



Flowing Waters

Fall 2004

Inside

This Issue:

- Director's Corner ___ p.2
Preserving Meadow
Bridge _____ p.3
NCASI Assesses Risks
to Androscoggin ___ p.3
ARWC Award to
Forrest Bonney ___ p.4
Stopping the Spread
of Invasive Plants ___ p.5
Volunteer Water
Testing Program ___ p.5
Canoe Trek 2004 ___ p.6
"Think Blue" _____ p.8
ARWC SURVEY ___ p.9
Rangeley's Eagles ___ p.12

ARWC Creates the Androscoggin Watershed Institute

Focus is on Education and Research

These are exciting times for the Androscoggin River Watershed Council. As part of its expanding number of programs for communities throughout the watershed, the Council recently created the Androscoggin Watershed Institute (AWI).

"The Institute has been a dream of our watershed council for quite awhile," notes ARWC Executive Director Chuck Knox. "Through a variety of ways, AWI will facilitate the Council's ability to focus on its educational and research goals. The Institute will serve not only to convey a wide-ranging understanding of the watershed's many features, but also to foster a sense of stewardship for the precious natural and historic resources across this special 3,500 square mile region."

Knox said that the initial seed money for the new institute came from a generous grant from the Davis Conservation Foundation. This has been supplemented by grants and donations from others as well, notably The Betterment Fund, L. L. Bean, and Planet Dog Philanthropy. "We are extremely grateful for this invaluable assistance," said Knox. "It represents a vote of confidence in the importance of ARWC's mission to improve environmental quality and promote healthy and prosperous communities in the Androscoggin Watershed."

AWI Offering Educational Opportunities

At locations throughout the watershed, the Androscoggin Watershed Institute has begun offering courses, seminars, lectures, and field workshops. This year's topics are focusing on such areas as wildlife and fisheries protection, land use management, water quality issues, and conservation techniques.

AWI's educational offerings are available to all those who wish to learn more about the watershed's natural and cultural heritage - and how to protect that heritage.

This past spring, the Institute got off to a encouraging start with a well-attended conference held in Bethel devoted to wildlife in the watershed. Noted (*cont. p. 11*)



The mountain country along the Maine-New Hampshire border serves as the northern headwaters of the 3,500 square mile Androscoggin Watershed. A sea of spruce, fir, and upland hardwoods grace the watershed's Rangeley Lakes region.

Director's Corner

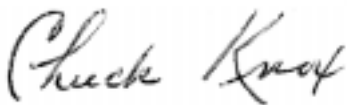
The Androscoggin Watershed... A Tapestry of Many Landscapes

Stretching from the Canadian border to the Atlantic, the Androscoggin River Watershed is a landscape of special beauty. It's a 3,500 square mile watershed that drains the highest uplands in eastern North America, a region of remote, blue lakes, silent hidden ponds, and forests of spruce and fir. It's a land of moose, eagles, and haunting loons, with verdant valleys that roll downriver to rich tidal estuaries. It is also a landscape tied inextricably to a winding 170-mile watercourse, a river that gives the watershed its name.

The Androscoggin River was once known best as a river noted for its odor, multi-colors, and surface foam. But generalizations don't come easy now. Times are changing. Tribute the Clean Water Act...and a lot of hard work from dedicated people.

However, there is still more that needs to be done, still room for restoring this special waterway and its tributaries, especially in certain areas. The Androscoggin River Watershed Council (ARWC) is dedicated to helping foster a sense of stewardship for the river, and the entire watershed, through its growing number of programs.

I invite you to learn more about, and participate in, the Council's activities, set forth in this issue of *Flowing Waters* and on our web site at www.androscogginriver.org. I also invite you to get out onto the Androscoggin and its tributary waters throughout the watershed, experience first-hand its mysteries, its beauties ... and its ills, and do your part – whether great or small, individual or community-wide – to help continue down the pathway of progress in helping protect this special New England resource.



