

Salem SoundNet

July 2009 Newsletter

In this newsletter...

Salem Sound Coastwatch's big annual event is coming up--the **Swim & Fin Race for Salem Sound**. **Find out how you can participate.**

We are also featuring "Ask Salem Sound Coastwatch," with this month's question about dog poop. And be sure to catch up on SSCW's activities and upcoming events.

Swim & Fin RACE FOR SALEM SOUND

Coming Soon - Saturday Afternoon, July 25 -Join Us!

Salem Sound Coastwatch's signature event, the **Swim & Fin Race for Salem Sound** celebrates the recreational opportunities available in and on the waters of Salem Sound as well as the work of Salem Sound Coastwatch.

Highlights include:

- Swimming races for all levels - 500 and 1500 meters
- Kayak and canoe races for all levels - 2.5 mile touring course and 5+ mile competitive course
- Cash prizes and medals!
- Incredible viewing of the races from Forest River Park
- Underwater "petting zoo" courtesy of science teacher Kevin Andrews and his "Traveling Tidepool"
- Massages donated by Body & Soul of Salem
- Displays of marine invasive species taken from our local docks
- Free admission for all to Forest River Park, a hidden gem that is one of Salem's most beautiful parks
- Food, music and fun

You can:

1. **Come!** The swim **starts at noon**; kayak and canoe races **start at 2 pm**
2. **Volunteer to help** (email us at info@salemsound.org)
3. **Tell everyone you know who swims or kayaks or canoes to enter!**

The 500 meter swim is a **fun swim** and the 2.5 mile touring course is **great for recreational paddlers**. Serious competitors will enjoy the longer races.

All proceeds support Salem Sound Coastwatch's efforts to keep our beaches and streams clean and healthy.

For more information or a downloadable registration form visit swimandfin.org



[Register for the Kayak/Canoe Races](#)
[Register for the Open Water Swim](#)

Become a fan of Swim & Fin Race for Salem Sound on Facebook!



Thanks to the following sponsors who make it all possible:

Ocean River Institute
Hawthorne Cove Marina
Eastern Bank
Beverly Cooperative Bank
North Shore Bank
North Shore Medical Center
The Salem Inn
SAFE - Salem Alliance for the Environment
Net Atlantic



Ocean River
INSTITUTE

If You Think Picking up the Pup's Poop is Gross, Try Swimming in It....

Ask Salem Sound Coastwatch

Q: My neighbors pick up their dog's waste and then either dump the bag in the "sewer" or throw it into the woods. Also, I belong to a dog-walking group that hikes the trails in local wooded areas. Some of the people in the group will kick their dog's poop away from the trail and say that there is no harm in leaving it if it's in the woods.

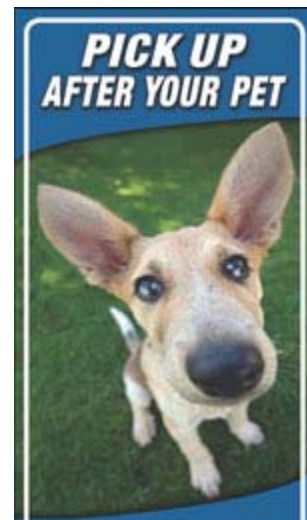
What can I say to these people?

A. Many people think dog waste is just a messy nuisance (especially if you step in it) and they may not understand that it can carry disease causing bacteria. E. coli, fecal coliform, salmonella, viruses and parasites such as giardia are all found in dog feces.

Dog wastes that are not picked up and disposed of properly present a health hazard, no matter where they are--even in the woods. EPA considers pet waste a water pollutant that needs to be managed.

When dog wastes wash away, they don't just go away. They are carried by rainwater into the storm drains, which flow directly into the nearest body of water. The fecal matter fouls the water, closes shellfish beds and makes people sick.

- **Tell them that the storm drains are not sewers!
They do not go to the sewage treatment plant.**
- **Trash should never be thrown into a storm drain. Ever.**



Storm drains are designed for water; trash will either clog them and cause flooding, or be washed into the waterway.

The bottom line is that pet wastes can pollute. **The proper way to dispose of pet waste is to either:**

- **bag it and throw it in the trash**
- **flush it down the toilet**
- **or if you're in the woods, bury it at least 5 inches deep.**

Hope this helps.

SSCW Updates - *What We've Been Up To*

It's been a very busy summer so far, but we're lucky to have three wonderful interns working with us--Emily Gardiner from the University of Vermont, Tim Shu from Whitman College, and Amanda Jolly from Salem State College.

Volunteers have been busy **collecting water samples** from 20 stormwater outfall pipes and streams throughout the watershed, which are monitored for bacteria levels. [Click here](#) to see the results.

We've also been monitoring **marine invasive species** in local tidepools and on floating docks. We appreciate the hardy volunteers who have braved the almost constant rain to help us with this project.

We can report that **horseshoe crabs** were observed in at least three locations during their spawning season--at Collins Cove, Cat Cove and Osgood Park, all in Salem. Thanks to everyone who went horseshoe crab hunting. And we would still appreciate an email or phone call if you have any sightings.

We are happy to be the service partner for a number of organizations, including the **Timberland** store at the North Shore Mall, **St. Joseph's Middle School**, and the **Upward Bound Program** at Salem State College.

Timberland employees spent a day (until it started raining) at Forest River Park pulling the invasive pepperweed plant from gravelly beaches where it was beginning to take over, the St. Joseph's students worked hard removing pepperweed from Derby Wharf and the adjoining beach, and the Upward Bound kids will be doing cleanups and stenciling storm drains with the message "Dump No Waste - Drains to Ocean" as their service project this month.



And Upcoming Activities

Mark your calendars now!

- **Saturday, July 11, 9:00 am - Noon: Marblehead Farmers Market** at the Marblehead Veterans Middle School, 217 Pleasant Street, Marblehead. Stop by and say hello.
- **Saturday, July 25: Don't Forget! Swim & Fin Race for Salem Sound** at Forest River Park, 98 West Ave, Salem. Races are at Noon and 2 pm.
- **Saturday, August 1, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm: Salem Maritime Festival** on the Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Derby Wharf, Salem. Visit the SSCW table under the tent.

We'll close by saying thank you to **CinemaSalem** for donating the space and to everyone who came to the screening of **A Sea Change** on June 7. We were very pleased to have a standing room only crowd of over 150 people who were interested in learning about ocean acidification on a Sunday morning. We will be revisiting this topic in the coming months.

Barbara Warren, Executive Director
Susan Yochelson, Outreach Coordinator