



# Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Quarterly Report

Fall 2014

Volume 32

The Thames River watershed includes the Five Mile, French, Moosup, Natchaug, Pachaug, Quinebaug, Shetucket, Willimantic, and Yantic Rivers and all their tributaries. We're not just the "Thames main stem."

*Greetings from the [Thames River Basin Partnership](#). Once again this quarter our partners have proven their ability to work cooperatively on projects compatible with the [TRBP Workplan](#) and in support of our common mission statement to share organizational resources and to develop a regional approach to natural resource protection. I hope you enjoy reading about these activities as much as I enjoy sharing information about them with you. For more information on any of these updates, just click on the blue website hyperlinks in this e-publication, but be sure to come back to finish reading the rest of the report.*

*Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Project Manager  
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District*



If you missed the Fall 2014 Thames River Basin Partnership meeting, then you missed a presentation given at the Yale Myers Forest Camp in Eastford on the [Quiet Corner Initiative](#). Julius Pasay and Alex Barrett of the Yale School of Forestry overviewed the initiative aimed at providing forestry students with real work experience. Successful projects completed include a stream restoration project in Leadmine Brook in Ashford and the installation of a stream flow gauge in Bigelow Brook.

## TRBP Updates

The [TRBP Plan of Work](#) is scheduled for a review and update before July 1, 2015. TRBP partners are asked to review the current TRBP Plan of Work for compatibility with your organization's current goals or to provide suggestions for revised goals for the organization. Submit your comments or suggested revisions to [Jean Pillo](#). Please consider serving on the TRBP Plan of Work Steering Committee to help review the submissions and develop an updated Plan of Work.

The TRBP is also seeking people with website experience that are willing to serve on the website update committee. The TRBP website, [www.TRBP.org](http://www.TRBP.org), was created using software that is no longer supported by the manufacturer. Funding for the project and advice on user friendly web software is being sought. Please contact [Jean Pillo](#) if you can assist with this project.

Floating Workshop XV is in the early discussion phase. Suggestions for Floating Workshop themes for 2015 include featuring the Yantic River in Norwich with a walk along the river at Heritage Riverfront Park Walkway from Norwich Harbor to Yantic Falls, or a program featuring the upper Quinebaug River area in Massachusetts. The TRBP Floating Workshop committee will gratefully accept ideas on workshop topics. Please contact [Jean Pillo](#) if you would like to get involved with planning Floating Workshop XV. TRBP Floating Workshops are traditionally scheduled on a Friday afternoon in June.

## **Partner Reports**

The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) has promoted Lois Bruinooge to the position of Executive Director after the previous Executive Director left for another position. Lois has served TLGV as their Deputy Executive Director for the past 8 years. Previous to her work at TLGV, Lois was employed by MA DEP as an environmental attorney. Under Lois's leadership, TLGV was able to work with the National Park Service and many other organizations to designate almost 40 miles of the [Quinebaug River Water Trail](#) as a National Recreational Trail, adding to an existing 4.6 miles previously designated. The [Willimantic River Water Trail](#) was also given National Recreation Trail designation under her leadership and with the assistance of other dedicated volunteers. Her vision is to get people to use the rivers for recreation as a means to get them to care about them more.

The Last Green Valley will once again be sponsoring river clean ups in 2015 for municipalities or other groups that organize them. For more information, please visit their website at [www.TLGV.org](http://www.TLGV.org)

TLGV Water Quality Monitoring Program update:

- Volunteers were trained in 2014 to collect water samples for bacterial analysis. Sampling sites included Ekonk Brook in Plainfield, Little River in Putnam and French River in Massachusetts.
- Nine HOBO temperature loggers that were placed in coordination with DEEP were retrieved in October 2014. Low flows in the region may have compromised the data in a few locations, including a DEEP long term monitoring station in the Quinebaug River in Putnam.
- River Bioassessment season is underway. Over 30 volunteers were trained to collect stream insects as water quality indicators. This season, DEEP revised the protocol and requested first and second order streams be targeted for this type of data collection. Many of the sites were dry due to the lack of rain in late summer, so the season has been more challenging. Where possible, volunteers are being assigned to collect samples near HOBO temperature data logging sites, or to revisit sites DEEP has monitored as a QC check for the methodology.

