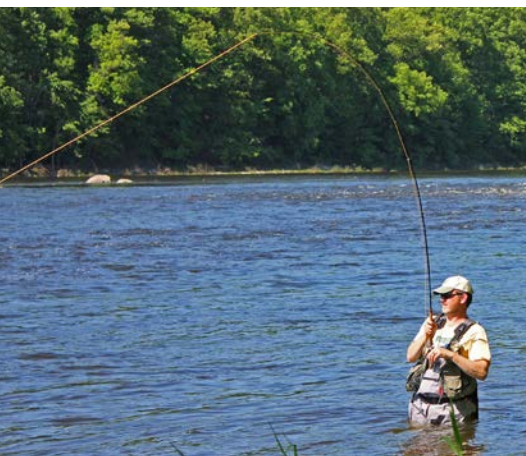




Connecticut River Watershed Council

Protecting our rivers since 1952

Annual Report 2015





Connecticut River Watershed Council
15 Bank Row Greenfield, MA 01301-3511
413-772-2020

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David Deen, River Steward (Upper Valley)
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CRWC is a citizen advocate for protecting the Connecticut River and its four-state watershed. CRWC is a 501(c)3. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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Mission

CRWC works to protect the watershed from source to sea. As stewards of this heritage, we celebrate our four-state treasure and collaborate, educate, organize, restore, and intervene to preserve the health of the whole for generations to come. Our work informs our vision of ecological and economic abundance.

Connect with us at www.ctriver.org



Cover photos:
Rainbow, East Haddam, CT
Photo: Christopher Graham, www.chrisgraham-photography.com
Fishing, CT River, Turners Falls, MA
Photo: CRWC
Kayak, Sumner Falls, Hartland, VT
Photo: CRWC
Osprey
Photo: USFWS

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Good work, done well.

This is not just a clever turn of phrase, but a powerfully simple standard to hold ourselves to. There are many ways to gauge, assess, measure, or evaluate one's work. Our work here is driven by our vision of creating both ecological and economic abundance, so we think hard about what actions we take to make that vision manifest. But we also think hard about how we do this work. To us, that means expressing our gratitude to all of you who believe and invest in our mission — thank you! It means collaborating with a diversity of partners because this work is not a zero-sum game — collaboration makes the pie bigger and amplifies all of our successes. It means listening carefully to a range of thoughts and perspectives on contentious issues because we don't have all the answers. It means identifying solutions as well as problems and bringing resources to the table. It means paying attention to the back office and ensuring our administrative procedures and financial controls are robust. And, of course, it means enjoying the privilege of working on behalf of a really special place.

Because of your belief in our work, CRWC continues to grow and succeed. Thank you!

See you on the river,

Andrew Fisk, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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Volunteers help protect our rivers in many ways, including planting trees.
Photo: CRWC

RESTORATION

Making our rivers healthy again

Restoration means busting down deadbeat dams, collecting solid environmental data, picking up trash & debris, planting trees, replacing undersized culverts, and of course finding the money to do all this good work.



Photos: CRWC

One Less Dam Blocking Your Rivers

As of July, 2014 the Wells River flows freely through this area for the first time in over 100 years! Like all dams, the Franconia Paper Mill dam was blocking the Wells River flow and ability to move sediment and debris downstream. This deadbeat dam was also a flood and recreation hazard and a barrier to fish, including brook trout. Now fish can swim upstream to spawn and people can enjoy this stretch of river safely.

