



SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

2015 SUMMER MEETING

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

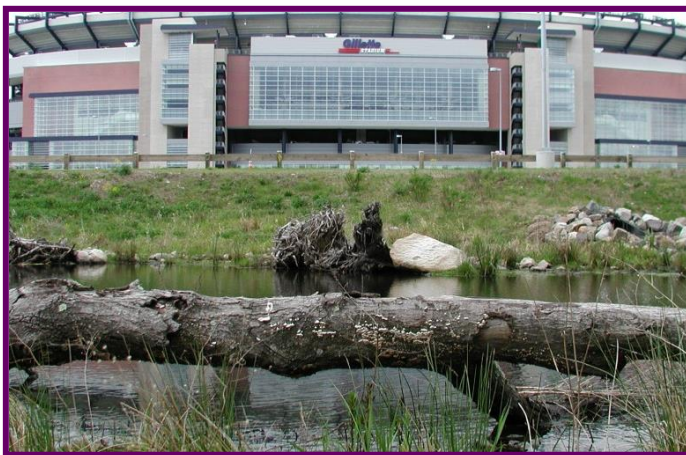
Daylighting of the Neponset River at Gillette Stadium

Thursday 6 August 2015 -- Rain or Shine
10:00am – 2:30pm

SWCS Members - \$35
Non-Members - \$45
Students - \$30

Blue Light Special - \$115 (includes 1 year
SWCS International and Southern New
England Chapter Membership at \$90)

All registration fees include Lunch.



More than a decade ago, the New England Patriots' constructed the new **Gillette Stadium**. A significant side project was the restoration of a long stretch of the **Neponset River** adjacent to the new stadium's parking lot. In the 1940s, racetrack construction on the site had originally forced the river underground. Gillette Stadium needed parking and the silt-clogged system needed "daylighting" and restoration. Hired by the New England Patriots/Kraft Group, **Tom Benjamin** was engaged to enhance **daylighting and re-create the riparian habitat** for a one-mile section of the Neponset River including all aspects of the landscape design, from the master plan through to construction documents.

The daylighting project removed two blocked culverts and reconnected disrupted sections of the river, diverting flow back to the Neponset River's historic alignment. Wetland mitigation and flood control provided major drivers for this fast-tracked project that proceeded from concept to implementation in less than one year. The primary flood control structure, a large berm, served as an access path to the stadium's railroad station, adding to the project's visibility. Tom leveraged complex wetland compliance elements to maximize the visual impact and biodiversity values of the restored river corridor's natural edge to developed portion of site.

Join Tom and Patriots' project manager **Dan Krantz** for a tour of the site a decade later and witness the progress of the maturing habit.

This tour was arranged by the **Ecological Landscape Alliance**. Thank you, Penny Lewis and Tom Benjamin!



SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

2015 SUMMER MEETING

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT
Daylighting of the Neponset River at Gillette Stadium

Project Highlights:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Award for Excellence (2002)
- Extensive bioengineering and re-vegetation efforts
- A river corridor functioning as an established natural system restored back to its original alignment



TOM BENJAMIN is an independent registered Landscape Architect and LEED-accredited Professional (AP BD+C) practicing design and sustainability consulting, and is Principal of Wellnesscapes. Tom has more than 20 years of experience in environmental design and sustainability work that often focused on green design including energy, waste, water and food systems.

In addition to residential restoration, Tom's site planning work emphasizes low cost, low maintenance landscape solutions for healthcare, academic and senior institutions, public facilities, commercial and residential developments, large-scale solar farms and community farms/gardens.

Tom teaches sustainable landscape design at the University of Massachusetts. He is the recipient of multiple awards, including three for his sustainable landscape design work at Kent Hospital in Warwick, RI. Tom is a Board Member of the Ecological Landscape Alliance (ELA).

DAN KRANTZ is the Director of Site Development for the Kraft Group, which owns the New England Patriots and Gillette Stadium. Dan was the Project Manager for the Gillette Stadium construction project and the Neponset River daylighting project. Dan holds a BS in Construction Management from Michigan State University.

KEN DESHAIS works for Tetra Tech as a Senior Project Scientist and wetlands specialist, with 20 years' experience conducting environmental assessments in the eastern United States.

From 1999 to 2007, Ken worked for the New England Patriots, Gillette Stadium and Economic Development Area where he developed application materials and permitting for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities and implementation of erosion and sediment controls. Ken was the lead Scientist responsible for the relocation and daylighting a section of the Neponset River.

Agenda:

- 9:30 : sign in begins
- 10 a.m. – noon: walk the site
- noon – 1 p.m.: presentation and Q & A in a stadium conference room
- 1 – 2:30 p.m.: lunch and SWCS Southern New England Chapter annual meeting

CEUs are being sought for this program.

REGISTER NOW to learn more about this beautiful bountiful landscape and the fascinating project that created it. <https://snec2015.eventbrite.com/>