

**LAMPREY
RIVER**
Wild & Scenic



LAMPREY RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NEWMARKET - DURHAM - LEE - EPPING
NEW HAMPSHIRE

www.lampreyriver.org

Small Grants 2010

Following a successful round of small grants in 2009, the Lamprey River Advisory Committee again awarded small grants for projects in 2010. The contracted work is now done and residents of the Lamprey watershed can look forward to improved access to the river and tools that help to keep the Lamprey Wild and Scenic.

Rain Barrels and Nitrogen Reduction

Dave Anderson of the NH Coastal Protection Partnership was a friendly face at many local town events and farmers' markets from late summer to fall. He brought supplies and showed visitors how to create rain barrels. The builders were then given the completed rain barrels to take home. These barrels reduce the amount of stormwater flowing over paved surfaces and facilitate a slower release of water back to the earth. They are also a great supply of free water for gardens.



A participant drills an overflow hole for his rain barrel.

Photo by Dave Anderson

In addition to rain barrels, Dave provided homeowners in Durham with information about slow-release fertilizer and alternatives to lawn fertilizers in an effort to reduce the amount of nitrogen that homeowners apply to their lawns. Unfortunately, nitrogen-rich fertilizers usually are not fully utilized by lawns and run to local waterways. The nitrogen intended to make lawns green and lush instead causes overgrowth of algae in water and leads to a multitude of water quality problems. Excess nitrogen is increasingly problematic for the Lamprey and Great Bay, and both rain barrels and using less lawn fertilizer help address the problem.

Deerfield Town Trail System Planning

The Deerfield Planning Board and Neatline Associates began development of a comprehensive plan for the town's existing and future trails. The plan addresses two main goals: 1. examine current public access points to the Lamprey River and 2. promote public access to, use of, and understanding of the river. In order to accomplish their goals, the planning board formed a volunteer trails club and gathered citizens' opinions about a trail system integrating key points of interest and conservation lands. They identified existing or potential trails and added the latitude and longitude coordinates to GPS maps. Owners of large tracts of land (such as PSNH) were invited to participate. The next steps will be for the planning board and open-space committee to finalize and implement the plan. With a well-planned system of trails, the citizens of Deerfield can look forward to leaving the car at home and taking the road less traveled.

Invasive Plant Tool Lending Library



A weed wrench is set to pull a woody plant up by the roots.
Photo by www.weedwrench.com

Andy Gould of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve used his grant to assemble a collection of weed wrenches and other tools that can be used in the fight against invasive plants. Invasive plants often out-compete many native plants and change the characteristics of native habitats. These invasives can be extremely difficult to remove. The tools in this library are available to individuals and groups who have identified sites where the weeds occur and want to remove them. Borrowers are asked to report how effective the tools were initially and in the longer-term and which weeds were targeted. Please call the reserve at 603-778-0015 for more info.

You're Invited

The concluding session of the three part series, A Sense of Time and Place along the Lamprey, will focus on current topics of interest. Cameron Wake will discuss flooding and how communities can prepare. Paul Gasowski will present his video production on Mary Folsom Blair, a teacher from Epping who engendered a love of the river and nature among her students. His video also highlights the river as a key recreational resource. Stay tuned as details are finalized and the time and place are announced.

Lamprey River Nomination Process into NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

Through the diligent efforts of many groups and people, the nomination of the full Lamprey River and its major tributaries into the NHRMPP is proceeding. If successful, this will be the first time that a river and its watershed are recognized as a unit worthy of state protection. It will also be an opportunity to engage citizens throughout the watershed in a positive, meaningful way to protect the Lamprey and its surrounding land.

New Website

The committee is hard at work creating a fresh, more user-friendly website. Key improvements will include the ability of viewers to submit reports of wildlife sightings, view video productions, navigate more easily, and stay on top of current issues and opportunities along the river.

DVD Offerings

The LRAC has produced several DVDs in the past several months and they are now available to the public. Topics include the Wiswall Mills in Durham, Mary Blair Park in Epping, the Lamprey River Watershed Association's "Streamwalk" project of identifying problem areas along the course of the Lamprey, and a conference on reducing road salt in winter. Copies have been provided to libraries, planning boards, conservation commissions, and historical societies in Epping, Lee, Durham, and Newmarket. Additional copies are available from the LRAC. Please call Sharon Meeker, outreach chair, at 659-5441 if you would like a copy.



Helping communities protect the Lamprey River