
**35TH ANNIVERSARY
MERRIMACK RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL**



**Source to the Sea
2011 Paddling Trips**



Details inside!



**60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA
978-655-4742
www.merrimack.org
info@merrimack.org**

Welcome

Welcome to the MRWC's 2011 paddling season. This year we offer a total of 45 trips, (one a dinner cruise) in nearly every part of the watershed. The highlight of this season is our "Source to the Sea" (S2S) trips. None of this would be possible without our dedicated trip leaders, so please take a minute to thank them.

Our S2S trips will take place on weekends allowing everyone the opportunity to participate. We'll start our S2S venture at the headwaters of the Pemigewasset River at Profile Lake in Franconia with a ceremonial paddle where we'll collect water from the source of the Merrimack. The final leg will be a dinner cruise up the Merrimack and then out to the sea, where the water in the bottle will be reunited with the river.

This year marks our 35th year of operation and our 25th year of offering canoe/kayak trips. All of this is possible because of Roz and Nate Tufts who had the foresight to recognize that the environment needed protection and donated many years of hard work towards that end.

While going through the brochure you'll notice that we'll have a number of interesting guest speakers and a couple of new trips. We'll have members of the Brookline Bird Club assist us in identifying the birds we see; we'll have a chance to improve our photography and see what type of artist we are. Please read the entire brochure since "registration" is required on some of our trips and there are items that you will need to bring.

We firmly believe that the more the public enjoys the natural resources of the Merrimack River watershed, the more they will support our mission to protect and improve its water quality. That is why we've been hosting these paddling trips for so many years.

If you are a member of the MRWC, we thank you for your support. If you are not yet a member, we hope you'll join us. If you've paddled the waters of the Merrimack River Watershed, you know the beauty and value of this great environmental resource. If not, we hope you'll join us on one of our trips this year to learn firsthand about its beauty, history and value to our communities.

See you on the river!
Gwen Whitbeck
MRWC Director & Paddling Program Coordinator

Exploring our Rivers

The Merrimack River watershed is the fourth largest watershed in New England, spreading through New Hampshire and Massachusetts. At its heart is the Merrimack River, running 180 miles from the White Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, providing drinking water, power, irrigation, fantastic recreational opportunities and other benefits for the over 1.9 million people living here.

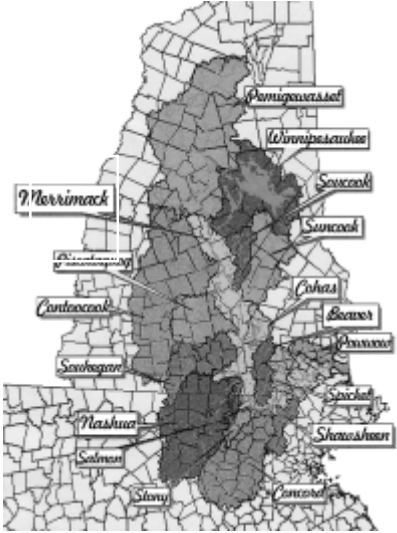
The Merrimack was once among the top 10 polluted rivers in the country, but thanks to efforts of the Merrimack River Watershed Council and others, the Merrimack is now cleaner than it has been in over 150 years.

The Merrimack River Watershed Council is still working throughout the watershed to protect and preserve our rivers and streams and precious water resources. Learn more about our programs on our web site www.merrimack.org.

What can you do to help? Become a member! Fill out and mail the membership form on page 6 or go on-line to join. You'll be on your way to making a difference!



- Beaver**
- Cohas**
- Contoocook**
- Merrimack**
- Nashua**
- Pemigewasset**
- Piscataquog**
- Powwow**
- Salmon**
- Shawsheen**
- Soucook**
- Souhegan**
- Spicket**
- Stony**
- Suncook**
- SuAsCo (Sudbury/Assabet/Concord)**
- Winnepesaukee**



About our trips . . .

All trip leaders are volunteers and not trained in assisting special needs. You are responsible for your own safety and must be able to swim and be capable of self-rescue.

- Please read the entire brochure, including “What you should bring” and “What you should know.”
- Water conditions can change. Trips labeled “easy” could be “moderate” due to conditions beyond our control. Please check with trip leader before travelling long distances.
- Please call trip leaders to see if touring kayaks are appropriate for their trips. **Kayaks over 13’ are not appropriate on some rivers.**
- **Registration is required on some trips.** See individual trip descriptions.
- All trips are free, but there may be fees for certain activities.

What you should bring . . .

- Your own canoe or kayak and paddles
- Life preserver/personal flotation device (PFD)
- Lunch
- Footwear that can get wet
- Dry clothes and a towel in a plastic bag
- **Wetsuits or drysuits are required on early trips.** See individual trip descriptions.

New Hampshire Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Law:

One wearable PFD must be present for each person in the boat. That PFD must be worn by everyone age 12 or under.

Massachusetts (PFD) Law:

A PFD must be worn by each person under age 12, and by all persons between September 15 and May 15.

What you should know . . .

- Know how to swim.
- You are responsible for your own safety.
- Beginners should take trips labeled EASY.
- We discourage taking small children unless you are an experienced boater.
- **Please leave your pets in the safety of their own home.**
- Dress appropriately for the water temperature, not the air temperature. April and May trips involve cold water; paddlers on all April trips must dress for cold water conditions and carry dry clothes in their boats.
- Go to put-in first to drop off boat; volunteers will help coordinate shuttling drivers to take-out.
- We paddle at a leisurely pace with a lunch break around noon.
- Most trips end by 3:00 pm.
- We usually paddle rain or shine, but it would be wise to check with the trip leader the night before the trip in case of cancellation.

