



# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

## SALMON RIVER WATERSHED

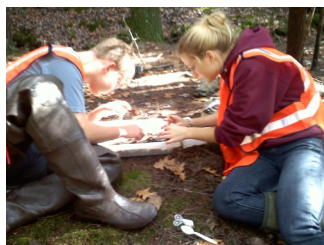
2013

### 38 Acres of Former CT Yankee Atomic Power Plant Land in Haddam Neck to Become Wildlife Refuge

In January The US Fish and Wildlife Service acquired a 38 acre piece of property in Haddam Neck, formerly owned by the Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company for \$900,000. This acquisition becomes part of the Silvio O Conti National Wildlife Refuge, and brings the total acreage of the Salmon River Division to 416 acres according to Andrew French, project leader of the Conti Refuge. While this is a beautiful, remote piece of property which protects Salmon Cove, it is only 6 1/2% of the entire Connecticut Yankee property. It is the goal of the local Connecticut Yankee Conservation Project to see, eventually, the entire property conserved.



Fall 2012 sampling at Pine Brook and Moodus and Blackledge Rivers



Residents of Salmon Cove-Great Egrets - Photo courtesy of Pierre Faber

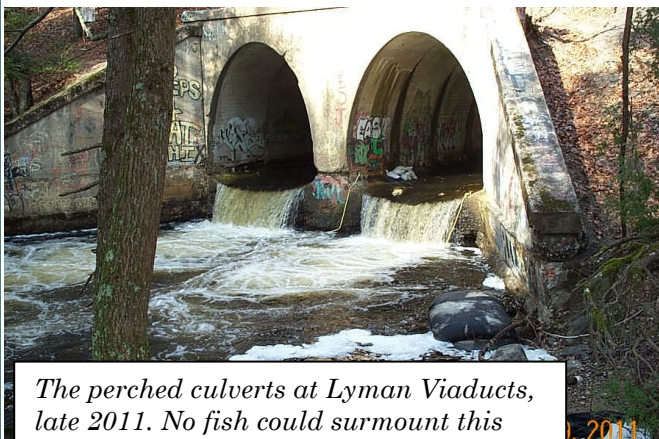
#### Stream Monitoring--2012

Nine stream sites in the Salmon River Watershed were field monitored in the fall of 2012. Volunteers used the Rapid Bioassessment protocol established by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), which consists of collecting, sorting and identifying benthic macroinvertebrates (water bugs). Field results will be verified by DEEP staff, but preliminary findings indicated very good to excellent water quality in the stream segments sampled. Special thanks to the CT River Coastal Conservation District, DEEP, Professor Jon Morrison (Goodwin College) and the Town of Colchester for helping to coordinate the training program.

Each field location takes approximately 3-4 hours to sample with 2-3 volunteers. More volunteers are needed for the Fall 2013 monitoring season. No experience is necessary. Contact us at [salmonriverct@att.net](mailto:salmonriverct@att.net) to be added to the email list.

## Restoration of Fish Passage at the Lyman Viaducts in Colchester

When the so-called Air Line Railroad line was built in 1873, an open trestle viaduct was built to carry the rail line across the wide, deep valley of Dickinson Creek. At the time, the Lyman Viaduct was the longest of its kind in the world. Instability caused the railroad company to fill in the open trestle design with soil and in 1912-13, enormous amounts of soil were dumped from railroad cars to bury the structure and create a tall embankment. A twin barrel culvert was constructed out of concrete to convey Dickinson Creek through this embankment. Over time, the stream scoured out a plunge pool at the downstream lip of the culvert and this became a favorite swimming and diving spot. Unfortunately, the perched lip blocked all fish migrations.



