

Newsletter, February, 2018

TRAIL WORK



Our volunteers worked on the trails last year in eight four-hour sessions from September 18 to December 2.

They included 54 members of URI's women's crew team (photo, left) who, on Sept. 30, improved the trail bed to the east, spreading 1,600 feet of gravel by hand. (They also enjoyed lunch of pizza, with ice cream dessert donated by Brickley's.)

In addition, World Language Honor Society members from Narragansett High School volunteered. Unfortunately, wintry weather forced us to cancel them after the first day.

EDUCATION SIGNAGE

Work is progressing on the educational signage funded by a \$6,000 RI Foundation Community Grant. The first sign is almost finished. Titled "Loving the Land — Restoring Native Habitats," it is a watercolor by local artist Frances Topping depicting volunteers working to remove invasive plants from the trail. A second educational sign will explain the importance of wetlands.

THE LINEAR PARK

We have made significant progress on the creation of a linear park along the eastern shore of Lake Canonchet and Little Neck Pond. We received permission from Parks and Recreation Director Steve Wright and the town council to have URI students create conceptual plans for the park, and begin the process of hiring a landscape architect at FOCF expense to create a design for a linear park. Over a three-month period we gave three presentations to the town's planning board, which voted to support our efforts.



Nothing but invasives...

The Linear Park, continued

Subsequently we presented conceptual plans authored by URI students to Steve Wright, the town council, the planning board and citizens attending our annual meeting. The plans, which include a walking trail on the west side of the ponds, also were displayed at Gansett Days, and at the annual meeting of the Narrow River Preservation Association. A request for proposal (RFP) is ready to be sent to area landscape architects with a deadline for submission in February.

EVENTS:

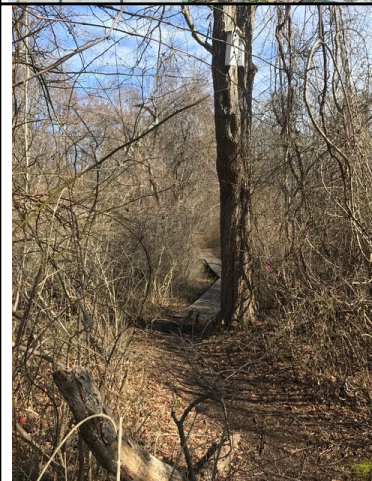
Saturday mornings now until April: Volunteers work on trail improvement from 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the FOCF trailer at South County Museum. Call 783-3951 or email events@canonchet.org if you want to volunteer.

On Pettaquamscutt 2018. Presentations on the environment and the history of the Narrow River Watershed will be held at Maury Loontjens Memorial Library, Narragansett.

Sunday, January 28, 2018: South County Museum Associate Director Blair O. Gagnon presents "The Sampler — A Young Lady's Education in the 18th & 19th Centuries." Sponsored by SCM.

Sunday, February 25, 2018: Gary Cassabona, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA. presents "Habitat Management for Pollinators." Sponsored by FOCF.

Sunday, March 25, 2018: URI Watershed Watch Program Director Linda Green presents "Narrow River and the Watershed: Twenty-five Years in Review." Sponsored by NRPA.



Upper left: Before the stile.

Upper right: West of the stile, looking west, Nov. 2017.

Lower left: East of the stile, looking west. Feb. 2017

Lower right: East of the stile, looking west, Oct. 2017.

