



Farmington River Coordinating Committee - Annual Report 2017

2017 FRCC Members

Barkhamsted

Mario Santoro
Roger Behrens, alt.

Canton

Mark Quinlan

Colebrook

Ross Delaney
Tom Stanton, alt.

Hartland

Dan Bowler

New Hartford

Alison Murdock (Chair)

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Susan Peterson

Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA)

Nick Masi
Mark Swenson, alt.

Farmington River Watershed Associa- tion (FRWA)

David Sinish
Eileen Fielding, alt.

Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)

Tim Anthony
Carol Youell, alt.

National Park Service (NPS)

Liz Lacy
Jamie Fosburgh, alt.



Greetings Fellow Friends of the Farmington River!

This past year was challenging for many reasons, but members of the FRCC have remained hopeful and resolute in our charge to protect and celebrate the River in accordance with the Upper Farmington River Management Plan.

FRCC includes volunteer representatives from the participating towns of Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Hartland and New Hartford, as well as representatives from CT DEEP, Farmington River Watershed Association, Metropolitan District Commission, National Park Service and the Farmington River Anglers Association.

We work with many other active, committed groups of volunteers for which we are supremely grateful. Ongoing projects that these volunteers help with include: Identifying and working to eliminate Invasive Non-native Plants in the watershed; River and watershed cleanups; Preserving watershed lands; Water Quality Monitoring; Stream Crossing Surveys...and more.

Our River Steward program continues to grow and be a presence in the community; we had thousands of interactions with visitors to the River this year and public reaction to the River Stewards' being there has been overwhelmingly positive. Along with their stewardship activities, the River Stewards provide public education about River ecology and local flora and fauna and the issues affecting them.

The Farmington River Quilt, which highlights the W&S section of the Farmington's various attributes, was displayed at many venues both in and outside of CT, attracting thousands of viewers.

In 2017 we continued actions on the Still River watershed addressing causes of pollution and bacterial events flowing down to the Farmington River.

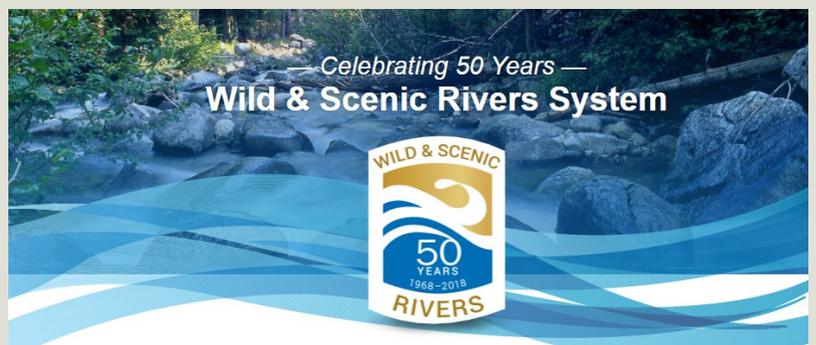
We also contracted the engineering firm Princeton Hydro to look at areas along the Farmington where the river meets steep banks in close proximity to the road, and there is significant erosion and/or bank destabilization. They identified some priority sites and suggested best approaches to fix these problems, and some ballpark cost estimates. We will offer this information to local Departments of Public Works and the State DOT to help them remedy these problems.

This annual report has details about the above items, and you can find more information and give us your feedback at farmingtonriver.org and farmington-riversteward.org.

We look forward to working with you for an equally productive and successful 2018!
Love our River!

Alison

Alison Murdock
Chair, New Hartford Representative



Stay tuned...As part of the 50th celebration in 2018, FRCC was invited to provide information and footage of the Farmington River and its stakeholders for a mini-documentary. Follow us on www.farmingtonriver.org and social media to see this inspirational film as soon as it is released in 2018 ...

Education and Outreach

River Steward Program

The 2017 FRCC River Steward program operated from June 2nd to August 27th. The staff consisted of four paid assistant stewards – Nick, Jonathan, and Ayerland, who worked on average 16 hours per week, and Richard, who began the summer at a school outward bound program, then started with us on the first of July.

We were also fortunate to have a strong volunteer force this summer. Mickey, who has been with us since the start of the Steward program three years ago, returned. Matt, a student at Westfield State University, worked many hours in return for credit towards his diploma. Donna handled much of the social media and advertising, volunteering an estimated 60 hours. We enlisted the help of Nora (wife of Uncle Aaron, of Uncle Aaron's bait shop in Riverton) and her friend Jan who helped with trash pickup in Riverton and along Hogback Road. A volunteer in Nepaug State Forest reported to us when he helped cleanup on Ramp Road. With the awareness of the Steward program increasing, people now approach us asking how they can help.

Unlike the latter part of the previous summer, the Farmington's water levels were higher in June through August. However, with cooler weather overall, aside from fishing, the river saw light activity. All did a terrific job with education and outreach, and keeping the corridor clean. This was the strongest team we've had since the start of the program. Our efforts, combined with DEEP EnCon officer presence enforcing a no-alcohol policy in Satan's Kingdom/Nepaug, seemed to result in a reduced amount of trash seen on the river and a cut back on alcohol use.

