



Photo credit: Roguen Carlson

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee

IN THIS ISSUE:

50 years of Wild and Scenic Rivers!

Vermont's Wild & Scenic Rivers

2018 marked the 50 year anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Across the U.S., 12,754 miles of rivers are protected under this Act.

Here in Vermont, 46.1 miles of the Missisquoi and Trout rivers are protected. These river miles are overseen by our Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee, made up of representatives of each of the 8 municipalities that these reaches flow through, and representatives from our great partner organizations. To celebrate our rivers during this milestone anniversary, we held monthly events in our river communities.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

When President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act into law in 1968, he envisioned a future in which, *"our own children and grandchildren will come to know and come to love the great forests and the wild rivers that we have protected and left to them."* For the past 50 years the Act has helped to do just that, preserving the natural, cultural, and recreational values of free-flowing rivers across the country.

The Act prohibits federal support for dam construction or any other activity that would harm the water quality, resource values, or free-flowing nature of the river. However, the Act does not prohibit all development – agriculture, residential development, and recreation may still continue. The primary responsibility to protect these rivers then falls to us citizens, through voluntary stewardship in addition to local programs and organizations.

Under the Act, rivers are classified as Wild, Scenic, and/or Recreational. Our Missisquoi and Trout Rivers were designated as Recreational in 2014, meaning they are rivers which are

2018 Wild & Scenic Events photos

.....Page 2

River Community Grants Program

.....Page 3

Projects: Swimming Hole Signs & New River Access in Westfield

.....Page 4

National Wild & Scenic System

.....Page 4

Meet Our Committee

.....Page 5

Upcoming Events

.....Page 6

readily accessible by road or railroad, may be impacted by an impoundment, and may have development along the shoreline.

Currently less than 1% of all rivers in the US (just 12,754 miles) are protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. For context, at least 600,000 miles (17-20%) of American rivers have been modified by dams. We have a ways to go towards keeping our rivers healthy, but the 50th anniversary is a great chance to celebrate how far we have come.

Check out Page 2 to see photos of our 2018 events; we hope to see you at some of our 2019 events as we continue to celebrate our rivers!



2018 Wild & Scenic Events

We had a great time along our rivers all year long – check out the photos from some of our fun events! If you didn't make it out to join us in 2018, we'll hope to see you in 2019 – watch www.vtwsr.org/events to see what we've got planned!



River Community Grants Program

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee was pleased to offer the River Community Grants Program for a second year. Funding provided through the program goes to projects and activities in the communities our rivers flow through. This year we provided \$30,000 to ten projects, including:

Canoes and Kayaks purchased for Enosburg River Craft Project



Enosburg River Craft Project – funds were used to purchase canoes and kayaks that were made available to community members to get out and explore our Wild and Scenic rivers.

Bugworks – funds support educational programs for local schools, camps, and community groups that teach about aquatic insects – how they can indicate and are important to clean water.

Missisquoi Paddle and Pedal and Richford River Fest – supported and expanded this annual celebration of community and recreation along the Missisquoi River and the adjacent rail trail.

What the Summer on the River Participants had to say...

"I was in front so I had to spot rocks in the water ahead. We hit a few rocks and got stuck, but we didn't flip!"

"The rapids were the best part of the entire canoe/kayak trip!"

"After everyone had ate, everyone learned a few things. 1) We first learned the absolute needs of a survival pack and what to do and not to do in the forest. 2) We learned how to make a splint for an arm or leg."

"It was pretty tiring at first, but then it started to get really fun after lunch when Helen fell out of the canoe"

"The view at the Enosburg Dam was beautiful"

"So today we had a lot of rapids and that was so much fun. I'm really upset that this is our last night all together."



Photo credit: Keith Sampietro



Photo credit: Keith Sampietro

Photos of students on the River Explorer Program

The River Explorer Program – student explorers spent a week on the Missisquoi River, learning about the river and honing their canoeing and camping skills.

Encore West Teen Week on the Missisquoi – teens and pre-teens from three Encore After School and Summer Program sites were invited on a canoe trip along the Missisquoi River; the goal of this trip was to encourage recreation and active, healthy lifestyles, and create a unique opportunity for children to develop meaningful connections with the river.