How our trips are rated . . .

The following descriptions may help you decide on the trips that you attend. Please note that all descriptions “include” but are not “limited to” the conditions noted below. Contact the trip leader for more specific details on each trip.

Trips marked “EASY” - Flat water, quick moving water with riffles and small waves. Few obstructions, all obvious and easily missed with little training.

Trips marked “MODERATE” - Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels, occasional maneuvering may be required; rocks and medium sized waves are easily missed by trained paddlers.

Trips marked “DIFFICULT” - Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which could swamp a boat. Complex maneuvers in fast current and good boat control are often required. Scouting is advisable.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

YES! *I want to join the Merrimack River Watershed Council and help protect the rivers and streams in my community.*

- \$15 Student membership
- \$25 Individual membership
- \$35 Family membership
- \$50 Extended Family membership
- Send me information on the "Adopt-A-Merrimack-Mile" Business Membership Program

For information about these membership levels or to become a member on-line, go to www.merrimack.org (PayPal available on-line)

MRWC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your **tax-deductible** contribution will support watershed protection.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

How did you hear about MRWC? _____

Make checks payable to:



Merrimack River Watershed Council
60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

2011 Paddling Trips

These FREE trips are made possible by our dedicated crew of volunteer trip leaders and trip partners. A few trips are outside the Merrimack River watershed.

If you have questions on a specific trip, call the Trip Leader (**evenings** unless noted).

Program Coordinators Gwen and Doug Whitbeck, **evenings** at (603) 878-9046

'S2S' in any trip listing indicates that the trip is part of the Source to the Sea series.

For the very latest information on our sponsors, trips, and events, please visit us on the web at www.merrimack.org or email us at info@merrimack.org

APRIL 2011 TRIPS

April 16 (Saturday) - LAMPREY RIVER, W. Epping, NH (MODERATE)

The section of this Wild and Scenic river offers a varied paddle, from flatwater to quick-water and easy Class I–II rapids that pass through wooded banks to the center of Epping. **Drysuits or wetsuits required. Call or email prior to trip.**

Time: TBD. Route 101 East to exit 6 (Depot Rd). Take a left onto Depot Rd. Go approximately 1 mile to Rte 27. Go left (west) about ¼ mile to Mary E. Folsom Blair Park on the right. Put-in is in the park.

Trip Leaders: John Jenkins, Nancy Gero (508) 254-4138, email: zoar2004@comcast.net. **Trip Partners:** Merrimack Valley Paddlers and NH Rivers Council.

APRIL 17 (Sunday) - SOUHEGAN RIVER, GREENVILLE TO WILTON (MODERATE)

Class 2 whitewater suitable for beginning canoeists and kayakers properly dressed for cold water. Wetsuit or drysuit and helmet required.

Meet at 10:00 am. Directions: From Rte 101 in Wilton, take Rte 31S toward Greenville to bridge crossing the river.

Trip leaders: Richard Chaney (603) 888-0260, email: Dick_Cranium@msn.com; Julie Smith, email: cantdog@comcast.net; Ed Kydd. **Trip Partners:** Souhegan Watershed Association, Merrimack Valley Paddlers, and NH Rivers Council.

April 23 (Saturday) - NISSITISSIT RIVER (EASY TO MODERATE)

A small secluded river with remarkably clear water that twists and turns through woodlands and marshes. The sharp turns and good current offer a lively paddle.

Call for details, directions and river conditions.

Trip Leaders: Peter Smith (603) 882-1431, Doug Whitbeck, (603) 878-9046. **Trip Partner:** Nissitissit River Land Trust. **Guest Speaker:** Peter Smith, Nissitissit River Land Trust.

MAY 2011 TRIPS

May 7 (Saturday) - PROFILE LAKE , Franconia (EASY) S2S - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

This small, clear body of water is the headwaters of the Pemigewasset River. Directly below the Old Man Historic Site, it is often called the Old Man's Washbowl. Join us for a ceremonial paddle across the lake where a bottle will be filled with water that will be transported by each trip leader on their section of the "Source to the Sea".

Meet at 10:30 am at Profile Lake in Franconia, NH. North on Everett Turnpike/Rte 93 to exit 34B toward Cannon Mountain Tramway/Old Man Historic Site. Go south to the parking area and sign for "Profile Lake/Old Man Historic Site".

Trip Leaders: Gwen and Doug Whitbeck (603) 878-9046
Guest Speakers: Joe Bernard, MRWC President; Catherine Arning, MRWC Executive Director.

May 7 (Saturday) -THE BASIN or THE EAST BRANCH OF THE PEMI, Franconia (EXTREMELY DIFFICULT) S2S

After the Profile Lake Paddle. The beautiful waterfall at the Basin has at its base a granite pothole 20 ft in diameter. It is believed to have been eroded 15,000 years ago while the North American ice sheet was melting. It has been smoothed by small stones and sand whirled around by the Pemigewasset River. Below the Basin is a water eroded rock formation called the Old Man's Foot.

