



Farmington River Coordinating Committee

Annual Report 2006

Greetings from Squire's Tavern !

FRCC's headquarters is located across the road from the banks of the Farmington River in Peoples State Forest and shared with the Barkhamsted Historical Society. Both organizations welcome visitors to this lovely almost-restored 1880's tavern. Please come by to admire the work being done by the Historical Society with supportive funding from FRCC.



The growing relationship between FRCC and the Barkhamsted Historical Society is special and important. It reflects the ever-presence of the river in the town's history. In 2006, our partnership produced several new kiosk boards along the river and one on the new out-building by the tavern. We appreciate the contributions by Walt Landgraf in this endeavor. In addition, FRCC was able to provide financial assistance to the Historical Society for getting the village of Riverton designated an historic district listed in the National Register.

The past year brought us a mixture of celebrations and exercises in patience. We cheered the passing of Bill S. 435 which enables the study of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook for Wild and Scenic designation thanks to a significant effort by Eric Hammerling of FRWA and the outstanding leadership of Congressional representatives Dodd, Lieberman, Johnson, and Larson.



We also enjoyed another successful Art Exhibit and Open House held in September. This year, we had a wonderful selection of photographs and paintings. Again, the music was provided by Traveling Trout, the talented Barkhamsted Land Trust group. It was a great party and it was good to see so many neighbors and colleagues. Please join us this year in the fall 2007.

FRCC was also very pleased to assist the formation of the fledgling Hartland Land Trust. The Committee has been proud of Fred Jones and all of his efforts in creating that group and acting as a catalyst to protect more of the upper watershed.



(photo: Fred Jones)

2006 FRCC Members

Barkhamsted

Jean Miller
Mario Santoro, alt.

Canton

Alis Ohlheiser

Colebrook

Tom Stanton

Hartland

Fred Jones
Nicki Hall, alt.
Sam Slater, alt.

New Hartford

Pat Keener
Mark Lindquist, alt.

CT Department of Environmental Protection

Sally Snyder, alt.

Farmington River Anglers Association

Dick Reynolds
Dan Busa, alt.

Farmington River Watershed Association

David Sinish
Eric Hammerling, alt.

Metropolitan District Commission

Tim Anthony
Carol Youell, alt.

National Park Service

Jamie Fosburgh
Liz Lacy, alt.

The goal for FRCC's projects in 2006 was "to understand and improve the overall health of the Farmington River and its immediate watershed." Many of the 2006 projects designed to meet that goal will require additional time to complete. We are learning to "go with the flow..."

Ever important Water Quality Monitoring continues to be a significant project—managed by Alisa Phillips-Griggs of FRWA. The results this year showed that the upper Farmington River has very good water quality but it does experience increased pollutant levels during and after heavy rains. Some detective work will help determine what can be done to address this situation.

The Nepaug State Forest Bank Restoration project is a collaboration of several agencies (including FRCC, DEP, and MDC), and the setting of shared priorities and amenable scheduling always presents a challenge. We hope to see some progress in restoring that area this coming year.

The Instream Flow and Habitat study conducted by Dr. Melinda Daniels of UConn was also extended into 2007 due to the need for safe river flow levels and adequate staffing. This project should be completed by the end of this summer.

2006 got several initiatives started, and 2007 should be a year of completion!

Thank you for your continued support and stewardship of the Farmington River!



Pat Keener
FRCC Chair, New Hartford Representative
Farmington River Coordinating Committee



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 stewardship of the river.

The Upper Farmington River Management Plan can be read at www.FarmingtonRiver.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006

Outreach and Education

FRCC Wild and Scenic Open House and Art Exhibit — The second FRCC Annual Open House and Art Exhibit was a great success. Music was provided by the *Traveling Trout* of Barkhamsted Land Trust. Twenty-seven pieces of art—both photos and paintings—were shown by local artists: Andrea Schleich, Germaine Lemieux, Alden Warner, Peter Forte, Erik Landgraf, Linne Landgraf, Morrow Jones, Deborah Leonard, Fred Jones and Priscilla Marshall. An even bigger exhibit is expected in 2007.



Kiosk Improvements — Pat Keener and Walt Landgraf completed several additional back side panels for kiosks along the river. The Barkhamsted Historical Society and FRCC established a new informational kiosk on the new outbuilding at Squires Tavern.

Resource Stewardship

Water Quality Monitoring/Streamwalks — There are many interesting results of the 2006 Water Quality Monitoring program. Most of the results show healthy water in the upper Farmington River but there are areas to continue examining in more depth during 2007. Please see our website for more complete information on the 2006 testing and results.

Invasive Plant Inventory and Management — FRCC's contracted botanist Bill Moorhead provided a workshop in the spring to talk about some of the invasives found in the Farmington River environs. Work is still being done to complete the inventory and suggested management options. FRCC anticipates some volunteer opportunities in 2007.

Nepaug Bank Restoration — FRCC continues to work with CT DEP and MDC to establish a plan and schedule for restoring some road and riverbank in Nepaug State Forest—along the mile-long section of wild and scenic riverfront there.

Squires Tavern Restoration — FRCC continues to support the Barkhamsted Historical Society's renovation of the Squires Tavern at the gateway to Peoples State Forest along the banks of the Farmington River. This past year FRCC contributed towards handmade tables for the conference room.

Vernal Pools Identification— FRCC supported an FRWA vernal pool identification and monitoring effort in Colebrook and Norfolk.

Flushing Flows and Habitat Study — FRCC contracted with UConn's Dr. Melinda Daniels to study the flows of the upper Farmington for a better understanding of how the present flows affect the river and its habitat features. FRCC hopes to have a completed study by fall of 2007.

Grants Awarded

Riverton Historic District Study—Barkhamsted Historical Society

Hartland Land Trust Start Up Funding—Hartland Land Trust Study Committee

Aton Forest Preservation Project Transaction Costs - Aton Forest Inc.



Annual Report 2006 — Overview of Expenditures

Outreach and Education

Newsletters, Kiosks, Website.....	\$4,235
Open House.....	<u>614</u>
Subtotal	\$4,849

Resource Stewardship

Water Quality Monitoring.....	\$ 15,000
Squires Tavern Restoration.....	2,572
Vernal Pools Identification.....	1,000
UConn Flows Study.....	<u>9,000</u>
Subtotal	\$27,572

Grants Program

Horizonline Mapping — Barkhamsted Conservation Commission.....	\$2,150
Riverton Historic District Study—Barkhamsted Historical	1,750
Hartland Land Trust Start Up Funds	1,088
Subtotal	\$4,988

Operations

Operating and Office Costs.....	\$6,135
Organizational Development.....	<u>2,235</u>
Subtotal	\$8,370
TOTAL	\$45,779

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#### 2006 Leveraging

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Volunteer Hours: 2,088 |                    |
| Translated to dollars.....   | <b>\$37,667.52</b> |

### Previews of 2007

- Completion of UConn Flows Study
- Vernal Pool Identification in Canton
- Natural Resources Inventory in Hartland
- New Scholarship for Regional 7 Graduating Students

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