ARWC Executive Director



Funding for this newsletter was provided in part by a grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services with funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

ARWC Steering Committee

Non-Profits/Educational:

- Bruce Clendenning
Appalachian Mountain Club
- Ferg Lea, Chairperson and Treasurer
Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments
- Lynne Lewis, Ph.D.
Bates College
- Judy Marden
Androscoggin Land Trust
- Nancy Perlson
Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust

Small Business:

- Marcel Polak
Spruce Mountain, Inc.
- Steve Wight
Sunday River Inn

Large Business:

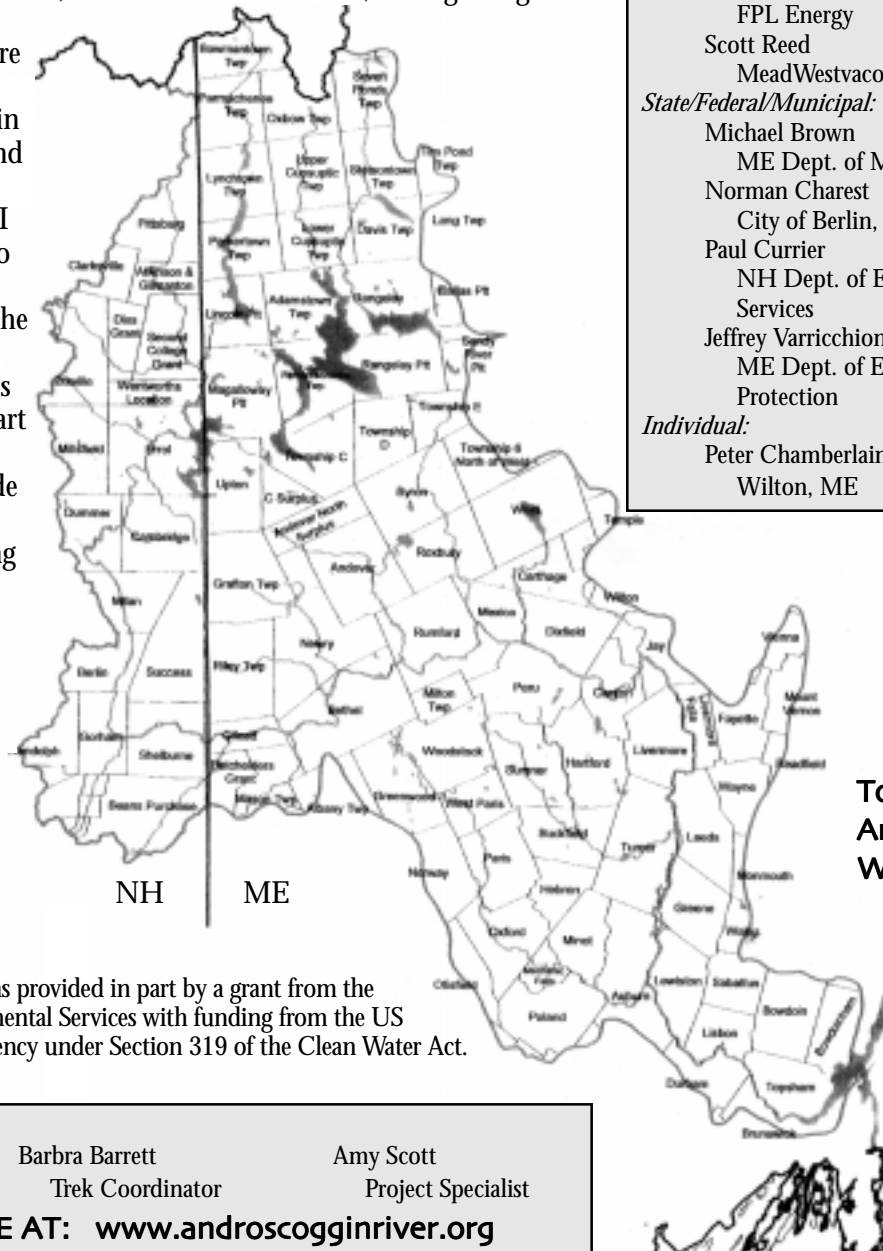
- Marvin Collins, Secretary
Sunday River Skiway
- Michael Hoover
FPL Energy
- Scott Reed
MeadWestvaco

State/Federal/Municipal:

- Michael Brown
ME Dept. of Marine Resources
- Norman Charest
City of Berlin, NH
- Paul Currier
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
- Jeffrey Varricchione
ME Dept. of Environmental Protection

Individual:

- Peter Chamberlain
Wilton, ME



Towns in the
Androscoggin
Watershed

Map courtesy
of the
Appalachian
Mountain
Club

ARWC Staff

Charles Knox
Executive Director

Barbra Barrett
Trek Coordinator

Amy Scott
Project Specialist

VISIT ARWC'S WEBSITE AT: www.androscogginriver.org

Preserving a Community's Historic Heritage

Helping to conserve the environmental and cultural heritage of communities throughout the Androscoggin Watershed is an important ARWC mission. For the past two years, ARWC has been working closely with town officials and others to save a nationally-significant historic bridge across the Androscoggin River in Shelburne, New Hampshire.

