

## CONNECTICUT RIVER JOINT COMMISSIONS-2008

This year the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) published major new Management Plans for Water Resources and for Recreation on the Connecticut River. In 2008 CRJC considered issues as wide-ranging as riverbank erosion in Colebrook and New Hampshire's updated Shoreland Protection Act. We completed a new Five Year Plan that focuses upon public outreach, use of river science, and protection of the valley's natural, historic, and cultural assets.

CRJC won a major grant from EPA this year that enabled us to conduct two years of water quality monitoring of the river from Lebanon to Cornish, including Plainfield. We will report on the results of our Tri-State Connecticut River Targeted Watershed Initiative through a website and in public meetings. Monitoring in 2008 turned up no water quality violations and indicated the river is safe for swimming and other recreation. Through the Connecticut River Byway, CRJC works with communities, businesses and the states to strengthen the local base for heritage tourism. In 2008, we concluded a three-year project to identify the Byway with way-finding signs. Visit the Byway at [www.ctrivertravel.net](http://www.ctrivertravel.net).

Appointed by the legislatures of New Hampshire and Vermont, the Connecticut River Joint Commissions welcome the public to our meetings on the last Monday of every other month. Visit our web site, [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org), for a calendar of events, useful information, and our newsletters, *River Valley News* and *River Byway News*.

*Nancy Franklin, Chair, NH Connecticut River Commission*

**ANNUAL REPORT - 2008**  
**MT ASCUTNEY REGION SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions**

This year the Mt. Ascutney River Subcommittee completed a new and expanded *Connecticut River Water Resources Management Plan*. We will sponsor public presentations on the new plan during the winter and spring. The Plan emphasizes the many environmental and economic benefits of keeping floodplains free of development and encouraging natural vegetation along riverbanks to keep them stable, block debris, shade the water, and filter pollutants from runoff. We encourage towns to consider our *Plan* and to incorporate its recommendations when updating town master plans and revising zoning ordinances.

We urge all anglers and boaters to clean their gear carefully to avoid spreading Didymo, the recently discovered invasive alga in the Connecticut River. Owners of land near water should know about the newly updated state shoreland protection law.

The Subcommittee provides information and assistance to the states, towns, and landowners on projects near the river. Citizens who wish to help represent the town should contact the selectmen. The Subcommittee is advisory and has no regulatory authority. The public is welcome at our meetings at the Windsor Connection 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*