



Connecticut River Watershed Council

Protecting our rivers since 1952



Annual Report

2014



Connecticut River Watershed Council
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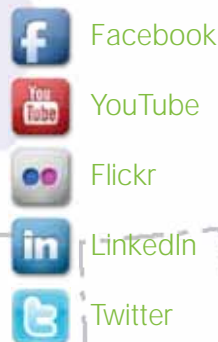
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Misson

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



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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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Arlene Young, CT River, VT/NH
Photo: Paul Young

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members and friends,

When we reflect on this past year of work, words such as gratitude, luck, joy and tenacity come to mind. We are grateful for the many ways that you support us. Your belief in our work makes everything we do possible. All of us here at the Council feel lucky not only because we live in such a beautiful part of New England, but also because we have the good fortune to do work that is meaningful and inspiring. It is always a joy to be out on the river whether it is a hot and hazy summer day or a cool and crisp fall morning. We bear our responsibility to your investment in the watershed seriously. That responsibility reminds us to remain

tenacious when a project takes years instead of months, when our first, second, or third try to make something better falls short, or when we have to hold our own in complicated proceedings with dozens of lawyers, consultants and competing experts.

Thanks again for your belief in our work and your watershed. We live, work and play in a remarkable place.

See you on the river,



Andrew Fisk, Ph.D.
Executive Director



A busy river. View from Gillette Castle, CT.
Photo: A. Mrozinski

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RESTORATION

Returning our rivers to their natural health



342 years

That's how long river herring have waited to get back to Rogers Lake in Old Lyme, CT. Thanks to the fish ladder completed this year, the last barrier on the Mill River is gone!



2,000+ trees

were planted along rivers & streams to help protect streambanks & keep water cool for fish & other wildlife.

- Billings Farm in Woodstock, VT
- Mink Brook in Etna, NH
- Eastman Brook in Piermont, NH
- Oliverian Brook in Pike, NH



River Steward Ron Rhodes (far left) with farm manager Jason Johnson (far right) and the VT Youth Conservation Corps planted 1,300 trees to restore the flood damaged riverbank.
Photo: Joan Allen

Riverbank recovery for healthy rivers & farms

Billings Farm's livestock and dairy operation includes roughly 80 head of Jersey cows, a flock of Southdown sheep, chickens, and three teams of working draft horses. It is located on a 250 acre property along the scenic Ottauquechee River and Barnard Brook in Woodstock, VT. The farm also grows all of its own hay and corn.

When the flood waters of Tropical Storm Irene cut through Billings Farm in 2011, native trees and shrubs were destroyed and the river bank was left unstable. Invasive plants moved in where native plants had been killed. CRWC North Country River Steward Ron Rhodes saw an opportunity to repair the damage and improve wildlife habitats by replanting native trees and shrubs. A grant from the State of Vermont's Ecosystem Restoration Program, along with the support of CRWC members and the crowdfunding website Clean Water Future, helped to fund the restoration project.

"The lack of vegetation along our rivers is a major cause of water quality and habitat problems," said Marie Caduto, Watershed Coordinator for the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. "The simplest, most efficient and most cost effective way to improve and protect clean water is to plant more trees and shrubs along our rivers."

