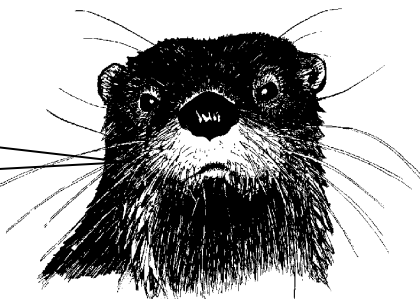




Farmington River News

Look inside to see snapshots of me hanging out on the frozen Farmington River!



Issues and Activities in the Farmington River Watershed

What's Inside:

pages 2 & 3
Spring Events

page 4
2021 Research

How Bad Is It?

New Staff Members

page 5
Current and Upcoming Research

page 6
River Spotlight

Creature Feature

page 7
Volunteer Spotlight

Greetings from FRWA's New Executive Director

I am so proud and excited to lead FRWA. During the past sixteen years at this organization I have had the pleasure of working with a wide range of partners. I look forward to continuing these relationships with all of FRWA's diverse stakeholders including non-profit organizations, state and local leaders, and our partners in the National Park Service to enact the mission of the FRWA to safeguard and protect the resources of the Farmington River.



In this newsletter you will learn about our recent study of cyanobacteria in Rainbow Reservoir, our findings from Summer 2021 and how you can help reduce nutrient loads in the watershed. This new year brings a lot of new opportunities for FRWA. This year we have two new full-time employees, and we are ready to extend our research and education programs for 2022. We will begin our investigation of bacteria sources in the Cherry Brook Watershed in addition to our current monitoring programs in Massachusetts and the Upper and Lower Farmington River. We will also begin to steward our own piece of the watershed; our 13-acre Frey Property located in New Hartford, CT. Thank you for your support of FRWA and helping us with our mission of protecting the Farmington River.

Legacy Giving - Frey Property

In 2019 FRWA received a major gift from the Estate of Lily Frey, which includes thirteen acres of riverside land in New Hartford as well as a large endowment to help fund its conservation. With this generous donation, FRWA will preserve Lily Frey's legacy while also providing an amazing location right on the Farmington River for watershed education and conservation activities.

You can create your own legacy by helping protect the river, now and in the future. Honor a friend or loved one with a gift membership, a contribution in honor of a special occasion, or a memorial contribution. You can also include FRWA in your will, or as the beneficiary of retirement assets or a life insurance policy. If you would like to donate stock or securities to FRWA, our account info is on our website at: frwa.org/how-you-help/donating-stock-and-securities/



Scan the QR code to learn more about donating to FRWA





The Farmington River Watershed Association's Board and Staff

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Paige Vichiola

Education & Outreach Manager

Heather Geist

GIS Specialist

Judah Shingleton

FRWA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of the Farmington River and its Watershed through research, education and advocacy.

Virtual Spring Events

"What clean water and healthy bugs mean to the Farmington River"

Alisa Phillips-Griggs, who recently retired from FRWA as our Watershed Science Director, is an award-winning scientist as well as an experienced environmental leader, advocate, and educator whose experience in diverse fields include water monitoring, environmental protection, ecological restoration, aquatic entomology, geology, limnology, and hydrology. Hosted by the Friends of American Legion and Peoples State Forests.

Thursday, March 24, 7PM via ZOOM

E-mail ctfalps@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link for this event



Benthic Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Webinar Series

Heather Geist, FRWA's new Education & Outreach Manager, introduces the creatures that live in our waterways and explains their functions in riverine ecosystems. The series is hosted by CT Envirothon and will be aired on their Youtube channel.



Scan QR code to access the CT Envirothon Youtube Channel

"Meet the Macros" - An introduction to aquatic macroinvertebrates with an in-depth look into the taxa commonly found in healthy northeastern streams.

Airs Monday, March 14

"Functional Feeding Groups and the River Continuum Concept" - Explore the characteristics that dictate aquatic macroinvertebrate community composition.

