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www.merrimack.org

Member Alert: Save the date - Sat., April 25 - Newburyport

Join us for the 3rd Annual MRWC Earth Day Celebration!

We are in the midst of finalizing our plans, but for now save April 25th in Newburyport, MA at:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA 01950 - 978-465-5753 / <http://parkerriver.fws.gov>

Family activities, presentations, *State of the Merrimack* address, light refreshments - more details on our [web site](#).

Member Survey

Our Members Drive

Do you know that the Merrimack River Watershed Council is a member-driven organization? **Yes!** What we do, and how we do it, depends not only on the interests, priorities and decisions of our Board of Directors and staff, but also on **you, our members, volunteers and supporters**. In order for MRWC to be responsive, however, we need to hear from you.

- What do you like about the Merrimack River and its watershed?
- How do you enjoy the river?
- What issues regarding the river concern you the most?
- What kind of volunteer activities would you be interested in doing to promote the health of the river and its watershed?



We have set up a short Internet survey with similar questions to help MRWC learn more about you. **Please take five minutes (or less) to fill out the survey at:**

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=_2fXm2ya8oMczlwxmM9_2b1Nqg_3d_3d

[Type the text into your browser address bar.]

One person responding to our survey will be randomly selected to receive a **free MRWC t-shirt!**

Thank you for helping us serve you better!

EarthShare Funds Research, Recreation, Recycling . . . and More

EarthShare and its affiliates have been working with national and local environmentally-oriented nonprofits to focus attention and funding on issues like research, recreation, recycling and many others. Earthshare New England (ESNE) offers employers and employees in our six state region an easy and effective way to contribute to its 75 member organizations that work every day as stewards of our planet. We do it through workplace payroll contribution campaigns the easiest and most-cost-effective ways of raising money for the nonprofit sector. MRWC is an EarthShare affiliate; when you support EarthShare, you support us! To learn to learn more about how you can help ESNE fulfill its mission and vital work, especially through workplace payroll contribution campaigns, go to this web site: <http://www.greenfornewengland.org/>



Becoming a MRWC member is easy... www.merrimack.org ... tell a friend.

Office Update

Mid-February brought a new office manager to the MRWC. James Magarian was appointed to the part-time position and comes with an extensive background in both the public higher education and religious not-for-profit sectors. He brings an organizational/technology skill set with a focus in communications and marketing, along with a keen eye for both the environmental and volunteer nature of the Council.

"The good work and projects of the Council, together with the efforts of it's many volunteers make for both interesting challenges and fun opportunities to be creative," says Jim, "I'm looking forward to meeting many of the volunteers, promoting the good work that is taking place and helping to expand success."

Jim's experience with volunteer and membership groups, fund raising, organizational dynamics, and the writing, layout, and design of publications (print and electronic) will be useful administrative resources. Jim grew up in Tyngsborough and is familiar with the many communities of the Merrimack River in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We are very excited to have him. Welcome Jim!

Are you a Business or Corporation? Have you adopted a Merrimack-Mile yet?

Find out how at: <http://www.merrimack.org/membership/merrimack-mile.htm>

Quote of the Season:

A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.

- Laura Gilpin

Volunteers Needed to Help Stock Atlantic Salmon Fry

MASS. - Volunteers from high schools, sporting clubs, civic groups, colleges, and individuals with a passion for rivers, fish, or fishing are needed to assist Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) personnel in stocking 1.5 million salmon fry (juvenile fish) as part of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon restoration program. According to Dr. Caleb Slater, MassWildlife's Anadromous Fish Project Leader, at least 20 stocking dates are planned in April and early May to release salmon fry into dozens of Connecticut River tributaries. The fry will come from MassWildlife's Roger Reed Hatchery in Palmer and the White River National Fish Hatchery in Bethel, Vermont. Fry will be trucked to meeting sites where volunteers will gather and caravan to release sites. The tiny fish will then be moved from truck to water by bucket using volunteer man- and womanpower. For details on meeting locations and stocking tips, please go to: www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/fisheries/anadromous/salmon_fry_stocking.htm

Dr. Slater offers some tips for potential volunteers: "You may get wet! A change of clothes is a good idea. You will be walking in slippery stream and river beds, so waders or other waterproof footwear is useful." There are a few waders to loan, but please bring your own if you have them. Volunteers will also be climbing up and down steep stream banks and should be in good physical condition. MassWildlife aids anadromous (migratory) fish in a number of ways: stocking fry in tributaries of the Connecticut River; monitoring fish passage at dams on the Connecticut, Westfield, and Merrimack Rivers; trapping salmon and shad for transport to hatcheries and/or upstream release locations; working with federal agencies to ensure safe upstream and downstream fish passage at hydroelectric dams; and working with local watershed groups to improve freshwater habitat for fish. For more information, click on the above link or contact Dr. Slater at 508-389-6331.

N.H. - The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is looking for volunteers to help stock millions of inch-long salmon fry (young salmon) into the Merrimack River basin, several rivers and streams in the Upper Connecticut River watershed in northern New Hampshire, and the Monadnock region of southwestern New Hampshire's Connecticut River watershed. The stocking plays a vital role in restoring runs of salmon as fry released in these river systems and their tributaries stay and grow in the rivers for about two years before migrating to the ocean. When the salmon are about four years old, they will try to return to these rivers to spawn.

If you can lend a hand with the Merrimack watershed effort, call Vikki Leonard, N.H. Fish and Game Inland Fisheries Division, at 603-271-2501 or email: fisheries@wildlife.nh.gov. Please leave your name, home address and email address, telephone number and which days you might be available. Volunteers will release close to 1.1 million salmon fry in the Merrimack River watershed on April 7, 9, 14, 16, 28 and 30. Another batch of fry will be released in the Merrimack watershed on May 5 and 7. Approximately ten volunteers are needed for each day of stocking. For more information go to: www.wildnh.com/Newsroom/News_2007/News_2007_Q2/Fry_Stock_Vols_040907.htm

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