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### Holiday Wish List

You know you want to give the perfect gift this holiday season. Or, maybe you've received the perfect gift and you're not sure what to do with the old one. MRWC is seeking a few items that will help us better accomplish our mission of protecting the Merrimack River and promoting the wise use of its watershed. You choose that special little something, wrap it in fancy paper and bring it right on over to the office. Forget the fancy paper we will be grateful enough with a gift from our Holiday Wish List.

#### MRWC's Holiday Wish List:

Digital cameras

Garmin 76 CSx GPS units

New Rechargeable AA Batteries

Small hard-sided coolers

Office Chairs

Laptop computers (less than 2 years old)

Desk top computers (less than 2 years old)

Desktop automatic folders

Document shredders

Laminators

### Volunteer Recognition

A wet and wild Annual Meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> recognized volunteers in an exciting presentation award. The place...Tsongas Industrial History Center. The activity...Water of course. You just had to be there as

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full grown adults played happily with water wheels, groundwater tanks and complex water inventions. We have photos to prove it.

Semi dry recognition awards went out to:

\* Joe Bernard                      \* Douglas Clinch                      \* Paula Kosewski                      \* Mike LaBonte

In addition to recognizing our monitoring volunteers, we also recognized the outstanding service of MRWC's President of over four years, George P. Jones III. We will miss George, but his impact at MRWC will be lasting. George will be passing the baton of the Board President to Cecilia Mazza. We look forward to good things to come.

## Program Accomplishments

**Merrimack River Shoreline Survey** - This past spring MRWC took on the impressive task of surveying the entire length of the Merrimack River in Massachusetts, over 90 miles of riverbank, in an unprecedented effort to determine "the state of the river." This survey was the first survey of its kind in Massachusetts, and possibly in the country, to be completed on such a large scale on a major river:

- \* Surveyed 44 River Miles (88 miles of riverbank)
- \* Involved 37 Volunteers
- \* Searched for:
  - \* Outflows (330 pipes, 84 tributaries, 77 rills)
  - \* River Access (117 public, 179 private)
  - \* Erosion (81 significant instances)
  - \* Lack of Buffer Area (147 areas)
  - \* Wildlife Habitat or Scenic Locations (44 areas)

The **Merrimack River Water Quality Monitoring, Analyzing, Protecting and Promoting (MAPP) Project** has completed its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of monitoring. The MAPP Project assesses the "vital signs" of the Merrimack River and provides information on potential pollution problem areas as well as the baseline data necessary to expand future monitoring to target specific areas and pollutants. In 2008 MRWC:

- \* Monitored 44 days on the mainstem between May and October
  - \* Collected 23 sets of bacteria samples
  - \* Involved 35 volunteers
  - \* Conducted targeted hotspot monitoring on several Merrimack tributaries and the Powwow River.
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### The MRWC Membership Program Accomplishments.

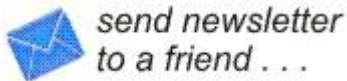
This past year brought many successes in memberships. Most noticeable is the 30% increase in membership donations. Growing the MRWC's membership continues to be a vital source of funding for our projects. In 2008 MRWC:

- \* Increased the number of members by 10% from the previous fiscal year
- \* Created a new web site and launched it in April
- \* Purchased new membership software to further our membership program and trained all staff on the program

### The MRWC Paddling Program Accomplishments.

The paddling program continues to attract members and non-members. From April to October paddlers enjoy the watershed and help MRWC in promoting the river as a recreational bonanza. In 2008 MRWC:

- \* Conducted 39 free paddling trips throughout the watershed in the 2008 paddling program (April-October)
- \* Exposed 77 new people (non-members) to our organization. Of these new MRWC paddlers, 10% subsequently became members (8 people)
- \* Volunteer trip leaders lead 29 of our paddling trips



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