



The River Connects Us.

Connecticut River Watershed Council

Flowing Freely: One less dam blocking your rivers



The Franconia Paper Mill dam on the Wells River in Groton, VT has blocked the river for more than 100 years.



In July, CRWC and partners worked to remove the dam.



Now the river flows freely for people & wildlife to enjoy.

PHOTOS: CRWC STAFF

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. The concrete structure and four foot drop were major obstacles to fish, primarily native Brook trout, and other wildlife. Now the trout can swim upstream to spawn and people can enjoy this stretch of river safely.

On July 9, 2012 North Country River Steward Ron Rhodes contacted the State of Vermont about the possibility of removing an old dam on the Wells River in Groton, VT. CRWC received permission to pursue the dam removal project, started fundraising and grant writing, hired an engineer, secured the necessary state and federal permits, hired a contractor and

exactly two years later the old Franconia Paper Mill dam was being removed. By July 14, 2014 the Wells River was flowing freely through this area for the first time in over 100 years!

CRWC thanks all of the funders and partners on this project, including the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation & TransCanada, American Rivers & Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the State of Vermont, Trout Unlimited, Patagonia, the Vermont Dam Task Force, the Town of Groton, Milone & MacBroom, Chief Bogie Crushing & Excavation, CRWC members and donors, and all the neighbors in Groton! With such a great team and momentum, CRWC already is pursuing a second dam removal project on the Wells River in Groton.

SAMPLEPALOOZA: 66 WATER SAMPLES, 55 LOCATIONS, 3 STATES, 1 DAY

CRWC recently partnered with NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, MA Department of Environmental Protection, US Environmental Protection Agency, and Yale University to coordinate the first of its kind, large-scale, one-day water testing event in the Connecticut River basin, known as "Samplepalooza 2014." On August 6 multiple teams of volunteers and professionals visited 55 locations covering more than 1,000 river miles across the three states.

The information gathered will help us understand the health of the River as well as Long Island Sound. It will

reveal "hot spots" that are worthy of further investigation in subsequent years. This work will help all of us know what actions need to be taken so the river is healthy right outside our door as well as many miles away when the river drains into Long Island Sound. This event marks the start of many more collaborative projects on behalf of your river.

The event received great media attention (find links on our Facebook page) and the massive coordination had amazingly few glitches. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event. As soon as results are in, we'll let you know the findings.

Out & About

Mission

CRWC works to protect the Connecticut River basin's diversity of habitats, communities and resources. We celebrate our four-state treasure and collaborate, educate, organize, restore, and intervene to preserve the health of the whole for generations to come.

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WATERSHED-WIDE

Thank you for celebrating with us!

About 100 of you joined us for the Annual River Celebration and Summer Solstice Paddle in June. We enjoyed a beautiful day at Gillette Castle, hearing wonderful river tales from journalist Steve Grant and adventurer Jim Dina followed by a paddle to Selden Island. Participants learned more about the expanded Connecticut River Paddlers Trail from event partners Vermont River Conservancy and Appalachian Mountain Club. Visit www.ConnecticutRiverPaddlersTrail.org for more about this 410-mile river trail.



CRWC STAFF



CRAIG NORTON

VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

VY permit recognizes good science

After over a decade of work and having the VT Agency of Natural Resources (VT ANR) disagreeing with us all along the way, the tide has turned! In July, VT ANR finally issued the long awaited and intensely debated draft hot water discharge permit for the Entergy Vermont Yankee plant in Vernon, VT. The draft permit upholds our argument that bad science misguided previous permits.

The draft permit allows Entergy to continue using the faulty temperature modeling tool known as Equation 1.1 through the closure of the plant (December 2014). However, actual temperature caps have also been put in place to keep the river from getting too hot. The real strength of the permit lies in the temperature limits, enforced by actual temperature measurements of the river, which are protective of migratory fish.

We're on this until the very end when VT ANR issues its final version of the permit this fall. Your support has made this significant victory happen. Thanks!