Built in 1897, Shelburne's Meadow Bridge is New Hampshire's only intact multi-span pin-connected bridge. When New Hampshire's bridges were scored for historical and engineering significance, no other bridge received a higher ranking than this rare 504-foot span.

It is no longer in use for vehicular traffic due to being bypassed with a newer bridge built nearby in 1984. Today the old bridge is in threat of tumbling into the river because of streambed scour of one of its support piers.

Currently, planning and fundraising efforts are well underway to restore this legacy from the past, and ARWC and others involved with this project are optimistic that these efforts will soon bear fruit.



A broad-based committee of town, state, and federal officials and staff from ARWC and North Country Council is working to save historically-significant Meadow Bridge near the village of Shelburne, New Hampshire.

NCASI To Assess Risks Posed to the Androscoggin

The National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) will be conducting an ecological risk assessment study of the Androscoggin River Watershed. As this issue of *Flowing Waters* goes to press, an initial meeting has been scheduled for NCASI to outline the study process and to solicit input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

Once the representative from NCASI, Dr. Wayne Landis of Western Washington University, gathers

information on what the ecological and health risks are to the Androscoggin, a prioritization of those risks will be completed by NCASI. That in turn may lead to a further NCASI study, as well as to actions to address those risks.

The Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG) is hosting the initial informational meeting, along with ARWC and Western Mountains Alliance. As more becomes known about this assessment process and follow-up work, ARWC will be reporting on it in future newsletter issues.

Fisheries Biologist Forrest Bonney Receives ARWC Award

One of Maine's leading fisheries biologists received the Androscoggin River Watershed Council's annual award "for Outstanding Contributions to Water Resources Management in the Androscoggin Watershed." Forrest Bonney, who for three decades has been diligently serving with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, was this year's recipient. Forrest works out of DIFW's northwestern Maine office in Strong.

In making the announcement at ARWC's annual meeting, Executive Director Chuck Knox commended Forrest "for his tireless work on a variety of projects designed to improve the fisheries in countless rivers, streams and lakes throughout the Androscoggin Watershed."

Not long ago, for example, Forrest coordinated an in-depth analysis of the Magalloway River, a main headwater tributary of the Androscoggin River that rises near the Canadian border. This study focused on identifying sources of erosion into the river and its effects on the river's cold water fishery. "The success of this study was due in no small part to Forrest's active coordination of a coalition of volunteer groups," said



Forrest Bonney

Knox. These included a chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Rangeley Guide's and Sportsman's Association. Under Forrest's guidance and leadership, these volunteers spent much time and effort walking and documenting the shoreline characteristics of the river so that appropriate improvements could be addressed.

Knox noted that Forrest has been active on other projects too. These include studies on the Upper Androscoggin near the Wild River, as well as research designed to maintain the world class brook trout fishery in the Rapid River. Located northwest of Andover, the Rapid River extends from Lower Richardson Lake to Lake Umbagog. In recent years its cold water fishery has become threatened by smallmouth bass which are not native to the river but which were illegally introduced into Umbagog.

For many years, Forrest has served as a public educator, making frequent presentations before schools and organizations. He is one of the foremost authorities on brook trout and has recently written a book on that subject. "In short," noted Knox, "Forrest's life as a public servant has been greatly benefiting all those who love the Androscoggin Watershed."

Become an ARWC Member

Now in its sixth year, ARWC is a growing non-profit organization whose mission is "to improve environmental quality and promote healthy and prosperous communities in the Androscoggin Watershed." Won't you join the Council as a member? Learn more about the issues facing the watershed, issues of wildlife habitat protection, water quality enhancement, land use management, historic preservation, and community resources planning. Visit our web site at www.androscogginriver.org for more information. Please fill out the attached membership form and mail it today.

Androscoggin River Watershed Council Membership Form

The benefits of membership include:

- * Helping improve environmental quality and promote healthy and prosperous communities in the Androscoggin Watershed.
- * Receiving newsletters, issue updates, and other materials.
- * Receiving discounts at special ARWC events, including Androscoggin Watershed Institute conferences and workshops.
- * Having voting rights for election of officers and by-laws.

I wish to be a member and support the Androscoggin River Watershed Council.

