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CONNECTICUT RIVE ATERSHED COUNCIL

CURRENTS & EDDIES - SPECIAL EDITION



Cleanup SOURCE Chronicle

What is the Source to Sea Cleanup?

The Source to Sea Cleanup is a yearly trash cleanup of the Connecticut River and its tributaries in the fourstate basin (NH, VT, MA, CT). Volunteer group leaders coordinate local cleanup sites where participants of all ages and abilities spend a few hours picking up trash. We all have a responsibility to solve this trash problemindividuals, manufacturers, businesses, and government. By participating in the Source to Sea Cleanup, you are part of the solution for cleaner rivers. For more information on the Source to Sea Cleanup and how you can get involved, visit www.ctriver.org/cleanup.

TRASH TALLY 2014

Hardworking Source to Sea Cleanup groups haul so much trash from in and around our rivers and streams that it is impossible to account for everything. Actual numbers/weights are likely much higher than listed here.

Item	Quantity Reported
Scrap metal	17,008 lbs. including 62 shopping carts
Construction materials	2,252 lbs. carpet, 57 paint cans, 30 bricks
Styrofoam	968 lbs.
Pharmaceuticals & personal care	70 diapers, 17 needles, 30 pill bottles
Mattresses	30
Automotive	17 oil containers, 3 hub caps, 2 axles, 2 oil filters, alternator, battery, bumper, car roof, grill, headlight, 5 bikes, 2 snow blowers
Electronics & appliances	13 TVs, 8 speakers, 4 radios/stereos, 3 monitors, microwave, dishwasher, washing machine, refrigerator, hot tub, circuit board, mixing board
Furniture	12 chairs, 6 couches, 3 toilets, 2 tables, dresser, kitchen cabinet

SAVE THE DATES: 19th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup September 25 & 26, 2015

Your local work has global impact

Much of the trash and debris you find during the Cleanup is destined for our oceans. Did you know that plastic has become one of the most common pollutants in our oceans? According to Charles J. Moore, founder of the Algalita Marine Research and Education Institute in California,



The Source to Sea Cleanup is a family-friendly event and a great way to practice environmental stewardship.

the large floating plastic garbage patches cover "as much as 40% of the planet's ocean surface—roughly 25% of the entire earth." Those numbers are both astonishing and really sad.

But your hard work proves that all hope is not lost. By participating in the Source to Sea Cleanup, you are making our corner of the planet just that much cleaner. Over time, Cleanup volunteers have removed 897 tons of trash from in and around our rivers, keeping it from adding to the global trash problem.

Even better news: Many of you are reporting that your sites are remaining cleaner throughout the year. To help keep things clean, we are making signs you can post at your cleanup sites to discourage trash dumping/littering. Sign up early to receive one of these free signs: email cleanup@ctriver.org. Supplies are limited.

Thank you for all that you do for our rivers.





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Beverage Containers

83% Groups Recycled

139 Miles Cleaned

UPPER WATERS

New Hampshire & Vermont -

47+ miles of riverbanks, shoreline, islands and trails cleaned

A dangerous eyesore no more

In Surry, NH a volunteer crew from Cold River Materials (a division of LANE Construction) removed a washed out bridge from the

Ashuelot River at the site of a local swimming area known as "The Current." The crew pulled the 110 foot long steel bridge from the east shore of the river, cut it up into 10 foot sections with torches, loaded the cut up sections into trucks and hauled it away. Cold River Materials' trucks took the metal to a scrap metal dealer with all the proceeds donated to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. "As the work finished, a young woman came fishing down the stream and caught a fish right in the area where we had been working," said Fred Aldrich Plant Manager at Cold River Materials. "Seeing her catch fish reminded us of what the work was all about."

TransCanada working for our rivers

Twenty TransCanada Hydropower NE employees from VT, MA and NH joined the Source to Sea Cleanup this year. The group split up and collected 800 pounds of trash from Herricks Cove, a popular birding, boating, fishing and picnic spot in Rockingham, VT, and at boat launches in Walpole and Charlestown, NH. TransCanada also kept river flows low below their Wilder Dam prior to the Cleanup, which helped cleanup groups in Sumner Falls find and remove more trash than usual, including 96 tires.

While CRWC and TransCanada may debate issues in the current relicensing of Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon hydropower dams, we also work cooperatively on projects like the Cleanup and serving as administrators of the 15-Mile Falls Mitigation and Enhancement Fund. The Fund is a 12-member advisory committee that finances projects to improve the river and communities in the upper river valley.







