



NEWSLETTER FOR THE UPPER MISSISQUOI & TROUT RIVERS WILD AND SCENIC STUDY

Upper Missisquoi & Trout Rivers Study

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Out next Study Committee meetings are June 16th in Montgomery at the Emergency Services Building, July 21st in Westfield, and August 18th in Franklin County. Study Committee meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm.
- The Wild and Scenic Study Committee will be hosting a paddle on the upper Missisquoi River on June 4th. Check out our website for future canoe trips and other events.
- Please check out our website or contact our coordinator, Shana Stewart Deeds, for more information on our Study, upcoming events, or if you would like a representative to speak to your organization about the Wild and Scenic Study.

Issue #2 Spring/Summer 2011

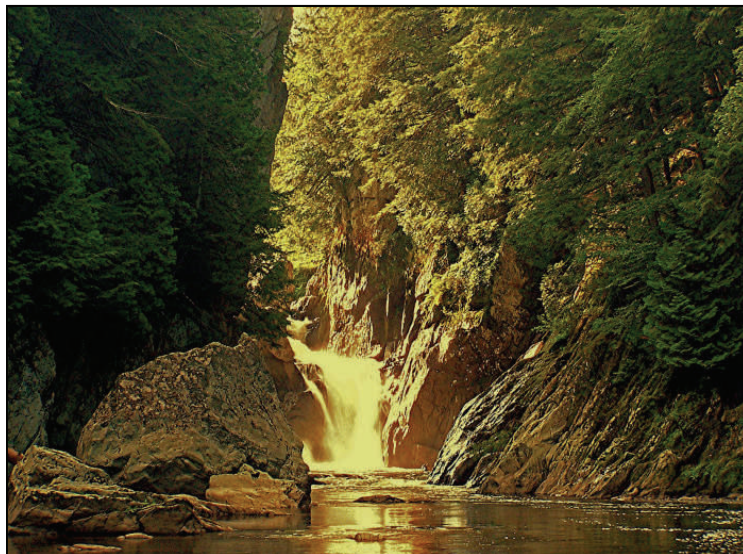
WHAT IS THE WILD AND SCENIC STUDY COMMITTEE?

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Study Committee is formed of local appointees and partner organizations to evaluate Wild and Scenic Designation along the upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers.

The group's mission is to facilitate the transfer of information between the ten communities the rivers run through, Berkshire, Town of Enosburgh, Village of Enosburg Falls, Jay, Lowell, Montgomery, Village of North Troy, Richford, Westfield, and the Town of Troy, and evaluate the potential benefits of the Wild & Scenic designation. At the end of the study in 2012, we will provide an accurate assessment as to whether the rivers fit designation criteria and whether designation is supported, and make recommendations of voluntary strategies for protection of the rivers' resources. Study Committee meetings are open to the public and driven by consensus.

NEWSLETTER DETAILS

This newsletter will be published during the approximately 3-year Wild & Scenic Study scheduled to end in 2012. If you are receiving this newsletter you likely live or work within the study area, you are on our mailing list, or you belong to a local watershed or conservation organization. Your contact information will not be sold or shared by our organization, and will not be used for any purpose other than Wild & Scenic education and outreach. Please contact Shana Stewart Deeds if you wish to be added or removed from our mailing list, or if you can help us save money and resources by receiving this newsletter electronically! Newsletter archives, meeting minutes, designation FAQs, and more are available on our website.



Sunrise at Big Falls, Missisquoi River. Photo by John Selmer - our 2010 Wild and Scenic photo contest grand prize winner. See page 2 for information on how you can enter our 2011 photo contest.

HELP US IDENTIFY OUTSTANDING RIVER RESOURCES

Identifying Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):
As part of a Wild and Scenic River Study, a determination must be made whether the river area contains any outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs).

The process of determining whether a river contains any ORVs often begins with an effort to gather information about river-specific resources that may be unique, rare or exemplary when compared to similar resources at a regional or national scale. For the upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers this will be done by the Wild and Scenic River Study Committee with the help of area specialists.

Many different kinds of resources can be ORVs. They include things like wildlife and their habitat, fisheries, scenery, swimming holes, geologic features, and historical, archaeological and recreational sites. Please contact us if you have ideas for ORVs, and take a few minutes to complete our survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TVLFWFR>

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF WILD & SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION FOR THE MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS? (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Wild & Scenic River Designation is granted by Congress under the 1968 Wild & Scenic Rivers Act and its amendments. The Partnership Wild & Scenic River model used in New England was designed for rivers primarily in private ownership. This model empowers communities to better manage, protect and enhance the special values of their rivers. There are three essential aspects to implementing Wild & Scenic Designation; this article discusses these designation effects.