This section will be **run ONLY by Class V kayakers** from the **Merrimack Valley Paddlers**. Those of us not paddling will have the opportunity to watch and take pictures. This section is **dependent on the water level** and could be changed to the East Branch of the Pemi.

Trip Leader: Butch Mixon **Trip Partners:** NH Rivers Council, Merrimack Valley Paddlers.



May 7 (Saturday) - SHAWSHEEN RIVER (EASY TO MODERATE)

Approximately six miles of easy paddling on the serpentine Shawsheen. Woods, meadows, spring flowers and lots of birds.

8:30 am – 12 Noon. Location to be determined by conditions at time of trip.

Trip Leader: Bob Rauseo (978) 851-9505, Bob_otter@comcast.net. Call for more information and meeting place. **Trip Partner:** Shawsheen River Watershed Association.

May 8 (Sunday) - BAKER RIVER, Upper Section (MODERATE) - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

A small river that offers a combination of flatwater, quickwater, and short class I – II rapids. The crystal clear water allows a view of the sandy bottom or small-pebbled areas that resemble mosaic tile.

Meet 9:30 am. Rte 93, exit 26 to Rte 25/3A west. Continue on Rte 25 beyond traffic circle for approximately 4 miles to Rumney rest area.

Trip Leader: Earl Flanders (603) 536-5652. **Trip Partners:** Pemi-Baker River Adventures and NH Rivers Council. Call in advance for rentals or email: eflanders1@roadrunner.com.

May 14 (Saturday) - PEMIGEWASSET RIVER, Upper Section, No. Woodstock (MODERATE) S2S - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The most challenging of our 4 Pemi trips. This section includes class II rapids, sharp turns and the opportunity to practice maneuvering around possible fallen trees or large rocks.

Meet 9:30 am. From Rte 93 north or south to exit 32 (Lincoln), take right (west) at the end of the exit ramp. Less than 1/2 mile take a right into the public parking lot just before the traffic light at the intersection of Rte 3.

Trip Leaders: Nancy Gero and John Jenkin (603) 895-0274, email: coolcanoechic@comcast.net. Call to confirm trip, depends on water level. **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council.

May 15 (Sunday) - BAKER RIVER, Lower Section, (EASY) - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

This lower section of the Baker offers a little quickwater and flatwater. You'll paddle in clear water and be able to view its sandy bottom.

Meet at 9:30 am. Rte 93, exit 26 to Rte 25/3A west. Continue on Rte 25 beyond traffic circle for approximately 4 miles to Rumney rest area.

Trip Leader: Earl Flanders (603) 536-5652. **Trip Partners:** Pemi-Baker River Adventures and NH Rivers Council. Call in advance for rentals or email: eflanders1@roadrunner.com.

May 21 (Saturday) – SOUHEGAN RIVER, Milford, NH, (EASY)

A new put-in allows us access to this easy section of the Souhegan.

Meet at 9:00 am at Kaley Park in Milford. From Nashua take 101A toward Milford. Entrance to Kaley Park is just to the east of the Milford Medical Center.

Trip Leader /Guest Speaker: George May (603) 883-3409, email: georgemay@comcast.net. **Trip Partners:** Souhegan Watershed Association, NH Rivers Council.

May 21 (Saturday) — DEMO DAY - CONTOOCCOOK RIVER CANOE,, Concord, NH

9 am to 5 pm. The largest on-water demo in the state of NH. Over 200 canoes and kayaks to test on the Contoocook River. All canoes, kayaks and accessories on SALE. Meet reps from Borel Kayak, Current Design Kayak, Valley Kayak, Impex Kayaks, Eddyline Kayak, Necky Kayak, Old Town Kayak, Perception Kayak, Dagger Kayak, Wilderness Systems Kayak, P and H Kayak, North Shore Kayak, Bell Canoe, Old Town Canoe, Wenonah Canoe, Vermont Canoe and Mad River Canoe.

Exit 15W from I-93 No. or So. At the second set of lights, take a right (45 degree turn) onto North Main Street (Rt. 3 North). Continue past the NH State Prison to a fork in the road. Bear left at the fork onto Fisherville Road (Rt. 3 North). Take a left onto Bog Road, (2.2 miles from the Prison). At the end of Bog Road, continue straight over the bridge onto Horse Hill Road. Contoocook River Canoe Company, LLC is the first building on the left. (603) 753-9804.

www.contoocookcanoe.com.

**May 22 (Sunday) - NASHUA RIVER,
Leominster, MA (EASY TO MODERATE)**

A Massachusetts Scenic River. This section of the Nashua River is mostly forested with few roads. It offers something for everyone, from flatwater to Class I quickwater. We're sure everyone will find it an enjoyable and informative trip.

Meet at 10:00 am. From Rte 2 to Leominster take exit 33, to merge onto I-190 S toward Worcester, 2.8 mi. Take exit 7 toward Lancaster. Turn left (east) on New Lancaster Rd/Rte 117. Continue to follow Rte 117 0.4 mi. Turn left at N. Main St. and follow to end.

Trip leader: Peter Urban, (978) 407-6551, email: ptrurban@yahoo.com.

**May 28 (Saturday) - PEMIGEWASSET RIVER,
Plymouth, NH (EASY) S2S - REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

An attractive section that includes shallow areas with sandy banks and bottom. Most of the trip has good current, changing to flatwater behind Ayers Island Dam.