Taking it to the Bank

More than 2,600 trees and shrubs were planted this year — that's a four-year total of more than 11,000! These plants reduce erosion, improve water quality, reduce water temperatures by providing shade, increase habitat for fish and wildlife, increase summer food for songbirds and other wildlife, and stabilize the stream banks. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped plant trees and remove invasive species. Riverbanks were restored in:

- Bradford, VT on the Waits River
- Cavendish, VT on the Black River
- Groton, VT on the Wells River
- Hawley, MA on the Chickley River
- Orford, NH on the Connecticut River
- Piermont, NH on the Eastman Brook
- Woodstock, VT on the Ottauquechee River



Root wads help stabilize the stream bank at the Bradford Golf Club in VT.
Photo: CRWC

“ Thanks so much to all of you who made our stream bank stabilization project possible and such a great success. Your professionalism, expertise and accommodating approach are very much appreciated. It was exciting to see that the fish had already found the slower moving water! ”

Randy Odell, *President, Bradford Golf Club, Inc.*

Bringing Money to the Table to Protect Working Farms and Forests

In January, 2015, CRWC and six partners were awarded a \$10 million dollar grant from the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program to fund pollution reduction projects on farm and forestland throughout the Long Island Sound watershed. Our work will focus on the Connecticut River basin, which contributes 70% of the freshwater to the Sound and is important to the Sound's health. The grant will be matched dollar for dollar, bringing \$20 million dollars for climate adaptation and clean water projects to landowners over the next five years. CRWC will work with dozens of landowners to ensure their valuable investment in their soil and land doesn't continue washing downstream.



Staff & volunteers collected 66 samples at 55 sites to find nutrient hot spots.
Photo: CRWC

Bringing Environmental Data to the Table

To ensure CRWC spends restoration dollars wisely, current and comprehensive environmental information is needed. Because the current state of the upper watershed's nutrient loading has not been measured for over 10 years, we initiated a unique and large-scale monitoring effort. On August 6, 2014, with help from Vermont and New Hampshire state government, CRWC organized volunteers and state employees from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts, as well as Yale University in the first Samplepalooza. In a single day, water samples were collected from 55 locations spanning over 1,000 river miles in three states. All 66 samples were analyzed for total nitrogen, total phosphorus, chloride, and total organic carbon. Analysis of the data shows that areas with the most forest land had the lowest total nitrogen values and there are locations with higher than expected nutrient concentrations. This monitoring initiative will continue and will be integral to everyone's work to make our rivers and the Long Island Sound healthy again.



Removing trash and debris from our rivers doesn't just make them look better. It improves habitat and reduces pollution that can harm wildlife.

2014
Lead Sponsors:



Photos: CRWC

ADVOCACY

Speaking up for our rivers



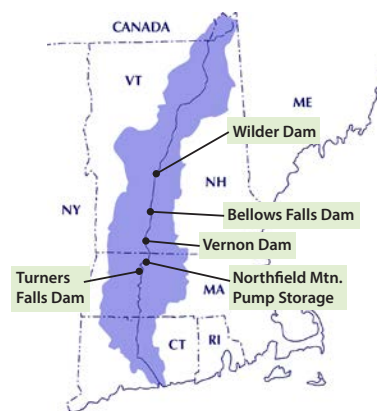
Share your river story to help protect our rivers. Photos: C. Destrempe

A Thousand Stories for Cleaner Rivers & Greener Hydropower — The Power of Water / The Power of Words

The 5½-year process of federal relicensing of five major hydroelectric facilities on the mainstem of the CT River is about half over. These facilities produce over 30% of hydropower generation in New England and include four large dams at Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon, VT and at Turners Falls, MA and the pump storage facility at Northfield Mountain in MA. The summer of 2015 is the second season of studies geared towards better understanding the impacts of the dams on resources in the 175 miles of affected river. CRWC has been commenting on the study designs and reports for the 71 studies on flows, fish passage and habitat, water quality, erosion, and recreation — over 300 pages of comments submitted so far!

But it's not enough — we need you! CRWC is working with River of Words Along the Connecticut River and Art for Water to gather your river stories in a project known as *The Power of Water/The Power of Words*. These stories will be submitted as public comment to the state and federal government as they make decisions about these five hydroelectric facilities. Your stories will then also become a monumental and inspiring community-created art installation to educate others about our rivers. Over 250 stories were collected from presentations throughout the year at schools, retirement communities and libraries.

