



ANNUAL REPORT - 2008

## Wantastiquet Region River Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

This year the Wantastiquet 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, 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.

Owners of land near water should know about the newly updated state shoreland protection law. Natural ground cover must remain within 50' of the water of lakes, ponds, and rivers, and use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides is restricted.

We urge all anglers and boaters to clean their gear carefully to avoid spreading invasive plants such as *Didymo*, the recently discovered invasive alga in the Connecticut River.

Active members are needed. Citizens who wish to represent the town should contact the Select Board. The Subcommittee is advisory and has no regulatory authority. A calendar of meetings, 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).

*Sheldon Sawyer, Walpole representative to the Wantastiquet Region River Subcommittee*

## CONNECTICUT RIVER JOINT COMMISSIONS

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.

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*.

*George Watkins, Connecticut River Commissioner*