



# Farmington River Coordinating Committee

## 2010 FRCC Members

### Barkhamsted

Mario Santoro (Jean Miller)  
Roger Behrens, alt.

### Canton

Bill Roberts  
Cherie Robinson, alt.

### 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)

Paul Pinette (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.



## Annual Report 2010

**It is a pleasure** for me to open the 2010 Annual Report as I begin my second year as chairperson. I look back on a successful past year and ahead to another in which we will continue to build on the past year's accomplishments as well as embark on new efforts.



Pat Keener in front of her favorite project - FRCC's information kiosk

First, however, I want to acknowledge that FRCC lost some important friends this past year. Most importantly, in July we lost one of the river's strongest allies - Pat Keener. As many recollect, Pat was one of our original founders and several-term chair of FRCC. She was a continuing inspiration to the Committee as well as to all who knew her. Jean Miller, representative from Barkhamsted, and Fred Jones, Hartland representative and past chair, left the Committee. Both made invaluable contributions to FRCC's work and are much missed.

On the positive side, we welcome Roger Behrens as an alternate from Barkhamsted, and Paul Pinette representing the Farmington River Anglers Association. FRCC is also very fortunate that Tiffany Caisse, a biology student at Westfield State University, has joined us on a 10-month, full-time basis as an SCA/AmeriCorps apprentice, funded by the National Park Service. Tiffany was already well-acquainted with FRCC, having worked on the invasive plant project with Betsy Corrigan for two summers. She has already provided support on a number of projects, and we look forward to getting her outside as a "riverkeeper" once the weather warms up.

**2010 Highlights.** As is more fully described in this report, we continued to award the Pat Keener and Nancy Johnson scholarships, and held the annual open house and art exhibit in the fall. In addition, Liz Lacy, FRCC Director, made several presentations to various community groups.

We continued to work with botanist Betsy Corrigan identifying and eradicating invasive plant species. The Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) completed a land use cover study showing slow development along the shores of the river.

As we reported last year, in 2010, FRCC is working with FRWA and Sean Hayden of the Northwest Conservation District to locate and assess the impact which discharges from the Still River have on the Farmington. FRWA completed its review of the overall watershed and its consultant recommended retro-fit projects to ameliorate discharges from two sites. This project will be ongoing in 2011.

The Committee held a retreat at Camp Jewell in Colebrook to commence the process of updating our Management Plan. While the plan has stood us well since its creation in 1994, we identified many opportunities for updates and new directions. We are now hard at work assimilating the comments and producing a draft for review and comments.

**What's Up In 2011?** In addition to completing our update of the Management Plan, we are excited about a new waterproof "water trail" map of the Upper Farmington which we plan to distribute this spring. We will also continue with our on-going projects. In particular, our invasive plant management work with Betsy Corrigan will move ahead with further efforts at eradication and outreach education. Our Still River project has moved into its second phase and we look forward to seeing projects on the ground by the end of the year.

Our impressive grants awarded this year included: a build-out analysis for Hartland, a retrofit of the Miner Lane Detention Basin for Barkhamsted, a Farmington River exhibit at the Roaring Brook Nature Center, a management plan for the Sandy Brook Natural Area for Colebrook, and a contribution to the Trout in the Classroom Program to the Farmington River Anglers Association.

I am proud to have been part of 2010's accomplishments and look forward to the year ahead!

*Edna Travis, FRCC Chairperson*



Edna Travis, FRCC Chair person

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2010

### Outreach and Education

**Keener and Johnson Scholarships**— The 2010 Pat Keener scholarship went to Elise Minichiello from Canton High School who plans to attend Dickinson College. The 2010 Nancy Johnson scholarship went to Daniel LeDuc from Canton who is at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

**FRCC Open House and W&S Art Exhibit** — The 6th FRCC Annual Open House and W&S Art Exhibit was dedicated to our friend Pat Keener who passed away last summer. Thirteen artists/photographers showed at least 31 examples of their work reflecting the W&S area. We were glad to have local band *Traveling Trout* again playing music to accompany the art and refreshments.

**FRCC Newsletter** — FRCC produced and distributed two newsletters to more than 400 riverfront landowners, town officials and organizations.

**FRCC Website** — FRCC made more improvements and upgraded areas of the website. Please visit—[www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org)

**River “Etiquette” Project**— In phase two of this project, FRCC is developing an informative, waterproof, water trail map of our 14-mile stretch of W&S river—which will be issued in 2011— free of charge to all who would like one.

**Outreach to Local Land Trusts**—Aimee Petras of FRWA continued to share some of FRCC’s resources with local land trusts. Aimee participated in the National Land Trust Rally in Hartford and took workshops that will help the land trusts in the W&S area.

