

## Niantic River Watershed Happenings (3/10)

*“Niantic River Watershed Happenings” is an impressive list of accomplishments conducted by many individuals, organizations, town officials and local, state or federal departments in the Niantic River and Bay Watershed. These activities whether great or small all contribute towards the goal of maintaining and improving water quality. It is an opportunity to celebrate and give recognition to all that has been accomplished to date.*

### Planning Efforts

- Final document of *Guided Summary* of the full *Niantic River Watershed Management Plan* was completed and published in March 2009.
- Met with town representatives and CEOs to discuss plan adoption and possibility of **Niantic River Watershed Board**
- **Salem, Montville, Waterford and East Lyme** - Anticipated incorporation of portions of Niantic River Watershed Resource Mapping and plan recommendations into all four towns’ “Plan of Conservation and Development” and land-use regulations

### Monitoring

- Continued water quality monitoring of the Niantic River by **Save the River-Save the Hills**
- Continued nitrogen groundwater monitoring studies by **USGS**
- Continued water quality monitoring efforts by **East Lyme-Waterford, East Lyme Shellfish Boards and Ledgelight Health District**
- Continued water monitoring for water quality and aquatic life-**Dominion, Inc.**
- Watershed group is looking at funding opportunities for researching the eelgrass population in the river.

### Outreach Efforts

- Updating the website for Niantic River Watershed: [www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)
- Numerous outreach events to schools and general public by participation in local fairs, classroom discussions and public information sessions. For a list of outreach activities and responsible parties, please refer to website above.

- Cooperation with local municipalities to display information about Niantic River Watershed through displays, municipal websites and distribution of.

## **River Clean-Up**

- Annual river clean-up sponsored by **Save the River-Save the Hills**
- Continued free boat pumpout service offered by **Save the River-Save the Hills** on the Niantic River

## **Staffing**

- Continued funding for Watershed Coordinator-**Eastern Connecticut Conservation District** (8 hours a week per current contract). Funding through **EPA 319** funds, administered through **DEP**.

## **Stormwater/Sewer Projects**

- **East Lyme**-Installation of sanitary sewer lines at Saunders Point to start commencing soon.

## **Funding**

- Received \$2,000 grant from **CT Sea Grant College Program/NEMO Program** for work towards riparian buffer outreach and workshops targeting the Niantic River Watershed.
- Funding granted to **USGS** for three stream monitoring stations by **DEP**
- Funding for **Watershed Coordinator** through March 2011. Funding through **EPA 319** funds, administered by **DEP**
- Requested funding for **Watershed Coordinator** 2011-2012 submitted to **DEP**
- Received funding for “Sound Decisions” Radio, Podcast, Print, Social Marketing submitted by **Save the River – Save the Hills, Inc.** in partnership with **Suzanne Thompson** with support from **Eastern Connecticut Conservation District**