

## Major Water Quality Monitoring Effort Underway

SOMEWHERE in the river right now, a black box is sitting on the bottom, “tasting” the water and recording the results. It’s there because a smorgasbord of agencies and organizations is cooperating in a first-class example of efficient partnership.

A comprehensive assessment of water quality is underway on all 275 miles of the Connecticut River in New Hampshire, thanks to the combined efforts of NH DES, EPA Region I, CRJC, the local river subcommittees, Antioch New England Graduate School, and local volunteers. Those who dismiss agency bureaucracy as glacially cumbersome haven’t met DES’s Paul Currier and Ted Walsh, or EPA’s Bob Varney, Dan Burke, Erik Beck, and Tom Faber.

At this moment, teams of interns are out on the river, sampling each of 49 “assessment units” (or monitoring sections) of the river for recreation safety and also for aquatic habitat quality. Samples taken five different times during the summer for each section will tell whether it is safe to swim or if too many *E. coli* bacteria are present in that section. In



Sumner Falls, at Plainfield and Hartland. The State of NH considers these popular kayaking waters unsafe for contact recreation because of *E. coli* bacteria. This summer’s monitoring will shed more light on the situation.

addition, measurements of water chemistry, including dissolved oxygen, temperature, and pH, taken ten times over the summer at each location, will indicate how healthy the river

*continued on page 2*

**CRJC Awards  
\$84,600 in  
Partnership Grants  
pg. 6**

## Northern River Assessment Nearly Complete

STRAIGHTENED? Channelized? Our wild northern Connecticut River? “It’s true,” says Dr. John Field, CRJC’s consulting fluvial geomorphologist, who is assessing the 85 miles of the Connecticut River from Murphy Dam in Pittsburg to the Gilman Dam in Lunenburg/Dalton. The log drives, for which the Connecticut River was famous at the turn of the last century, appear to haunt this powerful river still.

Dr. Field is looking at the natural and human causes for channel change on the river, identifying the most unstable and degraded reaches, and choosing restoration strategies to bring the river toward a stable equilibrium. As

part of the project, Dr. Field will prepare a design and cost estimates for a top priority restoration site. The Commissions will then seek funding to restore this site.

Before starting field work this summer, Dr. Field mapped channel features and compared aerial photographs from the past and present, to see how the river has moved over time. He found that the river has hardly moved at all since 1927, but prior history is a very different story.

Large sections of the river appear to have been straightened prior to 1927, probably by humans rather than by natural flood events,

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*River Valley News  
is posted on the  
Web at crjc.org.  
If you prefer to view  
RVN electronically,  
please notify us at  
contact@crjc.org.*

*State budget cuts  
have left LCHIP,  
arguably the most  
widely supported  
piece of legislation in  
the state's recent  
history, without the  
funding to do its job.  
Fall Mountain's  
protection would not  
have been possible  
without it.*

*Based partly upon a  
news release from TNC.*

**Water Quality**, continued environment is for fish and other aquatic life. In one sampling session, a minimum of ten readings are taken, one every half-hour.

The challenge of repeatedly deploying sampling devices over 275 miles of river in one short summer, with limited people power, equipment, and funds, is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. Throw in the need to rush samples from, say, the remote Connecticut Lakes to the DES lab in Concord within six hours, and it becomes a logistical nightmare.

Undaunted, DES's Ted Walsh has put together a dream stream team to cover the Connecticut, using people, equipment, funds, and information from the partners. "Patchwork is a good word for it," says Ted. DES has hired and trained two full-time interns who are graduate students at Antioch in Keene. Another intern from DES's Volunteer Rivers Assessment Program is helping out, along with Travis Hussey of the Cold River Local Advisory Committee. EPA's Dan Burke and Erik Beck will each don waders for a few days, joined by CRJC's Adair Mulligan and Cheston Newbold, a Vermont Fish and Wildlife crew, and other volunteers.

Bob Varney, Regional Administrator at EPA, has offered his agency's strong support and encouragement, providing equipment, supplies, funds, and staff to the effort. CRJC has contributed to lab costs, and local sub-

committee members have identified suitable access to sampling locations.

