

NRWA NEWS

Homeowner's Brochure. Through a grant from The Sounds Conservancy, NRWA adapted and printed its property owner's brochure "How to Manage and Landscape Your Property" for New York State residents since the westernmost part of the Silvermine River Watershed is in New York State. A grant from the Long Island Sound Fund, administered by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through sale of Long Island Sound license plates and contributions, will allow NRWA to distribute the Connecticut version to residents in Norwalk and Wilton. In addition, the grant will allow NRWA to print and distribute a new publication – an instructional sheet for yardworkers – to landscape architects, designers, and maintenance companies to address practices that should be undertaken to reduce non-point pollution, the main contributor to the degradation of area wetlands, rivers, and Long Island Sound. The NY and CT versions of the brochure are posted on our website for downloading on legal-size paper and folding to brochure size. Permission to reproduce, with NRWA acknowledgment, is automatically granted. The landscaping sheet will be posted shortly, and businesses and homeowners are encouraged to follow its recommendations and to make them clear to any yardworkers caring for their property.

Website. Website hosting changes caused some recent confusion, but www.norwalkriver.org is back in action and promoting our spring events, recent cleanups, and our new Responsible Business Network.

Photography Exhibit. The 2008 exhibit, entitled "Picture the Sound" to evoke the link between rivers and wetlands and the Sound and to encourage people to imagine what the photographer might have heard while taking the picture, opened in January at the Weston Library, moved to the New Canaan Library for March, and will be at Meadow Ridge in Redding/Georgetown for April. Each of the 19 artists from six towns included a few words about the significance of their pictures and locations.

A special oyster-ing exhibit by Margaret Harris from Norwalk features shots of fishing vessels and a few words about the images, the oyster industry, and the effect of pollution. See the Schedule of Events to learn the itinerary for the exhibit.



"Stalled by the Spill," © Margaret Harris

Photographers are encouraged to start planning for the 2009 exhibit and to send suggestions for the next theme to info@norwalkriver.org. Although many of the exhibitors are professional photographers, many are not. Yet all are passionate about the need to protect our natural resources, especially water; and their poignant, frequently poetic explanations reflect their love of nature and their desire to protect it.

Gilbert-Miller Park. The park was awarded the Connecticut Urban Forest Council's Community Award. This award "is presented to the city or town in Connecticut that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to urban and community forestry." The vest-pocket park links communities in Georgetown and provides a lovely natural area adjacent to Gilbert and Bennett Brook and the Georgetown business district. Five partners (Town of Redding, Redding Garden Club, Overbrook Associates, Georgetown Village Restoration, Inc., NRWA), plus Richard Paris of Paris Designs, cooperated to make the park a charming reality and green introduction to Georgetown.

Norwalk River Watershed Trail System. A new segment of the trail system was started on the east side of Route 7 in Wilton when the NRWA trail blaze was added to circumference trails on the Gregg Preserve of the Wilton Land Conservation Trust and the Belknap Preserve, owned by the Town of Wilton. Easy parking may be found at the Mayapple Road cul-de-sac entrance to the Gregg Preserve off Honey Hill and Route 7. The next step in this trail leg is to blaze to and through the Aspetuck Land Trust's Honey Hill Preserve north into Weston.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge donors from late April 1, 2007, through March 31, 2008. Contributions received from April 1 on will be listed in the Spring/Summer 2009 newsletter.

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Norwalk River Watershed Association, Inc.

The mission of the Norwalk River Watershed Association is to improve the water quality and the quality of life in the region by fostering education, cooperation, and action on the part of individuals, businesses, community groups, and governmental agencies in the seven Norwalk River Watershed towns.

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