

CURRENTS

working together for the health of the white river watershed

spring 2008

mission

The White River Partnership (WRP) brings together people and local communities to improve the long-term health of the White River and its watershed.

contact us

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WRP Moves to Royalton

—Mary Russ, Executive Director



The new WRP office is on the second floor of the Royal Academy Building.

On March 1, 2008, the White River Partnership (WRP) moved its office into the Royalton Academy Building in Royalton village. Royalton village is located at the center of the watershed and we hope this move will increase our visibility and accessibility to the entire watershed community.

The Royalton Academy opened in 1807, and was the primary teaching institution in the Royalton area until a new graded school opened in South Royalton in 1893. Today, the building is owned and operated by the Town of Royalton, and houses the South Royalton Senior Center, the Royalton Civics Club, the South Royalton Early Childhood Initiative Program, Weight Watchers, and the Central Vermont Council on Aging Case Manager. The large meeting room downstairs is used

regularly for senior center activities and may be rented for special events.

The Royalton Academy Building is the WRP's third office location. From 1996 to 2000, the WRP was housed in the George D. Aiken Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) office in Randolph. The RC&D acted as our fiscal sponsor while a series of temporary staff coordinated our on-the-ground restoration projects, which were primarily focused on the Upper White River watershed. In 2000, the WRP received a large-scale grant from the US Forest Service, allowing the WRP to hire permanent staff, to incorporate as a nonprofit organization, and to expand our programs watershed-wide. At the same time, the WRP moved into the new Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) Rochester District building. Since 2000, the WRP has enjoyed a range of benefits from our co-housing situation in Rochester, including spacious accommodations, technical and financial assistance, and a staff person—Dan McKinley, a GMNF fisheries biologist, was the WRP Projects Manager until 2006.

We celebrated our 8 wonderful years of co-housing in the Rochester Ranger Station at a going-away party on February 28, and look forward to continuing our long-standing, award-winning partnership with the GMNF in the future. As we settle into our new office, I hope you will take the opportunity to stop by and say hello. I look forward to seeing all of you in 2008 as we continue working together to improve the long-term health of the White River and its watershed! ●●

Calendar

Monthly Work Group Meetings:

- First Tuesday:** Forestry Work Group, 7pm at Whitcomb High School in Bethel
- Second Wednesday:** Upper River Stream Team, 6pm at Ranger Station in Rochester
- Second Thursday:** Board of Directors, 7pm at Fish Hatchery in Bethel
- Last Wednesday:** Down Stream Team, 7pm at Old Sharon Academy in Sharon

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities:

- April 3: Didymo Dance, Crossroads Bar, S. Royalton.** We're kicking-off our didymo education campaign with a concert. Doors open at 7pm and local band, The Snakes, will start playing at 8pm. A \$5 cover will support our education campaign.
- April 10: Strategic Plan Discussion, Fish Hatchery, Bethel.** We are in the process of updating the WRP Strategic Business Plan and invite you to call, email, or share your comments in person at the April 10 Board meeting from 7–9pm. See the newsletter insert for the complete text of the draft plan.
- April–May: Plant a Tree.** Our Trees for Streams Program includes over a dozen opportunities to plant nearly 3,000 native trees along the river in late-April and early-May. Visit our website for specific dates, times, and locations.
- June–August: Monitor water quality.** Since 2001, WRP volunteers have monitored water quality at over 20 sites along the White River and its tributaries. If you are interested in helping us with the 2008 monitoring season, please contact us!
- Contact the WRP at (802) 763-7733 or visit our website at www.whiteriverpartnership.org for more information about these opportunities.

Partner Updates:

The White River Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD) recently hired **Suzanne Enser** to help expand conservation programs in the White River watershed. For example, “Growing With You” is a program available to watershed farmers, which offers up to five soil tests with Phosphorus Index and RUSLE2 analysis—at no cost—while funds last. For more information, contact Suzanne at 802-828-4493.