Call first. Meet at 9:30 am in Plymouth, NH. Rte 93 to exit 25 to Plymouth. As soon as you cross the river, turn left onto Green St. Launch is on left just past Court House.

Trip Leaders: Lucie and Peter Villeneuve (603) 528-0136.

Trip Partners: Outdoor Escapes NH and NH Rivers Council. Call in advance for rentals or email: naturenut@outdoorescapesnewhampshire.com.



**May 29 (Sunday) - NASHUA RIVER, Groton/
Pepperell, MA (EASY)**

Enjoy a leisurely paddle on the Nashua River, beginning on the forested main channel and ending with an exploration of the Pepperell Pond section of the river.

Meet at 9:30 am at the Pepperell Conservation Commission Property off River Road. Follow River Rd. (Rte 111) south from town-center rotary (the intersection of Rte 111 and Rte 113) 1.6 miles to the common dirt driveway for the Kemp horse track at 120 River Rd., just across the street and north of the Town Forest and Picnic Area. As the driveway arcs around to the other side of the oval track, take the second left. That leads to the river. Park near the launch, but not blocking it.

Trip Leaders/Guest Speakers: Diane and Peter Carson (978) 448-8699 days. **Trip Partner:** Nashoba Paddler, Rentals available, call in advance.

JUNE 2011 TRIPS

June 4 (Saturday) - PEMIGEWASSET RIVER, New Hampton (EASY) S2S - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

A scenic section with some quickwater between New Hampton and Hill. Lunch will be at the site of the old village of Hill, which was moved when the Franklin Falls flood control dam was built. Hill now has somewhat of a ghostly atmosphere.

Meet 9:00 am in New Hampton, NH. Rte 93 to exit 23, left on Rte 104 west about 5 miles to Bristol; left into square, immediate left down hill to cross iron bridge, immediate right onto Coolidge Woods Road for about 1 mile to parking lot on left.

Trip Leaders: Lucie and Peter Villeneuve (603) 528-0136.

Trip Partners: Outdoor Escapes NH and NH Rivers Council. Call in advance for rentals or email: naturenut@outdoorescapesnewhampshire.com.

June 5 (Sunday) - MERRIMACK RIVER, Franklin (EASY) S2S

If you've never canoed the northern part of the Merrimack you'll be pleasantly surprised to see the differences. A much smaller sandy-bottom river flows past fields, farms and woodlands.

Meet at 9:00 am in Franklin, NH. Rte 93N to exit 20. West on Rtes 3/111 to Franklin High School parking lot. Bootleg on the Winnepesaukee to follow.

Trip Leaders: Nancy Gero, John Jenkins (603) 895-0274, email: coolcanoechic@comcast.net **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council, Friends of the Winni. **Guest Speaker:** Ken Norton, Friends of the Winni.



June 11 (Saturday) - CONCORD RIVER, Concord, MA (EASY)

From history to wildlife – join us for an easy paddle which passes under the Old North Bridge replica, (part of the Minute Man National Historical Park), then proceeds through the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

Meet at 9:30 am in Concord, MA, at Lowell Road bridge. From Rte 3 take Rte 62 to Concord Commons. Lowell Rd is on west side of Colonial Inn at north end of Commons.

Trip Leader: Julie Smith (603) 891-0267, email: cantdog@comcast.net.

June 12 (Sunday) - NASHUA RIVER, Ayer, MA (EASY). A MEMBER OF THE BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB WILL BE ON THIS TRIP

Enjoy a leisurely paddle on a forested, quiet section of the Nashua River.

Meet at 9:30 am in Ayer, Ma. From Rte 495, exit 30 take Rte 2A west to launch at bridge over Nashua River. Launch site bridge is approximately 1 mile from where Rte 111 branches off Rte 2A.

Trip Leaders: Gwen & Doug Whitbeck, (603) 878-9046
TripPartner/Guest Speakers : Diana Fruguglietti & Paul Ippolito of the Brookline Bird Club, www.brooklinebirdclub.org.

June 18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday) - MERRIMACK RIVER OVERNIGHT, Boscawen (EASY) S2S

Enjoy this beautiful remote section of the Merrimack, which meanders through varied countryside. Jump from the rope swing and camp on one of the sandy beaches. This section can also be shortened to a day trip by taking out shortly after the Hannah Dustin Memorial. Please advise the trip leader if you're doing this as a day trip.

Meet at 9:30 am in Boscawen, NH. Rte 93 to exit 17, Rte 4W four miles to Rte 3N, 3 1/2 miles to ramp marked "Merrimack County Boat Access" on right just past prison. Bring camping gear and food for overnight.

Trip Leaders: Nancy Gero (603) 895-0274, email: coolcanoechic@comcast.com, and Ted Krzesowski (603) 329-8168, email: tedkrz@mailaka.net. **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council.

**June 25 (Saturday) - MERRIMACK RIVER,
North Concord (EASY) S2S**

Although the NH state capital is right around the bend, this section seems to be remote and enjoyed by many of the locals.

Meet at 9:30 am in North Concord, NH. Rte 93 north to exit 15 west, at second set of lights go right onto Main Street/Rte 3, pass New Hampshire State Prison, at fork bear right onto Sewalls Falls Rd, (cemetery in center), take right onto Second St., continue to end into the Sewalls Falls Multi-Use Recreation Area, Put-in is in parking lot on right labeled "cartop boat access".