In September 2014, the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD), in partnership with The Last Green Valley, organized a river clean up in the Natchaug River in the section between

Lauter Park and Fire School Road in Willimantic. In 2013, a visual assessment of the river, or Stream Walk, was completed as part of TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. A large amount of highly visible debris was noted, along with other areas of concern during the assessment. Through the efforts of ECCD and TLGV staff, along with 8 volunteers, at least 25 shopping carts, a dozen tires, bicycle carcasses and other debris was removed from this segment of the river.

TLGV, ECCD and the CT RC&D Area jointly applied for Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding through the NRCS. This proposal was one of two finalists for state level funding under this new NRCS initiative. Final funding awards will be announced in late November.

ECCD is in the process of completing a Watershed Based Plan (WBP) for Amos Lake, located in Preston, CT. Water quality data collected from 2012 -13, with support of TLGV's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program and in cooperation with the Amos Lake Association, is under review. A project summary and the main implementation project summary was presented to stakeholders from the community. In advance of the WBP completion, some implementation projects that will be recommended in the Plan are already underway.

- ECCD assisted Town of Preston and Amos Lake Association with an application for funding to treat Variable Leaf Milfoil by the boat launch. No decision yet on whether the project was funded.
- Amos Lake Association is continuing a mid-summer water quality monitoring snapshot as part of TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program.

The final WBP is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

ECCD is working with a small farm in Ashford, CT to install a Manure Storage Best Management Practice demonstration project that will decrease the amount of *E. coli* bacteria entering the Mount Hope River. Fecal bacteria measured in the Mount Hope River in Ashford and Mansfield, CT is above the limit allowed in the CT Water Quality Standards. This implementation project was selected from a BMP matrix developed by ECCD staff after a bacteria trackdown survey in the river was completed in 2013.

ECCD staff worked with UCONN facilities staff and the CT DEEP to install a variety of Best Management Practices as a demonstration project at the UCONN Equine Facilities. The BMPs included rubber belt water deflectors across the road access way to divert stormwater from heavy use areas (a first of its kind project in Connecticut), wood chip berms and stone aggregate berms down gradient of the heavy use areas to slow down, filter and infiltrate stormwater runoff, and various paddock surface treatments to slow erosion.

Ekonk Brook in Plainfield is a tributary of the Moosup River. ECCD staff, working with volunteers trained under TLGV Water Quality Monitoring Program, completed a bacterial trackdown survey this summer and areas of concern have been identified. The preliminary results were presented to stakeholders in Plainfield. Further field data is being collected as part of the investigation. The outcome of this project will be a watershed based plan that identifies

the sources of *E. coli* and recommendations for implementation projects that will improve water quality in the brook.

Contaminated stormwater runoff originating from small farms where farm animals are concentrated was identified as a source of water pollution in both the Little River and Mashamoquet Brook Watershed Based Plans. As a result, a Small Farms Manure Management project in the Little River and Mashamoquet Brook watersheds is underway. Free manure compost covers are being provided to horse owners in the project area, which includes Pomfret, and parts of Woodstock, Putnam and Thompson. One or two larger projects will be implemented as well. This project is moving from the outreach to the implementation stage. Contact [Matt Snurkowski](#) if you would like more information on this project.

ECCD staff helped with planning and gave presentations at the Connecticut Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Summit in East Hartford in July. Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinators from across Connecticut gathered to share their successes and advice and to become more informed on programs across the state. About 100 people attended this event.

ECCD was awarded Supplement Environmental Project funds through the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut and will be designing and installing a vegetated buffer along the Natchaug River. This project will be at Lauter Park in Willimantic. Riverside buffers act as filters to reduce storm water pollution. The first phase of a four year project will be completed with a planting in Spring 2015.

ECCD is continuing to partner with NRCS through September 2015 to assist the Norwich and Danielson Offices with technical assistance to help meet planning and implementation goals. Activities will focus on completing Conservation Plans for Conservation Technical Assistance requests, including those under the Farmland Restoration Program, Highly Erodible Land Compliance and Easement Programs. Continuation of this type of Conservation Technical Assistance partnership will ensure that ECCD staff can maintain valuable technical skills while assisting NRCS in completing critical conservation work.

