

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NRWA programs highlight the importance and features of the river and its watershed and ways people collectively and individually can improve the region.

Programs are free, unless specified, but space may be limited, and reservations are suggested. Call the leader listed or NRWA toll free at 877-NRWA-INFO (877-679-2463), if no leader is mentioned, for more information, directions, and reservations. Hikers should always wear hiking shoes and bring water.

RIVER SPRING CLEANUPS

These events are frequently co-sponsored by municipal Conservation Commissions. Call the listed contact to find out where to meet and what to bring. Please help us make a difference!

River cleanups took place in March in Redding, Ridgefield, and parts of north Wilton, but there are still many opportunities to prevent litter from washing into storm drains, wetlands, streams, and Long Island Sound.

April 26, Saturday, 9 AM-noon. Silvermine Cleanup, New Canaan. Call Mose Saccary, Superintendent of Operations, Highway Dept. (203-594-3709). For Norwalk Silvermine area, contact info@silverminenews.com.

April 26, Saturday, 8:30 AM-noon. Keep Norwalk Beautiful. Register with David Shockley (203-854-7810, x46782). Work gloves and trash bags provided, along with some litter-grabbing tools; full litter bag pick-up at designated areas.

April 26, Saturday, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM. "Green-Up Day." Weston's cleanup is coordinated by the Kiwanis Club with active involvement from many other groups; call Rick Amill (203-227-3991).

April 26, Saturday, 9 AM-noon. Wilton's Town Cleanup Day. Call NRWA's Elizabeth Craig (203-761-9846) or Town of Wilton's Mike Conklin (203-563-0182) (free pizza will be given to each family that volunteers). **Cannondale Area**, call Harry Clark (203-834-9874).

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

April 26 & 27, Saturday, 11 AM-4 PM; Sunday, noon-4 PM. Green Earth Fair at Westport's "Earthplace" Nature Center. NRWA joins Harbor Watch/River Watch and other environmental experts in offering educational information for the family at Earthplace (formerly Nature Center for Environmental Activities at Westport), 10 Woodside Lane, Westport. Admission \$5. For details, contact 203-227-7253 or www.earthplace.org.

May 4, Sunday, 2-4 PM. Learn to Fish. This fishing demonstration on the private side of Great Pond in Ridgefield will be led by NRWA Board member and outdoor enthusiast Mark Riser. Learn about fishing strategies, wily watercourses, and more. Minimum age: 8. Bring your own gear or just watch and learn. Reservations are required. Call NRWA for directions to the special meeting place.

May 11, Sunday, 4:30 PM. Photo Exhibit and Nature Appreciation Walk. Celebrate Mother's Day with a family-friendly visit to view the NRWA



Amelia Wellers, and co-leader Laura Dunn, organized three groups of students from the new Habitat for Humanity chapter Amelia started at Ridgefield H.S. to help with Ridgefield River Cleanup on Saturday March 29. At left is half of the morning shift that primarily worked on wetlands on the east side of Route 35: l-r: Molly Bower, Dani Gerard, Amelia Wellers, Laura Dunn, Molly Wellers

Photo Exhibit at Onatru Farm in Lewisboro, and then go outside for an easy, scenic walk with Vi Patek, member of Lewisboro's Conservation Advisory Council. Meet at Onatru Farm, 99 Elmwood Road, between West Lane and Route 123 in Lewisboro. Call NRWA for reservations.

May 17, Saturday, 10 AM. Brute Strength Workday at Gilbert-Miller Park in Georgetown. This session will spuce up the vest-pocket park by doing mulching, planting, and rock work. Wheelbarrows welcome. Call Susan Robinson (203-544-9879) for registration and information on what to bring and where to park.

May 17, Saturday, 4-5:30 PM. Amphibian Adventure. Sara da Silva and David Havens of NRWA will give a short introduction on amphibians and how to spot them. Then they'll lead a woodland walk to visit vernal ponds coming to life with salamanders, newts, frogs, and toads. Search for eggs and tadpoles; and learn about their seasonal habitats, life history, and different species. Meet in front of the Visitors Center at the New Canaan Nature Center, 144 Oenoke Road, New Canaan. Bring tall waterproof boots. Call NRWA for reservations.

May 22, Thursday, 7:00 PM, Short Tour of Gilbert-Miller Park, Route 107. 7:30 PM, NRWA Annual Meeting and Slide Lecture on Rain Gardens and Other Treatments for Stormwater Control; plus River Water Quality Update. Georgetown Firehouse, Route 107, Redding. See invitation on front page. Call NRWA.

May 24, Saturday, 8-9:30 PM. Owl Prowl. Environmental educator and ornithologist David Havens will lead this nighttime birding walk. Learn about owl calls, habits, habitats, and history. Meet at St. Luke's School parking lot, 377 North Wilton Road, New Canaan, to car-pool to two other sites. Call NRWA for reservations and directions.

June 3, Tuesday, Noon-1:30 PM. Tour of Norwalk's Wastewater Treatment Plant. City's contractor will explain how wastewater is cleaned with today's equipment at 60 South Smith Street, Norwalk, and what improvements a five-year \$140 million upgrade will effect. Hard hats and safety goggles will be provided. Please wear sensible shoes and park at the Public Works Center; co-hosted by the DPW. For reservations, call NRWA.

June 7, Saturday, 9:30-11:30 AM. Natural History Walk at Weir Farm to Celebrate National Trails Day. Greg Waters, Horticulturist at the Weir Farm National Historic Site on the Ridgefield/Wilton border will lead this informative three-mile walk and discuss land-use history, botany, watershed management, and observational skills in the woods. Meet rain or shine at the Weir Farm Visitor's Center, 735 Nod Hill Road near Pelham Lane. Call Greg Waters (203-544-9829, x11) to register. Co-Leader: Lillian Willis of NRWA.

June 13, Friday, 4-5:30 PM. Riverbanks Tour of the Norwalk River at Schenck's Island. Jeff Yates, fourth-generation Wiltonian, editor of *The Wilton Bulletin*, and member of the Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited, will guide this walking lecture about trout habitats and habits, stream restoration, and history of the area. Park in the Schenck's Island lot just over the vehicle bridge on Old Ridgefield Road across from the Stop & Shop plaza in Wilton Center. For reservations, call NRWA.

June 19, Thursday, 6:45-9 PM. "Eight Watersheds in Ridgefield!" Water resource, quality and topography program coincides with and highlights the display of NRWA's 2008 Photography Exhibit at the Ridgefield Recreation Center, 195 Danbury Road/Route 35. Evening trail walk along Ridgefield Brook (the beginning of the Norwalk River) precedes the 7:30 PM indoor program, which features inland wetlands/land use expert Patricia Sesto. Co-hosted by Ridgefield Parks & Rec. For reservations and directions, call the Rec Center (203-438-2755).

June 21, Saturday, 9 AM-12:30 PM. Norwalk Meets Saugatuck Hike. This hike features four Scout award projects, an old stone causeway, woodlands, floodplain, and the Ridgefield River Study site on the way from the Norwalk to the Saugatuck Watershed and back. Bring a picnic lunch to eat at the dramatic overlook at Topstone Park in Redding where the Norwalk and Saugatuck trail systems meet. Wear hiking shoes for this fairly strenuous hike, bring water. Meet at the parking area on the east side of Route 7 just north of the intersection of Route 7 and Simpaug Turnpike at the River Study Site and south of the light on Route 7 at Cain's Hill and Topstone Road in Ridgefield. Call Lillian Willis (203-438-8653) for reservations, directions, and information.

(Programs continue on next page)