

Inside This Issue

Protecting Parks

Page 2

Remembering Director Marty Sender

Page 3

Forget the Pesticides This Spring

Page 4

Volunteer Opportunity: Earth Day Clean Up

Page 5

New Benefit for CRWA Members

Pages 6-7

News Bits from Along the Charles

Pages 8-9

Fish Ladders Under Construction

Page 10

EMC Responds to Environmental Challenges

Page 13

Progress Report

Page 13

Thanks to Supporters

Page 14

CRWA Challenges BU Land Grab on Esplanade

By Margaret Van Deusen

Most people assume land like the Esplanade, Boston Common, and the Public Garden, is public parkland that will always be protected from private encroachment. Each year, however, as demand for undeveloped land soars, many acres of public trust land are converted to other uses. A bill now before the legislature, Senate No. 1613, seeks to divert 1.5 acres of the Esplanade to the exclusive use of Boston University (BU) for a new sailing pavilion.

The public trust doctrine, which has its roots in ancient Roman law, stems from the premise that certain natural resources are held by the sovereign as trustee for the benefit of the citizenry. Since its first expression in the Massachusetts Bay's Colonial Ordinances of 1640-41, this doctrine has become firmly embedded in Massachusetts law. In 1972, the legislature enacted Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, which guarantees our citizens basic environmental rights and protects public lands.

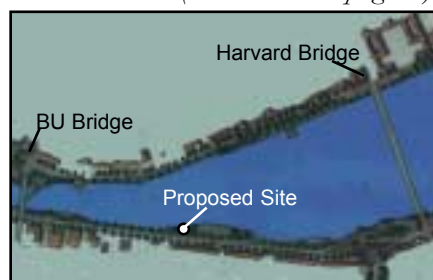
Public trust land, commonly referred to as "Article 97 land," requires a "super majority" vote by the legislature before it can be diverted to private use or even to another public use. All too often,

gathering the required two-thirds vote is relatively easy and public rights in these lands are extinguished.

The Esplanade, which was created in the early 1900s, is Article 97 parkland under the stewardship of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). BU has planned a large 6000-square foot building with docks to be constructed on the stretch of the Esplanade near Sherborn Street between the BU and Massachusetts Avenue Bridges. This semi-circular parcel offers sweeping views of the Charles, the Back Bay, and Beacon Hill. The area is heavily used by joggers, sunbathers, bicyclists, roller bladers, and walkers. The exercise yard is in use from dawn to dusk in the warm months.

CRWA strongly believes that *before* riverfront parkland is ceded to private use, a comprehensive environmental analysis must first take place. Just as important, there must be a public process for evaluating and commenting on the project, its environmental impacts,

(continued on page 2)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Protecting Parks a Priority

By Kelly McClintock

Boston University, like most universities and rowing clubs on the Charles River, wants a new boathouse.

And all the land at issue is riverfront parkland.

Who approves its use, and how? That's a critical issue for the future of the Esplanade and other Charles River parks. As the lead article in this *Streamer* makes clear, CRWA has deep concerns about the current process.

More than ever, parkland is facing intense pressure for diversion to other uses, many of them, such as schools and hospitals — and, yes, occasionally boat-houses — compelling. Parks are irresistible: traditionally cheap, available, and requiring no relocation of private businesses or residences.

CRWA resists the temptation to say "never" to such diversions. The more difficult and important challenge is to assure the most careful and public consideration of whether a project is absolutely necessary, and if so what should be its size, location, and other conditions.

Massachusetts voters thought they were approving such a system in 1972 with adoption of Article 97 of amendments to the state constitution, requiring a two-thirds role call vote of both branches of the legislature before park diversions can occur. But Article 97 has often become just another procedural hoop. Hundreds of such bills are filed and passed each year, with little public or legislative attention.

Reforming how the Metropolitan District Commission and the legislature review development proposals on the lower Charles — and by extension how such projects are reviewed elsewhere in the state — is a top CRWA priority. We support the "no net loss" bill co-sponsored by Sen. Pam Resor and Rep. Ruth Balsler, which would require appropriate mitigation for all park dispositions or changes in use, along with better enforcement of existing policies.

But ultimately, a two-thirds vote by the legislature could undo and override any reforms. No park protection system can work without a concerned and aroused public. That requires constant vigilance, and CRWA's first line of defense will always be to notify you, our members and the public, about problems as early as possible.

Land Grab

(continued from page 1)

the alternatives, and the appropriate remedial and mitigation measures. This enables our legislators, Boston officials, the public, and the MDC to be fully informed before any decision is made or a vote is taken.

