

Green River Watershed Joins DRWA as Chapter

The Green River Watershed Preservation Alliance has decided to disband as a stand-alone organization and transfer its remaining assets to DRWA, which plans to create a Green River Chapter at its August Board meeting. The creation of this chapter will need to be ratified by a majority vote at our next general meeting in October.

According to our bylaws, chapters may define their own rules, regulations, and procedures as well as elect their own officers. One Green River Chapter officer will sit on the DRWA Board of Directors. We extend a great big welcome to GRWPA members and encourage them and others specifically interested in the Green River to serve on the Chapter Board. To volunteer for a Board position, please contact Françoise Walk, draw@deerfieldriver.org or 413 774-7025.

Water Quality Volunteers Check E. coli in Three Tributaries

This summer our water quality monitoring program shifted to bacteria sampling in the North, South, and Chickley Rivers--thanks to a 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant Program administered by the MA DEP and in cooperation with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. So far we are halfway through the season, with 2 dry-weather, and 1 wet-weather (rainstorm) events under our belt.

As we have seen in the past, rainstorms bring elevated counts of E. coli in the rivers. Fourteen out of sixteen sites exceeded the water quality standard when it rained.

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Volunteer Caleb Walk measures water temperature on the Chickley River in July 2005.

The more unexpected results were the high bacteria counts in dry weather at two sites on the Chickley and one site on the South River. We assume the source of bacteria in the Chickley are cows that have free access to the stream, but so far we have no guess for the South River pollution source. We will sample three more times this summer and will resume the study next summer. To see data graphs and maps of the sites, please visit [www. Deerfieldriver.org/waterquality.html](http://www.Deerfieldriver.org/waterquality.html)

DRWA Hikes for August and September

Here are two summer hikes that enjoy great views but do not involve a lot of climbing by foot. The first hike will be on Sunday, August 21. We will meet at 10:00 at the Berkshire East parking lot in Charlemont and car pool to our starting point in Hawley. We will take beautiful woods roads and trails from there, to the back and the top of Berkshire East --for spectacular views of the Deerfield River valley. After lunch at the top we will descend one of the less-steep trails to some of our cars left at the parking lot. Total distance is about five miles. Because this in-

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volves car pooling, please register with the leader, Polly Bartlett, 625-6628 before 8:00, Sunday, August 21

Our September hike will be on Sunday the 11th--traveling the ridge between the North and Green Rivers, heading into Vermont. We will meet at the Brick Church parking lot in the center of Colrain at 9:30 and car pool as much as possible to the trails on the top of Franklin Hill. From there we will hike on historic ways and modern snow mobile trails, and have lunch overlooking an orchard and the view of the "Hill with the Mohawk Tree Cut." We pass an old grave yard and a modern horse farm on our way back to our cars. All the serious climbing is done by car. The total distance is less than five miles. Please register with the leader, Polly Bartlett 625-6628, by 8:00, the morning of Sunday, September 11. Hope you can join us.

Join a Stream Team!

Shoreline surveys will help record tributary conditions

Volunteers are organizing now to create "Stream Teams" for several of the Deerfield River's largest tributaries – the Chickley, Green, North and South Rivers. Each Stream Team will conduct Shoreline Surveys – visual surveys of their stream segments, and record the results. Volunteers will document current conditions, including land use activities, potential sources of nonpoint-source pollution, habitat and recreational use. The surveys will be used to create an Action Plan that prioritizes both short-term and long-term work needed to be done along these tributaries, and will support on-going water quality and habitat monitoring efforts.

A combination of organizations are sponsoring the surveys: the Deerfield River Watershed Team, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and the Massachusetts Riverways Adopt-A-Stream Program. The Shoreline Survey operation is both educational and cooperative--bringing together a variety of citizens to work towards keeping our rivers clean and healthy. No experience is necessary to participate in the survey and we would appreciate your help.

A volunteer training workshop will be held prior to each scheduled survey. Staff from the Riverways Adopt-A-Stream Program will train volunteers to collect data and record survey findings. Trained volunteers will spend 2-3 hours each, traveling by foot along their assigned stream sections.

