

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

Programs are free, 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. Check [www.norwalkriver.org](http://www.norwalkriver.org) for program changes or additions.

### SPRING RIVER CLEANUPS

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

**March 29, 2008, Saturday, various times, different locations.** Save the date and check the website for specific times and contact information for area captains.



### INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

This symbol indicates that participation can fulfill the 3-hour hands-on requirement of the Watershed Patch. The patch criteria and quiz are available at [www.norwalkriver.org](http://www.norwalkriver.org).

**October 4, Saturday, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM. Annual Aldrich Park Invasive Workday.** Wear work shoes, clothes, gloves, and bring water for the continued attempt to control Japanese barberry on this trailled town open space that is also part of a 5-mile section of the Norwalk River Valley Trail System. There are jobs for a variety of age levels. Adults and students ages 9 and up are encouraged to bring shovels. Meet at the Aldrich parking area on the north side of New Road, just one mile west of Route 7 in Ridgefield. Scout and other groups welcome. Call Lillian Willis (203-438-8653) for registration and directions.



**October 5, Sunday, 9:30 AM-Noon. Urban Discovery Paddle Tour of Lower Norwalk River and Harbor.** Jean Trapani of the AMC [Appalachian Mountain Club] Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee will lead this AMC trip by canoe or kayak. She'll discuss the river's features, biodiversity, the local shellfish industry, and effects of development upon the river system and harbor. Bring your own kayak or rent from the Small Boat Shop, 144 Water Street, South Norwalk. Call the Small Boat Shop in advance to rent equipment at 203-854-5223, and get directions to the shop and tour meeting/launch site from [www.thesmallsboatshop.com](http://www.thesmallsboatshop.com). Call Jean Trapani at 203-221-7439 or 203-606-9459 for required reservations or further information.

**October 18, Saturday, 11 AM-3 PM. Long Cooperative Hike.** This watershed hike features different habitats and parcels owned by different Town, State, Federal, and private agencies in Ridgefield and Wilton which cooperated to cre-



"Long Island Sound from Bell Island," Copyright © Annie Kosh

ate one long section of the Norwalk River Valley Trail System. Participants will get to know the sometimes tricky trail entrances, as well as special features of the land and some interesting bridges and raised walkways for easier access and better viewing. Wear waterproof hiking shoes, bring water and a snack lunch to eat at the Woodcock Nature Center swamp overlook. Meet at the gravel parking area .1 of a mile south of Woodchuck Lane on the east side of Route 33 in Ridgefield. Reservations are a must because people will be carpooled back from the end of the hike at Weir Farm to the parking area on Route 33. Call Lillian Willis at 203-438-8653 for reservations, information, and further directions.

**October 25, Saturday. Make a Difference Day.** Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to make a difference to their environment by picking up trash near their local stream, pond, or wetland. Choose your area and project and let NRWA know what you have done. NRWA welcomes pictures of people in action and a short explanation of what they've accomplished.



**October 26, Sunday 1-4 PM. Best Views Hike: Norwalk Meets Saugatuck.** Dramatic Topstone Park is the divide between the Norwalk and Saugatuck watersheds and offers amazing views over both watersheds! The scenery at fall leaf time should be more than usually fantastic. The open spaces also link two different long trail systems and feature four Scout award projects, an old stone causeway, woodlands, floodplain, and the Ridgefield River Study site on the way from the Norwalk to Saugatuck Watershed and back. Saugatuck hikers aim to meet us at the overlooks. Wear hiking shoes for this fairly strenuous hike, bring water. Meet on the east side of Route 7 just north of the traffic light at the intersection of Route 7 and Topstone Road in Ridgefield. Led by NRWA Board Members Mark Riser and Dick Weisberg. For reservations and directions, call Mark Riser (203-470-6453).

**November 9, Sunday, 1-2:30 PM. Tour of Georgetown's Historic Main Street.** On Sunday, November 9th, from 1-2:30

PM, local historian, Brent Colley will lead a Tour of Georgetown (an area that encompasses parts of Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, and Wilton) that will focus on the town's historic Main Street. Starting at the Georgetown Bible Church, Colley will lead four participants up Portland Avenue, over Brookside Road, across Route 107, and down Main Street. Along the way, famous legends, people, businesses, and events from Georgetown's past will come to life. Learn about the old stagecoach route, Chamber's coal mine, Rumsey's well, Uncle Will's blacksmith shop, Gilbert and Bennett, the peanut lady, the flood of '55, and more! Meet at the Georgetown Bible Church parking lot on Route 107 just east of the intersection of routes 107 and 57. Wear walking shoes. Call Jere Ross (203-938-2650) for reservations and directions.

**February 1, Sunday, 1-3 PM. Snowshoe Hike at Bennett's Farm.** Grab your snowshoes or boots, depending on snow or not, and hike through the woods on this watershed divide property for the Saugatuck and Norwalk rivers. Precipitation brings home the value of vegetation in controlling runoff, absorbing water, and keeping pollution from our important waterways. Meet on the north side of Bennett's Farm Road in Ridgefield near the Danbury Border. Turn left (west) at the traffic light on Route 7 onto Bennett's Farm Road and look for the parking area on your right. For reservations and further directions, call hike leader and NRWA Board Member Mark Riser (203-470-6453).

**March 8, Sunday, 1:30-2:30 PM. Maple Sugaring at Topstone Farm.** Visit Phil Bronson's sugar shack in Redding, learn the process, sample sap, view the final product and tasty variations. Meet at 14 Simpaug Turnpike, east of its junction with Route 7 and just before the RR bridge. Wear waterproof boots. Reservations are a MUST for this very popular program. Call NRWA. Note start of Daylight Savings time late on Saturday night of March 7.

