



Longley Bridge. Photo credit: John Selmer

# Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee

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## River Community Grants Program

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee is pleased to announce the availability of our first **Wild and Scenic River Community Grants** for up to **\$5,000** each. Projects must address one or more of the goals of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Management Plan (available on our website, [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org)).

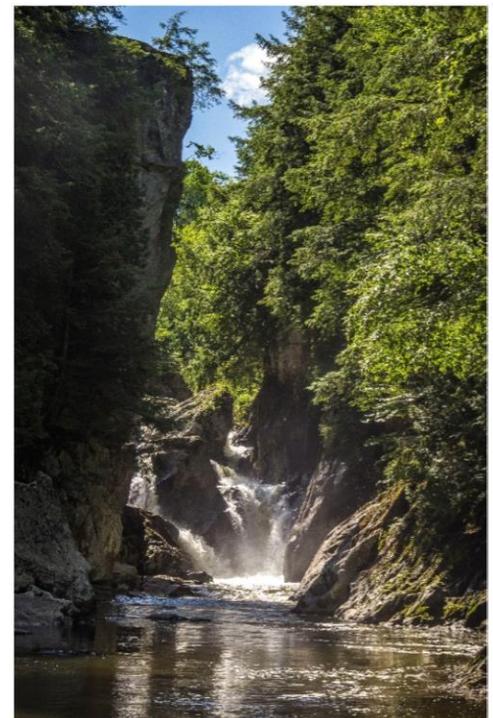
Towns and local organizations play important roles in the rivers' health and vitality. The Wild & Scenic Committee dedicates a portion of its annual budget to provide funds to local riverfront communities to support activities that enhance and protect river resources and build strong local stewardship.

Towns, town-affiliated groups, and community-based nonprofit organizations from the communities along and adjacent to the designated Wild and Scenic sections of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers are invited to apply. These communities are Lowell, Westfield, Troy, Jay, North Troy, Richford, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Enosburg Falls, and Montgomery. Individuals interested in applying for funding must partner with a town or eligible nonprofit organization.

Eligible entities include, but are not limited to, planning boards, water/wastewater departments, conservation commissions, libraries, recreation departments, schools (including environmental clubs, art programs, science classes, etc.), and other town-sanctioned committees and boards. Community-based nonprofit organizations — such as historical societies, garden clubs, art associations, churches, local land trusts, and neighborhood groups — are also eligible. The Committee may consider applications from nonprofit groups based outside the Wild and Scenic communities when the project will directly benefit the Upper Missisquoi or Trout River resources and communities. These organizations are encouraged to consult the Committee before applying to discuss their eligibility.

Applications are due **February 1, 2017**.

Application documents and guidelines can be found on our website, [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org), or requested from the Committee coordinator at [info@vtwsr.org](mailto:info@vtwsr.org) or (802) 393-0076.



Big Falls. Photo credit: Andrew Lanoue

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## Wild and Scenic: The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers

By John Little

Ah, what a difference a decade makes! Ten years ago, we were focused on gathering letters of support from towns, state government agencies and big businesses in our pursuit of a Wild and Scenic Rivers designation for the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers. Today, we've earned that designation and we're excited to announce that we've received federal funding so we can now offer a river community grants program.

When we started this process, the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers were still the same as they'd always been. This means they were slowly recovering from decades of industrialized uses in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Today we know better how to protect our waterways and allow a more diverse set of uses. With the final authorization by Congress, and signing by the President of the United States, the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers were added to the national register of Wild and Scenic Rivers in December 2014. Since then, people from the local towns have formed a management committee and we've been given an annual monetary appropriation from the National Park

Service — the governmental agency that oversees Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers like ours.

What is the total annual appropriation amount? This year it is \$77,000 dollars. This allows the Wild & Scenic Committee to hire a part-time coordinator for administering the wishes and desires of the committee as it works to protect and enhance the outstanding resources and values of our local river system. This year's budget is geared to cover committee management and oversight, create and buy signs to go on roadsides at river crossings, create maps, update and maintain the official website, and produce and disseminate newsletters. However, the most exciting

part of this new status is the creation of our small grants program. The Wild & Scenic Committee will be awarding grants based on the criteria they set forward in the past two months. Look on our website to get the details for our RFP (Request for Proposals) and make a bid if you have a project that can qualify.

So please, if you have a little time, check out the official website at [vtwsr.org](http://vtwsr.org). If you have the inclination, come to a meeting. They are open to the public and your input will be invaluable as we move forward in creating and celebrating our newest members of the National Wild and Scenic River System.



Missisquoi River. Photo Credit: Art Bell

Please visit our website for our latest updates, events and information: [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org).



We also have redesigned our website to reflect our post-designation activities and efforts. Visit [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org) for information about our River Community Grants Program, events and meeting details, and to find out how YOU can get involved!

## New Looks!

Now that we are officially a post-designation management committee, we decided that we needed to update our look! Working with a graphic designer who generously donated his time, we created a new logo that shows many of the elements we value about our rivers.



Look for our new logo at Wild & Scenic sponsored events and activities!



