

Rollin' on the river

While the appearance of the eclectic musical ensemble known as **The Nile Project** just last month at the UMass Fine Arts Center was accompanied by a collaborative discussion with members of the Connecticut River Watershed Council on ways in which the Nile and the Connecticut share common concerns about sustainability, geographical conflict and resource allocation, it turns out that local officials have been consulting with Nile Project artists for some time now in developing what is called **The River's Song Project**, an initiative focusing on "the importance of the waters of the Connecticut River as it affects our lives, our cultural landscape and our environment."

On Saturday, the CRWC, the UMass Fine Arts Center Asian Arts and Culture Program and a host of other western Massachusetts organizations are sponsoring **The River's Song: A Celebration the Connecticut River**, a day of free activities and artistic doings in downtown **Turners Falls**. One highlight of the event is the annual reconciliation ceremony commemorating the 1676 Turners Falls massacre, during which English settlers slaughtered the inhabitants of the Indian village of Peskeompscut (present day site of Unity Park); another is the **Water Dance**, a nighttime riverside sound-and-light performance featuring illuminated hula hoops. Full schedule below:

- 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.: Turners Falls Fish Ladder open, First St. and Unity Park
 - 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.: Environmental exhibits, Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A
 - 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.: Kid's art activities, Great Falls Discovery Center
 - 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.: Connecticut River Watershed Council presents children's story time ("The Fish in the Polka Dot Dress"), hourly on the hour, Great Falls Discovery Center
 - 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.: RiverSmart Communities presents Bugquarium (live aquatic insects), Great Falls Discovery Center
 - 1- 1:30 p.m.: Reconciliation Commemoration Ceremony: The Nolumbeka Project, River Tent, Unity Park
 - 1:30-2:30 p.m.: Visioning B.E.A.R. singers and drumming, River Tent, Unity Park
 - 2:30-3 p.m.: River Stories in Poetry and Song with David Brule, River Tent, Unity Park
 - 3 p.m.: The River Parade, gather at the Art Garden Tent at Great Falls Discovery Center
 - 4 p.m.: The River's Song Soundscape, performance with Tony Vacca, the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A
 - 5:30-7 p.m.: Historic Native American Sites Walking Tour with David Brule and Joe Graveline, gather at Great Falls Discovery Center
 - 6:30-8 p.m.: Trash to Treasure art show reception, Great Falls Discovery Center
 - 8:45 p.m.: Water Dance, the Iron Bridge, behind Great Falls Discovery Center
- fac.umass.edu/Online/RiverSong for further information

