



New LRAC Display Hits the Mark... We Toad You So!

The LRAC made a big splash at Newmarket's Turtlefest on May 9 with the launch of its *Frog Songs Along the Lamprey River* display. Following a suggestion for an interactive frog board last fall, Dick Lord immediately went to work creating magic. The board features all eight species of toads and frogs found along the Lamprey River, including short segments of their unique calls for mates. A ninth button plays a random call and invites visitors to match the call to the correct frog. In addition to colorful photos and interesting froggy love song recordings, visitors can hold 3-D printed models of life-size frogs, from the large bullfrog to the itty-bitsy spring peeper.

This display will join the low-tech displays of local turtles and snakes at future LRAC displays. Please hop by and groove with your favorite frog.



Dick Lord, the electrical engineer brain, with the new Frog Songs display.



A visitor tries to identify a frog's song at the Frog Songs display.

For a full catalog of local frog songs, please visit [Calls of Frogs and Toads of the Northeast](#) | [Music of Nature](#).

forest. LRAC's Dick Lord shared his knowledge about the former inhabitants of Doe Farm and what they left behind.



Ted Howard leads a tour of Doe Farm and explains some of the forest management plan goals.

Photo by RH Lord

Paddlers return from Doe Farm in Durham and head into Piscassic Park in Newmarket.

Photo by S. Petersen



Summer Water Quality Reminders

The Lamprey River is classified by the State of New Hampshire as Class B, meeting Clean Water Act criteria for fishing and swimming. This is an overall rating, but certain areas and conditions are not always safe for fishing and swimming. Despite many efforts, Schanda Park in Newmarket continues to have dangerously high fecal bacteria counts with most samples. The rainy summer of 2023 showed that almost all rivers and lakes in New Hampshire had unacceptably high fecal bacteria levels following heavy rain events. When we get a half inch or more rain in a short period, it is advisable to assume that the water will be unsafe for 48 hours.

Click here to view the [2025 Lamprey River Bacterial Tracking Report](#).

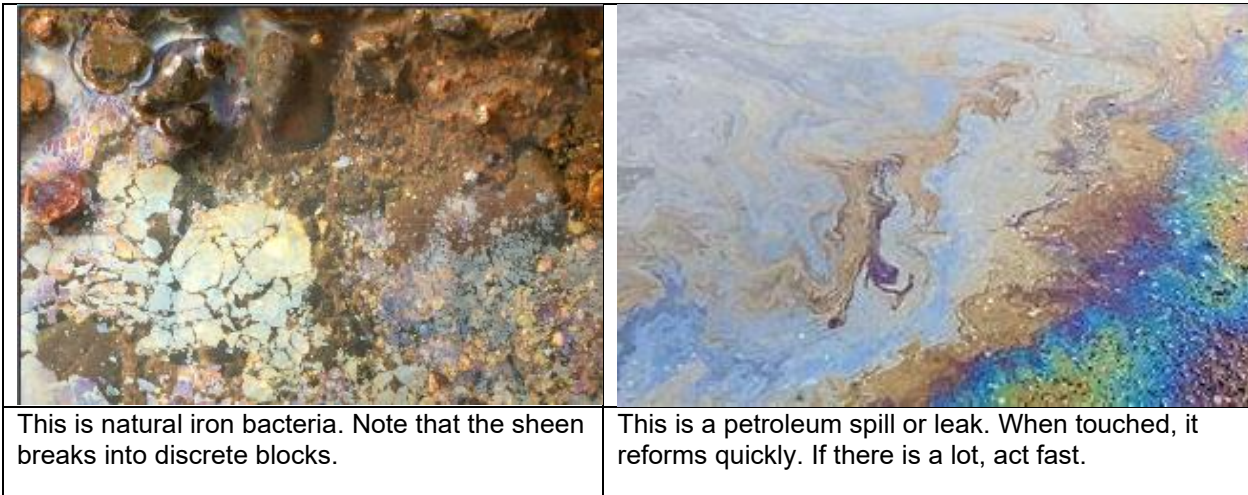
Click here to view [Recreational Precautions along the Lamprey River](#).

