



# Wild & Scenic News

Volume 2, Issue 2

Winter 2005

## Trout Habitat Recently Enhanced by Cooperative Effort



Logs in river below Riverton bridge



Fallen log cabled to bank to create trout habitat after USGS, ConnDOT, MDC, and DEP Inland Fisheries efforts on October 12, 2004.

The CT Department of Environmental Protection's Inland Fisheries Division (DEP) has conducted annual surveys of the brown trout population in the West Branch Farmington River Trout Management Area since the area's creation in 1988. Results of those surveys indicate that the river supports a substantial brown trout population;

however, individual fish greater than 16 inches in length are notably lacking. The University of Connecticut and the DEP cooperated on a brown trout habitat preference study during the summer of 2001, and a radio telemetry study of brown trout movement during a period spanning 2001 to 2002. The combined results of those studies indicated that brown trout

greater than 16 inches in length prefer habitat areas consisting of undercut banks, fallen timber, or shoreline accumulations of woody debris adjacent to deep riffle or pools with water depths of 18 inches to 2 feet. In surveying the river, the DEP determined that these types of habitat features are extremely

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## FRCC 10th Anniversary Celebration A Success

This past August, FRCC celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Farmington River's designation as a Wild and Scenic River. Fittingly, the bank of the Farmington River at Peoples State Forest was the site where FRCC members past and present, neighbors, anglers, local and state dignitaries gathered to share in the recognition of a decade of accomplishments.

In attendance was US Congressman John Larson who, after participating in a tour of the riverbank restoration project, spoke to the group about the vitality of a river and its importance in bonding a

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On behalf of the state legislature, George Wilber presents a congratulatory citation to FRCC Chair Pat Keener and Colebrook Representative Tom Stanton.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT — David Sinish, FRWA Representative



David Sinish with Congresswoman Nancy Johnson at FRWA's 50th Anniversary celebration

**D**avid Sinish began his life long commitment to river issues as a “paddler.” Initially, he started out “just to make sure there were great places to paddle.” Much like being whisked down river rapids, this intention quickly developed far beyond that modest mission. David was one of the three founding members of the Connecticut

Canoe Racing Association and was invited to join the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) Board when he was in his twenties.

Through his involvement in these river organizations, David became committed to educate the public about the Farmington River and the protection of the environment. He was on the original Feasibility Study Committee in 1981 that struggled through the arduous and time-consuming task that led to designation of the West Branch of the Farmington River as a Wild and Scenic river in 1994. The designation has just celebrated its tenth anniversary, and David is pleased with the work of the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) and the condition of the river.

The years have increased the scope of David's involvement with environmental and river issues. He is still active with FRWA, a member of FRCC, and is currently a selectman for the town of

Canton. David reminds the selectmen of the importance of environmental concerns to the town. He also teaches paddling at the Collinsville Canoe and Kayak Store with classes that range from beginning to advanced instruction. All of his classes include raising student awareness of water-related issues and encouraging involvement with their own local rivers. Although the Farmington River is in excellent condition, he reminds his classes, “It is not a given that you can paddle in Collinsville and look down and see your paddle.” David would like all river users, “to think about the river as theirs to protect, not theirs to... use and abuse.”

David is still working to improve the environment through education and example and to increase the enjoyment of the many values of rivers. His efforts will be remembered for many years as future generations enjoy the beautiful Farmington River.

## Trout Habitat Recently Enhanced

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limited in the West Branch Farmington River Trout Management Area.

Given the survey results, DEP has been looking into ways to increase large woody debris specifically for trout habitat and, as luck would have it, a storm recently provided an opportunity just below the Riverton bridge. Two large trees fell into the river blocking safe passage for boaters – and interfering with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gauge's flow measurements at the Riverton bridge. After connections were made among key players, a group of agencies banded together to get the logs moved to allow safe boat passage, restore readings at the USGS gauge, and increase the trout habitat on the river.

On October 12, one tree was removed from the water and the other tree was cut and relocated along the river's eastern shore to provide cover for fish (primarily adult trout). The USGS, ConnDOT, Metropolitan District Commission, and DEP Inland Fisheries Division - Habitat Conservation and Enhancement staff participated in the project that took approximately two hours to complete.

## FRCC Hosts Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers

Walt Landgraf



Partnership Rivers representatives at Squires Tavern

**T**he FRCC recently hosted a meeting of the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers of the eastern U.S. at Squires Tavern. Partnership Rivers are a special group of National Wild and Scenic Rivers that share management amongst local, state, and federal governments, and local nonprofits. These rivers include: Great Egg Harbor (NJ), Maurice (NJ), Lower Delaware (NJ/PA), Wekiva (FL), White Clay Creek (DE/PA), Sudbury-Assabet-Concord (MA), Farmington (CT), Lamprey (NH). The attendees discussed issues of mutual interest and compared notes on river projects. The group included National Park Service staff who partner with local river groups in their stewardship efforts – as well as local watershed associations and other nonprofit groups.

