

# FRIENDS OF THE WEST RIVER TRAIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

### FRIENDS OF THE WEST RIVER TRAIL BOARD MEMBERS

Greg Meulemans  
Robert Brandt  
Hazel Tracy  
Sharon Crossman  
Lester Humphreys  
Paul Cameron

### FoWRT Lower Section STEERING COMMITTEE

Paul Cameron  
Jason Cooper  
Lester Humphreys  
Bill Jacques  
Malcolm Moore  
Kathleen White  
Alex Wilson

### FoWRT Lower Section FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Marcia Stecker  
Alex Wilson  
Judy Davidson  
Martin Langeveld  
Brett Morrison  
Orly Munzing  
Tom Yahn



## THE FRIENDS OF THE WEST RIVER TRAIL

Organized in 1992, the Friends of the West River Trail (FWRT) is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the establishment of a 36-mile scenic trail through the West River Valley – eventually linking Brattleboro, Dummerston, Newfane, Townshend, Jamaica and South Londonderry. FWRT's mission is to:

- Develop and maintain a publicly accessible system of paths along the West River corridor for educational, recreational and alternative transportation purposes.
- Promote public awareness and enjoyment of the recreational path system and of the history, geology and biota of the West River valley.
- Coordinate local, state and federal interests in planning, funding, construction, management and use of the trail system.

We thank you for your interest! Please spread the word about the West River Trail to anyone who may be interested in knowing about it, volunteering their talents or making a donation. Thank you!





## The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

A crew of more than a dozen young people from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) worked for three weeks in the summer of 2013 to install culverts, re-grade surfaces and mitigate erosion along the Trail.

The VYCC crew, Summer 7, was made up of two experienced and well-trained Crew Leaders and eight motivated 18-24 year old Corps Members. Throughout the season, this vibrant crew garnered a reputation as a healthy, balanced, fun, creative, energetic and determined group of young adults.

VYCC Crew Leaders:  
Brittany Kusserow & Alec Harris

Corps Members: Roslyn Peters, Emma Rubalcava, Gray Barret, Dylan Berger, Amelia Barton, Kate Stevens, Nick Martiros & Zach Sullivan.

We have applied for two crews for Summer and Fall of 2014 to enhance the riverstone preserve and extend the trail 1.5 miles to the north.

## NEWS FROM THE UPPER SECTION

As we move toward spring, our trail shoes close at hand, we want to thank all those who have supported our programming and activities over the past year. We specifically would like to acknowledge the Rowland Foundation (<http://www.therowlandfoundation.org>) and the Collaborative (<http://thecollaborative.us>) for their partnership and continued support of the South Londonderry Community Center and the Friends of the West River Trail.

The West River Trail is an outstanding recreational resource in our region – for individuals, families, students, athletes, of all ages and abilities. Also, other local and state non-profits, as well as private individuals, are making increasing use of the Depot and have established it as the vital community center we envisioned. It is available to everyone, and rental rates are kept reasonable to encourage its broad usage, to the benefit of all. And, of course, it is home to a growing list of free public events conducted annually by our own organization.

Several remarkable events were conducted at the Depot in 2013:

- “Eleven Miles of Trouble,” a trail run organized by and benefitting the Flood Brook Collaborative (to be repeated in 2014) headquartered at the Station.
- Marlboro College Grad School’s Center for Creative Solutions, a week-long conference with multiple state and regional partners on the topic of rebuilding Londonderry post-Tropical Storm Irene.
- Trip Talks, armchair travel to points near and far via slides and stories shared by adventurous friends and neighbors who took us along to Patagonia and Cuba.
- The FoWRT Annual meeting, “Doings at the Depot” in February 2013, was informative and well attended. All enjoyed hearing updates on upper and lower section accomplishments, the dedication of a locomotive bell generously donated by William and Agnes Peele, a preview and talk by Tim Lawrence of his video about hiking the West River Trail, delicious refreshments, and socializing together with old and new friends.