Top: Cold River Materials, Ashuelot River, NH; *Middle:* TransCanada employees; *Bottom:* Milone & MacBroom employees clean up near the recent CRWC dam removal site on the Wells River in Groton, VT.

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee Bellows Falls Middle School Black River Action Team Change the World Kids Cheshire County Conservation District City of Keene Cold River Materials Walpole Connecticut River Watershed Council staff, board, trustees, friends Fairlee Marine Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited Hypertherm* Ibex Outdoor Clothing Keene HS AP Env. Science King Arthur Flour* Kotz Family Lancaster School LANE Construction Corporation Lyme School Milone & MacBroom, Inc.* Moosewood Ecological NorthStar Canoes & Kayak Rentals Ottauquechee River Group Putney Rowing Club Rockingham VT Conservation Commission Southeastern VT Watershed Alliance Strafford -West Branch Ompomp TransCanada* Trashy Trippers Vermont Law School Weathersfield Greenup Assoc. White River Partnership Other fantastic family & individual volunteers

*Source to Sea sponsor cleanup groups

CANAD

VT ME NY NH CT BI

MID-WATERS

Massachusetts

56+ miles of riverbanks, shoreline, islands and trails cleaned

Bottle dump cleaned up

At the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club in Springfield, MA volunteers from Covanta Energy, United Water, local Boy Scouts, and community members joined forces

to clear litter from the river bank and bike path at North Riverfront Park. It only took a few hours to fill a large dumpster with 1.56 tons of trash. Debris included a mattress, four shopping carts, six tires, a couple hundred pounds of scrap metal and hundreds of plastic bottles.

You can see in the photos to the right that hundreds of nonredeemable, single-use plastic bottles were found in a single dump location not far from the river. While river levels were low during the Cleanup, heavy rains or a flood could easily have washed these bottles downstream. Christopher Sotiropoulos (pictured) was proud to be part of the team that accomplished cleaning up the bottle dump.





Top & Bottom: Christopher Sotiropoulos, Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club in Springfield; *Left:* Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst

2nd Congregational Church Amherst RHS Environmental Action Club Baystate Village Association Boy Scouts of America Troop 32 Boy Scouts of America Troop 49 Deborah Bazer Carando Foods Coca-Cola Company* Connecticut River Watershed Council staff, board, trustees, friends Covanta Springfield* Cub Scout Pack 192 **Deerfield Academy** DRWA Friends of the Green River Chapter Eaglebrook School FirstLight Power Four Rivers Charter School Franklin County Sheriff's Dept. Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Franklin County Technical School Franklin/Hampshire Trial Court Community Service Program Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center Gill Montague Super Group Greenfield HS - 8th Grade Academy, Key Club, Env. Science Club Greenfield Middle School 8th grade Green River House Hampshire County Sheriff's Dept. Haydenville Congregational Church Youth Group Holyoke Community College Environmental Science Club Holyoke Rows Jewish Community of Amherst Lake Wallace LANE Construction Corporation MA Department of Conservation & Rec. Northfield Elementary School, 5th Grade

Northfield Mount Hermon School Outdoor Team Pack 303 "the place to be" Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club **Ray Purington** Rotary Club of Franklin County Stoneleigh-Burnham School Chris Tobey UMASS Womens' Rowing Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst United Water Holyoke United Water Springfield US Fish & Wildlife Service Westfield River Watershed Association Westover ARB Other fantastic family & individual volunteers

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*Source to Sea sponsor cleanup groups

LOWER WATERS

Connecticut -

36+ miles of riverbanks, shoreline, islands and trails cleaned

Giving Back and Building Community

"The more trash I picked up, the better I felt," said Kenny, a member of the staff and resident

team from Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) in Middletown, CT. Volunteering is part of the hospital's Citizenship Project, which helps people in recovery from mental illness and addictions to create a healing community.

"I never really did any volunteer work," said Chris, a person in recovery at CVH. "It was a good feeling. You feel in unison with your environment." Helene Vartellas, the hospital's CEO, is enthusiastic about the program, "We feel really excited about the skills people gain. They want to give back to the community and be a part. And on the macro level, it can change stigma and discrimination against people with addictions and mental illness."



Above: Connecticut Valley Hospital staff & residents joined the City of Middletown's city-wide cleanup; *Right*: **Photo contest WINNER** – "Watching 'trashy' tv in our 'trashy' living room" on a couch made of tires. CT DEEP Marine Fisheries & the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Old Lyme, CT.