Membership Categories – Please circle one:

Name _____

Individual \$20

Address _____

Small business \$35

Large business \$50

Not-for profit organization \$50

Municipal unit \$50

State/federal agency \$50

Telephone # _____

E-mail address _____

Checks should be made payable to:
Androscoggin River Watershed Council.
(Membership contributions are tax deductible.)

Mail to ARWC at either its New Hampshire or Maine addresses:
P.O. Box 262 Gorham, N.H. 03581 or P.O. Box 1541 Bethel, Maine 04217.

Helping Prevent the Spread of Non-native Plants

Milfoil...fanwort...hydrilla. Scary words all. Especially scary if you love to fish and swim and boat in the lakes, ponds, and still waters of northern New Hampshire and Maine.

Unfortunately, in southern New Hampshire and Maine, these non-native, exotic plants have invaded all too many waterbodies - with sad consequences. Some waters are now choked so thick with variable leaf milfoil, for example, that reeling a lure through these weeds, let alone swimming, is next to impossible. In this monoculture environment, with no natural predators, these invasive aquatic plants can often spread rapidly. (Variable milfoil can grow to over ten feet.)

Once established, it is extremely difficult to eradicate these exotic plants. If they are spotted early on, before they have become too extensive in a lake, they can be hand-pulled by divers. But beyond a certain point, the other options are limited and not always desirable or successful, including applying herbicides (not allowed without special approvals), conducting mechanical harvesting, and doing lake draw-downs.

How do these non-native plants find their way from one lake to another? By being accidentally transported by boats, motors, and trailers, clinging to them as they go from infested waters to those with no previous problems...yet.

What can be done to prevent their spread? Lots of things. First and foremost, boat owners need to check their



boats, motors, and trailers every time they are pulled out of a waterbody, as well as each time they are put into one. Also, plants should never be dumped into any surface water, especially aquarium plants. They might be non-native, exotic species. Even small snippets can root and grow.

Both Maine and New Hampshire have milfoil grant programs designed to help prevent the spread of exotic plants through boat/trailer inspections at public launches. ARWC has been participating in these inspection programs, coupled with literature distribution. So far, the inspections have focused on the watershed waters in northeast New Hampshire and northwest Maine - Lake Umbagog, Akers Pond, and Pontook Reservoir in New Hampshire, and Lower Richardson Lake, Webb Lake, Roxbury Pond, and the eastern section of Umbagog in Maine.

This past summer, under Project Director Amy Scott, ARWC conducted another year of successful boat/trailer inspections, another year of trying to prevent these exotic weeds from getting into our watershed's northern waters. None of these waters have non-native plants to date...and we want to keep it that way.

ARWC Creates a Volunteer Water Testing Program in New Hampshire

In New Hampshire, river groups interested in conducting a long-term water quality monitoring program for their waterway can do so by approaching the N. H. Department of Environmental Services. DES offers a Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) in which water testing equipment and training is made available to such groups. Volunteers are trained in how to use the equipment according to procedures that render the testing results valid and usable. The testing results, which are regularly sent to DES's Watershed Protection Bureau in Concord, are used to determine long-term water quality trends, as well as to reveal immediate concerns. DES compiles the gathered data into a valuable annual report on the river.

Before this year, no VRAP program existed for the Androscoggin in New Hampshire. Realizing the need for such water quality data, ARWC stepped up to the plate this summer and organized a group of people who not only are

now embracing their volunteer water testing activities with enthusiasm, but also with expertise as well.

Taking samples from a dozen different locations along the river - from Errol to Shelburne - the volunteers regularly sample for dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature, and other criteria. Following testing protocols that meet state and federal quality control parameters, these volunteers are serving their communities and state well by helping DES gather accurate, up-to-date, essential data. ARWC salutes these volunteers and invites others interested in participating in this program to contact ARWC at 603-466-3433 or at cknoxarwc@aol.com.

Note: ARWC is anxious to start a similar volunteer water testing program in the Maine section of the watershed, both along the main stem of the Androscoggin and in its tributaries. If you are interested in helping out, please contact ARWC.

