

# **BATTEN KILL WATERSHED ALLIANCE**

Newsletter June 2005

**\*\*\*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION\*\*\*  
\*\*\*BIG RIVER RESTORATION PROJECTS\*\*\*SCIENTIFIC OPEN HOUSE\*\*\*  
\*\*\*DUFRESNE DAM\*\*\*RIVER STEWARDS\*\*\***

***Alliance Transition*** - The Alliance Board would like to announce to the membership that Roy Lamberton has resigned as Executive Director. This position has become quite demanding, and he needs more time for his family and for other interests. We know that you will join us in thanking him for his hard work and dedication. The past accomplishments and the promising future of this group owe a great deal to his efforts.

Cynthia Browning of Arlington has taken over as Interim Executive Director. She has served on the Board and has worked with Roy on numerous projects. We are confident that her energy and enthusiasm will help to ensure that the promising future of the Alliance is fulfilled. A search for a new executive director will be undertaken at some point. - ***The BKWA Board of Directors.***

***Major Habitat Restoration Project in Vermont*** - It looks like the Alliance will be participating in a LARGE habitat restoration project in Arlington with the US Forest Service. This exciting project would involve improvements along an extended reach of river that could really begin to make a difference for fish habitat. The installation of large woody debris, pools, cover, and shelter would address the biggest problems found with the Batten Kill habitat in the scientific studies. Since the Alliance would coordinate the project our operations would have partial funding into 2007.

***Riverbank Project: Restoration & Stabilization in New York*** - The Alliance has received a grant of \$3,500 from the New York Department of Environment and Conservation to repair and stabilize a stretch of eroded river bank along the Batten Kill in Shushan at Battenkill Riversports. An old repair structure that is actually causing problems will be removed, appropriate structures installed, and riparian vegetation planted. Thanks to Walter and Veronica Piekarz for their participation in this project.

***Benedict Brook Culvert*** - The Town of Arlington has received partial state funding for the replacement of the culvert at Benedict Brook on River Road. This culvert is a significant barrier to fish passage and tends to wash out in floods. The Town also has funding from other sources and we are waiting for news concerning grant applications submitted for the project by the Alliance. It now looks like this important project may be able to go ahead.

***The Batten Kill Fishery, a Review of Scientific Findings 2000-2004*** - The US Forest Service and the VT Fish & Wildlife Department are planning a public open house and poster session to present the results of the 12 studies of the river undertaken in Vermont. The Alliance is making arrangements for this event and will announce details soon. This presentation will probably be in late October on a Saturday. This session will allow the public to view summaries of the different studies and ask questions of the scientists and technicians who completed them. Presentations and discussions of regulations and policies for fishing on the river will occur at later public meetings.

***The River Stewards*** - As of this writing the Alliance has not yet finalized the form and funding for the River Stewards for the season. River Stewards go out on the river to educate the public about safety and 'river etiquette', gather data about river use, and assist riparian landowners with conservation projects. If you know of someone who might be interested in such a part-time, seasonal position, please contact us: we still may have this program in some form this year.

***Dufresne Dam Removal*** - The Manchester Conservation Commission and Manchester Rod and Gun Club sponsored a public meeting to discuss the Dufresne Dam on April 26. Representatives of the Agency of Natural Resources presented information and an informal discussion of issues associated with the dam and its possible removal followed. The Alliance has decided to support the removal of this dam because it is a fish passage barrier, it affects trout habitat by warming the water, and it would be prohibitively expensive to rebuild it and make it safe. ANR has made a commitment to stock and improve access to another nearby pond so that that can be used for the Fishing Derby that has been held at Dufresne in the past.

***Planting*** - Roy Lamberton and Cynthia Browning planted 100 willows along the Batten Kill at Hill Farm Inn in May. We plan to plant dogwoods and maples as well. Anyone interested in planting projects there or elsewhere please

contact us.

***Invasive Plant Control Program*** - The Bennington Country Conservation District needs volunteers for a program for the control of Japanese Knotweed. The work will involve one or two evenings a week in late July. This bushy plant colonizes stream banks and displaces native plants and the animals that depend on them. It has large heart shaped leaves and thick stems that die back every year, and tiny sprays of white flowers in late summer. Please contact Shelly Stiles at BCCD at 802-442-2275 or [bccd@sover.net](mailto:bccd@sover.net) if you would like to help or if you know of places where this alien plant grows. This project is made possible by a grant from the Vermont Conservation License Plate Program.

***Gone Fly Fishing Weekend*** - This event took place successfully May 21-23. Contact Lisa Gray at the Hill Farm Inn at (802) 375-2269 to learn about plans for next year.

***Annual Meeting*** - The Annual Meeting has been set for Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm at the Georgi Museum in Shushan. The presentation will review past Alliance accomplishments and current opportunities, including slides of projects. This is a very exciting period for the organization: we want to keep you informed and solicit your advice and guidance. There will also be elections of board members. We want to see you there!

***Membership is 146.***

### ***THE BATTEN KILL WATERSHED ALLIANCE***

Executive Director: Cynthia Browning (802)375-9019 [exdir@battenkillalliance.org](mailto:exdir@battenkillalliance.org)  
BKWA, PO Box 734, Arlington, VT 05250

Board of directors: Bill Bullock, Greg Cuda, Jim Henderson, Pete Hetko (Chair), Al Klein, Ken Nicholson, Jay Skellie, Jim Walker, and Charlie Wilson

Mission: To coordinate, educate, and promote stewardship for the benefit and enhancement of the Batten Kill watershed in the states of Vermont and New York.

**PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW** - *individual membership is \$20 per year; family = \$25; sponsor = \$50; business = \$100.*

This newsletter and the work of the BKWA is made possible by volunteers, funds from the US Forest Service Green Mountain National Forest, donors, and member dues. The BKWA is an equal opportunity organization.