*The perched culverts at Lyman Viaducts, late 2011. No fish could surmount this*

This area has been State-owned and part of the Salmon River State Forest for many years. In recent years, the DEEP had become increasingly concerned about scour underneath the downstream end of the culvert. Both wing walls were completely undermined and the east wall was in danger of collapsing. The culvert itself was undermined by more than 20 feet. Had the culvert failed, ton of sands would have eroded down into the stream, eventually endangering the sewer line that runs along the top of the embankment. A multi-disciplined team from the DEEP attacked the problem and the DEEP's Agency Support Services Division took the lead on an emergency repair permit. The Inland Fisheries Division provided technical input to ensure the 'fix' resulted in fish being able to migrate up into and through the culvert and into over 5 miles of high quality upstream habitat. *continued on pg 4*

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## Source To Sea Clean-Up at Haddam Neck

In Haddam Neck there is an informal group known as the Haddam Neck Spirit, which is dedicated to "Conserving Haddam Neck and it's community." They have participated in a number of conservation activities over the past dozen or so years and played a role in the formation of the Salmon River Division of the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge.

On Saturday morning September 29, 2012, led by Brooks Nablo, the Haddam Neck Spirit participated in the annual **Source to the Sea** cleanup which takes place along the entire length of the Connecticut River. This cleanup is sponsored by the Connecticut River Watershed Council. The Salmon River Watershed is part of the Connecticut River Watershed. The Haddam Neck contingent worked the eastern shore adjacent to Haddam Neck and Haddam Island. In spite of its being a relatively uninhabited shoreline, volunteers picked up and disposed of a large assortment of trash ranging from bottles and cans and household trash to truck tires and empty 55 gallon drums.

The Connecticut River has been designated the first river in the new National Blueway Program because of all the progress that has been made to clean it up. It's clear, however that there is a way to go in educating the public to respect it. In addition to adding it our schedule September 2013, we all should consider keeping a trash bag in our boat, kayak or canoe and picking up litter year round. *For more details of how you can become involved: [italbot@criver.org](mailto:italbot@criver.org)*



*Photo courtesy of an Unknown Haddam-Necker*

## FOR MORE INFO

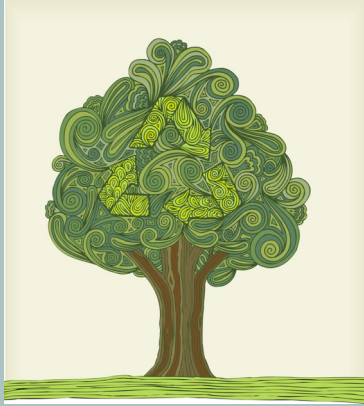
For more information about the resources of the Salmon River Watershed and Partnership activities please visit our website [www.salmonriverct.org](http://www.salmonriverct.org)

and

For news, events and opportunities to volunteer in the watershed, please visit us on **FACEBOOK** at **Salmon River Watershed Partnership**

## Marlborough—Parking in the Shade

Trees offer cooling shade on a hot summer day. Pavement heats up on a hot summer day, sometimes well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Rain cools things down on a hot summer day, especially the pavement. As the pavement is cooled by the rain however, the heat is often transferred to the



nearest waterbody as runoff. This is a form of thermal pollution and it can be devastating to the animals that live in the water. In an effort to cool things down as well as improve air quality and parking lot aesthetics, the Town of Marlborough recently adopted innovative shading regulations. In short, new commercial developments must provide 50-75% shading within ten years of tree planting, in the impervious areas which are utilized for parking and vehicular travel. The new regulations also include maximum parking limits and that additional parking requested over the

maximum must be “green” parking. The regulations were effective June 12, 2012 and can be found in the Town Zoning Regulations (Article 10 E & F). Now perhaps finding a parking spot in the shade in August won’t be so difficult.

## AIR LINE TRAIL STATE PARK ADDITION EAST HAMPTON

One of the newest sections of the Air Line Trail was officially completed and opened in the fall of 2012. It completes the trail’s run into the East Hampton Village Center and includes a new bridge over Pocotopaug Creek. The Air Line Trail stretches across Connecticut offering trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding through the towns of East Hampton, Colchester, Hebron, Columbia, Lebanon, Windham, Chaplin, Hampton, Pomfret, Putnam and Thompson. For more information and trail maps, please visit [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep) and click on the *Outdoor Recreation Tab*, then the *State Parks and Forests* link.

