

# Wild & Scenic News

Volume 6, Issue 3

Fall 2010

## FRCC Resources Support Local Projects



One of the great things about being a partner is sharing. At FRCC, we have endeavored to share our resources as much as we can to support local projects instead of “re-inventing the wheel.” Local headlines include: “Hartland Starts Up New Town Land Trust,” “Barkhamsted Refurbishes Riverton Bridge,” “Camp Jewell Includes River Education at After School Program,” “Roaring Brook Nature Center Establishes Farmington River Exhibit,” and “New Hartford Land Trust Establishes River Walk Project.”

As part of its mission as the Coordinating Committee for the Wild & Scenic portion of the upper Farmington River, FRCC is fortunate to receive funding periodically from the U.S. Congress to support its activities. FRCC uses these funds to support local projects and enhance protection of the upper Farmington River. To support locally-driven projects, the FRCC offers grants



*The Anglers Association installs a logjam for fish habitat*

for projects being shepherded by schools, organizations, or towns along the W&S designated river. Here are some of our guidelines for applying:

**Project Eligibility** Projects that enhance the protection of the upper Farmington River and its watershed are

eligible for consideration. Project focus can range from riverbank to watershed level. Projects that directly benefit at least one of the following general areas:

- Conservation, restoration or enhancement of fish, wildlife, historic or recreational resources of the watershed;
- Open space conservation;
- Promotion of responsible recreational use;
- Public education about the river, its natural and cultural resources, and methods of protection;
- Public involvement in river-related issues.

Projects must be consistent with  
*Continued on page 2*

## We Fondly Remember Pat Keener (August 1, 1934 – July 8, 2010)

On July 8th, Pat passed away peacefully in her home next to one of her great loves — the Farmington River. Although many knew she was ill and gracefully fighting her disease, it was a shock to lose this vibrant and supportive friend. As someone said at her memorial on July 17, “It’s hard to believe that Pat is really gone — she was the one who helped us all get through these things!”

Pat was one of the original supporters of the upper river’s Wild and Scenic designation and was chair of FRCC for several years. She was dedicated to teaching and had a special knack for including people. Many of our current FRCC representatives thank Pat for getting them involved. A scholarship fund at FRCC was created in her name a couple of years ago for students of environmental science. Please pass the word along to any graduating seniors or college students from our five W&S towns (more information on our website).

Over the last couple of years, even though she had to lighten her commitments and spend more time taking care of herself, Pat still provided guidance and inspiration to the FRCC. She was the very essence of FRCC for many years and her presence will always be felt. We’ll miss you, Pat!



*Pat Keener, shown standing by one of our W&S kiosks; the informative signs are a result of her hard work. Thanks to Jean Miller, we finally completed all the kiosks at key spots along the river before Pat died.*

## What's Up, Upstream?

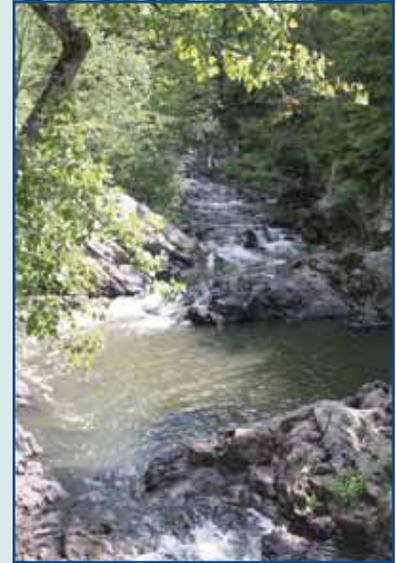
One of the projects commissioned by the Farmington River Coordinating Committee this year is a study of the Still River, an important tributary to the Wild & Scenic section of the Farmington. Starting near Torrington, the Still River flows north toward the Farmington, joining with the Mad River near Winsted. The FRCC takes an interest in the Still River because it is on the State's list of impaired waters. In the Still River's case, much of the impairment is attributed to high bacteria levels. This prompts us to ask, "What sorts of land use exist along the Still River that could result in a heavy load of bacteria in the water?" and "How much pollution might the Still be contributing to the Farmington?" and "What can we do about it?"

To answer these questions the FRCC has enlisted the help of Jeff Bolton, from the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), and Sean Hayden, of the Northwest Conservation District (NCD), to map all land uses

along the river and estimate the pollution potential of each type. Jeff is doing the mapping, while Sean is researching typical pollutant loads that run off specific land use types.