The Management Committee - If the Wild & Scenic Study Committee believes that the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers fit the criteria for designated rivers, and that designation is desirable they will bring the question of designation to vote at Town Meeting. If voters support designation, the motion will be brought to Congress. If Wild & Scenic Designation occurs, then there would be a Wild & Scenic Management Committee, established similar to the current Study Committee, to oversee the designation and the federal funds made available to designated rivers. The establishment and support of a local Management Committee to oversee designation, made up of members appointed by the ten towns, is key to making Wild & Scenic Designation work. The Management Committee works across the ten towns, with landowners and various partners to implement the recommendations of a Management Plan written by the Study Committee. The Management Plan will lay out a vision for protecting the special values of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers valued by the community (please see page 1 for information about how you may help us identify these values). It will detail the natural and cultural resources, and describe their current condition, threats, opportunities, and, recommendations for management. The Plan will be extensively reviewed by local boards, and then brought to Town Meeting to be sure it reflects community goals and values.

Federal Support - To be sure that the Management Plan does not sit on a shelf and to support the Management Committee, designated rivers typically receive regular federal financial appropriations. In 2010, the twelve Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers each received approximately \$170,000 to help the Management Committee function, provide salary for staff, and provide

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Photo Contest

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Study is sponsoring a photo contest! Our second photo contest is open from now until December 30, 2011. Winners of our photo contests will be featured on our website and newsletter, and entered into the running for the best photo of 2011-2012, and receive a gift from a local business. This year Nicole Lantery has generously donated a 1 hour massage from her business *Better Living Massage*, Montgomery, VT. Each photo submitted must be accompanied by its own completed entry form which can be downloaded from our website www.vtwsr.org Please submit both a hard copy and email a digital version of your photo. Digital copy may be emailed to info@vtwsr.org You may also request an entry form by mail.

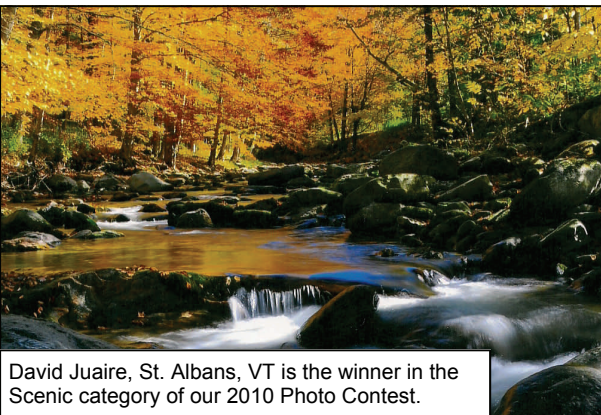
John Selmer, Westfield, VT is the winner in the Historical/Cultural category of our 2010 Photo Contest.



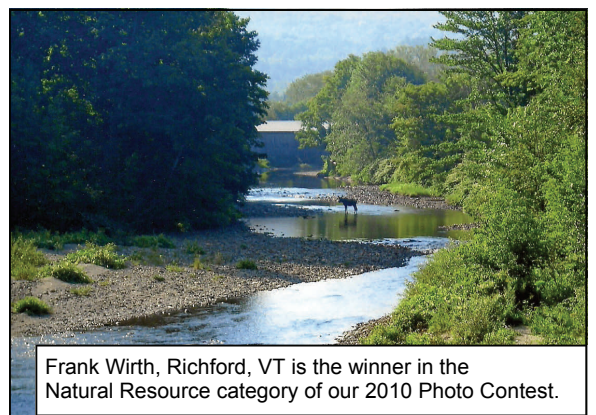
David Juaire, St. Albans, VT is the winner in the Recreational category of our 2010 Photo Contest.



Congratulations to the 2010 winners of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Photo Contest!



David Juaire, St. Albans, VT is the winner in the Scenic category of our 2010 Photo Contest.



Frank Wirth, Richford, VT is the winner in the Natural Resource category of our 2010 Photo Contest.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR TOWNS: BERKSHIRE, VT

The town of Berkshire was chartered on 22 June 1781. It was most likely named after Berkshire County, Massachusetts (many of the grantees lived there), which in turn was most likely named after Berkshire, England. The Missisquoi River provided major use and historical significance for the area now known as the town of Berkshire by Native Americans primarily as a mode of transportation during their hunting trips. Traditionally, the river's power has been harvested elsewhere. Even during the 1927 flood, the damage done in Berkshire was minor compared to its neighboring towns of Richford and Enosburg.