Airs Tuesday, March 29

World Water Day - Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible

This virtual event will include remarks from Gov. Lamont, a "Groundwater 101" presentation, and a panel discussion that will explore threats to groundwater and steps we can all take to ensure every CT resident has access to clean water, now and in the future. Hosted by World Water Day.

Monday, March 21, Noon-1PM



Scan QR code to register

Unearthing History: The Discovery of a 12,500 year old Paleo-Indian Site along the Farmington River in Avon, CT

Five-part webinar series from March – October 2022

Experts in the field of early genetics, ice age animals, Paleo-Indian foodways and trade routes and ancient DNA will provide background and help in understanding the rich nature of the Brian D. Jones site. Hosted by the Avon Public Library.



Scan QR code to register

"Ice Age Animals of New England" - Presented by Dr.

Sarah Sportman, CT State Archaeologist & Dr. Nathaniel Kitchel, Dept. of Anthropology, Dartmouth College.

Thursday, April 7, 7PM

"Paleo-Indian Foodways with Trade & Network Exchange" - Presented by Dr. Jonathan Lothrop, Curator of Archaeology at The New York State Museum. He is a consultant on this site analysis.

Thursday, May 12, 7PM



Spring Events— In Person

The Farmington River Quilt Project

The Farmington River Quilt is a local work of art that features 24 quilts depicting 25 spots along the Upper Wild & Scenic corridor of the Farmington River that flows from Goodwin Dam to Canton. Each unique piece is accompanied by a message from the artist describing what inspired them to create it. Quilt image below is of section 2; Canal Pool by Mary Lachman of Bethany, CT.

**On display until Thursday, March 31
in the Simsbury Public Library**



E&D Pizza Fundraiser for FRWA

Support the Farmington River Watershed Association! Order Take Out or Curbside Pickup from E&D Pizza Company in Avon and E&D Pizza will donate 20% of your order. Just be sure to mention FRWA!

Wednesday, April 6, 11AM-9PM

T'ville Free Ride & Freestyle

Join us along the Tariffville Gorge for a whitewater celebration featuring kayaking demonstrations from local and world champion kayakers. Show off your skills as a participant, or come by as a spectator to watch the whitewater action. Visit the frwa.org events page for more information.

Saturday, April 23 11AM-3PM

7th Annual Barkhamsted Earth Day Nature Festival

It's been two years since we've been able to co-host this wonderful event filled with dozens of exhibitors displaying **all things NATURE. Talks, walks, and a birds of prey show. Free food and all free event.** Please join us, COVID restrictions permitting. We will keep you posted.

Sunday, April 24, 12:30PM - 5PM

at Matthies Grove Pavilion, Peoples State Forest, Barkhamsted, CT



Lower Farmington River
and Salmon Brook
WILD & SCENIC

LIFE ALONG OUR RIVER

Join us **Sunday March 20th 2022**
for a presentation by
Dennis Quinn of Quinn Ecological

The discussion: *Lessons from a Summer of Frogs, Turtles, Salamanders and Snakes in Simsbury,* details Dennis' research conducted last summer

Simsbury Public Library - Program Room
725 Hopmeadow Street
2:00 - 4:00 PM
Admission is free
Social-distancing and masks required

Sponsored by
The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee
Hosted by the Simsbury River People

Seating is limited
RSVP at:
bit.ly/rivertalkrsvp





2021 Research - Rainbow Reservoir Cyanobacteria Study

Over the summer of 2021 FRWA worked to discover causes and potential remedies of cyanobacteria blooms in Rainbow Reservoir along with limnologist Ken Wagner, Camp Shalom, and the UConn Center for Environmental Science and Engineering.

Summer 2021 was particularly wet, with 3x the average rainfall in July and 2x the average rainfall in August and September. Phosphorus in sediment samples were minor compared to water samples, indicating that watershed input is the main source of phosphorus in Rainbow Reservoir. Excess nutrients, such as phosphorus can lead to eutrophication and algae blooms. With above average precipitation in 2021, the reservoir was drawn down several times to accommodate flow. The reduction of residence time in the reservoir helped to prevent a cyanobacteria bloom from occurring. We have submitted a report of our findings and recommendations to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP).



