



Wild & Scenic News

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Spotlight on Colebrook and its Wild & Scenic Resources

Colebrook is one of the state's most rural communities located in the western highlands of Connecticut. It hosts the highest elevations in the state. Colebrook covers 33 square miles of the 609 square-mile Farmington River Watershed and is among the five towns in the Upper Farmington River W&S area. Colebrook is different from the other W&S towns in that it borders on Colebrook River Reservoir and the West Branch Reservoir, rather than a stretch of the Farmington River itself. Sandy Brook (a major tributary to the Farmington which runs through Colebrook) and the adjacent uplands of the Algonquin State Forest — are considered a state natural area preserve due to their unique natural character and value to fish and wildlife. The Still River, another important tributary of the Farmington River also flows through Colebrook, where it joins Sandy Brook.



A scenic area at the base of Hogback Dam.

Approximately 43% of Colebrook is open space, the two primary land owners being the Metropolitan District Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection, totaling almost

75% of the 9186 acres of open space. The YMCA's operation of Camp Jewell, private sporting clubs, and the town and other non profit groups, also own

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The River Back in Time: A Boy Trapped for 39 Hours

Greenwoods Dam, July 9, 1862

Around 1850, the Greenwoods Company built a dam on the Farmington River just upstream of the center of New Hartford. Greenwoods Pond formed above the dam extending all the way to Pleasant Valley. The dam was built of heavy timbers, crossing each other about once every three to four feet. The spaces between the timbers were filled with rock. On July 9, 1862, four young Irish boys went for a swim at around 6 p.m. at the popular swimming hole just upstream of the dam. The boys were unaware that

about six feet below the surfaced of the water on the upstream side of the dam, a short plank was missing, causing a heavy current of water to rush through the structure. One of the boys, 10 year old Michael Denahy, got caught in this current and was carried into the dam. The boys watched him get carried into the dam, but being afraid of getting in trouble, they fabricated a story that Michael had left them and said he was going into the bushes to snare a bird's nest; and one of them threatened to drown a little boy standing on the bank observing the whole scene, if he told any other story.

When Michael didn't turn up Tuesday

morning, and his clothes were found on the bank of the pond, it was assumed that poor Michael had drowned. A large number of men set out to recover the lost boy's body. The water upstream of the dam was about 15- 20 feet deep and efforts continued until about noon, and still no body was found. About this time, the 3 boys were questioned once again, and they finally admitted that they had been in the water with Michael and they saw him drawn down into the hole in the dam. No one thought Michael could still be alive, so the

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Colebrook

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open space. The town hosts very little commercial property.

Over the years, the Wild & Scenic designation has helped preserve Colebrook's natural resources, aesthetic and archaeological features through various funding efforts and by drawing attention to some of the areas that need support. Some of the projects that have received W&S funding are: the 2002 Natural Resources Inventory; a Salmon in the Classroom (hatch and release program) sponsored by the Farmington River Anglers Association; land protection assistance at Aton Forest; and, archeological research at the Richard Smith Iron Works. Most recently, FRCC has provided grant funds for watershed education at the afterschool program at Camp Jewell.



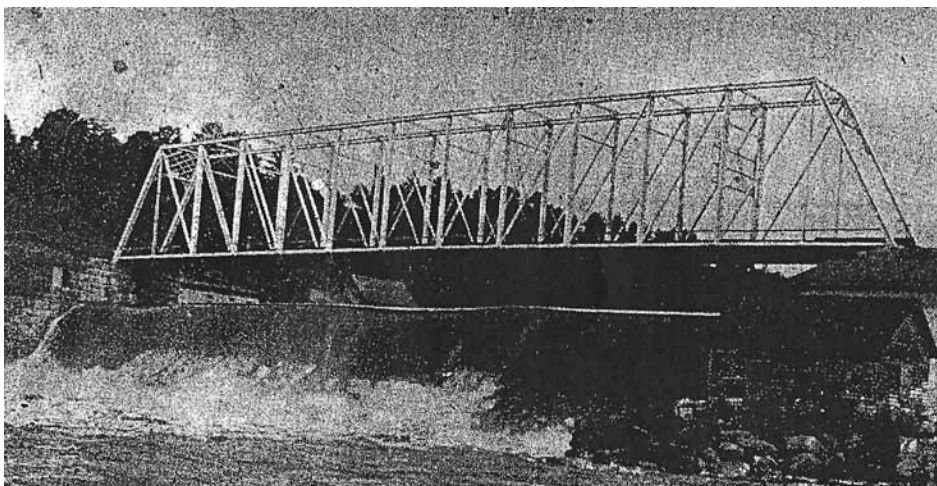
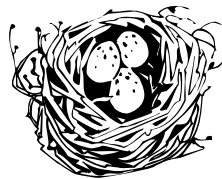
Keener and Johnson Scholarships

Woodrow Hoffman and Sophie Case are awarded FRCC's Keener and Johnson Scholarships – shown here with FRCC's scholarship coordinator, Bill Roberts, FRCC Canton Representative.



Boy Trapped for 39 Hours

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Historic photo of Greenwood Dam where Michael Denahy was trapped.

search was suspended until dark, when with the aid of a torch-light, the men could determine if it would be possible for his body to pass through into the dam. This was done, and it was decided to open the dam on the lower side and continue the search for the body early in the morning.

So early next morning, the men had progressed but a few feet in the direction

of the hole, when they heard what they supposed to be a confused "hallooing" of the people on the bank. This continued sporadically, until finally the men realized that the noise came from within the structure and Michael could actually still be alive!

With the removal of a few more stones, Michael's body could be seen crouched on one of the timbers of the dam. He was

crying out in wild bewilderment and fear, as the water continued to stream around him. By sawing off one of the timbers, he was soon rescued and was able to stand and walk, but was in a very confused state.

