

# Salem Sound e-Monitor

## May 2008 Newsletter



It's May! The flowers are blooming, the grass is growing, the warm days are coming and there are a lot of great things to do. Especially at Salem Sound Coastwatch.

This month is filled with interesting activities. There is something for everyone--photographers, gardeners, history buffs, music lovers and anyone interested in our local ecology.

This newsletter is devoted to letting you know about upcoming events of local interest. Read on and join us!

### The Highlights:

- One of the highlights of the month is the fourth annual Keeping the **Earth SAFE and SOUND benefit party** for Salem Sound Coastwatch and SAFE (Salem Alliance for the Environment), **Friday, May 16**, 7:30 pm - midnight.



The renowned band A Patch of Blue is back by popular demand. The evening includes cool jazz, hot dancing, a silent auction and hors d'oeuvres.

Tickets are only \$15 or 10 for \$125. Come and bring your friends. A great time will be had by all! Call for tickets, or purchase online at [salemssound.org](http://salemssound.org)

- Did you know that Salem used to look very different? A river ran through it. Join us for a free presentation by Barbara Warren on **The Great of Rivers of Salem--the North River, the South River, and the Forest River**. Barbara will give an historical overview of the rivers describing how they've changed over the past 350 years and their current conditions. **Thursday May 8**, 7 pm in the Phillips Library of the Peabody Essex Museum. (See below for directions)
- If you appreciate beautiful photographs you will definitely want to come to an evening **with professional photographer Gary Stanley of Light-Chasers**. **Thursday, May 22**, 7:00 pm.

Gary is a nationally known nature, landscape and wildlife photographer with numerous photo and writing credits in national magazines.



The Peabody Essex Museum and SSCW are co-sponsoring this free event where Gary Stanley will share his excitement for nature and the outdoors, along with his knowledge and experience that he has gained over the past twenty-five years of photography.

Light-Chasers is about the joy and excitement of photography, about the thrill of chasing the light in an effort to capture an image that moves one's soul and captures one's heart. To see his work and learn more about Light-Chasers, visit [www.light-chasers.com](http://www.light-chasers.com).



- **You can improve your gardening skills** and learn about green roofs, permeable paving stones, rain gardens, how to have a gorgeous chemical-free lawn, how to compost and how to make compost tea (nature's perfect plant food) at the **free Greenscapes workshops** which are co-sponsored by the Topsfield Fair. (see below for more details)

**And there's more! So read on and mark your calendars.**

Most of these events are free; all are open to the public. Just show up.  
Call or email if you have any questions ([info@salemsound.org](mailto:info@salemsound.org) or 978-741-7900)

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## 6th Annual SSCW North River Awareness Week May 4 - 10

The North River used to be clean and wide, flowing through Salem all the way from Peabody Square. Then it got filled in and became what was described as "the most polluted river in the state." Now it's now a river in recovery and the fish are beginning to spawn again.



Each year SSCW sponsors a week-long series of community events and presentations to raise awareness about this natural resource and its potential to be a tremendous asset to the community.

### 1. **Monday May 5 - Community Meeting to Discuss Furlong Park** 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

What does Furlong Park Need? Furlong Park is located on Franklin Street on the banks of the North River in North Salem. The river bank is eroding, and the waterfront park needs help. This meeting will start a dialogue that will hopefully lead to park improvements.  
978-741-7900.

Meet at SSCW, 201 Washington St., Second Floor, Suite 9, Salem

### 2. **Thursday May 8 - Annual fish sampling demonstration and North River Smelt**



**Count** 12:30 - 1:00 pm Rainbow smelt live in salt water, but swim upstream to spawn in the North River. As the river gets cleaner and healthier, the rainbow smelt have been returning.

The Division of Marine Fisheries is studying the abundance of rainbow smelt in four rivers throughout the region, including the North River. At this demonstration, they will display the catch from the morning's sampling and provide an update on the status of spawning smelt in the North River. Show up ready to learn about fish and their habitats. Meet on the river bank at Howley Street, near Harmony Grove Road. Park in the Stop & Shop parking lot.

3. **Thursday May 8 - "The Great Rivers of Salem: Past and Present"** 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

Presentation by Barbara Warren, Executive Director of SSCW. (See above highlights for description.) In the Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, 134 Essex St, Salem, next to Armory Park and the National Park Visitors Center.