Challenges such as interacting with first time river-users, and encountering drug use along the river are prominent. Now more than ever, we are determined to continue to expand and enhance this program to promote the mission of the Farmington River Coordinating Committee and keep the Farmington W&S River an enjoyable place to live and visit.

The Farmington River Quilt: Reimagining the Fabric of Understanding

The Farmington River Quilt had a great display tour throughout FY 2017!

The quilts seem to be one of the best outreach programs of the FRCC. The comments at all the venues are how well the beautifully expressive art of the quilts reflect the Wild and Scenic Upper Farmington River. Many people have viewed the quilts at the various venues ranging from a few to eight thousand as at the Greater Hartford Quilt Show this past July.

We thank the past venues for their patronage and look forward to our future display locations in 2018.

Future Venues

March 2018: Stitches Quilt Show, Hartford, CT

November 2018: FRWA Annual Meeting,
Simsbury, CT

*The FRCC is seeking additional venues for the quilts in 2018. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Quilt Curator, Dan Bowler, through the quilt's website:
farmingtonriverquilt.org*



Past Venues

October 2016: Northwestern CT Community College, Winsted, CT

October/November 2016: FRCC Open House, Barkhamsted, CT

January/February 2017: Stanley-Whitman Museum, Farmington, CT

April/May 2017: Town of New Hartford, New Hartford, CT

May 5 & 6, 2017: North Star Quilt Show, Danbury, CT

July 21 & 22, 2017: Greater Hartford Quilt Show, Hartford, CT

October 2017: Town of Hartland

November 2017: View Art Center, Old Forge, NY

Resource Stewardship

Invasive Plant Management



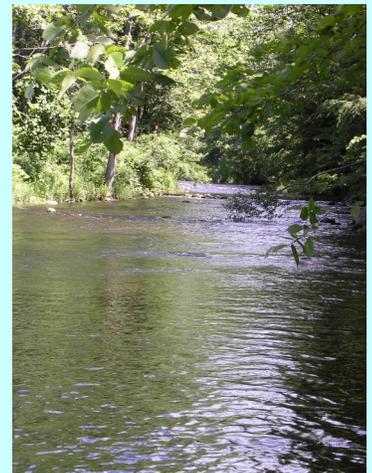
The FRCC invasive plant management team led by consulting botanist/biologist Betsy Corrigan and assistants Ella McPherson, Angie Tricomi, and Bianca Beland continued to tackle the invasive plants encroaching on sensitive areas along the W&S West Branch of the Farmington River. A species of concern for this year was Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegeum vimineum*) of which small populations were identified and controlled along the river corridor.

As an added bonus, Angie created an interactive story map using ESRI's ArcGIS online Story Maps editor. This will allow the FRCC to share information about known populations with the public in the hopes that new and unknown populations can be reported more easily.

Stream Crossing Surveys

The Stream Crossing Survey program continued again this year, following protocol set forth by the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC). Our data is organized into a comprehensive public database which allows the tracking of such infrastructure.

This year we tackled sixty-eight stream crossings in Hartland and organized them based on condition and severity. Forty-one were on roads maintained by the Town of Hartland and twenty-seven were on state maintained roads. Seven of these crossings were deemed to be a significant to severe barrier to fish passage. They included such issues as perched culverts which make passage upstream difficult to impossible, and box culverts which lack appropriate stream bottom substrate. Many thanks to Thomas Griffith and Stephen Banulski for their hard work collecting and analyzing data this year!



Water Quality Monitoring

The water quality of the watershed of the Upper Farmington was monitored by FRCC volunteers David and Carrie Sinish, under the direction of Alisa Phillips-Griggs (FRWA Water Quality and Projects Coordinator). Fifteen sites were monitored for bacteria, chemicals, nutrients and minerals during the eight months of April through November. Water analysis was done at the MDC labs in West Hartford. Results were compiled and are shown on the FRWA website. Farmington River Watershed Association>What We Do>Water Quality Monitoring.

Assistance to Local Land Trusts

FRCC assists local land trusts within the five river towns as they seek to protect watershed lands. Our most recent grants have gone to Hartland Land Trust and New Hartford Land Trust. Each were given funds to help with the associated costs of protecting parcels that protect tributaries to the West Branch Farmington W&S River.

Pat Keener and Nancy Johnson Scholarships

It was FRCC's pleasure to award scholarships to Autumn Maust (New Hartford, University of Vermont), Gabriel Ortiz (Canton, University of Miami), and Daniel Hoskins (Barkhamsted, University of Maine). Each year these scholarships are awarded to deserving students from any of the FRCC member towns (Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Hartland, and New Hartford) that are graduating seniors or currently enrolled in college in an environmental science program.



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 Visit us on Facebook

The Farmington River Coordinating Committee was established by the U.S. Congress to oversee and coordinate activities on the 14-mile federally designated Wild and 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 the stewardship of the river.

