



Currents From Source to Sea July 2010

The Last Green Valley's Watershed Newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of *Currents from Source to Sea*, a periodic e-newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on paddles and river events, water trail development, issues of concern, and success stories throughout the watershed. If you'd like to submit something for the next edition, please send your information to lois@tlgv.org.

Water Trails Steering Committee

The Last Green Valley Water Trails Steering Committee has been meeting quarterly on water trail development projects. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 7:00 pm in TLGV's Danielson Office.

Volunteers are working on Access Site Assessment Forms for all of the public car-top boat launches in The Last Green Valley. The Assessment forms help gather in one place all pertinent information and photos from a launch site. [You can view the form by clicking on our Water Trail page and looking for the link in the second paragraph.](#)

The Willimantic River Alliance has completed Assessments for all of the Willimantic River access sites, and the information is being compiled into an updated Paddle Guide for the Willimantic River Water Trail. The new guide should be available this summer for download from the Willimantic River Alliance's website, www.willimanticriver.org. WRA's current online guide is available at

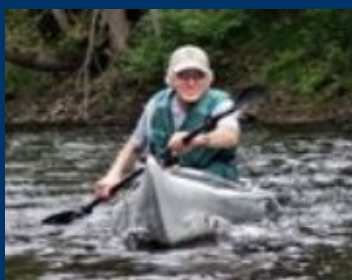
<http://www.willimanticriver.org/recreation/paddling.html>.

Progress is also being made on the Quinebaug, Shetucket, French, and





What is a water trail? It is the combination of a waterway with paddle routes and segments that are clearly described in maps and guides, with efforts to expand shoreline access, and stewardship projects to reduce erosion and protect water quality – the very resources paddlers come here to enjoy.



Five Mile Rivers, with a few more access sites left to assess. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Lois Bruinooge, lois@tlgv.org.

Upcoming Paddles & Events in the Watershed

Water levels are quite low and most of the paddling in the upper watershed involves lots of scratching, scraping and walking, but we do know of one paddle scheduled in August on a deeper, ponded segment of the Five Mile River. Jean Trapani from the Appalachian Mountain Club will be leading a leisurely flatwater paddle on a beautiful segment of the Five Mile River on August 14, meeting at 9 am at 99 Commerce Ave., Danielson (home of the new Five Mile Outfitters, see below). Registration is required. Please contact Jean Trapani, Flatwater@ct-amc.org for more details and to register.

You can also paddle on one of our beautiful lakes or ponds, or try Poquetanuck Cove, a 2 mile long tidal estuary located between the towns of Ledyard and Preston, CT. The CT Department of Environmental Protection experts describe the cove as the largest and highest quality brackish water meadow and cattail marsh on the Thames River. [Jean Pillo has developed a new Poquetanuck Cove Canoe/Kayak Trail Guide, available by clicking here.](#) We're also looking forward to Walktober, as there are at least 5 paddles in the works. Stay tuned for more details later this summer.

In the meantime, why not join a river cleanup, or organize one of your own?

The French River Connection will be cleaning a section of the French River from Perryville, MA to Wilsonville, CT on the morning of July 24. In the words of Ken Parker, "This is a very pretty section of the river, so we can tug on those tires in lovely surroundings." Contact Ken at ken.parker@charter.net for more details and to volunteer.

If you'd like to organize your own river cleanup, American Rivers has an excellent *Organizer's Handbook* that will take you through the process, step-by-step at: <http://www.americanrivers.org/assets/pdfs/national-river-cleanup/nrc-organizer-handbook.pdf>.

A TIP of the PADDLE to:

Charter Communications Community Access TV14 for an award-winning film about the 2009 Willimantic Riverfest produced by Mike Nelson. Charter received the John Notte Award for Superior Production Values from the New England Cable & Telecommunications Association's Public Service & Excellence in Cable Television Awards. You can view a 4-minute sample on YouTube (www.youtube.com) by searching for "Willimantic Riverfest."

Five Mile Outfitters, the newest canoe and kayak outfitter in The Last Green Valley. They are selling boats made by Old Town and Ocean Kayaks, and are located at 99 Commerce Ave., Danielson, CT, 860-779-2160.



French River Connection for receiving a \$6,020 grant from The Last Green Valley to complete development of a new car-top boat launch at Leovich Landing in Dudley, MA. The main features of the project are a canoe and kayak launch, a fenced parking lot, picnic table, new sign, replacement of invasives with native meadow plants, and stormwater control. For more information (volunteers needed!) contact Ken Parker at ken.parker@charter.net.

Towns of Thompson, Putnam, and Killingly for achieving Greenways Designation for the Five Mile River from the Connecticut Greenways Council. The Five Mile is a beautiful river with much of it flowing through the three towns. There are large sections of natural habitat that supports diverse wildlife. The river also offers excellent paddling and recreational opportunities. The southern sections of the river flow through the historic mill villages of Ballouville and Dayville, and then into Danielson where it joins the Quinebaug River.

United Natural Foods Green Team for providing the funds and manpower to install a new water trail kiosk at the Wayne R. Lafreniere Memorial Canoe Launch in Danielson, CT. The new kiosk will provide important information to paddlers enjoying one of the most scenic and challenging paddle sections of the Quinebaug River between Killingly and Canterbury. Cathy Cody, Patty Cody and Tom Dziki of UNFI helped carpenter David Navarro and TLGV staff member Bill Reid install the kiosk. Thanks to UNFI for their on-going and very generous support of TLGV.

See you on the water!



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