

## Newsletter Spring 2013



### **Draft 2013 Lamprey Rivers Management Plan out for Comment**

One of the key requirements for rivers in the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program is to create a comprehensive river management plan. The plan is advisory only, but it is intended to guide the work of the river's local advisory committee and efforts with municipal governments and other local groups with an interest in the river, or in this case, rivers. The Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee has cleared the first hurdle and has a strong draft plan ready for comment. Copies have been sent to all fourteen towns along the Lamprey as well as local environmental, planning, and conservation groups. If you or someone you know would like to view the draft management plan and add your comments, please visit <http://www.lampreyriver.org/about-us-2013-management-plan-draft>. The deadline for comments is June 15. Check it out!

### **Raymond Regatta and Family Fun Day, June 1**



Events for the whole family from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.!

Proceeds support Raymond Recreation and clean water projects for the Lamprey River. Co-sponsored by Raymond Recreation, the Lamprey River Watershed Association, and the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee.

Free Events: Live animals, fly fishing demonstrations, canoe safety lessons, food provided by Raymond Boy Scouts, NH DOT stormwater model, games, exhibits, bicycle safety rodeo, and nature activities.

Boat Race: Check in begins at 9:30 a.m.. Race begins at 10:00 a.m.. Race begins and ends at Carroll Beach at the Lamprey River Elementary School. Contestants paddle to a buoy and back. Enter your canoe, kayak or whatever you can make float for a fun time on the Lamprey River. Enter as a family, business, team, or as individuals. Life jackets required. No motors! Rules are available at Raymond Recreation.

Register for Boat Race with Raymond Rec. Department - 895-4735 X105  
Early entry fee is \$5/person or \$10/group. Day of race fee is \$8/person or \$15/group.

## Turtles Crossing



Blanding's turtle  
[www.wildlife.state.nh.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us)



spotted turtle  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)



wood turtle  
[www.wildlife.state.nh.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us)

One of the greatest threats to turtles is deadly encounters with automobiles. The Lamprey River is home to three species that are of concern in New Hampshire: the endangered Blanding's turtle, the threatened spotted turtle, and the threatened wood turtle. All three have diverse habitat needs and range over wide areas. Often, the females need to cross roads to reach good areas to lay their eggs. If you see a turtle in the road, please slow down and try to go around it, or if it is safe, please stop and help it complete the crossing to the other side.

## Small Grants Program 2013

Once again, the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee is sponsoring Small Grants up to \$5000 for creative projects that help to spread the word about the Lamprey River, whose assets are described by the National Park service as "outstandingly remarkable."

The deadline for applications was May 15 and three candidates were prepared with their BIG ideas for a Small Grant:

- Kevin Martin of Epping has written a book about New Hampshire's record "big" trees and many of these trees are found along the Lamprey. He will use his Small Grant to help publish the book and make trees and book sections relevant to the Lamprey available to everyone via a guided tour and [www.lampreyriver.org](http://www.lampreyriver.org).
- The Lamprey River Watershed Association has proposed making a video that features the history of Lamprey River protection.
- Christine Destrempe of Art for Water will offer a "Stream of Conscience" water art program to school kids in up to three towns.

Stay tuned as these Small Grants yield Big Results!

## Fish Count at Wadleigh Falls and Wiswall Falls

Last year, NH Fish & Game estimated that over 30,000 river herring used the



Image from [www.nero.noaa.gov](http://www.nero.noaa.gov)

newly opened fish ladder at Wiswall Falls in Durham. Now that the fish ladder is open, fish biologists wonder what's happening upstream at Wadleigh Falls in Lee. How many fish go directly up the Lamprey only to be stopped at Wadleigh Falls?

To find the answer, NH Fish and Game has implanted a small electronic tag into some fish. As these tagged fish swim past a detecting box just downstream of the Wadleigh dam, the date, the time, and the fish number are recorded. From these data, scientists and planners can consider what might be gained by improving passage at Wadleigh. While having fish be able to migrate upstream of Wadleigh Falls is the ultimate goal, removing the breached dam at Wadleigh Falls is unlikely in the near future. Perhaps the new fish data will be useful as an impetus to find simple but effective structural modifications to the site that will allow river herring to make use of spawning grounds upriver.

### Marsh into May, National Wetlands Month

*How well do you know your wetlands?*

*Try our quiz... We dare you!*



1. Wetlands are defined by their water-logged soils, vegetation, and hydrology (flow of water). This is true for all local wetlands except:  
a) bogs/fens, b) marshes, c) swamps, d) vernal pools, e) wet meadows
2. One of the most important services that wetland soils provide to give us clean water is:  
a) converting nitrogen gas to soluble nitrogen, b) converting soluble nitrogen to nitrogen gas
3. True or false: Many salt marsh plants have adaptations that help them to move water into their roots.
4. Carnivorous plants are most common in which kind of wetland?  
a) bogs/fens, b) marshes, c) swamps, d) vernal pools, e) wet meadows
5. Which two plants are on the state's "most wanted" list as being destroyers of wetlands?  
a) common reed, b) Japanese knotweed, c) Oriental bittersweet, d) purple loosestrife

*Answers appear on page 4.*

## River Cleanup in Newmarket

Many college students spent Cinco de Mayo enjoying beautiful sunshine and a few beers, but members of Sigma Nu fraternity also donated their time to help clean up the shores of the Lamprey in Newmarket. Lots of garbage was removed, leaving the shores cleaner and safer. The biggest find was the frame of an old car in the woods. Among the more pleasant surprises, though, was this nesting mother duck. Thanks, Sigma Nu!



Photo by Tyler Miller

## River Representatives Needed

Each town in the Lamprey River's drainage area is allowed up to four representatives to serve on the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee. Only Durham currently has that many. All other towns have openings. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining, please contact Sharon Meeker at [s-meeker@comcast.net](mailto:s-meeker@comcast.net) or 659-5441.

### Answers to wetlands quiz:

1. d. Vernal pools are only temporarily wet; therefore, they usually lack permanently wet soils and the plants that thrive in those soils. Vernal pools are defined largely by the presence of certain amphibians that breed there.

2. b. Wet soils often become anoxic, or without oxygen. Under these conditions, bacterial decay switches from aerobic respiration to anaerobic respiration. In this process, soluble nitrogen is converted to nitrogen gas which is not usable by plants. The net effect is less fertilizer in the water.

3. True. Despite living in very wet soil, the presence of salt makes it difficult for plants to absorb water. In fact, plants living on a salt marsh tend to lose water to the surroundings.

4. a Bogs are very acidic. Bacterial decay is greatly slowed by all the acid. In order to obtain enough nutrients to survive, some bog plants (sundews, pitcher plants) have adapted to capturing and digesting insects to provide needed nutrients.

5. a and d. All the plants listed are exotic invasives, but Japanese knotweed and Oriental bittersweet are not common in wetlands. Common reed, the tall, feathery grass from Europe, crowds out native cattails and contributes to drying out the wetland soil. It is of little value to wildlife. Purple loosestrife, another non-native, is commonly seen along road ditches. Like common reed, it crowds out cattails and is of little use to wildlife. Please, never pick loosestrife.

[The Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee: Protecting the rivers that connect our fourteen communities](#)