Ready to share your river story? We can bring this FREE program to your organization, group, or school and provide an engaging presentation to groups of all sizes. For more information, please contact Andy Fisk at 413-772-2020 ext. 208. This program is supported by a generous grant from the Putnam Foundation.



Vermont Yankee — Persistence Pays Off

It took over eleven years, but together we made a difference. A notable win for the river is that VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) now evaluates, permits, and enforces thermal pollution discharges very differently. On October 13, 2014, ANR finally issued a new more protective permit for the hot water discharge coming from Entergy Vermont Yankee. The permit upholds our argument that bad science misguided previous permits. There is now precedent for future thermal discharge permits to reflect the reality of the river based on the biological needs of fish as they grow, breed, and migrate. That is important for the river now and into the future.

As of December 31, 2014, the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant shut down. Now the focus is on the decommissioning of the plant. CRWC Upper Valley River Steward David Deen has been appointed as a citizen representative to the newly formed Decommissioning Panel. CRWC feels it is important that the site return to reusable status as soon as possible. That means removing the plant in a safe and timely manner. Having an old, decrepit nuclear power plant on the shores of the Connecticut River is not good for the river and those who use it.



Fighting River Polluters

In June, 2015, CRWC and Earthrise Law Center of the Lewis & Clark School filed a Notice of Intent to file suit for violations of the Clean Water Act by the Whately, MA-based Chang Farms. Their process water for growing bean sprouts is treated and discharged to the Connecticut River. Over the last five years, Chang Farms has violated the terms of their federal pollution discharge permit in 55 of the last 60 months, 92% of the time, by discharging more pollutants than allowed by law. They have violated permit limits more than 330 times for four separate pollutants. They have also failed the toxicity test of their discharge 30% of the time.

Federal and state agencies have not stepped in to correct the violations, so CRWC is using a provision of the Clean Water Act that allows citizen groups to act. CRWC is now evaluating a response from Chang Farms and will work to negotiate an agreement to ensure they comply with their permits.

“ I grew up in Wilson, CT and have seen, in my lifetime, the positive changes in conditions of the CT River. Fishing/swimming/boating safely without the level of pollution and concern for our well-being is most satisfying. Thank you for all of your efforts!!! ”

Tom Farrell, Bloomfield, CT

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!

CRWC River Stewards provided testimony or comments on at least 25 other permits, studies, regulations, licenses, reports or plans this year. Many times, the Council is the sole entity watching out to ensure your goals and expectations for your rivers are being met.

RECREATION

Enjoying all the wonders of our rivers

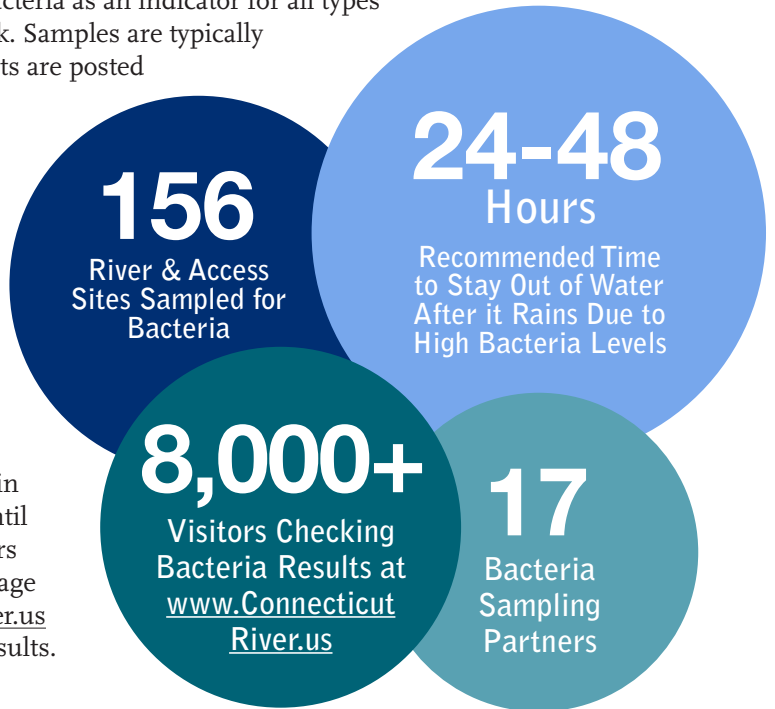
Collaborating to Learn if Our Rivers Are Clean