2009 is the **Vermont State Forestry Program Centennial**, and events are being planned to market a message of forest “values” and stewardship. We invite organizations and individuals to plan their 2009 programming around the theme of thoughtful care of the forests that sustain us. For more information, contact Jon Bouton at 802-281-5262.

Awards and more



Governor Douglas, Mary Russ, Greg Russ, Tad Nunez, Clare Forseth, Karen Douville, and ANR Secretary Crombie at the Tree Steward Award ceremony on December 12 in the State House.

2007 Sami Izzo Award

Jon Bouton, Windsor County Forester and coordinator of the WRP's Forestry Work Group, received the 2007 *Sami Izzo Award* in recognition of his significant contributions to the WRP as a partner, advocate, and active volunteer for the past decade. According to former Executive Director, Annie Bourdon, “Jon always brought his professional expertise and knowledge to this diverse group, but what he demonstrated most were his respect for its members, his passion for the watershed and its forests, and his commitment to the WRP's roots as a community-based and consensus-driven organization.” Thank you, Jon, and congratulations!

2007 Annual Meeting

To express our appreciation for the commitment and contributions of our volunteers, we made them the focus of our 2007 Annual Meeting, held at the Three Stallion Inn in Randolph on November 3. Components of the evening included a slideshow featuring pictures of volunteers in action, certificates of appreciation for long-standing volunteers, presentation of the 2007 Sami Izzo Award to Jon Bouton, and a WRP Trivia game with a “Weird but true facts about WRP volunteers” category. Thanks to everyone who attended, to Thistle Hill Publications, Hanover Outdoors, and 5 Olde Tavern & Grill for donating door prizes, and to the Three Stallion Inn and Exit 3 UStore for co-sponsoring the meeting.

2007 VT Tree Steward Award

The WRP was honored to receive the 2007 *Volunteer Group Vermont Tree Steward Award*. The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Council recognizes an organiza-

(continued on back page)

Project News

Didymo Education Campaign

The WRP and Trout Unlimited are teaming up with the VT Agency of Natural Resources to address didymo in the White River watershed in 2008. Didymo is the potentially invasive algae found on the White River in July 2007, and is a cause for concern because it can significantly alter the aquatic ecosystem, is easy to spread, and cannot be eradicated. Scientists have determined that public education about spread prevention is the most effective response method available. As a result, the WRP has developed a campaign to educate the public about stopping the spread of didymo within and outside of the White River watershed. Campaign components will include monitoring the river, distributing a brochure, coordinating educational events, installing permanent signs along the river, and more.

Stewardship Group Updates

The **Forestry Work Group** is seeking grant funding to produce a publication highlighting lessons learned from their 2006 and 2007 forest tour series.

The **Upper River Stream Team (URST)** is helping the WRP identify opportunities to implement the Upper River Corridor Plan by talking with riparian landowners about two available incentive programs—the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and a new river corridor conservation easement. The URST is also teaming up with the Green Mountain National Forest and other partners to address non-native invasive species in the Upper White River watershed.

The **Down Stream Team (DST)** is helping the WRP implement three fish passage projects on Broad Brook and Mill Brook, which were identified by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The DST is planting trees with the Town of Hartford and implementing an erosion-control project in Sharon this spring, as well as continuing the knotweed control project on Broad Brook this summer.

First Annual Fund Drive

The WRP conducted its first annual Fund drive to raise money for our 2008 programs. We would like to thank the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their generous donations:

MayFly: \$50–\$99

Bushrod Powers	Paul Calter
Dick Ellis	Rhona Dallison
Gerald & Claire O'Connor	Richard & Beth Kolehmainen
Hugo & Cynthia Liepmann	Robert Manby
John Cocks	Ron & Betsy Rhodes
John Lutz	Silloway's Septic Services
Kenneth & Deborah Hatch	Target Enterprises, Inc.
Kevin O'Donoghue	Thomas & Joyce Macnair
Michael & Diane Teetsel	Tim & Linda Marx
Norm Arseneault	

