are blocking the way. And, of course, at night we sit out and just watch the river.

Q: What do you like best about the river?

All of the above! I am also psyched about the River Walkway. And I am hopeful that when more people see the river as a destination, then it will become more of a family-focused place.

Q: What part of the river do you enjoy the most? Why?

The Wakefield bridge, of course!

Q: Do you have concerns or questions about the river?

I guess I would like to be sure that the environmental safeguards for the Walkway have been planned well. I wonder about need a good filter system for the run-off from our large parking lot. What is happening with this?

Q: If you could change one thing about the river, what would it be?

Well, actually I like the changes that I see happening now!

Q: What do you hear people say about the river?

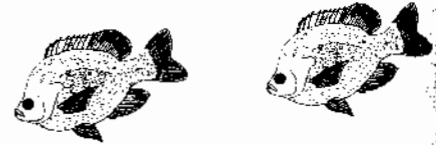
That it's been a big secret up till now. It's coming out of hiding.

Q: What wildlife have you seen on the river?

All sorts of ducks, plus egrets, turtles and rabbits. I'd like to see the other side of the river kept "wild" so we don't do away with animal habitats.

Q: What is your best "river story"?

Well, I've got great pictures. And I think if we didn't have that waterfall then all we'd be left with would be marshland behind Main Street.



VOTE YES ON QUESTION 8! **Open Space, Recreation, Bay and Watershed Protection Bonds**

On November 2, you can show your support for the Saugatucket watershed by approving Question 8. In addition to funds to protect open space, farmland and land for groundwater protection and supply, these bonds would provide \$19 million for anti-pollution projects and restoration activities benefiting the state's watersheds. Invest in the future of the Saugatucket and Rhode Island's other rivers by voting yes on Question 8!

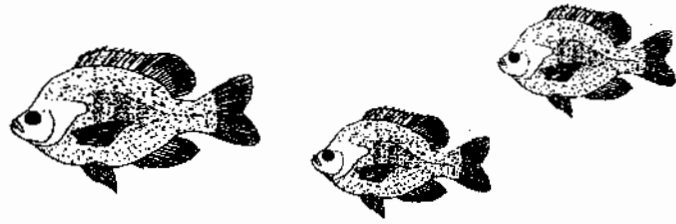
From the Executive Director

What an exciting time to start this job! I've been having a great time exploring the watershed - the parks and trails, streams and ponds, villages and farmland - and getting to know plenty of enthusiastic, dedicated people. There's a lot going on around the Saugatucket right now:

You can now join the Coalition! When the SRHCC was started ten years ago, it was a coalition of several local and statewide organizations that shared a concern for the Saugatucket River and its watershed; these organizations were the *members* of the Coalition. This spring, the Board of Directors voted to change the by-laws so that for the first time, individuals, couples, families and businesses can become members of the Coalition too! The response to our request for new members in the last issue of the newsletter and in a mailing has been very encouraging. Thanks so much to those who joined; we look forward to welcoming many more members in the months to come! See the back page for information.

The River Walkway in Wakefield, a project for which the Coalition has been an advocate for several years, is under construction! We're also pleased that the project includes a canoe dock, so people will be able to get on the River more easily than ever. And just in time, a new outdoor shop, Wildwood Outfitters Ltd., has opened on Main Street -- they sell canoes and kayaks!!

Rose Hill Landfill clean-up: The Towns of South Kingstown and Narragansett, the Department of Environmental Management, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have agreed on a multi-year plan to alleviate the serious pollution of Mitchell Brook as it flows through the now-closed Rose Hill Landfill. Starting next spring, tons of waste now located next to the brook will be excavated and moved to another part of the site; this should eliminate much of the seepage from the pile that now increases the levels of metals and other toxics in the brook and river.



Fall events: We've got an interesting and fun schedule of events this fall, including a lecture and outdoor fun event series (more details in this issue) and also the first ever **Paddle In Peace Dale** on Sunday, October 17. This is a rare opportunity to get out and paddle (or watch others in a race) on beautiful Peace Dale Pond, which does not have any public access sites. More details on the Paddle in Peace Dale will be mailed in October.

Fall is a great time to discover or re-discover the Saugatucket. I hope to see you at one of our events or along the River soon!