The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) requires this type of review; however, to date, neither the MDC nor BU has filed an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) to begin this process. Nor have true analyses of needs, impacts, and alternatives been performed. Because the legislation will lock in a specific site, an after-the-fact MEPA review will engender little public confidence in the analyses or the integrity of the process. It will also set a dangerous precedent for how decisions to divert Article 97 lands are made in the future. The MDC must establish an appropriate and public process for dealing with requests for private uses in the Basin.

CRWA, working closely with Boston neighborhood associations, the Esplanade Association, and other environmental groups, has asked the MDC to require the MEPA analysis now, to participate in a public meeting to discuss the project, and to encourage BU to work with a citizens' advisory committee to ensure the appropriate location, size, and public benefits of any such project. BU, in turn, needs to recognize that it is asking a great deal of the public to give up a part of our treasured "people's park" for a second large pavilion serving a fraction of the university's population.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

On April 23rd at 11 a.m. the Committee on State Administration will hold a public hearing on Bill No. 1613. Our legislators, Boston officials, the MDC and BU need to hear from our members on this important issue. Logon to www.crwa.org for a sign-on petition, a sample letter, and information on receiving periodic CRWA updates. If you don't have internet access, call us at (617) 965-5975 ext. 232.

Marty Sender, Activist and Friend

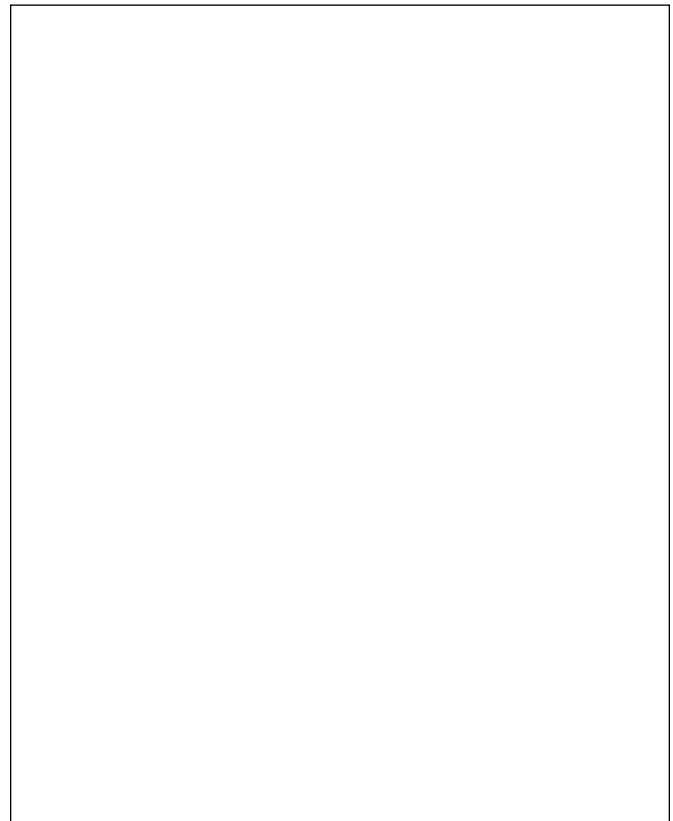
By Bob Zimmerman

I first met Marty Sender in November of 1991. He came into the office to talk over the pros and cons of applying the herbicide SONAR to Ware's Cove in Newton to kill the fanwort that was growing out of control there. By the time he checked in with me, he'd obtained permission from the Metropolitan District Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the City of Newton. The plan looked like a good one, mostly because Marty wanted to solve the weed problem, but not at the expense of the river environment. He had even built in post-application monitoring to insure that what the contractor said would happen actually did.

Over the next several months, I came to know him as thorough, curious, and engaging. His interest in the river didn't stop at Ware's Cove in front of his house in Newton. The whole river, its myriad environment, its relationship to Boston, and its suburbs simply fascinated him. The following November, Marty joined our Board of Directors, on which he served with distinction until his death this past December.

When we first started the Integrated Monitoring, Modeling and Management Project (IM3) in 1994, there were some who were concerned that the study might overwhelm CRWA. Not Marty. He was an early and ardent supporter, from gathering samples by canoe at the juncture of Ware's Cove and the Charles at Site 648S, to poring over the results, to soaking up what it all might mean. I'll never forget a meeting Marty had convened to discuss the results of the work with officials in Newton. I went along, presumably to narrate the IM3 story. Instead, I was treated to 20 minutes of Marty Sender, the otherwise calm, collected, and brilliant media personality. He was brimming with enthusiasm and involvement as he explained the collection and analysis process, the broader implications, and Newton's place in the grand scheme of things. It was hands-on science at its very best.

