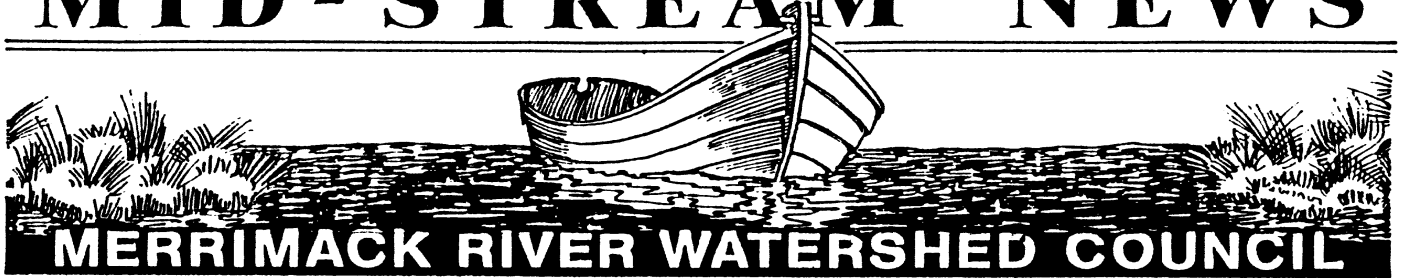


MID - STREAM NEWS



The Voice of the Merrimack

Fall 2006

MRWC Celebrates World Water Monitoring Day

On October 30th, the Merrimack River Watershed Council, Inc. (MRWC) celebrated World Water Monitoring Day with nine other watershed groups throughout eastern Massachusetts. Each of the ten groups was recognized by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their efforts to provide volunteer water quality monitoring and was awarded water quality monitoring equipment through the EPA Equipment Loan Program. Also present included Robert Varney, EPA New England Regional Administrator and Arleen O'Donnell, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner.

The MRWC Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Network (VEMN) received an equipment loan grant for over \$2,000 worth of equipment from the EPA to monitor the water quality of the Merrimack River in Massachusetts. The measurements will be used to obtain baseline water quality data on the Merrimack River and to address the increasing water quality concerns in the lower Merrimack River from the NH/MA State Line to the Atlantic Ocean in Newburyport. These waters, which have not been monitored consistently in over ten years, are particularly important for communities such as Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill, which have combined sewer overflow issues.

MRWC requested two types of equipment to help test the waters; a YSI meter with probes that test for dissolved oxygen, pH and nitrates levels and probes for an existing Hach SensION 156 Meter. This technology will increase the ability to test the water columns of the Merrimack River.

The VEMN was established in 1994 with funding acquired by the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative. Although the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative was discontinued, MRWC is coordinating a large-scale monitoring program for the Merrimack River in Massachusetts due to the frequent questions we receive from local citizens in the Lowell/Lawrence district regarding the water quality of the Merrimack River. MRWC has no current data to validate the concerns about the Merrimack River but the documenting and sharing of this new data will allow state and federal agencies to enforce water quality violations and inform local citizens of the water quality of the Merrimack River.



From left to right:
Christine Tabak, MRWC Executive Director;
Arleen O'Donnell, MA DEP Commissioner;
and Robert W. Varney, EPA New England
Regional Administrator

Announcements

Emails, emails, emails

If you have not been receiving notices and information on upcoming events via email, then we do not have updated email information for you. We would like to reduce paper waste and send Mid-Stream News, renewals and notices via email...so please give us a call and let us know.

My shirt, your shirt, we all love T-shirts!

We still have Source to the Sea T-Shirts for sale. Want one? They cost \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Call Gwen Whitbeck at 603-878-9046 to order one (or more).

New Website!

You can now renew or donate online! Check us out on the web @ <http://www.merrimack.org>

Mission: To protect and promote the wise use of the Merrimack River Watershed.





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PAID
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Source to the Sea Wrap-Up Cruise Dinner

The final voyage of the MRWC's "Source to the Sea" paddling trip series wrapped up on August 26th with a dinner cruise from Newburyport, MA to the mouth of the Atlantic near Boston Harbor. The event was a huge



success with perfect weather and a great crowd, including MRWC founders Roz and Nate Tufts, who were treated to a fine dinner of steak tips, chicken, shrimp, salad, and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

The voyage began as a weekly series of paddling trips beginning in May at the headwaters of Pemigewasset River at Profile Lake in Franconia, New Hampshire. It culminated in the dinner cruise launching from Newburyport, which brought participants a short distance up the Merrimack River, and finally out into the Atlantic Ocean.

The trips were organized by MRWC Director and Paddling Program Coordinator, Gwen Whitbeck, and sponsored by Polartec.

"Two special bottles of Merrimack River water were brought the entire length of the expedition," Ms. Whitbeck said. "They were filled at Profile Lake on the opening day of the voyage and carried by each team leader. On this final leg of the journey we ceremonially poured the bottles into the ocean."



To view pictures of the cruise, visit:
www.kodakgallery.com/currentevents/kayaking

Membership

While MRWC is making a direct impact on the river, it is our members that make the biggest ripple. The funding we receive from our members enables us to monitor the river, educate people on the importance of the water cleanliness, work with local communities to prevent contamination, and promote a healthy quality of water. Projects supported by member funds are what make membership so important. Without the sponsorship of our members we would not be able to protect the water quality in our watershed, something that is vital to the sustainability of our homes, businesses and lives. For more info, check us out on the web @ <http://www.merrimack.org>.

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