

*Thank you for exploring the third newsletter from the first Wild and Scenic Rivers Study in Vermont!*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

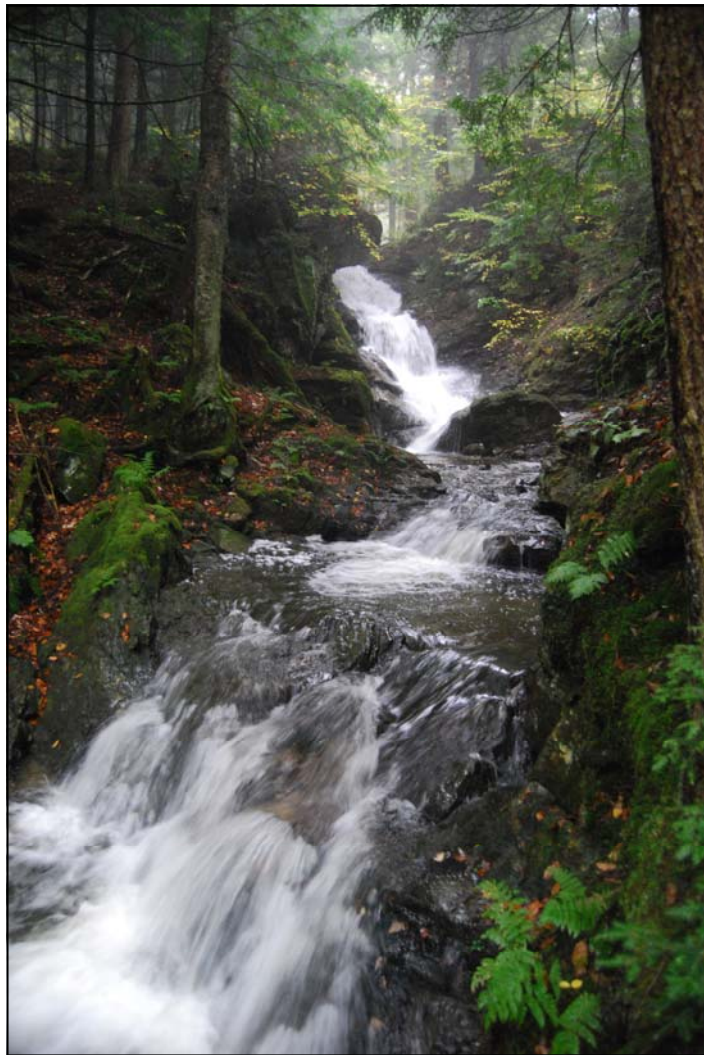
- June is Wild & Scenic Month—see the calendar on back page for a listing of events!
- VTWSR-led Paddling trips: **June 2nd and 30th**
- Our meetings rotate through the ten towns in the study area (Berkshire, Town of Enosburgh, Village of Enosburg Falls, Jay, Lowell, Montgomery, Village of North Troy, Richford, Westfield, & the Town of Troy ) on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm. Please see our website for details.

### UPPER MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE COMPLETED IN 2012

One of the Study Committee's responsibilities in studying the feasibility of Federal Wild & Scenic designation is the creation of a management plan for the study rivers. The management plan will provide relevant background information on the designation process, describe key resources of the rivers (called *Outstandingly Remarkable Values*, or ORVs) that help make the rivers eligible for Wild & Scenic designation, and outline priorities for management of the river and its resources. The basic structure of the management plan was discussed and agreed upon by the Study Committee at the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting in Richford, VT.

The ORVs for the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers are separated into four categories: natural resources including water quality; historical and cultural features; scenic; and recreational resources. The primary goal of the management plan is to develop voluntary strategies that may help to preserve and enhance these ORVs for the benefit and enjoyment of the communities in the study area. This is accomplished through the identification of gaps in existing legal protections, and education and outreach about the resources of the Missisquoi and Trout rivers. Management goals set forth in the plan will be focused on closing gaps in protection. For example, a common issue regarding recreation on the rivers has to do with safe access points.

