

Spring Newsletter 2012



Family Fun Day by the River





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Join us on Sunday, May 20, 1-4 p.m. at Mary Blair Park off Route 27 in Epping.

- Meet educators and live turtle ambassadors from the Center For Wildlife.
- Learn some history and see a now free-flowing river as it passes the remains of Folsom mills.
- Walk to the shore and look for mussels and animal tracks. 
- Learn about the floodplain and why it is so important to people and wildlife.
- Explore the world from a worm's point of view in the soil tent.
- Play games provided by Epping Recreation.

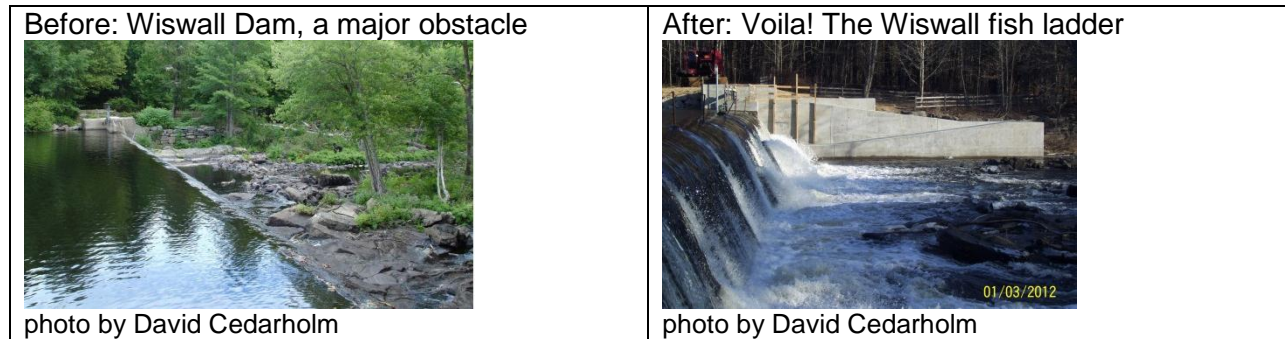
- Test the river's water for potential pollution with water scientists. 
- Handle real animal furs and learn how to be an animal detective.
- Learn some basic canoe skills.

The event is **FREE** and plenty of parking is available. In case of heavy rain, the event will be canceled, but it will be held in sunshine, fog, or drizzle. Let's hope for a nice day!

Wiswall Falls Fish Ladder

Fish migration in the Lamprey River in recent years had four major obstacles: McCallen Dam in Newmarket, Wiswall Falls Dam in Durham, Wadleigh Falls Dam in Lee, and Bunker Pond Dam in Epping. McCallen has a fish ladder to help fish get up and over the dam and has had one for some time. Wadleigh is breached, so fish can get past under certain flow conditions. The Epping dam was removed in the fall of 2011. The last obstacle for fish was Wiswall, and now that, too, has a fish ladder. The Wiswall project also made provisions to help fish get down the dam safely as they swim down river. This is BIG news. For the first time in centuries,

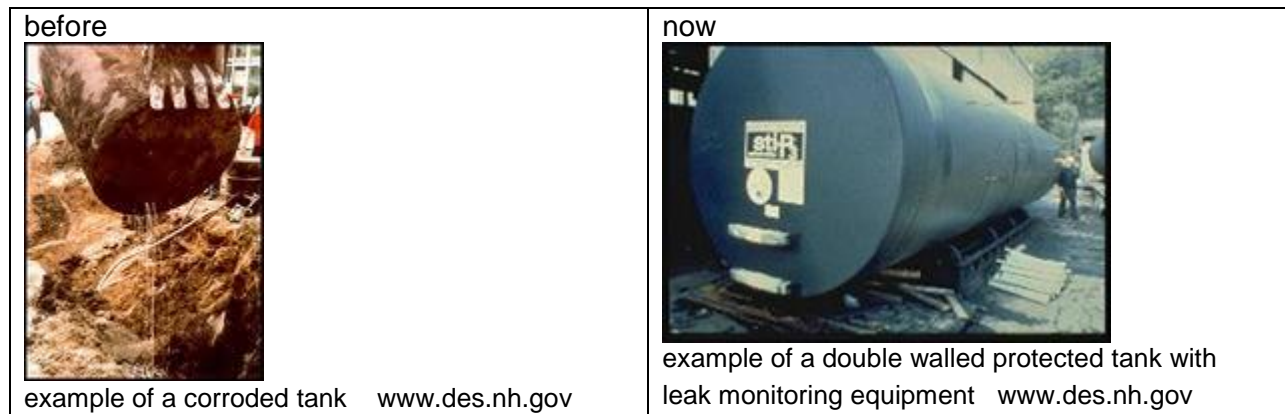
anadromous fish (such as salmon, shad, and river herring) can now potentially travel from the sea all the way up the Lamprey to their spawning grounds up-river.



To celebrate this victory for nature, the LRAC will be co-sponsoring a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Wiswall Falls in early summer. Participants can get a tour of the ladder, learn about the engineering difficulties that had to be overcome, meet fish biologists, and see plans for the adjacent park. Stay tuned and plan to attend to cheer the fish on as they head upriver.

