



Farmington River Coordinating Committee
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

www.farmingtonriver.org

Annual FRCC Open House and
W&S Art Exhibit September 18!



One example of the many fine photos you'll see at the W&S Art Exhibit, which opens September 18 and runs through October 20. By Fred Jones.

**Please Join Us for Farmington River
Coordinating Committee's
4th ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**

Thursday, September 18, 2008
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Kicking off the 4th Annual Farmington River
Wild & Scenic Photo and Art Exhibit
Sept. 18 — October 20, 2008

All are Welcome! Refreshments served!

Advice from a river...

Go with the flow. Immerse yourself in nature.
Slow down and meander. Go around the obstacles.
Be thoughtful of those downstream. Stay current.
The beauty is in the journey!

(Author unknown)



Wild & Scenic News

Volume 5, Issue 2

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Uncovering history in the Upper Farmington River watershed

The historic value of the Farmington River was one of the outstanding characteristics identified as nationally and regionally significant during the study which led to the river's Wild & Scenic designation in 1994. The Barkhamsted Historical Society's (BHS) archaeological investigation of the Richard Smith forge site on the banks of the Still River (a major tributary of the Upper Farmington) in Colebrook is an outstanding example of the regional historic importance of the river. The BHS has received support from the Colebrook Historical Society;

private donors; and FRCC, through its grants program.

The Richard Smith Ironworks was constructed in 1771 on the banks of the Still River just up from its junction with Sandy Brook. This location offered dependable waterpower and large forest stands for making charcoal.

When it was completed there were a forge,



Site of the Richard Smith Ironworks Photos by Marc Banks



hammers, waterworks, canals, many shops, and outbuildings. By 1775 the forge was selling refined and bloomed iron suitable for guns and farm implements, and by 1777 steel was being produced. The Richard Smith forge was one of just a few available sources

for steel for the Americans during the Revolutionary war.

The archaeological investigation has uncovered evidence of a number of the forge buildings, the coal house, and the barn. A few stone flakes and chips found indicate that Native Americans camped in

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What's the difference between FRCC and FRWA? A big one! And here's a free offer to help you remember...

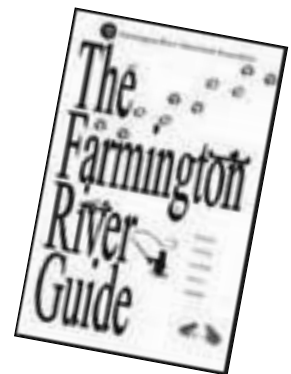
It's easy to get FRCC mixed up with FRWA. There is a distinction though! The Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), a 501©(3) non-profit environmental organization, has been the guardian and champion of the Farmington River and its watershed since its inception in 1953. Today, FRWA conducts research, education, and advocacy programs to fulfill its mission of protecting the Farmington River and the natural resources of its watershed forever (visit www.frwa.org). It is a member of FRCC.

The Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) is a group created by the US Congress when the upper Farmington River received its Wild &

Scenic designation in 1994. Its members are the riverfront towns (Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Hartland and New Hartford), CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), FRWA, Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA), Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), and the National Park Service (NPS). The purpose of the FRCC is to promote the long-term protection of the upper Farmington Wild & Scenic River by: (1) bringing the major players in river management together on a regular and on-going basis, (2) stimulating cooperation and coordination among those players, (3) providing a forum for all river interests to discuss and resolve issues,

and (4) coordinating implementation of the Upper Farmington River Management Plan. (Please see www.FarmingtonRiver.org to view the Plan.)

Now, here's your free offer! Farmington River Watershed Association is offering a special deal to FRCC newsletter readers: a free **River Guide** to anyone who joins the Watershed Association. The offer expires October 31. To take advantage of this, please contact Aimee Petras at FRWA at (860) 658-4442.



River etiquette for a better river experience

by David Sinish



At left, the peace of flyfishing.
Photo by Fred Jones

Below, the excitement of a trip by canoe down the river.



The Farmington River offers so much to so many people. From fly fishers to worm drowners, intrepid hikers to gawking automobile passengers, skilled boaters to floundering first time floaters, and natural resource students to those unaware of the natural resource values at hand. All these users, all in one place, and all at one time. No wonder there is a need for some guidelines for behavior so that all can have a safe and enjoyable experience.

The river is the scene of many conflicts. The quiet fisherman stalking the big fish only to be angered by a canoe careening through the eddy. The paddler, so as to not disturb, quietly runs his boat behind, but still is screamed at by the very same fisherman. The stories are endless. The point is missed by trying to affix blame. The fact is that everyone has a right to the benefits the river offers, and everyone has a responsibility to not disturb others. Pretty common sense. The basis of our legal system.

Some thoughts toward common enjoyment:

The best fishing is in the early morning and the late afternoon/early evening. Perhaps paddling would be less of a disturbance during the midday when the temperature is highest and the catch rate the lowest.

