

# Spring 2010: Taunton River Coalition Conservation & Nature Series



Welcome to our Spring program series. All programs are open to anyone who would like to attend. Programs are free of charge unless otherwise indicated. If your town board doesn't have funds to pay the fee, scholarships may be available. Call (508) 828-1101 for assistance. Additional events will be posted on the TRWA website: [www.savethetaunton.org](http://www.savethetaunton.org)

For more information on a specific event, please contact the event sponsor. Our programs are supported by the sponsoring organizations and The Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust.

[www.SaveTheTaunton.org](http://www.SaveTheTaunton.org)

## Green Fair 2010

**Saturday, March 20 – 10 am to 4 pm**

Sponsor: The Environmental Advocates for MA Southeast and Taunton River Watershed Alliance

Location: Old Colony Vocational Technical High School  
476 North Avenue, Rochester

Admission to the Green Fair 2010, in its fourth year, is FREE. Join us and you will learn how the actions of individuals can impact the health (water flow and volume, cleanliness, wildlife viability) of our watershed and our global environment in general. Learn how to have a positive effect on our environment. Join us at the Fair.

For anyone with garages and basements full of various electronic devices or appliances that have outlived their usefulness but seem too substantial, or too dangerous to discard, the TEAMS Green Fair on Saturday, March 20 may offer a solution. Miracle Network Solutions of Middleboro has arranged for CRT Recycling of Brockton to be on hand in the parking lot of the Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School to collect such items for recycling. The donation requested for most items including computers and monitors will benefit Old Colony's Green Committee. A fee of between \$10 and \$14 will be required to drop off television sets.

## Learn to Certify a Vernal Pool

**Saturday, March 27 – 8:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Sponsor: Soule Homestead Education Center and The Nature Conservancy

Leader: Patricia Cassidy, Middleborough Conservation Agent

Location: Soule Homestead Education Center, 46 Soule Street, Middleborough

Learn to identify a vernal pool, what creatures use the pool, how to document them for certification and the importance of vernal pools in the environment. There will be both a classroom and field component where we will learn about topographic and assessor's maps, aerial photographs and field observation forms. This is intended for adults and older children interested in certifying pools in their area. Participation is limited. Rain or Shine

FREE. Preregistration required, 508-947-6744

## History of the Mill River

**Wednesday, March 24 – 7 pm to 9 pm**

Sponsor: Taunton River Watershed Alliance

Location: First Parish Church, Taunton, MA

The Mayor of Taunton, Charles Crowley, who is also a local historian will be presenting a program on the "History of the Mill River." Come learn about Taunton and its significance in the regional industry due to the River, its dams and manufacturing. Light refreshments to be served.

FREE. All are welcome.

## Woodcock Wanderings

**Saturday, March 27 – 7 pm to 8 pm**

Sponsor: The Trustees of Reservations

Leader: Tom Athearn, Green Futures

Location: SE Massachusetts Bioreserve, Watuppa Reservation HQ  
2929 Blossom Rd., Fall River

Some guys will go to great lengths to attract members of the opposite sex. The reclusive American Woodcock is best known for its spectacular spring courtship flight. Staking out his territory, the male sings a nasal "peent" from an open clearing. He then takes flight, spiraling upward while the wind makes a whistling sound through his feathers. Dropping back to earth, he returns to the exact spot where he began to repeat the display over and over. Join Tom Athearn of GREEN FUTURES on this walk to witness the spring dance of the woodcock.

FREE. Please pre-register: Call TTOR Bioreserve office (508) 679-2115

## Birding at Burrage Pond, Halifax

**Saturday, April 3 – 8 am to 11 am**

Sponsor: Mass Audubon, South Shore Sanctuaries

Location: Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area, Halifax

Leader: Charlie Nims

Early migrants may have already arrived, but winter ducks may still be lingering. We'll watch for northern pintails preparing to migrate and tree swallows that may already have done so. We'll pay special attention to the presence of American kestrels and will discuss their conservation needs.

COST: \$8/person. To register or for more information., call 781-837-9400.

## Vernal Pools After Dark

**Saturday, April 10 – 7 pm**

Sponsors: Mass Audubon

Leader: Kyla Bennett

Location: Hockomock Swamp, Easton

Join us for an evening walk led by biologist Kyla Bennett to find vernal pools in Massachusetts' largest freshwater wetland and to meet the creatures that rely on these increasingly threatened habitats for breeding and survival. Bring a flashlight and wear waterproof boots. Rain will not cancel—in fact, the rainier, the better! All ages welcome.

