

AUGUST 2023

PRWC NEWSLETTER

PRWC | Protecting Water Resources for Generations

Calling Volunteer Scientists!

SEPT 16, 17, 23 | NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED | AGE 16+

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition (PRWC) is seeking volunteers to participate in collecting samples of macroinvertebrates, or 'river bugs,' from their local waterways to assess stream health. PRWC's Annual Macroinvertebrate Survey is part of the Stream Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers program, a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program coordinated by the DEEP. Prior to the in-field survey, PRWC is hosting a *Macroinvertebrate Training and Information Session* on Tues, Sept. 12 (See page 3).

Trained volunteers will then work directly with PRWC staff to survey a small stream and brook in the Pomperaug Watershed and identify what was collected. Teams will complete voucher samples and data sheets to be submitted to DEEP for verification and inclusion in their larger statewide assessments. Depending on the types of macroinvertebrates that volunteers find in a stream, the CT DEEP can assess it as a healthy stream. Trained volunteers can choose to join PRWC's survey for a 2-hour time slot on one or all of the dates. Volunteers will receive more information on sampling locations and time slots following the training.



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SUMMER | AUGUST

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer, Learn, Meet Your Community



Stream Sampling

AUG- OCT | TUESDAYS 8:30AM - 1:00PM
JULY 11, AUG 8, SEPT 5, OCT 10

Interested in being a volunteer scientist?! Help PRWC collect important field samples to test for bacteria and nitrate in our rivers and streams. You will be accompanied by an experienced staff member and will learn how to properly use data recording tools. No experience necessary! Age 16+

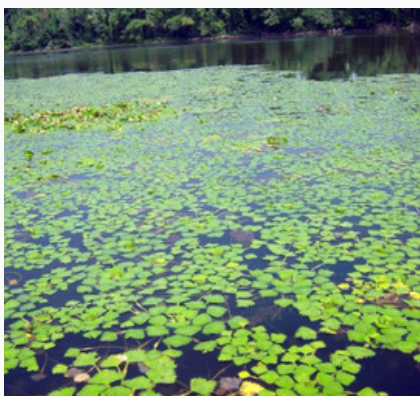


River Ramblers

SAT, MAY - SEPT | 9:00AM - 10:30AM

Join us on a leisurely walk once a month to socialize and explore locations throughout the area. 1-1.5 miles. All Ages Welcome. \$FREE

Sat, Aug 12 | Bent of the River Preserve, Southbury, CT
Sat, Sept 9 | Steep Rock, West Mt. Hillside Farm Washington, CT



Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop

TUES, AUG 1 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM
SOUTHBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join PRWC and Gregory J. Bugbee, Associate Scientist of CT's Invasive Aquatic Plant Program for a one hour educational workshop for all ages. Do you have questions about invasive aquatic plants in your area? This is a great opportunity to learn more about the plants that directly affect your community. \$Free

FALL | SEPT - OCT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer, Learn, Meet Your Community



Macroinvertebrate (RBV) Training

TUES, SEPT 12 | TIME: 6:30PM - 7:30PM

LOCATION: WOODBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

This training and information session is both for those interested in learning more about the RBV program and for those interested in volunteering for the field collection survey. Prior to the in-field survey (below), PRWC is hosting this hour-long *Macroinvertebrate Training and Info Session*. \$FREE



Macroinvertebrate (RBV) Survey

SEPT 16, 17, 23 | 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Interested in being a volunteer scientist!? No experience necessary. Participate in collecting samples of macroinvertebrates, or 'river bugs,' from their local waterways to assess stream health. PRWC's Annual Macroinvertebrate Survey is part of the Stream Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers program (RBV), a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program coordinated by the DEEP Volunteer Water Monitoring Program. Ages 16+.



Dr. Marc J. Taylor Memorial Walk

SAT, OCT 14 | 9:00AM

PLATT FARM PRESERVE, SOUTHURY, CT

PRWC is co-hosting a guided walk in memory of one of PRWC's founders, Dr. Marc Taylor. The guided walk will be along the portion of the Marc J. Taylor, M.D. Memorial Greenway at SLT's Platt Farm property on Flood Bridge Road in Southbury. Approximately 2 miles, mostly flat, along the river. Meet at the kiosk across from parking. All ages welcome. \$FREE

TIPS TO CARE FOR YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Use Water Efficiently

The average indoor water use in a typical home can be as much as **70 gal. per individual**, per day. Just a single leaky or running toilet can add as much as 200 gal. of water per day. Efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of malfunctions.

