



WITH MUCH APPRECIATION FOR OUR RIVERFEST  
 LEAD ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS:  
**SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES, THE OLD MANSE,  
 MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK,  
 US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
 AND OARS**

AND SPECIAL THANKS TO TONIGHT'S MUSICIANS  
**THE WAYLAND DADDIOS**

AND TO RIVERFEST'S SPONSORS:

**CONCORD TEACAKES**  
**SUDBURY FARMS**  
**STELIO'S FAMILY RESTAURANT, BILLERICA**  
**CONCORD ANIMAL HOSPITAL**



*Don't forget to join us at the events this weekend!*

*Share your pictures online as part of our social media  
 photo contest! Complete details available  
 at [www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org](http://www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org)*



The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord  
**WILD & SCENIC**  
 River Stewardship Council  
[sudbury-assabet-concord.org](http://sudbury-assabet-concord.org)



*17th Annual*

## **RIVERFEST 2018**

### **River Stewards Award Ceremony**

*Celebrating 50 Years of Wild and Scenic Rivers*

#### **Welcome**

Anne Slugg, River Stewardship Council Chair  
 Lisa Vernegaard, Sudbury Valley Trustees

#### **Special Remarks**

Jamie Fosburgh, NPS Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers  
 BJ Dunn, Superintendent, Minute Man National Historical Park  
 Massachusetts State Senator Jamie Eldridge



#### **River Stewardship Awards Presentation**

Janet Rothrock, League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle  
 Sarah Bursky, National Park Service

#### **River Steward Awardees**

Kimberly Berlingame, Framingham  
 Susan Collins, Sudbury  
 Marlies Henderson, Billerica  
 Joseph Holmes, Acton  
 Thomas Largy, Wayland



#### **2018 RIVER STEWARD AWARDS PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Janet Rothrock, LWV of Concord-Carlisle, Chair  
 Mary Antes, River Stewardship Council/LWV of Wayland  
 Elissa Brown, River Stewardship Council/LWV of Concord-Carlisle  
 Ralph Hammond, LWV of Bedford  
 Kathleen O'Hara, LWV of Concord-Carlisle

#### **AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Nancy Brumback, League of Women Voters of MA  
 Karen Pello, MA Department of Environmental Protection  
 Sarah Bursky, National Park Service

## 2018 RIVER STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

(In alphabetical order)

### **Kimberly Berlingame, Framingham, Framingham Conservation Department**

The Sudbury River flows through Saxonville and has a long history of being enjoyed for recreation. In recent years the river has faced an infestation of over 95% of the River's surface. This made the 1.2 mile section of the river dangerous and threatened the ecology of the river. Kimberly carefully constructed a five-year plan to address the crisis. She communicated with invested community members and stakeholders while having a clear vision to move forward. She secured funding for two seasons with the support of FCC and DPW. Kimberly continues to communicate, pursue future funding, and carefully monitor the progress on the river. She has welcomed community support and input, encouraging river abutters to have a voice in advocating for the Framingham watershed. She is a public servant who has been a strong partner in the region, with a long-term perspective, who has made the River a priority.

### **Susan Collins, Sudbury, Hop Brook Protection Association Board Member**

Susan's receives her award for her volunteer work as Coordinator of the harvesting of invasive algae and water chestnuts, especially in Carding Mill Pond and Grist Mill Pond, Sudbury. For 14 years Susan has assumed responsibility for applying for Community Preservation Funding, working with US Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate the availability of the harvester, recruiting and hiring harvesting operators and hand-pulling volunteers, monitoring the harvesting and handling payments. Susan has volunteered this time and energy while maintaining her daily legal profession. Under her leadership the project has noticeably reduced the amount of invasive plants. Susan has managed unexpected challenges with professionalism, and been critical to the success of HBPA. She has shown her commitment to the environment above and beyond the ordinary.

### **Marlies Henderson, Billerica**

Marlies is nominated for her work preserving and publicizing the connection between the Middlesex Canal and nature in the exhibit *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. This has had historic, literary, and educational benefits. Henderson took on this project on her own initiative, putting out requests for help, completing paperwork and permitting, and finding funding. Marlies has also gained support for the project from many. The Board of Selectmen has now taken on the installation, scenic landscaping, and care of the interpretive exhibit, and a woodland path has been established along the canal for recreation and appreciation of wetlands. Marlies has led countless walks, reading aloud Thoreau's words and coupling the canal and natural world, bringing the literary "Outstanding Resource Value" of the Wild and Scenic River to life.

### **Joseph Holmes, Acton**

Joe has been the Acton land steward of the Acton Canoe Launch conservation parcel for 3 years. He has led many volunteers, including youth groups, to clean up trash along the river. In his first two years as steward, Joe installed boulders to restrict parking, improving meadow health, removed dozens of invasive plants, and spread mulch and trimmed roadside vegetation to improve visibility. Joe has reached out to the fishing community to educate them, and has worked with a local fishing store to recruit volunteers for workdays. Joe has improved the southeastern shoreline trail in both directions of the Acton Canoe Launch. During 2016/2017, Joe regularly volunteered to assist the Acton Natural Resources Department cut a new trail along the north side of the Assabet River, creating the "*Assabet River Blue and Green Trail*." Joe never fails to volunteer for a work session and always takes on some of the hardest tasks in a project. Joe is a dedicated, diligent and assiduous worker who is always willing to lend a hand. He is particularly motivated to assist wildlife by improving habitat. He deserves this award and to be commended for his volunteerism and boundless energy, to the benefit of the Assabet River and all who value it.

### **Thomas Largy, Wayland, Wayland Surface Water Quality Committee**

Tom Largy is a member of the Wayland Surface Water Quality Committee (SWQC) whose mission is to oversee, monitor, and maintain the health of bodies of water within the Town of Wayland. Tom organized a management program on Heard Pond that in 2003 removed 1.2 million pounds of water chestnut with mechanical harvesting. Tom continued to oversee the project with yearly declines in the amount of water chestnut removed, learning each year about when the water chestnut dropped its seed and how to reduce infestation over time. He experimented with different volunteer efforts. By 2010 the water chestnut was under control enough that hand-pulling from small boats replaced the harvesters—and the pond was again clear for recreational boating and fishing. 2018 is the 15th year of Tom's stewardship—and the Pond remains under good control with no impairments, one of the most natural and apparently remote spots for public fishing and small craft boating. Tom's work also gave the SWQC the confidence to take on the milfoil invasion of Dudley Pond starting in 2007. His work and investigations have had far-reaching impacts both for the watershed and for our understanding.