

Inside This Issue

New Groups Focus on Park System

Page 2

Basin Projects to Protect Public Access

Page 3

CRWA Honors Six River Stewards

Page 4

New Recreational Guides Reviewed

Page 5

News from Along the Charles

Page 6-7

Volunteer Sees Decades of Change

Page 8

Boyne Book Recalls Pioneering Crew

Page 9

Progress Report

Page 10

Next Step: Dividing the Pollution Pie

By Kathy Baskin

Aggressive removal of raw sewage by Charles River municipalities and large reductions of combined sewage (a mixture of untreated sanitary waste and stormwater) discharges by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority are paying huge benefits in improved water quality. Compliance with the Massachusetts Water Quality Standards, established to protect public health and support aquatic life, has increased steadily since 1995 when CRWA's monthly volunteer monitoring began. And we have high hopes for future water quality. Ongoing repairs to municipal and combined sewers, coupled with stricter discharge permits recently issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the six wastewater treatment plants within the watershed, should continue to drive improvements in water quality.

However, significant problems remain largely unaddressed in the watershed. Stormwater runoff carries pollutants such as phosphorus, nitrogen, oil and grease, and pathogens from our roads and lawns to the watershed's lakes and river segments. Noxious aquatic plants choke the river, tributaries and lakes. According to a list compiled in 1998 by the Massachu-

setts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), 60 miles (75%) of river, 13 lakes and ponds, and 3 tributaries in the Charles River watershed are "impaired" by high amounts of one or more pollutants, failing to meet the state's water quality standards and their designated uses of swimming and fishing. In Massachusetts, 875 of the 1571 (56%) river segments are listed as "impaired" and fail to meet water quality standards.

Just how much pollution can the Charles River take and be safe for swimming and fishing? How much should each polluter be allowed to contribute? The Clean Water Act mandates that states answer these questions by developing and adopting Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for waters "impaired" by pollutants. This involves calculating the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive while still meeting water quality standards, and allocating that amount among the pollutant's sources. In other words, the state must calculate how large the "pollution pie" can be and who gets what portion of the pie.

The task ahead is enormous. The state has committed to completing all of its approximately 1,500 TMDLs calculations by the year 2012. A TMDL provides the basis for states and EPA to estab-

(continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CRWA Welcomes New Park Protection Groups

By Kelly McClintock

Like others of us at CRWA, I have been asked recently by members and friends about new organizations that have been set up to work on park issues. Are we the same organization? What is our relationship with them?

Happily, there are a great many concerned and talented people who care about the Charles River and its parks, and the other wonderful reservations of the Metropolitan Park System. Three major initiatives are quite new: the Esplanade Association, the Charles River Conservancy, and the Metropolitan Parks Council.

Last year, the **Esplanade Association** was formed by several people from Beacon Hill and Back Bay who are concerned about the dilapidated condition of many of the facilities on the Esplanade. Like the Friends of Magazine Beach, which looks after that intensively used Cambridge-side Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) park, and Friends of Riverbend Park, which originated the traffic-free Sundays on Memorial Drive, the Esplanade Association has a tight focus.

In the autumn of 1999, Renata von Tscharner created the **Charles River Conservancy**. An urban planner from Cambridge, Renata brings new skill, energy, and perspective to the task of rebuilding, enhancing and repairing the park facilities of the entire Basin, and supporting MDC's new Basin Master Plan.

On a larger scale, individuals from several organizations, including CRWA, The Trustees of Reservations, and some of the larger friends groups, brought together the **Metropolitan Parks Council** this spring. The immediate motivation was threats of inappropriate development in several of the metropolitan parks, with a longer-term hope of building a stronger and more effective network of support for the whole park system.

We are all separate organizations. CRWA knows that great achievements are almost always the product of many people and organizations working together.

CRWA's accomplishments with open space and habitat protection, urban sprawl, zoning, and a range of water quality issues, have all been in partnership with the Audubon Society, The Trustees of Reservations, other groups, and public agencies at the federal, state and local levels. We look forward to learning more about the goals and agendas of these new organizations, and exploring how we can reinforce each other to make the Charles River watershed a better place.

