



CHICOPEE 4RIVERS WATERSHED

SWIFT+WARE+QUABOAG=CHICOPEE

THE KINGFISHER

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C4R on a roll...

Be a part of the excitement!

C4R to launch QRBT & CRBT and begin plans for WRBT – and continue sampling for Bac-T.

Think **Blue** Too!

C4R continues to move forward. A news story last year used the phrase “rolling on down the river!” Well, we are, thanks to many who see and support our efforts to connect people to their local rivers.

We have a bunch of spring events planned on our rivers, ranging from outreach, clean ups, paddles to beginning monitoring, check out our website:

www.c4rivers.org .

This spring we will host a paddle on the newly completed Quaboag River Blue Trail. A number of groups have stepped forward to “steward” this trail.

Next, we will complete the Chicopee River Blue Trail and launch it by mid summer, the map guide is now in final review/revision, check it out on our web site.

We begin our 5th year of bacteria monitoring on our rivers. We are partnering with CRC to expand some sampling in a few new areas on the lower Quaboag in view of a future blue trail. *Volunteer samplers needed!*

Next, we plan to move onto the Ware River and outline a Blue Trail there, through Hardwick, Ware, and Palmer. In 2019, we will outline the trail segments, work with the towns to establish formal launch sites, (con’t pg 3)



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Did you Know?

The watershed covers 721 square miles, ranging from the western slope of Mt Wachusett to the Connecticut River, and Orange to the Connecticut state line! Topography starts at an elevation of over 1500 ft above sea level to a low of 40 ft in Chicopee. The many waterfalls meant many dams & mills on these rivers.

2018 Paddling Report

Jim Emerson

It was a wet summer last year, but we ventured out on a number of good paddles, seeing some great river scenery and wildlife.

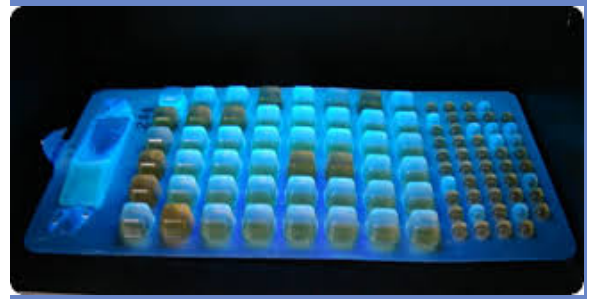
We shared a paddle on the upper Chicopee River with a paddling club from the Brookfields and introduced them to this hidden treasure, oh the happy paddlers!



We ventured out to new river sections to further explore the beauty of the watershed. We reconnoitered the East Branch Ware above Barre Falls Dam and on a second paddle explored the Ware between Barre and Old Furnace – what nice river segment! Next, we paddled the lower Quaboag from Brimfield to Three Rivers (future trail?).

2019 Paddle Plans:

- On May 11, we will venture out on the completed QRBT, starting from Quaboag Pond to the Wickaboag Landing access at the Rt 67/9 rest area. Start time is 9 AM, see our web site for more paddle details.
- In June, we are planning a paddle or two – so check our events page and join us!



What's This?

This is a Quanti-tray, which helps identify the presence of e-coli bacteria in a sample. See those glowing little cubes, that shows that e-coli is present.

Put simply, here is how this works:

When C4R delivers a sample to the CRC lab, they add a reagent powder to the bottle. After it has dissolved, the liquid is poured into the Quanti-tray and sealed then placed in an incubator for 24 hours.

After 24 hours, the tray is placed under a purple light and the cells that glow indicate the presence of e-coli bacteria. The number of glowing cells counted relates to the number of bacteria colonies present, which is what we report on line.

Donations/financial support help with all this and helps keep our sampling program moving forward.



A Grab Sample!

Bacteria Sampling Informs!

C4R samples for e-coli bacteria to inform people on the health and safety of the waters in our local rivers. Much like swimming areas are tested for bacteria to determine safe recreational use, so the same for our program.

We post our sampling results about 25-26 hours after we deliver samples to the lab and results are known. This helps you to know the water's health and safety to go out and enjoy the river with peace of mind.

Go to: <http://connecticutriver.us/site/content/sites-list>

Enjoy a river this summer!



On a Roll cont... begin design of a draft map, identify key trail points of interest, and seek funding for trail infrastructure.

Come summer we will launch our *“poems, prose, and pictures”* outreach and invite people to share their river experiences in words and images.

To help keep all this *rolling along* people can join C4R or send in a donation. Financial resources make all this happen.

So you can see, C4R has a lot in motion. We appreciate your appreciation of our beautiful local rivers! C4R = Care 4 Rivers...

Think Blue!

www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org

Polluted runoff threatens the health of Massachusetts water. You can do your part at home, at work and at play to help keep our streams clear of pollution after rain and snow melt. Walkways, roofs, lawns, and driveways around our homes often shed rainfall into the roadway and down street drains. These flows that run off can pick up contaminants from surfaces along the way--trash, pet waste, fertilizers, detergents, salt, and motor oil--and move through drains out to pollute nearby streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

Following are three important strategies for reducing polluted flows from your property:

- 1. Scoop the Poop:** Do your part to keep our waters and public areas clean and healthy! Bag your pet's waste and throw it in a trashcan.
- 2. Fertilize Lawns Less:** Get a soil test before you apply any fertilizer to your lawn or garden. The results will let you know what your lawn and garden actually need in terms of nutrients.
- 3. Care for your Septic System:** Keep your septic system in good working order with regular inspections and maintenance. Pumping should occur every 3 years typically.

Thinking Blue...

Angela Panaccione

The Think Blue Massachusetts is run by the Massachusetts

Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition, a steering committee of ten regional stormwater groups. The campaign is designed to increase awareness about the harmful effects of stormwater pollution on the state's waterways.

Think Blue aims to help residents and businesses reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff in order to protect Massachusetts lakes, rivers and streams. The goal of Think Blue is to help cities and towns meet the requirements of the new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems permit.

The MS4 permit requires municipalities to implement an education program about stormwater issues of significance for residents, businesses, developers and industrial facilities. Over the five-year permit term, municipalities must distribute two educational messages, at least one year apart, to the four different audiences.

Using a yellow rubber ducky as its campaign mascot, Think Blue aims to educate the public about proper disposal of pet waste, lawn chemicals, construction debris, and other items that too often pollute Massachusetts waterways.



Freshwater Mussels Rock!

These seemingly unseen creatures help clean our local rivers. They are filter feeders, which mean they filter/capture a variety of particles in the water helping to make our waterways clearer and cleaner. But, freshwater mussels are sensitive to chemicals and other man-made pollutants in the waterways where they live. Half the freshwater mussel species in MA are threatened. The Brook Floater is found in only 4 rivers across the state, one being the Ware River. Learn more at: <https://www.mass.gov/news/more-mussels-mean-cleaner-water>



Become a member...

Donations help us keep flowing.

Join the Effort to Care 4 Rivers.

www.C4Rivers.org



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