Stream Team Topic #8: Oily Sheen

Most people know how oil looks on water surfaces, but not all oil is created equal. Some oil is clearly bad, but some oil is perfectly safe and natural. What's the difference and how do we distinguish between them?

Natural oils form when plants get compressed, much like vegetable oils that people routinely eat as food. In nature, these oils mostly come from compressed leaves. It is commonly seen in wetlands. It might appear as a multi-colored swirl, usually in a small, confined area. If it is disturbed by a stick, for instance, it breaks into discrete blocks and doesn't go back together easily.

Petroleum, such as gasoline or motor oil, is also multi-colored and swirly, but if it is touched by a stick, it quickly reforms into a smooth surface and might grow in size. This is the BAD kind and needs to be addressed.



If you encounter a substantial amount of oil,

First: Contact 911 or local fire department

Second: Call NHDES Spill Response

Mon- Fri, 8:00 – 4:00 **(603) 271-3899**

weekends and evenings, **(603) 223-4381** (State Police Dispatch)

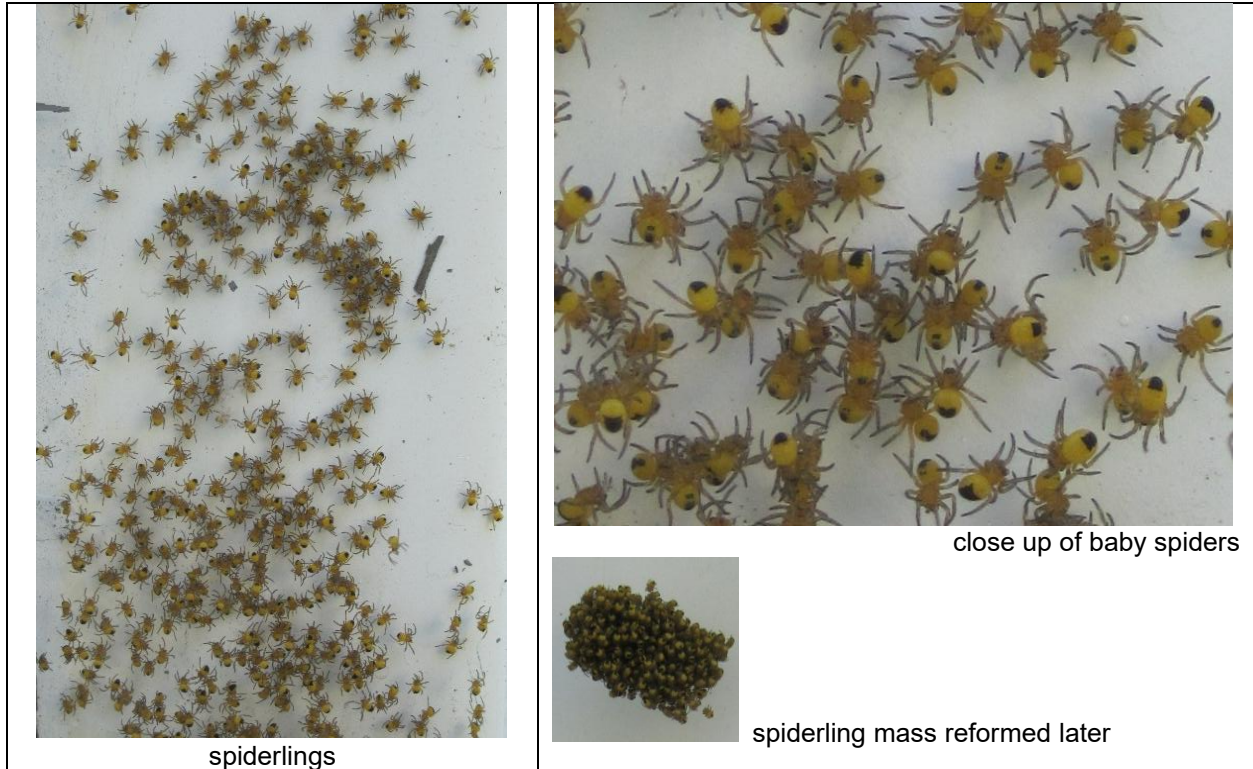
For chemical or oil spills that impact surface water, call the National Response Center at **(800) 424-8802**.