Trout: \$100–\$249

Anonymous	Killooleet, Inc.
Barbara De Hart	Lisa & Richard Aucoin
Brad & Lorraine Atwood	Michael & Elizabeth Schedler
Dianne Kenney	Robert & Linda Lee
Donald & Ellen Shephard	Roger & Marisa McCoy
Franklin & Jane Sanders	Stephen Plume & Martha
Hurricane Flats Farm	McDaniel
Jesse Sammis	Tim Claffin
Jon & Judi Bouton	Walt Wells

Salmon: \$250–\$499

Keefer & Bill Irwin	Marc Lefebure & Elizabeth Pappius
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Otter: \$500–\$749

Shay Berry

Osprey: \$1,000 and up

Jack Carlton	Vermont Law School
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The following businesses joined the WRP last year by donating funds, auction items, meeting space, and/or specialty equipment. In exchange, they received a listing on our web page (www.whiteriverpartnership.org/index.php/about/our-partners) and all membership benefits. For more information about getting your business involved with the WRP, please contact us.

Advanced Heating Technologies, Barnard
Cayer Electrical Systems, Barnard
Christopher Wilson, DDS, Randolph
Corner Stop Mini-Mart, S. Royalton
Dandelion Acres, Bethel
Dimmick Wastewater Service, Randolph
Exit 3 UStore, Bethel
5 Olde Tavern & Grill, S. Royalton
Frankenburg Agency, Randolph

Green Mountain Grille, Stockbridge
Groundwater Sciences Corp., Harrisburg, PA
Hanover Outdoors, Hanover, NH
Harvey's Plumbing & Heating, Rochester
Hayes & Windish, Woodstock
Hurricane Flats Farm, S. Royalton
Inner Traditions, Rochester
Killooleet, Inc., Hancock

Locust Creek Outfitters, Bethel
M&N's Mini-Mart, Royalton
North Hollow Farm, Rochester
Northfield Savings Bank, Randolph
Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce, Randolph
Save Our World, Rochester
Silloway Farms, Randolph Ctr.
Silloway's Septic Service, Randolph

South Royalton Market, S. Royalton
Standing Stone Perennial Farm, Royalton
Target Enterprises, Inc., Randolph
The Herald of Randolph, Randolph
Thistle Hill Publications, Pomfret
Three Stallion Inn, Randolph
Trout on the Fly, S. Royalton
Wilderness Trails, Quechee



Get Involved!

The WRP is a nationally recognized and award-winning watershed organization because of the involvement and strong commitment of our devoted community members and partners. We depend on hundreds of volunteers each year to accomplish much of our important work. Here are a few ways that you too can get involved with the WRP this year — no experience necessary!

- Volunteer in the office — We can always use a hand in the office.
- Become a town liaison — We are recruiting volunteers to distribute newsletters and other outreach materials around their towns as well as to communicate about WRP programs and events with their town governments.
- Join a stewardship group — Get involved in your “sub-watershed” by joining a local Stream Team or working group.

To find out more about how you can get involved and support the work of the WRP, please call us at (802) 763-7733 or email info@whiteriverpartnership.org.

Join the White River Partnership

The WRP depends on contributions to support our good work in the watershed. Please become a member today by making a tax-deductible donation.

Yes, I would like to join the WRP. Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$30: Individual \$40: Family \$50: Business

Sweat Equity: 2 hours volunteering equals a 1-year membership!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to the “White River Partnership” and mail to:
P.O. Box 705, S. Royalton, VT 05068.

Awards, cont.

tion each year that, through their volunteer efforts, has shown outstanding dedication and commitment in introducing or sustaining an urban and community forestry project within their community. The Hartford Conservation Commission and Tree Board made the nomination to recognize the WRP’s work planting riparian areas in Hartford and throughout the White River watershed.

Grant Awards

The WRP is excited to announce the receipt of 2 grants to implement the Ayers Brook Corridor Plan. The NH Charitable Foundation’s Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund awarded 68K to implement the river corridor restoration component of the project. And the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Cost-Share Program awarded 24K to implement the habitat improvement and fish passage assessment components of the project. The WRP will be implementing these plan components over the next few years with the help of our technical partners. ● ●

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