

# Action in the Mystic

## Mystic Watershed Collaborative:

A Partnership between Tufts University and the Mystic River Watershed Association

### Race with the Fish: 10<sup>th</sup> Herring Run Festival Takes Off on May 14th

By Dara Olmstead, Director of Community Programs, Mystic River Watershed Association

Every year, blueback herring and alewives swim up the Mystic River in order to reach their native spawning grounds. In the past, millions of bluebacks and alewives swam through the Mystic, but their numbers have dropped considerably due to offshore fishing and the building of dams on the river. But no matter what the hurdles they face, the fish keep returning year after year. And for the past nine years, local residents have been running along the banks and paddling up the river to show their support of the river and the tenacious herring and alewives that call it home.

The Mystic Herring Run Festival is held every May and now consists of a 5k run, paddle race and the festival itself. This year, the May 14<sup>th</sup> event has been expanded to include a 5k walk. The run is organized by the Mystic River Watershed Association and the Alewife/Mystic River Advocates, with support from the City of Somerville. It is being held at the Boys & Girls Club-Blessing of the Bay Boathouse in Somerville (32 Shore Drive in Ten Hills, off Mystic Avenue).

The festival has four main goals to:

1. Bring people to the river and create a sense of stewardship among the participants;
2. Illustrate the potential of the river for recreational activities;
3. Bring attention to the annual migration of the herring and alewives, and
4. Highlight the environmental challenges facing the Mystic River.

Got your running shoes or oars ready? Sign up at [active.com](http://active.com) to run, walk or paddle with the fish! Enjoy a run or stroll around the Mystic Basin on a gentle off road path that winds through state parklands in the midst of this urban core. Or get onto the water where you may even see some of the herring heading upstream as you paddle along. Or are you just looking for some fun? Come to the festival and check out the food, music and children's activities, while enjoying the beauty of the river.

The festival is always a huge success and could not be done without the help of volunteers and local businesses who give generously to support the festival.

Are you interested in helping out or making a tax-deductible donation? Contact Dara Olmsted at [dara@mysticriver.org](mailto:dara@mysticriver.org) or 781-316-3438.

10<sup>th</sup> Mystic Herring Run Festival  
Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Runner/walker registration  
9:00am Paddle race registration  
9:00am 5k Race  
9:15am 5k Walk  
10:30am Canoe & Kayak Races  
9am-12pm Herring Run Festival



## Ice Breaks Early on Mystic Lake

By Ken Legler, Tufts Sailing Coach

The Tufts Sailing Team got out on Mystic Lake earlier in 2006 than any other year in recent memory. January 20 breaks the 2002 record of January 28 for sailing on the open water of Mystic Lake. Normally there is an average of one foot of ice on Mystic Lake through January. Six other practices were held on the lake before the beginning of spring this year. The winter of 1990 was almost as warm. After a record cold December of 1989 and very thick ice, by February 1, 1990, the ice was almost all gone. Due to lack of snow, or refreezing of melted snow, it turned out to be a good year for iceboating on Lake Quonapowitt in Wakefield. Might this be due to global warming? Maybe we should ask Professor Paul Kirshen in Civil & Environmental Engineering or other Tufts colleagues?



## Mystic Watershed Forum 2006: Knowledge Exchange and Implications for Action

Friday, April 28, 2006

Tufts University

Rabb Room, Lincoln Filene Hall

- 2:00PM Poster Session and registration  
2:15PM Welcome and Overview  
Rob Hollister, University College of Citizenship  
Public Service and Nancy Hammett, Executive  
Director, Mystic River Watershed Association
- 2:30PM First Panel & Q&A  
1. John Durant, Tufts Overview of Chemicals &  
Contaminants in the Watershed  
2. Jenny Birnbaum, MyRWA Mystic  
Monitoring Network Report Card  
3. Robert Berault, USGS Sediments in the  
Mystic Watershed  
Q&A
- 3:30PM Poster session and networking  
3:45PM Second Panel & Q&A  
1. TBA, ENSR, FEMA Floodplain Mapping  
2. Joan Blaustein, MAPC Pre-Hazard  
Mitigation Preparedness  
3. Brad Chase, MA DMF Restoration of the  
Anadromous Fish in the Mystic  
Q&A
- 4:45PM Poster Session and networking  
5:00PM Closing Visions: Implications of the Research  
for Protecting & Restoring the Watershed  
Moderator: Nancy Hammett, MyRWA  
Invited panel of academic, community and  
government representatives
- 6:00PM Reception  
Mystic Mover & Shaker awards  
Refreshments and networking

Editor: Rachel Szyman, Americorps VISTA Associate

Lincoln Filene Center for Community Partnerships  
University College of Citizenship and Public Service, Tufts University  
Medford, MA 02155

Website: <http://www.tufts.edu/tie/mwc/>  
Email: [rachel.szyman@tufts.edu](mailto:rachel.szyman@tufts.edu)  
Phone: (617)627-2811  
Fax: (617)627-4142

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