

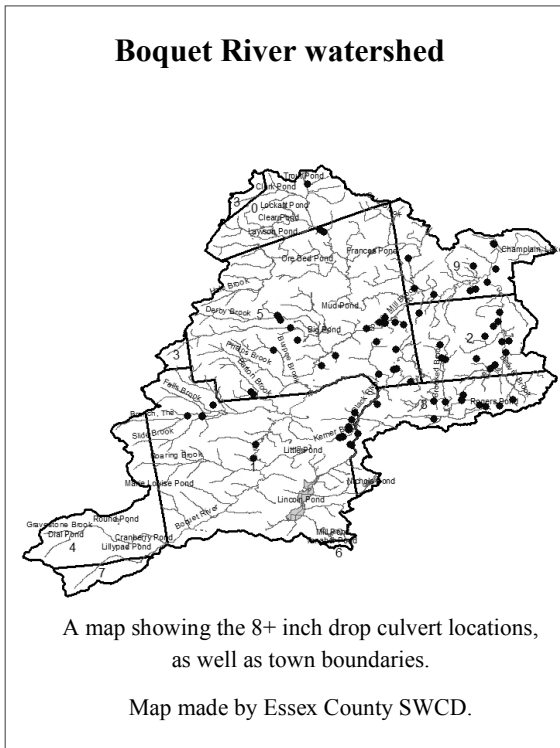


BRASSnews

Newsletter of the Boquet River Association, Inc. | Fall 2010 Issue

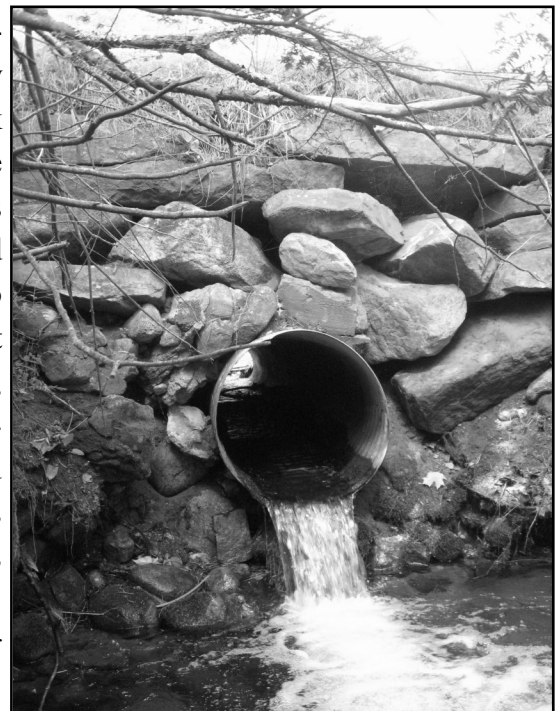
Culvert Assessment Project Update

To begin the effort to restore the Boquet River’s connectivity, BRASS joined the Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to inventory culverts in the Boquet watershed. USFWS is involved because it ranks the Boquet River as very important in their effort to restore the Atlantic Salmon fishery in Lake Champlain. And, there are few better signposts of successful watershed improvement efforts than an improved fishery. With a win-win perspective, working closely with our neighbors and friends in local, county and state highway departments, our hope is to eventually replace or retrofit all the culverts in the watershed to bring them up to the highest possible standards of performance, including fish passage.



<u>Town</u>	<u>Culverts Assessed</u>	<u>Culverts with 8+inch drop</u>
Chesterfield	5	1 (or 20%)
Elizabethtown	74	17 (or 23%)
Essex	56	14 (or 25%)
Lewis	73	25 (or 34%)
Westport	48	12 (or 25%)
Willsboro	33	10 (or 30%)
Total	289	79 (or 27%)

The culvert to the right is one example of the many culverts that block fish passage in the watershed. This culvert is located on a tributary to Barton Brook and it



puts an entire mile of potential fish habitat off limits to trout, salmon and other organisms. Other culverts are even worse because of their size or the length of stream that now is disconnected but, fortunately, most culverts are not so bad. Of the 289 culverts analyzed so far, 79 or 27% have a drop of more than 8 inches which effectively blocks fish from utilizing the upstream waters. The table above summarizes the number of culverts assessed per town and, of those, the number of culverts with an 8+ inch drop.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as of 11/01/2010)

- Anita Deming, *President*
- Bryan Burke, *Vice President*
- Schelling McKinley, *Treasurer*
- A.J. Longware, *Secretary*
- Tom Clark
- Jay Fiegl
- Matt Foley
- Jeff Kelly
- Bob McGoldrick
- Vic Putman

**TOWN REPRESENTATIVES
(APPOINTED)**

- Open - Elizabethtown
- Open - Essex
- Open - Lewis
- Dawn St. Louis - Westport
- Doug Ferris - Willsboro

STAFF

- Julie A. Martin
- Executive Director

BRASS Board Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Members are invited to attend. Call to confirm dates and location.