Mammal Tracking Project – game cameras were purchased and installed in woodlots around our Wild and Scenic rivers. The images of wildlife captured by these cameras will help answer questions about the health of our river corridors, as well as where improvements can be made.

Informational Kiosk – created collaboratively by student and community groups, this kiosk will contain information and rotating displays that will to encourage people to appreciate and explore the river.

Stream Scientists at the Richford Playground 2.0 – funds were used to engage area youths in nature-based activities that connect them to the Missisquoi River's ecology and cultural history.

RiverWalk Park/Caleb's Field Improvement Project – a VYCC crew installed a set of stone steps to improve a badly eroding bank down to the beach near the parking area and improved the trail system leading around the park and to the north beach.

River Beautification – funds were used to improve sites along the river in Richford, such as Davis Park. Native plants were planted at locations along the river, providing enhanced viewsapes.



Photo credit: Keith Sampietro

2018 Projects

Swimming Hole Signage

Our “Splash, Not Trash” signs remind folks to protect our river resources and to pick up any trash they encounter while enjoying them. If you have a location that would benefit from one of these signs, let us know – we’d be happy to install it!



New River Access in Westfield!

One of the goals of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee is to create more and easier ways for visitors and residents to enjoy our rivers. We are so pleased to have installed an improved trail and set of steps that lead into the Missisquoi River in Westfield.

Built by the Northern Forest Canoe Trail Stewardship Crew and with generous permission of the landowners, this new access can be reached off Lane Rd, which is just about half a mile down Loop Rd in Westfield.

A Bird's Eye View of Wild and Scenic Rivers

Vermont is joined by 39 other states plus the commonwealth of Puerto Rico in being home to a Federally Designated Wild and Scenic River. Of course other states, particularly in the Western US, have far more designated rivers—Oregon, for instance, has nearly 2% of all its river miles (1,916.7 miles) designated as Wild and Scenic. For comparison, Vermont has less than 1/7th of 1% (just 46.1 miles) of its rivers designated.

Many designated rivers run through the New England states around us, including the Lamprey and Wildcat Rivers in New Hampshire, the Allagash River in Maine, the Delaware River in New York, and many more. For the most part our New England Wild and Scenic rivers do not run through federally owned and managed land; they wind their way through private properties, past farms, under roads, and through communities. The multiple categories of Wild and Scenic River designation, including the Partnership model under which our Vermont rivers are designated, enable more river miles to be protected as part of this national system.

Even as we write, more rivers are currently being considered for Wild & Scenic designation. The communities along the York River in Maine voted on November 6, 2018 to pursue designation for 11 miles of that river as Wild & Scenic. Like our Vermont rivers, the York River has multiple Outstandly Remarkable Values including historic dams, mills, bridges, and archeological sites. The York watershed supports diverse and rare species and exemplary natural habitats. Now that the communities have voted for designation, the bill will head to congress for approval. Slowly but surely, more rivers are added to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System every year.



Meet Our Committee Members



Photo Credit: Ave Leslie

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee consists of town appointees and partners who will help guide the future of our designated Wild and Scenic rivers, and will make decisions about how federal funds should be allocated to best maintain and improve the rivers according to the Management Plan.

Two representatives are appointed from each town along our designated rivers. We are currently seeking representatives from [North Troy](#), [Richford](#), and [Enosburgh](#). Committee partners include representatives from other organizations and agencies, such as the National Park Service, the Northwest Regional planning Commission, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Missisquoi River Basin Association, and the town of Lowell. - If you are a resident of [North Troy](#), [Richford](#), or [Enosburgh](#), or a member of a local organization and would like to join us, please reach out to learn more!



Misty McCartney
Vice Chair

Misty is a Vermont native, born and raised in Montgomery at the base of Jay Peak. She is currently a Vermont State employee and a student at Vermont Law School, where she is completing her Masters in Environmental Law with a Certificate in Climate Change Law. Misty has been an elected official and volunteer in her community for almost ten years, coordinating annual Green Up Days and River Clean Ups. She also serves as a Justice of the Peace and on the Montgomery Conservation Commission. Misty loves to travel, ballroom dance, and bakes and caters professionally for select clients. Misty was lucky enough to have grown up enjoying the remarkable values of the Trout river and still does!

