



Boquet River Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 374, Elizabethtown, NY 12932
Phone: 518-873-2178

info@boquetriver.org
www.boquetriver.org
Fax: 518-873-9156

BOQUET RIVER *Association*

The Boquet River is a valuable resource to residents of our watershed. It provides critical habitat for wildlife, storm water conveyance, groundwater recharge and is an important recreational resource for the region. For those of us lucky enough to live along the river and/or its tributaries, it offers a daily variety of scenery and prospects.

We are writing today to ask you to help support the Boquet River Association (BRASS) this year by contributing to the Annual membership/fundraiser to help us pay for our projects. Your donation is tax deductible to maximum extent of the law. We use our money for projects only, as we no longer have any employees. When we have a grant to administer, we hire a contractor to help do the work.

We also ask our members and other interested people to join our “friends” group to help us with some of our projects, such as trash clean-up, tree planting, and providing educational experiences about our river. You would receive email requests to help or you could read our Facebook for more information. If you are available we appreciate the help. Also, if you know of a needed project, you could contact us to help organize a remediation.

This has been a very productive year for BRASS. Our all-volunteer board and friends have stepped up and accomplished key projects, several of which are identified below:

- Conducted our annual water quality testing in July and August at 15 locations along the river. While we are still interpreting the results, it appears that for the most part water quality is good.
- Conducted an inventory of all storm water culverts that discharge to the river with the goal of prioritizing those that require replacement to insure flood resiliency and fish passage. We believe that since the Boquet is such a steep river, it moves water more quickly, so the standard charts for drainage area are not large enough for heavy storm flows.
- Assisted in the investigation of the Wollastonite filter failure at the Willsboro wastewater treatment plant. We continue to build a functioning cell using Wollastonite tailings to remove Phosphorus from the wastewater.
- Completed our Watershed Planning Project with the assistance of our consultant Ann Ruzow Holland. Several public reviews of the data and maps were conducted, including one at the BRASS 30th Anniversary. We also met with each of the Towns of Elizabethtown, Essex, Lewis, Westport, and Willsboro for their priorities. We are ready to apply for grants to address the highest priority projects.
- Conducted four tree planting projects to improve bank stabilization and decrease erosion.
- Participated in evaluation of dam removal impacts in Willsboro as well as removal of debris and filling of the Fishway for new viewing area.
- Worked with the Town of Willsboro, DEC and Essex County Soil and Water Conservation to stabilize the steep riverbank below the old dam and build a handicapped fishing pier on the West bank.

BRASS is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of water and life in the 280-square mile Boquet River watershed.

- Conducted informational “Rambles” along the river by canoe at the Mouth and fly fishing “Rambles” at popular fishing holes.
- Conducted our Annual Trashy Art day. We clean up an especially trashed location and make “art” from the more unusual recovered items. We then put the “art” at the town hall for a week to remind people not to litter along the river.
- We have a project in process removing Knotweed along the River and a Garlic Mustard infestation in Elizabethtown.
- Finished a brochure on our mission and accomplishments to encourage new membership.
- Developed a new poster to announce our events
- Held a conference on plastics in Lake Champlain and Waste Water Treatment plants. It turns out that plastic from washing polar fleece is the greatest source of plastic found in our waters.

There is much more to do, and we need your help to accomplish our goal of “enhancing the quality of the water and life in the Boquet River Watershed.” If you donate your funds will support the above activities in addition to our planned 2017 projects: Creating a map of public access, walking, fishing and boating. Removing and treating contaminated soil from Georgia Pacific so we can finish the handicap fishing ramp. A port-a-potty at Split Rock Falls for the swimmers that have no other place to “go” except on the riverbank. Educational, hands-on information on river dynamics and fishing coaching at Elizabethtown Days. Highway ditch digging weed control.

Our Annual meeting will be
Tuesday August 22 at 6 pm at the
Whallonsburg Grange Hall.

Please consider giving a gift beyond the membership level toward this Annual Appeal either via mail or online at www.boquetriver.org.

On behalf of the BRASS Team, thank you in advance for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Anita Deming
President

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