**Outreach to Local Boards, Organizations, and Schools**—Liz Lacy, FRCC Director, gave a presentation on FRCC and the Wild & Scenic designation to the Northwest (CT) Chapter of Trout Unlimited and to several different town board representatives in Colebrook.



Alison Murdock, Susan Peterson, Edna Travis, Tom Stanton, Liz Lacy, Tim Anthony, Cherie Robinson, Fred Jones, and Mario Santoro walk the Richard Smith archeological site - summer 2010.

**FRCC Outings**—Prior to its meetings during the warm months, FRCC holds pre-meeting outings or presentations. In May, Alisa Phillips-Griggs presented a detailed discussion on FRWA’s water quality monitoring and macro-invertebrate work. On June 21, FRCC enjoyed a paddle at Hogback Reservoir. In August, we were treated to a tour by Marc Banks at the Richard Smith archeological site in Colebrook.

**Kiosks**—Happily, during 2010, we completed the last three information kiosks located in key locations along the upper river.



Daniel LeDuc, Bill Roberts (FRCC Canton Rep.), and Elise Minichiello at West Branch Reservoir.

*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](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org)**

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2010

### Resource Stewardship

**Invasive Plant Survey**—FRCC's work on locating and eradicating invasive plant species in the 14-mile W&S river corridor area continued with Betsy Corrigan, botanist, and Tiffany Caisse, intern, leading the efforts. Several sessions took place to remove species such as spotted knapweed, Japanese stiltgrass, burning bush, autumn olive, and Japanese barberry.

**Land-Use Cover Study**—FRCC completed its contract with Jeff Bolton of FRWA who analyzed the changes in land use cover within the watershed of the 14-mile W&S stretch since designation. It was determined that the W&S designation has slowed riverfront development.

**Macroinvertebrate Study**—FRCC continues to support a detailed study of stream insect samples, to determine whether the insect community is being affected by pollutants in the river. The FRWA and DEP continued work on this study in 2010. Results are expected in 2011.

**Water Quality Monitoring**—Upper Farmington River WQM continues, thanks to Alisa Phillips-Griggs at FRWA and the support of MDC. In 2010, 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 CT Impaired Waters List.

**Still River Watershed Assessment**—Due to FRWA's water quality monitoring efforts, FRCC determined that some reaching out into the Still River watershed was needed to locate potential sources of bacteria and pollutants entering the Farmington from the Still. FRCC contracted with FRWA and the Northwest Conservation District to locate potential contaminant sources and find opportunities for Best Management Practices to be installed.

**Vernal Pools in Canton, New Hartford and Colebrook**—More work was conducted by FRWA to identify and verify vernal pools in Canton, New Hartford and Colebrook. Completion of this process is planned for 2011.

**Land Protection**—FRCC contributed to Barkhamsted Land Trust for their efforts, and the Colebrook Land Conservancy to support protection of the Kitchel property.

**Greenwoods Anglers Trail**—FRCC continued its work 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 assisted in developing concepts for signs to place at strategic points.



Heavily used riverbank at MDC's Greenwoods property

### Grants Awarded in 2010

**Hartland**—Build-out Analysis.

**Barkhamsted**— Miner Lane Detention Basin Retrofit.

**Roaring Brook Nature Center**—Farmington River Exhibit.

**Colebrook Land Conservancy**—Sandy Brook Natural Area Management Plan.

**Farmington River Anglers Association**—Trout in the Classroom Program.



**Annual Report 2010 — Overview of Expenditures**

**Outreach and Education**

Newsletters, Kiosks, Website	\$6,451
Open House	500
Keener and Johnson Scholarships	2,000
Local Land Trust Outreach	<u>4,900</u>

Subtotal \$13,851

**Resource Stewardship**

Vernal Pools Study	\$956
Water Quality Monitoring	15,750
Still River Watershed Assessment	8,375
Invasive Plant Management	18,600
Land Protection	6,150
Corridor Land Use Change Analysis	<u>3,855</u>

Subtotal \$53,686

**Grants Program**

Trout in the Classroom—Farmington River Anglers Association	\$645
Start Up Funds (Continuing) —Hartland Land Trust	1,330
Scholarships to Land Trust Rally—Barkhamsted	700
R. Smith Site Archeology Study (Continuing)— Barkhamsted Historical Society	<u>1,280</u>

Subtotal \$3,955

**Operations**

Operating and Office Costs	\$6,476
Organizational Development	<u>2,978</u>

Subtotal \$9,454

**TOTAL \$80,946**

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**2010 Leveraging**

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Volunteer Hours: 900 |                 |
| Translated to dollars..... | <b>\$18,000</b> |

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