

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee



You matter to your local rivers!



We have had a jam-packed 2023, and we are stoked to *paddle* through this year's newsletter to tell you what we have been up to in 2023. We want to thank everyone that came out to enjoy an Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers event, join some of our partners during their River Community Grant funded projects, and those of you who were able to get out and enjoy our rivers! Join us as we walk through our 2023 Event & Grant highlights, discuss flood resilience, and take a look back at our sojourn paddle in 2019 with a glimpse forward to what we have in store for 2024. Thank you for a great year!

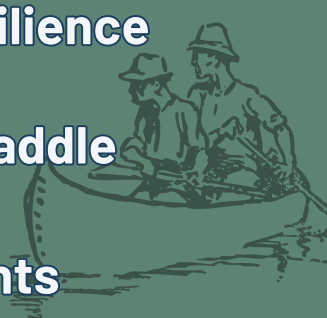
2 2023 Events Highlights

3 2023 Grant Highlights

4 Flood Resilience

5 Sojourn Paddle

6 2024 Events



Check out our website and social media!



www.umatrwildandscenic.org

@umatrwildandscenic






2023 UMATR Newsletter – 2023 Event Highlights



We had a full and fun 2023 with 14 UMATR events scattered throughout the year! Thank you for those that were able to join us at any of our events – we loved having over 350 people join us. We offered event programming all year round to emphasize that there is plenty to do along our UMATR rivers any time of year. Whether it is walking out in the snow during our Forester-led Snowshoe Walks, helping our amphibians cross the road during the Salamander Night Patrol, paddling with us during our Guided Nature Paddle, Paddle Instruction course, and our annual Paddle and Picnic, or inside with us while we enjoy Wild and Scenic films and tasty Japanese curry, we are so glad we can provide our community with these great events. Thank you for joining us and we hope to see you next year!



Our 2024 Events planning is well underway, and we even have a returning event & celebration: our 10-Year Sojourn day-paddles will take place June 6th - 12th (check out pages 5 & 6 for more details!), and a new event: river tubing on the Trout River. Don't miss out - stay up-to-date with all our events by signing-up for our mailing list, checking out the "EVENTS" page on our website, and following us on social media. See page 6 of this newsletter

@umatrwildandscenic   
umatrwildandscenic.org/events

for a full list of our 2024 Events. We hope to see you out there!

2023 UMATR Newsletter – 2023 Grant Highlights



Our 2023 River Community Grants funded **eight** projects within our UMATR region, resulting in **\$32,750** being spent on projects that protect and enhance the enjoyment and quality of the upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers.

Enosburgh Rec increased river access to the Missisquoi by adding paddleboards to their fleet of kayaks and canoes on the Brownway Trail. The Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District hosted four BioBlitz events for the public and local youth in Montgomery and Richford, as well as the first annual Enosburgh Fishing Festival. The Richford Conservation Commission constructed bat boxes, started a no-mow-May campaign, and educated local residents about both bats and pollinators, and the important roles they play in our ecosystems. NCSU's Encore Program provided a group of



local teens an awesome paddling experience. Montgomery Conservation Commission began treatment on a J. knotweed patch on town land. All of these projects, and more, are what makes our community so great.



Our 2023 Municipal Grants funded **five** projects within **five** municipalities in our UMATR region, totaling to **\$50,000** spent on roadway and infrastructure improvements that benefit our rivers and the communities that they flow through. These

replaced seven old culverts and added stone-lined ditches to several roads, resulting in less sediment and runoff entering the Missisquoi River. We want to take this opportunity to thank our towns for all their hard work, and we look forward to another round of great projects in 2024! UMATR is so pleased to partner with our great communities, and provide these **\$82,750!**



Read more about our grants on our website: www.umatrwildandscenic.org/grants

July 9th - Enosburg



July 11th - Enosburg



July 10th - Westfield



July 11th - Westfield



In July 2023, the entire state of Vermont experienced a seemingly endless stretch of rain resulting in intense flooding. On July 9th, the day before the major day of flooding, we hosted our Swiftwater Paddle Instruction below the Enosburg Dam, and the following day the water was so high there were no visible rocks below the raging flood waters (see pictures to the left for comparison). The beach that attendees entered the water in was no longer accessible. Other access points were affected too: like the wooden steps we installed in Westfield in 2018. Luckily, our steps are anchored, though they did end up pointing *uphill* in the 2nd

picture! As these high storm water events become more frequent, we are proud to offer Municipal Grant funding for our UMATR towns and municipalities to tackle projects that address stormwater. We know that towns have innumerable demands on limited resources to maintain infrastructure, and the 2023 flooding has again shown how important such projects are to protecting our rivers and our towns. Improved culvert and stone-lined ditches may not seem exciting - but they are effective, especially during these unexpected high water events. Each Municipal Grant project that is funded by UMATR aims to address the protection and enhancement of the water that flows through our UMATR region, with a specific emphasis on water quality. You can read more about previous Municipal Grants by visiting our website!

