



## Greenwords: Hooray for summer!

This winter wasn't very nice for those of us living in the northeast. The harsh weather, economic maladies, and international conflicts (that led government agencies to institute various types of colorful risk levels) combined to keep us close to home, often indoors, glued to our TV and computer screens. The stress that accrues from these events was compounded by our sedentary winter lifestyles. Even the most dedicated walkers, runners, and bikers found little respite from frigid, snow-covered sidewalks and icy roads.

Now that spring has finally come, we have much to be thankful for. Plentiful rainfall has nourished our land and refilled our reservoirs, green plants and flowers are thriving everywhere, and bird songs fill the air and help reawaken our sense of wonder.

Much is happening in the biking/walking world too. After nearly being stopped in its tracks, the South County Bike Path (recently renamed the William O'Neill Bike Path) appears to be breathing new life. A small number of Narragansett residents who own property near the proposed extension of the path beyond Route 108 in South Kingstown mounted an intense, effective campaign to keep the path from being extended into the town. Had their attempt been successful, they would have prevented the majority of Narragansett residents from having access to the sections of the path already built, and also prevented the path from being

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## Presidential bicycle messenger passes through Rhode Island

Rhode Island's role as a piece of an interstate bike path was showcased in late May as a cyclist traveling from Maine on his way to the East Coast Greenway Inauguration event in Washington D.C. paid us a visit.

Two riders left at the same time this spring bound for the ECG event on June 5, departing from the trail's two terminus points, Calais, Maine and Key West, Fla. GARI hosted the

northern rider, Leonard "Chip" Jahnke, on May 22 and May 23. His effort was aimed at promoting the completion of the 2,600-mile ECG trail.

Jahnke, 65, is an avid cyclist and B&B owner from the Maine coastal town of Friendship. He cycled 50 miles a day from the Canadian border to the nation's capitol, covering 10 states. He collected letters along the way for delivery to President Bush, asking for his support of the ECG. This "Taking the Message to Washington" ride arrived on time on the National Mall in front of the Capitol Building.

Jahnke's contact with our area came when greenway advocates and local officials greeted him at Union Station in Worcester, Mass. and rode with him to Providence via the Blackstone Bike Path. The trail included portions of the Blackstone Bikeway from Worcester to Providence that have

been designated officially as ECG links. Six miles have been designated along the Blackstone River Canal Path at River Bend Farm State Park in Uxbridge, Mass. Seven miles along the Blackstone Bikeway in Cumberland and Lincoln, R.I. have been completed and are open to the public.

When he reached the Ocean State, Jahnke rode down the completed section of the Blackstone Bikeway from Manville to Lonsdale. He continued through Pawtucket and the East Side of Providence to the home of a local cyclist and ECGA member in the Edgewood section of Cranston, where he spent the night.

The next day he took off again, in the rain, and rode the Cranston Bike Path south to where state officials met him for an event at the caboos on the West Warwick Greenway. R.I. Department of Environmental Management Director Jan Reitsma, and GARI members rode

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From left, DEM Director Jan Reitsma, Chip Jahnke and Richard Santopietro.

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Dear Dr. Sprocket

developed for use as an alternate route to Narragansett Town Beach using non-motorized transportation.

Because of huge turnouts of bike path supporters (both residents of Narragansett and from throughout the state) at key Town Council meetings, and a flood of letters, phone calls, and media coverage, the attitudes and behavior of the town leaders have changed dramatically. The mature, responsible manner in which we conducted ourselves and the forcefulness of our logic and passions were an overwhelming force. The council successfully brokered a land-swap agreement with the R.I. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to slightly alter the interim terminus of the path, while preparing for a route that will end at the South County Museum just across from the beach.

There have been success stories in other areas in the state as well. The Blackstone Valley section of the East Coast Greenway has seen continued progress and the Woonasquatucket

Greenway project continues to grow with both local and state support. In total, the RIDOT currently has over \$8 million planned for construction of biking/walkways for FY2003.