Until now, the quality of the water in 103 miles of the river is unknown, and 23 miles of river are rated as unsafe for swimming. Preparing to update the water quality chapters of their Connecticut River Management Plan, the local subcommittees learned that the state had little information for some key stretches of the river, such as the section from Lyme to Hanover and Lebanon. CRJC then asked Varney and Currier for help in filling these gaps. The immediate and gratifying response was to seek new information for all 275 miles, in the very next season.

CRJC also asked for a closer look at the nearly 14 miles that are rated as unsafe around Sumner Falls, and break this up into two assessment units, doing more sampling to get a better picture of water quality here. DES has agreed. "CRJC is the first in the state to give us this kind of feedback," observes Currier, "and we thank you for that."

DES expects to have raw data this fall, and will report its findings to CRJC by January. Results will be posted on the web for better public access than ever before. CRJC is grateful for the agencies' swift and effective response to the call for help. The results of this summer's extraordinary effort will provide a new and much clearer picture of the river. 🌿

## Fall Mountain to Be Protected

**T**HE Nature Conservancy will soon permanently protect 950 acres of key habitat on Fall Mountain in Charlestown and Langdon, New Hampshire. The Conservancy has reached agreement with New England Power Company to purchase the land, and plans to close on August 31. NEP purchased the land years ago as a potential site for pump-storage power production. CRJC has contributed a Partnership grant to the effort.

Fall Mountain rises above the Connecticut River, North Walpole, and Bellows Falls, and figures prominently in valley views from the Connecticut River Byway. Near its top is a series of small ponds and wetlands that drain into the Cold River. This ecosystem supports three of New Hampshire's eight known populations of Northeastern bulrush, a globally rare and federally endangered plant species.

The property also harbors pristine ponds and streams and abundant habitat for deer, wild turkey, waterfowl and other wildlife. It is part of a largely unbroken 4,000-acre block of forest that shows evidence of sound forest management practices.

TNC has a preliminary agreement to transfer the property to the Division of Forests and Lands. Fall Mountain would become New Hampshire's newest state forest. TNC would hold a conservation easement that would prevent development and ensure sound recreation and forest management to protect the bulrush and other sensitive ecological features.

The project will ensure continued public access for traditional low-impact uses, including hiking, hunting, fishing, nature observation, and snowmobiling on existing trails. Students at nearby Fall Mountain Regional High School will continue to be able to use the land for athletic training, natural science projects, and maple syrup production.

According to Daryl Burtnett, TNC state director, the project might not have happened without funding from the N.H. Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, totaling \$350,000. "This underscores the importance of restoring funding to LCHIP, which often provides the key catalyst to great conservation projects," he said. 🌿

## River Assessment, continued

with the exception of one minor cutoff. An 1861 map of Coos County shows the river in a very different position. Some reaches have been channelized for more than 50 percent of their length.

Long straight stretches are not natural, and it is thought that the desire to create a smooth trip for the logs downriver may have motivated the massive channel straightening that took place at that time. The river is now working to eliminate the sharp bends at either end of channelized sections.

Dr. Field has discovered a long term trend toward incision, or deepening, of the channel. He is also finding that the sediment delivered by tributaries, such as Leach Creek in Canaan, is driving activity in the river's mainstem, especially where there is heavy clearing or other high impact land use which sends sediment to these smaller streams.

There could be a number of reasons for so little change since 1927, according to Dr.

Field. Flow regulation by upstream dams reduces the effects of storms on the river's erosive capabilities. Also important are channel armoring and dams, which can block natural sediment movement. Breached dams, such as Lyman Falls, continue to have an impact on the river by blocking its access to its floodplain. Dams on the tributaries, such as the Upper Ammonoosuc, may be trapping sediment, although Dr. Field believes that except for flow control, dams are minor in their impact on the river when compared to channelization.

Dr. Field suggests that land-clearing in the 1800s resulted in heavy sediment loads to the river, which probably led to a time of great river migration. This has slowed as reforestation stabilizes sediment on hillsides.

Riverbank erosion is a costly problem on the Connecticut River and is of real concern to farmers losing agricultural land. While some erosion is a natural and essential process on stable rivers, accelerated and extensive erosion can degrade habitat for fish through the loss of cover, spawning grounds, and riparian buffer vegetation.