Trekkers Again Enjoy One of New England's Great Riverways



Over the course of three weeks this past summer, the Androscoggin River Source-to-the-Sea Canoe and Kayak Trek was perhaps the only source-to-the-sea trek in the nation. Most people joined the Trek for one day or two, but many more paddling - and enjoying magnificent mountain views and good fellowship with paddlers from far and wide. Trek Coordinator Barbra Barrett again did a great job of ensuring that all went well each day. Guest speakers included experts on native American culture, edible wild plants, land use, and history. A core of enthusiastic and devoted volunteers

ARWC's Canoe Trek Coordinator Barbra Barrett (at right) paddles with Trek Assistant Kira Knox on the three-week, 170-mile journey to the Atlantic. This annual Source-to-the-Sea paddling event helps foster stewardship for the Androscoggin River and its watershed landscape.



Over thirty boats rafted together for a discussion about the river while floating along this quiet stretch of the Upper Androscoggin near Bethel, Maine.

Thank You, Trek Supporters

ARWC is very grateful for all the support it received for its 2004 Canoe and Kayak Trek.

Major Sponsors:

Androscoggin Bank
Appalachian Mountain Club
FPL Energy
Fraser Papers
International Paper
L.L. Bean
Lincoln Canoe and Kayak
Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection
MeadWestvaco
Northeast Bank
Sunday River Skiway

Business Supporters:

Berlin City Auto, Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center, Liberty Mutual, Lost Valley Ski Area, PNGTS Operating Company, and Poland Spring Water.

Individual Supporters:

Keith and Clare Allen, Steve Bien, Azerlea Bryant, William Buotte, W.H. Daub, Gregory D'Augustine, Warren Hastings, James Irish and Winnie Ward, Robert Lambert, Sharlene MacFawn, Bernadette Nay, Don Nodine, Dennis Pednault, Edith and Dan Tucker, Mike Turner, and Ted Walworth.

's ays

Summer, hundreds of paddlers joined ARWC's
Kayak Trek - the ninth annual sojourn, and
held year in and year out.

Two, though a few hardy souls spent a week or
more to enjoy the mountain and valley scenery, abundant wildlife, and

a wonderful job of organizing the event and
speakers on a host of topics - river ecology, forestry,
water use issues, and more - enthralled paddlers of all
ages lent their skills and expertise as well.

Though this summer's
journey was punctuated with
more showers than usual, that
didn't dampen spirits. Paddlers
were delighted in seeing first hand how
the river has improved greatly
from the days when its waters ran
foul with industrial and commu-
nity waste discharges. There still
is need for further improvement
to be sure. The progress made
must be expanded. Yet the Trek
serves to get people out on the
riverway to witness the remark-
able turnaround and to once again
become committed to taking
further steps - no matter how
small - to continue down the
pathway of protecting this vital
resource.



A different guest speaker each day of the Trek captivated paddlers with presentations on a host of interesting topics. Maine DIFW biologist Charlie Todd (shown at far left) gave a lunchtime talk on bald eagles to those who paddled the last leg of the Trek.



ARWC Director Chuck Knox enjoys the Tolly Wolly rapids south of Livermore Falls, Maine.

Other Contributors:

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Androscoggin Land Trust, Aquarion Engineering, Bethel Outdoor Adventure, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, Hancock Land, Isaak Walton League, Mahoosuc Land Trust, Maine Rural Water Association, Phippsburg Land Trust, Pulp and Paperworkers Resource Council, Stony Brook Recreation, Sunday River Inn, True North Adventureware, Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, and Wilderness Sports LLC.

The following people generously donated their time and talents:

Section Leaders: Scott Andrews, Joe Crowley, Scott Emery, Pete Fredericks, Ed Friedman, Dave Govatski, Anne Hammond, Carl Johnson, Sue Lincoln, Steve MacPherson, Pete McKinley, Gary Newfield, Jeff Parsons, Fran Rancourt, and Steve Wight.

Guest Speakers: Scott Andrews, Mike Auger, Doug Beck, Robert Bassett, Robert Brown, Canyon Wolf of Ne-Do-Ba, Paul Casey, Russ Cohen, Bruce Clendenning, Dino Gilbert, Dave Govatski, Scott Grassetto, Mike Hoover, Sandy Martin, Randee McDonald, Pete McKinley, David Publicover, Will Staats, Jeff Stern, and Jeff Varricchione.

Why Should You "Think Blue"?

by Randee McDonald, Aquarion Engineering Services,
www.thinkbluemaine.org

This is a message we may all start to hear - "Think Blue". It's a new campaign by the Think Blue Maine Partners to promote clean storm water. Hopefully by now, you have seen the "rubber ducky" commercials on television or heard the announcements on the radio.

