



# Thames River Basin Partnership Floating Workshop VIII

The Natchaug Watershed:  
Water for People and Nature  
June 13, 2008

The Workshop began at the Mansfield Community Center with a presentation by Mark Smith of The Nature Conservancy's Sustainable Waters Program. He reviewed worldwide watershed problems and provided local examples of these issues.





After the presentation at the Mansfield Community Center, workshop participants relocated to Mansfield Hollow Lake. Ed Greenough welcomed the group and gave a history of the lake.



The workshop took to the water at that point, using an assortment of personal canoes and kayaks. The Department of Environmental Protection brought in canoes from the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center for this event. Project Oceanology provided a skiff and the US Army Corp of Engineers provided a powerboat as well.





Chris McDowell of the DEP Inland Fisheries Program met the flotilla at the Bassett Bridge Road culvert to overview the northern pike management program at Mansfield Hollow Lake.





Denise Burchsted overviewed the mission statement and focus areas of the Naubesatuck Watershed Council, a non-profit organization that centers on the three rivers that converge at Mansfield Hollow Lake.



Dr. Bob Capers of UCONN located four aquatic invasive plant species during our paddle and talked about the impacts these species may have on lake ecology.

Lisa Krall of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service overviewed the importance of riparian buffers and how to select sites using soil data from the NRCS website for most effective water quality impacts.

Charlotte Pyle of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service pointed out invasive species on the land and how the NRCS WHIP grant may be used to help fund invasive species control or for riparian buffer plantings.





Sue Westa of the Green Valley Institute reviewed the value of forested land in a public drinking water supply watershed area and the importance of community design to protect valuable water resources.

Holly Drinkuth of The Nature Conservancy and the Green Valley Institute reviewed how local municipalities are cooperatively using Connecticut Greenway status as a resource protection strategy for the Fenton, Mount Hope and Natchaug River Systems.





Kathy Howard of Project Oceanology overviewed water quality testing apparatus utilized by Project Oceanology in the Thames River Estuary.



Jean Pillo, as the QSHC Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator, invited workshop attendees to participate in StreamWalk training to be able to conduct visual assessments of the lower Natchaug River, where water quality standards are not being met.

The NRCS staff set up a buffer width/effectiveness demonstration at the boat landing area for workshop participants to review. Balloons were used to make the demo area more visible from off shore.





After our paddle, Charlotte Pyle of the NRCS reviewed the importance of cleaning our boats to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.





Refreshments were provided courtesy of the Naubesatuck Watershed Council during the “after-paddle networking time”, where workshop participants could meet with TRBP Partner representatives in an informal setting.





Ed Greenough took those who were interested for a tour inside the Mansfield Hollow Dam.



After a successful workshop, Eric Thomas, Greater Thames Watershed Coordinator for the CT DEP, helps to muscle the DEP canoes back on to the trailer for their journey back to Hampton.

# Thank you to our workshop sponsors:

- The Town of Mansfield
- The US Army Corp of Engineers
- The Naubesatuck Watershed Council
- Project Oceanology
- The DEP Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center



# Floating Workshop VIII

## Planning Committee Members

Jean Pillo, TRBP Coordinator

Scott Gravatt, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

Kathy Howard, Project Oceanology

Ed Greenough, US Army Corp of Engineers

Jana Butts, Windham Regional Council of Governments

Holly Drinkuth, The Nature Conservancy/the Green Valley Institute

Eric Thomas, Connecticut DEP

Liz Rogers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Denise Burchsted, Naubesatuck Watershed Council

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