www.umatrwildandscenic.org/past-grant-projects

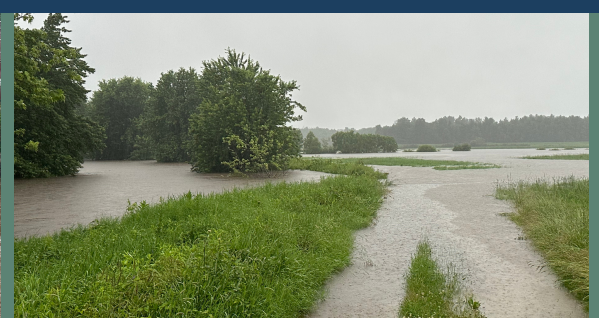
July 10th - North Troy



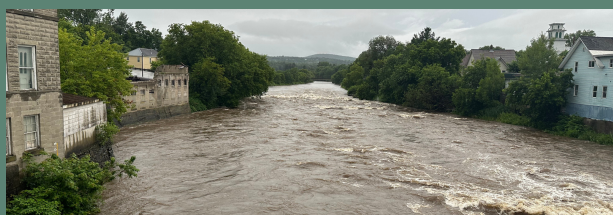
July 10th - Richford



July 10th - Westfield



July 10th - Richford



July 10th - Berkshire



2023 UMATR Newsletter – A Look Back At Our 2019 Sojourn

In 2019, to celebrate five years of Wild and Scenic designation, the UMATR Committee decided to host day-paddles of the entire 46.1 miles of our designated river. These seven days in June 2019 provided wonderful and memorable experiences for all those that were involved, and we want to thank our wonderful paddling crew for their expertise! During our journey, we were able to take moments to appreciate our beautiful rivers, paddling along sharing stories and learning from each other while enjoying the incredible scenery. In 2024, we will be celebrating reaching **10 years** of Wild and Scenic Designation, and plan to paddle it all again! UMATR is the only Wild and Scenic designated river in Vermont, and we hope this unique celebration can help us spread the word about why the upper Missisquoi and Trout rivers are so great. Enjoy these 'throwback' pictures from our 2019 journey, and we hope to see you out with us to celebrate in **June 2024**. Watch for more information on our 2024 Sojourn Day-Paddles as we finalize our plans, and check out the videos of our 2019 journey on our website.

June 6th



www.umatrwildandscenic.org/wild-and-scenic-sojourn

June 8th



June 9th

June 6th



June 7th



June 10th



June 6th



June 10th



June 8th



June 7th



June 6th



June 7th



We love providing programs on and along our rivers, and this is an annual priority for us. Check out what we are offering in 2024 below. Explore places you've never been to, or return to old favorites with us. We hope to see you out there! Find more information and register for upcoming events by visiting our website at umatrwildandscenic.org/events



Online Seminar Series



Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21, Apr 18

Join us for the third installment of our Seminar Series as we welcome guest presenters to open our monthly UMATR Committee Meetings. Join us via zoom at 6:30PM on Jan. 18th for River Dynamics, Feb. 15th for Living with Bears, March 21st for Native Tree Propagation, and April 18th for VT Moose & Wildlife Photography. Learn more on our website umatrwildandscenic.org/online-seminar-series

Snowshoe Along the River



Feb 3, Mar 9

On February 3rd, we will be guided by Franklin Co. Forester Nancy Patch, and on March 9th guided by Orleans Co. Forester Jared Nunery, walking along our rivers and learning about the woods around us. Locations are still TBD based on weather, but sign-up today to ensure your spot on this year's annual walks. Thank you to Nancy and Jared for sharing their expertise year after year!

Salamander Night Patrol



March/April

We are back for a third year in a row, helping our local amphibians cross the road during their migration! We plan to spend at least one night in Richford during March or April to count amphibians as they cross the road. This event is very weather-dependent, so join our amphibian watch-list to be notified, and learn more on our website at umatrwildandscenic.org/salamanders

Open House with Missisquoi River Basin Association



May 19

Our 2023 Open House was so great, we want to invite you to visit us again in May 2024! Join both UMATR and the MRBA for a guided tour of our office space while mingling with staff and our volunteer UMATR Committee and MRBA Board members and enjoying coffee and baked goods.

