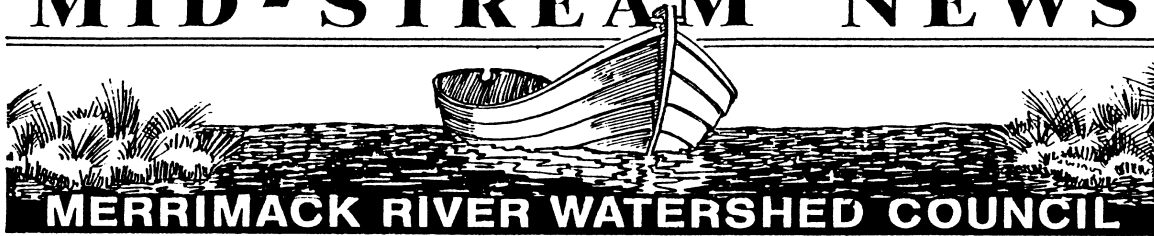


# MID - STREAM NEWS



*The Voice of the Merrimack*

*Summer 2006*

## Meet our New Executive Director!

Please join us in welcoming Christine Tabak as the new executive director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, Inc. (MRWC). Christine has been with MRWC since May of 2004 as the Water Resources Manager/ Hydrologist and accepted her new role as of July 1, 2006. Since the commencement of her employment with MRWC, she has performed a number of functions for the council including the following (to name a few):

- Ⓢ Advocate for green engineering and development techniques, volunteer environmental monitoring programs and thorough permit reviews in the watershed
- Ⓢ Partner with local organizations and manage education, engineering and conservation projects
- Ⓢ Write proposals to foundations and state and federal agencies, solicit funding from individuals and corporations (fundraising) and prepare an annual organizational budget
- Ⓢ Research and propose a viable mission and vision for MRWC.

Her passion for the Merrimack River Watershed and a decade of experience in the environmental field are an asset to the organization and the watershed. If you have any questions about the watershed or are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please feel free to contact her at 978-275-0120 ext. 15. She'll be happy to speak with you!

## Volunteer Opportunities

MRWC has a large variety of volunteer opportunities. We encourage you to make a difference in your community through one of the subsequent volunteer opportunities:

- Ⓢ Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Network (VEMN)
  - Motor boaters in MA along the Merrimack River
  - Adult environmental monitoring volunteers along the Merrimack River in MA
  - Youth (ages 14-18) environmental monitoring volunteers along the Merrimack River in MA
- Ⓢ Trail development and bird watching in the MRWC Bird Sanctuary in Andover, MA
- Ⓢ Administrative, publication and project assistance
- Ⓢ Stream Team shoreline surveys
- Ⓢ Critical and endangered species habitat surveys
- Ⓢ Public advocacy
- Ⓢ Local river and park clean-ups



## 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 have Source to the Sea T-Shirts for sale as modeled by our new executive director. Want one? They cost \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Call Gwen Whitbeck at 603-878-9046 to order one (or more).

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





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Lowell, MA 01850

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## MRWC Projects

MRWC has a variety of projects that we have been developing both in the past and present. A few examples of these projects are the Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Network (VEMN), VEMN-Youth Division (YD), MRWC Bird Sanctuary, EOE Green Roof Project and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit reviews in the Merrimack River watershed.

**VEMN** utilizes volunteers to monitor the waters and shoreline, the riparian area, along the Merrimack River in Massachusetts. Currently, we are monitoring from Lowell to Lawrence and would like to expand the program. This can be made possible with more monitoring volunteers and motor boaters to help in the effort.

**VEMN-YD** is a middle and high school program that trains middle school teachers to incorporate watershed education into their school curriculum and develops high school clubs to help students practice what they learned. VEMN-YD leaders have held a training seminar for the middle school teachers and prepared flyers to recruit volunteers in non-profit organizations and schools in Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill.

The **MRWC Bird Sanctuary** is located in an urban area as a wildlife oasis and encourages water quality by fostering a healthy ecosystem in the area. Currently, MRWC is recruiting volunteers to the property on the Shawsheen River to remove invasive plants and develop trails.

The **EOEA Green Roof Project** will help decrease stormwater runoff into the Merrimack River with the use of a vegetative roof cover. Through green roof education and outreach, MRWC is encouraging commercial building owners to construct green roofs on their own properties and banks to fund their construction since they provide long-term and short-term cost effective benefits.

Lastly, **MRWC reviews permits** as a third-party independent reviewer of discharge permits in the watershed. Monitoring groups such as MRWC VEMN help keep these permittees accountable to remaining within the constraints of their permit.

**If you are interested in getting involved in any of these projects, please contact the office at 978-275-0120.**

### Special Notice

If you would like to advertise in Mid-Stream News, give us a call. We have many advertising opportunities to fit your needs.

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