Please enable us to continue to serve the communities of South Central Vermont in these and additional ways with your support of the Friends of the West River Trail.



## CONTACT US:

The Lower Section  
138 Elliot St,  
Suite 3  
Brattleboro,  
Vermont 05301  
lowersection@  
westrivertrail.org

The Upper Section  
P.O. Box 2086  
S.Londonderry,  
Vermont 05155  
uppersection@  
westrivertrail.org

## FOLLOW THE WEST RIVER TRAIL:

WEBSITE:  
[http://  
westrivertrail.org](http://westrivertrail.org)

FACEBOOK:  
[https://  
www.facebook.com/  
WestRiverTrail](https://www.facebook.com/WestRiverTrail)

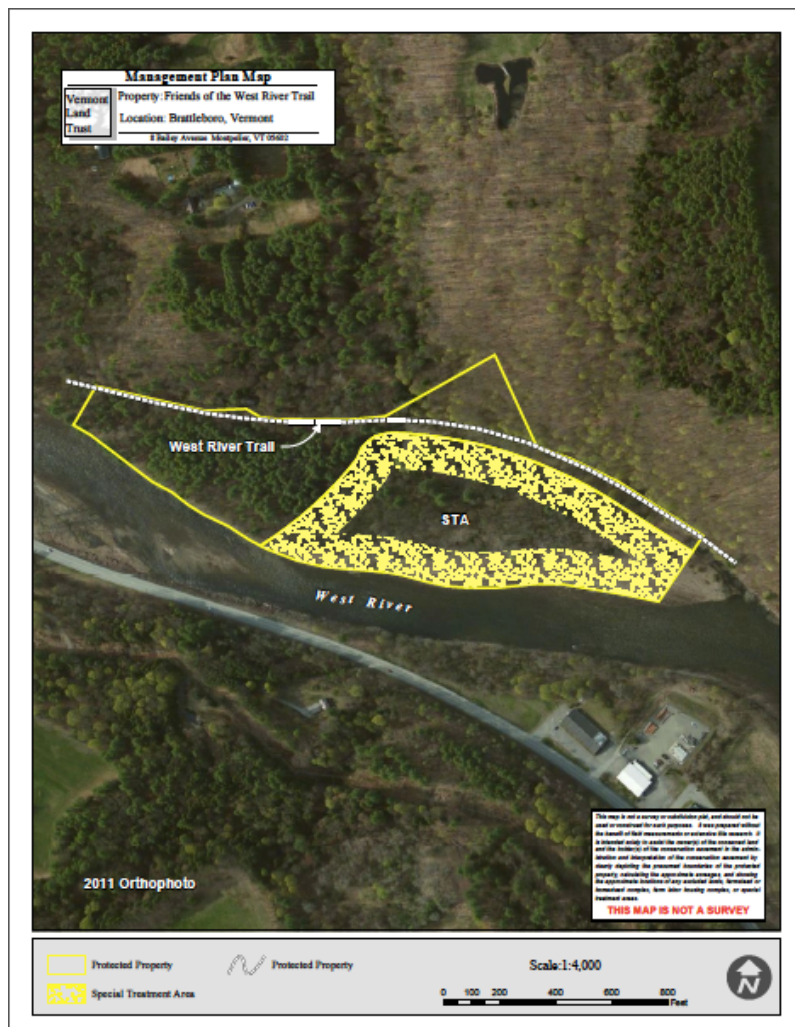
SIGN UP FOR  
EMAIL UPDATES:  
[http://  
westrivertrail.org](http://westrivertrail.org)

## NEWS FROM THE LOWER SECTION

It was a busy year for the Lower Section of the Friends of the West River Trail. Much was accomplished with the help of many, in our fundraising and trail improvement efforts.

Some of the 2013 highlights:

- Volunteers cleared winter blow-down and removed several tons of abandoned cars, automotive parts, tires and other debris that had been dumped along the sides of the Trail several decades ago.
- We achieved our initial goal of \$45,000 to fund Foundation Stage improvements to the Trail and embarked upon Enhancement Stage fundraising to support on-going trail restoration and additional opportunities for conservation and education.
- In July, the inaugural FoWRT Run/Walk attracted 18 participants. Tim Fleming, organizer of the event, ran all the way from the Marina to the Townsend Dam!





