



Organization for the Assabet River

Newsletter

April 2011

Vision for the next 25 years

Dave Griffin, OAR President

I have enjoyed speaking with many of you recently about the steps OAR is taking to formally include the Concord and Sudbury rivers in our mission. As outlined in the mailing to members in March, the Board of Directors of OAR has unanimously voted to recommend approval by OAR members of the Restated Articles of Organization and the Amended and Restated Bylaws (see sidebar “Special Members’ Meeting”).

We have long recognized that the Assabet River, while unique, can best be protected as part of a larger local river system, rather than as a separate entity. While there are many vital groups working on environmental issues within the watershed area of the three rivers, an advocacy group for the Concord and Sudbury rivers is lacking. By enlarging our mission to serve all three rivers, we can have a greater impact on the watershed as a whole and have a stronger collective voice for the ongoing work on the Assabet.

To do so, we need a name that reflects this expanded mission. After much brainstorming and careful consideration, OARS has been selected. In the community we plan to use the name and tag line “OARS: For the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers.” This new name embodies OAR’s evolution: from a strong reputation for science-based advocacy for the Assabet, to a future that welcomes the concerns of the communities surrounding the Concord and Sudbury rivers.

I hope you’re as excited by these changes as I am. The Board and I look forward to continuing our conversations about the organization’s evolution with our members and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Special Members’ Meeting April 4. Two-thirds of all OAR members must vote affirmatively to effect these changes. To move the process along and ensure success, **please mail in your Proxy Vote today.**



The Intel-OAR Environmental Innovators Contest challenged local high school students to develop creative ideas on how to improve the environment in their community. Teams from three high schools designed projects to address current problems of the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord rivers. Shown above, the winning team of Gabrielle Queenan and Emily Gao from Bedford High School presenting their innovation—an interactive website designed to involve the community in early detection of invasive plant species. More on the contest at www.assabeteriver.org.

Special Members’ Meeting

Called by the Board of Directors
Monday, April 4, 2011, 7:30 pm
Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge
Visitor Center (680 Hudson Road,
Sudbury, MA)

A vote will be taken at the meeting on the approval of the Restated Articles of Organization and the Amended and Restated Bylaws, which includes the name change from OAR to OARS. To effect the desired changes, the law requires approval by *two-thirds* of OAR members, and *two-thirds* of those present (in person or by proxy), respectively:

- **Restated Articles of Organization**, filed with the state to create a corporation, the articles contain the organization’s basic information (name, purpose, address, etc.) and tax exemption information.
- **Amended and Restated Bylaws**, these specify the organization’s rules of internal operation.

A proxy is simply a written authorization designating someone else to vote for you in your absence and specifying how that vote should be cast. The proxy can be downloaded from: www.assabeteriver.org, click on “Special Members’ Meeting” and then click on “Proxy Form.”

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OAR

The Organization for the Assabet River is a nonprofit organization established in 1986 to protect, preserve, and enhance the natural and recreational features of the Assabet River, its tributaries and watershed.

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Betsy Lawson, Dottie MacKeen, Wes Palmer,
Pam Rockwell, *Articles*
Sue Flint, Dave Griffin, Nancy Hunton, Wes
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Exciting changes ahead

Usually I reserve my greatest enthusiasm for the work that takes me outdoors, but I must say it's been quite exciting around the office lately. The OAR board and staff alike have been tackling the detail work needed to officially include protecting the Sudbury and Concord rivers in our mission. OAR's President, Dave Griffin, outlines this process in his article on page one.



As you know, this decision was not made lightly. It was based on research, debate, and conversations with many, many OAR members and partners over several years. We reflected on the original vision, articulated by Larry Roy, one of OAR's founders: to make the Assabet River a place where "you could do things you used to." To some this meant a place to fish for trout or bass, to others a place to swim, paddle, or introduce their children to wondrous aquatic life, or just a place to rest their eyes and find peace.

Today the Assabet is closer than ever to that vision. The Assabet's water quality has improved to the point where—most of the time—you can do most of those things "you used to." Our work is far from finished though, as we look forward to wastewater discharge permits that will make the Assabet a favorite place to fish and swim once again. We must now also seek to understand and protect our rivers in the context of a changing climate, emerging contaminants, and continuing suburban growth and loss of natural areas.