But what exactly is storm water? Storm water is produced by rain or snow melt. Under natural circumstances, the water infiltrates into the ground and recharges the groundwater. However, in developed areas, it flows over solid surfaces, such as roofs, driveways, streets, sidewalks and parking lots, and even compacted dirt driveways and roads. As it flows over these surfaces, it increases in volume and speed, and picks up sediment, pesticides and herbicides, spilled oil and gasoline, and bacteria that are in its path. The storm water, now contaminated, will flow overland directly into a local waterbody, or go into a storm water catch basin, and then into the water.

So why should we protect storm water from becoming polluted? The contaminated storm water flows directly into your local ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. This storm water pollutes our local fishing spots, swimming holes, and drinking water. The sediment that can collect in storm water (known as TSS, or Total Suspended Solids) can suffocate aquatic life. The bacteria from dog waste or unmaintained septic tanks can cause beach closures.

There were over 1,500 beach closures attributed to polluted storm water in 1998. Studies have also shown that people who swim close to storm water outfalls (the actual pipes that the storm water comes out of) have a higher chance of a getting a gastrointestinal illness than those who stay 400 yards or more away.

Household hazardous wastes also contribute to polluted storm water. When people accidentally or purposefully dump oil, old paint, or cleaners down the storm drain, it's as if they have dumped these substances directly into their local waterbody. These chemicals poison aquatic life.

Litter, like plastic bags, paper, and cigarette butts can injure, suffocate, and disable wildlife like birds, turtles, and fish. Even your grass clippings and leaves can impact waterbodies as they are swept into gutters or ditches and washed away by storm water. When a normal amount of organic matter (grass and leaves, for instance) naturally falls into a lake, there is little impact. But when too much organic matter flows into a lake, it uses a large amount of oxygen from the water as it decomposes. Since this decreases the amount of oxygen in the water, everything suffers that lives in the lake - from invertebrates to fish.

Randee McDonald, an environmental scientist with Aquarion Engineering Services in Portland, Maine, is currently working with municipalities on public education and outreach programs for storm water.



YOU can protect storm water. Here are some quick, easy tips:

· Be sure to repair drips in leaky vehicles. Storm water that washes underneath these cars will carry the oil and gasoline away. Also, wash your car in your yard, so that the water (and the cleaners, oils, and dirt) infiltrates into the ground. Try to dispose of used oil, antifreeze, etc. at recycling centers or during a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in your area.

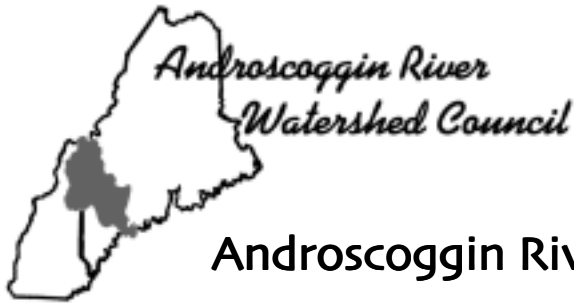
· To prevent bacteria from reaching storm water, maintain your septic tank. Pump your tank as necessary, usually every 3 to 5 years. Also, be sure to pick up your pet waste. In many areas, it's often the law, and it's a good pet owner's responsibility.

· We all know not to litter. Try going the extra step and pick it up if you see it, or join a local watershed or lake cleanup day.

· Plant a buffer. Buffers are grassy swales and vegetated strips that act as the last line of defense against polluted storm water. They can be manicured (flower beds or vegetable gardens) or natural areas (brushy, overgrown areas). They serve as a filter, preventing many of the pollutants from reaching the waterbodies they surround. They provide natural places for the rain water to collect and soak in. Rain from roof tops and paved areas can be diverted into buffers.

· If you are going to use pesticides or herbicides on your lawn or garden, try the organic kind. Whichever type you use, be sure to read the directions carefully and do not over apply. Also, compost your lawn waste (grass clippings and leaves) for the reasons we mentioned earlier in this article.

Remember, storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer system, and do not get treated. Whatever goes in those drains goes directly to your local water bodies.



Androscoggin River Watershed Council Survey

In order to help the Androscoggin River Watershed Council become as effective as possible in meeting environmental concerns and other challenges facing the watershed, we would appreciate your completing this survey and mailing it to one of the ARWC addresses listed at the end.

