

SCANTIC RIVER CURRENTS - Winter Update 2009



The Scantic River Watershed Association

Protecting, Preserving and Enjoying the Scantic River

FROM THE CHAIRMAN — Mike Dynia

Greetings and welcome to the SRWA 2009 winter newsletter! 2008 was a great year with one of this year's highlights a 2008 Greenway designation and \$5,000 Greenway grant. At the annual meeting in October Rex Joffray was voted President, Pat Sharron Vice President, Jan Collins Treasurer and Gayle Manning Membership Chair. Our Board of Directors includes Jeff Dynia, Kirsten Martin, Dick Sherman and Albert Grant. We thank Kirsten Martin for her presentation and slideshow on her research study on dragonflies. The Spring Splash is in its 18th year and this year's date is set for March 28th. Please join us for Connecticut's largest downriver white-water race. We are always looking for volunteers for the Splash and other events. All volunteers will receive a free Splash t-shirt. With the resignation of longtime and most efficient secretary, Margaret Steinbuglar, we are searching for another secretary. Please contact any board member if you are interested. I look forward to seeing you on the water or at an event this year. Mike. (mdynia@yahoo.com)

SCANTIC RIVER GREENWAY — Rex Joffray, President

The State DEP awarded the SRWA a 2008 Greenway designation for the section of the Scantic from the Somersville Mill Pond to the South Maple Street Bridge at the Powder Hollow. A \$5,000 Greenway grant was also awarded for the planning, design and implementation of multi-use trails along the river. A \$5,000 grant from the National Recreation Trails program is also under consideration. For 2009, the SRWA has nominated an extension of the 2008 Greenway that would complete the Somers and Enfield sections of the river. The Scantic River Greenway will play a big role protecting while enjoying the future of the river and watershed. Please join us in making this happen! Rex



SRWA OUTINGS — Patrick Sharron, Vice President

Last July the SRWA hosted a **Full Moon Paddle** at the Somersville Mill Pond and had over 90 boats at an event enjoying a beautiful full moon and a leisurely paddle.

In December an enthusiastic group of 100 participants attended an **Historic Interpretation Hike** at the Powder Hollow starting at the Old Red Barn. Elliot Levy led the group that toured the ruins of the old Hazardville Gunpowder Company. The powder company produced over 40% of the Union's forces gunpowder for the Civil War.



In February the annual **Super Bowl Hike** was held at Bailey Road on a sunny winter day with 50 hikers in attendance. Four inches of snow and ice were packed down by the hike leaders in snowshoes prior to the hike.

Our biologist, Kirsten Martin, and volunteers held the annual **Wadeable Stream** event in September setting up a mobile laboratory at the Powder Mill section. A new section was tested this year off Quality Avenue in Somersville. Kirsten was awarded a \$1,000 grant to help purchase new equipment for water testing. The results continue to be positive from the water testing samplings.

The Source to Sea event, also in September, removed over 3 tons of trash!

We Speak for the River!

WATERSHED ACTIVITY AND ADVOCACY

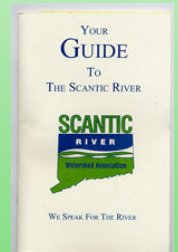
The SRWA in partnership with the Connecticut River Watershed Council and American Rivers has made good progress on the study of removing the Springborn Dam in Enfield. Consultants Fuss and O'Neil have completed a feasibility study by performing and evaluating test borings above the dam. A removal of the dam would enhance recreational activities and encourage the migration of fish that once ran all the way up to Hampden, Massachusetts.

The SRWA is working with the Enfield Conservation Commission and Northern Connecticut Land Trust in opposition to the Villages on the Scantic development on Simon Road in Enfield. An application is currently being reviewed with the Enfield Inland Wetlands Commission. A major concern is the effect building on the steep terraced escarpment would have on the river.

Director and American Heritage Rivers Chairman, Dick Sherman, continues to make great progress protecting, preserving and maintaining the East Windsor section of the Scantic.

FIRST EDITION SCANTIC RIVER GUIDE

The **Scantic River Guide** first edition has sold over 700 copies and is available in local stores, banks, and libraries. Or if you would like a copy mailed contact us at P.O. Box 303 Somers, CT 06071 and include a check for \$6.00.



HELP! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are always in need of volunteers for events and ideas for new events. There are opportunities to join our Greenway and River Steward Committees. In addition we are looking for a unique individual with computer skills to take minutes for our meetings. All are welcome to our monthly meetings.

Please contact Rex Joffray rjoffray@cox.net or Pat Sharron garftcv@sbcglobal.net

2009 CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 28 th	Annual Spring Splash	Somersville to the Powder Hollow
May 3rd	Annual Bird Watch Paddle	Somersville Mill Pond
June 6th	National Trails Day	Enfield, Powder Hollow
June 13th	CT Water Trails Day	TBD
July/August	Full Moon Paddles	TBD
September/October	Source to Sea Cleanup and Wadeable Stream projects	
October	Annual meeting	Somers Senior Center
March-December	Hikes	Visit our website

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION—AND RENEWAL

Yes! Count me in!

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Non Profit	\$50		
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$100		

Members receive our Newsletters, invitations to events, a decal, and an opportunity to do something about the quality of life in our community!

Please send your tax deductible check payable to the **SRWA, P.O. Box 303, Somers, CT 06071.**