We in Rhode Island have been honored to host the Rails-to-Trails International Trails and Greenway Conference, "TrailLink 2003, Designing for the Future" on June 26-29 in Providence. (See [www.railtrails.org/traillink2003](http://www.railtrails.org/traillink2003) for more) The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has been active for nearly 20 years and they have been wildly successful in saving abandoned rail lines for use as bike and walking paths throughout the United States.



New bike path in Wakefield

The events in Narragansett demonstrate the importance of becoming informed, standing up, and making our opinions and desires known. We need to communicate with legislators to see that they continue to promote the development of pedestrian-friendly communities and bike/walking paths. On these greenways, we can directly interact with our neighbors and develop a greater sense of security and peace of mind than any amount of duct tape and plastic sheeting can achieve.

We can follow the sage guidance to think globally and act locally (especially with the impending budget crunch in federal, state and local governments) by writing or calling our elected officials. Our past calls for support were successful! We need to keep up the good work to expand these wonderful facilities that allow all of us to get out of our cars, away from TV and computer screens, and reconnect with the natural world.

Richard Santopietro GARI Chair

## Bike path planning begins in N. Kingstown

With many communities in Rhode Island having direct or close connection with bike paths, the sizeable town of North Kingstown has been left out of the loop, but with new planning studies underway, that may change.

The town is one of the largest in Rhode Island in terms of square miles. It is served by the West Bay Bikeway, an on-road route along Route 1A from Wickford to Narragansett. Except for that and a short looping trail in a park north of Wickford, there are no off-road resources for bicyclists. Many of the primary and connector roads are narrow and winding, with little or no shoulder. The Post Road commercial corridor is especially bad, with a thin ribbon of dirt on the grassy shoulder showing where cyclists ride.

The R.I. Department of Transportation has hired bike path consultant Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc. (VHB) to study two potential bike paths. Meanwhile, town officials hired a consultant to perform a feasibility study on a third path.



Site for the N.K. Bike Path

The path getting the most attention of late is a 2.5-mile trail that would connect Wickford with Wickford Junction. The path would connect the village to a proposed commuter rail station, making it a vital link to a series of on-road routes in the West Bay area.

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Trail Mix is the quarterly newsletter of the Greenways Alliance of Rhode Island (GARI).

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Help Make Greenways in Rhode Island Happen:

# Dear Dr. Sprocket,

*Dr. Sprocket will answer questions in each issue of Trail Mix.*

**Q** Dear Dr. Sprocket,

Now that the warm weather has finally arrived, I want to get out and ride again, but I'm afraid the very cold, long winter, followed by a soggy spring, has taken its toll on me. My bike sat unused and uncovered in my garage for so long that I'm wary about using it. Do I need to bring it to the dealer for a tune up or can I just wipe it off, jump on and go?

Rusty Raleigh

**A** Dear Rusty:

Yes, the winter was brutal. The combination of below-average temperatures, frequent snowstorms, and icy roads and sidewalks made biking downright hazardous. Except for some hard core riders, most of us left our bikes where they got parked last fall.

Although it's a good idea to have your bike checked out at least once a year by a good technician, you might be able to perform many safety checks yourself. Depending on the age, condition and previous use (or abuse) of your bike, the following tasks are in order:

1. It's a good idea to clean the entire bike with a soft, clean cloth. In the process, you can look for any damage to the brake cables and other safety components (reflectors, lights, etc.). Pay special attention to the wheel surfaces that are contacted by the brakes, and make sure they are smooth and clean. Check that the brake pads are clean and aligned properly.

2. Check the tires. It's normal for them to lose a little air pressure over

a long time period, but they should have enough air for the tires to maintain their basic shape. A completely flat tire suggests something could be wrong with the tube or the valve. After filling the tires to the recommended pressure, be sure to carefully check them for any cuts or worn areas - both on the tread and sidewalls. If anything looks suspicious, replace them or bring the bike to a dealer to have them checked.

3. Check to see that both wheels are securely mounted on their respective forks. If you have quick-connect hubs, it's possible one or both could have loosened or been hit during the winter.

4. Check the operation of the brakes. You can do it in your yard or driveway without too much danger. The operation should be smooth and positive with little sponginess.