If your lake administration or organization is experiencing cyanobacteria blooms and would like to see a copy of our report please contact us.

New Staff Members: Welcome Heather and Paige!

We are excited to announce our new staff members, Paige Vichiola (right) and Heather Geist (left). Paige and Heather were our summer staff in 2019 and 2021. Paige is the new Watershed Manager and Heather is the new Education and Outreach Manager. You may see both of them throughout the watershed in both Massachusetts and Connecticut doing bacteria monitoring, chloride monitoring, swapping in-stream water temperature loggers, conducting culvert surveys, or sampling for macroinvertebrates. When not monitoring, Paige performs data management, data analysis, report writing and more. Heather conducts educational programs, organizes the River Cleanup, and conducts outreach with other organizations, municipalities, and the public.



How bad is it ...to dump compost or yard waste along a streambank or wetland?

Yard waste and compost are great organic fertilizers for your lawn and garden, but they can cause problems if they end up in waterways. A healthy stream ecosystem is a delicate balance, and large additions of materials from outside can disrupt this balance and add nutrients to our freshwater systems. Also, debris can float downstream and clog culverts that allow water to pass underneath our roads, which can be hazardous in flood conditions.

Scan the QR code to check out our **Spring Cleaning Blog Post** on frwa.org
You'll find resources for composting and green landscaping, recipes for eco-friendly alternatives to cleaning chemicals, and locations where you can donate or recycle your unwanted belongings!



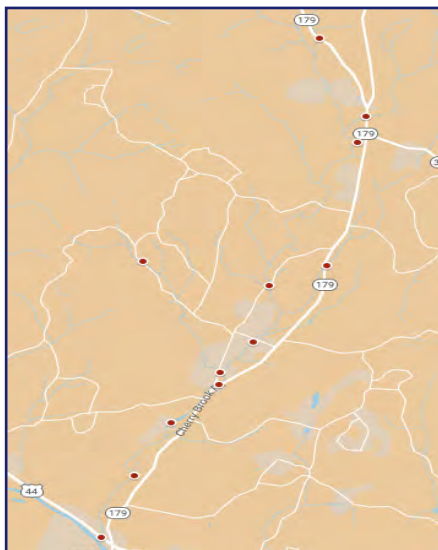


FRWA's Current and Upcoming Water Quality Research

What We Monitor	When	Where	Why
Chloride	winter	urbanized streams, 17+ sites	Road salts have been causing steady increases in chloride in small streams over the past several years. High salt levels can be toxic to aquatic life.
Cyanobacteria	summer	Rainbow Reservoir Windsor, CT 5 sites	Blooms have occurred in Rainbow Reservoir in past summers and can be toxic. FRWA is working with our partners to find a way to decrease the chance of a bloom occurring this year.
<i>E. coli</i>	summer	watershed, 66 sites	<i>E. coli</i> bacteria can pose health risks for recreation users and is an indicator of nonpoint source pollution.
Macroinvertebrate Communities (RBV)	fall	rocky streambeds, sites vary annually	Aquatic macroinvertebrates spend their entire lives in the water, and many species are very sensitive to environmental changes. A healthy stream is expected to contain a healthy population of sensitive species.
Temperature	year round	cold water streams, 13 sites	Many organisms such as trout require cold water to thrive. We track small streams to learn about climate change and can tell us if and when water temperature becomes an issue for aquatic life.

New *E. coli* Sampling in Cherry Brook

Cherry Brook in Canton, CT contains two segments near the confluence with the Farmington River that are on the impaired waters list for recreational use by the CT DEEP. This summer FRWA will add eleven new *E. coli* monitoring sites in Cherry Brook and its watershed in order to determine potential sources of this contamination. We also intend to install two new HOBO temperature loggers and conduct biological assessments for aquatic macroinvertebrates. We are thrilled to be able to undertake this project with help from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee.