## THE WEST RIVER TRAIL: A TRAIL FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

The Friends of the West River Trail continues fundraising to achieve our dream of improving the beautiful wooded lower six miles of the West River Trail for everyone, and eventually joining it with our Upper Section.

Our trail can be used by people of all ages: commuter bikers, families with children on bikes or in strollers, walkers, runners and cross country skiers. Our hope is to create a mobility-friendly surface for a walk—a gentle, flat bike ride, or a wheelchair outing. We've made many improvements and are on our way to achieving our dream. If you believe in it, please contribute to making it happen!

DONATE TO THE WEST RIVER TRAIL: <http://westrivertrail.org/donate/>

- With grants from the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board and the Vermont Land Trust, along with the help of local donors, FoWRT purchased the "Riverstone Preserve," a 21-acre tract of land along the West River about one mile north of the Marina. This ecologically diverse site is nestled between the river and the historic former West River Railroad corridor (See map).

- In conjunction with the I-91 bridge replacement project, updates on Trail accessibility are posted weekly in local media, on the West River Trail website and at the southern trail-head. Meanwhile, the Trail will remain accessible from Rice Farm Road to the Riverstone Preserve for the duration of the I-91 project.

- Local volunteers, including a youthful contingent from the Greenwood School, participated in fall clean-up along the entire length of the Lower Section.

## THE LOWER SECTION: LOOKING AHEAD

Here are some future efforts we are looking to our Enhancement Stage funding to support:

- Facilitate points of access to the Trail from additional locations such as Technology Drive and Fox Farm Road
- Remove debris and abandoned material from the Riverstone Preserve
- Form a team to design low-impact, environmentally



appropriate interpretative trails, signage, picnic areas and program space at the Riverstone Preserve

- Repair foot bridges on the Trail upstream of the Preserve
- Explore possibilities for linking the Trail to the Town of Brattleboro's West River Park, to the network of Trails behind the Retreat Farm and to the extensive rails-to-trails network in southwestern New Hampshire
- Construct two new bridges and extend the trail northward 1.5 miles to the old granite quarry.

## **DONORS, SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS OF THE WEST RIVER TRAIL**

The West River Trail would not be what it is today without the generosity of so many volunteers, sponsors and supporters over the last few years. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to and acknowledge everyone who has supported the West River Trail in so many ways. Please accept our sincere apologies and let us know if we missed your name.

## **WORKDAY VOLUNTEERS (LOWER SECTION)**

Drew Adam; Paul Cameron; Jason Cooper; Elijah Cooper; Robert Dunbar; Amy Enochs and Greenwood School students: Jake, Thomas, Will and Zachary; Jim Ethier; John Frechette; Trevor & Mike Kipp; Paul Link; Vicki Meyer; Malcolm Moore; Patrick Noyes; Jeff Nugent; Jessie Palmer; Mary Steiner; Tim Tirrell; Thomas Wagner; John Warren; Steve Warren-Shriner; Jim Webster; Joan Weir; Kathleen White; Michaela Wood; UNH students; Peter Yost

## **PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE OFFERED THEIR SERVICES (LOWER SECTION)**

Sam Angell; Tom Brown; Dede Cummings; Becky Day; Michael Donahue; Jason Evans; Paul Gillies; Graham King; Don Lyford; Bahman Mahdavi; Jim Maxwell; Carole Melis; Mindell & Morse & crew; Malcolm Moore; Eric Morse; Stephan Morse; Jeff Nugent; Bill Schmidt; Elin Waagen; John Warren; Monroe Whitaker