emergency [spill reporting](#)

email orcb.wmd@des.nh.gov, phone: [\(603\) 271-3899](tel:(603)271-3899)

Spying Spiders

In early June, I noticed a small ovoid ball about 1 inch in length near my deck that seemed to be covered with tiny brown dots. When I touched the ball, it exploded into frantic, tiny spiders, each clinging to the silk strands that enveloped the ball. By the time I retrieved my camera, the spiderlings had calmed down and were crawling on the wall. Upon closer inspection, I noticed that many of the spiderlings had dark spots on their abdomens. Later that day, many of the spiderlings had re-grouped into a mass.



I looked up “yellow and black spiders” and found about a half dozen different common species that are found locally. I consulted with a naturalist friend and she wasn’t able to come up with a quick answer, either. Not knowing was, in itself, very engaging. I looked at the distinctions on-line and closely watched for other clues. The visual distinctions seemed to matter less than behaviors, such as “Do the spiders disperse *en masse*, or is their dispersal staggered?” The answer to their identity must be well-considered and come slowly.

I continued to watch the spiderlings for another day. They dispersed again, this time without pesky human interference. Each tiny spider crawled up a thin strand of silk toward the highest point and disappeared into the evening. In the end it was a magical *Charlotte’s Web* moment, only this time it was I, not Wilbur, saying goodbye and wishing them well.

Reminder for Power Boats: Don't Wake on the Lamprey River

The entire Lamprey River is a no-wake (headway speed only) zone. Motor boat wakes cause erosion to our shorelines and can be dangerous to paddlers and swimmers. The following is a summary of the pertinent rule:

Chapter 270-D

BOATING AND WATER SAFETY ON NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC WATERS

VI. (a) To provide full visibility and control and to prevent their wake from being thrown into or causing excessive rocking to other boats, barges, water skiers, aquaplanes or other boats, rafts or floats, all vessels shall maintain headway speed when within 150 feet from:

- (1) Rafts, floats, swimmers.
- (2) Permitted swimming areas.
- (3) Shore.
- (4) Docks.
- (5) Mooring fields.
- (6) Other vessels.

Details can be found at [Chapter 270-D BOATING AND WATER SAFETY ON NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC WATERS](#)

Reminders for Kayaking and Canoeing

- Almost all land adjacent to the Lamprey River and its tributaries is privately owned. Please be respectful of the land and landowners as you paddle.
- Wood in streams is natural and beneficial to fish and wildlife. You are allowed to trim small branches and limbs using hand tools, but using a power machine probably requires a permit from NHDES. When in doubt, contact the [NHDES Wetlands Bureau](#).
- The section between the Route 87 bridge in Epping down to the Lee Public Canoe Access has several significant blockages in the form of downed trees in or just above the river. Portages will require crossing private property and exposure to steep slopes covered by poison ivy. If you paddle in this section, plan to depart and return to the same site.
- The Lamprey River has three dams that are not passable in a kayak or canoe: Wadleigh Falls in Lee, Wiswall Dam in Durham, and Macallen Dam in Newmarket. Please plan accordingly and do not trespass on private property.
- For a map of public paddling options on the lower Lamprey River, see our *Public Paddling Access Map & Guide*:
[For screen](#). [For Print](#).