Connecticut's Soil Health Workshop, sponsored by the CT Resource Conservation and Development Council in partnership with the USDA-NRCS and DEEP will be held on November 4, 2014. This workshop is designed to benefit regulators, policy makers, municipal, regional, and state officials to help them understand the importance of healthy soil. It will focus on the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital living system that sustains plant, animal and human health. Healthy soils rich in organic matter drain better, have greater disease resistance, and better water holding capacity in times of drought. Healthy soils are important to Connecticut's (and the region's) bottom line.

The keynote speaker for this event will be soil health expert Ray Archuleta – a.k.a. Ray The Soil Guy – of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Soil Health Team in Greensboro, North Carolina. Ray Covino, District Conservationist for NRCS's Danielson Service Center will also be on hand at this event.

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 | 8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Scout Hall Youth Center, 28 Abbe Road, East Windsor, CT 06088

\$20 per person (includes morning coffee/donuts and lunch)

Register online at <http://whoozin.com/XKT-FWW-7PAE> by November 1st

A Prescribed Grazing Farm Tour will be held on November 5, 2014. Come listen to USDA-NRCS National Grazing Specialist Kevin Ogles, National Agronomist Steve Woodruff, CT Grazing Specialist Bill Purcell, and Feed Commodities Nutritionist Karl Norris as they give a pasture tour; discuss grazing efficiency, extending the grazing season, forage analysis, prescribed grazing systems, and plant identification.

November 5th 3-5 pm

Brush Hill Dairy

87 Brush Hill Rd

Bozrah, CT 06334

Please RSVP to Bill Purcell by November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 860-779-0557 ext 100 or

[william.purcell@ct.usda.gov](mailto:william.purcell@ct.usda.gov)

Each year, employees from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency in Connecticut pool their resources and work together to out-do their contribution numbers from the previous year for the 3-month Feds Feed Families food drive. In 2014, the effort between the two agencies' seven offices resulted in a total of 10,052 lbs. of food for local food banks and soup kitchens (almost 8,000 lbs. of which was fresh produce). Employee donations make a difference, but the results from food gleaning with two local producers contributed to this success in a big way:

- Lapsley Orchard is a diverse fruit and vegetable farm located in Pomfret. John Wolchesky has operated the farm for 29 years; now he and his wife Patti continue to diversify the operation while raising their two young children. The Wolchesky's produce over 30 varieties of apples, along with other fruits and vegetables. The farm includes a popular farm store and pick-your-own operation. Lapsley Orchard is a fixture in the region, providing agri-tourism opportunities for families and learning experiences for school children. They also participate in multiple efforts to give back to the community, including contributing to Feds Feed Families. For the past two years, the Wolchesky's have donated over 2,000 pounds of fresh, healthy produce to the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry, who have noted that many of their clients would not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables were it not for the generosity of local farms.
- Malerba Farm is a diverse operation that has been in business for nearly 100 years. It is owned and managed by 3rd generation farmer Vincent Malerba and his family. For almost 40 years, he has been growing flowers and vegetables on 80 acres in beautiful eastern Connecticut. In addition to the farm, Malerba also has 20 greenhouses filled with beautiful spring and summer plants. At the farm stand, the family not only sells plants and produce, they offer over 100 varieties of their own brand of products. A true believer in giving back, Malerba has served on the New London County Farm Service Agency Committee for 15 years, participates in that county's 4-H Foundation, and this year made a huge contribution to the Feds Feed Families food drive, donating over 6,000 lbs. of fresh produce to the Norwich Service Center. The food collected was delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen/Food Bank.

The USDA Service Centers in Danielson and Norwich (as well as all the staff in Connecticut) are grateful for their partnerships with these big-hearted producers and continue to be inspired by their generosity.

The Farmland Preservation Celebration: 300 Farms and Growing event, sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, was held Saturday, September 20, 2014. The event featured tours, live music and dancing, exhibits, celebrity chefs, farm animals and equipment, and a hay maze. The event was held on the historic town green in Lebanon, which seems appropriate since, according to statistics, the town has preserved twice as much land through the program as any other town in the state -- more than 4,700 acres.

With the count at 300 farms and 40,000 acres preserved in perpetuity, Connecticut's Conservation Partners took a day to step back and celebrate all their hard work. It all began in 1978, when the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAg) implemented its Farmland Preservation Program (one of the first in the nation). At just about the same time, Congress passed the 1981 Farm Bill, which included legislation for farmland preservation. Although the program names and the people running them have changed, DOAg, NRCS, towns, and entities throughout the state have worked together to ensure the future of agriculture in Connecticut.