Ginny Leslie

River Clean-up Scheduled for Saturday, September 18

Help us get the River ready for the opening of the Wakefield Canoe Dock! *Finally!* In the very near future, there will be official public boat access to the River in Wakefield, as the Town of South Kingstown completes work on the long-awaited River Walkway and a dock. We applaud the town for a fine job in providing the community with a facility that will bring people back to their River.

We want to make sure that once you put in a canoe or kayak, you'll be able to paddle for a good distance. Right now, it's quite difficult to get by in some spots due to low-hanging and downed tree limbs. We're looking for some volunteers to bring their boats, saws and heavy-duty clippers to clear the way. We'll need folks on the banks as well.

Meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 18 in the parking lot behind All That Matters. Bring tools, waders and gloves if you have them and make sure you wear clothes you don't mind getting wet! So we'll know how many people to buy refreshments for, call Ginny at 782-0149.



A Letter to the Coalition

August 12, 2004

Dear SRHCC Members:

Because of the efforts of so many people, the Briggs Farm sanitary sewer project is a reality and the Point Judith Pond pollution concerns are finally being addressed. At the entrance of the Briggs Farm neighborhood is a sewer holding tank with the inscription "The Pond Thanks You" (author unknown).

As a Briggs Farm resident living in the Saugatucket River watershed, I personally want to share this message with you and say The Pond Thanks You for all you have done for the River and the watershed. I thank you also for your guidance and encouragement that has given me an incentive for my activity in getting the Briggs Farm sewer project accomplished. Thanks again.

Joan Garceau

What was happening in the Watershed in 1804

Here's a fascinating glimpse at life along the Saugatucket from 200 years ago. The following are excerpts from *Nailer Tom's Diary, Otherwise The Journal of Thomas B. Hazard of Kingstown, Rhode Island, which includes Observations on the Weather, Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Transaction by Barter and Money of Varying Value, Preaching Friends and Neighborhood Gossip.*

September 13: I workt in the Shop and workt in the Shop yesterday. Lett George Hazard have 18 bushels of Potatoes and 12 Bushels before which makes up 30 bushels I lett him have for six Dollars. I carried my wife to Henry Northups and to see the Carding Machine. I shott hawk and son Tommy shott one also.

September 14: I carried my wife to William Wilsons we dind their. I went to Tower Hill of an arrent. My sons Finisht geathering appels for Syder.

September 15: began to cutt Sorks. I workt in the Shop. Luce Willson an Hannah Carpinter Dind and drank Tea here. I supt at John Congdons gott Cheese of him.

October 4: I hupt a Hogshead. Did chores &c. James Wormsley workt for me. I shott a Duck. Son Benja went to John Knowles after dried fish.

October 5: Finisht diging Potatoes. Spread the Flax. James Wormsley worked here this day.

October 7: I did not gow to meeting deceived in the time of day. William Congdon and his Sister Basheba dind and drank Tea here. I settled all accounts with Thomas Braman so we are Eavan.

November 12: I went to Newport. Paid Oliver Farnsworth for Newspapers until the 1st 12th mo 1805.

November 18: Brought my Steers out of the woodland. Carried my wife to meeting. Dind at Andres Nichols and drank Tea both of us.

November 20: I brought a Waggon from Jonathan Carpenters Junr that I bought of his brother Daniel. I am informd that Deborah Rodman hurt hur Hand very much yesterday with the Carding Machine.

November 23: I went to James Robinsons and many other Plases of arrents. Gott soum Leather of William Peckham. my cow gott Potatloe in hur throuth this morning and we gott it out again.

Welcome new members!

We're delighted with the enthusiastic response from the Saugatucket community to our first membership drive - so far we've raised over \$3,300 in this calendar year (through August) for our efforts for the River! Thanks to everyone who has contributed:

Smallmouth Bass (\$100)

Audrey & Dennis Bell
Marge Hunt
Scott Millar
Ora E. Wry
Technical Industries & River Bend Athletic Club

Nina & Barbara Briggs
Sue & Ken Kermes
Robert & Diana Smith
South County Orthopedics and Physical Therapy

Margaret L. Hogan, Esq.
Geoffrey Marchant
South County Garden Club

Yellow Perch (\$50)

Leslie Chouinard
John Glasheen/Susan Strakosch
Adeline Hazard Perkins
Paul Reynolds