Pollution Pie

(continued from page 1)

lish water quality-based controls (such as stricter discharge permits) aimed at achieving state water quality standards. Therefore, many of these TMDLs will likely face legal and technical challenges as polluters fight for less stringent requirements and a bigger share of the "pollution pie."

Charles River Watershed Association will be assisting the state in preparing TMDLs for the upper Charles River watershed with grant support from the EPA and DEP. Development of the TMDLs, which must be approved by the EPA, will involve a three-year effort of detailed monitoring of water quality, measurements of river flow, computer modeling of flow and water quality, and close coordination with members of the watershed communities. Public feedback will be important as we set priorities for TMDL development and as we propose and implement strategies to address water quality impairments.

CRWA realizes that the elimination of all pollution sources to the river is not a realistic goal. However, it is our intention to reduce pollution in the river as much as possible. To complement TMDL implementation, which focuses on pollutants that have already entered wastestreams such as wastewater or stormwater, we will also work to prevent pollution through environmental rezoning. CRWA will develop guidance for upper Charles River watershed communities with a focus on preventing pollutants from entering stormwater in the first place. Environmental rezoning will also be used to promote enhancement and protection of river flow by providing guidelines on where open space should be preserved and how land should be developed.

Growing Momentum Behind Basin Park Renewal Projects

By Mary Crain Penniman

Today the Lower Charles is seeing as much urban park planning as it did a century ago when Charles Eliot envisioned a metropolitan park system with the Charles River at its heart. Master planning for three individual but integrated parks in the Lower Charles (the Muddy River/Emerald Necklace, the Charles River Lower Basin, and the New Charles River Basin) has the potential to restore historic parklands and to renew derelict riverfront land by creating new public park spaces. This is an exciting time for the urban environmental movement and for the Charles River Basin.

Everyone agrees that the Muddy River and the Lower Basin parklands are in dire need of refurbishment. And urban renewal of the mostly public land that lies downstream of the Museum of Science, the last but missing piece of the majestic "water park" envisioned by Eliot, has been long awaited. There is growing momentum behind these renewal projects. The public/private partnerships now being formed will help accomplish their overhaul and enable their long-term management.

Part of CRWA's mission is to work "with agencies, especially the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), to improve and develop parks on the river's banks." CRWA advocates design and management elements that recognize the historical underpinning of the Basin parkland, and the promotion of public benefit throughout the parks. We are calling for progressive stormwater management, environmentally sensitive site design for wastewater management, planting design that enables riparian function, improved public access and amenities, plans that promote non-polluting forms of transportation, and provisions for long-term maintenance and corporate stewardship.

The Muddy River Restoration project is a monumental effort to undo the effects of erosion, storm damage, urban pollution runoff, and historic landscape loss, as well as provide necessary flood control. Proposals call for bank stabilization and restoration, daylighting (i.e. restoring natural stream banks to culverts) and dredging bank-to-bank. The Draft Environmental Impact Report is due in early 2001 with work slated to begin the following spring at an estimated cost of \$50 million.

The Charles River Basin Draft Master Plan focuses on the 9.1 miles between the Watertown Dam and the Charles River Dam, an area which includes the Charles River as well as reservation lands, banks, and parkways as the river winds through Boston, Cambridge, and Watertown. Implementation of the plan is estimated at \$31 million. MDC's release of the Master Plan is expected in spring 2001.

The New Charles River Basin's Master Plan envisions over forty acres of parklands, stately trees, artwork, playgrounds, bike paths and connections to the water in the area referred to as the 'lost half mile' between the Museum of Science and Boston Harbor. When constructed, these new public spaces will reinforce the ties between the river and surrounding neighborhoods. Funded by Central Artery/Tunnel mitigation money, the total budget including land acquisition, remediation and park construction, is estimated at \$80 million.

CRWA is an active member on the Citizens Advisory Committees for the Muddy River and New Charles River Basin projects. We will continue our environmental technical support as well as contribute to the landscape design process. We look forward to working with the MDC and other park advocates on the renewal and long-term management of parkland on the People's River.

Six River Stewards Honored

In celebration of its 35th anniversary, CRWA honored six outstanding stewards of the Charles during its annual meeting at the Newton Marriott on November 16th. Cited for their exceptional efforts on behalf of the Charles, award recipients included Massachusetts Community Water Watch, Michael DiBara, Roger Frymire, Cambridge Water Department, Vincent Merrill, and a design team at Paratore Hartshorn.

