

**ANNUAL REPORT - 2007**  
**Mt. Ascutney Region River Subcommittee**  
**of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions**

This year the Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee completed a new and expanded water resources chapter of the *Connecticut River Management Plan*, focusing on the many environmental and economic benefits of keeping floodplains free of development and vegetated riparian buffers along riverbanks to keep them stable, block debris, shade the water, and filter pollutants from runoff.

The Subcommittee provides information and assistance to the states, towns, and landowners on projects near the river, including at Plainfield's River Road. We encourage towns to consider our *Plan* and to incorporate its recommendations when updating town plans and revising zoning ordinances. We urge all anglers and boaters to clean their gear carefully to avoid spreading Didymo, the newly discovered invasive alga in the Connecticut River.

Citizens who wish to represent the town should contact the selectmen. The Subcommittee is advisory and has no regulatory authority. The public is welcome at our meetings on the second Tuesday evening of every other month at the Windsor Resource Center. A calendar, more about Didymo, advice on bank erosion and obtaining permits for work near the river, the *Connecticut River Management Plan* and much more are on the web at [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org).

*Ted Moynihan and Steve Halleran, Plainfield representatives  
to the Mt. Ascutney River Subcommittee*

**CONNECTICUT RIVER JOINT COMMISSIONS**

This year the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) issued a new Riverwide Overview for water resources in the watershed. Look for a presentation in your area in 2008. We won a major grant from EPA that will fund water quality monitoring at Sumner Falls, among other projects. We cooperated with Vermont and New Hampshire agencies in responding to the discovery of Didymo in the river, and hosted Governor Jim Douglas for Vermont's Clean and Clear Water Action Day. We also helped guide the new conservation plan for the Conte Refuge, supporting the public's original vision.

In 2007 CRJC considered issues as wide-ranging as the operation of hydro dams on the Connecticut River, silver maple floodplain forest health, mercury emissions, and Important Bird Areas.

CRJC supports efforts to safeguard the valley's natural, agricultural, and historic assets, and is working with businesses and the states to strengthen the local base for tourism through the Connecticut River Byway. In 2007 we worked with Hartford, Claremont, and other towns on a signage plan for the Byway. Look for signs in 2008 and visit the Byway at [www.ctrivertravel.net](http://www.ctrivertravel.net).

Appointed by the legislatures of New Hampshire and Vermont to guide growth and development in the watershed, CRJC is advisory and has no regulatory powers, preferring instead to ensure greater public involvement in decisions that affect the river region. We welcome the public to our meetings on the last Monday of every other month. Visit our web site for a calendar of events, useful information and links, and our newsletters, *River Valley News* and *River Byway News*.

*Nancy Franklin, Connecticut River Commissioner*