

TOWN OF VERNON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vernon Conservation Commission Seeks Volunteers for Annual Assessment of Water Quality in Tankerhoosen River Watershed

(VERNON, Connecticut) – The Vernon Conservation Commission is seeking volunteers this Saturday, October 22nd, for the annual survey of the Tankerhoosen River watershed.

Volunteers will search for insects, worms and other small animals that live in riffles, which are areas of fast moving water. The examination will focus on the Tankerhoosen and the brooks that feed it.

“Vernon’s natural resources are one of the many features that make our community a special place to live, work and play,” Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said. “Another is our active community of volunteers who do so much. The annual riffle bioassessment combines those two strengths and in the process provides us with important information about the health of the Tankerhoosen.”

Volunteers are asked to gather at 9 a.m. at the Red Barn at Valley Falls Farm, opposite 345 Valley Falls Road, Vernon. They will be given an overview of the assessment process, followed by field training.

The group will then split into teams to investigate predetermined survey sites, said Tom Ouellette, a volunteer for the Vernon Conservation Commission and the coordinator of the annual Riffle Assessment by Volunteers program. The program should wrap up by 2 p.m.

“The variety and numbers of animals we find will give us helpful information about the relative health of the Tankerhoosen River system,” Ouellette said. “The state Department of Energy and Environmental protection will take the information we collect and compile it with other rivers to develop an overview of water quality statewide.”

The local assessment effort has gone on for 20 years and gives volunteers an opportunity to learn scientific principles and contribute to an effort that benefits all state residents.

Participants should wear knee high boots or hip boots and can also bring waterproof gloves. Also bring a drinking water bottle. Snacks will be provided.

No experience is necessary, but volunteers must be 18 or older. To preregister or obtain more information, please call Ouellette at 860-965-6180. The rain date is Sunday, October 23rd.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England's Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Recently designated as a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870-3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

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