The [Air Line State Park Trail](#) is a linear park on a former rail bed that spans 50 miles between East Hampton to Thompson, CT. It is designed for pedestrians and non-motorized transportation. An enjoyable and inspirational 18 minute long video was recently released by CT DEEP showing scenic and historic highlights of the trail. Click the link above to view the video.

2014 Connecticut Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report has been submitted to EPA by CT DEEP. For now, the draft 2014 document and past reports are online at [http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=325610&deepNav\\_GID=1654](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=325610&deepNav_GID=1654). The Department's GIS shapefiles soon to be uploaded and publicly available through CLEAR's CTECO website.

US EPA has approved CT DEEP's 2014 [Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan](#) effective September 29, 2014. The plan was developed consistent with EPA's planning requirements as stated in EPA's Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories, issued April 12, 2013 for a state NPS plan. The Plan is a framework for the activities for the next five years of DEEP's Nonpoint Source Program funded under EPA Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. DEEP also submits an annual workplan and receives a grant each year from EPA. An approved five year Program Plan is required for DEEP to be eligible for annual 319 funding. DEEP also administers a 319 Grant Program with a limited portion of those funds dedicated to developing Watershed Based Plans, and the majority focused on implementing projects with the goal of restoring impaired waters to meet Connecticut Water Quality Standards. The Program Plan also commits DEEP to working with stakeholders to protect threatened or high quality waters.

In early 2012, The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) began the process of updating its [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#) (CCMP) for Long Island Sound. This effort has involved reviewing program progress, soliciting stakeholder and public input, and

developing a framework for the Update. A draft CCMP Update was released on Sept. 8 and has been followed by a two-month period for public comment. Public comments on the document will be accepted via email and post until Saturday, November 8, 2014. Click [here](#) to see the PowerPoint presentation shown at the September public input meetings.

The first Connecticut stream flow classifications were recently finalized for rivers and streams in the Southeast Coastal, Pawcatuck and Thames Major Basins. You can view these classifications on DEEP's [Stream Flow](#) webpage. This is the first time that Connecticut has mapped water quantity goals to balance uses of water which take into account needs for river and stream ecology, wildlife and recreation while also providing for the needs of public health, flood control, industry, public utilities, water supply, public safety, agriculture and other lawful uses of water. Public Act 05-142 requires DEEP to work with the Department of Public Health and stakeholders to update standards for maintaining minimum flows. Extensive discussions with numerous stakeholders and work groups culminated in adoption of final regulations in 2011 which gave DEEP the authority to develop stream flow classes.

DEEP is continuing to map stream flow classes for the rest of the State. The South Central Coastal Basin is the next area that will be vetted through a public process and DEEP expects to solicit public comments for this basin within the next few months.

The maps of the stream flow classifications are available on-line at [ww.ct.gov/deep/streamflow](http://ww.ct.gov/deep/streamflow). Such maps include river and stream segments in the following towns: Andover, Ashford, Bolton, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, East Lyme, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Hampton, Hebron, Killingly, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Mansfield, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Salem, Scotland, Sprague, Stafford, Sterling, Stonington, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Vernon, Voluntown, Waterford, Willington, Windham and Woodstock.

Note: A static, electronic map of the classifications for a particular town or area within the Southeast Coastal, Pawcatuck or Thames Major Basins can be made available upon email request to [deep.streamflow@ct.gov](mailto:deep.streamflow@ct.gov).

Work on the Connecticut Species List of Greatest Conservation Need is continuing and a draft list should be posted on the [Wildlife Action Plan](#) webpage next month. Public PowerPoint presentations about the Plan and facilitated workshops that will require public participation are scheduled through November. DEEP's Wildlife Division will be holding a series of informal meetings throughout the state to obtain public input as it updates the state's Wildlife Action Plan, which serves as Connecticut's blueprint for conservation action. We encourage you to attend at least one! Click [HERE](#) to view the calendar of meetings. The agency must complete a comprehensive review and revision every 10 years to make sure the Plan reflects current needs and priorities for species of greatest conservation need and their habitats.