4. **Friday May 9 - WALK and TALK Along the North River Canal** Noon - 1:00 pm

Join Barbara Warren for a lunchtime 'walk and talk' along the banks of the North River Canal. Key environmental issues facing the river will be discussed.

Participants will be given an opportunity to share their own concerns and wishes for the river and its drainage basin, as we discuss a vision for the future of this natural resource.

Meet at the North River Park (Leslie's Retreat Park) parking lot beside O'Rourke Bros Memorials (73 North St) between Route 114, Commercial St, and Bridge St.



5. **Saturday May 10 - Workshop on "Soaking Up the Rain"** 9:30 am - 11:30 am

When it rains, pavements and rooftops shed water containing sediments and chemicals that eventually pollute our rivers, streams, ponds and coastal waters. These impervious surfaces also increase the likelihood of flooding.

This workshop will present different strategies for homeowners to put rainwater to good use. Curtis Dragon, a certified organic landscaper will talk about rain gardens, a landscaper who installs green roofs will talk about green roofs, and Lou Iuliano from Ideal Paves will talk about permeable pavers that allow infiltration of rainwater and recharge of groundwater.

In the farm store at Brooksby Farm, 38 Felton Rd, Peabody, and MA.

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## Free Greenscapes Workshops

### Does Your Lawn Need Some TLC?

- **Tuesday May 13 - Workshop on Lawn Care Basics and How to Phase Out Chemicals** 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Did you know you can have a healthy lawn without using potentially toxic chemicals? In this workshop, Curtis Dragon, certified organic landscaper with over 30 years experience, will teach proper mowing techniques, how to select proper seed, how to control pests, when to water, and the basic steps to achieving a beautiful chemical free lawn that is safe for children and pets, has healthy plants, and also conserves water (which saves you money).

Sponsored by Topsfield Fair and Greenscapes North Shore Coalition. At the Topsfield Fairgrounds, Bee Building Rte 1 (207 Boston St.), Topsfield, MA.

### Make Your Own Compost!

- **Tuesday May 20 - Workshop on "Easy Composting for Healthy Landscapes"** 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join us for a lively and informative presentation by Ann McGovern from the MA Department of Environmental Protection on the ins and outs of composting, including composting with worms. Both novice and experienced composters are encouraged to attend.

Believe it or not, composting is fun, and the compost you make is great for your garden. Curt Dragon, certified organic landscaper, will show us how to make compost tea for an inexpensive fertilizer that is "nature's perfect food."

The Greenscapes North Shore Coalition and the Topsfield Fair are jointly sponsoring this workshop. At the Topsfield Fairgrounds, Bee Building Rte 1 (207 Boston St.), Topsfield, MA

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**Plus--**

**Wednesday May 21 - "Changes to Our Region's Natural History" 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Barbara Warren, Executive Director of Salem Sound Coastwatch, will explore how human activity has caused changes in our region's natural history. She will focus on the rocky shores, harbors, and tidal marshes.

Her presentation will include how salt marshes have been impacted, invasive species that have come to our waters from across the globe, and a peek at how climate change could affect our coastline.

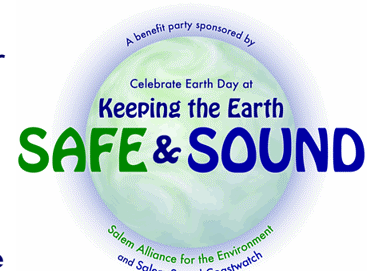
Free for members of the Ipswich Historical Society; \$5 for non-members. Refreshments will be provided. Ipswich Historical Society, Appleton Room, 54 S. Main St., Ipswich, MA 01938

**And Don't Forget--**

**It's Party Time--Friday May 16 -"Keeping the Earth SAFE and SOUND" - Benefit party for SSCW and SAFE (Salem Alliance for the Environment)**

**7:30 pm - Midnight**

Tickets are \$15 or 10 for \$125. Tickets are available online at [salemsound.org](http://salemsound.org) or call 978-741-7900



- **And Thursday May 22 - The Art of Photographing Nature with Gary Stanley of Light-Chasers 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Free.**

In the Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, 134 Essex St, Salem, next to Armory Park and the National Visitors Center.

We hope to see you at one or more of these events! And be sure to forward these activities to a friend.

Sincerely,

Barbara Warren, Executive Director,  
Susan Yochelson, Outreach Coordinator