CRWA's highest honor, the Anne M. Blackburn Award, was presented to **Massachusetts Community Water Watch** for masterminding the largest river cleanup event ever to take place on the Charles last April 15th. Over 800 volunteers converged on the Charles and hundreds of bags of trash were removed as a result of the group's efforts. Accepting the award for the Water Watch, staffed by volunteers from AmeriCorps, was Erica Wood who organized the event in cooperation with CRWA.

Michael DiBara, former Charles River Basin Team leader for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, received the 2005 Award, established to honor individuals who make significant contributions toward making the Charles swimmable and fishable by the year 2005. DiBara was recognized for his leadership in securing \$50,000 in state funding to restore fish ladders in four dams from Watertown to Wellesley. The repair of these fish ladders is vital to restoring fish migration routes and maintaining a healthy river ecosystem.

CRWA's Citizen Activist Award went to Cambridge resident **Roger Frymire** for his independent work in collecting over 200 water quality samples, identifying the 16 "dirtiest pipes" in the Charles River Basin, and discovering sewage leaks.

Because of its "exceptional commitment to



Receiving awards at the annual meeting from CRWA Executive Director Bob Zimmerman (far left) were: (from left) Roger Frymire, Chip Norton for Cambridge Water Dept., Erica Wood for Massachusetts Community Water Watch, Vince Paratore and Mark Harshorn of Paratore Hartshorn design + communication, and Mike DiBara.

watershed protection," the **Cambridge Water Department** was the recipient of CRWA's Public Official Award. In handing the award to Watershed Manager Chip Norton, CRWA Executive Director Bob Zimmerman cited the department's noteworthy accomplishments in water quality monitoring, hazardous materials emergency planning, securing conservation restrictions, and working with businesses on stormwater management.

Special Recognition Awards were presented to the graphics design firm

of **Paratore Hartshorn** in Boston, and to long-time CRWA member **Vincent Merrill**. Mark Hartshorn, Vince Paratore, and Sarah Merrigan were lauded for countless hours of design services donated to CRWA, most recently for their work on the new *Charles River Canoe and Kayak Guide*. They also have spruced up CRWA's annual report, new member mailings and Run of the Charles T-shirts. Eighty-eight year old Lincoln resident Merrill helped found CRWA in 1965, served as its first president, and has been a dedicated supporter ever since.

CRWA welcomed three new members to its Board of Directors: Virginia M. Lawrence of Boston, director of Development for the NE States for Coordinated Air Use Management; William D. Rieders of Wellesley, senior management consultant at Integral Inc., and William J. Tedoldi of Needham, president of Proventure Business Group.

Keynote speaker was writer Dianne Dumanoski, author of *Our Stolen Future* and former environmental reporter for The Boston Globe. Her thoughtful and provocative talk was titled, "What Are We Saving Anyway?"

CRWA thanks the Newton Marriott for generously supporting the annual meeting each year.

River Guides for Good Times

THE CHARLES RIVER: Exploring Nature and History on Foot and by Canoe, by Ron McAdow, \$18

CHARLES RIVER CANOE AND KAYAK GUIDE, a CRWA publication, \$10

Reviewed by Robert Murphy

Apart from its historic and natural significance, the Charles River is a recreational setting and place of enrichment for those who are fortunate to paddle its waters in a canoe or kayak. As CRWA's *Charles River Canoe and Kayak Guide* observes, "The quiet movement of these boats through the water connects us to a natural world nearly inaccessible by other means." Although parts of the Charles, especially in the uppermost reaches, are generally not navigable, most of the Charles is accessible to the average paddler.

To this end the CRWA provides a small, but very handy paddling guide. The navigable river is divided into 10 geographic sections. There is a short description of each section and, conveniently located on each facing page, a readable map showing access points and other noteworthy features. On the back page a locus map shows how the sections are connected. Also in the back, the access sites and their river miles are listed sequentially. In all there are 44 listed access sites from the Populatic St./Walker St. Bridge in Medway to Magazine Beach in Cambridge. Using this guide, the paddler can plan a river trip from put-in to take-out and learn about the most important features along the way.