Last stop before the Sound

At this year's southernmost cleanup in Old Lyme, CT, DEEP Marine Fisheries, the Coast Guard Auxiliary 25-05 and community volunteers in waders spanned the marshes near the river's mouth. They removed trash that washed down from the 400+ miles above them, including dozens of plastic bottles, hundreds of Styrofoam pieces, televisions and tires. The trash here tells a story of what we leave behind and exemplifies the saying: We all live downstream.

"It is gratifying that so many people come together to help," notes Deb Pacileo of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. "The amount of trash in the marsh is almost too overwhelming to deal with – until you think of all the other volunteers up & down the Connecticut River on the same day, working as hard as you are to heft tires from the muck and lug bag after bag of bottles & cans out of the marsh. Then you realize that you are part of something bigger and that you are making a difference."

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

All American Waste* James Arrigoni Beat Bike Blog Boy Scout Troop 263 **Chase Collegiate School** Clean, Clear and Free Flowing **CME** Associates Connecticut River Gateway Commission* Connecticut River Academy at Goodwin College Connecticut River Watershed Council staff, board, trustees, friends **Connecticut Valley Hospital** Cromwell High School ECO Club **CT DEEP Parks CT DEEP Marine Fisheries** East Hartford Hockanum River Commission **Enfield Conservation Commission Essex Land Trust** Farmington River Watershed Association

Friends of the Windsor Locks Canal **GEI Consultants*** Goodwin College Environmental Studies Great Meadows Conservation Trust **Green Travelers** Haddam Neck Spirit Hartford Steam Boiler and Friends* Hockanum River Linear Park Cmte International League of Muslim Women-New England Chapter Lyme Land Conservation Trust Meriden Motor Boat Club Middlesex Community College **Environmental Club** Middletown City Wide Cleanup Milone & MacBroom, Inc.* NRG* Park Watershed Trout Brook Pequabuck River Watershed Association Pratt & Whitney

Prudential Green Team RICOH USA RIVERWALKERS Rocky Hill High School Lend a Paw Day Scantic River Watershed Association South Windsor High School Environmental Club St Pius X Youth group Suffield High School Interact Club The Metropolitan District (MDC)* Two Rivers Magnet High School **UIL Holdings Corporation*** University of Connecticut USA Hauling* USCG AUX Flotilla 25-05 US Fish & Wildlife Service Windsor Locks Conservation Commission Other fantastic family & individual volunteers

*Source to Sea sponsor cleanup groups



US Fish & Wildlife Service assisted the Cleanup this year with the use of a variety of boats.

US Fish & Wildlife Service fleet joins the Cleanup

There is always a great deal of cleanup work to be done by walking along streams and riverbanks but many trashed locations are only accessible by boat. Whether it is islands that have decades of debris piled up, trash sites at the bottom of steep riverbanks or a river bottom that has accumulated tires and junk, boats really help get more work done. While the Cleanup has always has a great collection of canoes, kayaks, and pontoon boats out on the water, this year the US Fish & Wildlife Service really pulled out the stops by steaming to sites in Connecticut and Massachusetts in a wide range of watercraft.

Staff from the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge, whose boundaries are the entire Connecticut River basin, used their airboat, a heavy-duty john boat, several skiffs and a landing craft to remove tons of trash from Third Island in Deerfield, MA, along the banks of the Connecticut River in Holyoke and Chicopee, MA, and along Wethersfield Cove

UNUSUAL ITEMS FOUND

- Old horse collar Lyme, NH
- Manhole cover Woodstock, VT
- Football tackling dummies Springfield, VT
- **Sound mixing board** Holyoke, MA
- Newspaper vending box Chicopee, MA
- Library card from Hawaii State Library System E. Hartford, CT
- Message in a bottle E. Hartford, CT
- Steel piano frame Glastonbury, CT

CLEANUP HALL OF FAME

Many thanks to those organizations who have been so loyal to the effort of clean rivers.

Hockanum River Linear Park Cmte. – **45 years** Farmington River Watershed Assoc. – **27 years** Gill-Montague Super Group – **18 years** Pequabuck River Watershed Assoc. – **17 years** White River Partnership – **15+ years** Black River Action Team – **15 years** Rocky Hill High School Lend a Paw Day – **15 years** Westfield River Watershed Assoc. – **15 years** shoreline in Connecticut. To round out the fleet, Ken Sprankle, who is in charge of the USFWS's fisheries restoration program in the Connecticut River watershed, brought his electrofishing research boat down to Wethersfield Cove to offer a second day of boat work in Connecticut.