Marty would hunker down over a yellow legal pad at board meetings, intent on his scribbles and doodles and curly-cues. Most nights he'd have the date in the corner, and perhaps "CRWA" in bold at the top. But they were the only legible stuff on the page. Along about the time you were convinced he



Marty Sender
1947-2000

was in some doodle never-never land, he'd look up with that wonderful twinkle in his eye and make precisely the right statement at precisely the right time.

After a while, we became real friends. We played golf a couple times each summer, and kept threatening to play hooky and ski some winter day. We scheduled it four or five times, but something always came up and we never went.

I could confide in Marty about issues and the politics surrounding CRWA; as it turns out, most of his friends used him as a confidant. He was that kind of guy, wise beyond his years, open, reliable.

When I first heard of his accident, I was sure he'd pull through. He was such a fighter. But he didn't. There hasn't been a day since then I haven't thought of him. It's still impossible for me to imagine that a man so full of life is gone. What I'd give to have one of those sunny days on a New Hampshire mountain skiing, just once, with my friend Marty Sender.

Lawn Chemicals: Cut It Out!

By Sarah Little

A lot of people do not realize that pesticides kill more than just pests. Most of the chemicals applied to suburban lawns are highly toxic to aquatic species, including beneficial insects such as dragonflies, which spend their early life in the water. If you read the labels of these pesticides you will find warnings to keep the product out of bodies of water. However, if you walk down a suburban street on a spring day, you'll see pesticides on lawns, on sidewalks, and even in the streets.

It only takes one rainy day to move these toxic chemicals into a body of water. After a rain, the pellets, powders and sprays wash into the street and form little rivulets, the kind in which children love to play. They meet with other rivulets to create streams that flow to the nearest storm drain. These storm drains empty into either local ponds or straight into our own Charles River, pouring in a cocktail of chemicals. The sum total of all individual homeowners who believe pesticides and synthetic fertilizers are necessary for a green lawn can cause a serious degradation of river life.

The Wellesley Pesticide Awareness Campaign (WPAC) hopes to change these attitudes and practices. Pesticides are not necessary for creating beautiful lawns. Some of the most beautiful lawns in America are organically maintained. The necessary ingredients are sun, rain, proper mowing, and the right groundcover.

The long-range objective of our project is to improve the health of Wellesley's environment and its residents. In communities throughout Massachusetts, similar groups are working to improve local health and environments. They are being united by a powerful theme that originated in and is now blossoming in Europe. This theme is the Precautionary Principle, which states that "when an activity raises threat of harm to humans or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some

cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically." If less-toxic alternatives to pesticides are available, and they most certainly are, then the precautionary approach is to choose safer materials rather than risk human and environmental health.

The WPAC is supported by the Town of Wellesley's Health Department, Natural Resources Commission, and Department of Public Works, and is a recipient of a grant from the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. WPAC has a number of community partners, including the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), the Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project, the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), Bread and Circus, and the Needham

Garden Center. We are following on the successes of pesticide reduction campaigns in the towns of Marblehead and Newton, and working to develop a strategic plan and town policy to reduce pesticide usage to zero or near-zero.

By June, we will have all our information, plans, and brochures available on the TURI website

(www.turi.org) as well as

our own site (www.ci.wellesley.ma.us/nrc/pesticide). Other towns are encouraged to freely copy our material and promote pesticide use reduction strategies of their own. In the meantime, for more information please pick up a copy of Wellesley's new brochure promoting lawns without pesticides from Bread and Circus Wellesley, Strata, or the Needham Garden Center, or call (781) 431-1019 ext. 294. For more information about Newton's GreenCAP: Committee for Alternatives to Pesticides, visit www.turi.org/community/CWIPMC or www.tiac.net/users/unnewton/greencap.



Sarah Little is Wellesley Health Department's Pesticide Awareness Coordinator. She has a PhD from the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department at MIT and was drawn into the area of local toxics use reduction as a concerned parent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for Help on Conservation Land

On January 26, the Wiswall property, almost 18 acres, was officially registered as Needham Conservation land after 62% of Needham voters approved a referendum last fall to purchase the land for \$2 million.

As co-chair of Needham Citizens for Open Space, I sincerely thank CRWA for outstanding contributions to the Wiswall effort, including the GIS mapping services of Dudley Bonsal. Last October he worked long and hard to create what I thought were the best educational tools of our campaign: two maps that showed the land around the Wiswall property in Needham and Wellesley. The most useful map showed the Wiswall Property, wetlands, surface water, and four ownership categories of nearby parcels. I believe that at that time CRWA was the only organization that could do so many overlays and in such a speedy fashion.