*Continued on Page 2*



*Tributary to the Trout River*

2011 Wild and Scenic photo contest winner, Natural Resources Category. Photo taken by Ken Secor

See page 2 for our other winners and information on how you can enter our 2012 photo contest.

### NEWSLETTER DETAILS

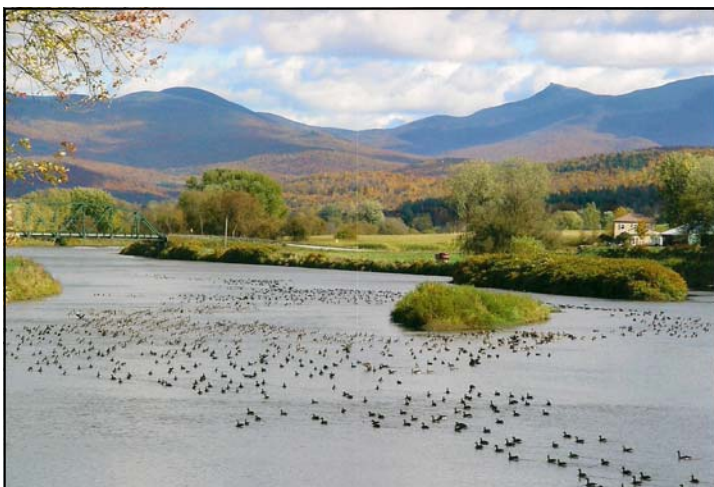
This newsletter provides updates on the 3-year Wild & Scenic Study scheduled to end in 2013. Please contact Shana Stewart Deeds if you wish to be added or removed from our mailing list, or if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically. Past newsletters and more information are available on our website: [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org).

## UPPER MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS WILD AND SCENIC PHOTO CONTEST

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Study is sponsoring our third annual photo contest! The contest is open from now until December 30, 2012. Winners of our photo contests will be featured on our website and newsletter, entered into the running for the best photo of 2012, and receive a gift from a local business.

Each photo submitted must be accompanied by its own completed entry form which can be downloaded from our website: [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org). Please submit both a hard copy and email a digital version of your photo.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2011  
Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Photo Contest!



***Missisquoi River from the Rail Trail in Enosburgh, VT***

2011 Photo Contest winner, Scenic Category—photo taken by Ann Hull.

**See Our Other Photo Contest Winners:**  
*Natural Resources Category Winner—Page 1*  
*Historical/ Cultural Category—Page 3*  
*Overall Winner—Page 4*



***Fishing with Dad on the Trout River***

2011 Photo Contest winner, Recreational Category category—photo taken by Brenda Elwood.

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## UPPER MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE COMPLETED IN 2012, CONT.

A potential goal of the management plan may be to seek strategies to create and manage public areas for recreational river access. The plan will also highlight management tools for river protection, which include conservation programs, current town zoning, and federal protections already in place which provide support for towns and local groups working toward resource management.

The management plan for the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Study will be completed in late 2012/early 2013. The draft plan will be available for public review and comment on our website, or by contacting our Coordinator. The draft outline of the document is currently available for review on our website; feel free to contact us about the plan structure or content.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON OUR TOWNS: THE COVERED BRIDGES OF MONTGOMERY, VT**

**BY: SCOTT PERRY**

As part of a Wild and Scenic River Study, a determination must be made whether the rivers have any ORVs (outstandingly remarkable values). The Study Committee has determined that the covered bridges in the study area, particularly those in Montgomery, are one of the Historical/Cultural ORVs in the Wild and Scenic Study Area.

Covered bridges are a sought-after attraction for people interested in cultural heritage and relics of earlier times. Early settlers in the study area were fortunate to have ample forest and farm land, as well as plentiful running water to power mills and transport forest products. The waterways created a challenge for overland travel and transport of goods; a growing economy and an abundance of rivers and streams in the area created the need for many bridges. The bridges were built with roofs to shield them from the elements – rain, ice, and lots of snow.