CRWC continues to rally partners and funds to test bacteria levels in our rivers. The Connecticut River “Is it Clean?” water sampling program tests river access and recreation sites in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and northern Connecticut. Samples are tested for E. coli bacteria as an indicator for all types of other pathogens that could potentially make you sick. Samples are typically collected at each site weekly or bi-weekly and test results are posted online 24 hours later, June through early October.

Is it Clean?



Heavy rain is often the cause of high bacteria levels due to combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and stormwater runoff from urban, suburban, and agricultural areas. Cities and towns along the river continue to make significant investments in their sewers to reduce pollution and this has made a tremendous difference in our enjoyment of our rivers. Until this work is complete, river users can visit the “Is It Clean” web page located at www.ConnecticutRiver.us to find the latest bacteria test results.



“ I can’t imagine not having this river clean. It’s just too important. ”

Nancy First, Northampton, MA

Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail Expansion Making Progress

The Paddlers’ Trail is a series of primitive campsites and access points for CT River paddlers. Two new campsites in Montague and Whatley, MA were funded in 2015 and will be constructed in 2016 by the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), a project partner. In Connecticut, CRWC and AMC continue to have very positive discussions about developing several campsites, including on property owned by the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. CRWC is working hard on stewardship and maintenance programs for new camp sites and access points in MA and CT, to be supported by fantastic CRWC volunteers.



FINANCIALS

July 2014 through June 2015

Income

Memberships, Contributions, Bequests	283,766
Grants Awarded	790,612
Property Rental and Other Earned Income	51,605
Land Stewardship	11,886
Investment and Interest Income, less unrealized gain (loss)	22,393
Special Events	155
Total Income	1,160,418

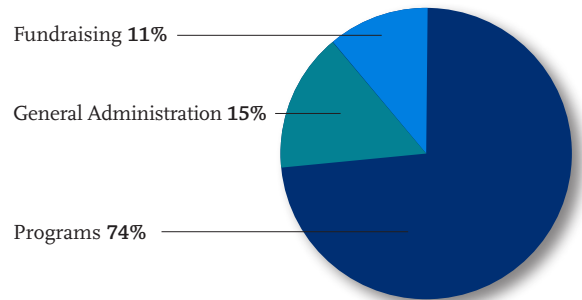
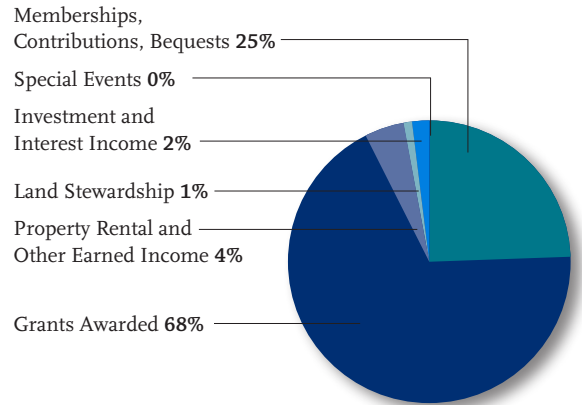
Expense

Programs	759,270
General/Administrative	158,638
Fundraising	115,225
Total Expense	1,033,134

Net Assets Beginning of Year	1,746,260
Net Assets End of Year	1,873,544

Endowments

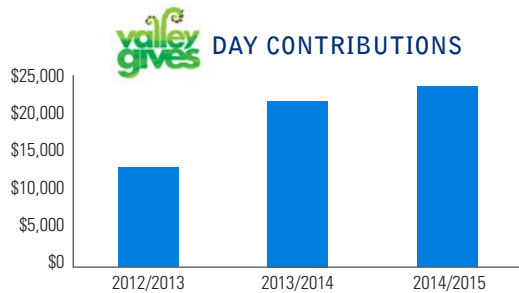
Unrestricted Endowment	229,122
Mary Schaub Fund	864,627
Spaulding Pond Fund	381,466
Total Endowments	1,475,215



Figures are unaudited at time of printing.