Dr. Field is concerned that agricultural activity, especially where cattle are allowed access and riparian buffers are removed, is destabilizing the banks. A lack of riparian buffer primes the system for erosion where erosive pressures exist. "The river is very sensitive, and will display strong change in flood without the resistance of roots and stems in a buffer," he warns.

The study has found that there is little riparian buffer on large sections of the river,

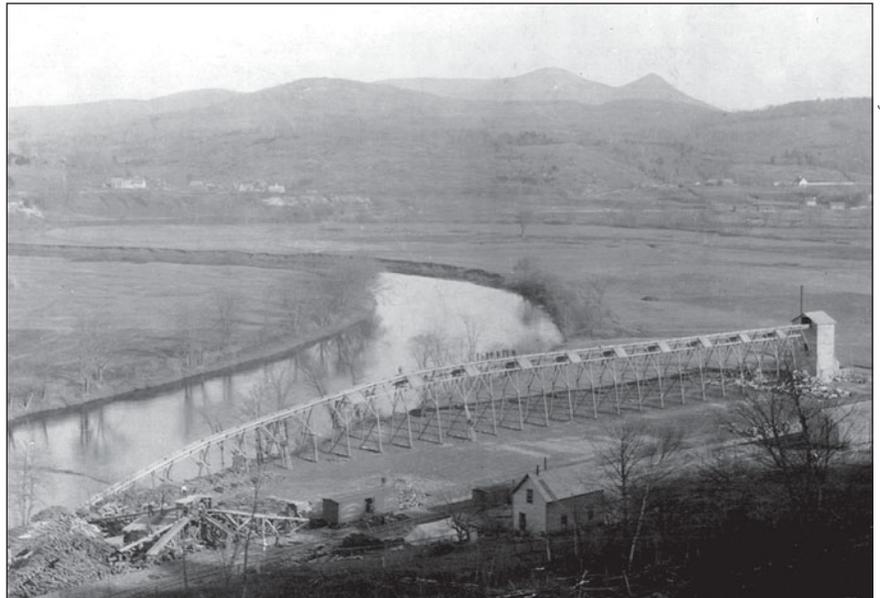


Photo courtesy of Louis Lamoureux

*Pulp log operation in Maidstone, VT, circa 1900. The Connecticut River may have been vastly altered by the timber industry. This structure sat on the current site of the dairy barn at Great Spirit Farm, Louis and Nancy Lamoureux' second-generation dairy farm.*

and that roads close to the river often have berms which increase the power of flow. Below Canaan, Vermont, riverbank habitat is in only fair condition because of the condition of the riparian buffer. Above Canaan, the riverbanks are in good condition, with uniform, healthy riparian buffers.

Funds for the Northern River Assessment study have come from a NOAA appropriation to the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, and from a grant from the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund associated with the Fifteen Mile Falls hydro development.

CRJC's Headwaters and Riverbend Subcommittees have provided local expertise about the river for the study, and are co-sponsoring two public presentations by Dr. Field. The next forum will take place this fall, to explain this view of river behavior and report on what he has found. 

Photo by Edith Tucker.



*Headwaters and Riverbend Subcommittee members Stretch Martin (l to r), Bill Schomburg, and Louis Lamoureux study the 1861 map of their sections of the river, at a public forum in April, sponsored by CRJC and the subcommittees. Both Martin and Lamoureux are dairy farmers whose land is affected by the river's movements.*

# New River Access in the North Country

IT'S soon going to get easier—and safer—to get your paddle wet in the Connecticut River. Three new projects will allow canoeists to get on and off the river in Stratford, Bloomfield, and Guildhall.

## STRATFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Headwaters Subcommittee is pleased to report that both state transportation agencies are behind its efforts to build a new fishing and cartop boat access at the Stratford-Maidstone bridge. NH DOT Commissioner Carol Murray has lent her support to the project, and a group from CRJC and DES met at the site on July 16 with DOT District 1 Engineer Greg Placy. The Vermont Agency of Transportation will contribute funding to the access to be built on the New Hampshire side of the river. Bridge project manager Craig Keller says, “there is an obvious benefit to Vermont if the river access occurs. It makes



Photo taken July, 2003

good sense to have access here.”