Shoreline Surveys will inventory one sub-watershed per month starting in August, and will be completed by November. The first Shoreline Survey, scheduled for the weekend of August 20th-21st, will be conducted along the Green River. For more information, contact Carrie Banks at (413) 339-5715, or banks-carrie@hotmail.com.



"Eeeewww! BUGS!" The macroinvertebrate (bugs to the kids) table at the DRWA's exhibit at Riverfest in Shelburne Falls is always a popular spot for kids where they can watch live Caddisfly and Dragonfly larvae and other bugs collected from the Deerfield.

Macroinvertebrate Sampling Plan To Begin this Fall on Green River

Michael Cole is heading up our new "bug sampling" program this year and will oversee macroinvertebrate monitoring at ten sites on the Green River in September. He is currently recruiting volunteers to help on this exciting survey. Training and materials will be provided--so no experience is necessary. To find out more or to join the crew, contact Mike at 413-774-5515 or mcole@abrinc.com.

Hikes Check Spring Birds and Summer Dragonflies

In early June, on a Saturday morning, four people joined Pat Serrentino for a spring birding trip to sites in the lower Deerfield River watershed. We started at the West Leyden Wildlife Management Area, just over the Greenfield line. This area is managed for early successional birds--birds that prefer shrubby and grassy areas to breed and forage for food. We were rewarded by great

looks at ruby-throated hummingbirds, bobolinks, and indigo buntings. The deep blue male buntings perched and sang from the trees, while the chestnut-sided warblers hid in the shrubs. We were lucky enough to actually see and hear a yellow-billed cuckoo. We also heard the prairie warbler and blue-winged warbler. From the Wildlife Management Area we went to a site near the Wright Dairy Farm in Greenfield. This site has beaver ponds, hayfields, rivers and streams, and riparian forest. We explored a small part of the area but were lucky to find a male orchard oriole hanging out in the shrubs and small trees next to the dirt road. We spied three Baltimore oriole nests and one Eastern kingbird nest – all observed from a safe distance. We then took a short walk along the Green River where it enters the Deerfield River at the Green River Park in Greenfield. This area is forested, unlike the two previous sites, and we heard or saw wood thrush, black-throated blue warbler, great crested flycatcher, and rose-breasted grosbeak, to name a few.