5. Check the front stem and bearing for excessive play by locking the front brake (with the wheel pointing straight ahead) and pushing the bike forward and back.

6. If all is well to this point, check out the shifting mechanisms and be sure the seat is locked in place.

If any of the above sound like Greek to you, it may be wise to bring the bike in for a quick

check. Most good shops will do a quick check if you call ahead and are willing to wait a little.

Your bike is now ready to roll.

To be sure YOU are ready to roll, follow these simple steps:

1. Be sure your helmet is in good shape and adjusted properly. Make sure the interior padding is securely fastened and in good condition.

2. After a long absence from riding, take a little time to get familiar with your bike again. Remember to tie your shoelaces so they won't get caught in the chain/crank, and if you wear long pants, be sure the leg bottoms aren't too loose. Try some short rides in your yard or neighborhood at slow speeds. Go through all the gears so the task becomes second nature again. Make a few sudden stops to get the feel of the dynamics of rapid braking.

3. If you have toe clips, it's a good idea to loosen them a little for the first few rides in case you have to dismount quickly.

4. As you begin to feel at home on the bike, extend your rides, but try to stay conscious of the fact that you haven't been riding for a long time. Automobile drivers, also, are not used to sharing their roads with bikes, and may not be as alert as you would want them to be. Road sand left over from snow storms is a real hazard to watch out for, as well as car doors that can open suddenly just as you pass them.

5. As always, be aware of potential danger spots, keep safe practices high on your list of priorities, and have fun!

*Send your Dr. Sprocket questions to [righreenways@righreenways.org](mailto:righreenways@righreenways.org)*



Join the Greenways Alliance of Rhode Island Today!

## News from ECGA

The East Coast Greenway Alliance has established an electronic newsletter to keep folks abreast of the organization's activities and projects along the proposed 2,500-mile trail from Maine to Florida. If you didn't get yours by email, read on.

The ECGA recently unveiled a new logo that will be used in a variety of places and publications and should start popping up on ECG bike path sections soon. It was unanimously approved by the ECGA board at its annual meeting in November 2002.

As stated elsewhere in this newsletter, the East Coast Greenway Inaugural Event took place on June 5 in Washington D.C. The trail is about 20 percent complete with another 30 percent in various stages of development, planning and construction. The push to complete the trail included a series of support letters delivered by cyclists heading to the Capitol from both Maine and Florida.

The ECGA is planning an end-to-end trip this fall with eight cyclists chosen to travel the entire length of the ECG to help raise funds for the organization. The tour will depart Calais, Maine on Oct. 1 and arrive in Key West, Fla. on Nov. 22, an average of 60 miles per day. Participants must pledge to raise \$10,000 for the entire journey or \$3,000 for one of four segments if doing less than the entire tour. Visit the ECGA website, [www.greenway.org](http://www.greenway.org), for more information.

➤ New York State's Department of Transportation has begun redesigning eight dangerous intersections along the



Hudson River Greenway to improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians. The DOT has closed four motor vehicle crossings between 46th and 57th Streets, and is continuing to redesign



others to the benefit of non-motorized users. The DOT also is taking advantage of a power company construction project to improve safety and aesthetics along the trail near the Passenger Ship Terminal, in the upper 40s. A portion of the Greenway and Rte. 9A must be torn up, and when the power company rebuilds, it will do so using a wider trail surface, improved signage, and replacement of ugly

chain link fencing with a permanent iron fence.

➤ The New Jersey Department of Transportation has hired a consulting firm to conduct a route feasibility study for the East Coast Greenway from New Brunswick to the Hudson River via Newark and Jersey City. This route will complement the current route which heads east from New Brunswick to Perth Amboy. Current plans call for a ferry to be used to connect to New York City, starting this summer. Elsewhere in the Garden State, Middlesex County has acquired an abandoned Lehigh Valley Railroad right-of-way, which will be the Middlesex Greenway. This trail will form a key part of the ECG route through New Jersey.