Our Mission:

BRASS is dedicated to enhancing the quality of water and life in the Boquet River watershed.

The BRASS newsletter is prepared by BRASS staff with written contributions from the Board and others. All pictures were taken by BRASS staff unless otherwise noted.

Boquet River Association
P.O. Box 782
Willsboro, NY 12996
(518) 963-4710
info@boquetriver.org

Culprit Culverts

Although we have found numerous small culverts that can be replaced to enhance fish passage and to avoid future flooding problems, we have also found major tributaries to the Boquet River that have very large culverts blocking fish passage

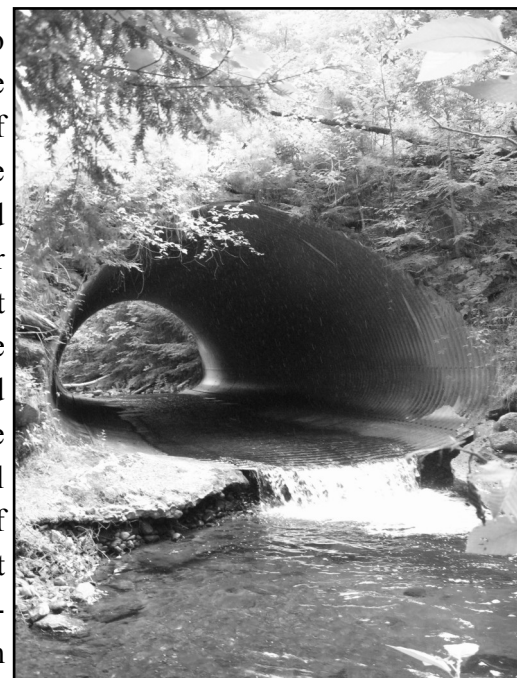


This culvert, on Spruce Mill Brook in Lewis, would open up approx. 9 miles of streams if retrofitted.

to and from critical fish habitat. Three large culverts on Route 9N above the "US" falls west of Elizabethtown block fish passage throughout the headwaters of The Branch. One large culvert on County Route 12 (Wells Hill Road) west of the hamlet of Lewis blocks the headwaters of Spruce Mill Brook [which feeds into the North Branch]. There is also one large culvert on Westport's Ledge Hill Road that

blocks passage to the headwaters of the Black River. Opening these tributaries to fish would make tens of miles of first, second and third-order streams available to trout and salmon.

These culverts, however, are properly sized and in good physical shape. No reasonable person would want to replace them. Thus, rehabilitating these culverts rather than replacing them is the strategy needed to open up miles of critical fish habitat. A possible approach to rehabilitation, for just one example, would be to construct a series of pools to raise the water level a few inches downstream of the culvert. BRASS is working with the USFWS, the Essex County SWCD and others to identify and obtain funding for these very important fishery-improvement projects. A proposal was submitted to the USFWS in 2010 and the Boquet ranked very high for funding in 2011. Once funds are acquired, BRASS will coordinate with the NYS Department of Transportation, Essex County Department of Public Works, Town Highway Departments and private landowners to launch the rehabilitation of these major culvert culprits.



This culvert, on the Black River in Westport, would open up approx. 4 miles if retrofitted.

Education & Outreach Events

Native Plant Sale

On June 25, BRASS teamed up with *Fiddlehead Creek Farm & Native Plant Nursery* to host a native plant sale fundraiser at the Elizabethtown Farmers' Market. *Fiddlehead Creek* is a small family farm that specializes in perennials, shrubs and trees that are native to northern NY and the Adirondacks. Thank you to all of our supporters who stopped by our booth for information and/or purchased a native plant for your yard.

The sale provided an opportunity to educate people about the benefits of going native, as well as the threats of invasive species. The Boquet watershed has its share of invasives, such as Purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed. Invasive plants crowd out our native species, reduce biodiversity, and once established, are extremely difficult to control. By encouraging the use of native plants, we hope to prevent further introductions of invasive species.



BRASS' Native Plant Sale. Photo by Emily DeBolt.