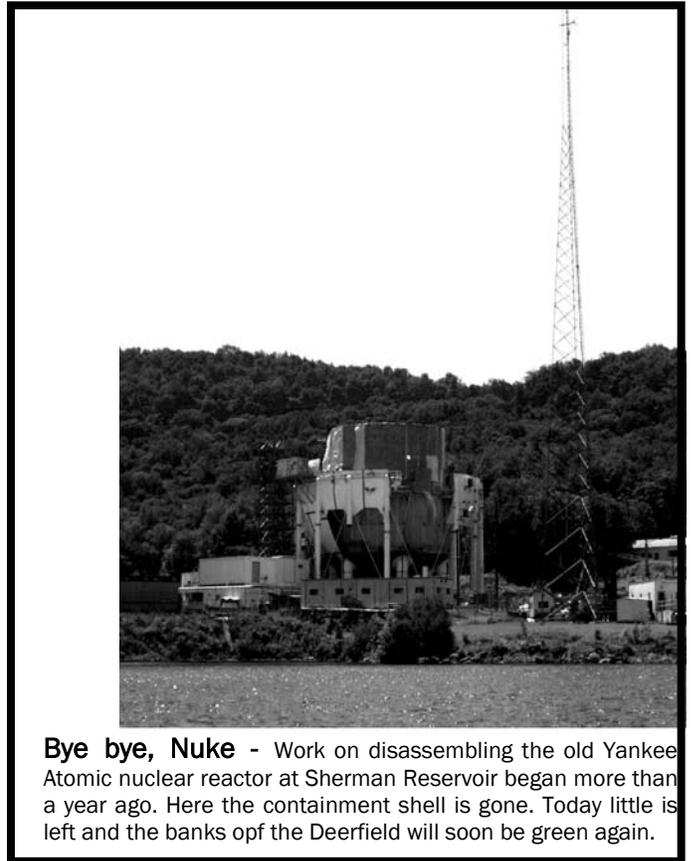
Highland Pond Walk

Dave Small, naturalist extraordinaire from the Athol Bird and Nature Club, led a walk with at least 12 participants on July 10th to Highland Pond in Greenfield, and sites on the Green and Deerfield Rivers. Highland Pond is a great spot to introduce people to dragonflies and damselflies. Several species of dragonflies obliged us by alighting on the vegetation and allowing us to get good looks at their identifying characteristics. Most of the species we observed belong to the skimmer family, or Libellulidae. These dragonflies tend to be colorful insects that inhabit ponds, lakes, marshes, and slow-moving streams as opposed to fast moving rivers and streams. Some species are also found far from water. We were able to identify the following members of the skimmer family at Highland Pond: blue dasher, Eastern pondhawk, slaty skimmer, widow skimmer, twelve-spotted skimmer, calico pennant, and dot-tailed whiteface. These two walks were part of the DRWA’s Hike and Bike Your Watershed Program. Upcoming events are posted on our website: www.deerfieldriver.org.

Become a DRWA Member!

Name
 Street.....
 City.....State.....Zip.....
 E-Mail.....

Individual \$15, Family/Business \$25
Contributing \$50, Sustaining \$100, Patron \$500
Clip and send to DRWA Box 13
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370



Bye bye, Nuke - Work on disassembling the old Yankee Atomic nuclear reactor at Sherman Reservoir began more than a year ago. Here the containment shell is gone. Today little is left and the banks of the Deerfield will soon be green again.

DRWA Gets Knotweed Grant from Massachusetts Environmental Trust

The DRWA is pleased to announce the award of \$15,000.00 from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust to manage the invasive plant Japanese knotweed in rivers and streams throughout the watershed. This award will enable the Association to continue previous work on this plant that began with surveys conducted in 2003. With this new funding the Association will expand the project to include removing knotweed from selected rivers and streams and designing an outreach program to provide the watershed community with practical information on identification and management of knotweed. The DRWA will be working with a diverse group of community members to tackle this widespread problem, including Trout Unlimited, Conte National



Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and the Greenfield Conservation Commission, among others.

We are currently seeking volunteers to help biologists survey and remove knotweed in several rivers and streams in the watershed in September and October. Training sessions will be held in early September in Greenfield. Please call or email Pat Serrentino at (413) 772-0520; pserr@crocker.com if interested in volunteering for the project or if you have any questions.

This project is made possible as a result of the generosity of motorists who choose to purchase one of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust's specialty license plates. The Trust will provide close to \$1 million in grants to over 40 organizations this year. These grants provide funds for programs that preserve the state's rivers and streams, protect rare species, and educate communities about environmental issues. Please go to www.MassEnvironmentalTrust.org to learn more about the Trust, the programs it supports, and the specialty license plate offerings.



Flow check John Burns of Trout Unlimited shows a small group from the Deerfield River Team how the volume of flow is recorded electronically in a small shed below Fife Creek Dam.

Save October 1: Source to the Sea Cleanup!

The DRWA will participate in the Connecticut River's Source to Sea Cleanup again this year and will concentrate our efforts on the lower Green River in Colrain and Greenfield. If you know of specific areas that need to be cleared of trash, or if you would like to give a hand, please contact David Boles at 413-773-7560. We have reserved the pavilion at the Green River Swimming Area off Nash Mill Road in Greenfield where volunteers will obtain their assigned areas and trash bags, and where we will gather at the end of the cleanup for a potluck meal and musical entertainment.

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The Deerfield River Watershed Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and care of the Deerfield River and its tributaries in the interest of its adjacent communities. Its activities include water quality monitoring, educational programs, trail maintenance, administration of volunteer programs and participation in regulatory matters.

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Françoise Walk, *President*; Carrie Banks, *Vice President*

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