FREE. To register and for meeting location, contact Priscilla Chapman, 508-828-1104 or [pchapman@massaudubon.org](mailto:pchapman@massaudubon.org)

## Fields and Farmlands: Those Often Overlooked Last Best Places

**Saturday, April 17 – 8 am to 11 am**

Sponsor: Mass Audubon

Location: Halifax/Middleborough

You are invited to join Wayne Petersen, Mass Audubon's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program Director, for an early spring exploration of unique and rapidly disappearing open field and farmland habitats that are among the best places in the Taunton River watershed for finding birds and other wildlife at this season. From migrating waterfowl and early shorebirds, to phoebes, swallows, and blackbirds this excursion will provide a broad overview of the wildlife value and significance of these increasingly scarce habitats in southeastern Massachusetts. Bring binoculars and footwear that can get wet or muddy.

Trip will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Wildlands Trust's Striar Conservancy on Rt. 105 in Halifax. For directions, see: [www.wildlandstrust.org/GoForAWalk/PreserveDetailPageHalifaxStriar/tabid/206/Default.aspx](http://www.wildlandstrust.org/GoForAWalk/PreserveDetailPageHalifaxStriar/tabid/206/Default.aspx)

COST: \$8/person.

To register or for more information, call 781-837-9400

## Green Landscaping Workshop

**Saturday, April 17 – 9 am to Noon**

Sponsor: Save the Bay

Location: Save the Bay Center, 100 Save the Bay Drive, Providence, RI

Get your yard ready for Spring! Join us for a morning of great tips and excellent buys on everything you need to get your gardening season off to a green start. You'll hear from local experts on a range of topics from combating invasive plants to managing pests organically to composting with worms. Test your soil samples with URI Master Gardeners, shop at the farmer's market, and entertain the kids at the project table. [www.savebay.org](http://www.savebay.org)

FREE. To reserve a rain barrel in advance, visit [www.rivaterlady.com](http://www.rivaterlady.com)

## Taunton River Watershed Annual Conference

**Saturday, April 24 – 9 am to 1 pm**

Sponsor: Taunton River Watershed Alliance

Location: Bristol County Agricultural High School, 135 Center St., Dighton

**Getting It for Free: Achieving Open Space Goals with Little or No Cost to Municipalities.** This workshop will explore bold open space plans and the opportunities available to implement them. While most communities plan within their municipal boundaries, plans become more powerful (and more likely to be implemented) when they look at natural resources that cross town boundaries (streams, wetlands, aquifers, etc.). And with climate change looming, the regional concepts are critical in getting from planning to "shovel ready" community projects. Actual successful case histories in the watershed will be highlighted.

FREE. Brunch will be served.

To register, visit [www.savethetaunton.org](http://www.savethetaunton.org) or call 508-828-1101

## Dams, Dam Removal and River Restoration in the Taunton Watershed

**Monday, May 10 – 7 pm to 9 pm**

Sponsor: The Nature Conservancy

Location: Dunn Conference Suite, Crimson Hall, Bridgewater State College

Participants will gain a better understanding of the number, nature and condition of dams in the Taunton Watershed. The format will be a panel discussion with slide presentations followed by a Q and A. Presenters include Brian Graber, Director of River Restoration at American Rivers and Beth Lambert, River Restoration Program Coordinator of MA Dept. of Fish and Game. They will provide an overview of the ecological benefits of dam removal in riverine habitats and why it matters beyond fish passage.

FREE. No registration required. For information, call 508-732-0300 x21.

For directions, visit [www.bridgew.edu/directions.cfm](http://www.bridgew.edu/directions.cfm)

## Taunton River Festival

**Saturday, June 5 – 10 am to 5 pm (raindate June 6th)**

Sponsor: The Neighborhood Corporation—

Greater Taunton's Community Development Corp.

Location: Weir Riverfront Park, Taunton

The Neighborhood Corporation's signature event, the Taunton River Festival, is held each June at the Taunton's Weir Riverfront Park. Admission is FREE! This family-oriented community celebration is attended annually by thousands of area residents. The Taunton River Festival features live entertainment, educational exhibits, and numerous games and activities for kids.

