

#### 2011 FRCC Members

##### **Barkhamsted**

Mario Santoro  
Roger Behrens, alt.

##### **Canton**

Bill Roberts  
Cherie Robinson, alt.

##### **Colebrook**

Tom Stanton  
Edna Travis, alt.

##### **Hartland**

Vacant  
Nicki Hall, alt.

##### **New Hartford**

Alison Murdock  
Mark Lindquist, alt.

##### **CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)**

Susan Peterson  
MaryAnn Nusom  
Haverstock, alt.

##### **Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA)**

Paul Pinette  
Tom Karpeichik, alt.

##### **Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA)**

David Sinish  
Eileen Fielding, alt.

##### **Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)**

Tim Anthony  
Carol Youell, alt.

##### **National Park Service (NPS)**

Liz Lacy  
Jamie Fosburgh, alt.



# Farmington River Coordinating Committee

## Annual Report 2011

Hello Friends, Old and New,

I begin my chairmanship of the FRCC for 2012 with a look at some of the accomplishments in 2011—and what an exciting year of outreach it was! We continue to evolve, finding new ways to let people know about the outstanding valuable resource we have in the Wild and Scenic Upper Farmington River and how to keep it that way.

As an update on the Wild and Scenic status of the Lower Farmington, a bill has now been presented to Congress for that designation, so stay tuned.

Thanks to Tiffany Caisse, our apprentice from the Student Conservation Association/Americorps, FRCC now has a FACEBOOK page. If you haven't friended us yet or joined our blog on the website or signed up for our e-newsletter, it's not too late. Just visit our website, [www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org), to find out more.

For actual on the river updates, the water trail map, "The Upper Farmington: A Wild & Scenic Water Trail" was published last spring and copies made available at various locations throughout the W&S corridor. The map identifies pools and access points for paddlers, tubers, anglers, and sightseeing waders like me. If you would like a copy of the map, you may print one from our website, or call and we will send one out to you.

For the younger folk, ages 8 – 12, Tiffany also launched the Junior River Rangers pilot program. It was modeled after the Junior Rangers program found in most National Parks. An activity booklet, certificate of achievement and badge was developed for this program. The booklet contains activities on each of the Outstanding Resource Values of the river, why the river is a wild and scenic river, and how to be a river steward. Many of the activities require the youth to get out on the river and do some exploring. The pilot was an opportunity to be on the cutting edge of a program that will eventually turn into a national program available to all national Wild and Scenic rivers.

In an effort to maintain the native ecology of the river area, botanist, Betsy Corrigan and intern Tiffany Caisse, with volunteer help, conducted several invasive plant pulls, to remove such non-native species as Spotted Knapweed and Japanese Stiltgrass. Unfortunately, new invasive species and new infestations were identified, so the work of eradication will continue into 2012 and beyond. Volunteers to help with this activity are always needed, so if you're interested or know someone who is, please go to our website for a schedule of work sessions.

An alarming discovery of an invasive river algae called Didymo occurred in the spring of 2011 in the Upper Farmington River. Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) is an invasive algae also known commonly as "Rock Snot." The DEEP was quick to provide education on identification of the algae and instructions on how to prevent its spread. The important message was "don't panic, keep enjoying the river!" Thus far, there are no reports of its occurrence in the Upper Farmington River in 2012 and FRCC is involved in spreading the word to the public about the issue.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual "Farmington River Wild and Scenic Photo and Art Exhibit" was held in October at Squires Tavern. The show featured art and photos from local artists. New this year was an outdoor demonstration featuring several goats happily munching away on invasive species - another green way to eradicate those non-native plant invaders!

More of our 2011 activities can be found within the pages of this annual report. I anticipate 2012 will be filled with new opportunities as well as a continuation of work in progress to safeguard the special character of the Farmington River.

Cherie Robinson,  
FRCC Chair, Canton Alternate Representative



FRCC reps and old friends on a site walk.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2011

### Education and Outreach

**Keener and Johnson Scholarships**— The 2011 Pat Keener scholarship went to Deanna Nappi graduating from Canton High School. The 2011 Nancy Johnson scholarship went to Ian Jones also graduating from Canton High School. Both will continue to college in environmental or science majors.



**FRCC Open House and W&S Art Exhibit** — The 7th FRCC Annual Open House and W&S Art Exhibit was as usual well-attended and a great success. Our invasive plant management program was highlighted at the event with a demonstration of goats eating the unwanted invaders in the yard of Squire's tavern. Travelin' Trout provided great music once again and food was the best ever having been made and delivered by FRCC reps themselves.



**FRCC Newsletter** — FRCC produced and distributed two newsletters to more than 400 riverfront landowners, town officials and organizations.

**FRCC Website** — FRCC made more improvements and upgraded areas of the website. Please visit—[www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org)

**River "Etiquette" Project**— In phase two of this project, FRCC published an informative, waterproof, water trail map of our 14-mile stretch of W&S river—which was distributed in all of the W&S towns—is free of charge—it is also up on the FRCC website.