You can submit comments on the revised list of species of greatest conservation need, an updated description of key habitats found in Connecticut, and revisions to chapters of the original 2005 plan (called the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy). All of the revised documents can be found on the [Wildlife Action Plan webpage](#). You are encouraged to check the

website often, as more updates and revisions become available for review. Comments can also be submitted to Connecticut Wildlife Division, Sessions Woods W.M.A., P.O. Box 1550, Burlington, CT 06013.

DEEP is revising the Connecticut Green Plan and public input is needed! Pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, DEEP is updating the Green Plan (Connecticut's comprehensive open space strategy) and prioritizing actions through the Department's actions through 2019 to best achieve the State's changing open space acquisition goals and meet new plan component requirements. The Department encourages you to review the materials provided on the [GREEN PLAN WEBPAGE](#) and to submit your thoughtful comments on the Green Plan's draft outline via e-mail to:

Jamie Sydoriak, Land Acquisition Resource Assistant  
Email: [Jamie.Sydoriak@ct.gov](mailto:Jamie.Sydoriak@ct.gov)  
Phone: 860-424-3143

The TRBP Floating Workshop XIV featuring the Pachaug River system included information on the pros and cons of lake drawdowns. The table below is a summary of lakes in eastern Connecticut with state owned dams that have requested DEEP to conduct a drawdown during the 2014/15 winter season.

- |                       |             |  |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| • Lower Bolton Lake   | 30"/ 18"    | Approved ~10/30 drawdown; refill by 4/6/15         |
| • Middle Bolton Lake  | 30"/18"     | Approved ~10/30/drawdown; refill by 4/6/15         |
| • <b>Pachaug Lake</b> | <b>36"</b>  | <b>Denied - not available until winter 2016/17</b> |
| • Hopeville Lake      | 36"/36"     | Approved   |
| • Ashland Lake        | 36"36"      | Approved   |
| • Gardner Lake        | 24"-36"/36" | Approved   |
| • Mashapaug Lake      | 18"/18"     | Approved   |

The Willimantic River Alliance noted that the popularity of boating on the Willimantic River is increasing. New Water Trail kiosks are being installed at put-in locations, in partnership with The Last Green Valley.

[Eagleville Lake](#) is an impoundment of the Willimantic River located between the Towns of Coventry and Mansfield, CT. There are problems with invasive aquatic plants including fanwort and variable leaf milfoil in the pond. The two towns jointly applied for funding assistance to address this weed problem in the lake. No decision on the funding awards has been made at this time.

The Northeast Forestry Foundation (NEFF) is working with ten towns in the MassConn area with a focus on educating private forest owners on the multiple values of a woodlot. They have presented over 100 books entitled, "[More than a Woodlot: Getting the Most from your Family Forest](#)," to private landowners in their focus area.

Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association (ASRWWA) is a private non-profit organization that represents water and wastewater systems across Connecticut and Rhode Island, through training, technical assistance and advocacy. Marc Cohen has recently returned to the



organization and will be working with small water utilities in their focus area to develop source water protection plans.

[Clean Water Action](#) is a one million member organization of diverse people and groups joined together to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life. A current focus of the organization is to garner support for a recent proposed rule by the US EPA defining what streams and wetlands are protected under the Clean Water Act. For more information about the rule, click [here](#). Formal comments regarding this proposed rule are due to US EPA by November 14, 2014.

### **News from the Municipalities**

The Town of Hampton is participating in a pilot program under the Community Farms Preservation Program (CFP). The newly created CFP program is geared toward smaller farms and requires a municipal partner. The program has resulted in 24 new municipalities entering into cooperative agreements with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture during the last year alone. These efforts have led to 11 new CFP program applications. The purpose of this new pilot CFP program is to encourage locally supported farmland preservation on smaller farms that have excellent agricultural soils and contribute to local economic activity, but which may not be eligible for other protection programs.

For municipalities to qualify, they must enter with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture into cooperative agreements that do the following:

- recognize farmland preservation in the municipal plan of conservation and development
- establish an agricultural commission and/or program for farmland preservation
- inventory local farmland resources
- establish local scoring criteria for prioritizing local farms
- designate or have a local funding mechanism
- request identification of locally important farmland soils through the USDA.

