

Newsletter Winter 2012



Expanded Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee

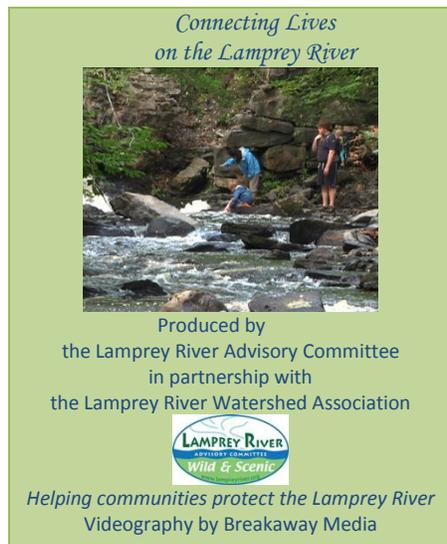
Now that the Lamprey River and five of its major tributaries (North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little, and Piscassic Rivers) are part of the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program, the river has many new people looking out for it. The representatives have two main duties:

1. Create a river management plan to protect and enhance the assets of the rivers.
2. Review proposals for projects within the quarter mile corridor where the rivers flow and submit comments to NH Dept. of Environmental Services.

Each town has at least one representative and is allowed to have up to four. If you or someone you know has an interest in serving on the committee, please contact Sharon Meeker (s-meeker@comcast.net) or ask your town hall for a nomination form.

town	representatives			
Barrington	Ellen Conklin	Steve Conklin		
Brentwood	Emily Schmalzer			
Candia	Richard Snow			
Deerfield	Harriet Cady	Wes Golomb		
Durham	William Hall	James Hewitt	Richard Kelley	Dick Lord
Epping	Joseph Foley	Jenn Rowden		
Exeter	Todd Piskovitz			
Fremont	Fred Lindahl			
Lee	Jere Beckman	Sharon Meeker	Kitty Miller	
Newfields	Alison Watts			
Newmarket	Sara Callaghan	Michelle Daley		
Northwood	Jim Hadley			
Nottingham	Michael Russo	Bonnie Winona-Mackinnon		
Raymond	Patrick Bower	Kathy Hoelzel	Ted Janusz	
special nomination	Lawrence "Mike" Kappler			

“Connecting Lives on the Lamprey River” DVD



In the summer of 2011, the committee funded a small grant whose purpose was to create a video that featured the whole river, both from above and on a human scale. The project is completed and is available for viewing on www.lampreyriver.org under the videos tab. The DVD is also available at local town libraries and on local cable access channels.

Learn more about the water resource that connects all of us to our river. Meet some of the people who call the river home and who generously donate their time and expertise to keep it in good shape.

Lamprey River Symposium

The 5th Annual Lamprey River Symposium was held on January 3 at UNH. The symposium highlights recent research and issues in and around the river. This year's topics included:

- The process to remap the 100-year storm floodplain of the Lamprey River
- Identifying and mapping erosion hazards in and near the Lamprey River
- Wetland mapping and wildlife inventory of the lower Lamprey River floodplain
- The design & construction of Durham's Wiswall Dam fish ladder
- Storm event characteristics across seasons based on continuous in-stream monitoring of the Lamprey River
- Interactions among climate, how land is used, nature's economic services, and society – a newly funded National Science Foundation project
- Detecting nitrogen pollution sources and how nitrogen reaches Great Bay; engaging decision-makers in the science
- A storm-water run-off system that is designed to reduce nitrogen pollution
- Advances in water resource protection in the Lamprey River watershed
- Low impact development retrofits, land use, and nutrient loads in and around Willow Brook, Rochester, NH
- A model for projecting future nutrient pollution
- Drought Management Plan for NH
- Research priorities discussion.

To view the presentations, please visit [http:// XXXXXXX](http://XXXXXXX).

Introducing the New and Improved www.lampreyriver.org



The old website served its purpose for a long time, but it has been retired. The new website went live in November and is awaiting visits from friends old and new. Please check it out!

- View Lamprey River videos, recreation maps, and management plans.
- Report wildlife sightings.
- Stay on top of river topics.
- Learn why the Lamprey is a special river.

Guided Snowshoe Walk: Saturday, Feb. 4, 9-12

Join the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire and the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee – land protection sub-committee-- to explore the 531 acre Mast Road Natural Area in Epping. Recently acquired by the Southeast Land Trust, this property boasts over a mile of shoreline on the Wild and Scenic segment of the Lamprey River, exemplary wildlife habitats, and a black gum tree that could be the largest in the state.

The tour leaders will be wildlife biologist Ellen Snyder of Ibis Wildlife Consulting and David Viale from the Land Trust. While trekking to view the candidate champion black gum tree, the group will look for signs of wildlife and learn about the management goals for the property.

Snowshoes, binoculars, and appropriate mid-winter clothing are recommended. The walk is moderately strenuous with uneven terrain. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Contact the Southeast Land Trust office at 778-6088 to register and for directions.

distinctive black gum bark, photo by www.nhdf.org



Changes in Land Use and Climate - Are We Ready for the Next Storm?

That was a central question at a gathering of scientists, municipal planners, engineers, and concerned citizens at two seminars held in early December on local climate and land-use change.

Speakers shared lots of local data and charts about how things have changed over the last few decades:

- The human population around Great Bay has increased.
- The amount of paved or otherwise developed land has increased.
- Average temperatures for both summer and winter have increased.
- Human water use has increased.
- The frequency and intensity of severe storms has increased and the financial cost to municipalities and individuals of cleaning up after these storms has increased.



