

Fall 2021



A tributary of the
**Connecticut River
Conservancy**

River Recreation Planning— Beginning Successes!

The Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA) has been actively working for a safe, clean, and user-friendly river system with adequate public access. To this end, we have been advocating to our partners and local governments to create a River Recreation Plan. As a positive first step in this direction, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) worked with key players and members of the public to identify issues that could be solved prior to the 2021 river use season. For example, from July through September, for the first time in many years, porta-potties were installed at the Shunpike Rest Area on Route 2! (There may not be porta-potties next year unless more money can be found, but this was a great start and finally an acknowledgement of ongoing sanitation and convenience issues.) Also, if you recall last year, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) had restricted all parking at Shunpike Rest Area (river put-in and takeout, fishing, and swimming access) to only 30 minutes. The Town of Charlemont and the DRWA developed and presented a compromise parking plan recommendation. As a result, MassDOT has now re-signed the large parking lot as “No Overnight Parking,” thereby allowing daytime river use parking. We are off to a good start! This is the beauty of working together to identify issues and find solutions.

From the President

What a year! So many of us took this opportunity to spend more time outdoors, and we hope you did too. Are you interested in advocating for the watershed and being on our Board? Please let me know and we can talk. drwa@deerfieldriver.org



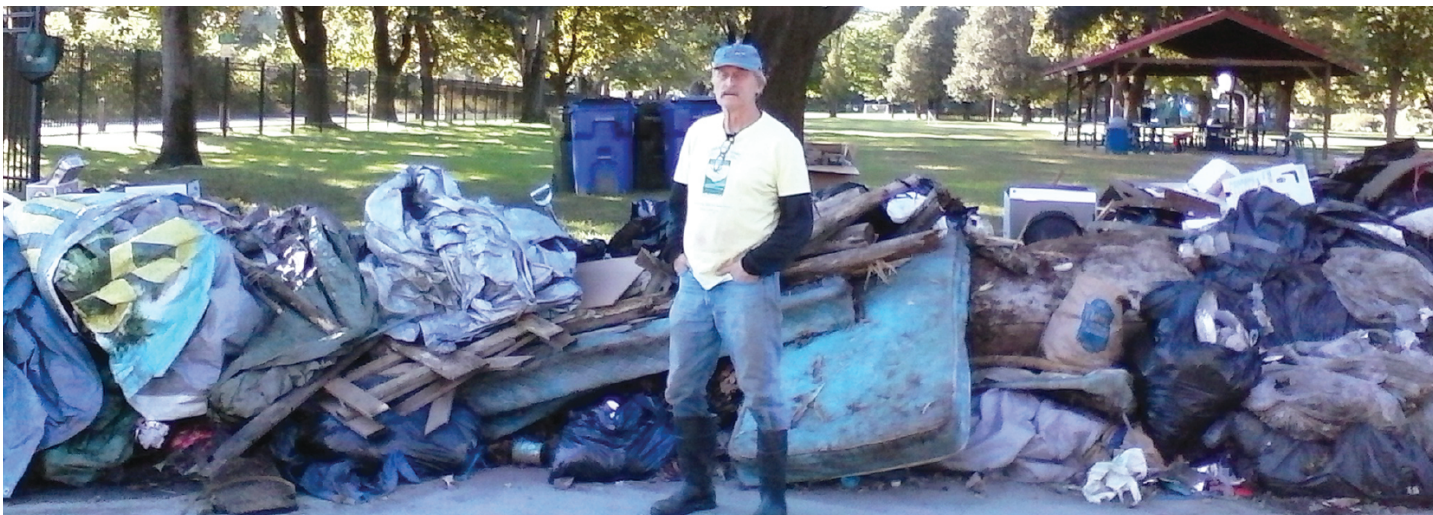
Happy hiking, biking, camping, angling, paddling, and floating! —*Jim Perry, President, DRWA Board of Directors*

Wild & Scenic River Study

If you have ever boated or floated down the Deerfield or fished the river or some of its tributaries, you will immediately recognize why key sections of this river system should be part of the National Wild & Scenic River System. The DRWA's initiative to seek National Wild and Scenic River designation for the Deerfield River and its tributaries has advanced substantially over the past few months. DRWA representatives have been meeting with communities across the watershed to discuss this initiative with Selectboards and Mayors. To date, 16 communities in Massachusetts and Vermont and twelve organizations and businesses, have voted to support seeking Congressional authorization and funds for a planning study. We have also met with the Congressional delegations from Vermont and Massachusetts and await their filing legislation of a Wild and Scenic study bill.

Visit our NEW website: deerfieldriver.org





Franklin County Rivers Cleanup

The annual Green River Cleanup has been renamed as the Franklin County Rivers Cleanup and greatly expanded to include other river systems throughout the county. The Franklin County Rivers Cleanup is held each September in conjunction with the Connecticut River Conservancy's Source to Sea Cleanup. Please join us next year!

Climate Change, What Can You Do?

Support the river cleanup in your neighborhoods, recycle everything you possibly can, reduce fossil fuel use, keep storm drains near your property clear, and enjoy our beautiful rivers, but remember to leave a place cleaner than you found it after your visit! It takes all of us to care for the planet.



Polly Bartlett

Passing of Two Beloved Board Members

Many of you probably knew one of our founders, Polly Bartlett. If not, I highly encourage you to check out our tribute to Polly on our NEW website at www.deerfieldriver.org/the-board, which also includes a link to a much more detailed tribute page by her family and friends. Polly was a founding Board member and active on the Board until the end, a real leader. She will be greatly missed.

Robert May, a former Board Member of the DRWA and a member of the Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited, passed away this January. Robert was kind and thoughtful, and worked hard to preserve and restore local rivers, motivated by his love of nature and fishing.

