

SCANTIC RIVER CURRENTS – Winter Update 2010

The Scantic River Watershed Association

“Protecting, Preserving and Enjoying the Scantic River”

FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Mike Dynia

Greetings and welcome to our 2010 winter update! 2009 was one of our best years ever with record attendance at events. Over 130 boats and 185 paddlers raced at the 18th Annual Spring Splash and one thousand dollars was raised for the Enfield Food Shelf. At the annual meeting in October Rex Joffray was voted President, Pat Sharron Vice President, Jan Collins Treasurer and Patricia Juba as our new Secretary. Our Board of Directors includes Albert Grant, Kirsten Martin, Dick Sherman, Gayle Manning, Judith Snyder, Jeff Dynia and Mike Emmons. Mike Emmons is our new membership chairman. We thank Board member and Wildlife Conservationist Jan Collins for her presentation on *“Wildlife and Connecticut's Changing Landscape”*. The Spring Splash is in its 19th year and this year's date is set for March 27th. Please join us for Connecticut's largest downriver whitewater race. We are always looking for volunteers for the Splash and other events. Please send me an email 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 UPDATES – Rex Joffray, President

The Greenway trail system has begun! This September we completed Section 1 of the Greenway at the Scantic Recreation Park in Scitico. Eagle Scout Nick Caruso led a great Eagle project building and installing a trailhead information kiosk, trail head signs and a bench along the river. The SRWA marked the trail with the State designated yellow markers and created GIS maps. Woodworker Chuck Vernon installed two bridges over streams on the Keeney Mill trail. The trail is in great shape and is now maintained with the new equipment we purchased from the 2008 Greenway grant award. We are seeing daily activity on the trails! Section 2 of the Greenway at 464 Hazard Avenue is underway. The State DEP has put up a parking lot and soon a park sign at the entrance. SRWA volunteers have installed trailhead signs, GIS maps and yellow trail markers in November. This is a beautiful section of the river with gentle rapids, sweeping vistas and a good hike along the river with views of grazing cattle at the Stockers farm across the river. This spring we were awarded a 2009 Greenway designation from the South Maple Street Bridge in Enfield to the town line in East Windsor. I call this section the “Enfield Outback” due to there is little sign of civilization along a heavily wooded and protected river bank. This spring we are working with the Town of East Windsor and the American Heritage Rivers Commission for a 2010 Greenway extension in East Windsor. Please come out and enjoy the trails, attend one of our hiking events and volunteer for a work party. Happy Trails! Rex

EVENTS – Pat Sharron, Vice President

A group of 30 boaters enjoyed our annual **CT Water Trails day** event last June that left from the Thompsonville boat launch and paddled down to Albert's Riverside Restaurant in Windsor for lunch provided by Papa Roni's Restaurant in Windsor Locks. The group finished up at the Wilson boat launch. Last Labor day's **Full Moon Paddle** at the Somersville Mill Pond had 200 paddlers enjoy a beautiful full “corn” moon and a leisurely paddle up to the route 190 bridge. At the event the SRWA announced Jodi Ford the winner of the “name the SRWA turtle” contest with the name **SiR Wally Awesome**. Rachel Kellner won a brand new kayak and accessories at our scholarship raffle. Over

We Speak for the River!

\$1,500 was raised for the scholarship fund. Mike Dynia and Betty Slanetz organized the **Annual Source to Sea Cleanup** event on October 3rd with over 35 volunteers who cleaned up 2.73 tons of garbage along the Connecticut and Scantic Rivers. A set of moose tracks were seen along the river banks. Keep your eye on our website for more events! Pat

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Kirsten Martin led a group of volunteers this November in the annual Wadeable Stream event setting up a mobile laboratory in the Powder Hollow section off of South Maple Street. The group collected macro invertebrates and cataloged them for identification of water quality. The results remain to be positive from the samplings. Kirsten and Judith Snyder are putting together an educational program they plan on presenting to the local schools and community. They have also given the scholarship materials to the local high school guidance offices and hope to hear back sometime in April.

WATERSHED ADVOCACY

The SRWA, in partnership with the Enfield Conservation Commission and concerned local citizens, were in opposition to the proposed *Villages along the Scantic* housing development. Over 35 houses would have been built above the Scantic in an area that is extremely prone to erosion from terraced escarpments. Already, the Town of Enfield has paid out over 1.5 million dollars in terraced escarpment repairs with more repairs in the works. The application went through a very rigorous process in the Inland Wetlands meetings and then was unanimously voted down 7-0 by the Planning and Zoning Commission

SCANTIC RIVER GUIDE

The first edition of the river guide has sold over 800 copies! Guides are available at local banks, stores, libraries and the State DEP store. If you would like a copy please send a check for \$6 to the SRWA at P.O. Box 303, Somers, CT 06071.

2010 Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 7 th	Annual Super Bowl Hike	Bailey Road, Enfield
March 27 th	19 th Annual Spring Splash	Somersville to the Powder Hollow
April 18 th	Earth Day Hike	464 Hazardville Avenue, Enfield
May 9 th	Annual Bird Watch paddle	Somersville Mill Pond
June 6 th	National Trails Day Hike	Powder Hollow, Enfield
June 13 th	CT Water Trails Day	TBD

For updated information please visit our website at Website: [Http://ScanticRiverWatershed.Org](http://ScanticRiverWatershed.Org)

We are also now on Facebook with events, photos and mores  Visit Us

Contact us via email at SRWAMembers@gmail.com

Help! Members and Volunteers needed

We are always in need of help at our events, activities and work parties. It is our members and volunteers that make our organization successful. All are welcome to come to our monthly meeting held on the second Monday of each month at 7pm. The meetings are held at the Mary Strom conference room at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield.

We Speak for the River!