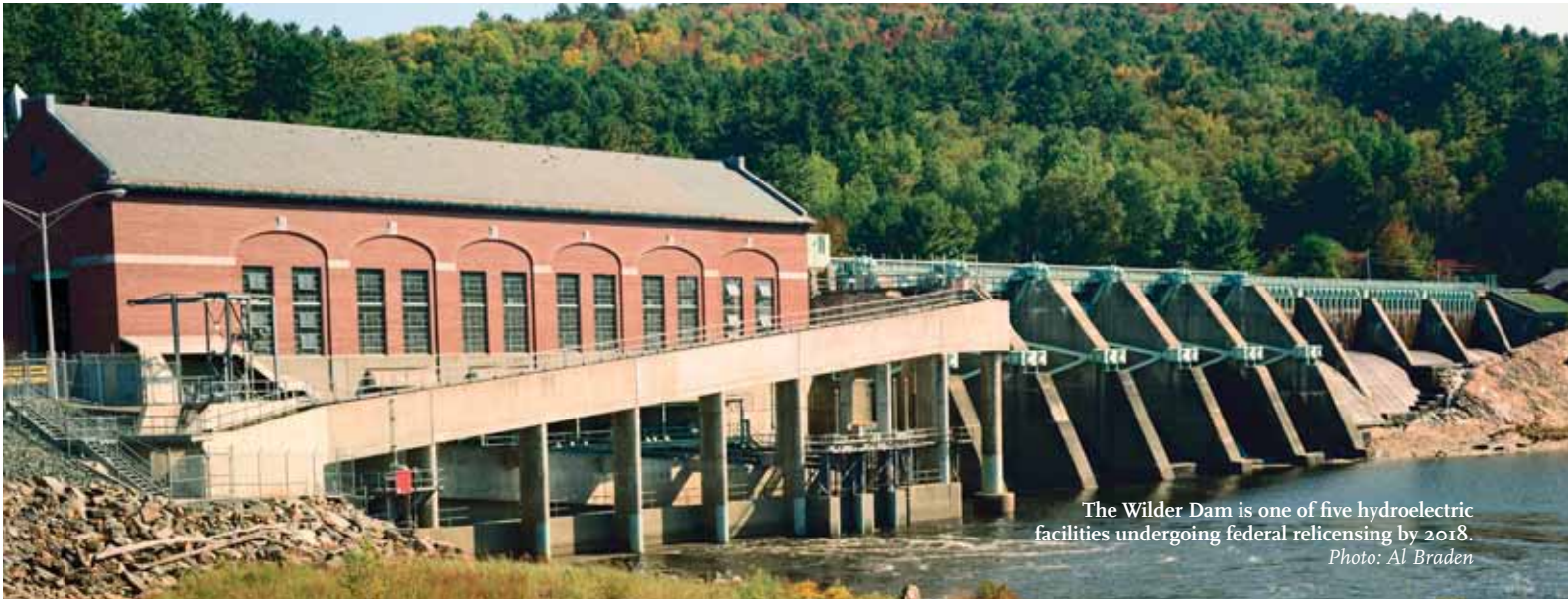
The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) provided the labor crew, which spent a week pulling and cutting invasive honeysuckle and barberry. These foreign species crowd out native plants and suppress tree growth. The Corps crew then planted 1,300 native trees and shrubs, including Boxelder, Common Elderberry, Musclewood, Red Maple, Red Oak, Red Osier Dogwood, Silky Dogwood, and Shrub Willow.

"We want to thank CRWC and VYCC for making this happen," said Billings Farm manager Jason Johnson. "We are proud to be involved in this project and we look forward to watching these trees grow over the years."

Thanks also to project partners: Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District, Ottauquechee River Group, Ottauquechee Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area team, Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited chapter and Change the World Kids.

ADVOCACY

Speaking up for our rivers



The Wilder Dam is one of five hydroelectric facilities undergoing federal relicensing by 2018.
Photo: Al Braden



Did you know?

In Connecticut, waste water entering our rivers is only disinfected for bacteria from May 1 to September 30. Your support is helping change this.

300 pages

CRWC works hard to be fully engaged, and for the relicensing of the five hydropower dams on the mainstem, that's how many pages of comments we filed this year.



68°

It isn't perfect, but VT Agency of Natural Resources issued a draft pollution permit for Vermont Yankee that set a protective temperature limit for the river. CRWC's testimony was critical to getting a stronger permit.



“For many years CRWC has been a driving force in using science and developing policy that will improve conditions on the Connecticut River. New England FLOW supports the past efforts of CRWC and looks forward to working with them throughout the relicensing process. Being involved in the relicensing of dams on the Connecticut River is a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ opportunity that provides river-users with a chance to balance the uses of the river and restore flows to a more natural regime for many generations that will follow. For many of us it will be the last chance in our lifetimes to have an impact on improving the Connecticut River.”

Tom Christopher,
Secretary/Director of New England FLOW

“CRWC has provided important information regarding the VT Yankee thermal discharge that the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has considered in reviewing VY’s thermal discharge application. CRWC has submitted scientific studies to ANR regarding the thermal discharge and has addressed the VY thermal discharge in proceedings before the Vermont Public Service Board regarding the relicensing of VY. This type of consistent technical participation is extremely helpful to ANR as we work through complex permitting issues, like the VY thermal discharge.”