I called Larry the other day and asked him how he viewed OAR. "Look at the maps!" he said. "All three rivers flow north, and these are all uphill battles. OAR is the opposite of a NIMBY group—the river was IN our back yards and we wanted to make it better. We worked with the Assabet and can continue to do it with the Sudbury and Concord." Key to this, he said, is connecting with others—the communities, and local companies. Together with our partners, OAR has accomplished goals far beyond anything reasonable for a group of our size. It comes down to connection—with the water that is essential for life, with each other to make the best decisions for our communities, and with the three rivers as one connected river system.

It is very important that you send in your Proxy Vote without delay to help determine the future of our organization. We also hope you will join us at the Special Members' Meeting on April 4. If you have any questions or comments on the decisions ahead, please call a Board member or the OAR staff before April 4. We look forward to connecting with you all.

Very truly yours,

Alison Field-Juma
Executive Director



Watershed stories from OAR's biennial roundtable

Sue Flint

March 5, 2009: When nine lake and river conservation groups gathered to share news from around the watershed, the combined expertise, energy, and dedication was impressive. Highlights from OAR's sixth Biennial Roundtable for groups of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord watersheds include:

Hop Brook Protection Association, Sudbury

(www.hopbrook.org): HBPA has been working for many years to restore Hop Brook and its 130 acres of ponds (including Hager Pond, Grist Mill Pond, Carding Mill Pond, and Stearns Pond). Hop Brook, the Sudbury's largest tributary, is heavily impacted by nutrients discharged from the Marlborough Easterly wastewater treatment plant. In December 2009, after lobbying from HBPA, the EPA issued an order for Marlborough to start the upgrade design by February 2010 and to complete construction by January 31, 2014. With treatment plant upgrades underway, HBPA turned its attention to remediating the damage to the ponds, starting with weed-removal and sediment dredging on Carding Mill Pond.

Cochituate State Park Advisory Committee, Natick/

Framingham/Wayland (www.millermicro.com/csp.html): State-owned Lake Cochituate is the major recreational lake in eastern Massachusetts. Its heavily-developed watershed includes the state's largest shopping mall and the U.S. Army Natick Labs CERCLA (Superfund) site. A Eurasian milfoil infestation in 2002 galvanized interest and emphasized the need for collaboration among lake stakeholders: three Cochituate-focused conservation groups, the Conservation Commissions of Framingham, Natick, and Wayland, MA DCR, the MA DEP, and U.S. EPA. The groups are now working on a "mosaic plan" to treat milfoil including: Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) in Natick, chemical treatment in Framingham and Wayland, and controlled



Pat Conaway and Carol Berkowitz discuss Lake Cochituate issues.

hand-pulling throughout. At the Natick Labs CERCLA site, sediment and groundwater remediation is underway: sediments in Pegan Cove were partially dredged to remove PCBs last summer, and contaminated groundwater is being pumped and treated to remove VOCs. There is progress on the Cochituate Rail Trail: the Framingham section is now leased; CSX has removed its rails in Natick and Natick has money available, when and if CSX reduces its asking price for that section of the trail.

Lake Cochituate Watershed Council, Natick/Framingham

(lcwec.org/index.php): **Protect Our Water Resources**, Natick (lakecpowr.tripod.com/index.html) and **Big Heart-Little Feet**, Framingham (web.me.com/bpconaway/bigheartlittlefeet) recently combined efforts to form a community-based alliance, the Lake Cochituate Watershed Council. POWR originally formed to appeal the state's plan to control milfoil infestation with herbicides—Natick's drinking water wells are in the aquifer near

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Eagle Scout clears boat passage in Assabet

Wes Palmer, Life Scout (Boy Scout Troop 132 in Concord)