Trip Leader: Paul Husted , (978) 649-9618, email: phusted46@comcast.net. **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council.

**June 26 (Sunday) - WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER,
Tilton, NH (EASY TO MODERATE)**

This popular paddle is always enjoyed by everyone. It offers not only flatwater but also a couple of Class I-II sections thought to be excellent training for beginners.

Meet at 9:00 am. Rte 93 to exit 20 (Tilton); meet at McDonalds parking lot.

Trip Leaders: Nancy Gero, John Jenkins(603) 895-0274,(508) 254-4138, email: coolcanoehic@comcast.net., **Trip Partners:** Friends of the Winni, Merrimack Valley Paddlers and NH Rivers Council.

**June 26 (Sunday) - SOUHEGAN RIVER,
AMHERST, NH RTE 122 TO SEAVERNS
BRIDGE (EASY)**

A leisurely paddle on a stretch of the Souhegan that is mostly flatwater with views of trees, meadows, birds and perhaps other wildlife (usually including a few golfers).

Meet at 10:00 am. Directions: From 101A in Amherst take Rte 122 N to north side of bridge at Amherst Canoeport.

Trip leader/Guest Speaker: George May (603) 883-3409, georgemay@comcast.net. **Trip Partners:** Souhegan Watershed Association, NH Rivers Council.

JULY 2011 TRIPS

**July 2 (Saturday) - MERRIMACK RIVER,
Manchester (MODERATE) S2S**

This moderate trip can offer a challenge but one worth taking. Starting in the urban historical factory section of Manchester, class II rapids will be encountered before entering a more remote section which passes a lock that has survived from the Old Middlesex Canal System.

Meet 9:00 am in Manchester, NH. Rte 293 to exit 6 (Amoskeag Bridge). Before crossing river, turn right into Amoskeag Fishway parking lot.

Trip Leader/Guest Speaker: George May (603) 883-3409, email: georgemay@comcast.net **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council.

**July 3 (Sunday) - NASHUA RIVER, Pepperell,
MA, (EASY)**

A short leisurely trip which allows time to watch skydivers from the Pepperell Airport.

Meet 10:00 am in Pepperell, MA. From Rte 3 exit 5, take Rte 111 west. Approximately 2.2 miles after Pepperell Airport take left at blinking light onto Mill Street. Take left at stop sign onto Groton Street. After going through covered bridge take left onto Lowell Street, and immediately turn into parking area.

Trip Leaders: Gwen Whitbeck, (603) 878-9046 and Linda 603-880-5447.



July 9 (Saturday) - YORK RIVER, York, ME (EASY TO MODERATE) -REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The trip has been planned to follow the outgoing tide down stream about five miles to the ocean. It's an easy paddle past a golf course, historic buildings and beautiful homes along the river. After stopping for lunch at a miniature suspension bridge and playing in the white water outlet of a millpond, we venture into the ocean for a short distance, if wind and sea conditions permit. **Please do not block traffic at put-in, park on opposite side of the street from the boat ramp and on other side of the bridge if necessary.**

Meet at 9:30 am at Scotland Bridge in York, ME. Take Rte 95 to exit 7 in York, ME. At end of exit ramp go east toward US Rte 1. Right onto US Rte 1 south. Follow Rte 1 south for 0.7 miles and turn right onto ME Rte 91. Follow ME Rte 91 west for 2.2 miles and turn left onto Scotland Bridge Rd. Follow Scotland Bridge Rd about 0.2 miles to bridge across York River. Put in at boat ramp next to bridge.

Trip Leaders: Julie Smith (603) 891-0267, email: cantdog@comcast.net.

July 10 (Sunday) - MERRIMACK RIVER, Merrimack (EASY) S2S

This is the beginning of the flat reach of the river and many signs of our rich history are still in evidence along the river. This trip is highlighted by seeing the remains of the lock and canal system described by Henry David Thoreau in his, "A Week on the Concord and the Merrimack River".

Meet 9:00 am in Merrimack, NH. From south, take Everett Turnpike to exit 12 (Bedford Rd, **northbound exit only**); right onto Bedford Rd. Right onto Rte 3; first left (Depot Street) to end.

Trip Leader/Guest Speaker: Historian, Chuck Mower (603) 424-1200. **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council.

July 16 (Saturday) MERRIMACK RIVER, Nashua (EASY) S2S

A flatwater section which at one time passed only fields and meadows. They are joined by residential and commercial establishments.

Meet at 9:30 am in Nashua, NH. From the south take the Everett Turnpike to exit 7E, at top of exit go straight on Henri Bourque Highway to end, take a right on Concord then take the 4th left onto Hills Ferry Road to the end which bears left and becomes Cassandra Lane. Take first right and pass over railroad tracks before taking another right onto a dirt road. Continue to boat ramp.

Trip Leaders: Doug and Gwen Whitbeck (603) 878-9046, **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council. **Guest Speaker:** Curt Laffin, The American Chestnut Foundation.

July 17 (Sunday) - PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE, Nottingham, NH (EASY) - REGISTRATION REQUIRED, Space is very limited.

A leisurely paddle along the less active side of the lake, picking wild blueberries and hunting for mushrooms. We will have two wild mushroom experts on this trip. There will be a cookout afterwards.

Call trip leader for meeting time and directions.

Trip Leader: Nancy Gero (603) 895-0274, email: coolcanoechic@comcast.net **Trip Partner:** NH AMC Paddlers.

