



**RAILROAD MUSEUM OF NEW ENGLAND ANNOUNCES
THE CCF GREAT NAUGATUCK RIVER & NAUGATUCK RAILROAD CLEAN UP**

Volunteers Needed!

THOMASTON, CT – March 2, 2016 – A Naugatuck Valley project, “The Great Naugatuck River & Naugatuck Railroad Clean Up,” sponsored by the Connecticut Community Foundation (CCF) is planned by the Railroad Museum of New England (RMNE) and the Naugatuck River Revival Group (NRRG) for Saturday, April 2, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Their goal is to remove 1,000 tires along the Naugatuck River and Naugatuck Railroad in Waterbury, Watertown, and Thomaston. The RMNE and NRRG are partnering with O&G Industries, Thomaston Savings Bank, Fascia’s Chocolates, Marion Manufacturing and other community and business groups to recruit volunteers.

According to Steve Casey, an RMNE board member, “The Naugatuck Railroad will bring volunteers to sites along the river and mainline where the tires have been illegally dumped and abandoned for years! Old tires pollute as they disintegrate, provide breeding grounds for mosquitos, and are an eyesore.”

Kevin Zak of the NRRG stated “We are glad to work with CCF and the Museum on this project. The NRRG is pleased to build support and take action to clean up this section of the river. Removing these tires will make a big improvement in the quality of the river and its surroundings.”

All adults and youth between the ages of 12 and over accompanied by adults are invited to participate. Volunteers are required to bring work gloves, work shoes or boots, blue jeans, and have updated Tetanus shots. The RMNE and NRRG recommend that volunteers have clothes to protect from poison ivy and ticks, safety glasses, and hard hats.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Thomaston Train Station, 242 East Main Street, Thomaston, CT 06787 on Saturday, April 2, 2016 @ 8:00 a.m. for registration. A “Safety Briefing” is planned for 8:30 a.m. and the work train departs at 9:00 a.m. The last train will return at 3:00 p.m.

Those who wish to work as “Field Workers” as part of a team to pull tires from the brush or river bank to the mainline may sign up to participate online at: <http://www.trackitforward.com/site/70479/event/77256>

There will be three types of duties. NRRG members will operate in the river to find and remove tires, community “field workers” will work along the river bank and next to the railroad mainline to bring tires next to the mainline, and RMNE members who will operate the work train to load tires and bring them for disposal.

The RMNE and NRRG plan a pilot project on Saturday March 12th to test the operations on a limited scale. The online sign up for the pilot is at: <http://www.trackitforward.com/site/70479/event/77905> .

For details and updates, those who are interested may go to www.rmne.org

Railroad Museum Of New England, 242 East Main Street, Thomaston, CT 06787
www.rmne.org



The RMNE, located at the landmark Thomaston Train Station, is a not-for-profit, all volunteer, educational and historical organization that dates back to January 1968. The mission of the RMNE is to tell the story of the region's rich railroad heritage through our educational exhibits and operation of the Naugatuck Railroad. The museum concept is more than artifacts, it's also a story of the region and the development of society around the railroad.

Other Upcoming Events:

Easter Bunny Express will run The Naugatuck Railroad will start running trains for 2016 season on the day before Easter, Saturday, March 26th, from Thomaston Station along the restored Naugatuck River to Waterville, up into the beautiful Litchfield Hills to the Thomaston dam, and back to the station. The excursion is 17 miles and lasts about an hour and a quarter. Every child will be greeted by the Bunny after the train leaves the station. The Bunny even welcomes selfies with all the kids and their families. Three train rides are scheduled on March 26th at 11:00am, 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Fares for children 2 years old and younger are free, children from 3 to 12 are \$16, adults are \$18, and seniors 62 and older are \$16.

The Chocolate Decadence Sunset Evening Tours begin our second season at our historic 1881 Thomaston Station with a cocktail party (Haight-Brown wines and plenty of appetizers). Train ride follows with a stop to watch the evening sun over the spectacular Thomaston Dam. Next, stretch your legs at Fascia's Chocolate Company with a tour, more wine, more chocolate and dessert! These train events are scheduled on Friday evenings on April 29, May 27, June 24, and September 23. Each event lasts for approximately three and a half hours. The adult fare is \$75.

As part of the 12th Annual state-wide Connecticut Open House Day on Saturday, June 11, the Naugatuck Railroad will be offering special excursion trips from our 1881 Thomaston Station direct to Fascia's Chocolates in Waterbury. Passengers can ride our restored 1951 Budd Rail Diesel Car ("RDC") and then tour Fascia's factory and store before returning to Thomaston.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.rmne.org or phone [860-283-7245](tel:860-283-7245) anytime (24/7). All tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable.

Trains depart from Thomaston Station at 242 East Main Street, Thomaston. Passengers can pick up tickets at the Thomaston Station's "Will Call" window on the day of the event. Tickets are printed with your name. Please arrive at the Station 30 minutes before departure time. Trains depart promptly at the scheduled times.

From birthday parties to corporate events, contact the RMNE to find out how the Thomaston Station and the Naugatuck Railroad can offer you a unique experience.

More information about the Railroad Museum of New England can be found at: www.rmne.org.

More Information about Fascia's Chocolates can be found at: www.fasciaschocolates.com



More Information about Connecticut Open House Day can be found at:
<http://www.ctvisit.com/events/summary/connecticut-open-house-day/8990>

###

Media Contact: Railroad Museum of New England - Steve Casey, 83peachtree@gmail.com, [860.716.4854](tel:860.716.4854)