Toilets aren't trash cans!

An easy rule of thumb is not to flush **anything** other than human waste and toilet paper.

3 years

The average household septic system should be **inspected** at least every three years by a septic service professional



5 Years

Household septic tanks are typically **pumped** every three to five years.

How long can I wait to pump?

These are the major factors that influence how often to pump your septic system:

- Household size
- Total wastewater generated
- Volume of solids in wastewater
- Septic tank size

Alternative systems with electrical float switches, pumps, or mechanical components should be inspected more often, generally once a year.

4 ECO-FRIENDLY PEST CONTROL METHODS



1 Diatomaceous Earth

This eco-friendly powder is created from the fossilized remains of ancient aquatic organisms and is safe to both humans and pets but lethal to many home insects. As these critters come into contact with this dehydrating power, their exoskeletons become damaged until they eventually perish.

2 Essential Oils

Peppermint, eucalyptus and lavender are all effective insect repellents. All you need is a spray bottle of water mixed with these natural scents, and you have an eco-friendly alternative to chemical pesticides that keeps bugs away without harming you or your local drinking water.

3 Neem Oil

Neem oil is an organic, non-toxic solution derived from the neem tree that can help you fight off pesky pests such as aphids, spider mites & whiteflies. For a quick and easy application process, mix some neem oil with water in a spray bottle and mist it on areas insects have been spotted.

4 Companion Planting

To naturally repel pests, companion planting is an effective solution. By strategically placing particular plants next to one another, you can produce a defensive shield from unwanted pests in your yard and garden! Marigolds are one of the most reliable companions for vegetable gardens. They are known for their ability to keep away critters such as nematodes and aphids.

7 FUN WATER FACTS



12 Gallons

Is about how much water it takes to enjoy a 5 minute shower!



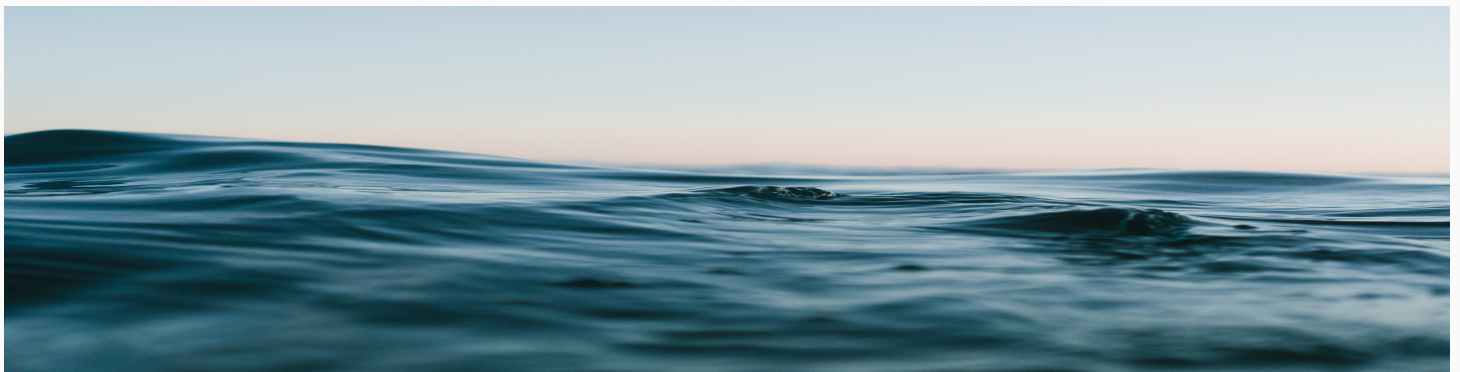
Americans

use, on average, 5x more water than Europeans use daily.



Petrichor

(Pet-try-chor) is the term for the earthy smell in the forest after a rainfall.



Canada

is home to 25% of the world's wetlands.



44 miles

The Panama Canal spans 44 miles between the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean.



Bantam Lake

is the largest natural lake in Connecticut.

23%

of CT's population gets their drinking water from a private well.