July 23 (Saturday) - MERRIMACK RIVER, Tyngsboro/North Chelmsford, MA (EASY) S2S

This section offers flatwater and quickwater. There are more signs of human habitation from Tyngsboro to North Chelmsford/Lowell. The river is followed by the railroad. A number of interesting old stone bridges and culverts span small tributaries.

Meeting place and time TBD.

Trip leaders: Bill, Paula and Meaghan Brooks, (978) 807-4793, email: wbrooks18@comcast.net.

**July 24 (Sunday) - MERRIMACK RIVER,
Lowell/Dracut, MA (EASY- MODERATE) S2S**

We'll paddle our boats from the foot of Pawtucket Falls downstream to the Dracut-Methuen line. We will enjoy a few short spots of fun and easy whitewater (suitable for boaters of all abilities), which soon settle down to gently flowing water with pretty riverbanks.

Meet at 9:30 am in Lowell, Ma., at Lalecheur Baseball Park. Take Rte 3 to 495N to Lowell Connector, exit 5B. Follow signs to baseball park.

Trip Leader: Bob Jeffers, (978) 663-3664, email: rsfun22008@yahoo.com.

**July 30 (Saturday) - CONCORD RIVER, No.
Billerica (EASY)**

Enjoy a seldom-paddled, lovely, quiet part of the Concord as it slowly flows along forested and marshy banks between the Talbot Mills dam in North Billerica and the dam in Lowell.

Meet at 10:00 am in North Billerica, MA. Route 495 to exit 37, "Woburn St, S. Lowell" (just north of Rte 3). At end of ramp, turn toward No. Billerica. At the end of the street (just after the Billerica train station parking lot) turn right onto Mt. Pleasant, go under the railroad bridge, and bear right at the fork. Go past the mills, over the river, past more mills, and bear right until you reach the fire station on Lowell Street. Take a right on the dirt road just before the fire station

Trip Leader: Bob Jeffers, (978) 663-663-3664, email: rsfun22008@yahoo.com.

**July 31 (Sunday) - MERRIMACK RIVER,
Lawrence, MA (EASY TO MODERATE) S2S**

This trip begins and ends in urban areas, but the views from the river during much of the trip are similar the wilderness of northern New England. The river is generally wide and slow moving for more than ten miles. Views of the Lawrence mill buildings along the first half-mile of river will give you a new perspective of their size.

Meet 9:30 am at boat ramp below dam in Lawrence, MA. Rte 495 to exit 41B, Rte 28 north for 1.75 miles to bridge over Merrimack. Cross RR tracks, then before traffic lights take right between factory buildings. River access is behind Pacific Paper Products building.

Trip Leader: Ted Krzesowski (603) 329-8168.

AUGUST 2011 TRIPS

**August 6 (Saturday) - MERRIMACK RIVER,
West Newbury, MA. (EASY TO MODERATE)
S2S**

This section is broad and tidal. We will stay out of the channel to avoid speeding power boats.

Meet at 9:00 am in West Newbury, MA. North on Rte 495, take exit 53. At end of exit go south on Broad Street toward Merrimacport. Right onto River Road and bear left at fork staying on River Rd. Go left over the Rocks Village Bridge, follow curve of the road, then bear right at Y on Church Street; the launching ramp is immediately on your right.

Trip Leader: Jack Van Loan (978) 462-8046. **Guest Speaker:** A representative from the Lowell Boat Shop.

**August 7 (Sunday) - CHARLES RIVER,
Weston, MA, (EASY) - REGISTRATION
REQUIRED, Limited space**

A pleasant paddle upstream to Newton Lower Falls where we'll stop long enough for a quick snack or perhaps an ice cream. On the return trip there will be ample time for lunch in a park. You'll forget that Route I-95 and the Mass. Pike are never too far away.

Meet at 9:30am in Auburndale. Rte 95/128 to exit 24 (Rte 30 W) toward Wayland, straight ahead at intersection onto River Rd, turn right at Norumbega Rd, then right into parking lot.. Be prepared to paddle against the current.

Trip leader: Bob Jeffers (978) 663-3664, email: rsfun22008@yahoo.com.



August 13 (Saturday) - MERRIMACK RIVER DINNER CRUISE, Newburyport, MA. S2S - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join us for the final stretch of the “Source to the Sea”. We’ll be taking a dinner cruise out of Newburyport with Captain’s Fishing Parties. We’ll cruise up the Merrimack River then down to the sea while enjoying a delicious dinner and being entertained.

Meet at 5:30 pm, (the cruise will not wait), at 10 82nd Street, Plum Island Point, Newburyport, Ma. **From the North:** Take Route 95 south to exit 57. At the top of the exit ramp take a left and cross over Route 95. Follow for 4 miles and approximately 7 sets of lights. Take a left onto Rolfes Lane and follow it to the end (3.4 miles). Take a right to Plum Island and cross the bridge continuing straight until the road bears left. Follow it left approximately 1.5 miles to the northern end of the island. We are approximately 15 minutes from exit 57 of Route 95 south.

Fee: \$41.00 per person. Please make check payable to: Merrimack River Watershed Council, and mail to: MRWC, 60 Island Street, Suite 211-E, Lawrence, MA 01840. Please reference: “Cruise”. Registration will be taken on the phone by calling Gwen (603) 878-9046, but not finalized until payment is received. Please register early, this trip will fill up. Also please check in with Gwen or Doug when you arrive.