*Jenevra's podcast is called **CowTalk** – to listen, simply search for it at [soundcloud.com](#). (Jenevra created episode 2)*



Jenevra Wetmore
Assistant Coordinator

Jenevra is serving with the Wild & Scenic Committee as Assistant Coordinator. The position will last a year as part of ECO AmeriCorps, a service corps created by the Department of Environmental Conservation in Vermont. She will help to recruit new volunteers, maintain a social media presence, assist with event planning, and conduct outreach.

Growing up on a small family farm in central Vermont, Jenevra has always been interested in nature. She pursued this interest at Middlebury College, where she majored in Environmental Studies. Her senior project culminated in a series of podcasts about dairy farming in Vermont, prepared for the Agency of Agriculture. She also studied abroad in Australia, where she visited a protest camp against fracking and lived in rural communes.

After graduating from Middlebury College in 2017, Jenevra worked briefly at a book publisher before leaving to spend five months in New Zealand. She travelled both islands in a camper, working on sheep and horse farms and hiking. She came back this summer, ready to return to her Vermont roots and hopefully give back to the community that raised her.

Jenevra splits her time between Shelburne, where she lives with her sister, brother-in-law, and 8-year-old niece, and her frequent trips up north to East Berkshire.



Photo credit: Roguen Carlson

We've been commissioning some amazing overhead drone photos, like the ones here from Three Holes swimming area and Big Falls! Think you have some amazing pictures of our Wild & Scenic Trout and Missisquoi Rivers? Send them to info@vtwsr.org.



Photo credit: Roguen Carlson

Upcoming Events

Join us for these fun events – and visit our events page at www.vtwsr.org/events for even more!

March 16, 2019, 1-3pm Guided Snowshoe Tour

Led by Orleans County Forester Jared Nunery, join us at Couture's Maple Shop in Westfield to enjoy a tour of both the woods and the sugarhouse!

June 30, 2019 Paddle and Picnic

Come enjoy a family-friendly paddle on the Missisquoi River. A picnic lunch will be provided and boats can be available if needed. Registration required.

***Also keep an eye out for our second annual [Wild and Scenic Film Festival](#) - coming this November/December!**

August 18, 2019, 11-2pm Wild and Scenic Gathering at Big Falls

Join us for our annual Gathering at the beautiful Big Falls. Food, fun, guided nature walks, activities, music, a great swimming holes and all the glory of Big Falls await you!

September 7, 2019 Montgomery River Clean-Up

Help clean up the swimming holes and rivers that we've enjoyed all summer; followed by a celebration with pizza and ice cream for all participants!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

2839 VT Route 105
East Berkshire, VT 05447

Call us: 802-393-0076

Email us: info@vtwsr.org

Check us out online: www.vtwsr.org

Follow us on Facebook, and on Instagram at [vtwildandscenic!](#)



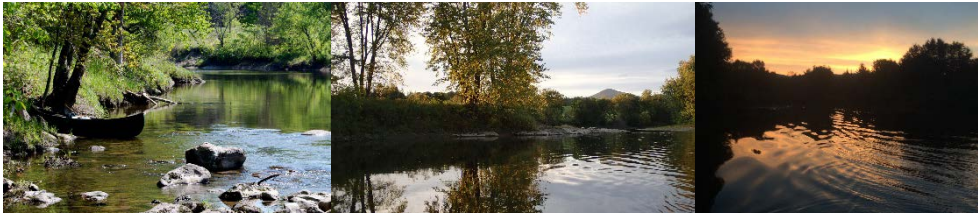
2018 In Review

13 events held in our communities, reaching **385** residents and visitors!

1.5 cubic yards of debris removed from the Trout River by **35** volunteers!

\$73k federal dollars spent in our region, thanks to Wild and Scenic designation.

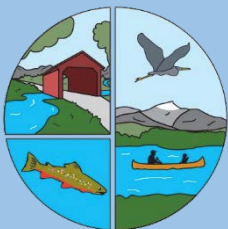
River Community Grants and projects in our communities comprised **44%** of that amount



Missisquoi River views. Photo credits: Ken Secor, Lindsey Wight

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee

2839 VT Route 105
East Berkshire, VT 05447



Visit vtwsr.org to stay up to date by joining our events mailing list!