Fiddlehead Creek Nursery provided all of the plants and donated a portion of the overall sales to BRASS. Thank you to Emily DeBolt, Nursery co-owner and Master Gardener, for spending the day in Elizabethtown sharing her gardening expertise. We look forward to working with Emily again.

Great Adirondack Trail Run

On June 19, *The Mountaineer* in Keene Valley hosted the 6th Great Adirondack Trail Run. The event consisted of a vigorous 11.5 mile run, as well as a 3.5 mile fun-run. This annual fundraiser helps support BRASS and the Ausable River Association (AsRA). In addition to the Trail Run proceeds, both organizations were presented with a check from *Patagonia* and split the proceeds from the food and drink sales.



Our dedicated volunteers preparing lunch.

Thanks to BRASS and AsRA Board Members and volunteers who provided and served a picnic-style lunch to runners and their families. Also, a big thank you to *Patagonia* and Vinny McClelland of *The Mountaineer* for their continued support of our efforts.

Other Networking Events Attended

BRASS also attended the following conferences, workshops and outreach events: Adirondack and Lake Champlain Research Consortium conferences; Septic Systems and Our Lakes, Ponds, and Streams; Adirondack Forum on Invasive Species; iMap Training Session; Essex County Fair; and Field, Forest and Stream Day. BRASS also assisted USFWS and DEC staff with stocking salmon fry into The Branch (see picture to the right).



USFWS, DEC & BRASS. Photo by Gary Chilson.

Grant & Project Updates

NYS Empire State Development Corporation Grant

Wetland Monitoring Project - BRASS hired Dr. Dennis Kalma to survey vegetation, including invasive species, in 10 wetlands in the Boquet River watershed in 2010. Tim and Mary Burke assisted Dr. Kalma in the field logging the data onto collection sheets. The Wetland Monitoring Project started in 2005 working in collaboration with SUNY Plattsburgh and funded by an Environmental Protection Agency grant. Initially, 40 wetlands were monitored. In 2006, 20 of the 40 were selected for long-term monitoring. A grant application is being prepared for funds to monitor the remaining 10 wetlands in 2011, as well as to analyze the data gathered to date to help prioritize invasive species management efforts in our wetlands. Thank you to all of the landowners who gave us permission to survey wetlands on their property.

NYS Department of State (DOS) Grant

Watershed Management Plan - The Department of State Environmental Protection Fund grant to update the 1984 Boquet River Watershed Management Plan was awarded to the Town of Westport and is being administered by BRASS. The \$50,000 grant requires a 50/50 match, which means that \$50,000 will come from the value of volunteer or in-kind services. Paul Smith's College's Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) will provide a portion of the required match through in-kind services. AWI and Paul Smith's College students are assisting BRASS in characterizing the watershed, which will consist of delineating our subwatersheds, as well as assembling available Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data and creating maps. Such data includes: soils, topography, land use, geology, wetlands, culverts etc. A lot of this information is available but not in one location. Once the initial map layers are created, data gaps will be identified and a basic interpretation or summary of the data will be completed with the help of Dr. Dan Kelting, Director of AWI. For example, where are the steep slopes, impervious surfaces or erodible soil types in the watershed? This undertaking will provide BRASS with data available on the river and watershed, as well as visuals to share at public meetings. Public meetings will be held throughout the watershed to get input from a wide variety of stakeholders. A Project Advisory Committee will also meet regularly and will include town, county and state representatives, landowners, BRASS Board Members, AWI and other organizations interested in protecting the Boquet River watershed. An updated plan will help us obtain future DOS grants to revitalize our waterfront communities and improve or restore water quality, fish habitat and local infrastructure.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant

Whallonsburg Grange Hall Project - BRASS was allocated funds from an EPA Targeted Watershed Improvement grant awarded to the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of NY (CWICNY). In August, 2010, BRASS presented the \$5,867.70 check to the Whallonsburg Civic Association to help offset the cost of purchasing and installing a new 1000-gallon, intermittent usage dosing septic system at the Grange Hall in Essex.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Grant

Culvert Assessment Project - BRASS was allocated \$1,500 out of CWICNY's DEC Aid to Localities grant. These funds will help cover BRASS staff time spent on the Culvert Assessment Project in 2009.

Grant & Project Updates cont.

