

# SCANTIC RIVER CURRENTS – Winter 2011

## The Scantic River Watershed Association

*“Protecting, Preserving and Enjoying the Scantic River”*

### **FROM THE President – Rex Joffray**

Greetings and welcome to our 2011 spring update! It's been another great year with a record attendance at the annual Spring Splash, a Greenway designation in East Windsor, the beginning of our Conservation Committee, an award for our first scholarship and much more. At the annual meeting last October Rex Joffray was voted President and Pat Sharron Vice President. Our Board of Directors includes Albert Grant, Kirsten Martin, Jan Collins, Dick Sherman, Gayle Manning, Judith Snyder, Jeff Dynia and Mike Emmons. We are currently looking for a new Treasurer and Secretary. We thank Board member and Biologist Kirsten Martin for her presentation on “xxxxxxxxxxxxxx”. We are always looking for new volunteers to help us out with all of our events. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering. I look forward to seeing you at an event this year. Happy Trails! Rex

### **SPRING SPLASH**

In March we had a record year of 155 boats and 225 paddlers racing at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Splash. Over 500 pounds of canned food was collected for the Enfield Food Shelf. Thanks to all who volunteered, raced or enjoyed the beautiful day as a spectator! Planning has already begun for the Splash's 20<sup>th</sup> year and will have a special celebration for the event.

### **SCANTIC RIVER GREENWAY UPDATES**

The Scantic Linear Park II at 464 Hazard Avenue has been completed as of last fall. Eagle Scout Alan Kendzior has put up an erosion barrier fence, an ATV erosion barricade and an information kiosk. The new trail system have been seeing exponential use. Hikers are extremely pleased with the trails and beautiful views along the river that previously they did not even know the park existed. An Eagle Project by Willi Thomas is close to completion at the Bailey Road Scantic State Park. Last Spring Don and Jay Smith built a sturdy and handsome bridge over a stream on the trail. This spring, partnering with the American Heritage Rivers Commission, we were awarded a 2010 Greenway designation for the section of the Scantic in East Windsor. Denise Menard, 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman from East Windsor happily received the award during the annual Greenway Awards ceremony in June. The East Windsor Greenway recently had over 60 hikers at the first annual New Year's hike hosted by AHRC. Please come out and volunteer help us maintain the trails systems.

### **EVENTS**

Our hiking events continue to be well attended and a great way to bring people out to the new trail systems. We now are hosting hikes on Greenway trail sections in Somers, Enfield and East Windsor. For the Connecticut Trails Day we had a special appearance of Colonel Augustus Hazard and the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Artillery from Longmeadow Massachusetts. State Representative Karen Jarmoc and State Senator John Kissell awarded the SRWA with a citation marking the day as the first annual Colonel

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Augustus Hazard day. 3 canon blasts were fired from the Powder Hollow, perhaps the first since the early 1900's.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Source to Sea Cleanup event last October had over 35 volunteers who cleaned up 2.73 tons of garbage along the Connecticut and Scantic Rivers. The SRWA group is one of the largest volunteer efforts for the Annual Source to Sea event that spans the full length of the CT River. We also give thanks to the volunteers who clear the river for paddling and have a goal to some day be able to paddle all the way from Somers to the Connecticut River.

Although we had a sunny and dry summer, three of our favorite events were canceled due to rain and thunderstorms; the Spring Bird Outing, the annual CT River and Full moon paddling events.

## **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 Filter Beds section of East Windsor. 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. The committee has also awarded \$750 to first annual scholarship given to first lastname in April. New Water quality meter.

## **WATERSHED ADVOCACY**

The SRWA, in partnership with the Enfield Conservation Commission and concerned local citizens, attended town meetings and monitored the installation of the new South Maple Street and Town Farm bridges in Enfield. Due to the low water levels this summer and a very effective erosion barriers from the contractors, runoff of materials and erosion was prevented,

## **SCANTIC RIVER GUIDE**

The first edition of the river guide has sold over 1,000 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.

### **2011 Calendar**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 6th	Super Bowl Hike	Bailey Road, Enfield
May	Annual birding paddle	Somersville Mill Pond
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	National Trails Day Hike	Powder Hollow, Enfield
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	CT Water Trails Day	Kings Island Boat Launch, Enfield
August/TBD	Full Moon Paddle	Somersville Mill Pond

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](mailto:SRWAMembers@gmail.com)

**Help! Members and Volunteers needed**

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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.

DRAFT!

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