CRWA also assisted the committee in contacting CRWA's Needham members for our donation drive and educational outreach. What an amazing group. Almost unanimously, when we explained our cause, your members volunteered money before we asked for it. That surprised and heartened our callers.

I also thank Bob Zimmerman and his staff who were always willing to take the time and make the effort to educate and support our committee.

Susan Abbott
Co-chair of Needham Open Space Committee

Great Blue Heron Returns

I just wanted to take a moment to share with you information that might be of interest to you.

We've lived just across from the outflow into the Charles at the intersection of Maple St. and Nonantum Rd. in

Newton Corner

for a long time now. Back in 1988 I first saw a solitary great blue

heron near the mouth of that outflow. He/she comes in the coldest winter months and usually can be seen only just before daylight. Never more than one heron.

I've seen this bird (could it be the same bird?) every year for the past 13 years. I was concerned this winter because there was no sign of it — until this morning. If it is the same bird (and certainly its habits are always the same and it is always alone) it must be close to 14 years old now.

Anyway, I find it heartening that despite the problems with that outflow — and the fact that I still see slight oil slicks on the water there off and on — this heron continues to come back, and it seems to be having a long life.

Terry Hackford
Newton



2nd ANNUAL CHARLES RIVER EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

**Kick off your Earth Day
celebration by taking action on
Saturday, April 21st, 2001!**

We are looking for individuals or organizations to host a clean-up in their area, as well as volunteers to participate in the clean-up.

If interested, contact Katie Baltus at
617-747-4409.

This event is sponsored by CRWA, Americorps' Massachusetts Community Water Watch, the Clean Charles Coalition, Senator Steven Tolman's Office, and the Cutler Park to Commonwealth Avenue Protection Group.



NEW BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS!

Charles River Watershed Association, in partnership with Massachusetts Audubon Society's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, is pleased to offer its members discounted fees for selected programs at the sanctuary in the coming months. Located along the Charles 1.8 miles west of South Natick Center, Broadmoor protects 624 acres of land including Indian Brook, a major tributary of the Charles. Several of Broadmoor's excellent recreational and educational programs for adults and children are river-focused, and we think our members would really enjoy getting to know this lovely stretch of the Charles. If you are currently a dues-paying member of CRWA, be sure to register at the discounted rate for any of the programs listed below. (Your CRWA ID number is above your name and address on the back cover of this newsletter.)

Rising Moon Canoe Trips

*Fridays, May 4, June 1, July 27, or August 24
6:30-8:30 p.m.*

Fee: \$26 (\$22 for CRWA or Mass. Audubon members)

Enjoy a twilight paddle under a setting sun and a rising moon, along one of the most scenic stretches of the Charles River. We will take an easy pace, stopping to observe the activities of birds and other river wildlife such as muskrats and painted turtles. We stop at the backwaters near Rocky Narrows reservation to enjoy a supper afloat. All equipment provided; bring your own picnic dinner. Please indicate which evening(s) you will join us.

Summer Camp Programs

For campers entering Kindergarten

Discoverers

Session I: July 9-13

Session II: July 23-27

Session III: August 6-10

Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$200 (\$150 CRWA or Mass. Audubon members)

Discoverers will experience the sounds, sights, textures, and smells of nature; the excitement of discovering a beetle, watching a turtle, hearing a bullfrog. Nature games, crafts, and active exploration will encourage a sense of wonder and respect for the natural world.

For campers entering Grade 1

Pond Watchers

Session I: July 16-20

Session II: July 30-August 3

Session III: August 13-17

Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$200 (\$150 CRWA or Mass. Audubon members)

Pond Watchers will learn about plants, animals and their environments while experiencing the fun of

making discoveries as part of a group. Campers will actively explore, play nature games, and learn—how trees work, where sow bugs live, what a salamander feels like and how it moves. They will observe nature close-up.

For campers entering Grades 2 and 3

Curious Naturalists

Session I: July 9-13 and 16-20

Session II: July 23-27 and 30-August 3

Session III: August 6-10 and 13-17

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$380 (\$330 CRWA or Mass. Audubon members)

This program introduces budding young naturalists to the diversity and beauty of the natural world. Campers will embark on daily adventures into the fields, forests, and wetlands to have fun and learn about the plants and animals at Broadmoor. Camper days include playing games, hiking, solo walks, observing wildlife, and hands-on activities such as ponding, mapping, and crafts at the nature center.

