



## **Vermont River Conservancy**

Conserving shorelands and access since 1995

Dear Friends,

Greetings and happy holidays to all. The Vermont River Conservancy has had a productive year. With your support, we've conserved a beautiful fishing access on the Missisquoi River in Enosburg Falls, a boat launch on the Connecticut River in Canaan, and 95 acres of important river lands and floodplains.

Over 18,000 feet of newly conserved riverfront will allow the Mad, Saxtons, Missisquoi, South Branch of the Trout, and Neshobe rivers to permanently access their floodplains and to meander freely - creating more flood resilient watersheds for Vermont's future.

We thank you for all your support, and [encourage you to make a donation today](#) so we can continue with this great work!

With warm holiday wishes,

Steve Libby, Executive Director

**Please support our work by donating today!**



Throughout Vermont, the Vermont River Conservancy is employing a variety of new and innovative conservation approaches that help keep Vermont rivers open, accessible and healthy. Partnering with local watershed groups, the VT State Department of Environmental Conservation, and landowners, VRC is increasing its reach in areas that were adversely affected by Hurricane Irene's flooding, and planning ahead to help communities weather future storms.

**VRC needs your help to continue this important work.**

***This year your contribution will be doubled. A generous anonymous donor has agreed to match, dollar for dollar, any contribution made to VRC by December 31, 2012, up to a total match of \$10,000. Your donation will do much to expand our conservation work along our shorelines.***

We deeply appreciate your support in preserving Vermont's precious rivers and streams for future generations. See our [2012 & 2013 Featured project sheet](#) for more information about what your support will make possible.

Make a [secure online donation](#) before December 31st, and help VRC improve flood resilience and preserve more access to all Vermont rivers.

### **South Branch of the Trout River - 7,000' of river front conserved**



For generations the Mercy's have farmed along the banks of the South Branch of the Trout River. However, the difficulty of managing crops alongside an actively meandering river led Arnold and Linda Mercy to search out funded programs that could help them manage the risks of farming on river lands, and mitigate their crop losses. With a [River Corridor Easement held by Vermont River Conservancy](#), the Mercy's are permanently allowing the river to move freely, and are compensated for cropland they will no longer be planting in the 50 foot riparian buffers. Arnold describes this option "as the best one out there, since the river will move where it wants to anyways." Farming next to the South Branch of the Trout River just became easier, and the river is now allowed to meander and flood as it needs, thus minimizing future tensions upstream and downstream.

*Funded by the [VT Agency of Natural Resources Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program](#)*

**Save a swimming hole in 2013**



“Journey’s End” is a spectacular swimming hole and waterfall carved in the bedrock of Foot Brook, a cold water, steep stream flowing to the Lamoille River.

The land adjoining the falls is on the market as a house lot. Conserving this land will provide permanent public access to the [Journey’s End swimming hole](#), provide access for anglers to a 2,500 foot reach of Foot Brook renowned for its high quality trout habitat, and conserve 30 acres along Foot Brook containing deer yards, songbird habitat, and forested buffer which protects the riparian habitat and ecological values of Foot Brook.

The Town of Johnson has agreed to be the long-term owner of this beautiful area, and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board has awarded VRC with 55% of the total project funds.

Additional support from individual donors and foundations already total over \$38,000. **Your support is needed now to protect access for all to Journey’s End.**

Please [donate today!](#)

photo credit: John Fisher

### **CT River Paddlers' Trail: a powerful partnership**

Over 20 people, representing [15 organizations](#), gathered at



the Student Conservation Association's headquarters on the banks of the Connecticut River for an annual meeting of the partners that make up the [Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail](#). Together, we discussed the progress made in 2012 to increase camping and boat launch sites along the CT River, making the CT River and the communities along the river a paddling destination.

In 2013 more campsite will be created, more boat launches constructed and conserved, and all the sites will be carefully

stewarded, with funding support from *TransCanada*. Also - keep on the look out for the CT River Paddlers' Trail Map, available in time to plan your 2013 summer paddling adventures!

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**Looking ahead: [VRC pursuits](#) in 2013**

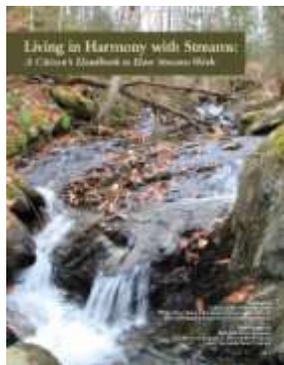
**VRC is collaborating with watershed groups** around the State, and the partnering agencies that work with watershed groups in Vermont, to facilitate better organization and communication across watersheds. As we work together creating a flood resilient Vermont with clean, clear water and abundant wildlife habitat, more connecting and collaborating will make watershed-level planning more proactive and productive.

**To conserve a Swimming Hole in Every Town**, VRC is identifying the needs of communities, neighbors, landowners, and municipalities in Towns where a popular swimming hole brings people together, and creates tensions around recreation management. Addressing the management challenges of popular swimming holes will help lay the foundation for successful future conservation of Vermont's special swimming holes. In 2013 we'll be sharing these tools with more communities, and creating more partnerships around the state to help keep VT's swimming holes well managed and accessible to the public. *With funding support from [VT Watershed Grant Program](#).*

Vermont River Conservancy is pursuing many new projects in 2013 - [read about our work](#) - and [support us today!](#)

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**Resources from the Vermont River Conservancy!**



**Learn more about Vermont's Rivers:** [Living in Harmony with Streams: A Citizens Handbook to How Streams Work](#) is available online to help answer all your questions about stream geomorphology - in a practical, and useful guide.

Now you can now find out about our conservation projects without delay. [Friend us](#) or [Like us](#) on Facebook, and [follow us](#) on Twitter.

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