



# Monitoring the White River: A School-Based Watershed Education Program

Fall 2023 Newsletter

The WRP supports the efforts of White River valley educators by providing content, specialist support, and other resources, free of charge, featuring opportunities for hands-on, place-based ecology education. Monitoring the White River (MWR) programs keep students of all ages engaged, having fun, and caring for water resources within walking distance of nearly any location. The MWR network is a group of place-based educators with a wealth of knowledge and experience. If you have any questions, are interested in learning more about MWR program opportunities, or would like to know more about our Lending Library, please contact Dan 'rudi' Ruddell at [rudi@whiteriverpartnership.org](mailto:rudi@whiteriverpartnership.org).

Some of our offerings are noted at right, and five of these 'units' have developed curricula found on our website: <https://www.whiteriverpartnership.org/teacher-resources/>. All of our MWR offerings are tied to our overarching commitment to the health of the White River watershed and its communities, and we always have an eye to watershed protection and restoration.

WRP is pleased to be a participating member of the Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative (<https://vitalcommunities.org/upper-valley-teaching-place-collaborative/>), and is presenting a Waterbugs workshop at the October 13, 2023 UVTPC Conference. This year's theme of 'Learning Together!' reinforces the "Partnership" aspect of WRP's work that we find indispensable to effectively navigating the opportunities and challenges of our time. We can often do together what none of us can do alone.



After a 2023 summer of significant flooding that broke a series of eight drought years, WRP is also excited to be contributing to the "Floods" section of the five "Fs" (Food, Flora and

Fauna, Fashion, Floods, Fuel) featured in the newly published "***Right Here! An Educator's Guide for Equitable Climate Action in the Upper Valley and Beyond***" ([bit.ly/equitableclimateaction](https://bit.ly/equitableclimateaction)). This is an evolving resource rooted in the experience of a strong community of place-based educators.

**Monitoring the White River units** can be tailored to address individual school goals.

- *Crayfish* – key members of river and riparian food webs and invasive species
- *Waterbugs* (aquatic benthic macroinvertebrates) – indicators of river health and water quality
- *Winter Track & Sign* – evidence of wildlife activities along river corridors
- *Trout in the Classroom* – what's needed for survival of this keystone (with Trout Unlimited)
- *Snorkeling* – in-depth exploration of the inhabitants of the pools and riffles of a restored stream (with the US Forest Service)
- *Watershed Restoration* – on-the-ground projects that improve water quality and habitat:
  - Culvert replacements/retrofits
  - Trees and shrubs, riparian buffers, propagation and planting plans
  - Alternative stream bank restoration projects
  - *and more!*

With three years of a world-altering pandemic largely behind us, it is clear the world is a changed place. We are hopeful and inspired by the opportunities of getting out more frequently with many of you, and look forward to getting out with those of you that may be new to our offerings. We are here to support you, and relish opportunities to tailor programs to meet your needs. We highlight the “Partnership” portion of our name working with students, who both gain and contribute important knowledge about the marvelous waters that connect us.

**Snapshot of MWR’s Watershed Education Network (participants since 2012)**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MWR Schools</u></b></p> <p>Barnard Academy          Bethel Elementary School          Blue Mountain Union School*          Braintree Elementary School          Brookfield Village School          Brookhaven Learning Center (Chelsea)          Chelsea Public School          Dothan Brook School (Hartford)          East Valley Academy (East Randolph)          First Branch-Chelsea          First Branch-Tunbridge          Hartford Memorial Middle School          Hartford Area Career and Technical Center          Killington Elementary School          Marion Cross School (Norwich)          Mid-Vermont Christian School (Quechee)          The Newton School (Strafford)          Newbury Elementary School*          Ottauquechee School (Hartford)          Oxbow High School*          Prosper Valley School (South Pomfret)          Randolph Elementary School          Randolph Union Middle/High School          Randolph Technical Career Center          Rochester School          Samuel Morey Elementary*          Sharon Elementary School          South Royalton Elementary School          Stockbridge Central School          The Sharon Academy          Thetford Academy*          Tunbridge Central School          Vermont Technical College          Vermont State University-Randolph          Waits River Valley School*          *Trout in the Classroom participants via Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited partnership</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MWR Schools</u></b> (cont'd)</p> <p>White River Valley High School (South Royalton)          White River Valley Middle School (Bethel)          White River School (Hartford)          Williamstown Middle/High School          Woodstock Elementary School          Woodstock Union High School</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Supporting Organizations &amp; Agencies</u></b></p> <p>Canaday Family Charitable Trust          Clear Water Carbon Fund          Couch Family Foundation          Ecotone Education (Verdana Ventures LLC)          Four Winds Nature Institute          Friends of the Winooski          Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited          Green Mountain National Forest          Hope Foundation (Hypertherm)          Jack &amp; Dorothy Byrne Foundation          Lamson-Howell Foundation          Lake Sunapee Bank (Bar Harbor Bank &amp; Trust)          Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation          Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District          Regeneration Corps          Upper Valley Linkages for Environmental Literacy          Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative          U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service          Vermont Center for Ecostudies          Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife          Vermont Department of Forests, Parks &amp; Recreation          Vermont Water Quality Division          Wellborn Ecology Fund          Vermont Energy Education Program          Vermont Institute of Science          White River Natural Resources Conservation District</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Questions about MWR?</b>          Dan ‘rudi’ Ruddell          WRP Watershed Scientist  <a href="mailto:rudi@whiteriverpartnership.org">rudi@whiteriverpartnership.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Visit the White River Partnership’s website for:          White River watershed information and maps,          links to Water Quality Reports and other resources,          and more: <a href="http://www.whiteriverpartnership.org">www.whiteriverpartnership.org</a>.</p>