Historical photo of East Berkshire, VT provided by the John Weld and the Berkshire Historical Society

What the Missisquoi River currently provides as it meanders through the east and south-east portion of the town, virtually splitting the small village of East Berkshire in two, is its scenic beauty. When one walks the rail trail north towards Richford, he or she would cross the river on the same bridge once used by the trains when the railroad was in use. Otters have sometimes been seen at play in the water flowing below.

The Berkshire Historical Society Building (the former First Congregational Church) is located on Montgomery Road in East Berkshire, not far from the river. The sanctuary remains intact and has been recently used for weddings, while the downstairs is used as a museum to house and display our artifacts and the Wall of Honor (not up yet, but hopefully soon) for all of Berkshire's men and women who have served in the past or are currently serving in our nation's military. Books are also available on the history of Berkshire, and can be purchased through the Berkshire Historical Society or at the Berkshire Town Clerks Office. Our meetings are the third Thursday of each month, and we are open summers by appointment.

By: John Weld, President, Berkshire Historical Society

ABRIDGED 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Organization and Administration

- Elected a slate of officers in March 2010.
- Approved decision-making procedures in March 2010.
- Adopted a Mission Statement in July 2010.
- Conduct monthly Study Committee meetings in the 10 towns in the study area.

Resource Review

- *Geography* – Presentation by Stacy Pomeroy of VT Department of Environmental Conservation showing aerial photos of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers.
- *Recreation* – Presentation by Walter Opurzynski on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail which includes Missisquoi River sections (05-13-10), and Bernie Pientka (Fish and Wildlife) on stocked fisheries in the rivers (11-18-10).
- *Natural Resources - Wildlife* – Presentation by Corrie Miller and Bob Hawk on wildlife habitat connectivity and the Staying Connected Project (07-15-10), and Rich Langdon (ANR) on natural fisheries (11-18-10). *Water* – Stacy Pomeroy from the VT ANR set up the flume river model to demonstrate river dynamics at our 10-21-10 meeting; Dori Barton, from Arrowwood Environmental, presented 10-21-10 the preliminary findings from their geomorphic assessment conducted on the Missisquoi this summer.
- *Agriculture* – Presentation by Laura DiPietro, VT Department of Agriculture on farm operations, Accepted Agricultural Practices Regulations, and Best Management Practices (08-19-10).
- *Cultural/Historical* – Presentation 09-16-10 by Bobby Farlice-Rubio on Native American occupation of the Missisquoi and Trout River valleys, & Janice Geraw, Enosburg Historical Society, gave a brief presentation (4-15).

Meetings and Events

- Hosted a paddle on the Missisquoi River from Richford to East Berkshire on June 26, 2010.
- Advertised and participated in MRBA's June 19, 2010 Missisquoi River cleanup.
- Participated at the Missisquoi River Basin Association's Riverfest on August 28, 2010.
- Hosted a paddle on the Missisquoi River from East Berkshire to Enosburg Falls on September 18, 2010.



**SPOTLIGHT
ON
LOCAL
ORGANIZATIONS:**

NORTHERN FOREST CANOE TRAIL

Mission: The Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) is a 740 mile inland paddling trail tracing historic travel routes across New York, Vermont,

Quebec, New Hampshire, and Maine. NFCT connects people to the Trail's natural environment, human heritage, and contemporary communities by stewarding, promoting, and providing access to canoe and kayak experiences along this route.

For 65 miles the Missisquoi River is a part of the NFCT travel corridor. Those hearty souls who Through Paddle the NFCT will enter the Missisquoi River at the Bird's Foot Delta of the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge passing VT's largest blue heron rookery. They will then work their way upstream through verdant farmland and a break in the Green Mountains before crossing into Canada. The journey diverges with the confluence of the North Branch of the Missisquoi. The majority of paddlers undertake shorter expeditions, enjoying the Missisquoi in a downstream direction and savoring its wide and smooth flow. The Missisquoi is like no other stretch of the NFCT being predominantly farmland. The communities the Trail passes through add to the unique feel. As an organization we have found great support from these communities, and there is an obvious desire to respect these waters for their natural beauty, history, and ecological importance. The NFCT is honored to join these communities to be a part of this river's history. Our paddlers rely on the opportunity to follow the historic travel corridors used by generations of inhabitants from the Abenaki to early settlers to present-day paddlers. The Missisquoi lies in the heartland of our Trail and without it we would miss not only the unique connection of people and land, but also the significant international connection the Missisquoi provides. To learn more, visit their website at www.northernforecanoetrail.org

By: Walter Opuszynski

WHAT THE MISSISQUIOI AND TROUT RIVERS MEAN TO ME



Keith Sampietro paddling on the Missisquoi.