## FRCC 10th Anniversary Celebration A Success

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community. State Representative George Wilber presented FRCC members Pat Keener and Tom Stanton an official citation from the General Assembly.

Deputy Commissioner of the DEP, David Leff emphasized that river management is an on going process and we must be sensitive to the rivers needs, as he said: "if we listen to the river and let it teach us, we will know exactly where we are going over the next decade and find the means to get us there".

The FRCC would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success and also extend their appreciation to Dan Hubbard of the National Park Service (NPS) for his assistance and guidance in planning this event.

## 10 Things YOU Can Do for a Healthier Farmington River!



## FRCC Welcomes the Anglers

*Eric Hammerling of FRWA and our newest FRCC member Dick Reynolds, President of Farmington River Anglers Association*

**T**he Farmington River Coordinating Committee is delighted to welcome its newest member, The Farmington River Anglers' Association. With the missions of both the FRCC and the FRAA closely aligned, the addition will without doubt facilitate the work of both organizations. The anglers patiently waited as the FRCC amended their by-laws to allow the incorporation. President Dick Reynolds and alternate John Larkin will serve as representatives.

The Farmington River Anglers'

Association was founded in 1976 and its members are from all over New England, New York, New Jersey and Canada. It is an organization of volunteers, which strive to preserve, protect and enhance the river and its outstanding fishery. The anglers are active in river cleanups, salmon and trout stocking, and educational programs.

The FRCC looks forward to working with the anglers to help preserve the Wild and Scenic Corridor of the Upper Farmington River.

1. Learn more about the river – visit [www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org)
2. Be a good neighbor – provide a buffer of undisturbed native vegetation between your lawn and the river.
3. Avoid using chemicals and fertilizers in your yard – they can end up in the river.
4. Keep yard debris off of the riverbank – it can overload the river with nutrients.
5. Help at a river clean up. Pick up trash whenever you visit the river.
6. Garden using native plants. For sources of plants that are native to Connecticut visit [www.conncoll.edu/ccrec/greennet/arbo/treeavailability.pdf](http://www.conncoll.edu/ccrec/greennet/arbo/treeavailability.pdf)
7. Support land conservation efforts in the Farmington River watershed.
8. Support land-use decisions that control stormwater runoff.
9. Join and/or volunteer for the Farmington River Anglers Association ([www.FRAA.org](http://www.FRAA.org)) and Farmington River Watershed Association ([www.FRWA.org](http://www.FRWA.org)).
10. Enjoy the river!



## FRCC Members

**Barkhamsted** – Jean Miller/Mario Santoro alternate  
**Canton** – Chris Bailey/Diana Hiza alternate  
**Colebrook** – Tom Stanton/alternate pending  
**Hartland** – Fred Jones/alternate pending  
**New Hartford** – Pat Keener/Mark Lindquist alternate  
**CT DEP** (Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection) – David Leff/Sally Snyder alternate  
**FRAA** (Farmington River Anglers Association) – Dick Reynolds/John Larkin alternate  
**FRWA** (Farmington River Watershed Association) – David Sinish/Eric Hammerling alternate  
**MDC** (Metropolitan District Commission) – Tim Anthony  
**NPS** (National Park Service) – Jamie Fosburgh/ Kevin Case alternate

## Opportunities for Volunteers

March 1, 2005 **Vernal Pool Identification Training**  
Site TBA, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. For more information please call Eric Hammerling at FRWA at 658-4442.

March 24, 2005 **Atlantic Salmon Stocking Training**  
Meet at Simsbury Library, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. For more information please call Eric Hammerling at FRWA at 658-4442.

June 11, 2005 **Streamwalk Training**  
Sessions Woods in Burlington, 8:15 am to noon. For more information please call Eric Hammerling at FRWA at 658-4442.

*For other volunteer opportunities  
please call Liz Lacy at FRCC at 379-0282.*

## River of Life

A source of water.  
A home for some.  
A thing of beauty,  
For years to come.



Flowing forever,  
A giant stream.  
It can glitter like diamonds,  
Or, in the light, gleam.

*Written by Francie Hiza, age 12, of Canton Middle School ~ 2004*

Abundant in wildlife,  
Every living thing,  
Gathers together,  
To hear the river sing.

It sings of the people,  
Who have let it live,  
Let it flow,  
Let it give.



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*Celebrating 10 Years of Wild & Scenic Designation*