***Longley Bridge—Trout River***

2011 Photo Contest winner, Historical/Cultural category—photo taken by Ken Secor.

Twelve bridges were built in the town of Montgomery alone, all by the same builders – the Jewett brothers. Six of these bridges are still in use today and one (Hectorville Bridge, from Gibou Rd.) is currently in off-site storage awaiting repair. The seven Montgomery bridges, as well as one in Troy and one in Enosburgh, are popular destinations for sightseers and bring many tourists to the area. These bridges add to the unique local character and quaint New England charm of the study towns.

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### **ABRIDGED 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**(PLEASE SEE THE RESOURCES SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE FOR A MORE COMPLETE LIST)**

- The Study Committee developed a updated draft work plan & study timeline in January and July 2011.
- There were monthly Study Committee meetings in the ten towns/villages in the study area.
- During the monthly meetings, the Study Committee engaged in review of the geology, fishery, wildlife, water quality, agriculture, historical and cultural resources of the study area with presentations from knowledgeable persons in these fields.
- ORVs continue to be identified and researched by Shana and the Study Committee. The Committee is working with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) to get them mapped.

Project Outreach Activities in 2011 included:

- The Outreach Committee developed a flyer for the Town Meetings which went into town reports and were taken to the town meetings.
- Our second newsletter was published and distributed.
- The Study Committee also:
  - Maintained the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee website.
  - Developed blogs for outreach for general inquiries and ORV research.
  - Hosted two group river paddles.
  - Held informational booths at several summer festivals and farmer's markets.

Upcoming Priorities for 2012:

- Continue community outreach, including presentations and articles in local newspapers.
- Have Study Committee meetings on topics such as dams & hydropower, transportation infrastructure, designation boundaries, public access points, etc.
- Complete ORV mapping.
- Complete draft management plan.

## WHAT THE MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS MEAN TO ME

A river is truly the soul of a region! It dictates where towns exist. Every town in our watershed came into being around a source of water power. The larger the source of power, the larger the town became. Let me try to make a list of all the towns along the Missisquoi, and you'll see what I mean: Lowell, Westfield, North Troy, Mansonville, Richford, Enosburg Falls, Sheldon, Highgate and Swanton. Once towns are created, transportation between them becomes important. Historically, the rivers and railroads provided the main transportation routes. Now black top roads provide for a far more mobile society, and the rivers have been forgotten.

As I drive, walk, peddle and paddle through our region – two countries and two counties – I can't help but see the signs of the past and visit the structures of the present. Mills still cling to the Missisquoi. Some are decrepit and nearly vanished. Others provide manufacturing jobs like the Sheldon Pulp Mill. Dams still dot the river scape. Some are defunct, broken or nearly swept away by previous floods. Others provide electricity like the ones in Lowell, Troy, Enosburg Falls and Highgate. The rails have given way in the past 25 years to rail trails. Today, many rivers have lost their economic importance. People see them more as a nuisance when they flood and otherwise pay little attention to them.

This lack of attention has even led to a bit of a renaissance. The Missisquoi, which was used for industrial and municipal waste removal for a couple hundred years, has been slowly cleaning itself out. The Clean Water Act of 1972 put an end to piping waste straight to the river, and since then we've seen the advent of sewage treatment plants and septic systems. Wildlife has begun to make a return as well. Geese and turkeys have done so well that new hunting seasons have been introduced. Ospreys are seen every spring and fall, and occasionally the bald eagle is spotted. People still catch nice fish in the river; some stocked, and some native, like brook trout. Hot summer days always find many folks going to their favorite swimming holes to cool off. Our region is blessed with an abundance of natural water and topography that facilitates many uses.