Deb Markowitz,
Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources



Photo: David Deen

HEALTHY RIVERS

Creating clean, beautiful & safe rivers

2013
Source to Sea
Cleanup:

138+ Miles Cleaned



124 Cleanup
Groups



45 Tons of Trash



Keene, NH
Photo: David Deen



Green River, MA & VT
Photo: Dana Gillette



Chase Collegiate School, CT
Photo: Ernie Beaulieu

Source to Sea Cleanup wins Environmental Champion Award

We know all the hard work our Source to Sea Cleanup volunteers do for cleaner rivers. Now others are starting to recognize that hard work too. Aquarion Water Company named CRWC a 2014 nonprofit Environmental Champion. CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection Commissioner Robert Klee presented the award during a ceremony on June 7.

Thank you for all the hard work you do for our rivers, during the Source to Sea Cleanup and all year long. At the ceremony Executive Director Andrew Fisk accepted the award on behalf of you and the thousands of volunteers who have done so much to clean up our rivers and streams over the last 17 years.



“The 2,000 feet of I-91 embankment is remarkably cleaner than it has been in 50 years. The goal was to make a dent but with all that man, woman, and kid power we gave the 100-year floodplain a 100-year scrub.”

Jim Woodworth, Great Meadows Conservation Trust of the 2013 Wethersfield Cove cleanup



Wethersfield Cove, CT
Photo: Julie McLaughlin

2013
Lead Sponsors:

Brookfield



RECREATION

Enjoying all the wonders of our rivers



125 of your
favorite places

Over 4,500 people have visited “Is It Clean?” at www.ConnecticutRiver.us to get accurate information on the cleanliness of their rivers and streams. Thanks to the 13 partners who make this information possible.

133 miles to go!

With our partners, CRWC is working to extend the CT River Paddlers’ Trail from NH & VT to the entire 410 miles of the CT River. In the coming years there will be camping and access sites throughout MA & CT for paddlers making a short trip or the entire iconic trip from Source to Sea! www.ConnecticutRiverPaddlersTrail.org



Marylyn Wentworth (second row left) and her family on the trip of a lifetime.
Photo: Wentworth Family

Fulfilling a lifelong dream

“Growing up, I always longed to be on the river,” notes Marylyn Wentworth. “I was forbidden to go near the Connecticut or to put my hands in the Black River because they were running sewers. For people who haven’t seen what the river used to look like, it was horrible. You can’t imagine how dirty the river was in the 50s.”

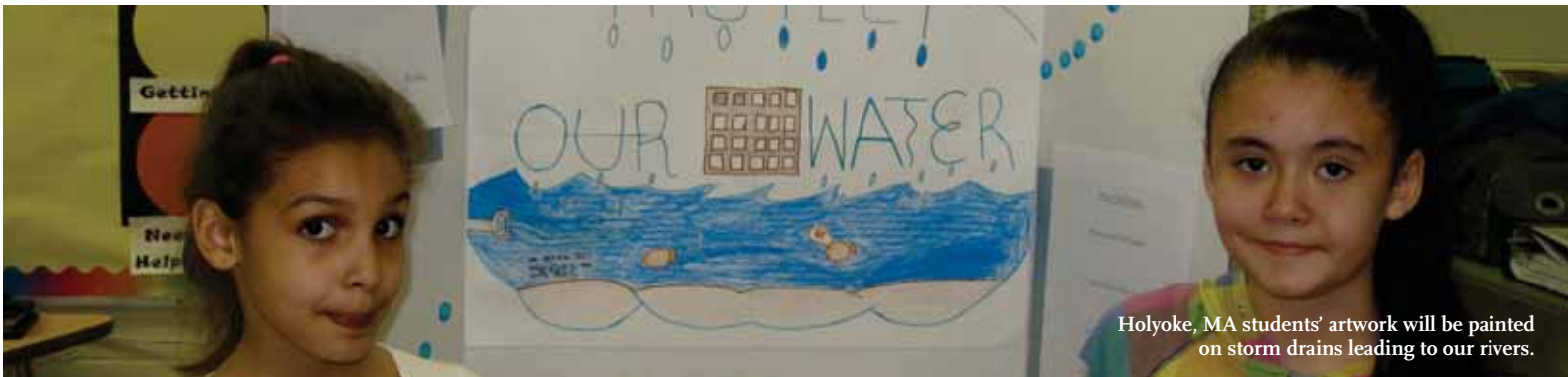
Last summer, Marylyn finally got the chance to paddle down the Connecticut River with her grandchildren (4 to 19 years old). Using a copy of CRWC’s Connecticut River Boating Guide, they planned a trip from White River to Bellows Falls, VT, where they landed at Marylyn’s 96 year-old mother’s home for a special family reunion. “I cannot remember ever being so wet. But my grandchildren happily paddled, swam, and sang songs.”