The airboat is a fast boat able to cover a lot of river and navigate very shallow water, a common thing this time of year, as well as haul a lot of large trash. It did hard work hauling shopping carts, tires, newspaper boxes, and other litter in Holyoke and Chicopee, MA. The landing craft, usually stationed along the coast in order to access the several islands in the Refuge, steamed 40 miles upriver to Wethersfield, CT and was instrumental in moving almost 15 cubic yards of trash and debris from the shores of the Cove. It made a huge dent in the decades of trash piled up along the far and inaccessible side of the Cove. Big thanks to our friends at the US Fish & Wildlife Service!

Special thanks to the many municipalities that assist local cleanup efforts. There are so many helpful cities and towns out there that it's impossible to list them all. Did we miss your town? Be sure to let us know next year on your registration form that your town helps.

Agawam, MA DPW Cromwell, CT Deerfield, MA DPW Easthampton, MA DPW East Hartford, CT DPW Enfield, CT Greenfield, MA DPW Groton, VT Hanover, NH DPW Hartford, CT Hartford, VT Hartland, VT Holyoke, MA DPW Keene, NH Lyme, NH Middletown, CT DPW Montague, MA DPW Northampton, MA DPW Northumberland, NH Plainfield, NH Rocky Hill, CT Springfield, MA Strafford, VT Suffield, CT West Hartford, CT DPW Wethersfield, CT Windsor Locks, CT

The Metropolitan District (MDC) – **14 years** Windsor Locks Conservation Comm. – **14 years** Scantic River Watershed Assoc. – **14 years** Green River Cleanup – **11 years** Chase Collegiate School – **10 years** The Lyme School – **10 years** LANE Construction – **9 years** Park Watershed – **9 years**



Thank you for supporting the 2014 Source to Sea Cleanup!

LEAD SPONSORS



NRG is leading a customer-driven change in the U.S. energy industry by delivering cleaner and smarter energy choices, while building on the strength of the nation's largest and most diverse competitive power portfolio. A Fortune 250

company, we create value through reliable and efficient conventional generation while driving innovation in solar and renewable power, electric vehicle ecosystems, carbon capture technology and customer-centric energy solutions. More information is available at www.nrgenergy.com.



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WATERSHED SPONSORS

Brookfield Renewable Energy Group manages **Brookfield** over 230 renewable generation facilities in the United States, Canada, Brazil and Europe. As

a global leader in clean energy, Brookfield's portfolio totals over 6,700 megawatts of installed capacity, primarily hydroelectric, powering over three million average homes each year in 13 power markets. For more information on our publicly traded entity, Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners, please visit www.brookfieldrenewable.com



CDM Smith started in the 1950s, and is an integrated solutions company with more than 100 offices and 5,000 employees throughout the world. Engineering News Record recently ranked CDM

Smith 23rd out of the Top 500 Design Firms. CDM Smith employees have unwavering focus and sense of creativity to meet the needs of our communities by providing them with innovative and lasting solutions in water, environment, transportation, energy and facilities.

MAINSTEM SPONSORS









RIVER SPONSORS





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RVIS







The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities. The mission of the MDC is to provide our customers with safe, pure drinking water, environmentally protective wastewater collection and treatment and other services that benefit the member towns.





All American Waste and USA Hauling & Recycling are locally-owned and operated companies specializing in dumpster rentals for use in commercial or residential projects, garbage collection and demolition services in the Connecticut and Springfield, MA area. As green companies since 1974, we recognize and embrace our role in the community.

STREAM SPONSORS

American Canoe Association & L.L. Bean Concept2 Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. GEI Consultants, Inc. Green Mountain Power Greenfield Savings Bank Kendal at Hanover

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

Adventure Park at Storrs Adventure Park at the Discovery Museum Aerial Adventure Park At Jiminy Peak All Waste Inc. American Rivers Aubuchon Hardware Bradford, VT Bernie LaRock & Son Construction Cabela's Casella Waste Systems, Inc. Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc. City of Holyoke, MA Dan & Whit's General Store **Dartmouth Printing Company** Jim Dietz Fairlee Marine and Recreation, Inc. Brian Fitzgerald Friendly Ice Cream Corporation

Lake Sunapee Bank Ledyard National Bank Milone & MacBroom, Inc. New England Environmental, Inc. Passionate Waters, Middletown, CT – World Water Day Celebration

GoBerrv Gurney Brothers Construction Hanover, NH Fire Dept. Evelyn Hayden Mount Washington Resort Northampton, MA DPW NorthStar Canoe and Kavak Rentals Shop-Rite Manchester Shop-Rite Enfield Stop and Shop Greenfield, MA Town Of Groton, VT Town Of Hartland, VT US Fish and Wildlife Service Wadsworth Atheneum W.E. Aubuchon Co., Inc. Woodstock Home and Hardware Zoar Outdoor





Top: US Fish & Wildlife Service mascot Puddles, the blue goose, joined the Wethersfield Cove, CT cleanup partnership. *Bottom:* Five boat loads of trash including 50 tires were removed from Third Island in MA.