For years, Vermont farmer Louis Lamoureux has allowed canoeists to take out on his side of the bridge, but the riverbank is a steep scramble. The restoration of the historic bridge provided the perfect opportunity to create a dedicated public access on the opposite shore, on land generously made available by the Town of Stratford.

Need for this access is strong—this may

*Leaving the river at the Stratford-Maidstone Bridge, where the bank is steep and the land privately owned, has long been a challenge. That will soon change, thanks to the state transportation agencies of NH and VT.*

well be the most popular section of the river for paddling anywhere in the North Country, and the bridge marks the lower end of the only designated “natural” segment of the Connecticut River. The nearest legal public access is 11 miles upstream at North Stratford, and 13 miles downstream at the Guildhall bridge.

Construction will have to wait until the bridge is returned to service, but the access project can take advantage of site work already done to repair the bridge. CRJC, DOT, AOT, and the Town of Stratford will work together to create a design that is low-cost, user friendly, and an asset to the river and the community.

## GUILDHALL, VERMONT

A new portage trail has just been installed to bring paddlers safely around the remains of the breached Wyoming Dam between Guildhall and Northumberland. The Vermont River Conservancy has coordinated a project with the Town of Guildhall, private landowners, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and the Vermont Leadership Center to ensure a responsibly managed portage around this dangerous part of the river.

Two young canoeists nearly had an accident here last year when the portage trail was closed after recreationists had intruded too often upon adjacent private property. Members of the Riverbend Subcommittee asked for help in ensuring an open, safe trail.

VRC identified land easement boundaries to define the public portage corridor, and worked with the adjacent landowner to install attractive fencing and plantings for privacy. The Kingdom Corps improved the portage trail, building steps and creating a sturdy path. Signage will be placed at the river landing and at the town’s property on the downstream side of the dam. The project’s design also protected the existing riparian buffer.

The State of Vermont contributed \$7,000 from a special fund dedicated for non-motorized access to the Connecticut River, and CRJC awarded a \$2,750 Partnership grant.

## BLOOMFIELD, VERMONT

A new fishing and cartop boat access will open at a beautiful field, thanks to the foresight of the DeBanville Family, who operated a village store here at the confluence of the Connecticut and Nulhegan Rivers for years.

“The DeBanvilles’ generosity in regard to public use of this area is legendary,” writes Jeff Meyers of the Vermont River Conservancy, “and it is only through their benevolence that countless people have been able to access and enjoy the river. They also understand that unless the access is formally protected, subsequent owners might not have a lasting commitment to continuing public access.”

The Conservancy has been working to design an easement with the family and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the agency that will hold the easement and manage the area. No major site changes are planned, although signage will be added and a trail corridor will be defined. Vehicles can still park at the turnout across Route 102. A CRJC Partnership grant of \$5,000 leveraged the rest of the funding necessary to cover the \$12,500 project cost. ♻️

# Every Drop Counts

## Progress on the Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan

THE five local river subcommittees, tackling the challenge of updating the 1997 Connecticut River Management Plan, have nearly completed the new recreation chapters for their regions. They've found many accomplishments to celebrate, and created new sections on boating laws, jetskis, waterskiing, docks, marinas, use of private lands, landowner liability, canoe campsites, invasive exotics, birding and wildlife observation, fishing and hunting, fish consumption, winter recreation including snowmobiling and safety on the ice, the Connecticut River Byway, and off-road vehicles. Progress in realizing the goals of the plan continues in towns along the river and through the watershed.

🌊 **Colebrook** Academy is planning to teach a cross-curriculum unit on the Connecticut River in the coming year, and plans to use CRJC's *Proud to Live Here* as a resource.

🌊 Residents of the **Ammonoosuc River** basin are gathering to look at the health of their river and its watershed.

🌊 **Orford** has purchased 11 acres next to its boat launch and enlisted NH Fish & Game Department to help improve the river access.

🌊 Residents interested in the **Wells, Waits, Ompompanoosuc, and Stevens Rivers** in Vermont have made good progress on basin planning for their rivers.