Map shows locations of new monitoring sites in the Cherry Brook watershed

Clean, Cold, and Connected in Massachusetts

FRWA is proud to be a part of the Berkshire Clean, Cold and Connected Restoration Partnership, led by the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) and funded by the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (MA DER).

Partnership Goals:

- Assess and prioritize critical ecological restoration opportunities
- Expand local and regional planning capacities to restore degraded aquatic ecosystems and increase climate change resiliency
- Implement stream corridor restoration projects
- Implement habitat connectivity projects

How FRWA will help:

- Work with Trout Unlimited (TU) to train assessors for road-stream crossings according to North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) protocol
- Work to identify priority road-stream crossing replacements based on aquatic connectivity and structural integrity

Other Partners:

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA), and Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)



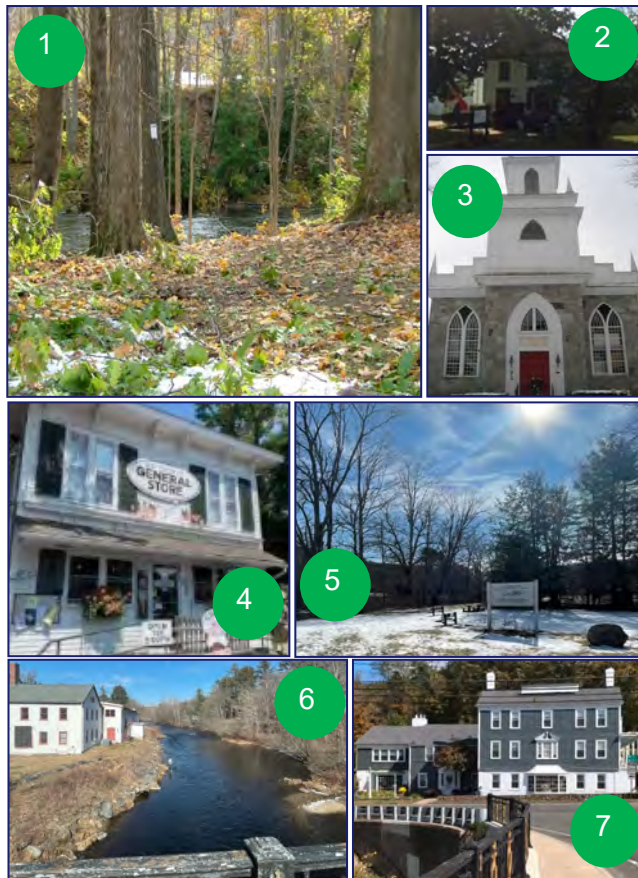


River Spotlight: Riverton Recreation Destinations

Nestled between the Farmington and Still Rivers in the northwest corner of Barkhamsted, Connecticut is the historic village of Riverton. This charming downtown is popular for art and history lovers, bicyclists, and happy dogs, but it is most famous for having some of the best trout and salmon fishing in the world. Opening Day isn't until April 9, but year-round catch-and-release fishing is allowed in many spots and hardy anglers frequent these waters all year—even in winter!

Places to Visit:

1. Whitfield Munson Grist Mill, now the Riverton Grange. Park at this popular spot on the Still River and take a stroll around the village!
2. Still River Antiques is the only authorized restorer of Hitchcock Furniture.
3. Greenwood Glass Blowing Studio Gallery displays beautiful handmade pieces, and you can even try this old-world skill for yourself.
4. Riverton General Store is your one stop shop for bait & tackle, drinks, groceries, and great food.
5. The Old Hartford-Albany Stage Route provides parking, informational kiosks, river access, and a lovely picnic area.
6. Hitchcock Chair Factory has been in use since 1826 and still creates beautiful handmade furniture.
7. The Royal Coachman Tavern at Old Riverton Inn carries local beer & wine and fine pub fare, and they boast over 200 years of feeding hungry anglers.