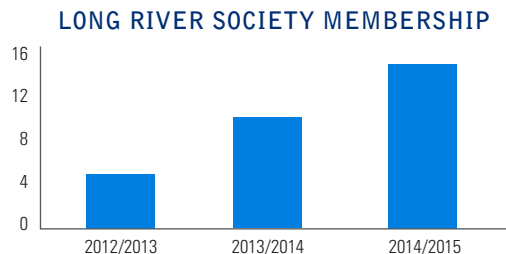
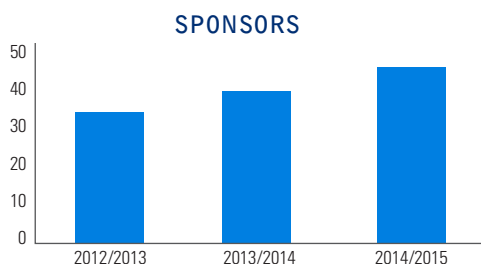
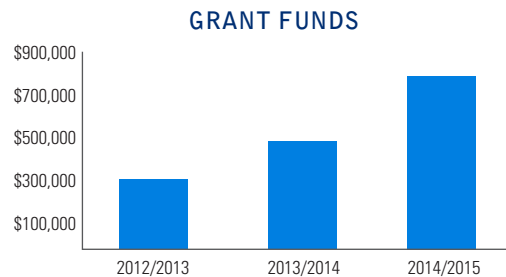
Giving Trends

CRWC is growing and improving in many ways. Here are a few examples of how.



*includes prize & off-line donations

Valley Gives is on hiatus for 2015. Please contribute on Giving Tuesday 12/1/15. Thank you to all who made Valley Gives a success.



CRWC SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all of our supporters. CRWC continues to be the watchdog for our rivers thanks to your generous investment. The following people contributed to the work of CRWC from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. *Sustaining (monthly) Members

11,000 Square Mile Society (\$10,000 and over)

American Rivers
Jessie B. Cox CLT - Cox Family Fund at the Boston Foundation
Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation
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New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire State Conservation Commission
NRG Middletown Power Inc.
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Pratt & Whitney
Putnam Foundation
St. Lawrence and Atlantic RR
Hooker Talcott Jr.
TransCanada Corporation
US Dept. Of The Interior-Fish and Wildlife Service
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

410 Mile Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Brookfield Renewable Energy Group
CDM Smith, Inc.
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Davis Conservation Foundation
Lintilhac Foundation, Inc.
Metropolitan District Commission
Rick and Cori Packer
Patagonia World Trout Grants Council
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River Champions (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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Elizabeth Austin*
Bill and Kathy Baldasaro
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Jack Broome
Casella Resource Solutions
Julie Caswell and Richard Rogers
Coca Cola Refreshments
Connecticut River Gateway Commission
Covanta
Enterprise Holdings
Essential Power Foundation
Henry and Aline Euler

Thomas and Tania Evans
Evergreen Foundation, Inc.
The Edgard and Geraldine Feder Foundation
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Trout Unlimited - Greater Boston Chapter
Trout Unlimited - Greater Upper Valley Chapter
Trout Unlimited Mad Dog Chapter
Humphrey and Susan Tyler
Upper Connecticut River Boat Club

River Advocates (\$500 - \$999)

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Joan Burchenal
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Pike Industries, Inc.
Charles and Joan Platt
James Seltzer and Holly Perry
Rosencrans Foundation
Meg Sheehan

“CRWC has worked tirelessly for the last 60 years to clean-up and protect our rivers and results are clear. Thank you for making the Connecticut River swimmable, fishable, and boatable again.”