🌊 **Thetford's** Keeping Track volunteers are providing important data about wildlife use and habitat for the town master plan and open space plan.

🌊 **Windsor** is creating a concept for revitalizing its waterfront that includes a focus on river-related recreation.

🌊 **Springfield** recently ratified a new town plan, which specifies that the goals of the *Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan* shall apply to both the Connecticut and Black Rivers.

🌊 The **West River Watershed Alliance** is monitoring water quality and stream habitat in the West, Williams, and Saxtons Rivers. 🌿

## New Faces at CRJC and Local Subcommittees

THE Connecticut River Joint Commissions elected new officers at their annual meeting on April 26 in Lyme, New Hampshire.

New Hampshire's Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission has elected **Glenn English of Haverhill** as its new chair. English, who has served as Haverhill's Town Manager since 1995, succeeds **Cheston Newbold of Cornish**. English is a member of the Board of Directors of North Country Council, and represents municipal interests on the Connecticut River Byway Council's Steering Committee. His professional interests include economic development, tourism, transportation, regional and local planning, community building, and reasonable environmental protection.

Elected as Vice Chair of the New Hampshire Commission is **Cleve Kapala**, Director of Government Affairs and Relicensing for USGen New England.

Vermont's Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission has re-elected **Gary Moore of Bradford** as its chair and **Gayle Ottmann of Quechee** as Vice-Chair. Moore will serve as president of the combined

CRJC, and English as vice-president. **George Watkins of Walpole** will continue to serve as Secretary of CRJC, and **Stephen Walasewicz of Weathersfield** has been elected Treasurer.

There are currently 78 volunteers representing their riverfront towns on the local river subcommittees. The Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee welcomes **Peter Cole of Weathersfield**, chair of his town's board of selectmen. Joining the Wantastiquet Region River Subcommittee are **Fern Tavalin of Putney**, coordinator of the Flow of History education project, and **Hazel Hunter of Chesterfield**.

CRJC appreciates the many contributions of **Vernon representative Earl Brissette**, who has stepped down after 12 years of membership.

Representatives are currently being sought to fill vacancies in Ryegate, Bradford, Hartland, and Vernon, Vermont, and Clarksville and Dalton, New Hampshire. Members must be nominated by their select board with a letter to CRJC. For more information, contact Adair Mulligan at 603-795-2104. 🌿



Glenn English of Haverhill has been elected Chair of the NH Commission.

# CRJC Partnership Program Awards \$84,600

At a June 17 ceremony at the Coolidge Hotel in White River Junction, CRJC presented this year's Partnership awards, granting a total of \$84,600 to support 25 projects throughout the Valley. All fulfill recommendations of the Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan or support goals of the Connecticut River Byway, and will result in low-impact recreation improvements, habitat investigations, support for agriculture, historic preservation, better river science and informed land use planning, and farmland conservation.

The Connecticut River is becoming ever more popular for canoeing and camping, and the Commissions made a number of awards to help keep the experience safe and enjoyable while minimizing water quality and trespassing problems.

The selection process was highly competitive, with 39 applications requesting more than twice the available funds. Executive Director Sharon Francis acknowledged the leadership of Senator Judd Gregg in securing the Congressional appropriation for the Partnership Program, which has long been supported by the two-state delegation.

Town boards and committees, citizen groups, and other non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for Partnership funding. Grants are made once each year. For more information, contact CRJC or visit [www.crjc.org/partnership.htm](http://www.crjc.org/partnership.htm).

## Water Quality

### Stevens River Watershed Assessment (\$5,000)

The Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District, Stevens River Watershed Council, and local volunteers will conduct a geomorphic assessment of the Stevens River and three key tributaries, survey bridges and culverts, examine stream stability and land uses both current and historic, and hold a public forum to present results to landowners.

### Geomorphic Assessment at Ball Mountain Brook (\$5,000)

The West River Watershed Alliance will conduct a geomorphic assessment to help identify likely erosion-prone areas in the Ball Mountain Brook watershed. This project is a first step in developing a basin-wide strategy to address sediment loading in the West, Williams, and Saxtons Rivers, major tributaries of the Connecticut River.