Photo Credit: Ave Leslie

## OUR COMMITTEE

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee consists of town appointees and partners who will help guide the future of our designated Wild and Scenic rivers, and will make decisions about how federal funds should be allocated to best maintain and improve the rivers according to the Management Plan.

Two representatives from each town covered by the designation are appointed by town and village selectboards or trustees. Committee partners include representatives from other organizations and agencies, such as: the National Park Service, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Missisquoi River Basin Association, and the town of Lowell. If you would like to represent a town or organization on our Committee, please contact us! We are seeking a representative from Enosburgh.

### CURRENT TOWN APPOINTEES

Westfield: Jacques Couture, Ellen Fox

Troy: Helene Croteau, Robert Langlands

North Troy: Jim Starr, Sue Brassett

Montgomery: Todd Lantery, Keith Sampietro

Richford: Annette Goyne, Susan Staples

Berkshire: Carol Hickey, Russ Ford

Enosburg Falls: Mike Manahan, Cynthia Scott

Enosburgh: Wendy Scott, \*VACANCY\*



Frozen Big Falls. Photo credit: Derek Schwartz

# Meet Our Committee Members

## Lindsey Wight

By Susan Staples

What do endangered bats and the Missisquoi and Trout rivers have in common? At first blush, nothing. But do a little digging and you'll discover they all have found a champion in Lindsey Wight, the new coordinator for the Wild & Scenic Committee.

Lindsey majored in animal behavior at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. After graduation, the Vermont native spent summers working with the U.S. Forest Service and winters working at ski resorts on both sides of the country. All it took was a summer spent studying bats to push her to pursue her graduate studies in endangered bat species — specifically the Indiana bat — at William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ.

After graduate school, Lindsey spent five years working for an environmental consulting company conducting endangered bat studies. Their clients were businesses around the midwest that were required by law to study habitat loss of endangered species before they could move forward with their development plans, usually installing pipelines. She spent weeks and sometimes months on the road, living in hotels and eating out.

The long periods of time away from home prompted Lindsey to realize she wanted to find a way to live and work in a community where she could forge meaningful connections with her neighbors. When she heard about the opening for a coordinator position that would be split between the Wild & Scenic Committee and the Missisquoi River Basin Association, Lindsey decided it was the perfect way to put her research and organizational skills to work locally.

"I don't miss the traveling and being away from home. But I do miss the bats," she says.

## Committee Coordinator



Photo Credit: Tom Benton

So it's no surprise that she hopes to spend some time tracking and recording bats found flying along the Missisquoi River on summer evenings.

Although she may not have planned to work in river restoration and preservation, her love for rivers was ingrained in her since childhood. Her father is an avid paddler. Lindsey grew up in central Vermont tubing on the White River with her family and has rafted the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, as well as paddling the Wild and Scenic sections of the Missisquoi and Trout rivers.

John Little was the one who introduced Lindsey to the wild and scenic character of the Upper Missisquoi. She's quickly immersed herself in learning about the wildlife and ecology in and around the Missisquoi and Trout rivers. Like many Vermonters from the central and southern regions, Lindsey thought Burlington was the end of Vermont. But now that she lives here, she wonders how it is that she never experienced the wonder of our state's most northern environs.

After living and traveling around the United States, Lindsey and her husband have settled down in Jay, VT. They spend their spare time paddling, hiking, rock climbing, ice climbing, skiing and doing projects around their house. Lindsey also loves to bake and this writer can attest to the tasty treats she brings to the monthly Committee meetings.

# Upcoming Events

Join us for these fun winter events – and visit our events page at [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org) for even more!

## February 1, 2017

River Community Grant applications are due!

## February 4, 2017, 1:30 – 3:00 pm Snowshoe Along the River!

Join us at Couture's Maple Shop in Westfield, where Orleans County Forester Jared Nunery will teach about the local ecology and forest management practices while we enjoy the scenery along our Wild and Scenic Missisquoi River. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

## February 11, 2017, 1:30 – 3:00 pm Snowshoe Along the River!

Join us at the Enosburgh Elementary School, where Franklin County Forester Nancy Patch will talk about forest management, tree identification, and animal tracks while we enjoy a snowshoe on the Brownway Trail beside our Wild and Scenic Missisquoi River. The Flying Disc will generously provide free coffee and hot chocolate, and \$1 off all other beverages, to participants at 3 pm.

## February 16, 2017, 6:30-8:30 pm

Join us at the North Troy Community Building for our monthly Wild & Scenic Committee meeting.



Missisquoi River views. Photo credits: Ken Secor, Lindsey Wight

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

2839 VT Route 105  
East Berkshire, VT 05447

Call us: 802-393-0076

Email us: [info@vtwsr.org](mailto:info@vtwsr.org)

Check us out online: [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org)

Follow us on Facebook! 

## 2016 In Review

- 13** bags of trash collected at
- 7** swimming hole clean-ups by
- 22** volunteers.

**Stream table** provided educational fun for attendees of the Richford River Fest.

**23** attendees enjoyed learning about Abenaki history in our area from guest speaker Bobby Farlice-Rubio.

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