

# FWR 2010 Highlights



Rain Barrel Workshop



Calais Elementary Planting Trees

**Restoration & Protection:** With our partners, we planted riparian buffers of native trees & shrubs on five sites in four towns. One project included 350 feet of fascines to stabilize the banks.

Many culverts in Vermont present a significant barrier to fish passage causing fragmented habitat and isolated populations. The Friends partnered with US FWS, VT Fish & Wildlife and the Town of Plainfield to improve fish passage for native Brook trout and other aquatic species at three culverts on Great Brook.

We worked with Cabot School to install a rain garden to reduce storm water runoff.

The Friends continued to work with landowners to educate them and connect them with resources to improve streamside land practices.

We expanded our river clean up efforts to include part of the Stevens Branch as well as a section of the Lower Winooski.

**Monitoring and Assessment:** The Friends conducted storm water outfall monitoring and traced pollution sources in Waterbury and Richmond, working with Public Works Departments and local businesses to address issues.

The Friends coordinated the Headwaters volunteer water quality monitoring project for the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

We also coordinated community monitors on the Winooski, North and Stevens Branches for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

**Education and Outreach:** We co-sponsored two important workshops to help municipalities protect water quality and aquatic habitat. One workshop focused on Low Impact Development techniques that reduce storm water runoff. The other dealt with how road crews & Conservation Commissions can work together to reduce water quality impacts from town roads.

We held two build-your-own-rain barrel workshops in Barre. Rain barrels are a great way for urban residents to help reduce storm water runoff.

The Friends, with the Lake Champlain Basin Program & the Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District, wrote a guide to stream geomorphology.

Our multi-day paddling trip, the Winooski River Sojourn, was larger than ever and featured a floating naturalist.

**Organizational Capacity:** The Friends believe strongly in partnerships. In 2010, we continued to expand our partnership base.

With support from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the Friends launched a new website that is more interactive and easier to maintain with news and information from around the watershed.

## 2011 Projects & Goals

- Complete riparian restoration projects on the Stevens Branch, Kingsbury Branch, North Branch, Dog River, the upper Winooski and Allen Brook in Williston
- Conduct neighborhood storm water workshops in Essex, Barre and Montpelier
- Expand water quality monitoring in Central Washington County
- Work with the Granite Museum to control invasive species and improve the riparian zone
- Complete additional fish passage improvement projects
- Continue to work with landowners on specific practices to improve land stewardship
- Increase our presence and impact in the lower watershed
- Expand river clean ups to other areas of the watershed
- Expand our partnerships with municipalities including co-authoring of grants and project management
- Add a mapping component to the website
- Expand river access and paddling programs



Paddling through the Lime Kiln Gorge on the Sojourn

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