

Annual Report 2004

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR EXPENDITURES

Mapping	\$ 1,980
Water Quality Monitoring	\$25,060
Outreach Events	\$ 3,938
Grants Approved	
– New Hartford Land Trust Riverwalk Project	\$ 6,300
– Barkhamsted Conservation Commission Public Meeting Flyer	\$ 300
– Colebrook Land Conservancy for closing costs associated with the Corliss 100 property	\$ 3,100
Land Protection Support	
– FRWA/Barkhamsted land Trust contribution towards purchase	\$ 7,500
The Nature Conservancy/Barkhamsted Land Trust for appraisal for LeGeyt property	\$ 2,500
Website, Kiosks and Newsletter	\$ 3,438
Membership Dues	\$ 100
Organizational Development	\$ 2,432
Operating and Office Costs	\$ 7,343

PREVIEWS OF 2005

- Survey of Invasive Plants
- Outreach to Schools
- Training for Departments of Public Works
- Streambank Work in Nepaug State Forest
- Land Protection with Local Land Trusts
- More Backs of Kiosks
- Improved Website
- Outings and Events
- Habitat Improvements
- Vernal Pool Identification



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

2004 FRCC Members

Barkhamsted

Jean Miller
 Mario Santoro, alt.

Canton

Diana Hiza
 Chris Bailey, alt.

Colebrook

Tom Stanton
 Harry White, alt.

Hartland

Bror Lindau
 Fred Jones, alt.

New Hartford

Pat Keener
 Mark Lindquist, alt.

CT DEP

David Leff
 Sally Snyder, alt.

FRAA

Dick Reynolds
 Jim Duda, alt.

FRWA

David Sinish
 Eric Hammerling, alt.

MDC

Bud Sanders

National Park Service

Jamie Fosburgh
 Kevin Case, alt.

Greetings from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee!

On August 26, 2004, FRCC celebrated the tenth anniversary of the designation of the Upper Farmington River as a Wild and Scenic River. We had a great gathering of around 100 people at the pavilion at People's State Forest. Representative John Larson, State Representative George Wilber and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Deputy Commissioner David Leff attended and provided very positive remarks. We would like to thank all of you who came to help us celebrate.



FRCC Chair Pat Keener and FRCC Colebrook Representative Tom Stanton accept a state citation from State Representative George Wilber at FRCC's 10th Anniversary celebration.

Another event this year was the annual Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers meeting which FRCC hosted at Squires Tavern in October. The Partnership Rivers group meets to share ideas and mutual concerns about river stewardship. Representatives attended from the Farmington, Lamprey (New Hampshire), Sudbury/Assabet/Concord (Massachusetts), Great Egg (New Jersey), Maurice (New Jersey), and the Wekiva (Florida).

We are delighted that the Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA) has become a new member of the Farmington River Coordinating Committee. The Anglers share our goals of river protection and conservation. Dick Reynolds, FRAA president, will be the FRCC representative and John Larkin FRAA's alternate.

This year the Committee initiated two projects to assess the river's health. The engineering firm, Milone and MacBroom, has completed the bulk of the work on a riverbank assessment which will help us to direct our efforts in the coming years. In addition,



Partnership Rivers Group at Squires tavern

Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) was hired to train streamwalk volunteers to monitor the health of the river and to do water quality sampling. The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) lab donated lab analysis for bacteria and chemical samples as part of the effort and we appreciate their assistance. The results have been entered into a database, are being studied, and will be provided to the towns where monitoring was completed this year. FRCC believes it is important to know the existing conditions of the river in order to set priorities for future projects.

For the first time, FRCC was able to actively assist with a land protection project in 2004; the Barkhamsted Land Trust (BLT) has become the proud owner of Sugar Meadow Island just north of the Pleasant Valley bridge. FRWA, with financial support from FRCC and FRAA along with pro bono legal support from Larry Kiel of Murphy, Laudati & Kiel, brokered the acquisition and transferred the 17-acre island to the Barkhamsted Land Trust to ensure that it is permanently protected.