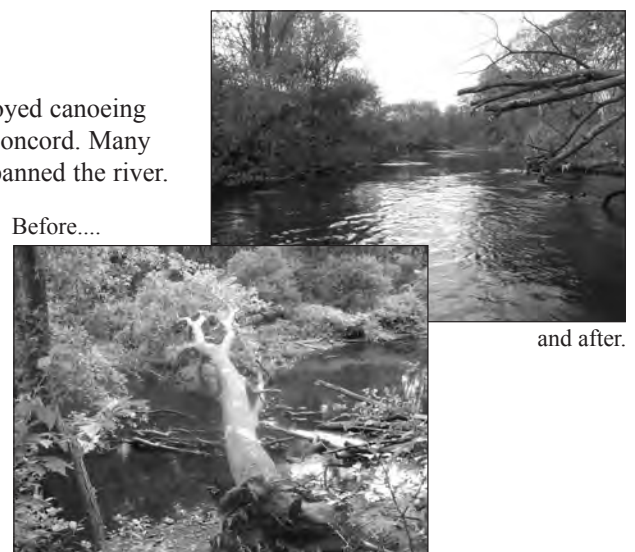
For my Eagle Scout project last winter, I thought about how I have enjoyed canoeing down the Assabet River that flows through my neighborhood in West Concord. Many trees had come down during the recent storms, including several that spanned the river. This was making passage difficult for canoeists and kayakers.

I chose three sites behind Thoreau Elementary School in West Concord to clear. I started figuring out how many saws we would need, waders, gloves, and other tools and safety equipment.

I met with and was encouraged by Russ Cohen from the Division of Ecological Restoration in the Mass. Dept. of Fish and Game to make sure that these trees be retained in and along the river wherever possible out of consideration for the environment. Fish and other marine wildlife often live just downstream of the trees because they block the current, allowing the fish to rest and regain their strength.

Many volunteers, including other members in my troop, came out from the community to help. It wouldn't have been such a success without all the support I got. Together, we managed to allow the trees to still perform their ecological functions while allowing paddlers to enjoy the river to its fullest extent.

Editor's note: Blocked passage in the Wild & Scenic segment of the Assabet was mapped in a community service project by classmate Sam Copeland last summer.



In memory of Mary Michelman

Pam Rockwell



Photo courtesy of Nancy Hunton.

This winter, our watershed lost a great champion for the environment.

Longtime OAR members will remember Mary Michelman from her time developing the first Acton shoreline survey in 1998. With a grant from the Crossroads Community Foundation, OAR hired Mary to organize the first Acton Stream Team: recruiting 150 volunteers to hike through 25 miles of wetlands along the shores of Nashoba Brook and Fort Pond Brook. The Stream Team identified wildlife habitats and recreational areas, but also areas of pollution or excessive nutrient loading. After the grant money ran out, Mary continued to lead the team as a volunteer, organizing the AST website with the detailed maps and surveys that the Stream Team developed.

Mary was always recruiting new advocates for the river, and she brought together the Town of Acton and the Massachusetts Riverways Adopt-a Stream program to fund stream awareness projects in Acton. In 2005, Mary received a River Steward Award from the National Park Service for her work as coordinator of the Acton Stream Team and the Acton Stream Awareness Project. One result of this project was the installation of signs at stream crossings throughout town to identify streams in Acton and increase the visibility of these natural resources. The Acton Stream Team continues to rally local volunteers to clear trails and cleanup trash along the streams.

But Mary's impact on our watershed far exceeds her work with the Acton Stream Team. After earning degrees in biology and oceanography from Bates and the University of Rhode Island, Mary had moved to Acton to raise her family. But like so many environmentalists, Mary ended up using her degrees not as a professional, but as a volunteer to advocate for her community, because she felt it was the right thing to do.

Mary embodied two principals that we at OAR believe in: that giving people opportunities to interact with the natural world will encourage them to take good care of the environment, and that you have to support your views with accurate scientific information. She did this with a quiet persistence, taking the time to get to know people and understand every side of a problem. She did not separate her advocacy and her personal feelings, rather she defended the environment because she genuinely cared about people and the natural world was just a part of the quality of our lives.

