



## 2012 FRCC Members

### **Barkhamsted**

Mario Santoro  
Roger Behrens, alt.

### **Canton**

Bill Roberts  
Cherie Robinson, alt.

### **Colebrook**

Tom Stanton/Ross Delaney  
Edna Travis, alt.

### **Hartland**

Dan Bowler  
Nicki Hall, alt.

### **New Hartford**

Alison Murdock  
Mark Lindquist, alt.

### **CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)**

Susan Peterson  
MaryAnn Nusom  
Haverstock, alt.

### **Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA)**

Nick Masi  
Scott Demoncada, alt.  
Paul Pinette, alt.

### **Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA)**

David Sinish  
Eileen Fielding, alt.

### **Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)**

Tim Anthony  
Carol Youell, alt.

### **National Park Service (NPS)**

Liz Lacy  
Jamie Fosburgh, alt.



# Farmington River Coordinating Committee

## Annual Report 2012

Hello Again, Old Friends and New

Inside this annual report, one will find our many accomplishments of 2012. However some of the major work of the FRCC may span several years until it reaches completion. One of those major projects is the revision of the Upper Farmington River Management Plan.

A requirement of the designation as a Wild & Scenic River by Congress is the creation of a Management Plan that serves as a stewardship document for the Upper Farmington River. The original plan, developed in 1994, has provided a sound foundation that has guided the FRCC well over time. However, the original document contained outdated language and references and could not address unanticipated new issues that face a Wild & Scenic River. The FRCC agreed to take on the task of revising the 84 page document and the process was begun in 2010.

The first step was a review of the Management Plan by FRCC members, identifying the role & importance of the Management Plan, what had been accomplished since designation, which elements are still relevant, which elements were no longer needed, and what new elements should be considered. The review by individual members reached a collaborative effort at a retreat conducted by a facilitator in November 2010 and thus provided the framework for the steps to follow in updating the plan.



The Executive Subcommittee of the FRCC agreed to review the initial drafts of the plan. Work began in 2011 to incorporate the comments from the retreat and address outdated language. This was accomplished through the masterful skills of Joyce Kennedy Raymes of the National Park Service—who was also the coordinator of the Lower Farmington Wild and Scenic Study over the past few years. Specific sections were assigned for review by Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), state of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), FRCC subcommittee chairs, and National Park Service staff members. All FRCC members were asked to recommend maps to be included in the plan. The list of draft maps was provided to Jeff Bolton, GIS guru of FRWA, for development.

By 2012, an iteration of a draft management plan was ready for review by all members of the FRCC. The review discussion was led by Joyce at the April 30 meeting of FRCC. Subsequently, a draft document was prepared and sent to all FRCC partners with a cover letter including the link to the FRCC website and a deadline for comment. A draft document was provided for public review at the FRCC Open House on October 18, 2012 and posted on the FRCC website with public comment closed by January 15, 2013. A postcard and e-postcard was sent to everyone on our mailing list to alert them of the review period. Review of maps was on-going by FRCC members.

With the review and comment periods drawing to an end, final preparations for publication were undertaken. It was decided that the most useful placement of the document will be on the website with a limited printing of hard copies to be placed in member towns, libraries, and with partners. Photographs and maps in color will be included in the plan. Thus, a request for proposals for the design of the plan was solicited, a final review of maps conducted by FRCC and a request for photographs. We anticipate you will be pleased with the outcome, a document worthy of the beautiful Wild & Scenic Farmington River we all enjoy.

Cherie Robinson,  
FRCC Chair, Canton Alternate Representative

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2012

### Education and Outreach

**Keener and Johnson Scholarships**— The 2012 Pat Keener scholarship went to Bianca Beland of Barkhamsted who graduated from Northwest Regional 7 and will be attending the University of Maine at Orono pursuing a degree in Forestry and Wildlife Ecology. The 2012 Nancy Johnson scholarship went to Peter LeDuc who graduated from Canton High School and is majoring in Environmental Science at SUNY—College of Environmental Science and Forestry.



**FRCC Open House and W&S Art Exhibit** — The 8th FRCC Annual Open House and W&S Art Exhibit went well again in 2012. With goats chomping invasive plants outside, music again from Travelin' Trout, and excellent art from many amazing local artists—it was great fun. A highlight was the installation of our new sign on the porch at Squire's tavern.

Many thanks to Mark Lindquist and Alison Murdock for their efforts on the sign. (Mark, David Sinish and Liz Lacy pose underneath).



**FRCC Newsletter** — FRCC produced and distributed several E-newsletters to our email list including riverfront landowners, town officials and organizations.

**FRCC Website** — There were new additions and changes to the website including a new “Invasives” page and an “Upper Farmington River Management Plan” review page.