For campers entering Grades 4 and 5

Indian Brook Adventures

Session I: July 9-13 and 16-20

Session II: July 23-27 and 30-August 3

Session III: August 6-10 and 13-17

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$380 (\$330 CRWA or Mass. Audubon members)

Campers will deepen their understanding and appreciation of ecology and wildlife. Concentrating on the waters of Broadmoor, campers investigate wetlands, waterfalls, and the Charles River. While getting muddy learning about the plants and animals at the river's edge, campers use binoculars, microscopes, field guides, and seine nets to learn the skills of a field biologist. Activities include observing, capturing, and identifying insects, salamanders, turtles, and birds in the fields, forest, and stream, exploring, playing

games, and hiking the outer trails of the sanctuary.

For campers entering Grades 6, 7, and 8

Charles River Explorations

Session I: July 9-13 and 16-20

Session II: July 23-27 and 30-August 3

Session III: August 6-10 and 13-17

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Fee: \$480 (\$430 CWRA or Mass. Audubon members)

Building on the theme, "your watershed is your address," Explorers learn about river ecology, watersheds, and how human activities affect the Charles

River. Campers learn basic to advanced canoeing techniques, including how to rescue a swamped canoe. They'll spend their time along the Charles River having fun, making friends, learning skills such as map reading and compass use, seine netting, and observing wildlife. Group building is also a central part of this program. The session concludes with an overnight camp-out with stargazing, a night hike, and dawn exploration. Note: for the overnight, on the second Thursday of the program, the day starts at 1:00 p.m.; camp ends at 1:00 p.m. on Friday.



Fill out and send to:

Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary

280 Eliot Street, Natick, MA 01760

(508) 655-2296 or (781) 235-3929. Fax: (508) 647-0429.

Name(s) _____

Street _____ Town _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone [h] () _____ [w] () _____

email _____ CWRA or MAS member # _____

Program Title/Date _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to "Broadmoor." Total enclosed: \$ _____
Charge my (circle one) MasterCard or VISA

_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Registration: Please register for programs in advance, by mail with full payment enclosed, over the phone or by fax with a credit card, or in person. You may call to inquire about space availability but we will not reserve a space for you without payment.

If you are not a Massachusetts Audubon member you may join when you register and pay the member program fee.

Cancellation: If we must cancel a program because of bad weather we will contact participants as soon as we make the decision (that's why we ask for home and work phone numbers and email addresses). We may change program activities sometimes in response to weather conditions, but we plan to run programs rain or shine.

Refunds: We will issue a refund if you notify us of your cancellation at least one week before the program starts. Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary reserves the right to change programs, schedules, and instructors, and to cancel programs due to low enrollment. If we cancel a program, participants will receive a full refund.

Run of the River

By Dudley Bonsal and Anna Eleria

Watershed Groups

Collaborate, Share Expertise

CRWA and twelve other watershed organizations have banded together to form the Watershed Management Collaborative (WMC), a group formed to ensure uniform methodologies for environmental assessments such as those mandated by Massachusetts Executive Order 418. WMC is considering plans to become an independent non-profit organization, allowing the smaller watershed groups to have greater access to GIS training and to gain experience in analyzing environmental resources and open space for the municipalities in their own watersheds. Both CRWA as an individual entity and WMC have applied to the state for vendor status in order to provide environmental analyses. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development is expected to release a list of approved vendors soon.

Upper Watershed

Analyzing Water Resources With Computer Models

The Technical Advisory Committee, CRWA and the U.S. Geological Survey will discuss with municipal officials the progress of the Upper Charles Groundwater Modeling project in late March. Data acquisition, initial model building, and creation of the initial recharge map have been completed. Calibration of the model is in progress. USGS

will initially use the model to evaluate simple scenarios, such as the effects of projected water use on water supply, the optimization of well pumping to minimize impacts on surface waters, and the effects of potential groundwater recharge on pumping rates. Results of the modeling will be used to guide towns in the management of their water resources.



Milford Pond Restoration

The Town of **Milford** has proposed a plan to restore Milford Pond which has the general support of CRWA. Up to 400,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediments and organic deposits would be dredged from the pond bottom. The dredging area, extending from the Milford Pond Dam to the northern side of Clark Island, will comprise approximately 45 acres in the 120-acre pond. The project will be undertaken to remove shallow sediments and reduce aquatic weed density, thereby improving navigation of the pond and increasing public access. The restoration will also include stormwater management controls at ten existing discharges to the pond.

Lake Withdrawal Would Reduce River Flow

The Milford Water Company (MWC) has proposed a plan to utilize overflow from Louisa Lake in **Milford** as a public drinking water source. Overflow would

either be diverted to Echo Lake for storage or would go directly to MWC's water treatment plant prior to distribution. CRWA has serious concerns about the plan. CRWA believes that the withdrawal could have adverse impact on endangered species, fisheries, and flow downstream of the lake. CRWA has argued that seasonal high flows are required to ensure stream maintenance and to protect fish spawning.