CHRIS YODER

New website provides flooding resources

Flooding is a reality in the Connecticut River basin. However, we have learned a lot on avoiding unnecessary destruction. A new web site shares information from the experts about making infrastructure and property more flood resilient: FloodReady.Vermont.gov. The new site will help community leaders avoid flood damage and qualify for post-disaster funding. CRWC was a partner in developing this website with support from the High Meadow Fund at VT Community Foundation. Visit the site to learn more and pass it on to your local leaders.

MASSACHUSETTS



Holyoke Dam sturgeon passage reaches decision after 10 years

In 2004, CRWC along with state and federal agencies and Trout Unlimited signed a settlement agreement to the Holyoke Dam license with new owners Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E). The agreement outlined a six year schedule and plan for providing safe passage for the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon. Because sturgeon don't swim near the water surface like most other fish, it was unknown how they would navigate past the dam when migrating downstream.

With ten years of meetings and failed designs, a third design now has the tentative blessing of everyone. HG&E is gearing up for construction this winter, hopefully finishing work in early 2016.

On the upstream end of the dam, the new design involves installing an exclusion rack in front of the turbine intakes so that fish can avoid getting caught in the turbines, and a route through the lower level bypass that is essentially a tunnel for shortnose sturgeon to pass downstream. The key to the success of these changes will be post-construction fish monitoring and design tweaks as needed. We'll let you know how it progresses.

CONNECTICUT

Refining state framework for water transfers

Last winter, the University of Connecticut's (UConn) desire for expanded water supply highlighted a poor state framework for water transfers between water bodies. Earlier this year, CRWC commented on a bill

calling for a reinvigorated state water planning effort. We emphasized the importance of early, consistent Water Planning Council (WPC) outreach to diverse stakeholders to use local knowledge of water resources and address community concerns.

Comprehensive statewide water planning is underway this summer. Law requires the WPC to prepare a state water plan by July 1, 2017. Work is currently focused on a memorandum of understanding between the WPC and UCONN's Associate Vice President for Strategic Projects that potentially places UCONN at the helm of this water planning effort. CRWC will continue to call for an inclusive and transparent process that gains the public's trust.

You are welcome to attend a September 16 meeting where the WPC will make a decision on the matters in the MOU. Please email Margaret Miner for more information on the meeting: rivers@riversalliance.org.

2014 Fish Migration— How many came back?

With the exception of sea lamprey, there were fewer of all species of fish migrating up the Connecticut River this year. Still, American shad had a good run with more than 374,000 moving upstream. It's possible that the rainy weather created difficult conditions in the river for fish to find their way upstream and dams to count the fish. Turners Falls continues to be an obstacle, passing only 10% of fish that reach it rather than the 40-60% goal.

Many thanks to Steve Gephard of the CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) for compiling these migration numbers every year.



Thanks for joining us and welcome!

As new members to CRWC, you join a community of people committed to protecting the Connecticut River watershed. Together, we celebrate our four-state treasure and collaborate, educate, organize, restore and intervene to preserve the health of the whole for generations to come. **The following new members joined us between April 1, 2014 and July 31, 2014.**

Michael Bathory and Maryann Gallagher	Brian and Judy Cooper	Jay Holtzman	Peter Raymond
Elizabeth Bazazi	Philip and Mary Dennehy	Sandra Kelly	Judith Roberts and Jonathan Lagreze
Andrew and Ellen Blight	Christine Destrepes	Tim Lewis	Kenneth Sauer
John and Corinne Bond	Martin Dodd	William and Jennifer Lipfert	Jacob and Katherine Spencer
John and Barbara Bruno	Candy Dumas	Jennie McAvooy and Bart Landenberger	Bob Sproull
Daniel Callahan	Jan and Mary Edick	Edwin Murray	Karen Suchenski
Ron and Karen Carlson	Brian Fitzgerald	Jack Nelson and Polly Forcier	Cynthia Howe
John A. and Janet M. Chapin	Steve and Lori Flora	Norman Paradis and Christine Couturier	Barrett True and Sharon Burr
Carol Charlton	Mary and Jim Graham	Jim Perkins	Timothy Whitney
Matthew Cole	David and Nancy Hagberg	Heidi Peterson and Ken Butcher	Mr. and Mrs. James Winslow
Caryl Collier	Jennifer Harris	Barrett Phillips	Kimberley Wolcott

If you joined during this time and your name was omitted or you prefer a different listing, please contact Marion at 413-772-2020 ext. 201 or mgriswold@ctriver.org.