Lora Wondolowski, Greenfield, MA



John and Wendy Sinton
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River Pilots (\$250 - \$499)

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Barbara Watson and Alan Wallace
Bill Wood
Paul and Arlene Young

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Ginia Allison
Susan Almy
Clark Amadon
Mary and John Antes
Peter Armstrong
Rosemary Arnold
Alan Aronow
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 Timothy Delaney and Katherine Putnam
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 J. Brice and Mary Dixon
 Jan and Deborah Dizard
 Edward and Maureen Donlon
 Ruth Elcan
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 Ella Erway
 Charles and Charlotte Faulkner
 Bob Fazzi and Diana Buckley
 Sabra Field
 Nancy First*

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 Rutherford Platt
 Michael Posner and Carol Owen
 Stanley Powers
 John and Mary Ellen Preston
 Debbie Querner

Long River Society

Significant strides have been made to clean up our rivers. Yet our rivers continue to face threats – and will for years to come. Long River Society members make legacy gifts to ensure that there will be resources available to protect the Connecticut River and our region’s waters for future generations.

You can make a bequest to CRWC in your will or list CRWC as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement account. You can also arrange a charitable gift annuity that will provide income during your lifetime.

Contact Dana Gillette, Development Director, to learn more about your giving opportunities or to join the Long River Society. You may reach her at 413-772-2020 ext. 202 or dgillette@ctriver.org.

Long River Society Members:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Anonymous (1) | David Maher |
| Lucy Atkinson | Tom and Elaine Mitchell |
| Theodore Bacon* | Jim and Linda Okun |
| Jack Broome | Gary Oleson and Francine Ness |
| William and Linda Caval | John and Wendy Sinton |
| Suzy Groden and Constance Emmett | Brewster Sturtevant |
| Fred and Astrid Hanzalek | Hooker and Jane Talcott |
| Christine LeBel and Mark Page | *Deceased |



William and Linda Caval joined the Long River Society this year to help protect the Connecticut River for future generations.
 Photo: CRWC

“ I swim with very healthy fish, and I find things that would never have been possible 30 years ago due to the pollution. I scuba dive recreationally in the river every weekend and I am so proud to be a member of CRWC. ”

Annette Spaulding, Bellows Falls, VT
 Master Diver



E. Beatty Raymond
 Stewart Read
 Judith Reeve and Ken Baker
 Rosemarie and David Rhodes
 Ron and Betsy Rhodes
 Janice Rhodes
 Peter and Corinne Richardson
 Steve and Carol Rideout
 Karen Rosenbaum
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 (Under \$100)**

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 Mark Abramson
 Ronald Ackerman and Cleo Gorman
 Craig and Barbara Adams
 David Ahlgren
 Steve Aikenhead
 Gregory Allen
 Joan Allen
 Leland Alper
 Steve Alves
 Amazon Smile
 Robert and Louise Amyot
 Robert and Louise Anderson
 Margaret Anderson

Mark Anson and
 Robyne Watkin
 Michael Ash
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 Norman and
 Elizabeth Barnes
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 and Wendy Harwin
 Robert and Marie
 Bartlett
 Hosea Baskin
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 Alicea Charamut
 Janet Chayes
 David Chernock, M.D.
 Ferdene Chin-Yee
 Elizabeth Christie
 David and Ann Cioffi

“ I believe it is our duty to leave the Connecticut River better than we found it. It’s our legacy to the people and families that enjoy all the Connecticut River has to offer, including its sheer BEAUTY! CRWC works tirelessly with commitment and resolve; this is why I am a proud supporter. ”

Cori Packer, Westborough, MA



Lewis Clark
 Jerry Clupper
 Joanne Coakley
 Roy Coelho
 Russ and Ellen Cohen
 David Cohen
 John Cole
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 Tom and Nancy Condon
 Connecticut Valley Garden Club
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 Lynn K. Cooper
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 Lynne Gillette
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 Leonard and Nansi Glick
 Abigail Golde
 Debra Goodrum
 Barry Gorfain and Debbie Tedford
 Gail Gray
 Ken Grecsek