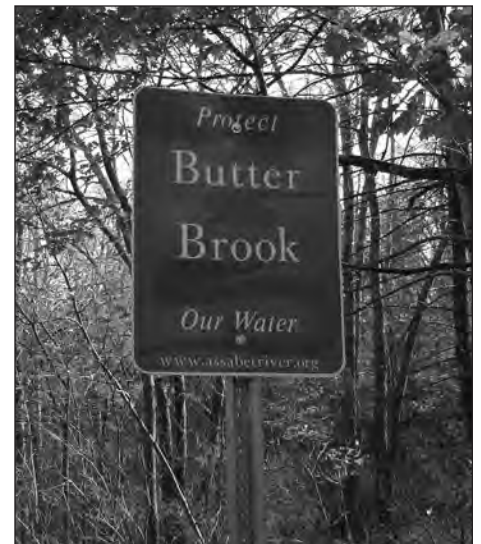
For decades Mary was a pivotal force for the Acton Citizens for Environmental Safety (ACES) formed to advocate for a thorough investigation and cleanup of the W.R. Grace Superfund site bordering the Assabet River. W. R. Grace had contaminated the town's drinking water wells. Night after night, Mary was the one who read through those copious reports from the superfund investigations describing every detail of the soil and water at the site. She wrote many of the detailed, factual analyses that ACES used to respond to the EPA. Former Acton Selectman and OAR board member Andy McGee believes that Mary's precise, in-depth reviews of the superfund documents were invaluable to the Town of Acton.

But Mary's gift was not just that she understood the science, but that she could get other people to understand it as well. She motivated people to get involved—to care like she did—by giving people opportunities to see the problem for themselves. Andy remembers the quiet, thoughtful manner that Mary used to encourage him to work on a problem, "I would get the

call at the office. Mary would always begin by saying 'Hi Andy. I'm sorry to bother you at the office, but do you have five minutes to talk about something?' And I would of course say 'yes'—and I would turn off my computer and get myself comfortable, maybe get out a pen and paper. And the interesting thing would be that after explaining the issue in detail, Mary would never tell you what to do, indeed she would never even ask you to do something. You would simply know what it was you needed to do."

Former State Senator from Acton Pam Resor met Mary through her work at ACES. Pam remembers the long hours Mary spent persistently pouring over documents and writing letters of advocacy. But Pam points out that the most important thing to know about Mary was what a genuinely caring individual she was. "She was not just a colleague to the people she worked with, she was a true friend. She would take the time to visit with her friends and not just query them about the issues at hand, but really learn about their lives and care about them."

Mary passed away from breast cancer in December of 2010, but she will be remembered by the hundreds of people she brought together to care for the world we live in. Mary Michelman, we will miss you!



Inspired by Mary, OAR placed signs at river crossings along the Assabet and its tributaries.



OAR's Wild & Scenic Film Festival filled the Fine Arts Theatre for the third year, making Maynard "a star" venue according to Susie Sutphin, Tour Manager.

While delving into environmental issues that we care deeply about, this year's 11 short films also made us laugh, and feel the energy and optimism of the people in them. They took the audience to some of the most remote and beautiful places on the planet, but also came close to home—a story of a Concord teen climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise money for wheelchairs. Two families put curves back in Oregon's Willowa River, restoring salmon and steelhead trout; and who couldn't smile when a Maine organic farmer asserted "don't we all want to be a farmer!" For a list of the films and a link to their trailers, visit www.assabetriver.org.

Emcee EJ Labb entertained us and Senator Jamie Eldridge, an environmental champion, spoke about being inspired to public service by Senator Pam Resor. Intermission provided a welcome opportunity to share lively conversation with friends and watershed neighbors.

OAR thanks the Fine Arts Theatre, the Maynard Cultural Council, and Maynard's Selectmen for making the evening possible. We also thank our Supporting Sponsors: Patagonia Boston, Kangas & Arnold, P.C., O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, and Studio-e.

Thank you to our Community Sponsors: Dunia, Nashoba Brook Bakery, Concord Outfitters, Zoar Outdoor, Global Goods, EMS, REI, Cast Iron Kitchen, Halfway Cafe, Acton's Colonial Spirits, Stow's Colonial Spirits, and CACDigital. The

film festival was also made possible thanks to National Sponsors: Patagonia, Osprey, Cliff Bar, Kleen Kanteen, Grist, and Sierra Nevada.

A big thank you to our emcee EJ Labb, the theatre tech crew Dan LaChapelle and Ashley McFarland, and to our volunteers and everyone who came out to see the films and support clean water in our Wild & Scenic Rivers, the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord.

Join us next year!



Alison Field-Juma and Julia Khorana with emcee EJ Labb (in the middle).

Welcome, New Members!