We've had a productive year in 2004, and 2005 promises to be just as busy. We are planning to head into the local schools, to work with the local Departments of Public Works, and to continue our efforts to assess and enhance the riverbanks and water quality.

Our monthly meeting date has been changed to the third Monday of each month at 7 pm, and our director, Liz Lacy, is in the office at Squire's Tavern on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please stop in to see her and to enjoy the tavern which gets more beautiful with each passing day as the Barkhamsted Historical Society continues its restoration efforts.

Thank you for your support of the conservation of the Farmington River!

Pat Keener, Chair
Farmington River Coordinating Committee



Eric Hammerling alternate for FRWA on FRCC and new member Dick Reynolds of FRAA below Hogsback (Goodwin) dam.



Aerial of Sugar Meadow Island

Farmington River Coordinating Committee LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2004

Membership

The addition of the Farmington River Anglers Association to FRCC was a major event of the year this association links FRCC to many people who enjoy and care for the Farmington River. FRAA's mission is to "Preserve, Protect and Enhance the Farmington River Fishery."

Outreach and Education

10 Years of Wild and Scenic Designation Anniversary Celebration, August 26, 2004
FRCC held a celebration with about 100 attendees. Entertainment was provided by David Paton and the Magic River Band and catering by Blue Sky Foods.

FRCC Website Improvements and Website training The FRCC website has been maintained by two FRCC volunteers — Mario Santoro and Chris Bailey. Mario and Chris received training on Dreamweaver early in the year.

FRCC Newsletter FRCC produced and distributed a spring newsletter to over 300 riverfront landowners and town officials.

Kiosks Improvements Two back sides of our kiosks were produced this year. One at Mathies Grove parking area and one at the Church Pool at the MDC parking area.

Resource Stewardship

Farmington River Riverbank Assessment Milone and MacBroom completed a draft report of the riverbank assessment. Milone & MacBroom will finalize the draft early in 2005 and FRCC will begin work on recommended actions — a streambank and access site in Nepaug State Forest may be a likely first candidate.

Upper Farmington River Water Quality Monitoring FRWA completed streamwalk trainings and its first round of streamwalks. FRWA also conducted water quality testing at various locations on the river. A database is being developed in cooperation with Farmington Valley Health District and CT DEP. For more information please visit our website.

Land Protection Along with FRAA, FRCC contributed to FRWA's effort to protect Sugar Meadow Island in Barkhamsted which is now held by the Barkhamsted Land Trust.

Aerial Photos FRCC had aerial photos taken of the towns along the 14-mile Wild and Scenic stretch of river. The photos will be helpful in land protection efforts and monitoring the health of the river over time.

Plans of Conservation and Development FRCC provided comments on both New Hartford's and Barkhamsted's updates of their Plans of Conservation and Development.

Policy and Administration

FRCC Grants Program FRCC revamped its grants program to allow larger amounts and fewer deadlines. Grants were given to the Barkhamsted Conservation Commission for publicizing a public meeting on the possible ridgeline zoning; the New Hartford Land Trust for the Riverwalk project; Colebrook Land Conservancy for closing costs associated with protecting the Corliss 100 property.

Ongoing Support to the Squires Restoration (FRCC Headquarters) FRCC continues to support the efforts of the Barkhamsted Historical Society to restore and enhance the Squires Tavern.

New Project Tracking system FRCC established a new tracking system to keep track of projects and finances.

River Rally and Professional Development trainings Several members of FRCC attended the National River Rally. Pat Keener and Mario Santoro attended a series of sessions by the Center for Watershed Protection and accrued 12 hours of free technical assistance from CWP to share.

Cooperative Projects

New Hartford Riverwalk FRCC continued to work with folks in New Hartford to help plan and implement the town's riverwalk project.

Enhanced Fish Habitat FRCC helped coordinate a cooperative effort between CT DEP, Connecticut Department of Transportation, MDC, and USGS that enhanced the fish habitat below the Riverton bridge. Two large trees had fallen and one was cabled to the bank for some much needed "large woody debris" that will not interfere with boaters.

The Farmington River Coordinating Committee was established by 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 seen at www.FarmingtonRiver.org