

# Salem SoundNet

## April 2009 Newsletter

### In this newsletter.....

April 22, 2009 marks the 39th celebration of Earth Day. This year we decided to [reflect on far we have come](#) since Earth Day began in 1970.

We also invite you to join in [Salem State College's Earth Day celebrations](#) as they examine "Troubled Waters."

And we have lots of [interesting activities coming up](#), so break out your calendar.

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## Reflections on Earth Day

As we prepare to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, it's nice every now and then to step back and reflect on how it came about and how far we've come.

Earth Day was created in 1970 at a time when the environment was in a shambles. At that time the "green" issues only revolved around wilderness preservation and conservation.

It was a time when factories were unregulated; pollution was being pumped into the air and dumped into rivers and lakes; urban rivers caught fire and cities were hidden under dense clouds of smoke.



Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin felt that the status of the environment was the biggest issue facing the country and he was frustrated because he could not get Congress to care. (He was the Al Gore of his day.)

He decided the only way to put the environment on the national political agenda was to hold a national "teach-in." It was held on April 22 and called Earth Day.

The first Earth Day was a phenomenal success. Rallies were held across the nation. Twenty million people turned out to express their concern about the environmental degradation and public opinion turned Congress around almost overnight.



Earth Day activities led to the passage of the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Use Reduction Act and more.

It also led to the creation in 1970 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which was charged with protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment-air, water and land.

We've come a long way since 1970, but we still have a long way to go.

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## "Troubled Waters: Seeking Ethical and Sustainable Solutions"

is the theme of Salem State College's Earth Days which run from April 13 - 22. All activities are free and open to the public. There will be presentations on water-related issues, free movies, panel discussions and awards.

Highlights include:

- Barbara Warren, Executive Director of SSCW will be given a "Friend of the Earth" Award on Wednesday, April 22 at the Earth Days 2009 Evening Program. Join us. Festivities begin with a reception at 6 pm. The program runs from 7:00 - 8:45pm. Veterans Hall, Ellison Campus Center.
- Panel discussion on "Managing the Troubled Waters of the North Shore and Boston" -- Monday, April 13, 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Martin Luther King Room, Ellison Campus Center  
*Please note that Barbara Warren, Executive Director of SSCW will be speaking on this panel.*
- Talks on water issues, including water shortages, with experts from the US Geological Society and MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

For a complete schedule and more information [click here](#).

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## Upcoming Activities

Mark your calendars now!

### **Monday, April 13, 7- 9 pm: Presentation on the Health of Salem Sound.**

As part of the Palmer Cove Yacht Club Regatta Committee Speaker Series, Barbara Warren will be discussing the overall health of Salem Sound, highlighting what's going on below the water line. Free. Open to the public. Palmer Cove Yacht Club, 74 Leavitt St., Salem.

**Saturday, April 18, 10 am - 3pm: Marblehead Go Green Fair.** Sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Marblehead Community Center, 10 Humphrey St, Marblehead. Free.

**Saturday, April 18, 9 am: Clean-up of Beverly Beaches.** Sponsored by the First Baptist Church in Beverly. Everyone welcome. Meet at the Church to learn more about issues affecting Salem Sound, hit the beach at 10 am. Contact Kim Stone, 978-922-7681.

**Monday, April 20, 12 - 4 pm: North River Clean-up** with employees of Timberland in Peabody. Meet in the corner of the Stop & Shop parking lot on Howley St. in Peabody.

**Wednesday, April 22, 7 pm: Friends of the Earth Award Ceremony** (see SSC Earth Day article above), Salem State College, Veterans Hall, Ellison Campus Center.

**Thursday, April 30, 9am - 12:30 pm: How to Fund Your Municipal Stormwater Program.** With Ellie Baker and Rich Claytor of the Horsley Witten Group. Danvers Library, 15 Sylvan St, Danvers. Free. RSVP to SSCW.

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**May 2 - 9 North River Awareness Week:** (Please check the [Calendar](#) on the SSCW website as events are added for the North River Awareness Week.)

- **Saturday, May 2, 9 am: Furlong Park Public Design Meeting; 10 am: Clean-up following the meeting** as part of Salem Clean Sweep. Meet at the park on Franklin St. in Salem.
- **Tuesday, May 5, 12:30 - 1 pm - Annual Fish Sampling Demonstration and Smelt Count Update on the North River.** Meet on the river at Howley Street. Park in Stop & Shop parking lot.

Join us for this annual event. The Division of Marine Fisheries will display the catch from the morning's sampling and provide an update on the status of spawning smelt based on eggs found in the North River. This project is part of an effort to develop an index of the abundance of rainbow smelt in four rivers throughout the region. No registration required -- just show up ready to learn about fish and their habitats.

- **Saturday, May 9 - Proctor Brook Walk and Talk, 9 - 10:00 am**  
Meet at Peabody Road (south of Lowell Road, just east of Rt. 95/Rt.1) next to the Proctor Brook and abandoned railroad easement.

Join Barbara Warren, Salem Sound Coastwatch Director, for an hour 'walk and talk' along the banks of the Proctor Brook. This is Peabody conservation land and site of the Peabody Bikeway. We will provide an overview of key stream and wetland environmental issues and discuss a vision for the future of this natural resource and its relationship to flooding downstream in Peabody Center. No registration required -- just show up.

**Saturday, July 25 - SAVE the DATE! - 4th Annual Swim & Fin Race for Salem Sound.** 500 and 1500 meter open water swim, and Salem Harbor flatwater kayak and canoe races to benefit Salem Sound Coastwatch! Forest River Park, Salem.

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### Misc.....

**Volunteers needed** for office work: If you're willing to help collate sets of Marine Invasive Identification cards, we can use you! Call 978-741-7900 or email [info@salemsound.org](mailto:info@salemsound.org) to let us know when you are available.

**2009 - 2010 Greenscapes Yard Calendars are now available.** These colorful calendars are filled with easy to follow tips about lawn and yard care practices that help protect the environment. They are available at the following libraries: Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Salem.

We'll close by saying that one way you can help celebrate Earth Day is by donating to Salem Sound Coastwatch. Your money will be put to work cleaning up our local water.

[Click here](#) to make a secure on-line donation. Thanks!

Barbara Warren, Executive Director  
Susan Yochelson, Outreach Coordinator

