



2015 FRCC Members

Barkhamsted

Mario Santoro
Roger Behrens, alt.

Canton

Lance Hansen
Cherie Robinson, alt.

Colebrook

Ross Delaney
Tom Stanton, alt.

Hartland

Dan Bowler

New Hartford

Alison Murdock

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Susan Peterson

Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA)

Nick Masi
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 2015

Greetings,

The years rapidly flow along and the FRCC continues to successfully fulfill its mission to promote the long-term protection of the Farmington River Wild and Scenic Area. The committee comprises volunteers with a wealth of knowledge and a shared love for the area's outstanding values. Members include representatives from the five-riverfront towns of Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Hartland and New Hartford, as well as representatives from the CT DEEP, Farmington River Watershed Association, Metropolitan District Commission, National Park Service and the Farmington River Anglers Association. We also have the valuable assistance of Stephan Bastrzycki, our River Steward and interns from area colleges pursuing careers in environmental science. The committee meets on a regular basis to advocate and educate for river quality, and to resolve issues by coordinating and maintaining cooperation between the towns and various river stakeholders.

This annual report highlights the FRCC's accomplishments of the past year as guided by the Upper Farmington River Management Plan. The plan is not a set of regulations but rather a stewardship guidance document approved by Congress and required for the upper Farmington to be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The FRCC follows its guidelines and recommendations. The plan is a resource rich with maps and information about the wild and scenic corridor. We invite you to read the plan and learn more about the FRCC at www.farmingtonriver.org

Moving ahead, a significant challenge continues to be the preservation of this wild and scenic area. Ever increasing demands of recreation and inevitable development threaten its outstanding values. Ongoing river stewardship as well as our education and outreach endeavors described in this report will continue to be our important priorities.

The Wild & Scenic adds beauty and vitality to our towns as well as economic well-being. This treasure needs to be appreciated and protected. We are fortunate to be able to play a part in guaranteeing that this wonderful river will remain *wild and scenic* for generations to come. We encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with us and wish you continued enjoyment of this special area.

Roger Behrens

FRCC Chairman, Barkhamsted



Education and Outreach

River Steward Program - Thanks to a *Call to Action* grant from the National Park Service, FRCC was able to get a good start on its River Steward Program in summer 2015—contracting with our lead steward Stephan Bastrycki - and eight assistant stewards (some paid, some volunteer). The group received a thorough training and then spent the summer months covering a lot of ground around the river spreading information and good will towards the river. The program will continue in 2016 with additional funds from the NPS grant.



FRCC Annual Open House and W&S Art Exhibit - The 2015 W&S Art Exhibit included more than 20 artists, photographers and quilters. The Travelin' Trout played great music once again. And our FRCC chefs provided plentiful and delicious refreshments. We were delighted with a preview of the *Farmington River Quilt* project which will be completed in 2016. It is made up of 25 2' by 2' unique panels depicting different sections of our 14-mile W&S stretch of the West Branch. The quilt will be 50 feet long when all together next year.

Pat Keener and Nancy Johnson Scholarships -

It was FRCC's pleasure to award Autumn Maust and Catherine McClure our scholarships in 2015. Both come from W&S towns and are in college focusing their studies on natural resources and environmental sciences.

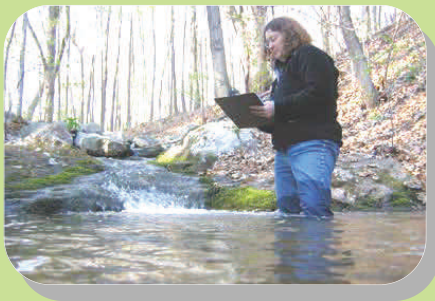


West Branch Video -

FRCC's FRWA Rep David Sinish coordinated a complete video of the West Branch "Down the Farmington River" which was produced by Cameo Photo Video of Collinsville. Portions of the video will be added to the FRCC website, Facebook page, and played in other venues. The video documents the current state of the river and provides a point of comparison for the future.

