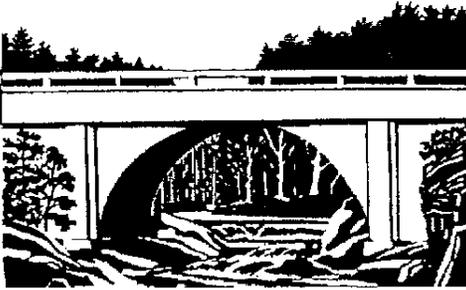


**LAMPREY
RIVER**
Wild & Scenic



LAMPREY RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**NEWMARKET - DURHAM - LEE - EPPING
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

www.lampreyriver.org



Sara Callaghan
new LRAC Chair

New LRAC Leadership

After several years of capable leadership by Sharon Meeker, the LRAC has a new chair, Sara Callaghan of Newmarket. Sara has been on the committee for several years, serving actively on the land protection sub-committee and the wildlife & ecology sub-committee. She is a wildlife biologist with the Strafford Rivers Conservancy and recently worked for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. Thank you, Sharon, for all you have helped LRAC to accomplish. Sara, we wish you luck and great success as you continue to make a difference for the Lamprey.

Wiswall Historic Interpretive Committee

The new bridge on Wiswall Road in Durham has been open for several months, but work in the area continues. As part of mitigation for the loss of historic material when the old bridge was removed, FEMA provided funding for interpretive panels. The Wiswall Historic Interpretive Committee, comprised of representatives from Durham and LRAC, has finalized the two panels that were recently installed at John Hatch Memorial Park. One panel focuses on the Wiswall mill complex formerly located at the site, while the other panel puts the mills into the larger context of waterpower along the Lamprey.

Now that the panels are installed, the committee will continue to find ways to engage the public and improve the experience visitors have at the park. Stay tuned for a fish ladder, a panel dedicating the park to artist and conservationist John Hatch, and improved site markers.

Coming Soon: A New and Improved www.lampreyriver.org

After many years of slogging along with an outdated website, the LRAC has hired a web-designer to help create a more user-friendly, easily updated site. Viewers will be able to learn about the Lamprey's assets and issues and provide valuable feed-back to the LRAC. Included in this effort will be links to FaceBook, videos, and interactive maps to report rare species and invasive plants. The goal is to have the new website up and running at the beginning of 2011. If you have suggestions, please forward them to Sharon Meeker, outreach chair, at s-meeker@comcast.net.

A Sense of Time and Place along the Lamprey, Part 2: Wiswall and Folsom Mills: Two Historic Tales of How Water Power Became Economic Power on the Lamprey

What did it take for Thomas Wiswall to build a successful mill complex and become one of the largest employers in Durham, and how did he suddenly lose it all? These questions and more were the focus of Curt Mackail's documentary on Wiswall's mills, shown publicly for the first time on Sept. 18 at Epping Town Hall. Wiswall's story is only one of many along the Lamprey, where about one hundred mills were operated in olden days. Following the film, Jim Deely gave a short presentation about these mills: why they were built, how they worked, and how they evolved over time. He then led a walking tour of the ruins of Folsom mills in West Epping, where granite blocks still form perfectly vertical walls at the river's edge and the "mill race" canal is slowly losing the battle against nature and time.



Jim Deely holds old photos of Folsom Dam and Mills
(photo by Dick Lord)

As a bonus, a new DVD about Mary (Folsom) Blair Park in Epping was shown. Created by Paul Gasowski, the production was a tribute to a woman who cared deeply about children and the Lamprey. The work of all three presenters was funded by small grants from the Lamprey River Advisory Committee in 2009.

Making the Connection

The Lamprey River flows forty-seven miles from Northwood to Newmarket. Sections of the lower river in Epping, Lee, Durham, and Newmarket are listed as a Wild and Scenic River by the National Park Service. In addition, the river in Lee and Durham is currently listed under the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. Thanks to significant and widespread efforts, most of the river and its six major tributaries are in the process of being considered for the NH RMPP. If successful, this would enable a more watershed-wide plan for management. As of late September, the RMPP Advisory Committee voted to support the nomination of the Lamprey and its rivers. The next steps will entail review by the commissioner and then legislative action. The designation will be complete when the governor signs the legislation. What happens all along the river has ramifications downstream in Newmarket and Great Bay. We live in many towns, but we are truly connected by the Lamprey, our river. We all have a stake in its integrity and health.

Part 3 of "A Sense of Time and Place along the Lamprey"

The Lamprey River has flowed through time, the land, and people's lives. The river has changed over time and will continue to change, largely depending on how people use the river. Planning is underway to close the time and place series by discussing current issues facing the river. Topics will focus on recreation, water quality and quantity, flooding, and the future. Details will be announced as they become available.