Rick Egerton
Agatha Littlefield
Joanne Riccitelli/Andrew Maclachlan
Urda Wood

Barry J. Huebert
Kevin & Margaret Munroe
Don & Rose Marie Robadue

Pickerels (\$25)

Steve Ahern
Clare S. Bailey
Alexandra Broches
Nancy Burrows
Carole Costanza
The Daly-LaBelle Family
Jean Farley
Robert & Evelyn Gates
Ronald & Donna Hayden
Barbara Kilcup
Ginny Leslie
Jennifer C. Melish
Laurence & Mary O'Rourke
Ruth Steward
Kurt & Heather Totten
Richard Youngken

Mr/Mrs Lewis Alexander
David & Laurie Baud
Anne K. Brown
Donna Busch/John Green
Carolyn Crist-Schwab
Peter R. DeMarco
Sue Fisher
Janet Gould
Peter B. Himmel, MD
Gary & Susan LaShomb
Sophie P. Lewis
Andrew & Elizabeth Morris
Elizabeth Scott
Patty & Prentice Stout
Maureen Whelan

Allergy Specialists of South County
Linda Bessette
Eric S. Bumpus
Melissa Campbell
W. W. Cummer and Family
Dove & Distaff
Paul S. Follett
Howard & Maureen Ginsberg
Beau Jones
Camilla Lee
The Maynard-Dean Family
Kim & Jamie Murdock
Lucy Southwick
Fred & Janice Test
Robin & Simon Wildman

Pumpkinseeds (\$10)

Suzanne E. Benson
Chris DePaola/Lindsey Crowninshield
Robert & Adele Holcombe
Ellie B. Leahey
William D. Metz
William Rice
Julie Whitcomb

Henry & Ann Brown
Joanne Esposito
John B. Kelly
Kathryn H. Lewis
James Mirza
G. & Eileen Sadasiv

Mr/Mrs Edward Christensen
Rob Gray
Anne Kimball
Eve & Alan Marcus
Daniel P. Montmarquet
Richard F. Santopietro

Others:

Barbara Hale Davis, in memory of Caleb Davis (\$200)
Emily A. Cocroft (\$20) Samantha Dworacek (\$20)

Joel Dirlim (\$75)
John W. Miller (\$15)

River Classroom Supporters:

Eleanor Devine (\$100)
Nancy Burroughs (\$25)
Kim Falcons (\$20)

Charles & Mildred Feldberg (\$100)
Claire Sweet (\$25)
Norman King (\$10)

Wallace Campbell (\$50)
Fred Test (\$25)

End of 2003 contributors:

Richard Youngken (\$1,000)
Eleanor Devine (\$100)
GFWC Women's Club of South County (\$100)

Sue Fisher (\$500)
Dorothy Devine (\$50)

Geoffrey Marchant (\$100)
Marilyn Malina (\$25)

Learn more at www.saugatucket.org



Wakefield, Rhode Island 02880

P.O. Box 209

SAUGATUCKET RIVER
HERITAGE CORRIDOR
COALITION



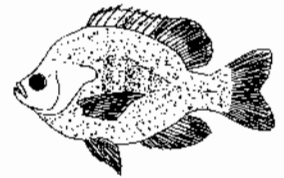
membership form

_____ I am already a member. Here is my contribution for 2004.
_____ Please add my name as a member of the Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Telephone _____

Enclosed is my contribution for conservation of the Saugatucket River:

- _____ \$10 Pumpkinseed
- _____ \$25 Pickerel
- _____ \$50 Yellow Perch
- _____ \$100 Smallmouth Bass
- _____ (Other) \$_____ Trout



All who care about the Saugatucket are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings at 313 Main Street, Suite B, Wakefield, the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

I would like to help out with:

- _____ River & Trail Cleanups
- _____ River Access & Trail Development
- _____ River Office Volunteer Staff
- _____ Garden Planting & Care (Saugatucket Park)
- _____ Education / Publicity / Exhibits / Displays
- _____ Land Acquisition & Protection
- _____ Grant Writing, Fundraising & Membership
- _____ Self-Guided History/Ecology Tour Design
- _____ Attending/Reporting on Relevant Town Meetings
- _____ Mailing/Phoning /Database

Please make checks payable to S.R.H.C.C.
Mail to: P.O. Box 209, Wakefield, RI 02880.

Questions? Ideas? Call us at 782-0149
or email saugatucket@saugatucket.org

Here are some other ways I can help (please specify):

