

SCANTIC RIVER CURRENTS

AUG 2012



Presidents Remarks

The Scantic River Watershed Association had a busy year, clearing land and water trails of fallen trees, after last falls storms.

The Scantic Spring Splash was a successful race, even though the water level was very low. We have seen a large increase of people using the trails, which is a great thing. Watch for more trails being planned for development.

Follow the SRWA on FaceBook (<http://www.facebook.com/srwa.org>), for upcoming events, and we look forward to seeing you!



Chairman's Remarks

We had a great Spring and start to Summer so far this year. The 21st Annual Scantic Spring Splash held on March 31st was again a great success. Though the morning of the race started out with a little snow and chilly conditions, 133 registrants and 96 boats braved 35 degree air and 48 degree water temperatures to participate in the 18 canoe and kayak classes. The race committee donated 279 pounds of food collected from the racers and \$300.00 from the proceeds to the Enfield Food Shelf. The committee wants to thank all the volunteers who helped out with this years race. The committee is especially grateful to all that helped with the cleaning of the trees across the river that fell after the October snow storm. Over 50 trees had fallen across the river in just the five mile race course section and most had to be taken out before the start of the race. Mark your calendars for next years race on March 30th, 2013 it is going to be the 22nd annual race.

The fishing this spring was very good from the various reports, East Windsor and the Stockers rip area in Enfield were some of the hot spots this year. Trout fishing though is pretty good in the Scantic from Somers through East Windsor.

Please become a member of the SRWA and help volunteer for the various work parties and cleanups through out the year. We still need volunteers for collecting samples along the river for water quality. The race committee is also looking for people to get involved with the planning and the running of the race.

Please remember to leave no trace, pack out what you bring in. We want to leave the Scantic clean for everyone to enjoy.

What's Inside?

Presidents Remarks

Chairman's Remarks

Upcoming Events

-Blue Moon Paddle

-CT River Cleanup

What We've Been Doing

-Scantic Spring Splash

-River North

-River South

River Wildlife

Join Us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blue Moon Paddle

The Public is invited to THE ANNUAL EVENING / BLUE MOON PADDLE for canoes and kayaks on the Scantic River sponsored by the Scantic River Watershed Association on FRIDAY AUGUST 31st at the Somers Mill Pond in Somers, CT. The pond is located on School Street in Somers, CT off of route 190 in Somersville section of Somers.

This is the second full moon in August and is known as the Blue Moon – since it is the second full moon of the month. This is a very rare occurrence and the next blue moon will not be seen until July 31, 2015.

Registration for the event will start at 6:30 pm. All participants must register first with the event planners. The full moon paddle will start around 7:30 pm as the sun will set at approximately 7:45 pm that night.

This paddle is open to the general public and there is no fee involved. The SRWA is asking all participants to donate a non perishable food item to benefit the the various area Food Shelves. All participants must supply their own canoe or kayak, paddles, PFD'S and flash lights. Glow sticks will be provided while supplies last.

Friday, August 31, 2012 - 7:00PM



Saturday, September 29th - 8:00AM

CT River Cleanup



Volunteers are being sought for this year's Connecticut River Source to Sea Cleanup! The on-day community cleanup of the CT River and its tributaries will take place on Saturday, September 29th, 2012. The mega event is coordinated by the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC). This event includes the river's entire length - from the source at the Canadian border, 410 miles to the sea at Long Island Sound!

The volunteers are encouraged to bring canoes, kayaks, and motorized boats to help with the cleanup, weather dependent. Please be sure to wear sturdy shoes and bring clothes. Water levels will be monitored and if it is too high we will focus on the Scantic River watershed, Freshwater Pond/Brook, and other open space along the river. Please show up at the Donald Barnes Boat Launch on South River St. in Enfield at 8:00AM for registration and work assignments! We encourage any groups interested that wish to volunteer together to contact us ahead of time so that we can keep you together.

By volunteering you will be preventing injuries to wildlife, stopping pollution from entering rivers and streams, and helping to maintain a clean environment where people want to come and enjoy the river!

This is the 13th year the cleanup has been conducted in Enfield and the total accumulated amount of trash collected along the rivers through the years of the event is over 100 tons!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

Scantic Spring Splash!

