



Friends of the West River Trail

www.westrivertrail.org

Friends of West River Trail Spring Newsletter June 2013

Happy June!

If you've been checking the FWRT website, or have seen the article in the Brattleboro Reformer about the West River Trail, you will know that a lot has been happening!

We are so excited to have been awarded a Vermont Housing & Conservation Board grant to purchase the 21-acre waterfront property in Brattleboro abutting the trail, about 1 mile north of our trailhead near the Marina. The Vermont Land Trust, specifically Joan Weir, wrote the grant proposal. Thank you very much Joan! The Vermont Land Trust will hold a conservation easement on this land to ensure its permanent protection and to promote and strengthen the community's use of West River trail. Owning this land may allow us to create a picnic area near the water and/or create some interpretive trails. We will be open to ideas once we have secured the funding and completed the purchase.

In order to receive this grant award toward purchase of the property, we need to raise \$22,000. We know it can be done! We already have \$ 8000 in pledges toward our goal. Marcia Steckler is spearheading this Phase 2 of fundraising. Thank you very much Marcia! If you would like to make a donation, please see our website, www.westrivertrail.org and click on the contributions to the lower section button. It is an easy, safe and secure way to contribute.

Other news:

- Our first work day of the season was held on Saturday, May 11. Eight volunteers came out, despite the rainy weather. Under Jason Cooper's leadership, drainage work was done to dry out a persistent wet area of the trail. Also impressive was the clean up work. Numerous old tires and a significant amount of rusted metal debris was hauled out with a trailer and ATV. This particular area, a former eyesore, is now noticeably cleaner! The larger rusty car carcasses in that old dumpsite will be removed once the access road from Fox Farm Rd is repaired.

- Diana Lischer-Goodband of the Student Conservation Association is writing a grant proposal for funds to support an SCA project crew leader to assist Jason Cooper with managing work projects on the West River Trail this summer. We are also looking forward to having a crew from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps for 2 to 3 weeks in July. We will keep you posted on the work they do!
- The Collaborative in Londonderry hosted **11 Miles of Trouble**, a fundraising run for their organization on 11 miles of the northern end of the trail on June 1. Go to our website at www.westrivertrail.org and click on the “events and news blog” tab to see photos and other details.

Upcoming events: Tim Fleming, a local runner, is planning a trail run from the Marina Trailhead to the Townshend Dam on Saturday, July 27 to raise funds for Friends of the West River Trail, lower section. He will seek pledges from his circle of runners, family and friends. He says he will be running at a slow pace and welcomes anyone who wants to run with him for part or all of the way, for a \$20 donation. More details to come! Please contact Kathleen at 254-2169 if you would like to volunteer to help organize the run or volunteer on the day of the event.

West River Trail Workdays: Next date not yet planned, but coming soon. We will send an email alert when the date is set.

Volunteers needed! For the July 27 trail run fundraiser and for upcoming workdays.

For email notifications of news as it gets posted on our website, go to www.westrivertrail.org, click on the “events and news blog” tab, and sign up by submitting your email address. Contact us anytime at lowersection@gmail.com, or comment on the blog. We look forward to hearing from you!

Kathleen White, WRT steering committee