**Outreach to Local Land Trusts**—On behalf of FRCC, Aimee Petras of FRWA co-conducted a workshop in Hartland—"Learning About Land Conservation" - for property owners and land trust members.

**Outreach to Local Boards, Organizations, and Schools**— Liz Lacy presented a talk on the Wild and Scenic designation and the FRCC's latest activities as part of the Barkhamsted Historical Society's 2011 lecture series.

**FRCC Outings**— On June 20, FRCC enjoyed a pre-meeting paddle at the West Branch Reservoir above Hogback/Goodwin dam and then had a small gathering for our 2011 scholarship recipients.

**Kiosks**— On-going maintenance of our eight informational kiosks continues with FRCC reps monitoring each location.



*The Farmington River Coordinating Committee was established by the U.S. Congress to oversee and coordinate activities on the 14-mile federally designated Wild & 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 W&S River designation extends from just below the Goodwin (Hogsback) Dam in Hartland to the New Hartford-Canton town line.*

**The Upper Farmington River Management Plan can be read at [www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org)**

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2011

### Resource Stewardship

**Invasive Plant Survey**—FRCC’s work on locating and eradicating invasive plant species in the 14-mile W&S river corridor area continued with Betsy Corrigan, botanist, leading the effort, and Tiffany Caisse, intern, assisting. Several sessions took place to remove species such as spotted knapweed, Japanese stilt-grass, burning bush, autumn olive, and Japanese barberry. Goats are helping with the eradication efforts thanks to Lisa Candels of Pleasant Valley.



**Water Quality Monitoring** — Upper Farmington River WQM continues, thanks to Alisa Phillips- Griggs at FRWA and the support of MDC. In 2011, the upper Farmington’s mainstream water quality was generally high.

**Still River Watershed Assessment**—Due to FRWA’s water quality monitoring efforts, FRCC determined that some reaching out into the Still River watershed was needed to locate potential sources of bacteria and pollutants entering the Farmington from the Still. FRCC contracted with FRWA and the Northwest Conservation District to work with the community to install demonstration projects that show best management practices for storm water management.

**Vernal Pools in Colebrook** — More work was conducted by FRWA and Betsy Corrigan to identify and verify vernal pools in Colebrook.

**Land Protection**—FRCC contributed to Barkhamsted Land Trust for their ongoing efforts, and to the Hartland Land Trust for the protection of its first parcel known as the Bassett Kell property—a 22-acre parcel that hosts wetlands and brooks that feed the upper Farmington. FRCC also supported the HLT’s new boundary signs.



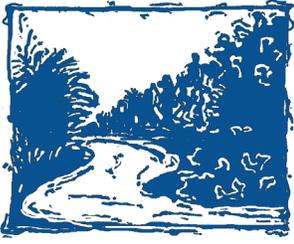
**Greenwoods Anglers Trail**—FRCC continued its work with the FRAA, MDC and DEP to help direct foot traffic away from eroding riverbanks to more stable, established mowed trails in the MDC Greenwoods property. Intern Tiffany Caisse assisted in developing signs to place at strategic points.

**Mapping Project**—Work began on creating new maps for the Upper Farmington River Management Plan update that is underway. The current version contains one “low tech” map of the five-town W&S area—and the updated Plan will have a series of Geographic Information System (GIS) maps providing background information on many of the outstanding resources in the area.

### Grants Awarded in 2011

**Barkhamsted Historical Society** — Lighthouse Historic Site Signs and Brochure

**Canton Land Trust**—Watershed Trail Project



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**Annual Report 2011 — Overview of Expenditures**

**Outreach and Education**

Newsletters, Kiosks, Website	3,059.00
Keener and Johnson Scholarships	2,000.00
River Etiquette—Water Trail Map	4,768.00
Local Land Trust Outreach	<u>1,500.00</u>

Subtotal \$11,327.00

**Resource Stewardship**

Vernal Pools Study	2,266.00
Water Quality Monitoring	10,000.00
Still River Watershed Assessment	4,410.00
Invasive Plant Management	7,275.00
Land Protection	7,500.00
Greenwoods Anglers Trail	<u>280.00</u>

Subtotal \$31,731.00

**Grants Program**

Hartland Land Trust—Start Up Costs (Final)	2,175.00
Barkhamsted Historical Society—R. Smith Archeology Study (Final)	5,000.00
Roaring Brook Nature Center—Farmington W&S River Exhibit	10,000.00
Barkhamsted Historical Society—Lighthouse Historical Site Signage	3,401.00
Town of Barkhamsted—Miner Lane Detention Basin Retrofit	<u>10,000.00</u>

Subtotal \$30,576.00

**Operations**

Operating and Office Costs	<u>5,194.00</u>
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Subtotal \$5,194.00

**TOTAL \$78,828.00**

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**2011 Leveraging**

Total Volunteer Hours: 2,600

Translated to dollars.....**\$70,000.00**

[www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org)