

154 bird species and an incredible 45 fish species, from nesting bald eagles to the globally-rare Atlantic sturgeon and the largest alewife run in the Commonwealth. Over 350 plant species are found, including three globally-rare species. At least two rare habitat types were identified: freshwater and brackish tidal marshes. The river was used by Native Americans for thousands of years and the shores harbor one of the most significant Paleoindian archeological sites in New England. Our nation's industrial revolution and maritime history were played out along the river, with the city of Taunton surprisingly being one of the great home ports for four, five, and six-masted schooners.

THE STUDY, endorsed earlier this year by all of the communities along the river, generated an unprecedented level of citizen interest in the river and its resources. Legislation has been introduced in Washington by Rep. Frank and Sen. Kennedy to officially designate the river as a National Wild and Scenic River. All of the communities have joined forces to form the Taunton River Stewardship Council.

BUT AS ALL OF US KNOW: good intentions, plans, and studies alone do not necessarily lead to actions on the ground. And that is where the Taunton River Campaign begins.

THE TAUNTON RIVER Campaign was conceived by Meg Sheehan of the Sheehan Family Foundation and based on her years of interest in the river, direct experience in several complex land and water conservation projects, and dialogue with many of the citizens, officials, and non-profit

groups involved. According to Meg, "We have recently seen many positive developments emerging for the Taunton River system. This provides a great impetus for all of us to step up and make a difference."

THIS FALL THE FOUNDATION made a major financial commitment to the Taunton watershed and brought together a steering committee to lead a campaign comprised of the Taunton River Watershed Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Bay, SRPEDD, and the Wildlands Trust. Also participating in the campaign are Mass Audubon, Trustees of Reservations, Trust for Public Land, and the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. Meg says that "We continue to face many challenges to protect natural resources in the region. Working together these groups can enhance their effectiveness." The campaign is designed to generate results: land protected, water quality and quantity enhanced, better municipal planning and zoning, building the local base of support, and passage of the Wild and Scenic designation in Congress.

THE NEW TAUNTON RIVER Campaign gives us hope that some of the special places in the heartland of Southeastern Massachusetts will finally gain proper attention and protection. The work will not be easy, but your Trust has never shied away from challenge. We are so grateful to the Sheehan Family Foundation for stepping up to the plate. We look forward to working with our partners, municipalities, and citizens to protect natural resources and to generate a positive environmental and recreational future for the people of the region. 🍀

IN MEMORY OF

Phyllis Buck

Ross S. Ajemian, D.D.S., Plymouth
Leona Asker, Plymouth
Order of the Eastern Star, Manomet
Arthur M. Freeman
Sinclair Manufacturing Company,
Charley, MA
Gary Hobler
Mrs. Myra Hobler
Virginia "Ginny" Ladd
Pat & Dick Loring
Catherine McFadden
Larry Stifler & Mary McFadden
Paul A. Miller
Bob & Florence Brady, Dix Hills, NY
Mary Conturo, Pittsburgh, PA
Creative Realities, Inc, Fairfield, NJ
DIMARK, Inc., Whitman
Agneta & Michael Domaszewicz,
Pembroke
Mary Doyle, Norwell
Alana Gedgudas, Williamstown
Richard & Patricia Gold, Norwalk, CT
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Kane, Marshfield
Douglas & Jacqueline Little, Marshfield
Susan & Mark MacDonald, Marshfield
Mackenzie Laboratories, Inc.,
Glendora, CA
Louis & Nancy Marsiglia, Marshfield
Nicktel Commucations, Kingston
Brenda Phelps, Hoosick Falls, NY
Taitron Components, Inc., Valencia, CA
Pat & Norm Stultz
Marion H. Crocker, Plymouth
Virginia E. Davis, Plymouth
Order of St. Anne Bethany, Arlington
Grace A. Pleadwell, Sagamore Beach
Ritchie Park Elementary School,
Rockville, MD
Lawrence Wheelock
Carol N. Perlmutter

IN HONOR OF

Kathleen & Robert Carr
on the occasion of their anniversary
Gilbert & Phyllis Burns
Alice Potter Hoyt
on the occasion of her birthday
Cliff & Roma Hoyt
Noreen Wenger
Linda M. Merrill