**River “Etiquette” Project**— This project “morphed into” a cooperative Recreational Management project that FRCC began with partners to address difficult issues that arise during recreational use by some—including use of glass containers, leaving trash, and unruly behavior. An intern from UConn (Heidi Fitzpatrick) contributed initial information from a research project and the effort will continue into 2013 with a campaign to pull in partners and heighten river users’ awareness.

**Outreach to Local Land Trusts**— FRCC continued offering grants for land protection assistance and nurtured communication efforts with local land trusts.

**Outreach to Local Boards, Organizations, and Schools**— FRCC members continue to meet with other groups and share information.

**FRCC Outings**— On June 19, FRCC enjoyed a pre-meeting paddle at the West Branch Reservoir above Hogback/Goodwin dam and then had a small gathering for our 2012 scholarship recipients.

**Kiosks**— On-going maintenance of our eight informational kiosks continues with FRCC reps monitoring each location.

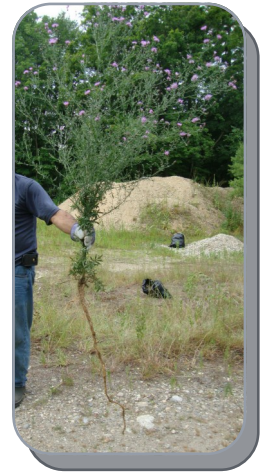
*The Farmington River Coordinating Committee was established by the U.S. Congress to oversee and coordinate activities on the 14-mile federally designated Wild & Scenic section of the upper Farmington River. Each year the FRCC receives funding from Congress to fulfill its mandate. The Upper Farmington 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 2012

### Resource Stewardship

**Invasive Plant Management**—Betsy Corrigan, consulting botanist, Hannah Beach, past-invasives outreach coordinator, Zara Dowling, current invasives outreach coordinator, and others continued FRCC’s mission to control invasive plants in the 14-mile W&S corridor. Efforts focused primarily on new species entering our region and the protection of rare habitat areas. Helpful partners in 2012 included MDC, ConnDOT, the Community Service program, DEEP Forestry, and several riverfront landowners.



A volunteer pulls a huge specimen of knapweed from a grassy/sandy habitat area near the Farmington River.



A “bioswale” installed by the Northwest Conservation District (with funding from FRCC) at the Winsted wastewater treatment facility—will help filter parking lot runoff before it heads down to the river.

### Still River Watershed Assessment

—FRCC continues reaching out into the Still River watershed to locate potential sources of bacteria and pollutants entering the Farmington from the Still. FRCC contracted with FRWA and the Northwest Conservation District to work with the community to install demonstration projects that show best management practices for storm water management.

**Vernal Pools in Colebrook** — Betsy Corrigan continued to identify and field verify vernal pools in Colebrook. Connections were made with several individuals who will continue working in 2013 to record the vernal pools to further their protection.

**Land Protection**—FRCC continued to support land trusts working in the W&S corridor.

**Mapping Project**—Jeff Bolton of FRWA created drafts of new maps to accompany the updated Farmington River Management Plan.

**Water Quality Monitoring** — Upper Farmington River WQM continues, thanks to Alisa Phillips-Griggs at FRWA and the support of MDC. In 2012, the upper Farmington’s mainstream water quality was generally high. There remain concerns about stormwater runoff into the Still River and silting that recurs in Sandy Brook—these are two important tributaries to the Farmington.

### Grants Awarded in 2012

Hartland Land Trust—Build Out Analysis  
 Colebrook Land Conservancy—Sandy Brook Natural Area Management Plan  
 Canton Land Trust—Watershed Trail Signage  
 Barkhamsted Historical Society—Lighthouse Historical Site Signage  
 CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection—Bianca Beland—Interpretive Tree Signs



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Annual Report 2012 — Overview of Expenditures

Outreach and Education

Newsletters, Kiosks, Website	374.00
Keener and Johnson Scholarships and Interns	3,500.00
River Etiquette Project	1,030.00
Open House	<u>200.00</u>

Subtotal \$5,104.00

Resource Stewardship

Vernal Pools Study	6,735.00
Water Quality Monitoring	10,000.00
Still River Watershed Assessment	2,000.00
Invasive Plant Management	11,325.00
Land Protection	1,360.00
Mapping	<u>3,325.00</u>

Subtotal \$34,745.00

Grants Program

Hartland Land Trust—Build Out Analysis	3,500.00
Colebrook Land Conservancy—Sandy Brook Natural Area Management Plan	4,200.00
Canton Land Trust—Watershed Trail Signage	4,780.00
Barkhamsted Historical Society—Lighthouse Historical Site Signage	265.00
CT Department of Energy and Env. Protection—Bianca Beland -Tree Signs	<u>220.00</u>

Subtotal \$12,965.00

Operations

Operating and Office Costs	<u>6,495.00</u>
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Subtotal \$6,495.00

TOTAL \$59,309.00

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2012 Leveraging

Total Volunteer Hours: 957

Translated to dollars.....\$20,442.00

www.FarmingtonRiver.org