



## Upper Black River Streambank Project February 18, 2015

The Craftsbury community has had a deep connection to the Black River over time through fishing, milling, agricultural uses, and recreation, but recently landowners and farmers are experiencing a loss of land as they “battle” with the movement of the river. We have witnessed an increase in sedimentation which is impacting water quality and the ecology of the river. Siltation, primarily from eroding and collapsing streambanks, has been a long-term problem on the upper reaches of the Black River in Craftsbury, impacting both fish and wildlife habitat, and overall stability of the river. Observations suggest that invasive plant species, especially Japanese Knotweed, play a significant role in the streambank instability.

The Upper Black River Stabilization Project is an effort to define the health of the Black River, from where the river begins as a small remote stream in South Albany to the through an orderly assessment and planning process. Methods included an extensive survey of the streambank stability, documentation of Japanese knotweed infestation, and mapping of this information using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Through this survey, “hot spots”, those areas of streambank failure, sedimentation, and/or knotweed infestation, were documented and remediation recommendations drafted. A final management plan will detail an approach to streambank stabilization in this Black River reach, including demonstration sites and public educational programs.

In the spring 2015, the Craftsbury Conservation Commission and the Orleans Natural Resource Conservation District will work together to restore eroding riverbanks and connect fragmented riparian ecosystems by establishing a buffer on the Black River in the village, through *Vermont Trees for Streams*. The project will include the planting of native shrubs and trees in a 50 foot buffer along town property near the Town Garage.



For further information about the Upper Black River Stabilization Project and the Trees for Streams Project, contact the Craftsbury Conservation Commission member, Farley Brown (586-9973 or [fbrown@sterlingcollege.edu](mailto:fbrown@sterlingcollege.edu))

The Craftsbury Conservation Commission meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month in the Town Hall at 7pm. For more information, contact Joe Houston, chair (586-2536)

# Black River Project (Draft)

