

## **Scantic River hikers explore East Windsor section**

### **Clubs & Organizations**

*Submitted by Rexford L Joffray*

Approximately 25 people joined members of the Scantic River Watershed Association (SRWA) for a hike along the Scantic River in East Windsor on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009. The hike explored the riverbank and remains of the Wickett Bridge, which crossed the Scantic River until 1936 when a great flood washed it out. The hike was mostly on East Windsor town land and on the unimproved section of Plantation Road, which crosses Rye Street in the southwestern corner of East Windsor.

Hikers showed up for the event despite an impending snowstorm that was predicted for the morning. Albert Grant of East Windsor led the hike and shared the history of the area and river that he has learned from growing up in the Melrose section of East Windsor.

Albert pointed out the remains of the brownstone bridge pilings where the bridge once stood. Across the river the old Plantation Road was still visible as it made a hard scabble up the bank on the other side. Climbing back up the river bank, the group enjoyed a great vista of the Scantic floodplain at the confluence of Ketch Brook and the Scantic.

Dick Sherman, Chairman of the local chapter of the American Heritage Rivers, pointed out wildlife tracks visible in the snow. Coyote, wild turkey, beaver and the hint of an owl were in the area. Grant remarked on how the footprint of a turkey resembles the footprint of a dinosaur and related it to the evolution of the bird species.

The group, weary from the 4 mile hike, made it up the muddy Plantation Road just in time before the rain started. Kathy Caruso from Enfield remarked, "This is my second hike with the Association and I am amazed I could hike that far!" Kathy's son is putting together an Eagle Scout project to build a trailhead kiosk and put trail marker signs along the Scantic as part of SRWA's Greenway project.