

## CONNECTICUT RIVER JOINT COMMISSIONS

This year the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) published a major atlas of the Upper Connecticut River Watershed, *Where the Great River Rises*, and provided complimentary copies to area high schools and libraries.

In 2009, we continued our work in river assessment and conducted water quality monitoring on a section of the river thought to be affected by combined sewer overflows, including Plainfield. Bacteria counts violated state standards for swimming safety in only one sample this summer. Details are posted at [www.cesd.umass.edu/twi/index.html](http://www.cesd.umass.edu/twi/index.html).

In our bi-state meetings, we considered issues as wide-ranging as the economics of farmland conservation to the Northern Forest Center's Sustainable Economy Initiative. In October, we hosted Governors Lynch and Douglas on a bi-state tour of the northern river valley.

Through the Connecticut River Byway, CRJC works with communities, businesses and the states to strengthen the local base for heritage tourism. In 2009, we updated the Byway Map and Guide and a major exhibit. 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 and useful information.

*Nancy Franklin, Connecticut River Commission Chair*

**ANNUAL REPORT - 2009**  
**Mount Ascutney Region River Subcommittee**  
**of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions**

This year the Mount Ascutney Region River Subcommittee published a new and expanded *Connecticut River Recreation Management Plan* and *Water Resources Management Plan*, and sponsored a number of presentations, including at the Philip Read Library, to acquaint the public with the findings. Each plan represents many months of deliberation and reaching consensus among people of widely different backgrounds, and includes extensive detail about the condition and health of the river.

The *Water Resources Plan* emphasizes the 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 recommendations when updating town plans and revising zoning ordinances.

Landowners planning projects near water should check first with the town office to see if a state or local permit is needed. We urge all anglers and boaters to clean their gear carefully to avoid spreading milfoil, Didymo and other invasive plants and animals.

The Subcommittee is advisory and has no regulatory authority. The Subcommittee provides information and assistance to the states, towns, and landowners on projects near the river. 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).

*Steve Halleran and Ted Moynihan, Plainfield representatives*