“I loved seeing the difference from when I was a child to when I was an adult. If you were my age (74), you would understand that it is a miracle that the river is so clean. Beautiful rivers are the responsibility of all of us. They don’t stay that way because we wish them to. They stay that way with care.”

“When I look at my grandchildren, I want to contribute to them having access to a beautiful river like the Connecticut. I want to help support part of the heritage for my grandchildren and for other people’s grandchildren.”

EDUCATION

Bringing the river inside for future generations



Holyoke, MA students' artwork will be painted on storm drains leading to our rivers.

River of Words uses trash and stormwater as ways to teach about our rivers

Thanks to an exciting collaboration initiated by the Enchanted Circle Theater Company and the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, the River of Words Along the Connecticut River worked in 16 Holyoke, MA fifth grade classrooms this winter and spring. This partnership joined students and teachers for a 12-day science and arts program all about water, stormwater, and municipal wastewater treatment. CRWC staff with River of Words Coordinator Carol Berner created a lesson on water stewardship, ownership and how things like trash can spoil our waterways. This fall the students' art and poetry created during this program will be turned into a community festival in Holyoke. Six lucky students will have their artwork painted onto the streets around storm drains in downtown Holyoke. Not only will the art beautify the town but it will also educate community members that those storm drains go directly to the river.



"To whom it may concern:

Please accept this \$500 donation from the Social Studies Night fundraiser at the Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker. It was an honor to connect with your organization and my students took a lot away from the experience. This is the second year in a row that we have gotten to work together and I hope there are many more. I respect the work that you do and will continue to help in any way that I can."

Rob Johnson, Social Studies Teacher,
Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker, Hartford, CT



VOLUNTEERS... you make it all possible.



2,227

Source to Sea Cleanup participants, including nearly 750 youth, hauled trash from our rivers in 2013.



19

Water Quality Monitoring volunteers collected & delivered water samples to be tested for bacteria.



20+

Eyes & Ears volunteers kept watch over our rivers, reporting things that don't seem right.



37

Restoration volunteers planted trees & removed invasive plants in or near our rivers

FINANCIALS

July 2012 through June 2013

Income

Memberships, Contributions, Bequests	327,573.34
Grants Awarded	494,377.73
Property Rental and Other Earned Income	112,366.41
Investment and Interest Income, less unrealized gain (loss)	73,052.62
Special Events	8,424.64
Total Income	1,015,794.74

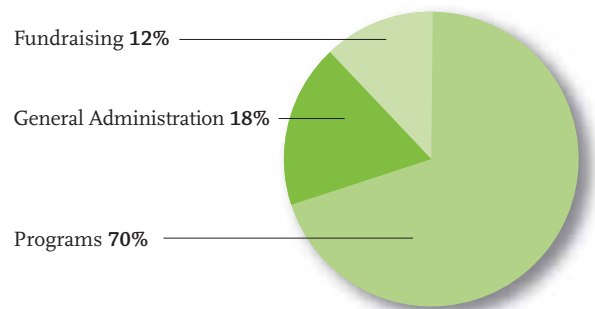
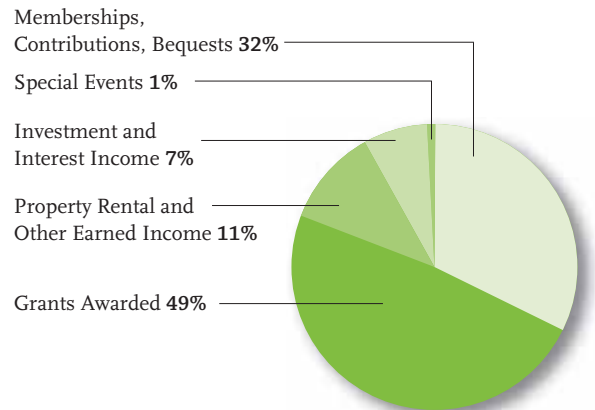
Expense

Programs	698,061.25
General Administration	175,342.52
Fundraising	120,636.34
Total Expense	994,040.11

Net Assets Beginning of Year	1,724,505.18
Net Assets End of Year	1,746,259.81

Endowments:

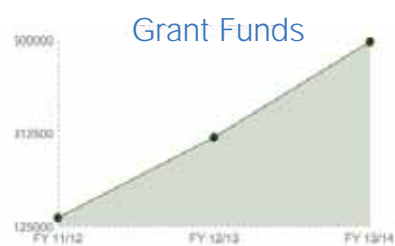
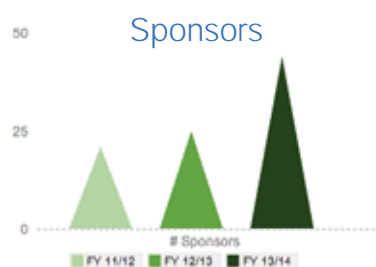
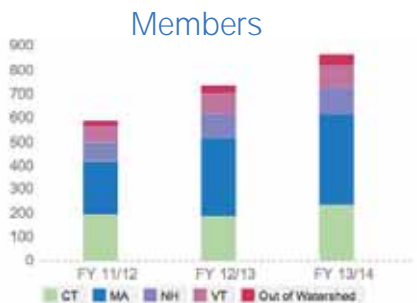
Unrestricted Endowment	298,427.25
Mary Schaub Fund	843,502.69
Annuities	179,289.17
Spaulding Pond Fund	429,649.26



Figures are unaudited at time of printing.

Giving Trends

CRWC is growing! Through the generosity of our members and supporters, CRWC continues to be the watchdog for our rivers. Thank you.



CRWC SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all of our supporters. Your generous investment makes it all possible. The following people contributed to the work of CRWC from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

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

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

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Metropolitan District Commission
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Patagonia World Trout Grants Council
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River Guardians (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

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Pioneer Valley PhotoVoltaics Cooperative
The Silver Tie Fund
Brewster Sturtevant
Vermont Community Foundation
Sustainable Future Fund
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River Champions (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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Bayne and Jean Stevenson
Alan and Mary Alice Swedlund
Roger and Ann Sweet
Carolyn Tenney
Kathryn Tracy

Long River Society

Our rivers will continue to face threats for many 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)
Lucy Atkinson
Fred and Astrid Hanzalek
Christine LeBel and Mark Page
David Maher
Tom and Elaine Mitchell
Jim and Linda Okun
John and Wendy Sinton
Brewster Sturtevant
Hooker and Jane Talcott

Their gift lasts a lifetime, and then some

An opportunity to help remove a deadbeat dam from the Wells River in Groton, VT encouraged Hooker Talcott to make a special gift to the Council this year.

"The project eliminated an eyesore," says Hooker, "and opened a stretch of river for many miles. It opened the tributary for fish to travel upstream, spawn and enjoy life. I feel that we are paying back these amazingly adaptive creatures for taking the river from them and diminishing their population."

Hooker and his wife, Jane, also joined the Long River Society this year. The Talcotts set up a charitable gift annuity with the Council, ensuring steady income during their lifetimes. The balance will then transfer to CRWC's endowment to protect the river for years to come.

"I want to tell people why I did it and why it makes me feel happy," says Hooker. "The answer is that there is so much to do and so little time to do it. Our River Council is at the forefront of this effort. Anyone who has experienced the beauty of the river must appreciate what I am saying. So think hard about the opportunity to give a life-lasting contribution to river renewal."



Hooker Talcott of Waterford, VT joined the Long River Society to leave a lasting legacy.

Nathaniel Tripp and Reeve Lindbergh
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional
Commission
United Water
Laura and Barry Vogel
Robert and Elizabeth VonDohlen
John and Phebe Wallace
William and Susan Wasch
J. Craig and Muriel White
Andrew Wizner and Sheila Houlihan
Woodard & Curran
Thomas Wright
Anne Yeomans
Walter and Diana Zilayah
Nancy Zsiba

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Ronald Ackerman and Cleo Gorman
Craig and Barbara Adams
Nicole Adams*
Aetna Foundation
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Committing to our rivers, month after month

“If you live in this watershed,” says CRWC member Sue Merrow, “the river is very personal for you. It affects you. It isn’t a faraway or theoretical thing; it is very real.”

This year, Sue decided to become a sustaining member. “Monthly giving is a sign of my ongoing commitment. It says to the world and other potential donors that I am in it for the long haul. It also is extremely convenient. I never have to remember when I last gave. I always know I’m helping to care for the river.”

Sue is a strong believer in thinking globally and acting locally. As a volunteer, she has served as president of the national board of the Sierra Club, a trustee of the Connecticut River Watershed Council and helped to found the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee.

