



RAILROAD MUSEUM OF NEW ENGLAND ANNOUNCES NAUGATUCK CLEAN UP PILOT A GREAT SUCCESS

More Than 420 Tires Removed From Naugatuck Valley in Thomaston and Watertown

THOMASTON, CT – March 13, 2016 – Volunteers from the Railroad Museum Of New England (RMNE), the Naugatuck River Revival Group (NRRG), O&G Industries, and the Boy Scouts completely exceeded all expectations on Saturday by removing enough tires to fill two 30 yard dumpsters from an area less than 3 miles long between the Naugatuck River and CT Route 8 in Thomaston and Watertown. More than 20 people devoted their Saturday to clean up the environment and pull tires both big and small.

Volunteers rode the train to Jericho Bridge. There they pulled the tires from the riverbank and brush and rolled them next to the Naugatuck Railroad mainline. From there a tie crane lifted them into a dump car. The train dumped the tires at Thomaston Station where a bucket loader lifted them into dumpsters. For the trial run, two teams started at Jericho Bridge, one on each side of the mainline and worked their way south and one team started at Frost Bridge Road and worked their way north. After lunch, volunteers returned to work south of Frost Bridge Road and pulled out more tires.

“This is a great project that will have a major impact on the environment and the quality of life for residents in the Greater Waterbury area” according to Seth Duke, Corporate Marketing & Communications Manager at O&G Industries.

Jack Tarter, the RMNE member who counted 700 tires along the river and mainline last year stated that he has “already spoken to neighbors of the railroad who have said that they will start taking better care of their property. Folks are really feeling a sense of pride. They want to see the Naugatuck beautiful again.”

People have illegally dumped tires, refrigerators and other debris next to the road and highway for many years. Some tires have been there so long that trees with 3” trunks were growing inside. Naugatuck Railroad brakeman, Alex Niesloss, pulled out his chain saw and freed the tires to be carried away.

Old tires pollute the river as they disintegrate, provide breeding grounds for mosquitos, and are an eyesore.

“The Great Naugatuck River & Naugatuck Railroad Clean Up” is sponsored through a grant by the Connecticut Community Foundation (CCF). Saturday’s goal was merely to test the plan developed 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, Cherry Hill Construction, the Naugatuck River Greenway and other community and business groups to recruit volunteers and recycle the tires.

A major community effort is planned for Saturday, April 2, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Thomaston Train Station, 242 East Main Street, Thomaston, CT 06787. After registration, a “Safety



Briefing” is planned for 8:30 a.m. and the work train will depart at 9:00 a.m. The last train will return at 3:00 p.m.

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.

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> For details and updates, those who are interested may go to www.rmne.org or the RMNE Facebook page.

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 will begin the second season at the 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>

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