Middle Watershed

Proposed Tech Center a Stormwater Challenge

The former location of the Hersey Meter Company is being proposed as the site for the Dedham Technology Center in **Dedham**. The site would encompass a total of nine and a half acres. CRWA supports the reduction of impervious surface that the development would provide. Since the Environmental Notification does not detail how the development will handle stormwater, CRWA has urged the planners to specify what stormwater management practices they are considering.

Restoring Hammond Pond

In February, state Rep. Ruth Balsler and the City of **Newton** organized a meeting to discuss potential restoration measures at Hammond Pond located off Route 9, behind the Chestnut Hill shopping center. The pond has been beset with several pollution problems, including a high level of eutrophication caused by signifi-

Run of the River

cant sediment and phosphorus loading. Additional assessment was deemed necessary so that data could effectively support restoration efforts. The assessment will focus on the relative contributing sources of pollution, so that the most effective stormwater management practices can be undertaken.

Lower Watershed

Riverwalk to Link Waltham, Newton to Esplanade

The second half of the Metropolitan District Commission's **Waltham** Downtown Riverwalk project is tentatively scheduled to start this spring. The first half included new lighting and planting of honey locust trees. The second half will entail the construction of a paved brick walkway along the river by Cronin's Landing, in addition to the installation of benches and plant beds. The project is one piece of a larger undertaking known as the Upper Charles River Reservation. When the reservation is fully realized, residents will be able to walk or bike along the river without interruption from

Commonwealth Avenue in Newton to the Museum of Science in Boston. The current missing links to the overall path include a section from Bridge Street in Newton to Farwell Street in Waltham, between Elm Street and Moody Street in Waltham, and between the Waltham Watch Factory on Prospect Street and the Woerd Avenue Boat Launch in Waltham. The MDC hopes to be finished with the design of these three sections by the end of April.

Proposed Redevelopment of Hospital Property

A development plan has been proposed for McLean Hospital's 238-acre property in **Belmont**. The plan calls for over 100 luxury condominium units, a senior assisted-living center, a research and development center, and expansion of the hospital campus. One hundred twenty acres of the site would be protected as open space through conservation restrictions. (Currently, 155 acres are undeveloped.) CRWA supports some of the steps taken by the developers to address stormwater concerns, but would

like to see non-structural management strategies such as street sweeping and dumpster containment incorporated in the plan. CRWA has also requested that public review of the plan be enhanced through the submittal of both draft and final Environmental Impact Reports instead of just the one Environmental Impact Report requested by the proponent.

Venice on the Charles

Gondola di Venezia, a start-up company based in Acton, has presented plans to the Metropolitan District Commission and the Cambridge Conservation Commission to bring gondola tours to the lower basin. The base of operations would be Canal Park, located near the Museum of Science. Riders would have the option of taking a reserved 40-45 minute tour or a walk-on 15-20 minute tour. Those who reserve may even be able to request that a musician serenade them during their tour. The company hopes to start operations by the beginning of July. CRWA is currently reviewing the proposal.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Anyone interested in participating in the monthly water quality sampling, please contact Peggy at (617) 965-5975 ext. 221 or at savage@crwa.org

Current sites needing samplers:
 Site 165S on the Franklin/Medway line at Elm Street/Shaw Street



New Fish Ladders Constructed by Tri-County Students

Approximately 50 students at Tri-County Vocational School in Franklin for the past few weeks have been building a new fish ladder for Cordingly Dam in Newton/Wellesley, one of three slated for restoration with state funds. In an effort to restore the river ecology, the ladders will re-open nine miles of critical fish migration and spawning habitat for river herring. The Metropolitan District Commission, the project sponsor, supplied all the materials for the project while the vocational students constructed the 47 baffles for Cordingly. Twenty-three of the baffles were built with recycled plastic. These will serve as a prototype for enhancing the useful life and durability of fish ladders in Massachusetts. Funds for the project were secured by the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs — Charles River Watershed Team. Teachers supervising the project were Bob Pierangeli and Kyle Kummer.

The River Calls

The river calls to me
Come watch my soaring hawk
Dissolve your tensions in my waters
Let me wash them to the sea.

Soak up the play of light
On my forested banks
Changing shadows every hour
Changing hues every season
Changing views into the depths of the wood.

Join with the grace of the still heron
And the awkward marvel of her flight
Play with the antics of my otters
Hunt for your sustenance with my diving osprey.

Come to my waters and know me
I will cleanse, nurture and sustain you.

*Maury Eldridge
Needham
November 2000*

Give at the Office!