Guest Speakers: Roz & Nate Tufts, MRWC Founders.

August 21 (Sunday) - NASHUA RIVER, Lancaster, MA (EASY) A member of the Brookline Bird Club will be on this trip.

A continuation of our May 22th trip without the fast water. We’ll paddle from Lancaster Center through the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge.

Meet at 10:00 am in Lancaster. From Rte 495, take exit 27, Rte 117W toward Bolton. Through Bolton 5.0 miles. Left onto Main Street/MA70 1.2 miles. Put-in is a left turn on dirt road after the bridge in Lancaster Center.

Trip Leader: Peter Urban, (978) 407-6551, email: ptrurban@yahoo.com. **Trip Partner/Guest Speakers:** Tom Christopher of Lancaster Friends of the Nashua and Diane Fruguglietti & Paul Ippolito of the Brookline Bird Club, www.brooklinebirdclub.org.

August 27 (Saturday) - SQUANACOOK RIVER, Groton, MA, (EASY) A member of the Brookline Bird Club will be on this trip.

This trip is ideal for beginners, but the scenery, beauty, and wildlife will not let down experienced paddlers either. There is no shuttle. It is an up and back trip on a narrow winding stream with some beautiful marshes, and with very little current. We paddle to the site of a former small mill town called Thompsonville, now referred to as the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area. We will take a walking tour of the site before paddling back to the H & V mill pond.

Meet at 10:00 am at the West Groton Water District on Townsend Road in West Groton, MA. Directions: Route 111 to Pepperell, MA. Right on Route 113 West toward Townsend. Right on Rte 119. Left on Townsend Road to the West Groton Water District building. Take the driveway before the sign.

Trip Leaders: Trip Leaders: Denise Hurt, (603) 889-4812, hurt28@charter.net & Sue Sanborn, (603) 880-1687, asis72@msn.com. **Trip Partner/Guest Speakers:** Diana Fruguglietti & Paul Ippolito of the Brookline Bird Club, www.brooklinebirdclub.org.

August 28 (Sunday) - IPSWICH RIVER, Topsfield, MA (EASY) A member of the Brookline Bird Club will be on this trip.

A leisurely 6 mile paddle on a winding river through protected lands. Bird watching is a favorite pastime on this section of the river.

Meet at 9:30 am in Topsfield, MA. Rte 1 to Rte 97 South/East. Go 1/2 mile to bridge.

Trip Leader: Paul Husted, (978) 649-9618, email: phusted46@comcast.net. **Trip partners:** Ipswich River Watershed Association, Brookline Bird Club, www.brooklinebirdclub.org. **Guest Speakers:** Diana Fruguglietti & Paul Ippolito of the Brookline Bird Club.

SEPTEMBER 2011 TRIPS

September 10 (Saturday) - NASHUA RIVER, Nashua Mine Falls, Nashua, NH (EASY)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Susan Edwards, Dir/Producer of "Work of 1000", the story of the cleaning up of the Nashua River and Marion Stoddard's formation of the Nashua River Watershed, will join us for a paddle behind the woolen mills, up to Mine Falls and then back with the current. You'll be surprised at the wildlife we'll encounter on this urban paddle. A screening of the movie will take place at Peddler's Daughter after the paddle. Call or email for meeting time and directions.

Trip Leaders: Denise Hurt, (603) 889-4812, hurt28@charter.net; Sue Sanborn, (603) 880-1687, asis72@msn.com. **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council. **Guest Speaker:** Susan Edwards, "Work of 1000".

September 11 (Sunday) - ASSABET, W. Concord, MA (EASY)

This small, friendly river offers quickwater as well as flatwater. The trip includes the Concord National Historical Park and a portion of the Great Meadows wildlife refuge.

Meet at 9:30 am in W. Concord. Take Rte 62 into Concord, turn South onto Pine Street, continue down hill and park at river. Note: From Rte 2, go West on Rte 62 about 3/4 mile and turn left onto Pine St., (sign can be difficult to see), park at river.

Trip Leader: Bob Jeffers (978) 663-3664, email: rsfun22008@yahoo.com.



September 17 (Saturday) - MERRYMEETING, Alton, NH (EASY) REGISTRATION REQUIRED

This beautiful winding river makes its way through marsh lands abundant with red winged blackbirds, great blue herons, eastern painted turtles and so much more. Don't forget binoculars and your camera.

Time TBD. From Manchester, take Route 28 North to the Alton traffic circle. Go right on Route 11 South for approx. 2.4 miles. You'll see the boat ramp at the Merrymeeting State Wildlife Management Area on the right.

Trip Leaders: Lucie and Peter Villeneuve (603) 528-0136. **Trip Partners:** Outdoor Escapes NH and NH Rivers Council. Call in advance for rentals or email: naturenut@outdoorescapesnewhampshire.com.

September 18 (Sunday) - WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER, Tilton, NH (EASY TO MODERATE)

This popular paddle is always enjoyed by everyone. It offers not only flatwater but also a couple of Class I-II sections thought to be excellent training for beginners.

Meet at 9:00am. Rte 93 to exit 20 (Tilton); meet at McDonalds parking lot.

Trip Leaders: Nancy Gero, John Jenkins (603) 895-0274, email: coolcanoechic@comcast.com., **Trip Partners:** Friends of the Winni, Merrimack Valley Paddlers and NH Rivers Council.