1. Are you a member of ARWC? Yes No

2. What do you consider to be the major threats to the Androscoggin Watershed?
Please rank the highest three threats with #1 being the highest threat.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sprawl | <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of wildlife habitat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater discharges | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion/sedimentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural run-off |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater run-off | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor forestry practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over use of resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please list) _____ |

3. On a 1 to 5 basis, with 1 being the highest, please rank how much emphasis ARWC should place on each of the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic heritage protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land use management issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Community improvements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list) _____ | |

4. In which part of the watershed are you primarily interested?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Maine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above equally |

5. ARWC is expanding its educational and public outreach activities through various avenues including its new Androscoggin Watershed Institute. Please rank your three highest priorities in each of the following two categories, with #1 being the top priority in each category.)

* General Education and Outreach:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase newsletter issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Issue regular update bulletins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expand web site | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase member meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase articles in newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please list) _____ |

* Educational Experiences:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Conferences | <input type="checkbox"/> Develop Lecture/workshop series |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Field workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit courses for adults |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-credit courses for adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses/curriculum for young |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guided nature walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Guided paddling trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please list) _____ | |

*Please complete the rest of the survey
on page 10 (over)*

6. Please rank your highest 3 priorities for educational conferences, workshops, and other activities, with # 1 being the highest priority.

- Water quality issues
- Wildlife / fisheries protection
- Historic heritage protection
- Natural sciences, geology, and history of the watershed
- Land use management issues
- Land conservation techniques
- Pollution control methods
- Other (Please list) _____

7. In addition to its educational goals, ARWC has begun coordinating endeavors that include milfoil prevention and volunteer water sampling. ARWC would welcome additional participation in these programs and with the development of other activities. If you would be interested in learning more about them, and perhaps be willing to participate as a volunteer, please check your areas of interest below.

- Water Quality Monitoring
- Conference/workshop development
- Field workshop/Guided nature walks
- Courses for youngsters
- Guided nature walks
- Guided paddling trips
- Milfoil prevention
- Newsletter development
- Web site maintenance
- Publicity
- Fundraising
- Other (Please list) _____

THANK YOU! Feel free to submit your survey anonymously. However, if you wish to list your name and address, or if you wish to be contacted about potential volunteer options with ARWC, please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

E-mail address _____

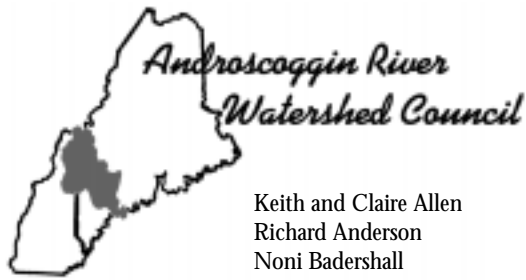
Please contact me - I would like to find out how I can help out.

Please just keep me informed.

Please mail your completed survey to ARWC at either its New Hampshire or Maine addresses:
P.O. Box 262 Gorham, N.H. 03581 or P.O. Box 1541 Bethel, Maine 04217.



The Androscoggin flows clear and cold through the Mahoosuc Range along the Maine - New Hampshire border.



ARWC warmly welcomes the following new members:

Keith and Claire Allen
 Richard Anderson
 Noni Badershall
 Ruth Barrett
 Robert Bassett
 Nick Bennett
 Loretta Berry
 John Bianchi
 Steve Bien
 Elizabeth Bradley
 Anthony Bradstreet
 Azerlea Bryant
 William Buotte
 Norm Charest
 Honey Cronin
 Eugene Daley
 W. H. Daub
 Gregory D'Augustine
 Thomas Dodd
 Debra Eddison
 Larry Ely
 Michael Galuszka
 Joy Gasta
 Sherry Gee
 Virginia Gerstley
 David Govatski
 Terrie Anne Guay
 Michele Guerrette
 Bart Hague

Henry Hamilton
 Frank Hample
 Warren Hastings
 Walter and Carolyn Hatch
 Kathleen Holmgren
 Deni Howley
 James Irish
 Wendy Iseman
 Patty and Allen Jenkins
 Ron Joseph
 Ron and Cathy Keyser
 Charlene Kohn
 Robert Lambert
 Roger Larsen
 Agnes LeComte
 Jean Leone
 Nels Liljedahl
 Warren and Sharlene MacFawn
 Hal Mahon
 Susan Martin
 Mitch Manseau
 Cote McLain
 Dave and Terry Miles
 Rick Mills
 Steve Mitman
 John and Bernadette Nay
 Gary Newfield
 Niboban Camps
 Donald Nodine