Creature Feature: The North American River Otter - *Lontra Canadensis*

- Grows 11-30 pounds and 3-4 feet long
- Lives for 8-9 years, but may live up to 21 years in captivity
- Eats fish, crayfish, crabs, frogs, bird eggs, reptiles
- Accesses burrow underwater to protect from predators
- Can stay underwater for 8 minutes
- Runs up to 15 mph
- Breeds in late winter and early spring
- Births 1-3 pups that swim at 2 months
- Communicates with whistles, yelps, growls, screams, touch, and posture
- Uses musk glands near the base of the tail for scent marking
- Main threats are habitat destruction and water pollution



Have you ever seen an otter slide? It's a fun and easy way for otters to access their burrows in winter!



Creature Feature photos taken by board member Rick Warters on the Farmington River in Simsbury, CT



We Don't Do This Work Alone—Thank You for Your Continued Support!

Much of the work we do would not be possible without a community of dedicated volunteers, advocates, and donors. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are heading into 2022 strong and with new programs!

Funding from our new 2022 CT DEEP 319 grant will allow us to continue our partnerships in the City of Bristol and expand on the work we do educating our community about the watershed. We are grateful for all of our volunteers who donate their time to our river clean-up and water quality monitoring programs.

Our current grant support includes:

- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Farmington River Coordinating Committee
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic
- Werth Family Foundation

*...and we would not have their help without the longtime support of members like you. **Thank you!***

Remember that the FRWA is a 501(c)(3) organization, so gifts are tax deductible, and its vitality depends upon you.

Volunteer Spotlight: Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited

Several members of FVTU are currently in the process of training to conduct road-stream crossing assessments in order to help prioritize potential replacement projects in our watershed.



Volunteers from our Fall 2021 RBV training event

FVTU has generously donated and assisted in deployment of several in-stream water temperature loggers in the past, and many members have also conducted RBV macroinvertebrate assessments with us.

We are excited to keep our partnership going with the implementation of the Berkshire Clean, Cold and Connected Restoration Partnership (*see pg. 5 for more information*).

FRWA also appreciates in-kind donations. Our current wish list includes:

- Wildlife cameras
- Office chairs
- Water cooler
- Office refrigerator

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Check one: ☐ **I want to donate now:**
☐ \$40 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$_____ other amount

____ I have enclosed my check payable to FRWA, or please charge my ____ MasterCard or ____ Visa.

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Amount \$ _____

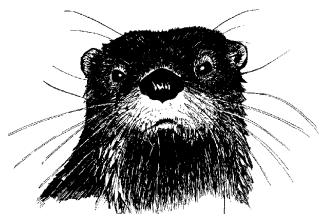
Name on Card: _____ Signature _____

Please send to: Farmington River Watershed Association, 749 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 Credit card donations may be submitted online at www.frwa.org via our secure online contributions server.



The Farmington River Watershed Association
749 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070

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Protecting The Farmington River, For You, For All, Forever.

FRWA 2022 Spring Events

Monday, March 14: "Meet the Macros" airs on Youtube

Sunday, March 20: "Lessons from a summer of frogs, turtles, salamanders, and snakes in Simsbury" Discussion

Monday, March 21: "Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible" Web event

Thursday, March 24: "What clean water and healthy bugs mean to our precious Farmington River" Webinar

Tuesday, March 29: "Functional Feeding Groups and the River Continuum Concept" airs on Youtube

Wednesday, April 6: E&D Pizza Fundraiser in Avon

Thursday, April 7: "Ice Age Animals of New England" Webinar

Saturday, April 23: Earth Day Cooperative Farmington River Cleanup in New Harford

Sunday, April 24: Barkhamsted Nature Day Festival in Peoples State Forest

Sunday, April 24: Tariffville whitewater competition at Tariffville Gorge

Thursday, May 12: "Paleo-Indian Foodways with Trade & Network Exchange" Webinar

Visit frwa.org for the entire list of events and registration requirements or check our Facebook page!

Follow us on social media @frwa_org



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