Her respect for the Connecticut River grew when she moved to East Haddam, CT, a town bordered on the west by the river. “East Haddam’s history as a town is so associated with the river and the health of the river,” notes Sue. “So is its future.”

“As resident of lower Connecticut River Valley, we are the downstream neighbors. Since the river does not respect political boundaries, the only way to protect the river is to combine our clout with people in upstream states. CRWC makes this possible.”



Sue Merrow of East Haddam, CT is a Sustaining Member, showing her support for our rivers monthly.

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 service on the Baystate Health Board
Myron Powers
 Stanley Lapham
Ron Rhodes
 Norwood and Joanna Long
The customers of TipTop Country Store, Brookfield, MA
 Sarah Heller, TipTop Country Store
Brian Yellen
 Marcelia Muehlke

CRWC is a member of



In Memoriam

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

Theodore Bacon, Peterborough, NH
 Gary Bastarache, Athol, MA
 Davenport (Dave) Cleveland, Woodstock, VT
 Katchen Coley, Middletown, CT
 Ann Jacobs, Peterborough, NH
 Arthur Mudge, Hanover, NH
 Linda Krause, Noank, CT
 Martha Porteus, Windsor, CT
 John Wiegand, Bernardston, MA

Prior year contributions from the following funders helped to support work completed during fiscal year 2013-14:

Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund	Lintilhac Foundation
Carolyn Foundation	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Fish America Foundation	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters	New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving	Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Hubbard Brook Research Foundation	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Knapp Foundation	Vermont Charitable Foundation

CELEBRATION

Honoring our rivers & their supporters



Steve Grant has paddled the entire 410 mile length of the CT River.
Photo: John Wolke



Jim Dina has paddled his birchbark canoe up the CT River. Photo: Craig Norton

Bud Foster Award for Outstanding Devotion, Service, and Accomplishment

This year, CRWC is proud to present the Bud Foster Award to two great river adventurers: longtime *Hartford Courant* journalist Steve Grant, who paddled the entire river downstream and chronicled his journey in the *Courant*, and Jim Dina, author of *The Ant* who paddled his handmade birchbark canoe up-river. These two paddlers have done great work in highlighting the recreational and cultural opportunities for paddling the length of the Connecticut River. Thank you, Steve and Jim, for all you do to bring attention to our rivers.



Thanks to the more than 100 of you that joined us for the Annual River Celebration and Summer Solstice Paddle this year at Gillette Castle in CT.
Photo: Craig Norton

IN YOUR WORDS

Help protect #CTRiver while ulisten 2 great #music by Robin & Linda Williams! Read more: <http://gctv.org> #fundraiser @CTRiverH2Oshed GCTV@GCTV15 Apr 22, 2014



Hi friends at @CTRiverH2Oshed! Your upstairs neighbors at The Literacy Project are so glad you're doing this important work! #ValleyGives The Literacy Project@Valley_Literacy Dec 11, 2013



Glad to have done our part with the @CTRiverH2Oshed cleanup. We all need to protect our watersheds! United Water@unitedwater Oct 19, 2013



@CTRiverH2Oshed thanks for letting me balance on the paddle board earlier for my @WGGBSpringfield story...it's airing at 6 tonight on ch 40! Aliz Koletas WGBY@AlizKoletas Jul 21, 2013



See how crowdfunding can help @CTRiverH2Oshed invest in a healthier watershed <http://www.cleanwaterfuture.org/> #LandUse2014 AlbertaLandInstitute@UAlberta_ALI May 8, 2014



It's a great river. I believe in protecting the environment. Rivers are crucial. Please keep at it! George Basbas, Ashfield, MA March 2014



Great work from your staff helping to organize the first ever CT Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Conference held at Goodwin College last week! Carol Haskins, July 30, 2014



Went on the Clean Water Paddle this morning. Great trip with a bunch of great people. Troy Malave, August 10, 2013



Clean water = life. Eric Hildebrant of Watertown, MA; June 2013



I love being on the river in a kayak. I want to contribute to help keep the river clean and get it cleaner, healthier. Mary Ellen Alicandri of Amherst, MA; January 2014



Preservation is so important - it's a gift for us to treasure. Joan Howe of Sunderland, MA; November 2013



I was inspired by the 8th Grade class at Environmental Science Magnet School's clean water project! Go ESM! Thanks, Mr. Johnson. Teri Norman of Coventry, CT; February 2013