Individuals like you have helped to transform the Connecticut River from "the best landscaped sewer in the nation" into a nationally-recognized treasure. Since our founding in 1952, CRWC members have come together to form a powerful force for positive environmental change in New England.

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Please join us today.

Yes! I want to help protect and preserve the Connecticut River and its watershed.

□ Enclosed is my gift of \$	
\Box I'd like to become a sustaining	member with a monthly gift of \$
Payment method: □Check □Vis	a ⊡Mastercard
Card #	exp/
Signature	
Name(s)	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Email	Phone
Checks: payable to CRWC. Donate online: www.ctriver.org	

CRWC Membership Benefits

- Current & Eddies newsletter
- Invitations to the Annual Celebration and other special events
- Priority on event sign-ups
- Discounts on paddles and other events
- Email updates, news and action alerts
- Opportunity to vote for CRWC Trustees
- CRWC decal
- Access to CRWC's research library

And most important.....The satisfaction of knowing that you are making a contribution to the present and future health and vitality of a most precious natural resource.

Together we are the solution to pollution



Wouldn't it be nice if there were no trash in or near our waters? At CRWC, we envision waters that are full of life and free from waste. By participating in the Source to Sea Cleanup, you are part of

This year 745 tires were collected during the Cleanup.

the solution for cleaner rivers. Data about the trash you collect during the Cleanup will be used to advocate for and to help inform trash disposal and recycling policies and legislation. Given what's found in our rivers every year, CRWC would like to see existing bottle bills be expanded to include all single-use beverage containers, banning or establishing pay-per-use plastic bags and legislation allowing for free tire disposal in all four Connecticut River states. Our goal is to keep this trash from getting in our rivers in the first place. The Council also supports a new vision of zero waste for our rivers and river communities. Zero waste is a goal of a future free from waste. It is a concept



being adopted by cities around the world, including Middletown, CT right on the Connecticut River. Zero waste aims for all discarded materials to become resources for another use. A zero waste community encourages individuals, businesses, and government agencies to take concrete steps towards rethinking how they treat their trash. Initiatives such as increasing access and ease of curb side recycling, expanding existing recycling efforts to process all varieties of materials, and extending the responsibility of recycling to manufacturers are essential to the success of zero waste programs.

"We all have a responsibility to solve this problem individuals, manufacturers, businesses, and government," says Andrew Fisk, CRWC Executive Director. "Healthy rivers are so important because they contribute so much, both to our economies and the beauty and enjoyment of our communities." Your voices are valuable in the effort to address trash in our rivers before it gets there. Tell your city leaders you want to be a zero waste community that works toward a future without waste.

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.

We welcome your involvement in this effort to protect the Connecticut River. Visit our website, <u>www.ctriver.org</u>, to learn more and sign up for our e-news or contact the office in your region to learn more about what's happening near you.

15 Bank Row (Headquarters) Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2020

Lower Valley 860-704-0057 Upper Valley 802-869-2792 North Country 802-457-6114 Help CRWC win cash prizes by making your online donation as part of Valley Gives, a 24-hour online giving event. This is a fun way to help your rivers and make your donation to CRWC go farther. **Valley Gives Day is**



December 10th, however you may schedule a gift online as early as December 1st. <u>www.ctriver.org/valleygives</u>

River Art: Making Art from Collected Trash

In January a call will go out for River Art - a juried exhibit of art made from river trash. Selected works from the Jury will be on view at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, MA during April and May of 2015. Interested artists can email Annaliese Bischoff at <u>abischof@larp.umass.edu</u> to receive future announcements and details in January.

This exhibit is part of the River's Song Project celebrations on May 16, 2015 – the Asian Arts and Culture Program at University of Massachusetts Amherst celebrating the vital waters of the Connecticut River. Presented in conjunction with the Nile Project at UMass Amherst on April 7, 2015.