Keith Sampietro lives and works in Montgomery, VT. No matter where he has lived, spending time experiencing and appreciating the gift of our outdoor world has been his passion. Most of his life has been spent enjoying the outdoors where he finds the greatest serenity and peace. Keith wonders, what could be more beautiful than our wild brook trout or the sound of water rippling over rocks in our rivers and streams? From dogsledding and snowshoeing to kayaking and fishing, Keith loves being out enjoying and learning about the natural world. For the past 3 years, his livelihood has been tied to these activities as well. Keith, and his wife Lori, decided that they wanted to share their joy and reverence for our environment through providing guided outdoor adventures. "All life is tied together," Keith says. "I can't put enough emphasis on how important water is to us; it's the key to life on our planet." Rather than getting frustrated with the pollution and misuse of our waterways, Keith and Lori work to educate people on their importance by showing them their beauty through fun recreational activities. Keith has also been volunteering at local schools to bring dogsled programming and Vermont Fish and Wildlife's "Let's Go Fishing" program to students. This summer he will be working with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, and John Little's CCV Rivers and Streams class to provide educational opportunities about rivers to students. When asked about these community outreach activities, Keith notes that the more we educate people about our environment the more hope he has that we're trying to head in the right direction. If you wish to contact Keith and Lori Sampietro about their guided outdoor adventures dogsledding, canoeing, and more please visit their website at www.montgomeryadventures.com By: Shana Stewart Deeds

(p2 Continued) funds to undertake projects recommended in the Plan. A similar system has supported the Study Committee which currently receives funds through the National Park Service (NPS), and uses them to hire a Coordinator, research river resources, and conduct outreach.

Special Clout Regarding Federally Funded or Permitted Projects - The Wild & Scenic River Act protects against federally funded or permitted projects that could harm river values. Below is a summary of how these protections work.

No New Dams or Hydroelectric Facilities - The Act came at a time when the free-flowing condition of many rivers was threatened by dam construction. For this reason, no new dams or hydroelectric projects are permitted on Designated Wild & Scenic Rivers. Designation does not affect hydro projects already in operation. Dams could be kept and/or retrofitted for purposes other than hydro. The existing hydro facilities in Troy and Lowell already have exemptions, and would not be affected by designation. The NPS and the Study Committee also sent a letter requesting that the retrofitting of a project under license review in Troy not be slowed by the Wild & Scenic Study.

Review of Other Federally Funded or Permitted Projects Directly Related to the Rivers - Projects that are federally assisted, construction or development, water related, **and** have a direct relationship to the designated section of the rivers are reviewed under Section 7 of the Wild & Scenic Act by the NPS and the Management Committee to ensure that the special river values identified during the Study are protected. This is the only "regulatory" provision of the Act, and it only relates to federally assisted construction projects directly related to the river. At our January meeting we discussed some typical examples that trigger reviews. Army Corps of Engineer permits for bridges are the most commonly reviewed projects. Clean Water Act permits for municipal waste water treatment plants are another common example. While most examples will be routine, if the project demonstrates likely adverse impact on the rivers, Section 7 gives the NPS (in consultation with the local Management Committee) authority to insist upon project conditions/changes that will protect identified river values, or, in an extreme case, veto the project. Project vetoes have been extremely rare in New England; in almost all cases, projects proceed with adequate conditions in place to ensure that river values are protected. A project which was blocked was extreme; it required three years of 24 hour/day river dredging for access to a liquefied natural gas facility, and was along one of the largest anadromous fish runs left in MA. In practice, the local Management Committee and NPS form a strong team to ensure that any federal projects are consistent with the vision of the Management Plan, and desirable to the towns. There are also lessened protections for tributaries, and areas up and downstream of the designated area. They are in place to be sure that projects do not invade the designated area or have an unreasonably adverse impact on it (for example, preventing a **major** diversion of water from an important tributary).