If afloat and approaching a fisherman let them know you are coming (a greeting of "What a beautiful day!") may be better than the tiresome "Catch anything?"). Ask

the fisherman where they would like your boat to float. Paddling behind the fisherman seems to work well but the fisherman who continues to back cast in your face after you have altered your course is a low-down dude.

Paddlers can help to unhook flies and lures stuck in trees. Fisherman can allow boats to go down the main chute. If you are a paddler, sharpen your skills so that you can control your boat. If you are a fisherman, understand that the entire river width is not needed.

Paddlers, put on waders; fishermen, put on life jackets; consider then the needs

of your new found role.

Be aware of your surroundings and your fellow users. Becoming angry at a slight annoyance gets everyone upset. Enjoy the river for yourself and others, and come away refreshed.

Uncovering history in the watershed

FRCC is honored to provide grant funding for this continuing historical project. The mission of our grants program is to assist with projects that protect or enhance the values that are important to the Wild & Scenic designation of the Upper Farmington. Please call FRCC (860-379-0282) for further information about volunteer opportunities and the grants program. Our web site is www.FarmingtonRiver.org.

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the field. Walt Landgraf was passionate about this project and asked Dr. Marc Banks to work with him. Dr. Banks is a member of the staff of the University of Connecticut department of Archaeology. Dr. Banks says that the work at the forge is dedicated to Walt. It is hoped that the discoveries at the Richard Smith forge site will help protect the area and possibly create an archaeological preserve. Dr. Banks would welcome volunteers to assist him with the field work.

GO GREEN—and help protect the Farmington River!

For those of us who have always been concerned about using safe, environmentally friendly products in and around our home, the availability of such items has been very limited. Simple Green is one of the few biodegradable products that has been available for many years but was often not easy to find. However, over the last few years the market has begun to slowly shift. More recently, it seems, a tsunami of organic or natural cleaning solutions can be commonly found. Simple Green has even expanded its own repertoire of products to tackle now a large variety of cleaning issues from stainless steel appliances to decks and fences.



Now that it is finally vogue to be “eco-friendly,” check out the list at right for some websites when looking for alternative, safe cleaning solutions. The options to GO GREEN are endless and your level of commitment is yours to choose. Just one small change can have a large impact on our environment — and



the Farmington River! So, GO GREEN and make a positive impact.

- At www.greenchoice.com you can find a litany of information on energy efficient appliances, cars, electronics, health food/beverages and environmentally friendly home/garden merchandise.
- National Geographic also has an extensive website on safe home products from A-Z (www.thegreenguide.com) as well as articles, buying guide, blog and tips.
- www.simplegreen.com — all their products are biodegradable and environmentally friendly.
- www.greenpeople.org — is a website that allows you to search for organic food, natural pet supplies, natural baby food and an environmental directory for green products.

Who is FRCC?

The Farmington River Coordinating Committee was established when fourteen miles of the upper Farmington River were designated as a National Wild & Scenic River on August 26, 1994. The FRCC comprises representatives from each of the five towns adjacent to the Farmington River and from groups noted below. The FRCC embodies an important partnership among the riverfront towns and others to provide stewardship of the Farmington River and its upper watershed. Visit us at www.FarmingtonRiver.org. Current representatives are:

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| Barkhamsted – Jean Miller; Mario Santoro, alt. | Canton – Alis Ohlheiser |
| Colebrook – Tom Stanton, Edna Travis, alt. | Hartland – Fred Jones; Nicki Hall and Sam Slater, alts. |
| New Hartford – Pat Keener; Mark Lindquist, alt. | CT DEP – Susan Peterson, alt. |
| Farmington River Anglers Association – Dick Reynolds; Dan Busa, alt. | |
| Farmington River Watershed Association – David Sinish; Eileen Fielding, alt. | |
| Metropolitan District Commission – Tim Anthony; Carol Youell, alt. | |
| National Park Service – Jamie Fosburgh; Liz Lacy, alt. | |

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Eileen Fielding, FRWA's new Executive Director



Eileen Fielding became the new Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association in May, and, as a result, she is the newest member on the Farmington River Coordinating Committee. Welcome, Eileen!

Eileen joins FRWA from the Hoosic River Watershed Association in Williamstown MA, where she was also Executive Director. Though she hails from Massachusetts, much of her career has been with Connecticut nonprofits, including Connecticut Audubon, the New London County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Science Center of Eastern Connecticut, and the Children's Museum. In addition to her extensive experience in environmental nonprofits she has an academic background that includes a doctorate in Ecology. She has taught at several Connecticut universities and at the University of Chicago.

Eileen notes that the partnership between the Coordinating Committee and the Watershed Association is a good way to identify watershed needs and then act on them. “Through the Coordinating Committee, river towns can work out their own agenda for keeping the Farmington healthy through projects and community outreach. Then FRWA can furnish resources and expertise to help implement their plans. I think this makes both organizations more effective and responsive to local needs,” Eileen said.