➤ The City of East Hartford, Conn. voted last month to appropriate money for design of a 4-mile trail to connect the Connecticut River to the existing Charter Oak Greenway in Manchester, Conn. Some work was slated to start this spring, but the rest may take up to two years. The path will provide connections to the new UConn football stadium and airplane engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney.

➤ The ECGA has helped introduce the U.S. Naval Academy Department of Ocean Engineering to the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail. As a result, two midshipmen spent the spring exploring alternatives and/or designs to bridge gaps that currently exist on the trail along the Florida Keys.

### DOT rolls out new cycling map

Heading out for a ride, it's always good to have a current map showing all major roads.

Having a bike-friendly map is all the better, and a new one is hot off the press, courtesy of the R.I. Department of Transportation.

The map is the first revision in two years and includes a full map of the state on one side with detailed street maps of Providence and Newport. Roads are color-coded for biking suitability and even include

markings to indicate direction of hills.

The state's bike paths are well represented as well. Each path is marked clearly on the main map. On the flip side, one can find



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Help Make Greenways in Rhode Island Happen: Join the Gre

# What's Happening on Our Trails:

## Rhode Island Greenways and Blueways

### Summer on the Greenway Calendar of Events

Nice weather is finally here! The shorter season, with persistent rainy weekends of late, means that every day out on the path is that much more special. Skip the family picnic with your weird uncle and get out and ride, walk and paddle on the state's greenways and blueways! Here's a sampling of upcoming events, and if you have an event you'd like listed here, please send e-mail to [rigreenways@rigreenways.org](mailto:rigreenways@rigreenways.org).

#### > RI Historical Society Summer

**Walking Tours:** The theme for these interpretive walks from July 1 - Oct. 15 is "Roger Williams: In God's Providence," and is being conducted in honor of the 400<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the founder of Rhode Island and its capital city. Call 331-8575 for schedule. Walks generally run on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m.

> **Trail Through Time:** This historical walk, scheduled for July 13 from 2 to 4 p.m., takes place at the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge on Route 1 in Charlestown. The program includes glimpses of past land uses including early Native American settlement, colonial farming, the Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Air Field, and current management as a wildlife refuge. Call 364-9124 for more information.

#### Ocean State Circle of Life

**Bike Tour:** It's time again for this worthwhile tour of Rhode Island, to raise awareness of the need for blood and marrow donors. The ride takes place on July 19 from

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A shorter ride leaves at 11 a.m. The ride begins at the sponsor's headquarters, the Rhode Island Blood Center, 405 Promenade St., Providence, and ends at the Roger Williams Park Carousel. The conclusion of the ride coincides with a cookout for "Heart to Heart," a support group for children with congenital heart defects. For more information, call (800) 283-8385 ext. 566, or send e-mail to [vhlang@ribc.org](mailto:vhlang@ribc.org).

**Bike Safety Day:** This is the sixth anniversary of this event, slated to take place on July 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Goddard Memorial State Park in Warwick. Information on safe bike riding, helmet safety, prizes, a rock climbing wall and more will be featured. In case of rain, the event will take place the next day on July 24. Call 222-1141 for more information.



Trestle bridge in Warwick

#### > Blackstone River Valley Greenway

**Challenge:** Set for Sept. 27, the Third Annual Greenway Challenge will involve the same triathlon of running, cycling and paddling with relay teams of cyclists starting in Worcester, Mass. and covering 44 miles en route to the finish line at Slater Mill in Pawtucket. Check the next edition of *Trail Mix* and our web site for more information as it becomes available.

#### Ongoing events:

##### > Challenge Cycling:

"Muffin rides" leave each Saturday morning at 9 a.m. from Haines Park in East Providence. Riders cycle about 20 miles round trip, heading to Independence Park in Bristol (where the muffins are) and back. Handcyclists and traditional cyclists welcome. Contact [scott@challengecycling.org](mailto:scott@challengecycling.org) for more information.

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## Please Join Us!

To become a member, please complete the following form and return with your membership donation to GARI, 31 Stanchion Street, Jamestown, RI 02835

Please make checks payable to: Greenways Alliance of Rhode Island

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

#### Annual Membership enclosed

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- National\* \$50
- Supporting Organization: \$100
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Dual membership in the East Coast Greenway Alliance and GARI.