### **Other news**

The National Environmental Education Foundation organized a photo contest in an effort to help document algal blooms in the nation's waters. Algal blooms can occur in water bodies as small as a neighborhood pond and as big as the Gulf of Mexico. When algae grow out of control in our waters, the result can be unappealing, harmful to our health and harmful to the environment. The winners of the contest and other contest entries can be viewed at this link <http://neefusa.org/algalbloomcontest>.

A new report released by U.S. EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities titled, *Enhancing Sustainable Communities With Green Infrastructure: A guide to help communities better manage stormwater while achieving other environmental, public health, social, and economic benefits*, aims to help local governments, water utilities, nonprofit organizations, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders integrate green infrastructure strategies into plans that can transform their communities. Many communities that want to use green infrastructure approaches face technical, regulatory, financial, and institutional obstacles that limit widespread implementation. This

report serves as a guide to develop a plan that can overcome these obstacles for neighborhoods, towns, cities, and regions of all sizes. It also can help stakeholders create a vision for how green infrastructure can enhance their communities beyond reducing stormwater runoff, and directs readers to other resources that provide more detailed information that can be tailored to communities' particular climate, goals, and circumstances.

The report is paired with a blog post by Joel Beauvais, Associate Administrator for EPA's Office of Policy, on how green infrastructure is helping to transform neighborhoods, and a graphic to help communities quickly envision the 10 steps to developing a sustainable community and green infrastructure plan. You can also find photographs of green infrastructure approaches in communities on our Flickr page.

- Read the report: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/green-infrastructure.html>
- Read the blog post: <http://blog.epa.gov/epaconnect/2014/10/green-infrastructure-helping-to-transform-neighborhoods-in-cleveland-and-across-the-nation/>
- View the graphic: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/green-infrastructure-10steps-scip.html>
- View the photos in Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usepagov/sets/72157648579274857/>

Third Edition of Report on Climate Change Indicators in the United States Available Online and in Print. With help from partners, EPA has compiled the third edition of a Climate Change Indicators Report, presenting 30 indicators to help readers understand observed long-term trends related to the causes and effects of climate change. The report describes the significance of these trends and their possible consequences for people, the environment, and society. To view the report online and/or order a copy, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/indicators>.

The sub base in Groton wishes to continue to promote environmental responsibility. They recently installed a rain garden. For more information, click [here](#).

The Connecticut Botanical Society recently compiled a new Connecticut Native Flora Checklist. Compiled by a committee of the Connecticut Botanical Society, this new, 232 page checklist of 2,852 native and naturalized Connecticut plants is a resource for botanists, gardeners, naturalists, landscape designers, consultants and others who want to use correct scientific names, and want to know if a plant growing wild in the State is considered native or exotic (approximately 38% of the total). Plant scientific names are arranged alphabetically by family, then genus, then species or hybrid name, then by subspecies or variety. State designated invasive, endangered, threatened and special concern plants are notated. These 4 ½ x 8 inch books are spiral-bound and have waterproof covers. Published by the Connecticut Botanical Society in January 2014, the book is distributed by the Connecticut College Arboretum, New London. Individual copies are available for \$10 at the Arboretum Office (103 Olin Science Center).

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If you would like your organization's efforts included in the next edition of the TRBP Partners in Action Report, consider attending one of our quarterly meetings. It includes a [TRBP Plan of Work](#) activity reporting session, which is an informal "round the table" discussion of Partner

activities. It is a great time to network with like-focused organizations. All meetings begin at 9:30 AM. Generally, the TRBP meet quarterly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month

The next meeting of the Thames River Basin Partnership will be held January 20, 2015 at the [Hampton Community Center](#) (the former the Little River Grange) beginning at 9:30 AM.

Contact [Jean Pillo](#) at (860) 928-4948 for more information or to be added to the TRBP distribution list.

If you are not already on the e-distribution list for this publication, contact [Jean Pillo](#) by email and request to be added, or you can download the most current version of this quarterly publication from the [TRBP website](#).

The Thames River Basin Partnership is a voluntary, cooperative effort to share resources, and strives to develop a regional approach to resource protection. The Partnership is made up of a variety of agencies, organizations, municipalities, educational institutions, companies, and individuals interested in the environmental health of the greater Thames River basin. Partial funding support for FY 14 for TRBP Coordinator time has been provided by The Last Green Valley. Additional sources of funding are being sought to continue the TRBP Coordinator position. Please consider making a donation to the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District and designate it to support the Thames River Basin Partnership Coordinator position.