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Thanks to all who participated in the BRWA Day on the Blackstone.

On September 16, 2017, 25 people gathered at River Bend Farm Visitor Center to attend the 3rd Annual *Day on the Blackstone*. Participants in kayaks and canoes paddled north on the Blackstone Canal. At the dam spillway portage, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Visitor Services Supervisor, Kathryn Parent, gave the group a history lesson on the building of the Canal and its value during the Industrial Revolution. Ranger Kathryn pointed out that Rice City Pond may have been named after the Rist family and over time the name changed to Rice. She also pointed out that the stone arch bridge over the Canal was built in the 1800s and is still in use today, a sign of good design and construction.

In Rice City Pond, Joy Trahan-Liptak, wetland biologist with DCR and BRWA board member, informed the group on the different types of invasive plants, explained what defines an invasive plant, and educated the participants on what to do to avoid spreading invasive plants from waterbody to waterbody. She pointed out the abundant wildlife including frogs, snakes and various species of birds.

Ellen Gerardi, water quality monitor for the Blackstone River Coalition (BRC) Watershed-wide Water Quality Monitoring Program, spoke about that program, what volunteering for the program entails and how one can become involved in testing water quality throughout the Blackstone Valley.

Following the paddle, Ranger Kathryn then led the group on a hike to the Blackstone River, pointing out interesting flora and fauna along the way.

The conversation about the history and ecology of the Blackstone River and Canal continued in the Visitor Center over pizza. Everyone had a great time and learned something new, and received a T-shirt printed with "I Spent A Day on the Blackstone". Keep an eye open for the next *Day on the Blackstone* in 2018.