John and Genevieve Nutile
 Cheryl Oakes
 John O'Brien
 Gary O'Connell
 Jeff Parsons
 Dennis Pednault
 Wayne and Nancy Penley
 Tom Piekart
 Nicky Pizzo
 Amy Scott
 Bruce and Mary Sloat
 Alice Strait
 Sun Valley Sports, Inc.
 Spruce Mountain, Inc.
 Ray and Jane Taylor
 Rick Triess
 Bill and Gail Tout
 Town of Hanover, Maine
 Town of Greenwood, Maine
 Edith and Dan Tucker
 Michael Turner
 Jac Van-Loon
 Ted Walworth
 Winnie Ward
 Western Maine Brokerage Services
 Debbie Wight
 Nancy Willard
 Amy Wilson
 Roger Zimmerman

Watershed Institute

(cont. from pg. 1) wildlife biologists and others from both Maine and New Hampshire discussed a host of interesting topics. This was followed up by fall field workshops in both Maine and New Hampshire, workshops that focused on wildlife and fisheries habitat protection methods. Getting outside to experience the watershed's forests, lakes, and rivers, workshop attendees received special first-hand insights about wildlife land conservation issues. Further AWI educational offerings involved ARWC's canoe trek as well as a special conference for regional and community planners. Also, coming up is a winter/spring lecture series, at locations up and down the watershed.

Research Studies

In addition to its educational offerings, ARWC's new Watershed Institute is also involved with research studies. A water quality monitoring program utilizing trained volunteers was begun this summer in the New Hampshire portion of the Androscoggin River. (See article on page 5.) Through its Institute operations, ARWC hopes to begin a similar volunteer-based water quality testing research program in the Maine portion of the watershed in the near future.

An Androscoggin Reference Library

The Androscoggin Watershed Institute is also beginning to serve as a repository for Androscoggin-related documents - books, reports, photos, historical records, and other publications. A library devoted to the watershed's natural, historic, and cultural resources is being started. These materials will be made available to schools, community groups, and the general public. People will finally have a central location where they can find a variety of valuable archival and current information directly pertaining to this fascinating Northern New England watershed region.

"At this point ARWC's new Watershed Institute has begun to take shape, with the promise of more educational offerings and research opportunities as the Institute matures," comments Knox. "We welcome suggestions on the Institute from Council members and all others who share ARWC's vision of an interconnected watershed in which political boundaries are superseded by ecological systems and where long-term environmental stewardship becomes the hallmark for the watershed's communities - from the Canadian border to the Atlantic."

Research Conducted on Rangeley Eagles

Perched high atop the forest floor, in a grove of white pines along the south shore of Maine's Rangeley Lake, the bald eagle's nest looked small and precarious. After shimmying up the tall trunk, FPL Energy wildlife biologist Bill Hanson began the careful task of placing two eagle chicks in separate bags and lowering one after the other to the ground. There, a team of scientists from the Biodiversity Research Institute of Gorham, Maine carefully banded each chick, took blood samples, and conducted measurements of the birds' wings, beaks, and powerful talons.

Then, after all work was completed, each chick was hauled back up to its home in the sky, while their parents passively watched from high overhead. Another day of studying eagles. Another day of piecing together the mysteries of these great winged creatures that grace the heavens over the Androscoggin Watershed.

ARWC was fortunate to take part in this day's research project, one made all the more significant because of a pending land sale by a timber management company. A 1000-acre parcel adjacent to the eagles' nesting tree, which encompasses the important trout nursery of South Bog Stream, is now being offered for sale to the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust. Those who care about these magnificent raptors, and about habitat for cold water species, are optimistic that this landscape will be preserved for future generations.

Biologists from the Biodiversity Research Institute, FPL Energy, and the State of Maine are conducting studies critical to the long-term success of the Androscoggin region's bald eagles, including this chick from a nest near Rangeley Lake.



Two Rangeley eaglets sit inquisitively on their treetop after biologists completed their work.



Mailing List Update

In order to update our ARWC mailing list, please let us know if you wish to be removed from our mailing list. If so, either call us at 603-466-3433, email us at cknoxarwc@aol.com, or mail us at either P.O. Box 262 Gorham, NH 03581 or at P.O. Box 1541 Bethel, ME 04217.

Thank you.



*P.O. Box 262 Gorham, N.H. 03581
P.O. Box 1541 Bethel, Maine 04217*

PRSRTD STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
CONCORD, NH
PERMIT NO. 726