Jill Appel
Fifi Ball
Kevin Calzia
Casey Carlson
Holly and Bill Clack
Chris and Claire Farrell
Blair Gately
Caroly Gouchoe
Sara Hartman
Suzanne Hogan
Barbara Howell
Helen Jones
Janice Jones
Kathleen Lueders
Bruce and Skye Lucier
Monique Maley
Don Nicholson
Deborah Niles
Peter Severance
Thoughtforms Corporation
Margaret Tucker
Sherry and Sarah Zitter

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Mary Michelman
Morene Bodner and David Carlisle
Debbie Listernick

In Memory of Deward Carver
Damon Kletzien

In Memory of Carol Knight
Thoughtforms Corporation

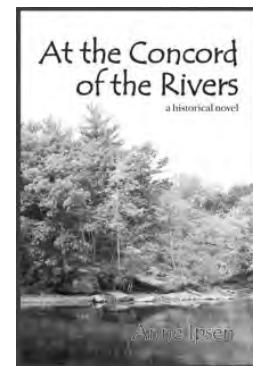
Author to share her story of Concord and the three rivers at the Maynard Library March 31 at 7 pm

Dottie MacKeen

Anne Ipsen has always been intrigued by the history of Concord and its three rivers. Her most recent book *At the Concord of the Rivers* reflects that fascination in a story of time travel in which a modern-day historian awakes from an accident to find herself in Sudbury in 1692. Her discoveries of life in that time, the options open to women, and the relationship between the Puritans and the remnant Native Americans of Nashoba Indian Village make for a mix of history and romance.

When Abigail, a Harvard graduate student from Concord, realizes she is no longer in the time she knows, she adapts with the enthusiasm of a true historian given the opportunity to experience the very events she has been studying. As she navigates the local politics (and the local rivers), learns the skills needed to survive as a woman in the 17th century, and—yes—falls in love with a man from the Natick village, Abigail gives the reader a fresh and immediate view of life in that time.

Anne Ipsen was born in Denmark but has lived most of her life in the U.S.,



earning degrees from Radcliffe and Harvard. She was a professor at the University of Minnesota before becoming a full-time writer. Her previous books include *Running Before the Prairie Wind, an Historical Novel of Southwestern Minnesota*, and *A Child's Tapestry of War, Denmark 1940-1945*, which draws on her experiences as a child during the Nazi occupation of Denmark. To learn more, visit www.anneipsen.com.

The event is sponsored by OAR and the Friends of the Maynard Library and is free and open to the public. The author will have copies of the book available for purchase.

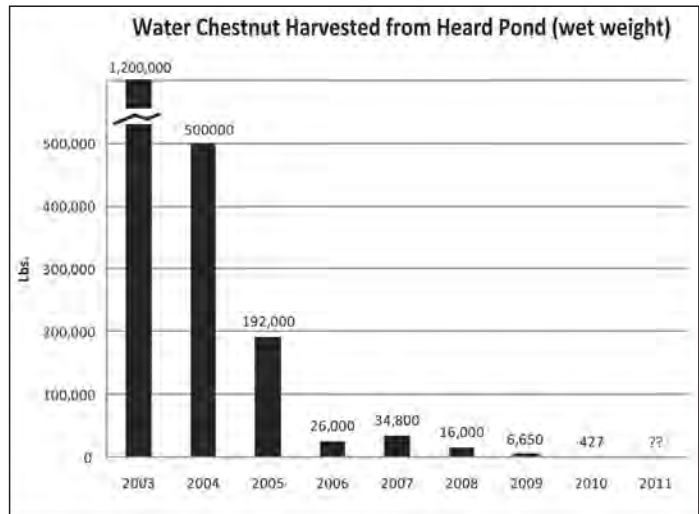
Roundtable, page 3

Cochituate’s Middle Pond. In 2010, EPA agreed to use chemical spot-treatment in North Pond and a non-chemical approach in Middle Pond (nearest Natick’s wells). Natick hired a DASH boat to harvest milfoil, which worked well. Additional harvesting is planned for 2011. Big Heart-Little Feet, founded to help people protect the earth, organized river and trail clean-ups, made and set out recycle “buddy bins,” stocked mutt mitt stations, and started Trail Work Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Sudbury Ponds and Waterways, (www.sudbury.ma.us/departments/PWC): A volunteer town committee, formed in 2005 to help protect the over-200 small ponds, 45 streams, and one river in Sudbury through public education and engagement. The committee developed a master plan, is working on an adopt-a-pond program to encourage stewardship of the largely privately-owned ponds, and is collaborating with Hop Brook Protection Association on weed harvesting in the Hop Brook ponds. With a grant from the Sudbury Foundation, they created a detailed watershed map (available on their webpage) to draw awareness to the nature of water in Sudbury.