Ron McAdow's recently updated edition of *The Charles River: Exploring Nature and History on Foot and by Canoe* also divides the river in geographic sections for the convenience of the paddler. Each section has a map and, on the facing page, access sites and river mileage, followed by commentary on the features in that section. We are also given practical information on trip planning, canoe rentals and

suggested outings both by canoe and on foot.

Along with basic river data, McAdow provides a wealth of information about plant and animal life found along the Charles. Much of this is based on the author's observations while paddling the Charles and conveyed in his lively writing style. His description of the Stop River confluence begins, "An area rich in life is centered at the mouth of the Stop River. If it flies or swims or thrusts green stems into Charles River sunlight, look for it here." The text is supplemented throughout by Gordon Morrison's excellent illustrations.

In an interesting section on history, we are taken on an east/west journey up the Charles following the settlement and development of each town along the way. McAdow writes, "The Charles River has always been at the heart of Massachusetts. To

understand one, it is necessary to know something of the other."

The author also describes five tributaries as being canoeable when the water level is high enough: Mine Brook, Mill River, Stop River, Bogastow Brook and Waban Brook. Under sections labeled "Study Area," detailed descriptions are devoted to areas of special interest: Bellingham Meadows, the Stop River Confluence, Broadmoor, Elm Bank, Bays Region, Dedham Loop, Hemlock Gorge, Lakes District and Charles River Basin.

If you intend to paddle the Charles, the pocket-size, waterproof CRWA guide will be a great help in planning your trip and getting you from put-in to take-out. If you are inclined toward exploration and want to get to know more about our river, let McAdow's book be your guide. You will learn about tributaries and secluded backwaters that are unknown even to most local residents. It is hard to believe that places of such pristine beauty still exist in eastern Massachusetts.

Robert Murphy is an Appalachian Mountain Club leader and an employee of the Framingham REI store. Both guides are available at REI and CRWA.

Run of the River

By Anna Eleria and
Dudley Bonsal

Upper Watershed

Trail Network Moves Forward

In receipt of town officials' and public approval, the **Milford** planning board is exploring funding options for their 6.4-mile segment of the planned regional Upper Charles Trail. The Milford segment reclaims a former railroad bed offering scenic vistas of Louisa Lake and Milford Pond and access to serene open space. The continuous regional trail will be approximately 27 miles long, beginning and ending in Framingham and traversing through Sherborn, Holliston, Milford, Hopkinton, and Ashland.

EMC Development Eyed

On the proposal table in **Bellingham** is development of an over one million square foot EMC Corporate Center that will disturb 50 acres of wetland resource areas, withdraw local water resources in excess of nine million gallons during the three peak use summer months, and apply fertilizers and pesticides on campus stormwater controls. On the positive side, CRWA commends EMC for proposing public recreational amenities, stormwater management controls, and recycling of its treated wastewater discharge to toilets and cooling towers.

Comprehensive Analysis Sought for Wastewater Plan

CRWA has urged the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to deny the **Wrentham** Development Center's request for a waiver from standard MEPA

requirements in its plan to treat and dispose over 500,000 gallons of wastewater per day. Citing phosphorus concentrations at eutrophic levels and water shortages that have resulted in decreased river flow and dried-up tributaries, CRWA feels an Environmental Impact Report should be prepared by project proponents. CRWA recommends the implementation of Comprehensive Wastewater Management Planning rather than a piecemeal approach.

Holliston Plan on Hold

At the end of October, **Holliston** voted to further study the wastewater recharge plan that was initially approved in May. The vote transpired after questions were raised about possible effects of one of the detention basins on a town well. CRWA also has been meeting with a group of citizens interested in water resources protection and environmental zoning issues, such as cluster development and stormwater by-laws, in order to devise zoning criteria that are more protective of the environment and water resources.

Data Input Nearly Complete

Since early 1999, CRWA has been working with the US Geological Survey to develop a regional groundwater model for the **Upper Charles** so that future water resource scenarios can be evaluated and optimized. Data collection of groundwater levels for the model was completed in September. CRWA is currently revising the overlay of land use and soils to make the projections for water recharge more accurate. A Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for January 2001 to discuss with the participating towns

the progress of the project.