Willsboro Constructed Wetlands Project

The constructed wetland pilot project on Gilliland Lane in Willsboro was completed in the summer of 2010. The goal of the project is to remove additional phosphorus from Willsboro's already treated effluent. The effluent leaves the treatment plant and enters a 'pretreatment cell' filled with different sized stone to remove any remaining solids before entering the two wetland treatment cells, which are filled with wollastonite tailings. The effluent works its way up through the wollastonite tailings, which adsorbs phosphorus before emptying out into the River. Next year, BRASS and volunteers will plant wetland species in these three cells to assist in additional nutrient uptake. Prior to wetland planting, initial constructed wetland effluent samples indicate a phosphorus reduction of 95 percent from the secondary plant's treated effluent (from 3.2 mg/L to 0.16 mg/L). Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) was reduced about 69 percent (from 7.8 mg/L to < 2.4 mg/L) and Total Suspended Solids was reduced 86 percent (from 7.8 mg/L to 1.1 mg/L). BRASS is pursuing grant funds to supplement NYS DEC's required water testing and to purchase wetland plants and educational signage for the site. If the initial results of the pilot project are supported by the additional tests, constructed wetlands using wollastonite tailings (a mining waste product) may become an important and cost effective means to significantly reduce phosphorus from entering Lake Champlain.

Seedling Plantings

On Sat., June 12, despite heavy rain in the morning, BRASS and seven dedicated volunteers gathered at the canoe launch site on Gilliland Lane in the Town of Willsboro. As the morning progressed, the rain stopped and the clouds provided a cool breeze - perfect weather for planting trees and shrubs. The planting site was 500' of riverbank that was recently stabilized with rock rip-rap. If you have been to the launch, you'll notice that the bank improvement was only part of a much larger phosphorus-reduction project (see above). BRASS and volunteers planted about 750 seedlings in and around the willows previously planted by Essex County SWCD staff.



Jim Higgins, BRASS member & volunteer, planting silver maples. Photo by Gary Chilson.

BRASS' trees and shrubs were provided by DEC's Saratoga Nursery and included: silky and red osier dogwoods, wetland roses, sand cherries and silver maples. These additional plantings are expected to further stabilize the bank and eventually provide wildlife habitat and shade to this part of the river. Thank you Gary Chilson, Larry Geohring, Jim Higgins, Joan Irving, Dave Kavner, Bob McGoldrick and Dave Reckahn for your time and effort.



Dave R., Gary, Bob & Larry after the planting project.

The Boquet River Association (BRASS) is a grassroots, membership-based, volunteer-oriented organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of water and life in the Boquet River watershed. Formed in 1984, BRASS uses a collaborative, non-regulatory approach to watershed management.

BRASS Members & Donors 2010-2011

Membership Year: June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2011 (as of 10/21/10)

