



Farmington River Coordinating Committee

Annual Report 2009

2009 FRCC Members

Barkhamsted

Jean Miller
Mario Santoro, alt.

Canton

Bill Roberts

Colebrook

Tom Stanton
Edna Travis alt.

Hartland

Fred Jones
Nicki Hall, alt.
Sam Slater, alt.

New Hartford

Alison Murdock
Mark Lindquist, alt.

CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Susan Peterson
MaryAnn Nusom
Haverstock, alt.

Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA)

Rich Strolis
Tom Karpeichik, alt.

Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA)

David Sinish
Eileen Fielding, alt.

Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)

Tim Anthony
Carol Youell, alt.

National Park Service (NPS)

Jamie Fosburgh
Liz Lacy, alt.

Greetings from FRCC!

As the new chair of the FRCC, I am happy to provide this introduction for the 2009 Annual Report. I have been the Colebrook alternate representative and secretary since 2008. In my new role, I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead for this important organization which does so much to enhance the environment and lives of everyone who lives, works, and plays in the Upper Farmington River Wild & Scenic area.

2009 Activities Highlights. This report contains a complete list of our projects and grants for 2009.



That information is also available on our updated website - www.FarmingtonRiver.org - which itself is one of our accomplishments for the year—please check out the new interactive map of our area.

FRCC embarked on an educational endeavor to reach out to different river users to promote cooperation. We produced a water bottle with our logo and the slogan— “Farmington Wild & Scenic River—Share it! Enjoy it!” In another exciting effort, FRCC contracted with biologist Betsy Corrigan (with assistance from Westfield State College intern Tiffany Caisse) to conduct a study of invasive plant infestations along the entire 14-mile Wild & Scenic corridor. The survey, along with

recommendations for future management measures has been completed. With assistance from FRCC, Aimee Petras of FRWA began a long term project to work closely with the local land trusts and promote regional coordination. Now, with the spring season upon us, we are pleased that the new Greenwood Anglers Trail will steer visitors of the area to more resilient and less environmentally-sensitive areas.

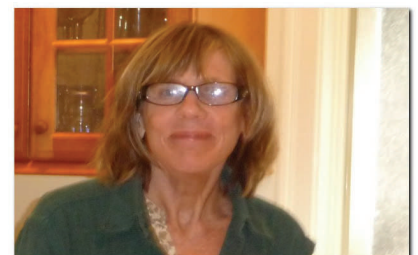
And, finally, handsome, new site-specific information boards have been installed on the backs of kiosks at Riverton Park , Greenwood, and Satan’s Kingdom. These are all worth visiting as the season begins.

New Members and Officers. In addition to my new role as chair (replacing Fred Jones of Hartland who also served in 2009), Tom Stanton, Colebrook representative and past chair, has agreed to stay on as vice chair. Bill Roberts, the new Canton representative, has become treasurer, and Susan Peterson, representative for the Department of Environmental Protection, replaced me as secretary. Cherie Robinson is the new Canton alternate.

A Preview of What’s New in 2010. In 2010, FRCC will be funding a project with FRWA and Sean Hayden of the Northwest Conservation District to conduct a study of the watershed of the Still River. The Still River joins Sandy Brook, one of the River’s most important tributaries, in Colebrook. We also plan to update the Upper Farmington River Management Plan. This will be one of the intermittent, required, full-scale reviews since the 1994 designation as a Wild & Scenic River. FRCC will take an in-depth look at the Plan and determine how well issues have been addressed by the actions taken in the last fifteen years. There are now new concerns for the river new, such as the incursion of invasive species and the impacts of increased precipitation, that no one could have anticipated back then. This will provide an excellent opportunity for the Committee to assess where we have been and where we are going. We welcome your input and ideas.

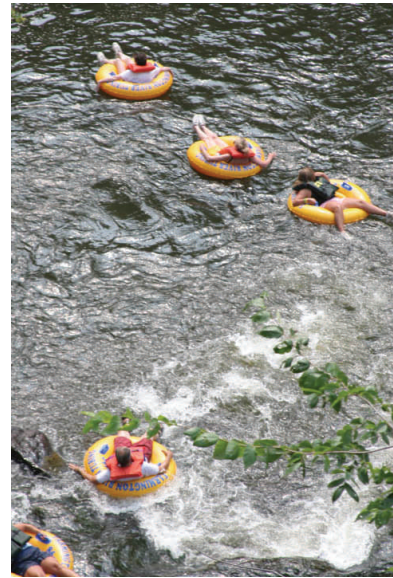
I am happy to have been a part of 2009’s accomplishments and look forward to the year ahead.

Edna H. Travis
FRCC Chair, Colebrook Alternate





An angler enjoys the tranquility of the Boneyard pool at Greenwood. Photo: Liz Lacy



Tubers enjoy a cool ride on the Farmington River. Photo: Fred Jones



A great blue heron swoops down to grab a fish on the Farmington River. Photo: Fred Jones



Paddlers float peacefully downstream of the Church Pool in Pleasant Valley. Photo: Liz Lacy

The Farmington River Coordinating Committee was established by the U.S. Congress to oversee and coordinate activities on the 14-mile federally designated Wild & Scenic section of the upper Farmington River. Each year the FRCC receives funding from Congress to fulfill its mandate. The Upper Farmington River Management Plan guides the actions of the Committee — and others who have an interest in stewardship of the river. The Upper Farmington W&S River designation extends from just below the Goodwin (Hogsback) Dam in Hartland to the New Hartford-Canton town line.