## Taunton Wild and Scenic River Run

**Saturday, June 12 – 9 am to Sunday, June 13 – 4 pm**

Sponsors: Taunton River Watershed Alliance

This annual canoe and camping trip starts on the Town River, goes on to a cookout, entertainment, and overnight camping at Titicut and then down the Taunton River to the Weir Village. Exact locations depend on water conditions and will be announced later. Call for arrangements for scout or youth groups with adult leaders. Dinner and evening program is included in cost. Prior registration is required.

Further details will be posted to the website, [www.savethetaunton.org](http://www.savethetaunton.org)

To register or for more information, call 508-828-1101.

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CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT SIDE



## Taunton River Watershed Management Plan Workshops

### Coming in April/May

Sponsor: Horsley Witten Group  
Location: To be announced

The Taunton River Watershed Management Plan includes the design of six innovative water management demonstration projects throughout the Taunton Watershed. Keep your eyes peeled for exciting workshops this April or May highlighting these demonstration projects and other Smart Growth tools for our watershed. The theme is to "keep water local" and protect our unique aquatic habitats through innovative stormwater management, wastewater systems, stream buffer restoration and other techniques. Examples of local code reform efforts will also be discussed. Visit the link below for more information in the coming months

FREE. For information and updates, contact Ellie Baker at Horsley Witten Group 978-499-0601, ebaker@horsleywitten.com or visit [www.horsleywitten.com/tauntonwatershed/TauntonRiver-WS-workshops.html](http://www.horsleywitten.com/tauntonwatershed/TauntonRiver-WS-workshops.html)

## Shaping the Future of Your Community 2010 Workshop Series

### Dates and Times to be announced

Sponsor: Mass Audubon  
Location: To be announced

In 2010 Mass Audubon is concentrating their workshops in the "sprawl frontiers" which include the Taunton, Ten Mile, and Narragansett Bay watersheds. This program provides information and assistance to help guide community development, limiting negative impacts to natural resources and community character. These workshops review land use and development patterns in these communities, provide guidance for crafting and implementing effective strategies to update and implement community plans; identify and protect the highest priority lands to protect habitat, and water supplies; provide incentives for well-planned growth; develop housing and jobs in a sustainable manner; and establish and apply regulations to minimize the impact of development.

FREE. Visit [www.massaudubon.org/shapingthefuture](http://www.massaudubon.org/shapingthefuture) for a schedule of upcoming workshops. Or, if you see a need for a Shaping the Future workshop program in your community, please contact Stephanie Elson at 781-259-2146 or [selson@massaudubon.org](mailto:selson@massaudubon.org)

### The Taunton River & Nemasket River Herring Run Approximately mid-March to late May

Location: Wareham Street and Oliver Mill Parks, Middleborough.

The Taunton River/Nemasket River herring run is the largest in New England and possibly the largest on the east coast. The herring run consists of two species, Alewives (which start first) and Blueback Herring (which run later in the season). Alewives like to spawn in the ponds, but Bluebacks will spawn in the rivers. The fry return to the ocean from late summer, through the fall and early winter.

The first two weeks in April are generally the peak of the season. They seem to run faster in sunny weather.

FREE. All spectators are welcome during the season.



PHOTO CREDIT: NYSDEC

### The Taunton River Coalition

- ~ Taunton River Watershed Alliance, Inc.
- ~ Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts
- ~ Mass Audubon
- ~ The Nature Conservancy
- ~ The Trustees of Reservations
- ~ Save The Bay - Narragansett Bay
- ~ The Trust for Public Land
- ~ Environmental League of Massachusetts
- ~ Jones River Watershed Association
- ~ Southeast Regional Planning & Economic Development District

## Taunton River



Taunton River Coalition | PO Box 1116, Taunton, MA 02780 | 866-393-TRWA [www.SaveTheTaunton.org](http://www.SaveTheTaunton.org)

### Taunton River Coalition

c/o TRWA

PO Box 1116

Taunton, MA 02780

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Presented by the Taunton River Coalition—  
A partnership of conservation and planning organizations  
working to protect the Taunton River Watershed

[www.SaveTheTaunton.org](http://www.SaveTheTaunton.org)



Taunton River



Coalition