Middle Watershed

Contamination Cleanup

Now a part of the **Wellesley** College campus, a former paint factory site located upgradient of Lake Waban is slated for remediation of upland, wetland and pond areas. Sediments and groundwater are contaminated primarily with lead and chromium. CRWA, while not wishing to delay the cleanup of the site, has raised several issues including the adequacy of the planned remediation in removal of groundwater contamination, the disturbance of a significant wetland area, and construction of a top-only engineered barrier.

Millennium Park Dedication

In November, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino hosted a celebration of the opening of the 98-acre Millennium Park in **West Roxbury**. The park, a landfill in its previous incarnation and larger than the Boston Common and the Public Gardens combined, features paved paths for walking and biking, nature trails, a boat launch, various scenic overlooks, and a multi-purpose playfield area.

In attendance, the Cutler Park to Commonwealth Avenue Stream Team raised awareness among the other attendees of the park's boat launch as ideal for setting out on the Charles River by canoe or kayak. A time capsule was planted in the park and will be exhumed in 2050. The capsule includes the latest

Run of the River

CRWA Annual Report and the recently published *CRWA Canoe & Kayak Guide*.

Park Restoration Planned

The oldest public space in **Waltham**, Prospect Hill Park, may receive a long awaited face-lift. Recently the Waltham Planning and Park and Recreation Departments developed a master plan for the renovation and improvement of the 250-acre park that offers some of the best views of the Boston area from its picturesque eminence. CRWA strongly supports the project which will protect and support several rare plants and preserve the public's access to open space.

Lower Watershed

Proposed Public Boat Docks

The Metropolitan District Commission has proposed three public boat docks for the lower Charles River basin along the **Cambridge** side. The docks, measuring 30 feet long by 10 feet wide, would be located on the west and east sides of the John Weeks Footbridge, the east side of the Boston University Boathouse, and the west and east sides of the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge. They would be open to the public for docking non-motorized and motorized boats up to 45 feet long. They would also be utilized by the Charles River Boat Company to provide transportation service particularly for people using the hotels along the river and by people who visit Harvard Square. Although the master plan is not yet complete, preliminary discussions regarding the project were

held at the November Cambridge Conservation Commission meeting, where Cambridge residents voiced concerns regarding river traffic and dock access.

Testing Stormwater Controls

Last month, CRWA staff collected wet weather samples from the **Boston** University campus to monitor the effectiveness of stormwater management devices in removing non-point source pollutants and mitigating peak flows. The devices include a bituminous berm, water quality swales, and a water quality chamber. We will monitor a storm next spring to quantify removal of winter pollutants, salt, and sand from deicing agents.

Sailing Pavilion Controversial

Due to growing concern regarding **Boston** University's proposal to develop a new sailing pavilion without proper analysis of environmental, traffic, sediment and sightline impacts, Northeastern University law students, under the guidance of CRWA, are

conducting field research to gain a better understanding of the constituents' diverse interests and concerns on this controversial issue. Under Article 97 of the Commonwealth Constitution, BU must receive a two-thirds majority in the legislature to lease public parkland and conduct an alternatives and mitigation analysis.

Combined Sewer Overflows

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) issued a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permit for 27 combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in **Boston**. It is the first issued since finalization of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) CSO Facilities Plan, reflecting the tremendous effort that MWRA and the regulatory community has spent on addressing CSOs to Boston Harbor and its tributaries. CRWA recommends that BWSC conduct comprehensive follow-up analyses visually and analytically of the CSOs to confirm that separation of the system is complete.



Warm Holiday wishes from all of us at CRWA: (bottom from left) Margaret Van Deusen, Mary Crain Penniman, Peggy Savage, Louise Taylor; (middle from left) Kris Finn, Kathy Baskin, Nigel Pickering, Anna Eleria; (top from left) Bob Zimmerman, Ken Dews, Jim Fitzgerald, and Dudley Bonsal.

Sampling Volunteer Fred Schaller's Dedication to the River Runs Deep

By Peggy Savage

Fred Schaller, volunteer extraordinaire, is stepping down as a monthly water quality sampler after over five years of service, at the age of 82. One of our longest-standing samplers, Fred started water quality monitoring at the Cheney Bridge site in Wellesley when the program began in 1995.

Fred is part of a crew of over 80 volunteers who sample monthly at 6 AM at 37 sites along the entire length of the river. CRWA uses the monitoring data to locate hot spots, encourage state agencies to crack down on problem areas, and influence decision-makers on issues affecting the river. It also is the basis for US Environmental Protection Agency's annual Charles River Report Card.