Within a few days, he was soon himself again and told his story: "I went through the hole head first, it was very dark and I became very cold. I went to sleep for a long time and when I woke up, I heard people hollering and I tried to answer, but they could not hear me. The water was constantly pouring around my feet and legs. I couldn't breathe good and when the men first got hold of me, I thought some animal had caught me, so I tried to push them back. I didn't really know where I was until I was in the boat and going home."

"His mother and father were loud in their expression of gratitude to God and their neighbors, for the preservation and rescue of their child, after his incarceration of thirty-nine hours in the dark, cold drenching prison of the Greenwood dam."

*Source: The Lure of the Litchfield Hills
Photo courtesy of Mr. Andrew
Grinvalsky, Sr.*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tim Anthony — FRCC's MDC Representative

Aside from being the FRCC's Resource Stewardship subcommittee chair, Tim has held the position of Hydroelectric Supervisor for The Metropolitan District for 20 years. He is responsible for overseeing the operation and maintenance of the District's two hydroelectric facilities, the 3 MW Colebrook Hydroelectric facility, located at the US Army Corps of Engineers' Colebrook River Lake Dam, and the 3.4 MW Goodwin Hydroelectric facility located at the Metropolitan District's Goodwin Dam. Both facilities are located on the West Branch of the Farmington River.

Inherent with the operation of the District's hydroelectric facilities, Mr. Anthony has the responsibility of managing the Farmington River's West Branch reservoirs, releases from the East Branch Lake McDonough, execution of the river flow regulation for Goodwin Dam and the District's stewardship responsibilities associated with the operation of the Farmington River.

Mr. Anthony has the responsibility of interfacing with various agencies associated with operation of the facilities including US Army Corps of Engineers, USGS, CT DEP, NWS



and River Forecast Center, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, CL&P, State of CT and local emergency service providers.

Mr. Anthony's prior experience includes over 15 years in the welding, machining, manufacture and installation of industrial heat treating equipment, the aviation support industry, and hydroelectric turbines. His last prior employment was with Obermeyer Hydraulic Turbines, which was located in Collinsville, CT, the manufacturer of

the District's Colebrook Hydroelectric equipment.

Tim's personal association with the Farmington River dates back to his hometown of Tariffville, where the river surrounds the town on 3 sides. Tim spent countless hours exploring, fishing, boating and experiencing all the values the river environment has to offer. His experiences were enhanced by the presence of a very strong Scouting program (BSA) sponsored by the Tariffville Volunteer F.D. where his leadership skills were initially developed.

Tim lives in Torrington, at the western edge of the Farmington River watershed feeding into the Nepaug River. He and his wife Sandra have 3 sons, all local to the area. In the spirit of passing on knowledge and experience, and due to the true dedication of his wife to their sons and families of Torrington area, Tim and Sandra were Scouting leaders in the BSA program for many years.

Tim was appointed by the Commission of the MDC as the FRCC MDC Representative in January of 2005 following the retirement of Bud Sanders, MDC Manager of Water Supply.

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:

- Barkhamsted** – Jean Miller; Mario Santoro, alt.
- Canton** – Bill Roberts
- Colebrook** – Tom Stanton, Edna Travis, alt.
- Hartland** – Fred Jones; Nicki Hall and Sam Slater, alt.
- New Hartford** – Alison Murdock; Mark Lindquist, alt.
- CT DEP** – Maryann Nusom Haverstock; Susan Peterson, alt.
- Farmington River Anglers Association** – Rich Strolis; Tom Karpeichik, 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.





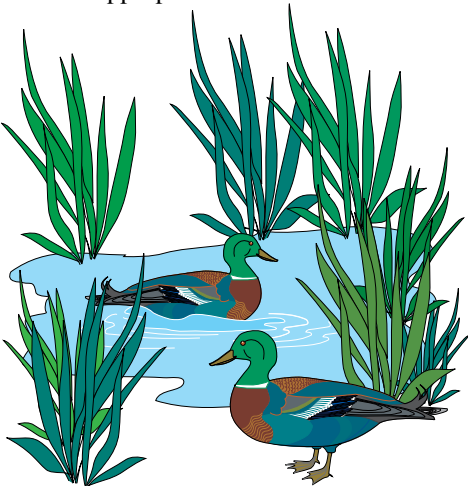
Farmington River Coordinating Committee
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

www.farmingtonriver.org

Updates on FRCC Projects

Greenwoods Anglers Trail

FRCC is working with the Farmington River Anglers Association, MDC, and DEP to address the shoreline erosion occurring in some over-used spots in the Greenwoods area. FRCC intern Tiffany Caisse has GPS'ed many of the informal trails used and is creating a working map for the group to use in its efforts to direct users to appropriate areas.



Non-native Invasive Plant Management

FRCC has contracted with botanist Betsy Corrigan to survey and suggest management strategies for non-native invasive plant species in the Farmington River area. As part of this project, FRCC's intern Tiffany Caisse (a student majoring in biology at Westfield State College) has assisted Corrigan and produced an information brochure that has been sent to all riverside property owners. To read the brochure please visit our website.

NEWS FLASH!

*We have an interactive
map on our website
— and an events calendar —
check them out at
www.FarmingtonRiver.org*

Embarking on an Upper Farmington River Management Plan Update in 2010

Under the guidelines set forth by the U.S. Congress at the time of designation and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, the FRCC must periodically review the Upper Farmington River Management Plan and determine if changes are needed to bring it up-to-date. During this year, the FRCC reviewed the Plan and agreed to develop (with all appropriate and interested parties) proposed updates to the Plan. The process is beginning as this year comes to an end and will begin in earnest in 2010. If you have any interest in this process, or have questions or comments, please contact our office at **860-379-0282**.