<http://www.boston.com/news/local/gallery/mayflood?pg=10>



<http://www.strafford.org/natres/hazard.htm>

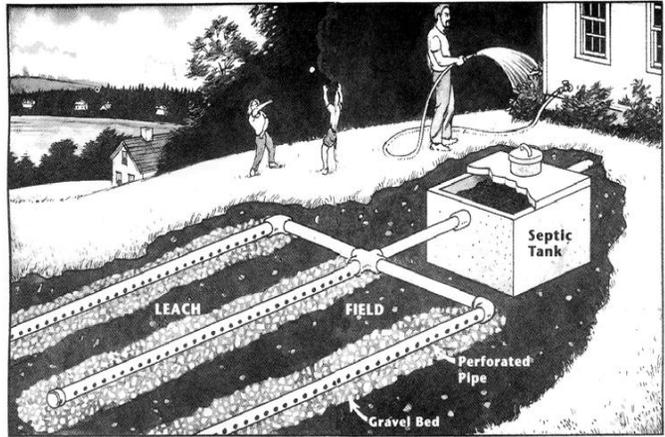
We have all seen and heard about the damage caused by recent storms. We can hope that we don't have any more of these storms, or we can assume that we will get more of them. If we accept that bad storms might or probably will happen, we can prepare. Individually, we can buy sump pumps for our basements and generators to provide power for our homes. We can reduce the potential for erosion on our property by planting trees or shrubs on unstable soil. On a municipal level, we can look for the most vulnerable areas: steep slopes along a river; culverts that are too small; neighborhoods or facilities that are likely to flood; dams, bridges, or roads that might be overwhelmed by fast water. Once these vulnerabilities are identified, we can plan for improvements, safe-guards, or, at the very least, emergency response.

Predicting the next storm is tricky business. Assuming there will be no next storm is extremely risky business. Are you ready for the storm? Are we ready for the storm?

For more information, please visit <http://www.nh.gov/climate/> or http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action_plan/documents/nhcap_final.pdf

How Well Do You Know Your Septic System?

Not to get too personal, but do you know where the water goes when you flush the toilet or do your laundry? Surprisingly, many people cannot correctly answer that question. People who have always had town sewerage might never consider an alternative, one that is perhaps right under their lawn. The fact is, septic systems serve most people who live in the fourteen towns whose water flows into the Lamprey. When those systems are not taken care of, both the river and property owners pay dearly for the consequences.



<http://www.straffordccd.org/septic.html>

To address that issue, Bambi Miller of the Strafford County Conservation District used her Lamprey River Advisory Committee 2011 small grant to create a pilot program to educate citizens in Lee and Durham about septic systems. She encouraged participants to go to town hall and obtain engineering plans for their systems. She visited the homes of volunteers and helped them locate and understand the details of the systems. She educated them on both how to keep a system working well and what to look for when it is not working. Keeping a septic system functioning requires some attention and occasional costs, but replacing a failed system is a major undertaking and is usually very expensive. Doing the right thing should be an easy choice.

To learn more about septic systems and how to make them last as long as possible, please visit <http://www.straffordccd.org/septic.html>. You'll be glad you did!

To Feed or Not To Feed? Oh, Deer!



<http://extension.unh.edu>

Humans know that winter is a hard time. We do our best to take extra care of our families, our homes, our animals, and our neighbors. So what about our deer friends? They are outside. They look cold and hungry. They surely must need our help. Or do they?

Deer have evolved behavioral and physiological strategies to help them survive winter. They build up their fat reserves during the summer and fall. They lay low when snow is abundant, so they do not waste valuable calories. They create pathways through the woods so they can evade predators. They gather in small groups for warmth.

Many people feed deer in winter with hay, corn, white cedar brush, vegetable scraps, or livestock pellets. Such feeding is done with good intentions, but even the best of intentions can have serious, negative impacts. These good intentions can go terribly wrong: more deer starve than would occur naturally, the land near the feeding station is degraded or destroyed, diseases are more likely to spread through the deer population, the youngest deer incur the greatest harm, predation increases, deer lose their wildness and become dependent on people, and more deer are killed in collisions with cars.

Feeding is a non-productive, short-term activity. What can landowners do to help the deer in the long term?

- Provide deer opportunities to build their fat reserves before winter.
- Protect the deer's natural habitat:
 - Leave a variety of trees on the property for browse: beeches, white cedars, hemlocks, oaks, fruiting trees and shrubs.
 - Let white cedars grow naturally: do not prune them. Over its long lifetime, a white cedar's natural litterfall can feed many deer for many years and its boughs and branches provide shelter. A cut cedar feeds a herd for one day.
 - Perform light timber management activities in winter when the deer need the browse most.
 - Distribute browse areas and winter cover areas throughout the property: discourage concentrating resources. Small herds are desirable, but large gatherings of deer cause problems both to the deer themselves and to the landscape.
- Do not feed the deer. If you have already started, do not stop until spring greens are available. Spread only high quality food (such as livestock pellets) in small amounts far from roads and houses. Discourage large herds and do not allow a few individual deer to monopolize the food. Next year, please do not feed the deer.

For more information about feeding deer, see

http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Newsroom/News_2004/News_2004_Q1/Dont_feed_deer_010504.htm, http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/deer/feeding_deer.htm.



Helping communities protect the Lamprey River