Raised in Washington, D.C., Fred summered as a boy at his grandfather's house on the river near the Wellesley/Natick line. He spent a lot of time on the river fishing, swimming, canoeing, and camping by its edge. In fact, he bought his first canoe in his early teens for \$12! He returned to settle down in his grandfather's Wellesley house in the mid-1940s after working in the DC Naval Ordnance Lab and serving in the Army during World War II. All of his subsequent business dealings have been along the river in neighboring Natick.

Fred has seen many changes in the Natick/Wellesley area over the years. He notes that the Charles used to be the center for amusement, but that recreational facilities since have faded away. The popular



CRWA volunteer Fred Schaller monitored water quality for five years at Cheney Bridge, Wellesley, the backdrop for decades of memories.

Heinlein Boat and Canoe Livery survived until the 1938 hurricane. The Riverside Ballroom at the foot of Water Street in Natick was very popular until it burned down in the 1920s. His once rural neighborhood is now residential, and development has replaced former campgrounds.

The biggest change Fred saw occurred after the flood of 1933 when carp were accidentally introduced to the river, probably resulting from the river flooding a goldfish-stocked pond. He observed that the carp multiplied, grew quite large and devoured the eelgrass, changing the character of the river and allowing duck weed to take over. With the eelgrass gone, the small fish known as "shiners" — previously protected by the great banks of grass — disappeared. Their absence, Fred posits, is linked to bass and pickerel also vanishing. Today the Natick/Wellesley area's common surviving

fish are carp and sunfish.

Instilling his love for the river in his grandchildren, Fred loves to take them fishing. And he is grateful to see that the river is getting much cleaner. CRWA thanks Fred and all of our water quality sampling volunteers for their time and efforts to monitor the river, helping to ensure its ever-improving health.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

- Are you a lover of the river?
- Want a hands-on role in protecting the river?
- Looking for an excuse to get out on the river once a month?

Join over 80 volunteers who participate in the water quality monitoring project! CRWA samples along the entire length of the river, from Milford to Boston, once a month at 6 AM. We need your help! If you are interested in sampling at a site near your home or work, please call Peggy Savage at 617-965-5975 ext. 221 for more information.

Pioneering Women's Crew Trained on the Charles

The Charles provides the scenic backdrop for CRWA volunteer Daniel J. Boyne's new book *The Red Rose Crew: A True Story of Women, Winning, and the Water*, which chronicles the dramatic story of the first all-women's crew team to achieve international success and glory.

In 1975 eight female rowers, their coxswain, and their coach rowed their way against the odds and into the limelight at the World Rowing Championships. The women went on to win the first two Olympic medals for rowing in 1976 and 1984, proving that women could compete in what had been largely a man's game.

The Red Rose Crew follows the fascinating lives of several women on this pioneering team, and travels back to a time when athletic opportunities for women were scarce. It took a big-hearted, strong-willed, and intelligent woman to break into a grueling sport like rowing and this group included quite a collection of impressive characters.

Boyne is director of Recreational Rowing at Harvard University and former varsity women's coach at Tufts University. He has published numerous articles in periodicals such as *Harvard Magazine*, *The Boston Book Review*, and *Wooden Boat*. A Cambridge resident, he is the author of *Essential Sculling* and a former columnist for *American Rowing Magazine*. He has volunteered for CRWA's Basin flagging program at Harvard's Weld Boathouse since the program began three years ago.

The Red Rose Crew, published by Hyperion in September, is available at area bookstores for \$23.95.

CHARLES RIVER PROGRESS REPORT

CRWA successfully completed a third season of public notification of water quality on the Charles River Basin. Funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Metropolitan District Commission, Boston Water and Sewer Commission, The Stop & Shop Supermarket Companies, and Triumvirate Environmental, this project provides boaters with up-to-date water quality information between June and October. Color-coded flags flew on the riverbank at nine boathouses, telling boaters whether the water meets the state's bacterial limit for boating. Results were also reported on CRWA's hotline and web site (www.crwa.org), televised on WBZ-TV4 news, and posted on boston.com.