## **CORPORATE DONORS, GOODS & SERVICES (LOWER SECTION)**

Black Mountain Landscaping; Brown & Roberts Hardware; Cersosimo Industries; DCdesign; F.W. Webb Co.; Home Depot (Keene, NH); Integrated Solar Applications; Jason Evans Construction, Inc.; J. Hiam LLC; Carl Knoch; Lotus Graphics; The Marina; Pleasant Valley Yardworks; Rails to Trails Conservancy; WebWerk



# FRIENDS OF THE WEST RIVER TRAIL

## DONOR REPORT 2013

### DONORS 2013 (LOWER)

#### **Trail Founders** (\$5,000 or more)

Greg, Gayle, Sam & Joe; Thomas Thompson Trust; Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

#### **Trail Pioneers** (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Vermont Land Trust

#### **Trail Blazers** (1,000-\$2,499)

Jason Cooper; Byron Corporation; Adam Gebb; Cultural Intrigue; Lester & Sheila Humphreys; Malcolm Moore; Marcia & Philip Steckler; Nick and Joan Thorndike; Vermont Community Foundation

#### **Trail Champions** (\$500-\$999)

Janet Wallstein & Jane Dewey

#### **Trail Patrons** (\$100-\$499)

Anonymous; Judy & John Davidson; Philip Feidelseit; William & Suzanne Flynt; Tom Franks and Katherine Hayes; Connie, Tom, Sam & Peter Green; Roger Haydock; Graeme King & Rebecca Day; Deborah Luskin & Timothy Shafer; Carolyn Mayo-Brown; Anne & Warren Montgomery; Greg Moschetti & Connie Baxter; Jon & Kerry Secrest; Barry & Elsa Waxman; Tonia & Whitman Wheeler

#### **Trail Friends** (\$1-\$99)

Bruce Benson; John & Judith Berkley; Nancy Bogdanski; Michael Bosworth & Naomi Lindenfeld; Alice Charkes; William Conley & Christina Hebert; Carmen & Christopher Derby; Beverly Flemming; Kimberly Friedman & Thomas Redden; Rebecca Gembarowski & Timothy Fleming; Peter Gill; Annie Guion; Seth Harter & Katrin Jellema; Celia Irvine; Benjamin James & Tanya Luttinger; Lisa Keller; Larry McIntosh; Rebecca & Nathan Olmstead; Linda Owen; John Panzera; Bob & Jenny Spencer; Potter Stewart & Robin Stern; Carrie Storm; Muriel Taylor; Roger Turner & Linda Rood; Kathleen White; Deborah Whittemore; Patricia Wilson & Shaun Deane

#### **In-kind goods & services**

James Maxwell, Vermont Land Trust

### DONORS 2013 (UPPER)

#### **Trail Blazers** (1,000-\$2,499)

Leslie Sterling; Irwin & Wilma Steuer; Jill Stevens

#### **Trail Champions** (\$500-\$999)

Fred Hartmann; Nancy Hillery; Barry Mansfield

#### **Trail Patrons** (\$100-\$499)

Bruce Benson; Robert & Maureen Brandt; Louis Bregy; Marcia Camp; Richard Cohn; Wayne Granquist; Inger Johansson; Jeffrey & Linda Lennox; Roger Meltzer; Edward & Dorothy Miller; William Peele; Walter Scott; Jonathan Sporn

