



## **Newsletter Winter 2018**

### **Mill Stories**

The Lamprey River has a long history of river-related industry. We can document the location of 100 dams and mills. We know that sawmills and grist mills were common, and that diverse products were manufactured at some of the larger dam sites. We also know that textile manufacturing and brick-making were among the last to fade from this area.

When we attend local events, people sometimes approach our booth and offer quick snippets or stories that grandparents shared about working at brickyards or the Newmarket textile mills. We love to hear these stories, but we've never been able to document them properly to share with others. If you have a story to share, we would like to invite you to share that snippet with us. The stories don't need to be long or complete, just personal. What was the best part of the job? What was the hardest? What were the conditions like? Did anyone ever get hurt? How old was the person when he or she started to work? How many years was the family affiliated with the company? Were there any particular smells associated with the job? Did anyone ever fall in love with a coworker? Do you have any old photos of your relative on the job?

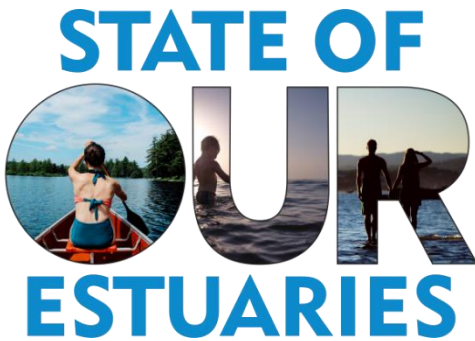
Please send your snippet, story, or scanned photo to [info@lampreyriver.org](mailto:info@lampreyriver.org) or LRAC c/o 203 Wadleigh Falls Rd., Lee, NH 03861. Please include at least your first name and last initial and any pertinent details about photos. Thank you!



*Epping Town Hall, made from Epping bricks*

## State of Our Estuaries Conference Dec. 2017

Most towns in the Lamprey River watershed are not coastal towns, but what happens here affects the rivers, estuaries, and coast of New Hampshire. Fifty-two communities in New Hampshire and southern Maine are located in the drainage area for New Hampshire's estuaries and coast and are joined as stakeholders in the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, or PREP. The staff at PREP recently hosted a conference updating ecological and social trends that help to paint a clear and true picture of how our estuaries, including Great Bay, are faring in the face of rapid development and change.



Over the last 5 years, scientists and other researchers have gathered lots of data and performed rigorous analyses for 24 indicators of environmental health and resilience. On the surface, our estuaries appear much as they have for as long as anyone can remember, but details below the surface and in the surrounding landscape are showing several symptoms of concern.

About half of the indicators are listed as cautionary, "...demonstrates possibly deteriorating conditions, a mixture of positive and negative trends, or moderate progress relative to the management goal." Four indicators are listed as negative: impervious surfaces (areas where water cannot soak into the ground due to pavement, roofs, etc.), eelgrass acreage, population of adult oysters, and population of adult clams. A negative rating demonstrates deteriorating conditions, generally poor conditions, or minimal progress relative to the management goal. Six indicators are listed as positive or improving: nutrients from wastewater treatment facilities, fecal bacteria, beach advisories, toxic contaminants, conservation land, and migratory fish restoration. The remaining four (salt marsh acreage, housing permits, stormwater management, and environmental volunteerism) are new indicators and, therefore, show no trend over time.

So what does this mean for you? What can you do? There is no one simple answer that will fix everything, but there are many simple things that each of us can do that will make a big difference: Learn about and take care of your septic system. Don't over-fertilize your lawn. Keep soil covered by plants. Direct stormwater run-off to areas where it can soak into the ground. Volunteer your time to pick up litter or be a citizen scientist to help to monitor migratory fish, water chemistry, or invasive species. (Visit <https://naturegroupie.org>, formerly the Stewardship Network, to learn about all sorts of volunteer opportunities.) Support efforts by the town conservation commission and local land trusts to protect natural land so that it can provide clean water to streams and people. Learn about our waters and share why protecting them is important to you.

For the full report and more ideas on how we can help to protect our rivers, estuaries, and coast, visit [www.StateofOurEstuaries.org](http://www.StateofOurEstuaries.org) or contact PREP at 603-862-3729.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Turns 50



According to the National Park Service, there are approximately 3.6 million miles of streams in the United States; 1.1 million are at least five miles in length. Only 12,734 miles are protected by the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act—only 0.35% of the rivers found here. But what a wonderful 12,734 miles! Wild and Scenic rivers include the Allagash, Salmon, Snake, Missouri, Concord, Forty-mile, Trinity, and our very own Lamprey.

**It's your river. Make a splash!**

How did these rivers come to be "Wild and Scenic"? The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was created by the US Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et

seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

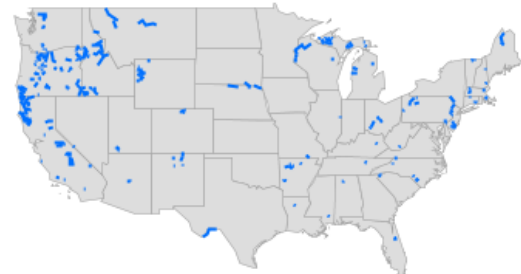
The Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

One of the key motivations for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was the rapid and rampant construction of dams for hydroelectric power. The Act specifically noted that *"the established national policy of dams and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes."*

As the Act nears a half century of protecting some of our greatest rivers, we hope you'll join us in celebrating its accomplishments—and in working for its future. While there is much we have to do, there is much we have done, and to the thousands of people across the country who have worked tirelessly to save their local river, it's time to take a moment to celebrate, to congratulate each other, to look forward, to add to the 12,734 miles.

*Wild and Scenic River in the lower 48 states.*

To learn more about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, please visit <https://www.rivers.gov/wsr50/index/php>



## Lamprey River Story Map



Photo by Ecophotography

As part of the celebration of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Park Service has compiled virtual tours of some the Wild and Scenic Rivers. These tours highlight maps, photos of key stops along the river, and descriptions of history and natural assets. Emma Lord, Wild and Scenic Rivers fellow in Concord, created this map to help us share the river in a clear and accessible way. To view the story map, visit <https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=56fc92d1a0d048e8b0bfc8ece777c396>

## Improving Nesting Sites for Blanding's Turtles



Blanding's turtle  
Photo by Jon Bromley

Blanding's turtles are listed as endangered in New Hampshire. They have large ranges and require diverse habitats to meet their physiological and reproductive needs. Because they need to travel, they are at an increased risk for encounters with vehicles and predators. Females produce only a dozen or so eggs each year and they do not reach sexual maturity until 15 to 20 years of age. Like most turtles, they lay eggs in sandy or gravelly soils, but Blanding's turtles often select dangerous sites such as sandy road shoulders.

Recent construction work to widen Route 108 in Durham and Newmarket included the elimination of sandy shoulders to discourage female turtles from laying eggs near the roadway. Much of this area passes through conserved land managed by the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Staff from the two organizations are teaming up to investigate the potential for encouraging Blanding's turtles to utilize man-made nesting sites located in safer, more suitable areas so that nesting females and hatchlings are not put in peril. The Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee is pleased to provide financial support for this project and looks forward to seeing the results of the experiment as a potential means to help Blanding's turtles in other vulnerable areas.