General Protection and Federal Recognition - Designation provides general protections for the designated area by establishing an overarching federal policy to "protect and enhance" the river values detailed in the Management Plan. Such a Congressionally established policy tends to be recognized and respected by any federal agency undertaking a project. NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) now requires that federal agencies review and consider the environmental consequences of proposed actions. If a project is proposed in the designated area, has some federal funding, **and** has proximity to the rivers, then the Wild & Scenic Management Committee and NPS must be consulted. Wild & Scenic Designation does not change anything about the existing NEPA process, but it provides direct, local input in the process. The Committee may provide insight into any potential impacts of a project on outstanding values, and give suggestions for reducing these impacts.

Designation provides local input into projects proposed on designated rivers and funding to carry out desirable river-related projects. It also provides protections for the outstandingly remarkable resources we are currently identifying with the help of our local communities. To find out more about effects of designation, and for a more complete discussion of Section 7 Review, please see our January 2011 Study Committee Meeting minutes and supplement on our website at www.vtwsr.org By: Jamie Fosburgh, Jim MacCartney & Shana Stewart Deeds

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___

Town of Enosburgh

1. Edward G. Ellis
2. Ken Secor

Village of Enosburg Falls

1. Mike Manahan
2. ___vacant___

Jay

1. ___vacant___
2. ___vacant___

Lowell

1. Mark Higley
2. Jeff Parsons

Montgomery

1. Todd Lantery
2. Carol McGregor

Village of North Troy

1. Sue Brassett
2. Jim Starr

Richford's Conservation Commission

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

Westfield

1. Jacques Couture
2. Dianne Laplante

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) - Rick Hopkins (or Cathy Kashanski) and Staci Pomeroy, VT Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs: Bill Leipold, 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

MEET OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mike Manahan

Secretary

Mike Manahan is the secretary for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee. He grew up in Enosburg, and has fished local waterways for trout and bass since the age of 10. Retired since 2003, he volunteers with the Missisquoi River Basin Association and supports all of their water conservation efforts. Catching fish is fun, a great outdoor diversion; eating fish is one of the great pleasures in life. Waterways that sustain fish life are to be cherished. I believe the Missisquoi main stem and some tributaries, as well as the Trout River main stem are threatened today by pollution from agriculture operations, and municipal and private residence sewer discharges. Only those who know and care can initiate the needed actions to enable our waterways to serve all users and share their great bounties to the maximum extent. My goal for my remaining time is to continue fishing, to continue eating fish, and to help recruit others to help me and share with me this exhilarating experience which only gets better the more you get of it .