“ The Connecticut is the natural gateway to New England. It is the watery thread that ties together four states. It defines the region in a very real sense by draining its heartland. ”

Jim Dina, South Windsor, CT
 From his book “Voyage of the Ant”



Photo: Craig Norton

Paul and Phyllis Greenberg
 Joan Greenfield
 Anthony Greenleaf and Catherine
 Creegan-Greenleaf
 Clark and Happy Griffiths
 Marion Griswold
 Timothy Griswold
 William and Dora Grover
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 David Millstone and Sheila Moran
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 Tom Odell
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 Diane Raymond
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 Robert and Martha Teghtsoonian
 Richard Thayer
 Richard Thiel
 Samuel Thiel
 Chris and Joyce Thoma
 Harvey Thomas

“ Every drop of water that runs into the Connecticut River and its tributaries has a dramatic impact on aquatic life in four New England states and Long Island Sound — and consequently on all the wildlife species up the food chain. I can think of nothing more important to future generations of New Englanders than the protection of our Great River. ”

Humphrey Tyler, Lyme, CT



Linda Hickman
 Eric Hildebrandt
 Jane Hillman
 Edwin and Deborah Hinkel
 Hillary Hoffman
 Karen Hoffman
 Doris R. Holden
 J. M. Holzman
 Tom Honigford and Sharon O'Connor
 Joan Howe
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 Ruth Howell
 Mary Ann Hoyt
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 Albert and Maureen Kaifer
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Leo and Theresa Le Bel
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 Lucas Industries
 Judith Luddy
 Lewis and Ellen Lukens
 Lionel and Elizabeth MacDonald
 David Maher
 Kevin Markey and Ann Hallock
 Allen Marshall & Anne Bickford
 Chris Martin
 Bruce and Sandra Mason
 Ron and Nancy Masters

“ We’ve been members since the early 70s. Wherever you are on the Connecticut River, CRWC is a local organization, dealing with local issues, which is a major attraction to us. ”

Steven Marantz,
 Longmeadow, MA

Sandra and Richard Tombaugh
 Cynthia Torbery
 Karen and Paul Torop
 Sueann Townsend
 Elise Trelegan
 Barrett True and Sharon Burr
 Rebecca Tucker
 Jennifer Tufts and Gary Rucker
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 4imprint
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 Adventure Park at the Discovery
 Museum in Bridgeport
 Adventure Park at Storrs
 All Waste Inc.
 American Rivers
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 Richard Barrett-Bates
 Bart's Valley Foods
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 Kurt and Sylvia Bissell
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 Cabela's
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 Dan & Whit's General Store
 Dartmouth Printing Company
 Fairlee Marine and Recreation, Inc.
 Brian Fitzgerald
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 Garden
 Gurney Brothers Construction
 Hanover NH Fire Dept.
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 Evelyn Hayden
 David Hoitt
 Ibex Outdoor Clothing LLC
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 L.L. Bean, Inc.
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 Northampton Dept. of Public Works
 NorthStar Canoe and Kayak Rentals
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 The Norwich Inn
 Outdoor Ventures
 Shop-Rite Manchester and Shop-Rite
 East Hartford
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 Wadsworth Atheneum
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 Windsor Station Restaurant
 Woodstock Home and Hardware
 Zoar Outdoor

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Ernie Avery
 Michael and Jill Dynia
Brad, Missy and Ace
 Lindsey Wilby
Alicea Charamut
 Rosemarie and David Rhodes
Geoffrey S. Chase
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CRWC staff
 Elizabeth Austin
David Curti
 Judy Mostowitz
Andrea Donlon
 Sam Lovejoy
 Jeremy Schrauf
 James McAuliff and
 Carole Donlon-McAuliffe
Dana Gillette
 Jenny Papageorge
 Jennifer Ladd
Marion Griswold
 Beth Gillespie and Carla Cooke
H. Clay Hawkins
 Chris Hawkins, Sayre Hodgson, and
 Jasper Hawkins
Janet Hamilton
 Leigh Rae
Alan Morgan
 Pam Kimball
Angie Mrozinski
 Kari Blood
Myron Powers
 Stanley Powers