An Unseen Problem That Truly Is Disappearing

Thousands of metal tanks holding oil and other toxic materials are buried underground in New Hampshire. Burial keeps material such as gasoline away from sparks that could cause an explosion. Burial, however, has its problems. Soil is wet and many metals corrode. Corroded tanks tend to leak, so that their nasty chemical contents are released to the surrounding soil and eventually into groundwater, streams, and ponds.



In the not-so-distant past, underground storage tanks were made of a single layer of metal that was not corrosion-resistant. Often, they were not monitored or replaced on a regular schedule. When leaks were discovered, business owners faced heavy fines and expenses to fix the problem. Many chose simply to abandon the site, leaving the problem to towns and neighboring individuals. In 1987, the NH Dept. of Environmental Services created rules to prevent leaks:


- tanks that were double lined and corrosion-protected
- clear monitoring procedures to detect leaks


- a schedule of required replacement.

The rules also made clear to business owners that they could not simply leave the problem for others and set up a program and fund to help tank owners comply with the rules. In twenty-five years, New Hampshire has gone from 12,000 environmentally unsafe underground storage tanks to 100% compliant tanks in 2012. By 2015, all underground storage tanks in the state will be state-of-the-art. This is great news for public health, clean water, and a healthy environment. For more information, please visit <http://des.nh.gov/media>.

May 18 Is National Endangered Species Day

The Lamprey River and its watershed are not home to any federally listed species, but two New Hampshire listed species are found here.

<p>The Blanding's turtle is threatened by human development of its habitat and deadly encounters with vehicles. This species takes many years to reach breeding age, and it requires large areas of land offering several different habitats. It is distinguished from other NH turtle species by its yellow throat and black, domed shell.</p> <p><i>Photo by Jon Bromley</i></p>	
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 <p><i>image by</i> www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp</p>	<p>The brook floater mussel is threatened by pollutants, sedimentation, and rising water temperatures in its river habitat. This mussel is a key indicator of river health. In recent years, the number of brook floaters in the Lamprey has declined sharply, probably due to burial by sediments following severe floods.</p>
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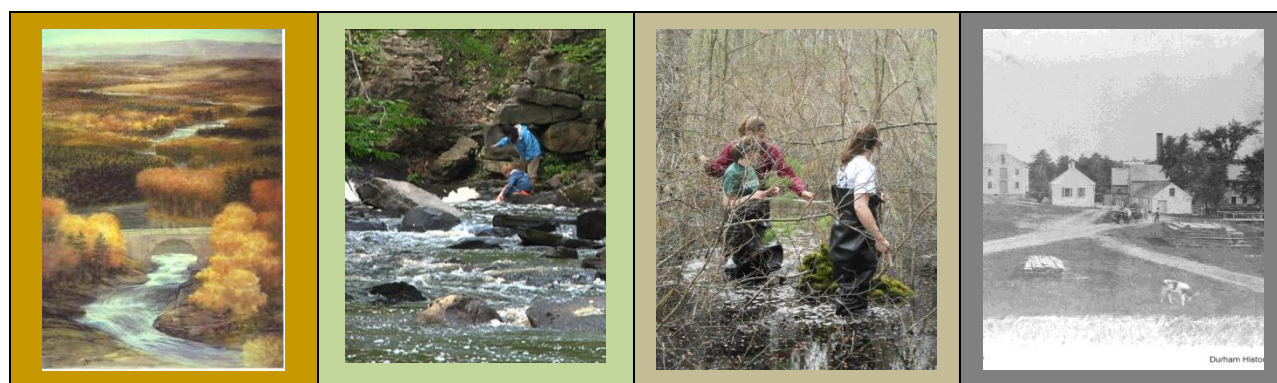
In addition to providing critical habitat to the above endangered species, the Lamprey River and surrounding area provide habitat to several of New Hampshire's threatened species:

 <p>bald eagle photo by www.pbs.org</p>	 <p>northern black racer photo by wildlife.state.nh.us</p>	 <p>peregrine falcon photo by www.ct.gov</p>
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For more information about the Lamprey's threatened species, please visit www.lampreyriver.org, About the River, Wildlife

Lamprey River Film Festival



The Wild and Scenic Sub-committee was pleased to present four of its DVDs to the public on February 26.

- “The Lamprey River through History” took viewers both on a trip down the river from its headwaters in Northwood to Great Bay and a trip through time, covering archaeological evidence left by native peoples to ice harvesting, recreation, colonial industry, and the huge factories that define Newmarket.
- “Connecting Lives on the Lamprey River” introduced some of the people who care about and for our beautiful river and how we are all connected to the river and one another.
- “Spring into Vernal Pools” was shown publically for the first time and introduced viewers to the wonders of vernal pools through the experiences of high school students.
- “Wiswall’s Mill” told the story of Thomas Wiswall and his wall paper mill complex at Wiswall Falls in Durham.

The committee is happy to offer this program to groups that would like to have a public showing of these or other videos. The videos above, along with “Streamwalk” and “Mary Blair Park”, are available at local libraries and on www.lampreyriver.org under the videos tab. Please check them out!