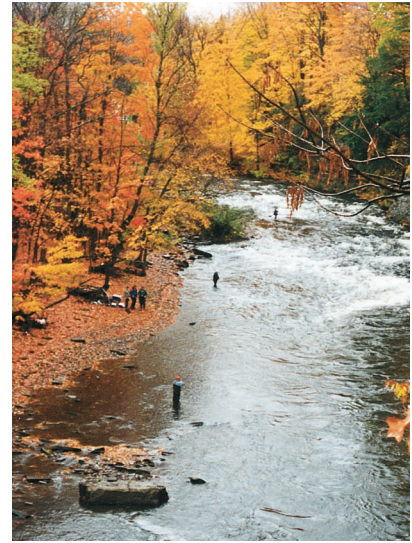




## Salmon River Steward Program

*Resource Appreciation  
through Public Education*



**New York's Salmon River, Salmon River Falls Unique Area and the river corridor** that stretches from the upper reservoir at Redfield to Port Ontario on Lake Ontario is a popular destination for anglers, wildlife enthusiasts, and outdoor recreationists. The 173,000-acre Salmon River watershed supports a world-class sportfishery and habitat for diverse plants and animals; and provides the natural resource for camping, hiking, hunting, kayaking, and winter recreation.

To encourage public appreciation and proper recreational enjoyment of the area, New York Sea Grant, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and The Nature Conservancy formed the Salmon River Steward Program. May through November, college undergrad and graduate students serve as goodwill ambassadors promoting environmentally-sound use of New York's natural resources through public education.

The stewards interact with visitors, offer public walks and programs, and lead by example as they conduct shoreline cleanup and maintain public access. They monitor visitor use; assist state and federal fish, wildlife and forestry staff; and help at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery in Altmar. The stewards walk, drive, canoe and motorboat to cover 44 miles of water and shoreline.

Public programs in 2006 included presentations on invasive species, Leave No Trace® Outdoor Ethics, "The Rock We Live On: The Geology of the Salmon River Corridor," wintering bald eagles, and "Knowing Your Favorite Fish."

Steward Program Coordinator Mary Penney of New York Sea Grant says, "The stewards are the first line of communication, talking with people about the importance of maintaining strong habitats for rare and endangered species and for the everyday plants and wildlife that are vital parts of the ecosystem's biodiversity."

**More info:** Salmon River Steward Program,  
315-312-3042



Photo above: Oswego County Community Development, Tourism & Planning;  
photos right: Mary Penney

## Do You Know...?

### Salmon River Stewards Share Interesting Facts & Figures

Do you know...

- ... the Salmon River watershed is approximately 285 square miles.
- ... the Salmon River drops 1500 feet in elevation.
- ... historically, the 110' vertical drop of the Salmon River Falls was the natural barrier for Atlantic Salmon migrating upstream.
- ... the Salmon River corridor is home to nesting osprey and wintering bald eagles.



... rock fractures help form the rapids that make the Salmon River a favorite with kayakers.

... the Falls Trail at the Salmon River Falls Unique Area and the fishing deck on the River at Route 3 are ADA (Americans with Disability Act) compliant.

... that a fish's fins, scales, and color can tell you where it lives, what it eats, and when it comes into the open.

... as many as ten million Chinook salmon may be naturally reproducing in the Salmon River each year.

... not to touch giant hogweed, sometimes described as "Queen Anne's lace with attitude."

... the upper watershed gets 300" snowfall annually, providing excellent winter recreation: snowmobiling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing...

... that the Salmon River Steward Program is a collaborative program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, and New York Sea Grant.



Photos by Mary Penney