Questions? Contact R. Santopietro, (401) 782-6179, [GARI442@cox.net](mailto:GARI442@cox.net)  
[www.rigreenways.org](http://www.rigreenways.org)



## Inaugural Rider's R.I. ties

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with him. At the caboose, the entourage met Lt. Governor Charles Fogarty and R.I. Department of Transportation Director James Capaldi at a ceremony hosted by the Friends of the West Warwick Greenway. Letters to Bush in support of the ECG were presented to Jahnke for him to carry to Washington.

After the ceremony, he continued along the ECG to meet Guy Lefebvre, Coventry Recreation Department director. More letters and memorabilia were added to Jahnke's collection, carried in a unique bike trailer. Jahnke then pressed west to the Connecticut border, where an ECG member from the Nutmeg State met him and rode with him to Putnam, Conn.

On June 5, Jahnke arrived in Washington along with Kevin Porter who had followed a route from Key West. The ECG was welcomed into the national system of trails by Mary Margaret Sloan, President of the American Hiking Society, and Fran Mainella, Director of the National Park Service.

## New Cycling Map

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detailed information about the paths plus mini maps of greater detail.

The RIDOT has printed 50,000 copies of the map, so it should be easy to find one in tourist information areas. The map even was printed on a special synthetic paper so it holds up better should riders be caught in the rain.

Those who would like to receive a map in the mail can call 222-4203, ext. 4033 or send e-mail to [schurch@dot.state.ri.us](mailto:schurch@dot.state.ri.us). The map - both the front page and the reverse side - can be found online at [www.dot.state.ri.us/WebTran/bikeri.html](http://www.dot.state.ri.us/WebTran/bikeri.html). A link to the map also can be found on GARI's website, [www.rigreenways.org](http://www.rigreenways.org).

## Greenways construction update

The 2003 riding season is shaping up to be a great one for bike path enthusiasts as new sections have been opened up since last fall and others will be coming soon. Here's a quick run-down of the latest on major bike paths under construction:

**Washington Secondary Bike Path:** Big news follows big news. The path already got a major boost with the paving of the **West Warwick Greenway** and a short stretch of the **Coventry Greenway** (2 miles total) and the 1.5-mile **Warwick Greenway** last summer. Residents here were pleased to see work begin this winter on decking over three bridges in eastern Coventry - two with very scenic passages over the Pawtuxet River.

This is a crucial "missing link" that keeps the existing 3-mile Coventry Greenway separate from the nearly 10-mile combined distance of the existing Washington Secondary Bike Path in West Warwick, Warwick and Cranston. The redecking is well underway and could be complete this year. This will allow passage on gravel surfaces until 2004, when the last 2 miles of the path will be paved. That will be a total of 15 miles, right up there with the East Bay Bike Path in terms of distance.

Of course, the Washington Secondary will eventually take its place as the longest bike path in the state at 25 miles each way. The 10-mile Trestle Trail project in western Coventry is at the 10-percent design stage.

**Blackstone River Bikeway:** Exciting news here is a bridge spanning the Blackstone River just south of the Ashton Viaduct opened last November. The bridge links two 3-mile segments on opposite sides of the river and eliminates the need to cycle over the tall bridge - although that option offers a fantastic view of the river. Total distance is now 6.3 miles in each direction.

The project is divided into nine segments with two complete. Segment 4, divided into 4A and 4B, should begin this year. Segment 4A is a 1.4-mile run from Valley Falls Park to Lonsdale Ave. and travels through the Lonsdale Marsh (the former drive-in movie theater) on a boardwalk. Path 4B includes a 0.7-mile segment from Lonsdale Ave. over the Pratt Dam to Segment 5 on Front Street (the original 3-mile section beginning off Route 123 in Lincoln).

Remaining segments are under various stages of design and will go to construction between 2004 and 2006. All together, the path will be 18 miles long to Blackstone, Mass.

