

Dear Friends,

The unusually rainy summer continues to affect our watershed and our work this summer.

We are planning for the **River of Light** (see below) to take place Wednesday August 30. Please note, though, that this is a fair-weather event only: we do not do this paddle in the rain. Right now, the chance of rain at 6pm is 50%, and as we've seen all summer, who knows what that might mean for tomorrow evening. **Check our social media** or send us an email tomorrow afternoon to find out whether it's still on. We'll make the call around 2 pm.

We are thinking that it's pretty **unlikely** that we'll be able to do the annual cleanup in Montpelier on September 9th. The river is running 2-3 feet higher than usual, and that makes it both unsafe and probably fruitless. We know this is going to be disappointing to everyone who was psyched to pull the flood debris out of there. We plan to make this call by the end of this week.

It is **likely** that we're going to organize a **cleanup in Plainfield on September 30**. We would encourage Montpelier cleanup folks to make the trip to Plainfield to pitch in. The river spread out across floodplains and lots of trash was left on the land and in the floodplain forests. This was good for those of us downstream, but Plainfield could use our help with the mess there. We have a small grant for organizing this and covering the cost of trash disposal, and are working to determine whether it's going to be enough.

Keep an eye on social media or check in with us to find out how these plans come out.

Culvert Replacement Underway in Fayston

Since last fall, we have been lending a hand to our friends at Friends of the Mad River by managing a culvert replacement project for them during their leadership transition (Corrie Miller is now at LCBP and Ira Shadis has stepped up to direct FMR). The culvert is being installed in Lockwood Brook, a tributary to the Mad River, where it is crossed by German Flats Road, between the Sugarbush and Mad River Glen ski areas. It has been in construction for the past couple of weeks, and it's a pretty amazing sight.





This culvert is about twice as wide as the one it is replacing, and it will have an open bottom, meaning that we're constructing a natural streambed inside the arch. This will enable fish and other aquatic organisms to access critical coldwater habitat in headwaters streams in the protection of the Green Mountain National Forest.

In the News

Our Director, Michele Braun, has been talking with reporters about flood stuff, hoping to contribute to Vermonters' awareness and understanding of how this event impacted our watershed. There have been articles on [Vermont Public](#), in [Seven Days](#) and [vtdigger](#), with a few more to come.

In her previous position with the Town of Northfield, Michele managed the home buyouts after Tropical Storm Irene, and partnered with Friends of the Winooski to undertake a floodplain restoration and public park project there. This work has been of interest to the media, and the buyouts were recently featured on [NPR's Marketplace](#) show, with interviews by Henry Epp, formerly of Vermont Public. While Michele's buyout work was featured, FWR did not get much mention, but we do appreciate being valued as a resource.

Lessons from the Floods

Following the flooding in 2011, our friends at the Lake Champlain Committee put together a great resource document, [Lessons from the Flood](#). These lessons continue to apply, and we would all do well to have them in mind as we work to respond to the latest floods.

Be Ready for Storms with Storm Smart

If you would like help managing stormwater on your land, sign up today for a Free assessment of your home and yard. We'll look at things like rain gutters, drainages, and driveways, and we'll send you a report with recommendations.

[Click here to fill out a request form](#) or just reply to this email, and we'll contact you to schedule a convenient time to visit your home.



River of Light Rescheduled

Join the Friends of the Winooski on Wednesday, August 30, for our 6th not-exactly-annual paddle by the light of the moon, the River of Light.

We will meet at the Heineberg Bridge Access (on the Colchester side of the Rt 127 bridge over the Winooski River) at 7:00 PM. Participants will leave their boats and drive their cars to the Colchester Point Fishing Access.

Please note: there is no shuttle service provided at this event. Participants are responsible for self-shuttling.

Everyone will launch at sunset and paddle the 2.5 miles to Lake Champlain as the full moon rises.

All paddlers must wear a properly fitted PFD. All paddlers must be facing forward or in the case of a row boat, there must be a passenger in the bow, facing forward.

NEW: Every boat **MUST** have lighting for the safety of all participants.

There is no pre-registration required. Participation is by donation to help the Friends of the Winooski River protect and restore the watershed. Avoid bringing cash by [donating online](#) ahead of the event.



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working together for a clean, healthy, resilient watershed