Work is still in progress, but so far the maps give a bird's-eye view of a river running a gauntlet of challenging land uses such as paved roads, parking lots, and industrial areas. All of these are potential sources of stormwater runoff that degrades water quality. There are extensive paved areas in Winsted whose runoff goes directly into both the Still and Mad Rivers, further contributing to the bacteria load in both waterways.

The study also attempts to find opportunities to reduce the runoff. (FRWA's Alisa Phillips-Griggs and Aimee Petras are assisting with this phase of the project.) Some problems can be addressed with low-cost, low-tech approaches, such as landscaping a grassy swale to capture and filter stormwater before it sluices into the river. Other fixes require more engineering, funds, and of course, willing partners.



*Still River before it merges with Sandy Brook*

FRWA and NCD staff look forward to working with local people over time, to plan specific improvements. Improving the Still River will be a gradual process – but just as rivers degrade bit by bit, they can be improved bit by bit. We're pleased to be making a start.

## FRCC Scholarships for High School Seniors and College Students



*Bill Roberts (center), FRCC scholarship coordinator, with 2010 recipients Daniel LeDuc, and Elise Minichiello*

Each year FRCC awards two scholarships. The Pat Keener Scholarship generally goes to a high school senior planning to major in the environmental field and the Nancy Johnson Scholarship goes to a college student already studying in this field. Students must come from one of the five W&S towns — Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Hartland, or New Hartford. Please visit our website for more details.

## FRCC Resources Support Local Projects



*Continued from page 1*

the Upper Farmington River Management Plan (this can be viewed at

[www.farmingtonriver.org](http://www.farmingtonriver.org)). Preferred projects will also provide opportunities to broaden partnerships between individuals, agencies and organizations with a connection to the river.

The following projects/activities are **not** eligible for funding under the FRCC Grants Program:

- Land protection projects and associated costs. (All land-related projects are funded through the FRCC Land Protection Program. See details at [www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org));
- Lobbying activities;
- Commercial or for-profit activities;
- Endowment funds;
- Purchase of computers or electronics;
- Reimbursement for projects already completed;
- Membership fees or dues to other organizations.

**Who May Apply** Non-profit

organizations, municipalities, individual educators, schools and other educational institutions, and private citizens.

**Application Period** There are no deadlines for applications. FRCC accepts them on a first come, first serve basis until all the funding allocated for the year has been distributed.

**Funding** Applicants may request up to \$10,000 for any one project.

**Applicant Match** Applicants shall provide matching funds of at least 25 percent of the amount requested. The applicant match can be monetary or "in-kind" (services, facilities, equipment, materials) and must be clearly documented. Letters of commitment from any organizations or businesses providing in-kind support must accompany the application.

**Before Applying** Please call the FRCC director, Liz Lacy, at (860) 379-0282 (or email [Liz\\_Lacy@nps.gov](mailto:Liz_Lacy@nps.gov)) to discuss your project proposal and the current availability of funds in the grant program.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### An Interview with Susan Peterson — FRCC's CT DEP Representative

**Q. What is your background?  
What inspired you to do this work?**

My interest and love of nature primarily came from my family, particularly my older sister. I majored Botany in college, and later earned a Master's in Environmental Studies. My first job out of college was at the former Thames Science Center in New London, CT which focused on the natural history of the Thames River basin. Subsequently, I worked for the Housatonic Valley Association, in Cornwall, CT on water resource issues, and later at the Appalachian Mountain Club in Pinkham Notch, NH on federal hydropower relicensing issues involving several northern New England rivers – including the Kennebec, Penobscot, Androscoggin and Deerfield. In 1999, I was hired by CT DEP to join the newly formed Watershed Management Program.

**Q. You are the representative from the CT DEP. Explain your role and how you can contribute.**

I have been at the CT DEP for

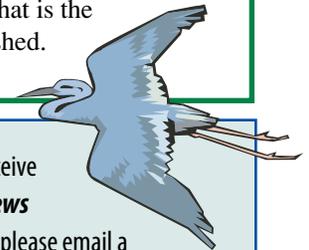


over ten years and am one of three “Watershed Managers” in the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse. My responsibilities are the Housatonic and Farmington watersheds. The primary focus is on non-point pollution issues and the creation of holistic “watershed-based plans.” I am the CT DEP rep on both the FRCC and the Lower Farmington W&S study.