Matching Gift Program

Did you know you can double your gift to CRWA by participating in your employer's Matching Gift Program? Companies such as Compaq, Fleet, John Hancock, Polaroid, and Verizon have enabled their employees to double their donations in support of CRWA's efforts. Ask your company about its matching gift program today!

Charles River Canoe & Kayak Guide

Now Available!

- ◆ **Pocket-sized**
- ◆ **Waterproof**
- ◆ **Durable**
- ◆ **32-pages of detailed maps and tips for enjoying our scenic river**
- ◆ **Sales support CRWA's work to restore the Charles**
- ◆ **Great gift!**

Guides including postage are \$10.55 each.

Please mail me ____ guides.

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to CRWA, or charge to:

VISA() Mastercard () Expires: _____

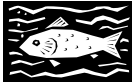
Card # _____

Signature _____

Phone _____

*Please mail to: CRWA, 2391 Commonwealth Ave.,
Auburndale, MA 02466-1773.*

Join CRWA today.



We're committed to cleaning up the Charles River and protecting its watershed. Won't you help us?

I enclose () \$25 for a basic membership.

I enclose () \$35 () \$50 () \$250 () \$500 **and**

I () want to receive a new *Charles River Canoe and Kayak Guide*.

I () do not want a guide.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Payment method:

Please make checks payable to CRWA or charge to:

_____ VISA _____ Mastercard Expires: _____

Card # _____

Signature _____

Phone: _____

*Please mail to: CRWA, 2391 Commonwealth Ave.,
Auburndale, MA 02466-1773.*

EMC Corp Plans to Mitigate Impacts of Bellingham Campus

EMC Corporation has proposed development of an EMC Bellingham Campus near I-495 and Maple Street in Bellingham. Used for agriculture and gravel removal by its former owner, the site is industrially zoned and will include 972,000 sq. ft. of research, development, and manufacturing buildings, 100,000 sq. ft. of accessory buildings, and 3,200 parking spaces. Approximately 50 acres of the 144-acre site will be disturbed. Much of site will remain open and CRWA supports EMC's proposal for construction of a canoe launch, pedestrian path, and gravel parking for public use.

The Charles River Watershed Association met with EMC Corporation and its consultant, Beals & Thomas, to discuss ways to mitigate environmental impacts of the development. CRWA also provided technical comments on the project during the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act review process. As a result, EMC Corporation proposes to mitigate a loss of 4,900 sq. ft. of federally-regulated wetlands with the construction of 5,300 sq. ft. of wetlands. Also, EMC Corporation will minimize the impacts of increased impervious surface and water use on the site by infiltrating more stormwater to the groundwater than currently infiltrates on the undeveloped site. Stormwater treatment and infiltration will exceed the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. EMC proposes to recycle its wastewater effluent to toilets and cooling towers and to discharge excess wastewater effluent as recharge to the underlying groundwater.

CHARLES RIVER PROGRESS REPORT

Cool and Clean

A combination of dry weather, cold water temperatures, and road salt contributed to low fecal coliform levels on February 20th, when the state standard for swimming was met at nearly all sampling sites. Only one site, located downstream of the Charles River Pollution Control District's wastewater treatment plant in Medway, violated this standard because it discontinues disinfection (or chlorination) of its treated wastewater during the winter. This is allowed by the plant's federal discharge permit, which recently decreased the period when disinfection is discontinued from six to three months. This is good news for upper Charles River water quality! For more information on water quality in the Charles, check out our Web site at: <http://www.crwa.org>.

Chilly weather and darkness are no match for our crew of 80 volunteers who have collected monthly water quality samples at 6 AM from 37 locations along the Charles River for nearly five years. As the cornerstone of CRWA's advocacy and scientific efforts, the water quality data are used to identify pollution "hot spots" and to monitor their removal.

Watchdog for the River

CRWA tracks projects throughout the watershed, providing input to development and infrastructure proposals to make sure the river's best interests are taken into account.

Below is a list of the projects on which CRWA commented to the state, town, or developer between November 15, 2000 and February 15, 2001. Copies of comment letters are available at CRWA, 2391 Commonwealth Avenue, Auburndale (Newton) 02466.

Town	Project
Bellingham	Final Environmental Impact Report for the EMC Bellingham Campus
Belmont	Expanded Environmental Notification Form for the McLean Hospital Redevelopment Project
Dedham	Environmental Notification Form for the Dedham Center Technology Center Project
Milford	Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Utilization of Louisa Lake Overflow for Public Water Supply
Milford	Environmental Notification Form for Milford Pond Restoration
Wellesley	Single Environmental Impact Report for cleanup of the former Henry Woods Sons Paint Factory
Regional	Proposed Amendments to Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches State Sanitary Code
Regional	Draft October 2000 Infiltration/Inflow Task Force Report

Thank You!