September 24 (Saturday) - MERRIMACK RIVER, Boscawen, NH (EASY)

Enjoy our overnight paddle as a day trip. You'll still have time to enjoy the rope swing and the sandy beaches. You may also choose to visit the Hannah Dustin Memorial at the confluence with the Contoocook River.

Meet at 9:30 am in Boscawen, NH. Rte 93 to exit 17, Rte 4W four miles to Rte 3N, 3 1/2 miles to ramp marked "Merrimack County Boat Access" on right just past prison.

Trip Leaders: Ted Krzesowski (603) 329-8168, Gene Stanphill, email: phillgene@mcttelecom.com. **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council.

September 25 (Sunday) – DUBES POND PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP, Hooksett, NH (EASY) - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No matter what your expertise behind the lens, grab your camera and spend a fall afternoon on this lovely little pond snapping photos of birds, dragonflies, sundews, and other flora and fauna.

Meet at 1:00 for some tips on taking nature photos from Bonnie St. Pierre of award winning B. St. Pierre Studio of Merrimack, NH. We'll hit the water in time for some lovely afternoon light. From Manchester, take Rtes 3/28 north. Turn R onto Rte 27. Boat access is on Rte 27 on the left, 2.3 miles beyond the junction with Bypass 22.

Trip Leader: Denise Hurt (603) 889-4812, email: hurt28@charter.net. **Trip Partner/Guest Speaker:** Bonnie St. Pierre of B.St.Pierre Studio.



OCTOBER 2011 TRIPS

**October 1 (Saturday) - NASHUA RIVER, Groton, MA (EASY) REGISTRATION REQUIRED
“NATURE’S WORK”, ART ON THE RIVER!**

Enjoy 1/2 day of paddling and art instruction with Kimberly Aaronson. No experience is needed, all levels are welcome and will receive individual instruction. We'll paddle to 2 or 3 locations to draw the subject of your choice. It will be a fun-filled day with the opportunity to bring home your masterpiece. **Fee is \$50, payable to Kimberly Aaronson that day.** Please bring a 14 x 17 drawing pad, a big clip, a variety of drawing pencils, charcoals, kneaded eraser, a rag, and of course your lunch.

Meet at 10:00 am in Groton at the Petapawag Canoe launch. Route 119 Groton towards Townsend, take R onto Nod Road after passing Nashua River Watershed Office. Boat launch is straight ahead.

Raindate: Saturday, October 8

Trip Leader: Gwen Whitbeck, (603) 878-9046. **Trip Partner:** Nature's Work

October 15 (Saturday) - CONTOOCCOOK RIVER, Peterborough, NH (EASY)

A beautiful fall foliage paddle past woods, meadows, to an old covered bridge for lunch. Trip may continue into scenic Powder Mill Pond if conditions are good.

Meet at 9:00 am in Peterborough, NH. Rte 101 to Rte 202 at junction of Rt. 202 north and Rt. 136 east, go east onto 136 and stop within 100 yards at the turnout on the left which is the riverbank. Do not cross the Rt. 202 bridge.

Trip Leader: Tom Quarles (603) 673-7515. **Trip Partner:** NH Rivers Council

TRIP PARTNERS

B. St. Pierre Studio
Brookline Bird Club
Friends of the Winni
Ipswich River Watershed Association
Lancaster Friends of the Nashua
Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee
Merrimack Valley Paddlers
Nashoba Paddler
Nature's Work
NH AMC Paddlers
NH Rivers Council
Nissitissit River Land Trust
Outdoor Escapes NH
Pemi-Baker River Adventures
Shawsheen River Watershed Association
Souhegan Watershed Association



GUEST SPEAKERS

Peter Smith, Beaver Brook, Nissitissit Land Trust
Nissitissit River - April 23

Joe Bernard, MRWC President
Catherine Arning, MRWC Executive Director
Profile Lake - May 7

George May, SRWA President
Souhegan River - May 21 and June 26

Diane & Peter Caron, Nashoba Paddlers
Nashua River - Pepperell Pond - May 29

Ken Norton, Friends of the Winni
Merrimack River - Franklin - June 5

Diana Fruguglietti & Paul Ippolito, Brookline Bird Club
Nashua River - Ayer - June 12
Nashua River - Lancaster - August 21
Squannacook River - August 27
Ipswich River - August 28

George May, Souhegan Watershed Association
Merrimack River - Manchester - July 2

Chuck Mower, Historian
Merrimack River - Merrimack - July 10

Curt Laffin, The American Chestnut Foundation
Merrimack River - Nashua - July 16

Representative, Lowell Boat Shop
Merrimack River - W Newbury - August 6

Roz & Nate Tufts, MRWC Founders
Joe Bernard, MRWC President
Catherine Arning, MRWC Executive Director
Merrimack River Cruise - Newburyport, MA - Aug 13

Tom Christopher, Lancaster Friends of the Nashua
Nashua River - Lancaster - August 21

Susan Edwards, Dir/Producer "Work of 1000"
Nashua River - Mines Falls - September 10

Bonnie St. Pierre, B St. Pierre Photography
Dubess Pond - September 25

Kimberly Aaronson, Nature's Work
Nashua River - Groton - October 1

Marion Stoddart, NRWA Founder
Nashua River - TBD