Mike Manahan



Dianne Laplante

Dianne Laplante

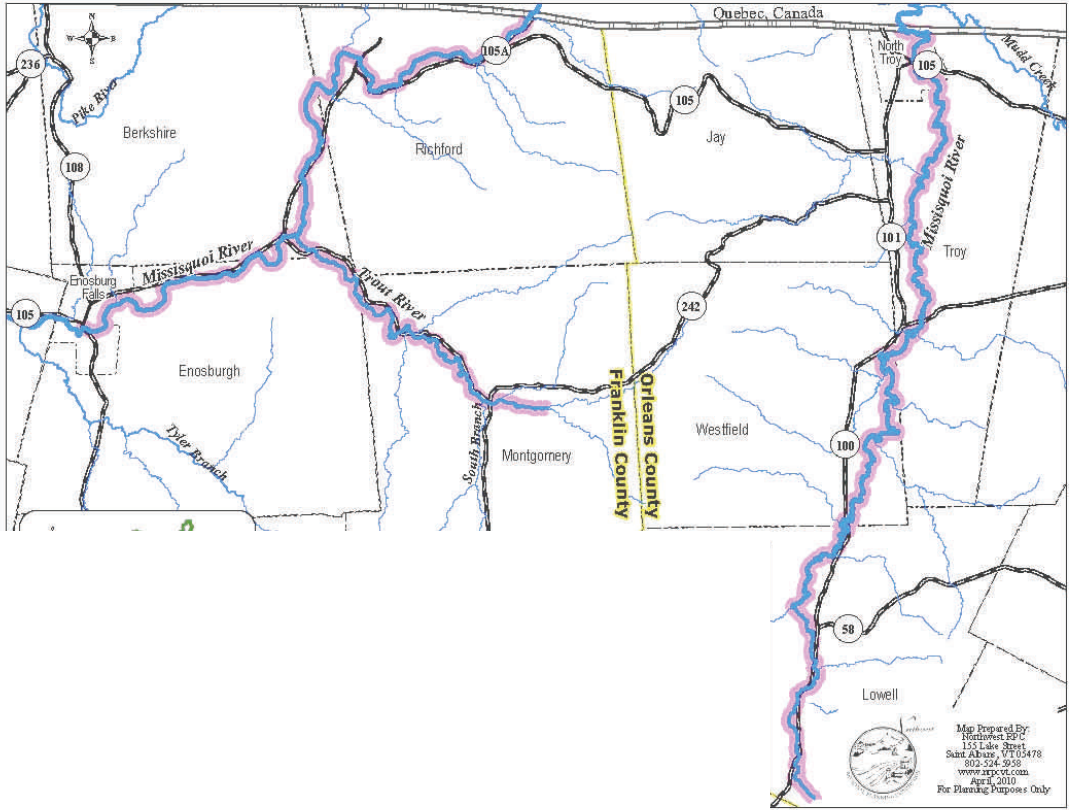
Treasurer

After moving back to Vermont 15+ years ago, Dianne has been a self employed Realtor and Rental Agent with Coldwell Banker All Seasons Realty. Dianne also teaches part time at the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport, VT. She has an Adirondack style home she is developing across from Taft Brook (a tributary of the Missisquoi River), in Westfield, VT. Dianne is an avid gardener, cook, bird watcher, and photographer. She is involved in the arts (a Memphremagog Arts Collaborative member), very interested in environmental issues (a member of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Study Committee), and participating in the Jay Westfield e-Vermont Community Broadband Project.

VT Wild & Scenic Rivers

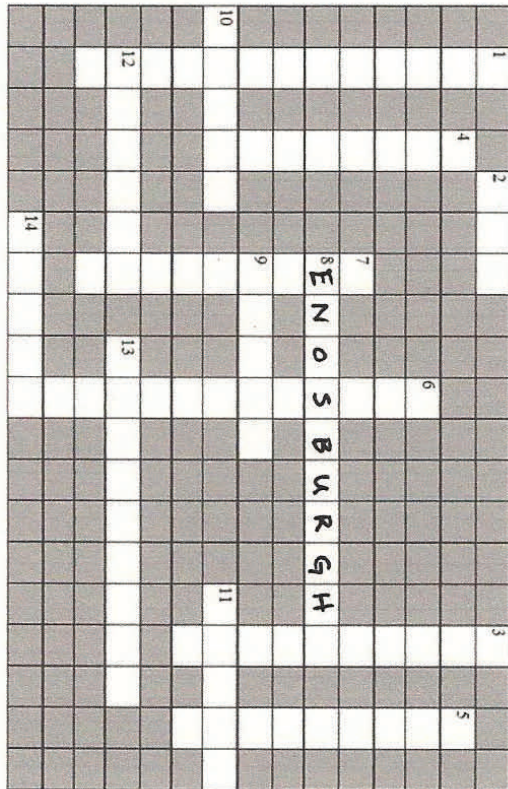
Upper Missisquoi & Trout Rivers Study

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Please enjoy this Wild and Scenic Crossword Puzzle!

Answers may be found on our website under RESOURCES
www.vtwsr.org



ACROSS

DOWN

- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act defines ORV's, _____ Remarkable Values, as the recreational, geological, historical, cultural, scenic or natural resource values that make our rivers worthy of designation. You can help our Study Committee identify these s
- This town has the highest named peak in our Wild and Scenic Study Area, the 16th highest named summit in Vermont!
- This "Covered Bridge Town" is known as the six standing Jewett Brothers bridges, the most of any town in the country!
- The largest undammed waterfalls on a major river in Vermont can be found in this State Natural Area in Troy.
- It is in this small northern village that the Missisquoi River leaves our borders and enters into Canada.
- This "Dairy Capitol of the World" is the home to the Vermont Dairy Festival.
- According to their town plan, "the rocky ledges of Hazen's Notch vast tracts of forest, and the Missisquoi River, as it meanders through the town, provide the physical setting for like in..." this town in our Wild and Scenic Study Area.
- The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Study is the _____ study of Vermont's Covered Bridge Capital due to its kind in Vermont.
- Vermont's only native stream-dwelling trout.
- The headwaters of the Missisquoi River are in this westernmost town in Orleans County.
- This major tributary to the Missisquoi River is listed in the 1992 Vermont Swinning Hole Study. The "Troy Four Corners" swimming hole is a very popular recreational area.
- This park in Richford is the location of their summer farmer's market, and a good place to meet for a paddle on the Missisquoi River.

WILD AND SCENIC STUDY
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