The Scantic Spring Splash had another great year for the 21st annual canoe and kayak race! While the temperatures were definitely cold, racers could be seen in the weeks before braving the river doing practice runs in the snow. Every weekend, starting in December, there were crews of some sort going out to prepare the Scantic from Quality Ave down to South Maple St, clearing debris, down trees, and other hazards following the brutal winter storms.

On race day we had 133 registered paddlers and 96 boats brave the course, followed by good food and hot drinks in the Powder Mill Barn afterwards for the awards ceremony. We look forward to another great year in 2013, and if anyone is interested in helping out, please let us know!

River North

After this past winters 'storm of the century', most of the SRWA's resources have gone towards cleaning up the waterway from Somers to Enfield. We've also had some dedicated crews working on clearing overgrowth on the trails, and clearing trash out of the parks as needed. We're always looking for additional volunteers interested in leading hikes or cleanups, and encourage you to contact us if interested! The parks are getting more and more use every day, and every hand helps! We hope to see you on the trails, and at our next event!



River South

A new Scantic River State Park trail opened June 2nd and is about a 2 1/2 mile loop running along the river for half of the trail and then up the ridge and back to the river. There is parking at Melrose Road near the old bridge. The trail is marked with yellow diamonds. Several bridges and mud walks make it easier after rainstorms. There has been considerable use of the trail by those on mountain bikes as well as walkers. We recommend that anyone walking take a pair of hand shears and clip any branches that may start to overgrow the walking path, as maintenance needs to be ongoing.

Once the trail opened, we have turned our attention back to the river and ridding it of the winter debris and snags that impede the waterway. These next 2 weekends 8/4 and 8/11 we will be back working at the Old Trolley Crossing area (near the filter beds at corner of Mill and Church Streets). Our goal will be to have a fun paddle at the end of the season to showcase our efforts but that date is yet to be scheduled. We held a cardboard boat race on July 1st preceded by a duck race sponsored by the BMX park group as a fundraiser. We facilitated their efforts by providing water safety boats and rounding up the ducks at the end.

WILDLIFE REPORT

Birding, and more, on the Scantic

An early morning paddle on the Scantic River, especially in May or June, can provide the paddler with quite a diverse amount of wildlife. A typical bird list could number close to 40 species including ducks, geese, warblers, shorebirds, wading and songbirds as well as hawks and Bald Eagles as the day warms up. The painted turtles are always lining the logs and beaver and muskrat and the occasional harmless water snake cruise the shallows while the banks host raccoons and deer. Wildflowers and shrubs are always blooming offering many ID challenges. Watch for the red Cardinal flower in August, the only red wildflower east of the Mississippi River. Take along National Audubon Society's Field Guide to New England for a comprehensive guide to all the flora, fauna, and wildlife the river has to offer.

GET INVOLVED

Follow us on Facebook

The best way to get information on all the latest events is to follow us on Facebook, and visit our website. Dynamic content is posted on Facebook as it allows us the ability to more easily interact with people.



<http://srwa.org>

<http://facebook.com/srwa.org>

Contact: info@srwa.org



Be sure to send an email if you have any questions at all. We also have meetings monthly on the second Monday of the month at Asnuntuck Community College in the Mary Lou Strom room.

JOIN the SRWA

The SRWA's purpose is to help manage the restoration and preservation of the Scantic river waters, stream banks, and habitat of this sometimes quiet, sometimes turbulent stream flowing through Massachusetts and Connecticut. Attentive management of the watershed determines whether we have the opportunity to enjoy hiking, fishing and quiet passage through the natural habitats related to the river, and whether those natural habitats will thrive in a developed region. We need your help, without our membership and volunteer's our organization would not exist. We hope that you would consider becoming a member of the SRWA!

While we're able to do some work through grants, our entire board of directors is volunteer based. We rely on contributions from our members and the community to keep going, purchase water testing supplies, and keep the trails open year round.

Members will receive our newsletters, invitations to all events, and the opportunity to do something about the quality of life where we live.

Please fill out the membership form and return it to the address provided! We appreciate your support, and will see you on the river!