Not a member yet? You can join us in working together to support our rivers. CRWC commits to spending your donation wisely and efficiently to protect and restore our rivers. You can donate online at www.ctriver.org or contact Marion (above). Thank you!

Upcoming Events



VALLEY GIVES RIVER TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, September 10; 6pm
Northampton, MA

Are you a fan of the river? Do you use email or social media? Do you like a fun challenge? We need your help with Valley Gives' 3rd annual online day of giving. Join the CRWC River Team to dream up creative ways of drawing attention to our rivers on and before December 10, 2014. Team members will help spread the word through email and social media which will help to increase the number of people giving and help CRWC win prizes.

Valley Gives is a 24-hour online giving event encouraging support of nonprofit organizations based in the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts. Anyone, anywhere can participate. Thanks to your generosity last year, CRWC placed 10th out of 190 organizations in our category for the most donors. To date, Valley Gives has helped raise more than \$34,000 for our rivers and attracted 128 new members.

RSVP to Dana Gillette at dgillette@ctriver.org or 413-772-2020 ext. 202. We'll provide the pizza!

JOAN MEEK



SWALLOW PADDLE

Thursday, September 18; 5-8pm
Old Lyme, CT

Join CRWC & the CT River Museum for a sunset paddle on the CT River to see the swirling flocks of Tree Swallows,

numbering in the hundreds of thousands, performing their nightly aerial ballet. Each year, in late summer, Tree Swallows from all over southern New England begin to amass on the CT River to feed on insects preparing for their southern migration. Every night through September they collect above the marshes at the mouth of the CT River and swirl overhead in enormous flocks before descending into the tall grass marshes to roost for the night. A spectacular sight. To register, contact the CT River Museum at 860-767-8269 x110 or crm@ctrivermuseum.org.

DO YOU GET OUR EMAILS?

SIGN UP ONLINE AT WWW.CTRIVER.ORG

FIND CRWC
ONLINE:



18TH ANNUAL SOURCE TO SEA CLEANUP

September 26 & 27
VT, NH, MA & CT

Registration is open now! Sign up a group or find one near you to join.

www.ctriver.org/cleanup



'AFTER THE RAIN' POETRY READING

Tuesday, October 7; 7pm
Northampton, MA

Jonathan A. Wright, founder and co-principal of the environmentally-conscious Wright Builders Inc. construction firm, and community activist, will read from his first book, 'After the Rain.' Much of his work is grounded in the natural world. In particular, the wonder of water and the life in and around water is a theme through this book of poems. "An alert and loving eye for the natural world informs 'After the Rain' ... Wright gives us solace and delight in a beautiful series of lessons in the alchemy of art," notes Christopher Lydon. Join us at the Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence on Main Street for this free event. All proceeds from book sales at this event will benefit CRWC.

HAVE YOU VISITED CRWC'S NEW ONLINE STORE YET?

Books, maps, hats, tee-shirts, mugs and more! Where else could you possibly find a neck-tie that shows your love for the river?



JOIN THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAN UP OUR RIVERS THIS FALL

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the 2014 Source to Sea Cleanup! You can register your group of any size (that includes groups of one) to clean an area near you. Register by September 8 if you'd like us to send you gloves and trash bags.

Not interested in organizing a group? You can find and join a group near you. Know of a trashy site that could use some cleaning? There's a place where you can let us know that, too. All this and more at www.ctriver.org/cleanup

Thanks to the many sponsors that help make the Source to Sea Cleanup possible, including our lead sponsors NRG and TransCanada.