For a photo journey along the Air Line Trail visit

[www.performance-vision.com/airline](http://www.performance-vision.com/airline)



Photos courtesy of Stan Malcolm  
[www.performance-vision.com/airline](http://www.performance-vision.com/airline)

## Steering Committee

### Watershed Towns

Bolton: Andrew Perham

Colchester: Jay Gigliotti,  
Adam Turner (alternate)

Columbia: Rob Hellstrom

East Haddam: Emmett Lyman,  
Jim Ventres (alternate)

East Hampton: Peter Aarrestad,  
Emily and Josh Wilson (alternates)

Glastonbury: Tom Mocko  
Rob Huestis (retired 2012)

Haddam: Liz West,  
Jim Puska (alternate)

Hebron: Brian O’Connell,  
Frank Zitkus (alternate)

Marlborough: Peter Hughes,  
Joseph LaBella (alternate)

### Organizations

The Nature Conservancy:  
Shelley Green

Connecticut DEEP: Eric Thomas

### Land Trusts

Colchester Land Trust: Chuck Toal,  
Leslie Curtis (alternate)

### Recreational Groups

Trout Unlimited:, Henry Fredericks

### Member at Large

Silvio O. Conti Refuge-Haddam Neck:  
Jim McHutchison

**Watershed Coordinator:**  
Patricia Young

The project began in late 2011 and was completed in July of 2012. Key steps included pumping concrete underwater (often using hardhat divers) to shore up the perched culvert, filling the scour hole with tons of rock, capping it with concrete to prevent future flood displacement, creating a nature-like rocky ramp fishway downstream of the culvert lip, and installing concrete baffles inside the western barrel of the culvert to assist fish swimming upstream. The project represents a major accomplishment for the Salmon River Watershed: it eliminates a major threat to the in-stream habitat, it reduces a public safety threat to careless swimmers, it reconnects one of the watershed's most important tributaries to the rest of the drainage for the first time in exactly 100 years, and it will help maintain the scenic quality of the spot.

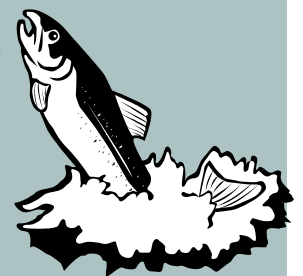
*CT-DEEP Inland Fisheries Division-  
Stephen Gephard*

*-Final result: a rocky ramp fishway on the left, a resting pool below. The culvert barrel to the right has an 18" wall at the upper end to divert all low summer flows down the left barrel where fish can ascend. In high flows, extra flow over tops the wall and passes down the right barrel, which is not designed for fish passage.*



## Open Space Mapping Underway

A Salmon River Watershed Open Space Mapping project is currently underway. It will feature all protected parcels in the watershed for the towns of Bolton, Columbia, Lebanon, Hebron, Glastonbury, Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton, East Haddam and Haddam. Once completed, this map will be an important planning tool for future preservation efforts. Many thanks to the ten watershed towns for input and contributing mapping files and a special thanks to Partnership Member Emily Wilson for her GIS skills.



## Hebron Open Space Preservation in Raymond Brook Watershed

In January 2013, the Hebron Open Space Land Acquisition Committee voted unanimously to recommend the open space purchase of two Cardillo properties, located along Church Street, Route 85. In December 2012, the Town of Hebron was awarded a State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program grant for \$165,000 to purchase the two parcels. This grant will provide funding for 50% of the recommended purchase price.



*Photo courtesy of Hebron Land Use Department*

The Cardillo properties, located within the Town's Aquifer Protection Zone and within the Town's Future Open Space Greenway Plan, have a number of attributes that the Committee considered in making this recommendation. Totalling 48.7 acres, the two parcels include a portion of Raymond Brook and abut the Raymond Brook Marsh, a "state-wide wetland of Special Concern".

As the last remaining undeveloped parcels abutting the Marsh, acquisition of these parcels would continue the Town's efforts in protecting the high water quality of this vital wetland and provide for an extended area of wildlife protection. The property may also be suitable for a potential future town-owned drinking water supply. Raymond Brook Watershed is a subwatershed of the Salmon River Watershed.