The Upper Farmington Wild and Scenic River designation extends from just below Goodwin (Hogsback) Dam in Hartland to the New Hartford - Canton town line.

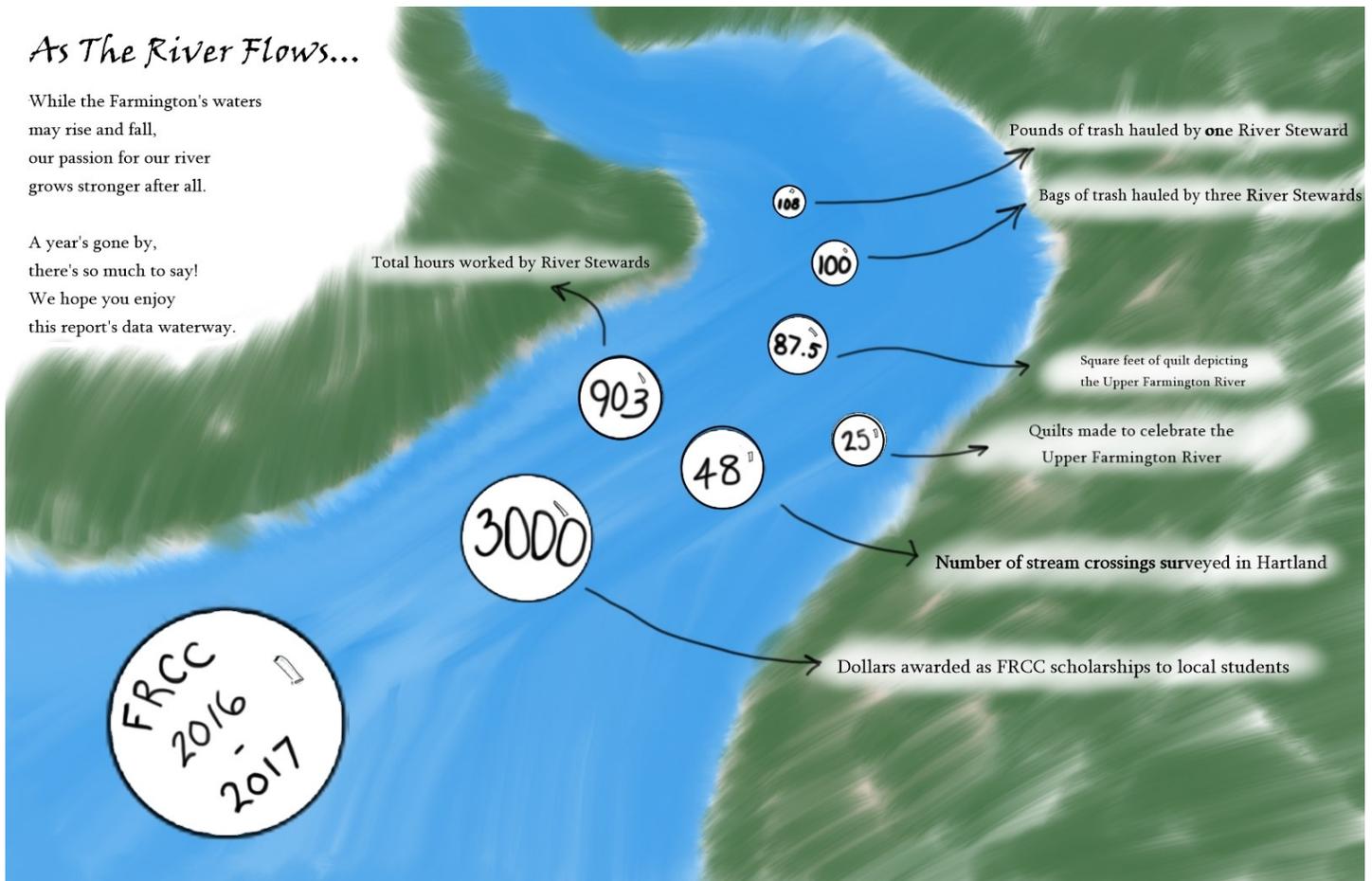
Annual Report 2017— Overview of Expenditures

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Education and Outreach | \$38,723.00 |
| Publications, Website, Kiosks, Scholarships, River Steward Program, FR Quilt Project | |
| Resource Stewardship | 78,243.00 |
| Invasive Plant Management , Water Quality Monitoring, Still River Watershed WQ Project, Stream Crossing Surveys, Streambank Assessment | |
| Operations | 22,820.00 |
| Operational Expenses, Interns | |
| Small Grants and Land Protection Assistance | <u>7,700.00</u> |
| FY 2017 TOTAL | 147,486.00 |

As The River Flows...

While the Farmington's waters may rise and fall, our passion for our river grows stronger after all.

A year's gone by, there's so much to say! We hope you enjoy this report's data waterway.



This year's annual report is dedicated to the memory of Ross Delaney. A stalwart friend of the river and FRCC Colebrook Representative. We will miss his wit and expertise - as well as his goat stories. May he rest in peace.