



# French River Log

Volume 4, Number 2

June 1, 2009

Welcome to the June 1, 2009 edition of the French River Log, the Newsletter of the French River Connection. You are receiving this newsletter because at some point you gave us your email address and we have been sending you meeting announcements, minutes, and other information. At the bottom of this newsletter there is information about how to unsubscribe if you wish.

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## Land Trust to Land Landing

In June, the Dudley Conservation Land Trust is expected to take ownership of the 4.2 acres in Dudley to be known as Leovich Landing. The French River Connection and a group of Oxford citizens partnered with the Land Trust to raise more than \$70,000 to make this purchase possible, and will assume responsibility for stewardship of the land. Plans include construction of a parking lot, cartop access boat launch, and a small park which will serve as a trailhead for the French River Greenway.

Fundraising for this project began in January, with grants being obtained from the State Conservation Partnership Grant program, the Fields Pond Foundation, the Bafflin Foundation, and the Town of Oxford. The partnership also received a great many individual, business, and organizational donations. Seeing this property turned to conservation and recreational use meets a long term French River Connection goal.





## French River Connection Bird Walk

On May 16, Paul Meleski of the Forbush Bird Club in Worcester led an early morning birdwalk in the woods in Connecticut adjacent to Webster Lake. Among the birds heard and seen were Scarlet Tanagers, pictured at left, and Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Towhees, Killdeer, Eastern Kingbirds, Great Crested Flycatchers, Prairie Warblers, Magnolia Warblers, and Yellow Warblers. The walk was very informative and enjoyable.

## Greenbrier Water Trail Opens

As part of the Last Green Valley's Source to Sea program of events, a new boat launch was dedicated at Greenbrier Park in Oxford on April 18, opening the Greenbrier Water Trail. This is a beautiful three mile paddle through a magnificent wildlife area. The dedication was followed by a paddle sponsored by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the French River Connection.

The French River Connection sponsored events on the following two weekends, a six mile paddle from Hodges Village to North Webster and a walk on the Perryville Trace. A slideshow of the paddling events can be found on the [Last Green Valley website](#), as well as a listing of the remaining events.

Approximately twenty paddlers attended each of the events, and the weather cooperated nicely, providing a wonderful experience for participants.



Ranger Jean Hixson and Alan Dabrowski cut ribbon, dedicating the new boat launch

## Troop 66 Versus the Beavers



On Saturday April 4, Boy Scouts from Troop 66 in Thompson took part in a program organized by the French River Connection to protect riverside trees from an expanding beaver population along the French River. Using welded wire fencing donated by Home Depot in Oxford, the scouts built cages around 41 trees in Connecticut south of Perryville Road. The cages prevent beavers from "ringing" large trees which inevitably kills them, reducing shade along the river and degrading the habitat for fish and other aquatic life. The task was the life project of scout Corey LaChance, center, in dark glasses.

In 2009, more than 70 trees have been protected, and our two-year total is approaching two hundred.

## Scheduled Events

**National Trails Day at Hodges Village:** Meet at 9am June 6 at the Cemetery just north of the high school and new police station on Route 12 in Oxford to help the USACE maintain trails. A pizza lunch will be served when we're done at noon.

**General Meeting of the French River Connection:** Our next general meeting, the last before summer, is scheduled for 7pm June 10 in the Dudley Town Hall room 321C.

**Strawberry Festival:** Come to the festival June 18 at 4pm at the Grange on Dudley Hill. We'll be there to explain our programs, and the shortcake is worth the effort.

**Perryville Trace Work Day:** On June 20 at 9am, meet at the trailhead on Perryville Road in Webster to extend the trail 100 yards, remediate some water problems noted during the winter, and spruce up the tread. Donuts and coffee

with be served. Please [email Ken](#) if you plan to participate.

**Dam Trail Race:** Our major fundraiser, Saturday August 8 at Hodges Village. We need volunteers to help with parking, water stops, and to monitor the race.

**French River Day:** Our annual picnic, September 12 at 3pm at a location to be announced.

Watch for announcements of river cleanup events and events at Leovich Landing.

### New Stuff



**Notecards:** We now have notecards for sale, size 4 1/2 x 6 inches, featuring this little turtle on a lily pad. They are neatly tied with ribbon in sets of four with envelopes, for only two dollars, and make great gifts. Pick some up at a meeting or event.

What's going on between newsletters? One way to find out is to check the [French River Connection Blog](#). There are short articles describing events as they occur, and a google calendar at the bottom where you can click on upcoming events.

As always, [visit us on the web](#), where you can learn about our activities in depth and join our 62 members sharing the vision of the French River as a valued community resource.

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