Westford Watersheds—straddling three watersheds: Nashoba Brook (draining to the Assabet), Stony Brook (draining to the Merrimack) and Pond Brook (draining to the Concord). Their goals include habitat protection, advocacy, and education. They helped extend the National Heritage & Endangered Species core habitat designation areas in Westford by documenting the presence of rare and endangered species. In collaboration with OAR, they monitored water quality on Stony and Nashoba brooks for the last five years and used the data to track sources of pollution. They found high nutrients in Butter Brook and have narrowed the problem to somewhere near the horse farm upstream of the Butter Brook golf course.

Wayland Surface Water Quality Committee, (www.wayland.me.us/Pages/WaylandMA_BComm/Surface/index): A volunteer town committee, it protects Wayland’s surface waters: Dudley Pond, Heard Pond, Sudbury River, and North Pond of Lake Cochituate. It has focused on three weed-removal projects: milfoil in Dudley Pond and in the North Pond of Lake Cochituate, and water chestnut in Heard Pond. The Heard Pond



Pounds of water chestnut harvested from Heard Pond (data from Wayland SWQC)

water chestnut removal effort, now handled by a contractor, has been very successful. In 2003, before harvesting, the sediment-bottomed areas of the pond were 100% covered by water chestnut; in 2010 they harvested only 427 pounds of weeds. Their advice is to keep at it!

White Pond Advisory Committee (www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Bcomm/whitepond): A volunteer committee appointed by the Concord Selectmen to assess concerns around White Pond. White Pond is a kettle pond, sister to Walden Pond, and is heavily used for recreation. Issues include 95 homes on septic, shoreline erosion and litter, and decreasing dissolved oxygen levels. The completion of the Bruce Freeman rail trail is likely to increase pond use and calls for good management. Next steps are to develop a comprehensive management plan to encourage recreational use while protecting and preserving water quality and habitat, and conduct catch-basin cleaning and shoreline clean up.

This roundtable was funded through a grant from the Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council. Thank you to the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge for hosting us.

Volunteers wanted for sampling on the Assabet, Sudbury & Concord rivers!

Learn first hand about the rivers and streams of the Sudbury, Assabet & Concord river watershed: volunteer with OAR’s water quality monitoring program! You’ll learn how to take measurements at one of our training sessions and work with our team of volunteers over the summer. The data you collect will help us understand the long-term water quality trends of the three rivers and give us a snapshot of conditions each month.

We sample on Sunday mornings (dates below), with each team of volunteers sampling a section of 4–6 sites. Sampling starts at 5:30 am and takes about three hours. You can sign up to help on all six Sundays or as few as three. Email sflint@assabetriver.org or call 978-369-3956 to sign up for a training session.



Training sessions for new and returning volunteers:

- Thursday, May 12th, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in Sudbury
- Sunday, May 15th, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. in Acton
- Wednesday, June 1st, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in Hudson

Sampling dates for 2011:

- May 22, June 19, July 17, August 14, September 11, November 13

A big hand to our volunteers!

David Marks for his talk “Assabet River: Historic Floods and Management”

Lydia Rogers for leading a tracking walk, a winter favorite at OAR

Paul Goldman, Carol Kyte, Marty Moran, and Dottie MacKeen for representing OAR at Russell’s Winter Fair

Judy Bennett, Jeff Collings, Aliza Edwards, Bill Froberg, Dave Griffin,

Carol Kyte, EJ Labb, Debbie Listernick, Dottie MacKeen, Marty Moran, and Laura Rome for helping with film selection, advertising, and everything else that made our Wild & Scenic Film Festival a huge success

Bill Froberg, Paul Goldman, Ingeborg Hegemann, and Laura Rome for reviewing projects and judging presentations for the Intel-OAR Environmental Innovators Contest

OAR



Yes, I’d like to help the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord rivers!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Leadership Circle:
 - Benefactor \$2500
 - Steward \$1000
- Guardian \$500
- Protector \$250
- Friend \$100
- Activist \$50
- Member \$30
- Student/senior \$15
- Other _____

Make checks payable to OAR and mail to:

OAR
23 Bradford Street
Concord, MA 01742

To pay by credit card:
Go to www.assabeteriver.org and click on join or renew. Then follow the instructions.