Janice Rhodes
 Ron and Betsy Rhodes
Ron Rhodes
 Norwood and Joanna Long
 Jane Smith
Laurie Sanders
 Elizabeth Sharpe
Penni Sharp
 Susan DeSilver
John & Wendy Sinton
 Barbara Wilson
Annette Spaulding
 Peter Ketcham
Barbara Skuly
 Cheryl Wilfong and Bill McKim
The fish in the river that escaped me so very many times
 Joshua and Kailen Ryan
Blackie, Clementine and Spotsie
 Dana Gillette

Gifts in Memory of:

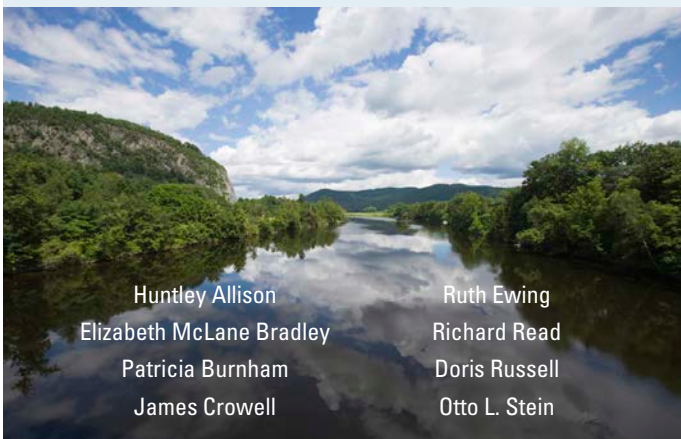
Mike Beaulieu
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Otto L. Stein
 Mrs. Otto L. Stein
George H. Watkins
 Harriet Mooney

CRWC is a member of



In Memoriam

We celebrate the lives and mark the passing of the following CRWC members and friends. Each helped to protect the Connecticut River watershed and make it a better place for future generations.



Huntley Allison
 Elizabeth McLane Bradley
 Patricia Burnham
 James Crowell
 Ruth Ewing
 Richard Read
 Doris Russell
 Otto L. Stein

Photo: Al Braden

Special Thanks

Prior year contributions from the following funders helped to support work completed during fiscal year 2014-15:

- Carolyn Foundation
- Cox Family Trust
- Davis Conservation Foundation
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- High Meadow Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation
- Jane's Trust
- Keurig Green Mountain
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Patagonia

CELEBRATION

Honoring our rivers & their supporters



Above: Barbara Skuly of NH accepts the Bud Foster Award. Right: Event attendees enjoyed live music from Rise! and a summer solstice paddle.
Photos: Left and upper right: Dave Hoitt, Bottom right: CRWC

Barbara Skuly Receives 2015 Bud Foster Award for Outstanding Devotion, Service, and Accomplishment

It was wonderful to see more than 100 of you join us in June for the 2015 River Celebration at the Path of Life Garden in Windsor, VT. This year, CRWC proudly presented the Bud Foster Award to Barbara Skuly of New Hampshire. Barbara is a committed citizen activist for our rivers. Her passion and dedication were the driving force to create the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee, part of the NH Department of Environmental Service's (DES) Rivers Management and Protection Program. Her work at the local and state level is having a positive impact on the whole Connecticut River basin. Thank you Barbara for all you do for our rivers.

YOU FLOAT OUR BOAT!



Back Row: Marion Griswold, Phil Gilfeather-Girton, David Deen, Colleen Bent, Alan Morgan

Front Row: Ron Rhodes, Angela Mrozinski, Alicea Charamut, Andrea Donlon, Dana Gillette, Andrew Fisk



**Connecticut River
Watershed Council**

Protecting our rivers since 1952