

# CURRENTS

working together for the health of the white river watershed

Summer 2010

## 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.

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## USA's First Landscape Auction

### 'Adopt' a Piece of the Watershed

On August 14, 2010, the WRP will host the USA's first Landscape Auction from 1:00 – 4:00pm at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center. This live auction event will allow individuals, groups, and businesses to place a bid to “adopt” a landscape element — such as a streamside buffer or a public access to the river — by funding its protection or maintenance for a period of time. The goal is to raise private capital for nature conservation while creating a bond between those who enjoy a beautiful landscape and those who take care of it.

With funds from the US Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, the WRP is coordinating the Landscape Auction to help engage people and local communities in the preservation and management of the White River watershed's natural and working landscape. Nine landowners are participating in the live auction event, and have identified a diverse set of natural and working landscape elements in need of preservation. These items are now available for viewing online at: <http://www.tripleee.nl/vermont/catalogue.html>.

### WRP Community Bid

To give all WRP members the opportunity to participate in the auction, the WRP is organizing a WRP Community Bid; a community bid allows a group of individuals to pool their resources in order to “adopt” a landscape element collectively. We invite all WRP members to make a donation – of any size – by mailing a check to the WRP (see donation form on page 4) or by making an online donation via our website. On August 14, a WRP representative will bid up to the amount donated by WRP members on an item that is within the price-range.

### What:

A chance to participate in the USA's First Landscape Auction! This event will help protect the natural and working landscape of the White River watershed in central Vermont.

### When:

August 14, 2010, 1–4 pm

### Where:

Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, just off I-89.

### Directions:

<http://www.vtc.edu>

### Program:

1:00 Meet the participating landowners, taste local food, take a hay ride, and enjoy the landscape in scenic Randolph Center.

2:00 Participate in the live auction, hosted by celebrity auctioneer Rusty DeWees.

3:00 Winning bidders will sign contracts, get photographs taken, and enjoy a VIP area with local dignitaries.

4:00 The USA's First Landscape Auction is officially complete!

## Please join us!

# Calendar

Contact us at: [info@whiteriver-partnership.org](mailto:info@whiteriver-partnership.org) to receive event notifications via email.

## Upcoming Events:

**August 11: Vermont Youth Conservation Corps Open House, 5:00 – 8:00pm, Royalton Academy Building, Royalton.** You are invited to this event hosted by the VYCC crew working in the White River watershed to reduce erosion on Class 4 town roads. Meet the crew and learn more about this exciting WRP project to improve water quality! Free and open to the public.

**August 14: Landscape Auction for Vermont's Working Landscape, 1:00 – 4:00pm, Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center.** We hope you'll join us for the USA's first Landscape Auction, hosted by the WRP. For more information about this landmark event, see the article on page 1. Free and open to the public.

**September, date TBA: Riparian Tree Monitoring Teacher's Workshop.** Watershed teachers are invited to attend this day-long workshop designed to engage students in monitoring the health of trees planted by WRP volunteers along the White River and its tributaries. For more information about this free workshop, please contact Jenna Guarino, [jguarino556@gmail.com](mailto:jguarino556@gmail.com) or (802) 728-9135

**October 2: Source to Sea Cleanup.** Save the date for this year's annual White River cleanup, co-sponsored by the WRP and the Connecticut River Watershed Council. Free and open to the public.

## Follow the WRP on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/White-River-Partnership/117034921658089> and Twitter:  
<http://twitter.com/WhiteRiverPart>.



Vermont Watershed Grant funds help the WRP engage community volunteers in watershed stewardship activities, like planting trees along the river.

# Thank you!

We would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, and grantors for their generous financial support of our 2010 programs:

## Mayfly: \$50-\$99

Barbara De Hart  
Dave Phillips  
David Palmer & Pamela Overstrom  
Diane Hayes  
Dianne Kenney  
Dick Ellis  
Doug & Sukie Azar  
Gerald & Claire O'Connor  
Gregory McHugo & Mary Conrad  
James & Shirley Billings  
Karen & Gary Douville  
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Kenneth Smith & Kelley McCrory  
Kristen & James Gage  
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Mary Gavin & Michael Kenepick  
Matt Stedina  
Michael & Diane Teetsel  
Rebecca Hooper  
Sue Sellev & Art Stacy  
Target Enterprises Inc  
Thomas & Joyce Macnair  
Tim & Linda Marx  
Tom Brennan  
James Merriam & Clotilde Hrysho  
VLS Environmental Law Society  
5 Olde Tavern

## Trout: \$100-\$249

Abby Armstrong  
Carl Russell  
Dick & Beth Kolehmainen  
Donald & Ellen Shephard  
Exit 3 UStore  
Franklin & Jane Sanders  
Fred Pond  
Geo Honigford & Sharon O'Connor  
Jane & Gerald Huppee  
Killoleet, Inc.  
Kinvin & Deborah Wroth  
Linda Lee  
Marc Lefebvre & Elizabeth Pappius  
Mary & Greg Russ  
Matthew & Lucia Matule  
Rebecca Hooper  
Ron & Betsy Rhodes  
Stephen Plume & Martha McDaniel  
Thomas & Jacqueline Hammond  
Walt Wells

## Salmon: \$250-\$499

Brad & Lorraine Atwood  
Ibex  
Jack & Amy Carlton  
Jake Guest  
Keefer & Bill Irwin

## Osprey: \$1,000+

Orvis  
(See grantors listed below)

## GRANT FUNDING:

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Grant In Aid** – Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation funding is helping us initiate a spread prevention program focused on the rusty crayfish, an invasive species found in the White River.