**Woonasquatucket River Bikeway/Northwest Bike Trail:** A 1.3-mile on-road segment from the Riverwalk entrance of the Providence Place Mall on Promenade Street and reach Donigian Park on Valley Street is complete. Bike lanes have been striped and signs are up.

Various other segments are under design and 3.2 miles of on-road bike routes and a separated bike path segment (following the former Providence & Springfield railroad right-of-way) may be advertised for construction in August.

**South County Bicycle Path:** After some delay, a 2-mile segment should open very soon to connect the end of the existing 3.5-mile section from Rodman Street in Peace Dale to Route 108 in Wakefield. A big problem cropped up this winter on 1-mile segment from Route 108 to Sprague Park in Narragansett due to strong neighborhood opposition. The town, DOT, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked on an alteration of the route that will help link the path to its intended destination of Narragansett Town Beach.

**Ten Mile River Greenway:** An existing 1.5-mile segment in Slater Park in Pawtucket may be joined soon. A 2-mile segment from Slater Park south to the Kimberly Ann Rock Athletic Fields in East Providence was advertised for construction this spring.



Coventry bridge to open soon

## NK Bike path planning

*continued from page 2*

In addition to the Route 1A route, Warwick and East Greenwich have identified on-road routes throughout both communities, making it possible to link up to the Cranston Cross-City bike network and the Cranston Bike Path.

The proposed path runs along an abandoned rail corridor, which like the former rail line used to build the South County Bike Path, originally served to shuttle tourists to ferries bound for Newport. The path also was the subject of a study by two graduate students from Brown University. An impressive web page detailing the study can be found online at <http://envstudies.brown.edu/classes/es201/2002/Bike/index.htm>.

VHB also is working with the R.I. Economic Development Corp. on the development of a bike path in the Quonset Davisville Port and Commerce Park. Called the Davisville Bikeway, the two-mile path would run from the front of the former Navy base on Post Road to Allen Harbor and Calf Pasture Point. The 200-acre point is now in town ownership and slated to be a conservation area with miles of walking paths. Planning in the industrial park is in great flux, but there is talk of more bike paths and a waterfront esplanade.

Between the two bike paths lie sections of the old Seaview Trolley line, which once ran from East Greenwich to Narragansett. The town is studying the feasibility of a two-mile path from Wickford to the industrial park. Although cyclists would have to pedal on-road through Wickford village, the three paths combined would result in a significant path system.

As part of the contract with VHB for the Davisville and Wickford Junction bike paths, two other potential paths are being studied. The first is a section of the Seaview line in Narragansett close to the Narrow River and the second is a link from the South County Bike Path to the University of Rhode Island.



➤ **Ocean State Bike Path Association:** Casual bike rides on tap each **Wednesday** night of approximately 15 to 20 miles in length and lasting about two hours. All ages and riding abilities are included and all participants are invited to join the group for dinner and camaraderie afterward. Meet at Your Bike Shop, 51 Cole Street in Warren at 6:15 pm. Ride begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.

➤ **Blackstone Paddlers:** The Blackstone Valley Paddle Club meets on **Tuesday and Wednesday** evenings from **May 13 through Aug. 20** to explore different waterways in the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. National Park Service Rangers and volunteers lead the tours. A limited number of free boats are available on Tuesdays only, and must be reserved. Call 762-0440 for weekly locations.

➤ **Thursday Night Walkabouts:** A National Park Service Ranger from the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor leads walks to explore the different places in the corridor to learn about



Construction on this bridge has forced temporary closures of the Cranston Bike Path.

## Calendar of Events

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their history and how they helped shape the Valley's heritage. Walks begin **June 5** and run through **August**. Visit [www.nps.gov/blac/what/recreation.htm](http://www.nps.gov/blac/what/recreation.htm) for more information.

