

LRAC Outreach Projects for LAC Workshop - May 13, 2017

LRAC has many outreach projects and materials. Most are available at www.lampreyriver.org. The following did not involve much if any Wild and Scenic Lamprey River money:

Kiosks:

- Wiswall Falls, Durham:
 - Kiosk was built by Town of Durham with space for four panels.
 - Two panels were paid for by FEMA as part of historic mitigation when the old bridge was replaced. LRAC worked with Durham officials and volunteers to design the content.
 - One panel was paid for by NRCS as part of historic mitigation when the dam was repaired and the fish ladder was built. LRAC worked with the NH Division of Historic Resources to design the content.
 - One panel was paid for by LRAC to honor John Hatch, former professor of art at UNH and founding member of Lamprey River Watershed Association.
- Schanda Park, Newmarket:
 - Town had a kiosk but no content. LRAC worked with Newmarket Conservation Commission to design content focused on conserved land and a bit of history. LRAC paid for the panel.

Junior River Ranger program:

- This activity book was created with basic computer software and made available to everyone through the Lamprey River website.
- We worked with Epping Recreation summer campers to do a trial run and engaged 20 students.
- The on-line version is designed for family members to work on together without personnel help from LRAC.

Lamprey River Mystery Kids' Scrabble:

- Along with other town committees and commissions, we were invited to participate in a book bash at the Lamprey River Elementary School in Raymond.
- Students spent 5-10 minutes at each activity center.
- In addition to the pages here, we used a small erasable white board so participants could work out the solution together. "Water connects us."

Lamprey River Curriculum:

- Originally created in 2000 for fourth graders, the work was funded by grants from The Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation and the Barbara K. and Cyrus B. Sweet III Fund.
- The Curriculum was routinely used in several schools with teaching support from LRAC for the field trip. It was revised and expanded in 2011 to include state social studies and science standards, as well as components for middle and high school students.

DVDs:

- Although making DVDs is costly, the work they portray can be done for free.
- "Spring into Vernal Pools" reflects our efforts to engage high school students in exploring and documenting local vernal pools. Through this project, we have worked with folks from Durham, Epping, Lee, Madbury, Newmarket, and Raymond and visited vernal pools in Newmarket, Epping, Durham, and Raymond. This project was initiated by a biology teacher in Newmarket.
- "Streamwalk" was a project of the Lamprey River Watershed Association to document the condition of the river and note areas of concern. Concerns included patches of invasive weeds, erosion, pipes that empty into the river, lawns with no buffers, garbage dumps, etc..

Outreach Events:

- "Herring Aid": With NH Fish and Game as a partner, we invite families to see a fish ladder in action and give participants the opportunity to see and handle river herring, American eel

- babies, and sea lampreys. The event is free for us and the public. We typically get 40-50 participants each year.
- Family Fun Days: With town recreation departments as partners, we plan river-related events and other activities at town parks located on the river. Activities include dry-land canoe and kayak instruction, fishing lure casting competitions, races, animal displays using live animals or pelts borrowed from Fish and Game, watershed models from the DOT, fly tying, aquatic insect hunts, and history walks. On the water competitions (races, theme parades) can be offered if the town's fire department gets involved. Activities are led by volunteers.
 - "Hike It, Bike It, Like It" events. We "hike" local historic sites, "bike" along public roads (during off-times, such as Sunday morning) and stop at interesting historic and natural areas, and "like" nature hunts for aquatic critters at town parks or canoe access areas. Attendance was low on our own, but we hope to expand the project by partnering with local recreation departments.
 - Septic system outreach: We started small with a Small Grant that we provided to the Strafford County Conservation District to develop a pilot program. This initial effort then led to its adoption by the Town of Newington (outside of our watershed) to address non-point pollution in a very well attended workshop that also included environmentally friendly lawn care. The Town of Durham and Strafford Regional Planning then used our model and expanded it to include professional septic system designers and pumpers (who volunteered their time) for a well-attended workshop. We are happy to work with anyone who would like to emulate our model.

Books:

- "Peter Little Bear" is a story suitable for elementary and middle school students. It is used as a supplement to the Lamprey River Curriculum and as a stand-alone. It was paid for in part with funding from the Lee Conservation Commission and the Lee Historical Society.
- "Chick and Dee-Dee's Lamprey River Adventure" was paid for in part with a grant from the National Park Service. It covers

local history and nature for children through the eyes of two chickadees. It is proving to be an awesome way to connect with kids at libraries, schools, and providing a way for grandparents to share their river experiences with grandchildren. As part of the reading, we bring animal display boards, posters of kiosk panels, and molts from aquatic insects. Printing many books can be expensive, but having one copy of your own river's story to share with audiences is doable.

Animal Display Boards:

- Our boards are made from scrap materials from the basement, but are worth their weight in gold in terms of attracting people to our display at fairs, etc..
- turtles: Most people enjoy turtles and readily share stories about their experiences with turtles and will often engage in conversations about other river-related topics. We have pictures of the species found in the river corridor and fun facts about each. Questions in the center serve as a good jump-off point about turtle protection and habitats.
- snakes: Many adults are scared of snakes; education is especially important so that snakes do not become victims of unnecessary attacks. Many children are drawn to snakes and are open to learning about their behaviors and biology.