OAR will be automatically notified.

- If your employer has a matching gift program, please include the company’s form.
- Your membership dues are tax deductible and include a subscription to the OAR Newsletter.

Thank you for your support!

A lens on the Assabet

Barbara Bosworth has been photographing the New England landscape for over 20 years. Using an 8x10 camera, she is interested in the ways people and nature interact. Now, in collaboration with OAR and through funding from the River Stewardship Council Small Grants Program, she has begun a project to photograph the Assabet River.



While focusing on the wild and scenic components, she will also explore it’s rich human history as she looks at the ways people use the river, including fishing, swimming, boating, and hiking. If you live along the river or if you have a favorite view and would be interested in talking with Barbara, please contact her at bbosworth@earthlink.net.

Her work is included in the collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and the San Francisco Museum of Fine Art. A monograph of some of her photographs titled *Trees: National Champions* was published in 2005 by MIT Press.

Three Rivers Chorus to perform debut concert in Stow

Betsy Lawson

The newly formed Three Rivers Chorus—serving the communities united by the watershed of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord rivers—will perform its inaugural concert *To Be Sung on the Water* in Stow at St. Isidore Church on Saturday, April 9. The chorus is collaborating with Musketaquid Arts and Environment of Concord and the improvisation artists of InterPlay. The program will include works by Samuel Barber, Leonard Bernstein, William Billings, Hans Leo Hassler, and Roger Stratton; also featured will be pieces inspired by folk songs from Ireland, Norway, and Bosnia.

Artistic Director Ellen Oak of Maynard founded the non-profit organization. “Our mission is to educate, inspire, and celebrate diverse singers and audiences through outstanding choral performances and broad outreach,” Oak said. “Our repertoire spans many eras and styles, from chant to contemporary. We delight in the power of singing together to reach beyond the music itself. It improves health and quality of life. It develops responsibility, creativity, and leadership in our members. It strengthens our communities. It helps us connect with the common earth, water, and air which we all share, and on which we all depend.”

For concert details and more information, visit: www.threeriverschorus.org.



Return service requested



Upcoming OAR events!

"At the Concord of the Rivers"

Thursday, March 31 from 7-8:45 pm

With author Anne Ipsen (see page 5). Cosponsored by OAR and the Friends of the Maynard Library. Maynard Public Library, 77 Nason St.

Special Member's Meeting

Monday, April 4 at 7:30 pm

Don't miss this meeting (details on page 1), followed by delicious desserts!

Earth Day Parade

Saturday, April 30 at 10 am

Join OAR in celebrating Earth Day. We will march in the Musketaquid Earth Day parade with our famous fish hats and butterfly and dragonfly puppets (we have plenty for you too!) and then join the Arts and Environment Festival at Emerson Umbrella.

Sampling Training for WQ Monitoring

Thursday, May 12 at 7 pm, Sunday, May 15 at 8 am, or Wednesday, June 1 at 7 pm

Volunteer and learn about water quality monitoring on the Assabet, Sudbury, & Concord rivers! Locations, sampling dates, and contact information on page 6.

RiverQuest at Riverfest

Saturday, June 11 start 11 am-12:30 pm

Join us to explore the confluence of our Wild & Scenic Rivers. Put your canoe or kayak in at the Lowell Street bridge in Concord (or the Southbridge Boathouse if renting a boat). Paddle the lower Assbet and Sudbury, continuing down to the Old North Bridge on the Concord searching for clues and stickers. This is a family-friendly paddle. Picnicking and other activities at the Old Manse.

Concord River Paddle

Saturday, June 18 from 9 am-noon

Join OAR and SVT on a paddle down the Concord River through historic Concord and Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

River Solstice

Tuesday, June 21 at 6:30 pm

Celebrate the solstice with a musical picnic on the grounds of the Old Manse and end the evening with a twilight paddle. This event, one of our favorite traditions, is cosponsored by Musketaquid.



Details for all events are at

www.assabriver.org or 978-369-3956