



Life On The Farmington  
Calendar ONLINE Sales

About Mark D Phillips



GOWANUSCANAL.US

## Abstracts Gowanus Canal 2025 Calendar Life on the Farmington 2025 Calendar



Two waterways in distress in radically different ways located in radically different eco-systems.

One is actively being cleaned, the other is surviving on wishes and prayers.



Simsbury resident and renowned photojournalist, Mark D Phillips, has a passion for Brooklyn's Gowanus Canal, a Superfund waterway currently under the care of the EPA, and the Farmington River, especially in the Simsbury-Tariffville section. Imagine his surprise when he discovered the river was considered as endangered as the canal, both due to man's greed and ignorance.

**Life on the Farmington 2025** shows a vibrant ecology with spectacular wildlife and charm, hiding an underlying worry that placed the Farmington on the top ten list of most endangered rivers in America for 2024. Within Connecticut, a river hasn't made the list since 2004. What is putting the river at risk? The Rainbow Dam, owned by Stanley Black & Decker, has damaged the river for decades with no federal oversight. Now is the opportunity to tap into federal infrastructure funding to fix Clean Water Act violations, eliminate toxic algae blooms, and allow migratory fish populations to flourish again.

As a photojournalist, Phillips traveled the world documenting and creating images that captivate the viewer. When the pandemic took that away, Phillips began kayaking on the Farmington River as his solo activity. Exploring the river and its tributaries became a remarkable journey, finding places that seem nearly untouched by humans. They exist not far from roads, but the forest and wetlands are pristine. During the spring, with high levels of water in the river, Phillips found a location where the Eastern Painted Turtles gathered by the hundreds. It was like stumbling upon a land of dinosaurs.

**Life on the Farmington 2025** contains 14 fine art images beautiful images by Mark D Phillips in an 8.5" x 11" beautifully printed format expanding to 22" vertical with a wire bound.

For every **Life on the Farmington 2025** sold, a donation will be made to the **Farmington River Watershed Association**.

**Abstracts Gowanus Canal 2025** presents life on the Gowanus Canal in a unique way. The waterway was a fetid, oil covered eyesore surrounded by multi-million dollar real estate for most of my life in Brooklyn. The oil and tar on its surface was like a living organism, moving in the tidal waterway, creating shapes that I began to see and photograph. None of the pictures were manipulated. Nothing was done that couldn't be produced in a darkroom. Many of the photographs are striking, with the colors producing recognizable figures that have a direct correlation to the life of the canal.

The EPA has spent over \$2 billion dollars in their efforts to clean the Gowanus. Will it work? According to the Brooklyn Paper, the city's construction of two massive tanks and a filtration facility designed to help keep the Gowanus clean following the Superfund project won't be completed until the end of 2032. So even with all the dredging and capping – laying a rubber seal on the canal's bottom – the Gowanus may get dirty all over again, which may require dredging to begin all over again at an astronomical cost. And no recreational boating is allowed until the cleanup is completed.

For every **Abstracts Gowanus Canal 2025** sold, a donation will be made to the **Gowanus Canal Conservancy**.



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