

Scantic River Full Moon Paddle - Somersville

On Friday, September 4th, 2009 about 250 people joined members of the Scantic River Watershed Association (SRWA) for their fourth annual full moon paddle. About 200 canoes and kayaks paddled from the Somersville Mill Pond up the winding Scantic River to the Route 190 Bridge in Somers and back.

A hot dog roast began the event at 5:30 pm. Rachel Kellner of Wibraham won the kayak package raffle for the SRWA scholarship fund. The raffle collected \$1,750 for scholarship which is to be awarded to a college-bound student interested in Environmental Sciences. The SRWA's "name the turtle" contest was won by Jodi DeFord with the winning name of "SiR Wally Awesome". The SRWA requested can goods from participants and 334 pounds of food was collected for the Enfield Food Shelf.

A perfectly clear yellowish corn colored full moon rose at 7:15pm to the delight of the paddlers. According to "The Farmer's Almanac", the September moon is known as the Full Corn Moon corresponding with the time of harvesting corn.

The SRWA was happily surprised with the popularity of the event where the previous year there were 90 boats. Paddlers came from far away as Haddam, Connecticut and Northampton, Massachusetts. The majority of the boats were brightly colored kayaks of all types. A parade of boats lit up the river with boat lights and glow sticks stretched out over the mile long paddle. One participant serenaded the group with accordion music from his row boat in a moonlit cove.

The SRWA is underway planning and developing a Greenway along the Scantic from the Massachusetts state line to South Windsor where the Scantic joins the Connecticut River. The plan includes building of multi-use trail systems and water trails. The local citizens have shown great interest and support in protecting, preserving and enjoying the recreational opportunities the Scantic has to offer.