CRWA collected samples at four locations between the Watertown Dam and the Museum of Science, testing for fecal coliform bacteria, an indicator of disease-causing pathogens. North Beacon Street Bridge, the upstream sampling location, continued to have the poorest water quality, likely the result of illicit discharges of sanitary sewage to stormdrains. The average fecal coliform concentration at the North Beacon Street Bridge was 385 colonies per 100 milliliters; concentrations violated the Massachusetts boating standard of 1,000 colonies per 100 milliliters 19% of the time. Downstream at the Longfellow Bridge, the average fecal coliform concentration was only 23 colonies per 100 milliliters. Water quality samples from the Longfellow Bridge never violated the boating standard, even following heavy rainfall. Look for the flags again next spring!

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 June 15, 2000 and November 15, 2000. Copies of comment letters are available at CRWA, 2391 Commonwealth Avenue, Auburndale (Newton) 02466.

Town	Project
Arlington	Environmental Notification Form for development of Mugar Parcel
Bellingham	Draft Environmental Impact Report for the EMC Campus
Boston	Boston University Sailing Pavilion redevelopment proposal
Boston	Draft NPDES permit for the 27 combined sewer overflows of the Boston Water and Sewer Commission
Cambridge	Draft Environmental Report for Kendall Square Station Equipment Upgrade Project
Wellesley	Environmental Notification Form for cleanup of the former Henry Woods Sons Paint Factory
Wrentham	Expanded Environmental Notification Form for wastewater collection from the Wrentham town center and lakes
Regional	Beaches Bill in the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee
Regional	Final draft permits for wastewater treatment plants in the Charles River Watershed
Regional	MWRA request for one-year extension of variance for the Lower Charles River Basin CSO control plan
Regional	Report of the Infiltration/Inflow Task Force

Thank You!

CRWA is grateful for generous recent contributions from a number of individuals and organizations who share our vision of a healthier Charles and who are committed to supporting our work.

Five individuals joined or renewed memberships in the Millennium Society with contributions of \$2,500 or more. They include two anonymous donors, **Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bloom, Lucy Caldwell-Stair, and Holyoke L. Whitney.** Headwaters Society contributions of \$1,000 or more came from three anonymous donors, **Stephen Burrington and Abigail Swaine, William and Nancy Fitz, Susan Jarvi, Mrs. William D. Manice, Andy and Linda McClane, David and Donna Smith, Caroline D. Standley, and Joanne J. Turnbull.** Companies and organizations contributing at the Headwaters Society level were **Beacon Hill Garden Club, Beals & Thomas, Gillette Company, Hitachi Computer Products, and Sun Life Insurance.**

Two restricted grants are helping support major projects. **Surdna Foundation** awarded a \$50,000 grant for assisting other watersheds in acquiring environmental assessment tools for land use planning and other initiatives. **Triumvirate Environmental** contributed \$5,000 toward our water quality monitoring and flagging program in the Basin.

Environmental Federation of New England provided \$4,248 through workplace giving programs. An anonymous donor gave \$1,000 earmarked for work on the Woerd Ave. landing project.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Nantucket Nectars** hosted a fundraiser, "Charity for the Charles," at its Cambridge headquarters during the Head of the Charles and donated \$4,000 in proceeds to CRWA. In-kind donations for the fun event, featuring music by Entrain, were provided by **Boston Ski and Sports Club, Burke Distributing (Sam Adams Beer), Finagle a Bagel, Jackson & Co., Rebecca's Café, and WBOS.**

C A L E N D A R

December 16, 1 - 2 p.m.

Charles River Dam Tour

Discover why the dam is one of the most important buildings in Boston. Meet at Charles River Park, Charlestown. Sponsored by the MDC. For more information call 617-727-1188 x445.

January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2 - 5 p.m.

Medicinal Botany: Past, Present, and Future Uses of Plants

During this four-week course on the history and current directions of medicinal botany, you will track the knowledge of medicinal plants from prehistory to the new field of zoopharmacognosy and the current ethnobotanical approach to new drug discovery. For more course information call the Arnold Arboretum: 617-524-1718 x162.

February 1, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Ecological Meadow Gardening

Slide-illustrated lecture about this practical alternative to large neatly-clipped lawns using an assemblage of plants that require almost no watering. Co-sponsored by the Arnold Arboretum, N.E. Wildflower Society and the Wellesley College Friends of Horticulture. For more information call 617-536-9280.

