

## Summer Newsletter 2010



### New Logo

The Lamprey River Advisory Committee is pleased to introduce its new logo. The blue, green, and white design was created by Lyn Rodger of Deerfoot Studios. It incorporates the key features that the lower Lamprey has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River by the National Park Service and that the Lamprey River is a product of its watershed.



### 2010 Mini-Grants

To continue the tradition begun last year, the Lamprey River Advisory Committee will be funding work for small projects in the Lamprey River watershed:

The Town of Deerfield Planning Board will be planning and mapping a system of low-impact trails throughout the town. The trail system is intended to complement the town's master plan and open space activities.

The Great Bay Estuarine Research Reserve will be creating a tool lending library to help individuals and groups mechanically remove a wide range of invasive plant species. The GBERR already offers public education about invasive plants, and now they will have the tools, such as weed wrenches, to help tackle the problem. They will also monitor the effectiveness of the tools to help refine invasive plant removal protocols.

The NH Coastal Protection Partnership will offer workshops on building rain barrels to help reduce run-off from roofs. It will also educate home-owners about the effects of over-fertilizing lawns with nitrogen with the goal of getting them to sign a nitrogen reduction pledge. The outreach will begin in Durham and then spread to neighboring towns.

### Summer Research

Two studies that each will take two years to complete have recently started along the Lamprey. The first, a fish survey, will provide a comprehensive assessment of existing fish communities throughout the Lamprey River watershed. The assessment will map important fish habitats for rare or threatened species and help serve as an indicator of water quality and ecosystem health. These data can then also be used to help inform land use and conservation planning, stormwater management, and water withdrawals. The study will include electroshocking the water so that fish can be identified, measured for length and weight, and returned alive to the water. It will also characterize the sample sites' fish habitat and possible local negative impacts. Of particular interest will be brook trout that are native to the Lamprey, versus larger fish stocked by NH Fish and Game.

The second study, fluvial erosion hazards, will investigate where the potential for river bank erosion and subsequent loss of personal property or public infrastructure (such as culverts, bridges, or roads) is greatest. Most planning decisions for riparian development and infrastructure upgrades are based on outdated information and do not take into consideration the increased frequency and intensity of high flow events. This study will look at multiple parameters to update and map these significant risks so that municipalities can be better prepared to prioritize upgrades and engage in appropriate planning.

### **New Bridge at Wiswall Falls, Durham**

Last fall, the old, damaged bridge at Wiswall Falls was removed to make room for a new bridge. The old bridge had abutments on the river banks and a center support, all made of locally quarried granite.



before (photo by R.H. Lord)

The new bridge opened for traffic in June. It lacks a center support, but as part of mitigation for the loss of historic granite, three sides of the abutment seen from John Hatch Memorial Park have been faced with granite salvaged from the old supports. Funding for one abutment side was provided by LRAC.



after (photo by S. Petersen)

Please heed signs on the bridge about safety. Ledge less than two feet below the water's surface occurs in places.

### **Wiswall Historic Interpretive Committee**

Part of the funding package that FEMA provided for the Wiswall bridge replacement includes money for interpretation of the historic Wiswall area. The Wiswall Historic Interpretive Committee, composed of Durham residents and LRAC representatives, is hard at work creating a kiosk with two interpretive panels to help visitors appreciate the history of the mills and associated hamlet. The kiosk should be ready for installation at the John Hatch Memorial Park this fall.

### **Road Salt Reduction**

The Lamprey River Advisory Committee joined several environmental partners in sponsoring a road salt reduction workshop in May. The perspectives, problems, and opportunities represented by various stake-holders were presented to help attendees understand and address the conflict that sometimes arises between public safety and environmental protection. The problem of applying too much salt to roads and parking lots is complex, but attendees learned that salt can be reduced without compromising public safety. The LRAC funded the taping of the workshop and DVDs have been distributed to towns, NH DES, and the Great Bay Estuarine Research Reserve. If you would like to view the DVD, please keep an eye on your local cable access channel or contact Barbara McMillan at NH DES at 603-559-1517, [bmcmillan@des.state.nh.us](mailto:bmcmillan@des.state.nh.us) or Steve Miller at the Great Bay Discovery Center, 603-778-0015, [steve.miller@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:steve.miller@wildlife.nh.gov).