Year 10 Sojourn Day-Paddles



June 6 - 12

To celebrate 10 years of Wild & Scenic, we will be paddling all 46.1 miles of UMATR waters over the course of seven days! Join us for day paddles, split among sections of our Wild and Scenic rivers. UMATR staff are busy planning this great journey, but stay tuned for registration on our website soon.

Missisquoi Paddle and Pedal with NFCT



July 13

After a flood-related hiatus, we are back with our partners at the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) for another Missisquoi Paddle and Pedal in 2024. Paddle six miles of the Missisquoi River from Richford to East Berkshire, and then bike back on the Rail Trail. Tickets will be available on the NFCT's website soon, with a link on our website, as well! We are stoked to return to this great event after an unexpected year off.





Paddle Instruction Day**



July 20

Back by popular demand: our annual Canoe Paddle Lessons! In 2024, we will be hosting an all-day, canoe-specific paddling instruction course; staff and guides will teach attendees basic canoe paddling skills on flatwater in the morning, and transition into swift-moving water in the afternoon. Join us for a day of getting out on the water and learn some new skills! Register on our website.

Guided Nature Paddle**



July 25

Guided by our knowledgeable Orleans County Forester, Jared Nunery, and UMATR staff, join us to explore a section of our upper Missisquoi waters while learning about the nature around us! Come spend an afternoon enjoying the river as it winds along riparian forests and farmlands.

Trout River Tubing



Aug

Explore the Trout River like never before - by river tube! UMATR will be partnering with Axiom Adventures to provide this unique experience of tubing along the Trout River, starting in Riverwalk Park in Montgomery. The date is still TBD based on water levels and August weekend availability. More details to come - but look out for registration on our website shortly!

Annual Paddle & Picnic**



Aug 18

Experience a section of the Missisquoi with the benefit of our knowledgeable UMATR Committee members to guide you and provide a picnic lunch! This free and family-friendly event is a great way to experience a new stretch of the river or enjoy good company while you explore it again. Location is TBD, dependent on water levels. Registration open on our website!

Swimming Hole Clean-Up



Sept 7

Join us for our annual 'thank you' clean-up as we visit local swimming holes to remove litter. We will meet at Riverwalk Park in Montgomery, and disperse to local swimming holes to clean-up any impacts from summer activities! Participants will receive a gift certificate to a local business.

2024 Wild and Scenic Film Festival



Oct

Join us again for our annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival (in partnership with SYRCL). We love getting the opportunity to explore the world by watching these films at the Clips and Reels theater at Jay Peak Resort, and enjoying great food and a wonderful raffle of locally donated goods. This event is a fundraiser for UMATR and tickets will go on sale Fall 2024.

**** These events have registration caps and do fill up quickly. Register ASAP or contact our Field Coordinator, Sarah at sarah@vtwsr.org for more information on an individual event. ****



WELCOME TO UMATR!

2023 was a big year of recruitment for UMATR! You may notice some familiar faces: we hired Sarah Lunn as an official UMATR staff member - our Field Coordinator, and brought on new UMATR Committee Representatives including Bryan Dickinson representing North Troy and Jenn Grace representing Westfield. We are ecstatic to welcome you all to UMATR, and looking forward to an exciting 2024 celebrating and continuing to protect our rivers!



Contact Us!

2839 VT Route 105
East Berkshire, VT 05447
802-933-3645
info@vtwsr.org

www.umatrwildandscenic.org



@umatrwildandscenic



Read more about our UMATR staff and Committee on our website!
www.umatrwildandscenic.org/our-committee



Our Committee is made up of 2 representatives from each of our municipalities; we are seeking additional UMATR reps from Berkshire, Enosburg, Enosburg Falls, Montgomery, North Troy, and Troy. Reach out to us if you're interested in learning more, and we hope you can join us during one of our UMATR Committee meetings!

Register for events on our website, and follow us on social media for up-to date info on what we are up to with our rivers. Thank you for all who have joined us during our events, volunteered with us, paddled the river with us, and have explored new recreation opportunities on our Rivers. We hope to see you this year!



*You Matter to
your local
rivers!*



Upper Missisquoi
and Trout Rivers
(UMATR) Wild &
Scenic Committee
2839 VT Route 105
East Berkshire, VT
05447