

Salem SoundNet

May 2009 Newsletter

In this newsletter.....

Join us for the Massachusetts Premiere of the [highly acclaimed movie](#) "A Sea Change Imagine A World Without Fish."

It's that time of the year--time to start our summertime volunteer monitoring. Read on for [volunteer opportunities](#). You might want to start out by [looking for horseshoe crabs](#).

Be sure to catch Barbara Warren and SSCW volunteers as they identify marine invasives on [Channel 5's Chronicle](#). And we have lots of [interesting activities coming up](#), so break out your calendars.

Looking for Adventure?

Become a Horseshoe Crab Sea Sleuth

Are you tired of your same old predictable life? If so, then you probably want to become a "horseshoe crab sea sleuth" for Salem Sound Coastwatch.

Horseshoe crabs are an amazing species. They've been around for over 450 million years. (Yes, that's 450 *million!*) They hark back to the very beginning of life on earth--before people, before dinosaurs, even before flowering plants.

Not crabs at all (like crabs, they are arthropods, but they are more closely related to scorpions, ticks and spiders), these strange-looking creatures are very important to the biomedical industry where they play a vital role protecting us from exposure to dangerous bacteria.



An extract from the blood of the horseshoe crab is used to test all of our medicines, vaccines, and intravenous medical devices for bacterial contamination. No other test works as easily or reliably to ensure that medicines are safe.

But back to the sleuthing--horseshoe crabs have been seen in the Salem Sound area, but they are in decline. **Your assignment, should you agree to accept it, is to look for horseshoe crabs and report any sightings to SSCW.**

When and where are you most likely to spot them?

Horseshoe crabs are most easily observed when they are spawning. They can be found on protected sandy beaches at high tide during the full and new moons. Look for them on beaches where there is not a lot of wave action, such as those found in estuaries.

The next full moon is **June 5 - 9**, and the new moon is **June 20 - 24**. Put these dates on your calendar, [click here](#) for more information and for high tide schedules, and let us know what you see.

Contact SSCW at 978-741-7900 or info@salemsound.org.

Have fun! The evening high tides tend to be between 10 pm and 12:30 am.



Volunteer Opportunities

It's that time of the year when Salem Sound Coastwatch hits the beaches and streams to monitor for water quality, for marine invasive species and to get rid of the invasive perennial pepperweed plant before it goes to seed.

Clean Beaches & Streams

- Activity: collecting water samples from stormwater outfall pipes and streams.
- Time Commitment: Early morning (before work) twice a month in June (starting June 11), July and August. [Click here for dates and times.](#)
- Orientation and training: **Thursday, June 4, 7:00 - 8:00 pm** in the Community Room of Beverly Cooperative Bank, 73 Lafayette St, Salem--next to Wendy's. If you are interested in volunteering but not able to attend the training, let us know.

Marine Invasives Monitoring

- Activity: Working in a group, we look at floating docks and rocky tidepools to identify and quantify invasive species.
- Time Commitment: Must be available during the day on weekdays. Three sessions are scheduled for June at Winter Island and Hawthorne Cove Marina in Salem and Lynch Park in Beverly. [Click here for times and dates.](#)
- Training: A training session was held in May, but if you missed it, you will be trained "on the job."

Pepperweed Pull

- Activity: Join employees from the Timberland Company for a "pepperweed pull" at Forest River Park in Salem.
- Time and Date: **Tuesday, June 9, 9 am - 3 pm.** Come anytime and stay as long as you can! Bring your own lunch.
- Location: Forest River Park is 98 West Ave, Salem, MA 01970.

Contact SSCW if you are able to join us for any of these activities. 978-741-7900; info@salemsound.org

Upcoming Activities

Mark your calendars now!

- **Saturday, May 30, Noon - 5 pm: "EarthFest" at the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade in Boston.** SSCW will be at the Ocean River Institute Booth. Stop by and say hello.
- **Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 - 8:00 pm: "Invasion" on Channel 5's Chronicle.** Barbara Warren and SSCW volunteers are featured on this TV show about marine invasives.
- **Thursday, June 4, 7:00 - 8:00 pm:** Volunteer training for Clean Beaches and Streams. Community Room, Beverly Cooperative Bank, 73 Lafayette St., Salem.
- **Sunday, June 7, 10 am: Massachusetts Premiere of "A Sea Change - Imagine A World Without Fish"**

Help us mark World Ocean Day by coming to this free and thoughtfully presented film. *A Sea Change* uses breathtaking photography including stunning underwater footage to bring attention to the crucial but little-known issue of ocean acidification.

The film follows Sven Huseby, an engaging grandfather and educator, as he journeys from Alaskan fishing villages to Norwegian glacial beaches to better understand and find a cure to the problem of ocean acidification, its connection to climate change, and what can be done about it. The movie has received excellent reviews in the national media.



No Admission! At CinemaSalem, 1 East India Square, Salem. RSVP Requested. 978-741-7900; info@salemsound.org

- **Tuesday, June 9, 9 am - 3 pm: Pepperweed Pull.** Forest River Park, 98 West Ave, Salem, MA.
- **Saturday, June 13, 10 am - 3 pm: Salem Living Green and Renewable Energy Fair.** Sponsored by Salem's Renewable Energy Committee and the Salem Chamber of Commerce. Old Town Hall, Salem. Free.
- **Saturday, June 20, 11 am - 4:00 pm: Solar Field Day at Greenenergy Park, Beverly, MA.** Sponsored by Solar Now, with music, vendors and organizations working on clean energy and sustainability. Located adjacent to Beverly High School at the corner of Sohier and Tozer Roads. Free parking at 55 Tozer Rd.
- **Saturday, July 25: 4th Annual Swim & Fin Race for Salem Sound.** Salem Sound Coastwatch's signature event!

Swim & Fin RACE FOR SALEM SOUND

Races include:

- 500 and 1500 meter open water swim
- Inner Harbor kayak and canoe races - 5 mile course for competitive classes; 2.5 mi course for touring classes.

New this year - Cash Prizes! Register online at  **active.com**

Entry fees include food, music, prizes and giveaways!

All proceeds benefit Salem Sound Coastwatch.
For more information visit www.swimandfin.org.

To register for the Swim, [Click here.](#)
To register for the Kayak/Canoe Races, [Click here.](#)

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



Also, we are actively soliciting sponsorships for this event. Please contact us if you know of a business or organization that would be willing to be a sponsor. 978-741-7900 or info@salemsound.org.

We'll close by saying thank you to **Modern Millie and Crunchy Granola Baby**, two Salem stores that got together and donated a percentage of their sales to SSCW for Earth Day. We appreciate it so much.

And congratulations to SSCW President and Salem State College professor Dr. Alan Young. Dr. Young was selected as one of the "North Shore 100"--one hundred people who are making a difference for local residents in many ways.

Barbara Warren, Executive Director
Susan Yochelson, Outreach Coordinator