### Events on the web

Other events on the greenways, trails, roads and waterways in Rhode Island and New England can be found directly at the following web pages (\$ = indicates fee charged):

#### In Rhode Island:

- **Narragansett Bay Wheelmen:** [www.nbwclub.org/ride-table.html](http://www.nbwclub.org/ride-table.html)
- **Friends of the Pawtuxet River:** [www.friendsofthepawtuxet.org](http://www.friendsofthepawtuxet.org)
- **R.I. Canoe and Kayak Association:** [www.ricka.org](http://www.ricka.org)
- **Appalachian Mountain Club, Narragansett Chapter:** <http://users.ids.net/~amcri/gazette.htm>
- **Blackstone Valley Visitor Center:** [www.tourblackstone.com](http://www.tourblackstone.com)
- **The GARI website:** [www.rigreenways.org](http://www.rigreenways.org)
- **Save The Bay (\$):** [www.savebay.org/events](http://www.savebay.org/events)
- **Sakonnet Boathouse (\$):** [www.sakonnetboathouse.com](http://www.sakonnetboathouse.com)
- **The Kayak Centre (\$):** [www.kayakcentre.com](http://www.kayakcentre.com)
- **Audubon Society of Rhode Island (\$):** [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

#### In Massachusetts:

- **Bike Rides For Ordinary People:** [www.geocities.com/BikeRidesFOP/BikeRidesUpComing.htm](http://www.geocities.com/BikeRidesFOP/BikeRidesUpComing.htm)
- **Charles River Wheelmen:** [www.crw.org/ThisMonth.htm](http://www.crw.org/ThisMonth.htm)
- **Nashoba Valley Pedalers:** [www.ultranet.com/~nvp/](http://www.ultranet.com/~nvp/)
- **North Shore Cyclists:** [www.astseals.com/nsc/sunday.htm](http://www.astseals.com/nsc/sunday.htm)
- **Seven Hills Wheelmen:** [www.sevenhillswheelmen.org/rides.htm](http://www.sevenhillswheelmen.org/rides.htm)

## Webmaster's Corner

Sunny thoughts just a click away

By Charles St. Martin

As we've mentioned elsewhere in this edition of *Trail Mix*, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation has just published a revised copy of its guide to cycling with a great map of the state. Even more information can be had from another state agency, the Department of Environmental Management.

At DEM's web site one can access an interactive map that offers the general public a feeling for the powerful tool known as GIS (geographical information system). This service, found at [http://zog.doa.state.ri.us/topos\\_detail.htm](http://zog.doa.state.ri.us/topos_detail.htm), offers the ability to explore the state in many different ways.

The web page allows the user to create many layers of maps, with a check list allowing one to choose what information he or she wants. Need just major street names as a reference? How about just a topographical map? It's here.

The program is somewhat intuitive with zoom and pan features that are common in many Windows-based

programs. You also can click and drag a box around the area that you desire to zoom in on, which can quickly narrow down your search. This is different from some popular web mapping programs in which you need to guess on a zoom level or keep stepping down or up in magnification levels to get what you need. You can use that form of navigation on this page, but the box method is usually easier.

search: **green** ways



Especially neat is the ability to pull in and layer topographical maps and aerial photographs. (Yes, you can see what your house looks like from up on high.) You also can pull in images that let one understand where future bike paths may go - it's quite easy to see faint lines that were once former rail corridors. The images are from the late 1990s, so they could use some updating, but are still very appropriate. The topos are quite tight too, (1:24,000), but they aren't a substitute for a good quality map for bushwhacking through the wilderness.

The program is a fun tool for exploring and picking out where you may want to ride. It's also a great way to get a bit more information on bike path planning issues one may be following in the newspapers.

## GARI chair honored for advocacy on South County Bike Path

As things looked pretty gloomy for the South County Bike Path, an extension about to go down in flames due to NIMBY opposition, GARI stepped in and helped turn the tide. GARI Chairman Richard F. Santopietro spearheaded that effort and recently was recognized for it.

The American Hiking Society bestowed Santopietro with the honor of "Volunteer of the Year" award. One winner is chosen each year from each state, and Santopietro was singled out for getting town officials to hold off on a critical vote while rallying public support in favor of the bike path.

Santopietro received a special certificate, a T-shirt, a copy of "Get Outside!" a directory of volunteer opportunities across the country, and a pair of Hi-Tec boots.



Could the Narragansett Bike Path look like this next year?

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