Resource Stewardship

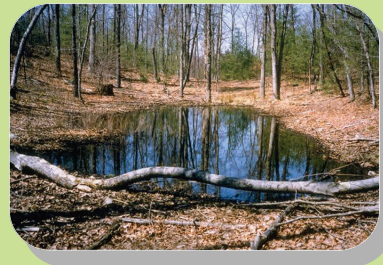
Invasive Plant Management - The FRCC invasive plant management team led by consulting botanist/biologist Betsy Corrigan and assistants Ella McPherson and Melissa Higley continues to tackle the invasive plants encroaching on sensitive areas along the W&S West Branch of the Farmington River. Seven invasive plant species in particular were targeted with dozens of eradication work day efforts. Actions also included outreach to neighbors and at least 12 volunteer work days. The River Steward Team also participated in control work days in summer 2015 and will continue in 2016.



Water Quality Monitoring - FRCC ensures each year that FRWA can continue its monitoring of water quality in the upper watershed. Samples are taken at 15 sites monthly April through November. Results of that monitoring show that storm water runoff prevention is needed in the Sandy Brook/Still River sub-watersheds to protect the quality of water in the main stem Farmington. Project planning has been underway for demonstration projects including a bio-swale at Northwest Connecticut Community College and a watershed plan for the Still River.

Vernal Pools Surveys -

The final report on Colebrook's vernal pools was completed by consulting biologist Betsy Corrigan and FRWA. (photo courtesy of CT.gov)



Stream Crossing Surveys for Flow and Fish Passage

Continuity - As part of a watershed wide project, FRCC supports FRWA to survey stream crossings for continuity of flow and fish passage in the upper reaches. There will be more surveys completed in 2016. During 2015 there were 28 upper river culverts surveyed. All field data was entered into the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity (NAACC) database. A total of 174 culverts have been surveyed in the upper river watershed since the start of the inventory in 2012. (photo courtesy of FRWA)

Assistance to New Hartford Land Trust - Steele Road Property -

FRCC provided assistance to New Hartford Land Trust in its protection of a 3 acre property on Steele Rd in New Hartford. The land is across the road from the Jones Mountain Preserve, is rich in wetlands and woods, and hosts a portion of East Mountain Brook - a tributary to the Farmington River.

PEST ALERT !

GOUTWEED (also called BISHOP'S WEED)
(*Aegopodium podagraria*)

- BLOOMS IN SPRING -





Infested area

LOOK AROUND ON YOUR PROPERTY...
Have you seen this plant?

- It can easily spread from gardens into natural areas, negatively impacting native plant communities so essential to wildlife for food and cover.
- Its fast rate of spread can also cause devastating affects to your landscape by outcompeting both native and garden plantings.
- This highly competitive plant spreads over large areas by complex underground root systems making eradication of large colonies difficult.

**Please help us find and control
this plant in the Farmington River watershed!**

Although Goutweed has been banned by the CT Legislature from sale*, populations are out there in our landscape, spreading in natural areas and perhaps on your property! With your help, we can stop the spread of Goutweed before it impacts the Farmington River floodplain. If you think you have found this plant, please note the location and report it to Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) at [860-379-0282](tel:860-379-0282) or frcc@farmingtonriver.org *Sec.22a-381d of the CT General Statutes



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 Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

Phone: 860-379-0282

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FRCC@farmingtonriver.org

Visit us on Facebook



Annual Report 2015 — Overview of Expenditures

Education and Outreach

Newsletters, Kiosks, Website	3,822.40
Keener and Johnson Scholarships and Interns	7,250.00
River Stewardship Project—Youth Stewards	<u>19,407.81</u>

Subtotal 30,480.21

Resource Stewardship

Water Quality Monitoring	20,000.00
Stream Crossing Surveys	1,111.62
Invasive Plant Management	15,750.00
Land Protection Assistance—New Hartford Land Trust	2,581.00
Vernal Pools Identification	<u>2,477.00</u>

Subtotal 41,919.62

Operations

Operating and Office Costs	<u>9,601.55</u>
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TOTAL 82,001.38

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### 2015 By Numbers ...

#### River Steward Team Summer 2015

- 750 hours paid youth stewards
- 353 hours volunteer stewards
- 975 river users reached and 950 bags of trashed removed

#### Other 2015 Volunteers

- 400 hours for meetings and special projects
- 64 hours Water Quality Monitoring
- 20 Invasive Plant Management

Total volunteer time translated to dollars.....\$16,740

[www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org)  
[www.FarmingtonRiverSteward.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiverSteward.org)