For me, this river is the epitome of our region. I travel along its roads and paths for work and play. Most importantly; however, I go to the river in the warm seasons for mental resuscitation. After a work week, or a marking period, or a school year, I need a little quiet from the turmoil of working in a school. Don't get me wrong, I love my job, and love the students I work with. But the energy drain required of teachers demands replenishment. I find that resuscitation while sitting in a canoe, floating the flat stretches or concentrating intensely on the rapids. I can slide around a bend, and watch a white tail grazing 'til I'm spotted. Less frequently I see bear, otter, mink, muskrat and beaver. These animals are not the inhabitants of an urban landscape. They are a sign of the varied and beautiful Vermont working landscape: a mix of farms, forests and homesteads. Seeing the wild residents of the region remind me of why I chose to live here. The Missisquoi River and its hundreds or thousands of miles of tributary streams provide for recreation, wildlife habitat, power, and stunning scenery.

It is only when we get away from our jobs, and take a little extra time that we can begin to appreciate what the tourists come here for. I feel blessed that I am able to work, raise a family and recreate here. The Missisquoi is one of my favorite relaxing spots in this region.

Sincerely,  
John Little



**John Little on the Missisquoi River**

This photo is the 2011 Overall Winner of the Wild & Scenic Photo Contest, taken by Ken Secor.

## CURRENT TOWN APPOINTEES

The Wild and Scenic Study Committee is made up of two official members from each of the ten towns in the study area. These official members are appointed by the towns. The following is the current roster of appointed members from each of the ten towns:

### Berkshire

1. Todd Kinney
2. \_\_vacant\_\_

### Montgomery

1. Todd Lantery
2. Keith Sampietro

### Town of Enosburgh

1. Edward G. Ellis
2. Ken Secor

### Village of North Troy

1. Jim Starr
2. \_\_vacant\_\_

### Village of Enosburg Falls

1. Mike Manahan
2. \_\_vacant\_\_

### Richford's Conservation Commission

1. Hib Doe
2. Annette Goyne
3. George Olio

### Jay

1. \_\_vacant\_\_
2. \_\_vacant\_\_

### Westfield

1. Jacques Couture
2. Dianne Laplante

### Lowell

1. Mark Higley
2. Jeff Parsons

### Town of Troy

1. Helene Croteau
2. Robert Langlands

Other agencies and organizations represented include: Missisquoi River Basin Association, National Park Service: Jamie Fosburgh; Jim MacCartney, Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC): Catherine Dimitruk; Bethany Remmers, VT Agency of Agriculture: Sylvia Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) - Cathy Kashanski and Staci Pomeroy, VT Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, VT Traditions Coalition: Robert Qua. Study Committee members make every effort to attend monthly Study Committee meetings, and to assist in the Wild and Scenic Study process whenever possible. **If you live in a town with a vacancy and wish to be appointed to the Wild and Scenic Study Committee, please contact your Select Board or our coordinator.** For more information please contact: Shana Stewart Deeds the Wild and Scenic Study Coordinator at 802-393-0076 or info[at]vtwsr.org Please also visit our website for updated information and meeting minutes at:

[www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org)

## MEET OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS



### Mark Higley — Lowell

Mark Higley is an official appointee to the Study Committee from Lowell. He was elected to Vermont State Legislature in 2008, representing Orleans-Franklin 1 District, including the towns of Lowell, Jay, Westfield, Troy and Montgomery. Mark has served as Lister for eighteen years in the Town of Lowell, and served two one-year terms on the Brattleboro Vermont Selectboard. Currently, Mark is a member of the Vermont Beef Producers Association and Vermont Sugar Makers Association. He has been a self-employed general contractor for 34 years. Mark enjoys his small hobby farm, hunting and fishing, as well as canoeing with his wife and family.