**Challenge Cost-Share** – US Forest Service funding is helping us identify and develop fish habitat improvement projects, including tree planting and fish passage projects throughout the watershed.

**Clean and Clear Program** – Vermont Agency of Natural Resources funding is helping us identify and develop river corridor projects along Ayers Brook, the Tweed River, and the Upper White to improve water quality and river stability.

**Conservation Innovation Grant** – Natural Resources Conservation Service funding will help us develop the USA's first Landscape Auction.

**Express Grant** – New Hampshire Charitable Foundation funding will help us build our organization's capacity.

**Vermont Watershed Grant** – Vermont Agency of Natural Resources funding will help coordinate our Watershed Stewardship Program activities, including tree plantings, water quality monitoring, didymo and rusty crayfish education, and river cleanups.

**Wellborn Ecology Fund** – New Hampshire Charitable Foundation funding will help us initiate a school-based Monitoring the White River Program for 12 towns in the White River watershed (see article on page 4).

# Project Updates

## Water Quality Monitoring

In 2010, the WRP will implement two recommendations made by Dr. Fritz Gerhardt in his 2009 report analyzing the WRP's 2001–2008 water quality data.

First, we are **working with the Vermont LaRosa Laboratory to test upstream and downstream of 2 sites** where significant water quality problems have been identified. At Adams Brook in Randolph, we are testing chloride and alkalinity to understand the root causes of high conductivity readings. At Dugout Road in South Randolph, we are testing total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and total suspended solids to understand the root causes of high turbidity and *E. coli* readings. Second, we are working with the LaRosa Lab to gather additional data at 6 main stem monitoring sites to better understand the data our volunteers have collected since 2001. A link to the LaRosa data is on our website; the new data will enable the WRP to prioritize future restoration efforts.

## Class 4 Road Project



The VYCC crew installs a water bar on Burton Woods Road in Norwich.

In 2010, the WRP, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC), and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources received funding from the

Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund to **implement a series of erosion control projects on a handful of Class 4 roads in Sharon, Norwich, and Tunbridge.** For four weeks this summer, a VYCC student work crew will address water quality impairments identified by the WRP and its partners in 2009, by installing culvert headers, water bars, stone-lined ditches, and stone aprons.

Each of these project sites is located within 50 feet of a waterway, with documented sedimentation entering those waterways. By completing these projects, the WRP and its partners hope to both reduce non-point source pollution and also engage students in watershed stewardship.

Want more project updates? [Check out the WRP on Facebook and Twitter!](#)

(See addresses in Calendar section)

277 volunteers helped plant 3,000 trees at 4 sites along the White River and its tributaries!



Looking upstream at the new baffles in the Mill Brook culvert.

## Mill Brook Culvert Project

Culverts under roads can restrict fish and other aquatic life from moving between vital habitats. As a result, the **WRP and its partners are implementing a series of culvert modification projects to improve aquatic organism passage.**

This summer, WRP staff, volunteers, and partners conducted maintenance on the culvert at the mouth of Mill Brook in Pomfret. In 1995, the US Forest Service, Vermont Fish and Wildlife, and Trout Unlimited worked together to bolt wooden baffles to the floor of the culvert at evenly-spaced intervals to enhance fish passage during high-flow conditions. The wooden structures require routine maintenance. So in July, a team of ten workers removed broken baffles and installed two new baffles to ensure continued fish passage to upstream habitats in Mill Brook.

## Volunteer Numbers

To promote long-term stewardship of the White River watershed, the WRP organizes numerous seasonal opportunities for people of all ages to do something good for their communities and their river. Here are the 2010 volunteer highlights:

- 20 watershed teachers have participated in Monitoring the White River Program workshops
- 25 volunteers have collected 146 water quality samples at 29 sites throughout the watershed
- 30 student and community volunteers collected 10 truckloads of trash along the Upper White River
- 277 volunteers helped plant 3,000 trees at 4 sites along the White River and its tributaries
- 525 didymo brochures have been distributed to fishing license agents in the watershed
- 3,000 garlic mustard plants were removed by the Upper River Stream Team in Rochester



## Support the WRP!

There are many ways you can support our efforts to improve the long-term health of the White River and its watershed. We welcome membership contributions, volunteer time, and cash donations.

### Become a Member/Volunteer:

\_\_\_ **Yes, I would like to join/renew my membership with the WRP.**

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I want to receive email updates about volunteer opportunities.**

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Make a donation:

\_\_\_ **Yes, I want to make a cash donation (enter amount below).**

Membership dues: \_\_\_\_\_      Cash donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "White River Partnership" and mail to PO Box 705, S. Royalton, VT 05068.

## New WRP Program Making Waves

In late July, Vermont biologists made the first confirmed identification of *Cambarus robustus* in Vermont. This exotic crayfish specimen was collected on the White River during a WRP teacher training.

This exciting discovery highlights the importance of the WRP's new Monitoring the White River Program. Through a grant from the Wellborn Ecology Fund, the Program is engaging watershed schools in 3 pilot projects designed to increase student awareness of watershed issues and to produce useful information for the WRP and its partners.

Project partners include Jenna Guarino, a watershed education specialist, VINS, the Vermont Water Quality Division, and others. Upcoming Program components include a riparian tree monitoring workshop (see Upcoming Events on page 2), a Lending Library of equipment and publications, and content specialist support. ●●

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