Anonymous	Jim Higgins	Seymour Preston, Jr.
Bartlett & Isabelle Bailey	Trissa Horton	Victor & Vickie Putman
Nick & Eve Bailey	Brian & Katherine Houseal	Patricia Quinn
William T. Baker, Jr.	Rachel Hunter	David & Margaret Reuther
Cherry Bamberg	Arlene Ida	James Parker & Mona Rice
Larry Barns	Tad & Nancy Jeffrey	Peggy Rising & Family
Tim Biello	Eric Johanson	Raymond Roberts
Katharine Preston & John Bingham	Wayne & Susan Johnson	James A. Rosenberg
Andy Buchanan & Mary Nell Bockman	Dr. Charles E. Jones	Chuck, Pam & Sophie Samul
John & Elaine Bottiroli	Deb & Ellis Jones	Arthur V. & Harriet Savage
Anthony C. Brankman	Dr. Dennis Kalma	Denise Scheinberg
Ben & Anne Brewster, Jr.	Jim & Theresa Kapper	John Doyle & Laura Sells-Doyle
Marcia P. Brooks	Mark Levy & Celine Keating	Glenn Shafer
Peter R. Brooks	Steven & Helen Kellogg	Shirley Bacot Shamel
Stephen C. Brooks	Mary Lu Kirsty	Steve & Melissa Shepstone
Ronald & Susan Bruno	Phil & Eileen Knowles	Dr. Frank C. Shirley
Mark J. Buckley	Ronald F. Kozilski	Elinor M. Siner
Bryan Burke	Ms. Ruth M. Kuhfahl	Marc Skarshinski & Suzanne Skidmore
Tim & Mary Burke	John & Myrtle Lally	Rolf Skoglund
Alta Longware & Brad Caldwell	John W. Lawyer	Gerald W. Smith
Paula Calkins	Richard & Sally Lighty	Jeffrey Kelly & Linda Smyth
Bonnie Callahan	Cynthia Fairbanks & Joan Lilly	Donna Lou Sonnett - <i>Cupola House Gallery</i>
Margaret & Charles Cammack	Daniel K. Lincoln	Megan Murphy & Eric Teed
Dean & Claudia Caveney	Muriel & Nils Luderowski	Dawn St. Louis
Dr. Gary Chilson	Regis Canning & Doreen Maddox-Canning	Kip & Delia Thompson
Tom Clark	Happy & Jim Marsh	Sylvia Thorn
Edward Cornell - <i>Crooked Brook Studios</i>	Gina Martin	Betsy & David Tisdale
Mike & Laurie Davis	Jamie Martin	Sandy & Libby Treadwell
Dr. & Mrs. James C. Dawson	Julie A. Martin	Newman & Frances Tryon
Anita & John Deming	Robert Martin	Robin & Al Ulmer
Therese A. Denton	Stephen Maselli	Nadine Lemmon & Phil Underdown
Stanley Dickinson	Nina & Ray Matteau	June & Steve Van Nort
Ms. Martha Illick & Terry Dinnan	Charles & Ann McDuffie	Dorothy Voorhis
Kathie Donovan	Bob & Elaine McGoldrick	Gene E. Webster
John Redsky Doyle	Schell McKinley	Katherine & William Wellman
Tom Duca	Robert McShane	Peter & Polly White
Mary Dulac-Reynolds	Doris Merrihew	Mark P. Yolles
Eva M. Eaton	Constance A. Miller	
Lew E. Egglefield	Gertrude L. Moller	<i>Adirondack Council</i>
John Ferree	Jeanne Morrison	<i>Essex County Adirondack Garden Club</i>
Douglas R. Ferris	Thomas Morse	<i>Fiddlehead Creek Farm & Native Plant Nursery</i>
Jay & Kristin Fiegl	Kathy Kelley & Paul Mudie	<i>Har veNahal Fund</i>
Rev. Margo Fish	Thomas F. Mullen	<i>Integrated Mailing Systems</i>
Matt Foley	Nick & Carol Muller	<i>International Paper</i>
Walt & Augusta Gladding	Edmund D. Northup	<i>MGV Associates</i>
Morris & Ellin Glenn	Mareva Nettles	<i>Missisquoi River Basin Association</i>
Norma W. Goff	K & J O'Flynn	<i>NYCO Minerals, Inc.</i>
David Goldwasser	Peter S. Paine, Jr.	<i>Patagonia</i>
Cindy Brown & Bruce Haag	Jeanne Fallon & John W. Pangburn	<i>The Mountaineer</i>
Jeb Hart	Edward & Meredith Parsons	<i>Upstate Agency, Inc.</i>
Christina Coyne & Fanning Hearon	Alan Hipps & Jane Preston	THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Membership Update

BRASS' membership year runs from June 1st to May 31st.

See page 6 for a list of current BRASS members and donors for the 2010-2011 membership year.

Thank you to all of our supporters!

If you are not on the list, we hope you will consider renewing your membership or joining BRASS using the membership form to the right.

BRASS' **Annual Appeal** is underway.

This request for additional donations is important to the well-being of BRASS and we hope you will be as generous as possible during these difficult economic times.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BRASS' 2010 Annual Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, January 10, 2011 - 7pm
 Location: Whallonsburg Grange Hall - RT 22 in Essex

IN MEMORIAM

Steven Flint

BRASS received a \$100 anonymous donation in memory of Steven - a reminder of all he did for BRASS and the Boquet River watershed.

IN MEMORIAM

Gayle Perry

Gayle was serving on the BRASS Board as its Essex Town Representative when she passed away on April 27, 2010.

Gayle's positive attitude, knowledge and experience is missed.

Please make checks payable to the Boquet River Association. In most instances, your membership is fully tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

CIRCLE ONE:

New member

Renewed member

Updated information

Name _____

Email _____

Local Phone _____ Winter Phone _____

Local Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Winter Address _____

Winter City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Atlantic Salmon	\$50	_____ Speckled Trout	\$25
_____ Brown Trout	\$35	_____ Minnow	\$10

Please complete and return this form to:

Boquet River Association

P.O. Box 782, Willsboro, NY 12996.

Updated information may also be emailed to:

info@boquetriver.org



BRASS

Boquet River Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 782

Willsboro, NY 12996

Non-profit Org

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

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Tel./Fax. 518.963.4710

info@boquetrivier.org

www.boquetrivier.org

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