### Jim Starr — North Troy

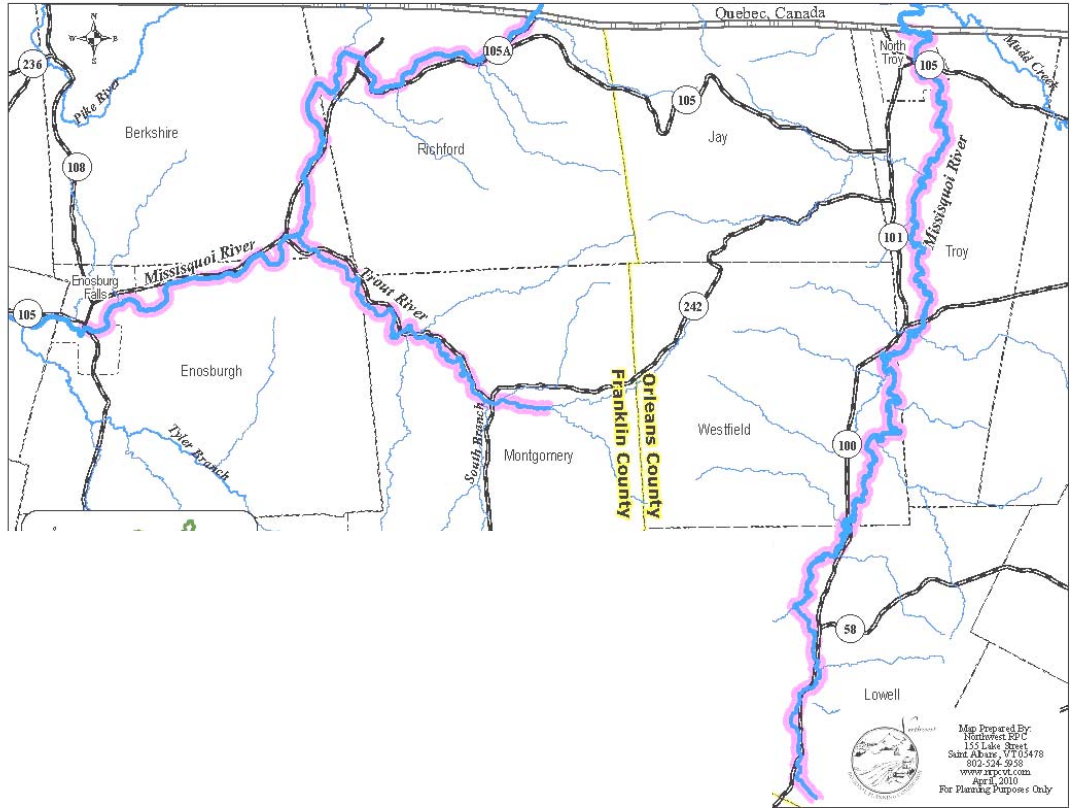
Jim Starr grew up on a farm that neighbors the Missisquoi River. He and his siblings walked to the river daily to "get the cows" for milking. Jim's family owns and stewards land along the Missisquoi River in Troy. He feels there is not enough time in the day to do fun, relaxing things at the magnificent Missisquoi. He serves his community as vice-principal of Enosburg Falls High School and as a North Troy Village Trustee. Jim also owns Four Corners Mini-Mart and holds several other community volunteer positions. Interest in the Missisquoi River draws folks from all walks of life; this is proven by the commitment of the Wild and Scenic Study Committee members at each meeting, and from all the towns involved in this study. Jim appreciates the different perspectives of each Committee member.





## Upper Missisquoi & Trout Rivers Study

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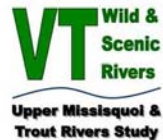
### Upper Missisquoi & Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Study

## Wild & Scenic Month: June 2012

Please see our website or contact our Coordinator for complete details

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 17th— Bugworks with Sara Caldwell's class in Montgomery	July—Orleans Let's Go Fishing	Possibly - Orleans VINS presentation at Lowell Graded			1	2 Paddle (cleanup w/ MRBA) 9-3; Montgomery Grange VINS Raptor event 1pm
3 Clean up rain date	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Wildflower/ Edibles walk in Richford (w/ Richford & Montgomery Cons. Commissions) 1-3 pm; Goync's Property
17	18	19 Tentative: Staci sets up the flume to demo. river dynamics— Montgomery pavilion	20	21 W&S Committee Meeting Jay Community Center—7pm	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Orleans County Paddle with Montgomery Adventures

For more information, contact  
**Shana Stewart Deeds**  
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