### Slade Brook Management Plan (\$4,000)

The Hanover Conservation Council will inventory plants and animals and develop a land management plan for a 35 acre parcel to be conserved by the Council as part of a plan for a housing development. The project will include water quality testing and contact with homeowners to share information on conservation easements.

### Ashuelot Watershed Monitoring (\$4,000)

The Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory will coordinate efforts of the NH DES Volunteer Bio-monitoring Program in the Ashuelot River watershed, involving the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee, NH DES Watershed Management Bureau, and local schools, citizens' groups, and volunteers.

### West Branch Ompompanoosuc Watershed Plan (\$4,000)

Two Rivers—Ottawaquechee Regional Commission will draft a mini-watershed plan to address the top issues, threats, and concerns facing this tributary, based upon community comments and scientific data, in cooperation with the Ompompanoosuc Watershed Council and the Stratford Conservation Commission.

### Mill Pond Acre: River Assessment (\$4,000)

The Acworth Historical Society and Recreation Committee will assess the river environs of Mill Pond Acre, including the bank of the Cold River and historic dam remains, and involve the Cold River Local Advisory Committee and students at the Acworth Primary School, to revitalize Mill Pond Acre for the community.

## Recreation

### DeBanville Access Conservation Project (\$5,000)

The Vermont River Conservancy will purchase a public access and conservation easement in Bloomfield, VT, for a canoe launch on the Connecticut River. For more, see page 4.

### UVLT Website Enhancement (\$5,000)

The Upper Valley Land Trust will expand and enhance its website with GPS data, ArcView maps in downloadable form, and interpretive data for all recreation trails. The site will educate users of the land trust's trails and campsites, and reinforce the benefits of land conservation in the region.

### Cow Mountain Pond Trails (\$4,000)

The Vermont Leadership Center's Kingdom Corps of area youth will work with local volunteers from the Cow Mountain Pond Committee, the Passumpsic Valley Land Trust, and the Green Mountain Club to clear trails, reduce erosion, and repair failed bridges at Cow Mountain Pond Municipal Forest in Granby, VT.

### SCA Canoe Campsite Improvement (\$3,500)

The Student Conservation Association will engage its Connecticut River Youth Conservation Corps to improve the primitive canoe campsite on its Charlestown campus and open it to the public. This will include a set of steps from the campsite to the river, a composting toilet, trail improvements, and educational materials and signs.

### Wyoming Dam Portage (\$2,750)

The Vermont River Conservancy, the Town of Guildhall, private landowners, the VT Agency of Transportation, and the Vermont Leadership Center will work together to ensure a safe and responsibly managed portage around the breached Wyoming Dam. For more, see page 4.

## Source to the Sea Connecticut River Cleanup

OCTOBER 2, 2004

Come get your feet wet,  
your hands dirty,  
and the river cleaner.

Contact Andrea Donlon  
at the Connecticut River  
Watershed Council:  
413-772-2020 or  
[crwc@crocker.com](mailto:crwc@crocker.com).



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### **Lyman Falls Privy Construction (\$1,500)**

Partnership funds will provide for the construction of two privies at Lyman Falls State Park in Bloomfield, VT, a 40 acre riverfront site recently purchased and protected by the Vermont River Conservancy and the State of Vermont with assistance from CRJC's Partnership Program. The privies will serve new primitive campsites for the use of Connecticut River canoeists.

### **Lebanon Trails & Recreation Map (\$1,500)**

The Lebanon Parks & Recreation Department and Conservation Commission will publish trail maps for 11 conservation properties in the City. These maps will include details about recreation facilities, school facilities, and state-owned facilities to create the first comprehensive publication of its kind for public information and use in the field.

## **Agriculture & Forestry**

### **Livingston Farm Conservation (\$5,000)**

The Upper Valley Land Trust will purchase development rights on 69 acres at a Claremont farm, including 47 acres of prime agricultural soils with significant frontage on the Connecticut River. This is part of UVLT's ongoing NH Farmland Conservation Initiative, which aims to permanently protect highly productive farmland and cultural resources in the Upper Valley.