At FRCC I am able to share my knowledge and/or try to get answers to questions about FRCC projects and issues that may require information from CT DEP on our programs, policies or regulations. I also bring information back to DEP about FRCC activities so that DEP can make better decisions and policies about the Farmington River.

**Q. What aspect of FRCC work do you find the most fulfilling?**

It takes many different and engaged perspectives from the federal, state, local and private sectors to work through various environmental issues and projects to develop mutually satisfying solutions and results. The most fulfilling aspect is getting to know the “people and the place,” becoming better acquainted with a group of wonderful folks who are very dedicated to preserving this special place that is the Farmington watershed.



**ATTENTION walkers, anglers, bicyclists** — Please help us to be on the lookout for invasive species. If you would like to volunteer to be on our “swat team” for invasives reporting, please let us know!

**AND property owners** — Would you like assistance in removing invasive plants from your yard? Please call us! 860-379-0282

If you would like to receive your **Wild & Scenic News** electronically instead, please email a note to us at [info@farmingtonriver.org](mailto:info@farmingtonriver.org) and give us your address!

## 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](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org). Current representatives are:

**Barkhamsted** — Mario Santoro; Roger Behrens, alt.

**Canton** — Bill Roberts; Cherie Robinson, alt.

**Colebrook** — Tom Stanton; Edna Travis, alt.

**Hartland** — Fred Jones;

**New Hartford** — Alison Murdock; Mark Lindquist, alt.

Nicki Hall and Sam Slater, alts.

**CT DEP** — Susan Peterson; Maryann Nusom Haverstock, alt.

**Farmington River Anglers Association** — Paul Pinette; 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](http://www.farmingtonriver.org)

## Focus on Hartland By Sue Murray and Fred Jones

**H**artland, the northern-most W&S town, hosts the first tributary (Thorne Brook) to the nationally designated portion of the Farmington River. It also contains the headwaters of the West Branch Salmon Brook – which is under study to become W&S designated. A few years ago, a town-wide survey conducted during the 10-year update of the plan of conservation and development overwhelmingly supported starting up a town land trust. The Hartland Land Trust became a reality with financial support from the FRCC. Hartland has also received grants from FRCC to conduct a town-wide build-out analysis and a Natural Resources Inventory.

The colonial settlers carved many farms and homesteads out of the rough terrain and virgin forests of Hartland. Many stone walls were built and today endow cultural, natural, and aesthetic beauty. The streams on the East and West Mountains were sources of water for oxen and power for mills and the “Hollow” was fertile bottom land. Saw mills, grist mills,

tanneries, blacksmiths and shops were operating. One of the first calico factories in America, Ward’s Mill, opened in 1836 on the West Branch of the Farmington River north of Hitchcocksville (present-day Riverton) and did a thriving business. Today, Hartland is one of the state’s most rural communities, yet it is not immune from today’s pressures of development. Open space lands make up over 75 percent of Hartland, owned primarily by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Within our 22,300 acres of land, Hartland possesses a significant network of streams, rivers and waterways. Water quality in town is outstanding and supplies over 400,000 Hartford county residents. Hartland’s extensive forest system provides exceptional protection for the headwaters of the Farmington River.

*Sue Murray is director of the Hartland Land Trust; Fred Jones is the FRCC representative from Hartland.*

## River Happenings

### 6th Annual FRCC Open House and Wild & Scenic Art and Photo Exhibit

Thursday, September 16 from 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm at Squire’s Tavern. Refreshments, music, and great W&S artwork from local artists! Join us! To submit your own artwork or photos – contact FRCC at 860-379-0282 (or [www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org)). Exhibit continues until October 18.

The Farmington River Watershed Association’s (FRWA) **23rd Annual Farmington River Clean-up** is set for Saturday, October 2, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Contact FRWA at 860-658-4442 or [www.frwa.org](http://www.frwa.org) for more information.

**Streambugs** – Learn How to Do Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Sampling at a special upper river training with FRWA. Sunday, October 9, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at Squire’s Tavern, Peoples State Forest, 100 East River Rd, Pleasant Valley – For more information contact FRWA at 860-658-4442 (or visit [www.frwa.org](http://www.frwa.org)).