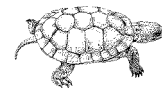
Heartfelt thanks to all our members who contributed to the Annual Appeal at year-end 2000. Your generous gifts totaled \$47,263 — an impressive increase of 28% over last year's appeal. These unrestricted contributions enable CRWA to continue its water quality testing program and other research and advocacy programs that are not funded by grants.

Since the last *Streamer*, five individuals renewed memberships in the Millennium Society with gifts of \$2,500 or more: **Bea and Woolsey Conover, Miss Elizabeth B. Jackson, Kelly McClintock** and two anonymous donors. Headwaters Society contributions of \$1,000 to \$2,500 came from **Mrs. Jeanette McC. Atkinson, the Paul and Edith Babson Foundation, Carolyn and John Clark, Elizabeth Gilmore, Belle L. Halpern and Mitch Rosenberg, Geri and Douglas Payne, Roberta and Bill Schnoor, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Steiner**, and one anonymous donor.

Employee gifts through workplace giving programs sponsored by **Environmental Federation of New England** totaled \$1,547. Unrestricted contributions of \$10,000 each were provided by **Robert D. Rands** in memory of his wife Jean L. Barker, **Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation**, and **The Silver Tie Fund**.

A \$30,000 grant from **ANP Operations Company** will be used for stormwater remediation and cleanup projects in Bellingham and Blackstone.

CRWA is grateful to all who share our vision of a healthier Charles and who are committed to supporting our work.



WANTED: Newspaper and magazine stories that mention the Run of the Charles! If you see a story in your local paper, please mail a copy to Run of the Charles, c/o Classic Communications, 38 Mechanic St., Suite 101, Foxboro, MA 02035.

C A L E N D A R

March 17 - 25

New England Spring Flower Show

New England's largest indoor event presented at the Bayside Expo Center by Massachusetts Horticultural Society. 2001 Theme: The Inspired Garden. Call 617-536-9280 for more information.

March 22, 7:30 PM

Undoing the Dam Age

Karen Pelto of Mass. Riverways Program will discuss a project to restore riverine habitats that were interrupted at the dawn of the Industrial Age, and work required to get rivers running freely again. Call Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary 508-655-2296.

March 26, 7:00 PM

Messing with Nature

Sheldon Krinsky, author of *Hormonal Chaos*, will discuss his book and evidence that pesticides, plastics and chemicals may obstruct hormonal activity. Held at the Newton Public Library. For more information contact Green Decade Coalition 617-965-1995.

April 23, 11 AM

Hearing on Boston University's Bill No. 1613

Joint Committee on State Administration, Room B1, State House, Boston. Come support testimony that Esplanade parkland should not be ceded to BU without public input.

April 21, 2001

Charles River Earth Day Clean-up

CRWA, AmeriCorps' Massachusetts Community Water Watch, Clean Charles Coalition, Senator Steven Tolman's Office and the Charles River stream teams are facilitating a huge trash clean-up

along the entire length of the Charles, and invite interested groups to organize one in their neighborhood. Call Katie Baltus 617-747-4409.

April 28, 10 AM - Noon

A Visit to the "Urban Ark:" A Look at Sustainable Living

During this Newton house tour, learn about wash water gardens, greenhouse living, solar heating, sewage avoidance, energy and water conservation. To register call Arnold Arboretum 617-524-1718 x 162.

April 29

Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Race

Support CRWA by being part of the race as a volunteer, racer, sponsor or spectator. Call 1-800-969-RACE or 508-698-6810 or email crwa.rotc@verizon.com. For online race registration open www.crwa.org, click on Run of the Charles and then click on www.active.com.

April 29, 7:30 PM

Slide Lecture on the Charles by Michael Tougias

For more information contact the Watertown Free Public Library, 123 Main St. 617-972-6436.

May 4, 7 - 9 PM

Invasive Plants and Weeds

Find out which are the ten most common woody invasives and how to control their spread. Co-sponsored by N.E. Wildflower Society and Mass. Audubon Society. Call 508-877-7630 x 3303 for information.

July 20, 10 Am - 3 PM

Wetland Plant Identification

Focus on a variety of wetland community types, their ecology and common indicator species. Introductory lecture and field trip. Call New England Wildflower Society 508-877-7630 x 3303.

The Streamer

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CRWA is a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation established in 1965 to protect and enhance the health, beauty and enjoyment of the Charles River and its tributaries. CRWA is a member of the Environmental Federation of New England and the Massachusetts Environmental Collaborative.

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