#### **Trail Friends** (\$1-\$99)

Anonymous; Olive Anderson; Linny & Rich Andlinger; Gary & Michelle Bettman; Candace Bialczak; Janes Bogdany; Leonard Bugel; Gary Butts; Melville Coleman; Stephen Coombs; Amy Corwin; Linda Cysz; Barbara Dworkin; Mary English; Marge & Bob Fish; Schulyer Foulkes; David Frayne; Douglas Friant; Louis Frino; Jan & Bjorg Gisholt; Michael Goodbody, Robert Gorden; Elizabeth Harbur; Andrew Harper; Deborah & Donald Hazelton; Edwin & Arlene Hodge; Jane & Peter Howard; William W. Hoyt; Frank Jagisch; Philip James; David & Robin Key; Alan Knapp; John & Shirley Knowlton; Cynthia Korpi; Raymond Kretschmer; Joel & Gayle Kuhlberg; Marion Laselle; Herbert Loeffler; Garner Lester; Forrest Long; Carla & Louis Martin; Matthew & Nancy McKenna; Greg & Pat Meulemans; Verne Moberly; Mimi Neff; House Norse; Ernest Palola; Grace Papp; Arlyn Parker; Karl Pfister; John & Joyce Phillips; Dennis & Nancy Pinkernell; Sandra Pratt; Clyde Prouty; Andrew Rackear; Signa Read; A Seth & Kathleen Roberts; Connie & Allan Rogers; BA & Wendy Rowland; Douglas & Mary Russell; Everett Seymour; William Shroeder; Lisa Scotte; Patricia Slade; Katherine Stone; Paul Sullivan; Thrifty Attic

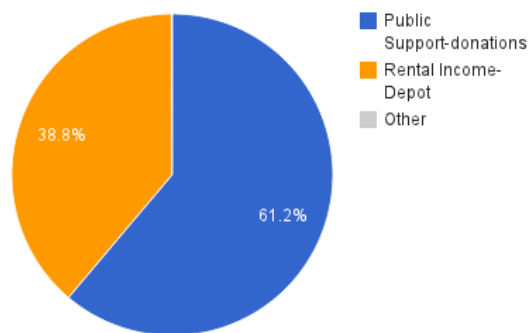
# FINANCIAL REPORT (UPPER SECTION)

## INCOME & EXPENSE (Upper Section)

### INCOME

Donations \$11,775  
 Merchandise sales \$15  
 Rental Income - Depot \$7,460  
 Total Income \$19,250

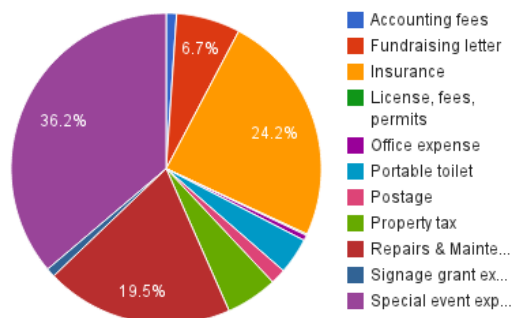
INCOME - UPPER SECTION



### EXPENSE

Accounting fees \$115  
 Fundraising letter \$ 708  
 Insurance \$2,571  
 License, fees, permits \$15  
 Office expense \$60  
 Portable toilet \$400  
 Postage \$169  
 Property tax \$571  
 Repairs & Maintenance \$2,076  
 Signage grant expenses \$100  
 Special event expenses \$3,847  
 Total Expense \$10,634

EXPENSE - UPPER SECTION



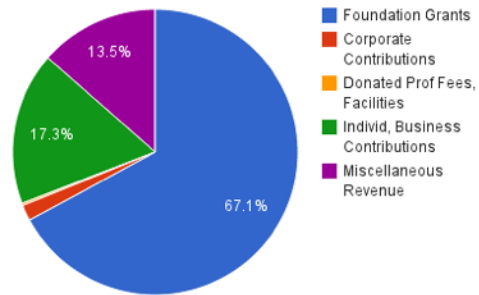
# FINANCIAL REPORT (LOWER SECTION)

## INCOME & EXPENSE (Lower Section)

### INCOME

Foundation Grants \$81,800  
 Corporate Contributions \$2,200  
 Donated Prof Fees, Facilities \$300  
 Contributions \$21,105  
 Miscellaneous Revenue \$16,500  
 Total Income \$121,905  
 Net Income \$108,919

INCOME - LOWER SECTION



### EXPENSE

Legal Fees \$2,050  
 Outside Contract Services \$9,063  
 Printing and Copying \$40  
 Total Operations \$40  
 Property Taxes \$684  
 Fees and Licenses \$263  
 Insurance \$885  
 Total Expense \$12,985

EXPENSE - LOWER SECTION

