

2009 Year in Review

Mystic River Watershed Association

The Mystic River Watershed Association is pleased to report that 2009 was a productive and successful year. MyRWA continues to work diligently to protect and restore the Mystic River, its tributaries and watershed lands for the benefit of present and future generations. Looking back over the past year, here are some highlights:

- In January, with great help from volunteer Pete Mellor, MyRWA unveiled a new and improved website: www.mysticriver.org. Staff are continually updating and adding new features.
- MyRWA hired a new Water Quality Monitoring Director, Patrick Herron, PhD, and expanded our staff to include Beth Meserve as Outreach Coordinator.

Water Quality Monitoring Director, Patrick Herron gathering water samples.



Kayakers on the Mystic River in Medford.

- MyRWA staff performed water quality workshops to over 30 youth in Chelsea and East Boston. These hands-on workshops enabled youth to explore their local ecology and test the water around them. Additionally, three Citizen Scientist Training Workshops enabled 17 volunteers to participate in MyRWA's Baseline Monitoring Program by training them in the theory and methods of water quality testing. This work was part of the **Lower Mystic Initiative**, funded by the Boston Foundation.



Youth from Chelsea learn how to test for dissolved oxygen.

- The Mystic River Watershed Association was highlighted in a June episode of Ch.5's Chronicle HD, "Into the Mystic", complete with an interview from MyRWA's Executive Director, board members, and volunteers.



Volunteers receive training at a Citizen Scientist Training Workshop in East Boston.

- In the fall, Sarah Shivers, an intern from Tufts University, undertook a project addressing **Sanitary Sewer Overflows**, or SSOs. MyRWA now has a program dedicated to increasing reporting of SSOs through a volunteer network. Read about MyRWA's **SSO program** [here](#).

- In collaboration with the Massachusetts Area Planning Council, MyRWA assisted in developing an online interactive **Mystic River Electronic Environmental Atlas**, which will be available in early 2010. Stay tuned for this dynamic resource!
- In October, MyRWA had a successful **Annual Meeting** that included a special address by Kathy Abbott, Executive Vice President of *The Trustees of Reservation*.



2009 Annual Meeting. MyRWA's Executive Director, EkOngKar Singh Khalsa, "Volunteer of the Year" Mark Jacobson, John Reinhardt, who received the "Special Recognition of Leadership Award", and guest speaker Kathy Abbott.



MyRWA had educational tables at various festivals and fairs throughout the Watershed.

- Outreach efforts included a successful 13th annual Herring Run and Paddle Festival, participation at over 10 community-based fairs and festivals, and successful cooperative fundraising efforts with local businesses including *Whole Foods Market* and *Not Your Average Joe's*.
- MyRWA increased our cash revenues from \$223,700 in 2008 to \$298,200 in 2009 - an increase of approximately 33% - in support of our mission to protect and restore the Mystic River and its watershed lands.

- MyRWA received funding from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) to develop an **Urban Trail Map and Guide** that will highlight recreational opportunities in the Lower Mystic Watershed. The map and guide will be used as an outreach tool to increase visitation to and appreciation of the river system that connects our communities.
- MyRWA continued to sustain our **Mystic Monitoring Network**, documenting water quality throughout the Watershed.



The Malden River

- We are keeping our members up-to-date through expanded communication efforts, including a monthly electronic newsletter and social media outlets [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

A special thanks to all that made our work possible, including our generous funders, many volunteers and members, and supporting businesses and organizations. We couldn't do it without you!

MyRWA looks forward to a productive year ahead, further engaging the public in our work to bring attention to the Mystic River.

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The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is a community-based private nonprofit with a mission to protect and restore the Mystic River, its tributaries and watershed lands for the benefit of present and future generations. MyRWA was established in 1970 and is a 501(c)(3) organization.



Mystic River Watershed



Mystic River Watershed Association
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www.MysticRiver.org

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