### **"From Stump to Mill" —An Historical Compilation (\$1,000)**

The Canaan, VT, Historical Society will publish a series of recollections of the timber history of the forest lands at the Connecticut River's headwaters. Historical notes originally appearing in the *Colebrook News & Sentinel* will be assembled and prepared for archiving and for wide public distribution.

## **Education**

### **Valley Quest II (\$2,000)**

The Partnership grant to Vital Communities of the Upper Valley will support publication of a sequel to the highly successful *Valley Quest*, describing 75 more treasure hunts in the Connecticut River Valley from Woodsville to Keene, NH, and Peacham to Springfield, VT. Quests foster sense of place and focus on local natural and cultural heritage features.

### **Black River Watershed Brochure (\$2,250)**

The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission will work with the Black River Watershed Action Team and Concerned Citizens of Cavendish to produce a brochure on this tributary watershed, including a GIS map identifying public access and amenities, and information on invasive plants, riparian buffers, and how the public can best respect landowners, wildlife, and the river.

## **Future Land Use**

### **Natural Resources Along the Byway in Colebrook (\$4,500)**

This project will provide the Town of Colebrook with inventory, management, and planning tools and a comprehensive, updatable, digital inventory of existing natural resources and the riparian buffer zones for future use in all aspects of planning for growth along the Connecticut River in Colebrook, a waypoint community along the Byway.

### **Natural Resource Inventory, Orange Co. Headwaters (\$2,000)**

A natural resources inventory of the Waits River headwaters in Corinth and Washington, VT, will document surface waters, wetlands, Natural Heritage sites, cultural resources, and critical habitats. The project involves cooperation among 40 landowners, the towns, Upper Valley Land Trust, Conservation Fund,



Vermont Land Trust, and George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council.

## **Fisheries & Wildlife Habitat**

### **Citizens Primer on Removing Derelict Dams (\$5,000)**

The Connecticut River Watershed Council will create a booklet and public presentation on the reasons for and benefits of removing derelict dams on Connecticut River tributaries, in order to enlist communities, non-profit and citizen organizations, and landowners in restoring streams and their aquatic habitat.

### **Town-Wide Wetlands Resources Inventory (\$5,000)**

The Bradford, VT, Conservation Commission will coordinate a professional wetlands resources inventory and engage tenth grade students in a study of vernal pools in the Waits River watershed through a partnership between the Bradford Conservation Commission, Oxbow High School, and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science's Community Mapping Program.

### **Upper CT River Important Bird Areas Project (\$4,500)**

Audubon Vermont will work with the Audubon Society of New Hampshire to map and identify Important Bird Areas in the Connecticut River corridor. These efforts will be the first steps in protecting habitat critical to birds along this significant migratory flyway, and help to engage local volunteers and groups in monitoring and conserving these sites.

### **Mammal Tracking & Mapping (\$2,000)**

High school students in Vermont Audubon's TakePART program will work with Keeping Track to collect data on the presence of wide-ranging mammal species in the Nulhegan Basin and West Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Brunswick, Lewis, Ferdinand, Bloomfield, and Maidstone, VT. Data will be used by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and local communities toward stewardship of wildlife habitat.

## **Scenic Byway & Historic Preservation**

### **"Agri + Culture" Promotional Program (\$1,100)**

Funds will support the newly organized Bellows Falls Farmers' Market, create a web presence for the Bellows Falls Waypoint Center, and purchase historical resource materials related to the six communities surrounding the new Byway Waypoint Center.

### **Bringing Back Barnet (\$1,000)**

In partnership with the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance, Barnet volunteers will return three newly-restored painted theater curtains to hang once again at local landmarks, including the Town Hall, the Lakeview Grange, and McIndoes Academy. 🌿

*EPA Regional Administrator John deVillars (3rd from right) views the breached Wyoming dam on a trip hosted by CRJC in 1998. The remains of the dam pose a hazard to paddlers. A new portage trail will provide safe passage.*

## **Black River Cleanup Day**

**AUGUST 21, 2004**

Contact Kelly Stettner

at the Black River

Watershed Action Team:

802-738-3662 or

blackrivercleanup@yahoo.com.