The Upper Farmington River Management Plan can be read at www.FarmingtonRiver.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2009

Outreach and Education

Keener and Johnson Scholarships— The 2009 Pat Keener scholarship went to Sophie Case from Canton High who is now studying at the University of Vermont. The Nancy Johnson scholarship went to Woodrow Hoffman from Regional 7 who is now studying at the Colorado State University.

FRCC Open House and W&S Art Exhibit — The 5th FRCC Annual Open House and W&S Art Exhibit was one of the best ever in 2009. Eighteen artists/photographers showed at least 37 examples of their work reflecting the W&S area. *Traveling Trout* as usual provided great tunes for appreciating the art.

FRCC Newsletter — FRCC produced and distributed one newsletter to more than 400 riverfront landowners, town officials and organizations.

FRCC Website — FRCC added an interactive map of our W&S area to the website. Please visit— www.FarmingtonRiver.org

River “Etiquette” Project— As phase one of this project, FRCC produced a water bottle with its logo and a subtle message “Farmington W&S River - Share It, Enjoy It!” - it is a BPA-free bottle made in the USA.

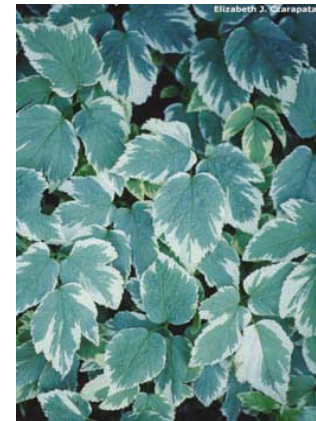
Outreach to Local Land Trusts—FRWA’s Aimee Petras was retained to share some of FRCC’s resources with local land trusts. Aimee attended the National Land Trust Rally and came back with ideas to use in our W&S area.

Resource Stewardship

Invasive Plant Survey—FRCC hired Betsy Corrigan, consulting botanist, to survey the 14-mile W&S stretch of river and its environs to determine the extent and types of non-native, invasive plants that are present. Betsy and intern Tiffany Caisse of Westfield State College conducted the survey and completed a record of the infestations and potential management schemes.

Land-Use Cover Study —FRCC continued its contract with Jeff Bolton of FRWA to analyze the changes in land use cover within the watershed of the 14-mile W&S stretch since the river was designated.

Macroinvertebrate Study — FRCC is supporting an unusually detailed study of stream insect samples, to determine whether the insect community shows signs of pollution effects. The FRWA and DEP continued work on this study in 2009 and contributed to the support of the project. Results are expected in 2010.



Invasive Goutweed

Water Quality Monitoring — Upper Farmington River WQM continues, thanks to Alisa Phillips- Griggs at FRWA and the support of MDC. In 2009, the upper Farmington’s mainstream water quality was generally high. Sections of the Mad River, Still River, and Morgan Brook showed elevated bacterial levels that are most likely connected with polluted stormwater runoff. These stretches were put on the 2009 CT Impaired Waters List and we will embark on a more in-depth analysis of this area in 2010.

Vernal Pools in Canton — More work was conducted by FRWA to identify vernal pools in Canton. The final stages of this project will take place in 2010.

Land Protection—FRCC contributed to Barkhamsted Land Trust for their land protection efforts.

Greenwoods Anglers Trail—FRCC worked with the FRAA, MDC and DEP to help direct foot traffic away from eroding riverbanks to more stable, established mowed trails in the MDC Greenwoods property. Intern Tiffany Caisse helped map the trails using a GPS and GIS.

Grants Awarded in 2009

Hartland —for wetlands training for municipal officials.

Barkhamsted— for removing lead paint from the Riverton bridge as part of a restoration project..



100 East River Road
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

Phone: 860-379-0282
Fax: 860-738-1092

E-mail: Liz_Lacy@nps.gov

Annual Report 2009 — Overview of Expenditures

Outreach and Education

Newsletters, Kiosks, Website	\$2,914
Open House	502
Keener and Johnson Scholarships	2,000
River Etiquette Project	1,479
Local Land Trust Outreach	<u>5,000</u>
Subtotal	\$11,895

Resource Stewardship

Vernal Pools Study	\$1,000
Water Quality Monitoring	18,750
Macro-invertebrate Study	1,300
Invasive Plant Management	15,337
Land Protection	150
Corridor Land Use Change Analysis	<u>280</u>
Subtotal	\$36,817

Grants Program

Wetlands Training Scholarships—Hartland	\$150
Start Up Funds (Continuing) —Hartland Land Trust	2,241
Riverton Bridge Restoration—Barkhamsted	6,500
R. Smith Site Archeology Study (Continuing)— Barkhamsted Historical Society	<u>3,720</u>
Subtotal	\$12,611

Operations

Operating and Office Costs	\$5,427
Organizational Development	<u>2,773</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$8,200</u>
TOTAL	\$69,523

~~~~~

**2009 Leveraging**

Total Volunteer Hours: 900  
Translated to dollars.....**\$18,000**

**Previews of 2010**

- On-the-Ground Invasive Plant Management
- Upper Farmington River Waterproof Educational Map
- Still River Watershed Assessment
- Update of the Upper Farmington River Management Plan