

NEPONSET RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

490 Chapman Street, Suite 1B • Canton, MA 02021
voice 781/ 575-0354 • fax 781/ 575-9971

For Immediate Release:
August 19, 2004

Please Contact:
Carly Rocklen

Color the Landscape

This August and September, treat yourself to a creative break in the summer sunlight!

Try your hand at *plein air* art, then submit your piece to the *RiverArt: Plein Air Art* juried art show at the Forbes House Museum in Milton. The Museum will be accepting entries September 19-21, at 215 Adams St., Milton. Artwork will be on display and available for sale, October 3-31.

Now, “What is *plein air* art?” you might ask. Literally, “*en plein air*” is French for “in the open air.” *Plein air* art is made outdoors, and takes advantage of the lighting on the landscape and the feel of the surrounding environment. *Plein air* artists finish all or most of their renderings outdoors, on-site.

Many artists have made the *plein air* art method their own, from the English landscape painter John Constable, a *plein air* art pioneer, to the artists of Barbizon, France who, disillusioned with the influence of the Industrial Revolution on cities, set-up residence in the countryside to paint the beauty of rural life. Manet and Monet and other Impressionists were also famous *plein air* artists.

Ruthann Wetherby Frattasio of Quincy is also a *plein air* artist. She’s participated in *RiverArt* for many years, winning an award for her watercolor *Rhododendron*, along the way. Sharon artist Alan O’Hare has also won a *RiverArt* award for his photograph *Meditation #1*. Ruthann and Alan are just two of many local artists, including photographers, painters, and specialists in mixed media, who participate in *RiverArt*.

This will be the 10th year that Neponset River Watershed communities are the subjects of *plein air* art for the *RiverArt* exhibit. The Neponset Watershed includes parts of Foxboro, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Randolph, Canton, Medfield, Norwood, Dover, Westwood, Dedham, Milton, Quincy, Hyde Park, Mattapan and Dorchester.

RiverArt: Plein Air Art is sponsored by both the Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) and the Forbes House Museum. NepRWA works to improve water quality, protect stream-flow and water supplies, advocate for fisheries restoration, and increase protected open space and environmentally sustainable land use in the Neponset River Watershed. The Forbes House Museum is a cultural organization dedicated to public education and the preservation of its collection, house and grounds at 215 Adams Street, Milton.

To find out more about *RiverArt*, contact Carly Rocklen at NepRWA: 781-575-0354, rocklen@neponset.org, or visit NepRWA’s website: www.neponset.org.

#