# Calendar

For the most current information,  
visit [www.crjc.org/calendar1.htm](http://www.crjc.org/calendar1.htm)

## AUGUST

- 16 Upper Valley Subcommittee,  
Bicentennial Bldg, Thetford Hill, 7-9 pm
- 21 Black River Cleanup

## SEPTEMBER

- 9 Headwaters Subcommittee, Columbia  
Town Hall, 7-9 pm
- 13 CRJC meeting at Metallak Lodge,  
Pittsburg, noon-2:30 pm
- 14 Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee, Windsor  
House, 7-9 pm
- 20 Upper Valley Subcommittee,  
Bicentennial Bldg, Thetford Hill, 7-9 pm
- 29 Wantastiquet Subcommittee,  
Westmoreland Town Hall, 7-9 pm

## OCTOBER

- TBA Headwaters Subcommittee, Columbia  
Town Hall, 7-9 pm
- 2 Source to Sea Cleanup
- 25 CRJC meeting, 1pm, location TBA
- 28 Riverbend Subcommittee, Littleton  
Community House, 7-9 pm

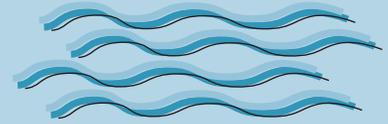
## NOVEMBER

- 9 Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee, Windsor  
House, 7-9 pm
- 11 Headwaters Subcommittee, Columbia  
Town Hall, 7-9 pm
- 13 New Hampshire DES River and  
Watershed Conference, Concord, NH
- 15 Upper Valley Subcommittee,  
Bicentennial Bldg, Thetford Hill, 7-9 pm
- 29 CRJC meeting, 1pm, location TBA

## DECEMBER

- 1 Wantastiquet Subcommittee,  
Westmoreland Town Hall, 7-9 pm
- 2 Riverbend Subcommittee, Littleton  
Community House, 7-9 pm

# River Ripples



## Open Space Protection Top Voter Priority

A recently released UNH study found that rapid growth and loss of open space are edging out taxes and school issues as the top concern of voters. Twenty-nine towns considered preservation bond proposals in 2003, ranging from half a million dollars in one town to \$5 million in three others, and most approved their proposals by large majorities. Five hundred voters were surveyed after these town meetings. Voter support for spending on land conservation crossed political, age, and economic lines. The survey included voters from Auburn, Errol, Greenland, and Hopkinton as well as New Hampshire's burgeoning southeast tier. Preserving New England character, including a sense of community, growth management, and conserving open space were cited by many citizens as top priorities.

## New Connecticut River Video

The Connecticut River Byway Council has recently introduced "Welcome to the Heart of New England," a new 14-minute film created to invite visitors and residents to explore the Connecticut River Byway of New Hampshire and Vermont. The video weaves together broad, peaceful overviews of stunning scenery with details of historical events and the vitality of daily life in the 21st century. Copies may be obtained from CRJC, or from waypoint interpretive centers, area chambers of commerce, and museums. The price is \$9.95 for VHS or CD versions, and \$14.95 for DVD.

## Living With Murphy

To those living below 1895-acre Lake Francis, its waters are not welcome in sudden large doses. This spring, Headwaters Subcommittee members asked how well their communities were prepared for a failure at Murphy Dam. CRJC sponsored a well-attended meeting of staff from the NH DES Dam Bureau with local and state officials from both sides of the river, from Pittsburg to Northumberland and Guildhall and neighboring Quebec communities. River commissioners Brendan Whittaker and Mary Sloat, who are also officials in their towns in the region, hosted the meeting.

DES Chief Water Resources Engineer Jim Gallagher concluded, "bottom line: the dam is extremely safe, well constructed, and well maintained; ...this dam is in no danger of failure." Should this earthen dam, built in 1940 at a cost of \$2.3 million, be destroyed, water would rise more than 30 feet within three and a half hours between Pittsburg and Stratford. Flood waters would be stopped by Moore Dam nearly 100 miles downstream.

Gallagher described the extreme rainfall and earthquake conditions needed to provoke a failure at the dam. The potential for vandalism is minimized by an on-site dam keeper. DES plans to install a system to record discharge levels in real time, and an alarm system to notify the attendant if there is an increase in the flow from the dam. 🌊

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