March 8, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

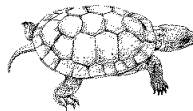
Suburban Sprawl: What's a Landowner to Do?

Anne Raver, garden writer for *The New York Times*, will give examples of how gardeners and farmers can reduce nitrate and pesticide runoff, and develop alternatives to storm drainage systems for retarding water runoff and recharging the aquifer. For more information call the Arnold Arboretum: 617-524-1718 x162.

March 17 - 25

New England Spring Flower Show, Bayside Expo Center, Boston

New England's largest indoor event presented by Mass. Horticultural Society. 2001 Theme: The Inspired Garden. Call 617-536-9280 for more information.



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 crwarotc@aol.com.

The Streamer

is published by the Charles River Watershed Association
2391 Commonwealth Avenue,
Newton, MA 02466
Phone: (617) 965-5975
Fax: (617) 332-7465
Email: crwa@crwa.org
Web site: <http://www.crwa.org>
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.

Board of Directors

Kelly McClintock, *President*
Lee P. Breckenridge, *Vice President/Environment*
Marty Sender, *Vice President*
Rose L. Bloom, *Clerk*
Ralph W. Abele, *Past President*
David C. Smith, *Treasurer*
Stephen H. Burrington
Lucy Caldwell-Stair
John P. DeVillars
Elizabeth C. Gilmore
Richard G. Gonci
Philip L. Hillman
Jonathan D. Katz
Virginia M. Lawrence
William D. Rieders
Caroline D. Standley
William J. Tedoldi
Joanne J. Turnbull
Willis G. Wang
Edward E. Watts, III
Andrew Wilson

Staff

Robert Zimmerman, Jr.,
Executive Director
Margaret VanDeusen, *Deputy Director, General Counsel*
Kathleen Baskin, *Project Manager*
Dudley Bonsal, *Environmental Scientist*
Kenneth Dews, *Finance Administrator*
Anna Eleria, *Environmental Scientist*
Kristin Finn, *External Relations Coordinator*
James Fitzgerald, *Laboratory Manager*
Mary Crain Penniman, *Senior Environmental Planner*
Nigel Pickering, *Senior Engineer*
Peggy Savage, *Environmental Scientist*
Louise Taylor, *Office Manager*
Interns: Hillary Johnson, Rosie Osser, Karen Putterman, Heidi Wallmeier, Wilhelmina Tsang
Streamer Logo: Lou Mucci
Line Art: Carol R. Johnson, Associates



PADDLIN' MADELEINE?

CRWA's pocket-size, waterproof Charles River Canoe and Kayak Guide is the perfect holiday gift for your paddling friends.

Just send \$10.55 (includes postage) to:

CRWA-Guide
2391 Commonwealth Avenue
Auburndale, MA 02466

Or order by phone with your credit card, 617-965-5975 x200.



CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
presents the

*Celebrating 36 years of
improvements to the Charles!*

19th RUN OF THE CHARLES CANOE AND KAYAK RACE

April 29, 2001

Sponsored By *Boston Duck Tours* With Support From You!

Some Ways You Can Help:

VOLUNTEER - Enjoy an insider's experience by volunteering. Gather family members, co-workers and friends – and enjoy the festivities together while supporting a great cause. We are always short of volunteers – please give us a day – it helps in a big way – AND IT'S FUN!

RACE - Join amateurs ages 12 - 80 as well as top paddlers from Canada and the United States. Get your company, friends and family together and join over 1500 paddlers in canoe & kayak races from 6 to 26 miles!

CHEER - Root on your favorite teams from Dedham to the Finish Line Festival at Herter Park, Allston.

SPONSOR - Get your company to advertise in the race book or support the race as a sponsor. Call (508) 698-6810 for information about advertising or sponsorship opportunities.

Call 1-800-969-RACE or (508) 698-6810, email CRWAROTC@AOL.COM, or visit CRWA on-line at WWW.CRWA.ORG for information on how YOU CAN GET IN ON THE ACTION!

Printed on recycled paper



Streamer

Charles River Watershed Association
2391 Commonwealth Avenue
Auburndale, MA 02466

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NATICK, MA
PERMIT NO. 61