



BRASSnews

Newsletter of the Boquet River Association, Inc. Fall 2015, Volume 30 Issue 2

BRASS Work Continues With Support From Members and Volunteers

By Anita Deming, President

BRASS is ending a second year without a paid director at the helm, but the Board of Directors have all pitched in to help get all the work done. We have been networking with our partners to write and execute grants that meet the BRASS mission, which is to enhance the quality of water and life in the Boquet River Watershed.

BRASS will continue to use our non-profit (NFP) status to support grant writers and contractors that would be willing to do projects with BRASS. This way, we can meet our goals without having to maintain a payroll. If you are interested in applying for grant money to help the Boquet River/Watershed, contact me and we will work together using our NFP status to help find funding for your idea.

For example, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Essex County recently received \$20,000 to build out the new intake system at the Willsboro Waste Water Treatment Facility. A flow meter will be added so we can measure how much water is being filtered through the wollastonite treatment.

The Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District received funds to protect streambanks from erosion, from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the State Conservation Committee. Along with the Town of Willsboro and the US Fish and Wildlife they have also removed the dam in Willsboro, without any incident. Just below the dam there is a big project to stabilize an eroding section of the North bank, where the use of tree stumps as an Engineered Log Jam is being piloted as possible new stabilization approved practice.

BRASS writes letters of support for these and other agencies and provides matching donations in the form of labor (often tree planting) and expertise (providing citizen input and background on the Boquet River). Citizen participation is very important toward getting grants for public projects.

This year, the Board of Directors has decided to combine the member and the fund raising campaign. We are asking our supporters to move to a December membership re-

(Continued on page 5)



Herons' Nest On Barber Pond

Photo courtesy Dennis Kalma, July 2015



Raging Boquet At Wadhams Dam

Photo courtesy Jeff Clock, June 2015

Share your favorite photo of life in or along the Boquet. Please email a .jpg file to info@boquetriver.org so it can be posted on our web site at boquetriver.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anita Deming, *President**
Bob McGoldrick, *Vice President*
Schell McKinley, *Treasurer*
Jeff Clock, *Secretary*
AJ Longware
Tom Clark
Matt Foley
Bruce Misarski
Vic Putman
Kathy Linker
Laura Newmark
Daphne Hallowell
Dave Reckhan

**TOWN REPRESENTATIVES
(APPOINTED)**

Anita Deming - Elizabethtown
Vacant- Essex
Kathy Linker - Lewis
Daphne Hallowell- Westport
Jeff Clock - Willsboro

BRASS Board Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Members are invited to attend. Call to confirm date, time and location monthly.

*518-962-4810 ext. 409
c 518-586-1564

Our Mission

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

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

Boquet River Association
P.O. Box 374
Elizabethtown, NY 12932
info@boquetriver.org

Water Testing To Collect Water Quality Data

By Alta Jo Longware, Technology Ed Teacher and BRASS BoD and volunteer

There are few better ways to enjoy learning about the Boquet River than to work with a water sampling team. In August and September, Brad Caldwell and I conducted sampling at 14 sites from the headwaters of the Boquet at the base of Mount Dix to the Town of Willsboro boat launch. Following a strict sampling protocol, several bottles of water were collected and data was recorded including the water temperature, ph level, conductivity, and TDS (total dissolved solids), which all help to indicate overall water quality at each site.

The samples were delivered to Endyne Inc. lab, where they were analyzed for bacteria type and content including fecal and total coliform, phosphorous, and nitrates. In addition, two sites were tested for heavy metals including Antimony, Arsenic, Mercury, Copper, Lead, and Selenium. Heavy metals can occur naturally in water but can also be the result of human pollution. All the levels in the samplings were within the acceptable limits identified by the NYS DEC surface water standards for recreational waters. The final data for both 2014 and 2015 summer samplings will be available on-line at www.boquetriver.org.

Brad Caldwell (right) gathered water samples while AJ Longware tested and recorded the technical data .

Additional relevant information recorded included sightings of aquatic species such as the presence of fresh water muscles as the Margaretifera (below), which is one of two species in the Boquet.



Mussels eat decomposed organic matter called detritus and microorganisms such as algae, bacteria, and viruses. Mussels siphon in the water, filter out the "food" and excrete cleaner water.

Native muscle populations can be threatened by pollution, dredging, dams and aquatic invasives, which negatively impact the natural habitat.

Willsboro Dam Removal and Engineered Log Jam

By David Reckahn

Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District

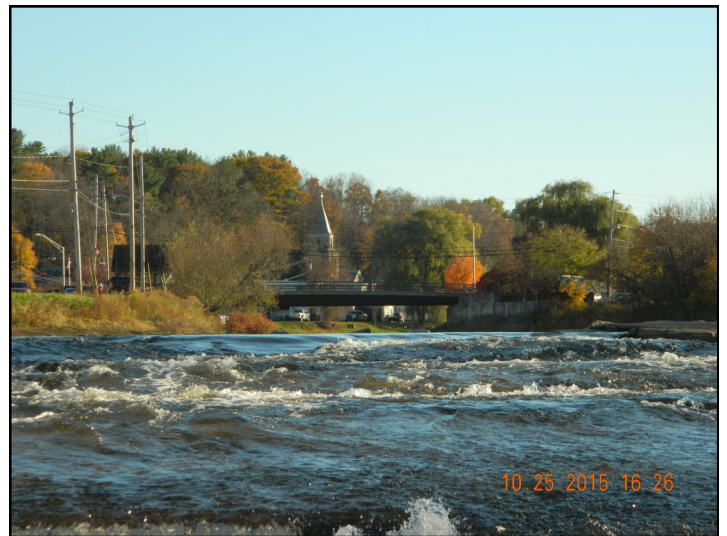
The Willsboro projects have kept us very busy this summer! The dam removal will help to reestablish natural fish passage on the Boquet River. Since the heavy storm events in 2011, high flow and flooding events had threatened to wash out the dam. US Fish and Wildlife with Lake Champlain Basin Program money funded the project for the removal of the rotting dam. Part of the history of the Town of Willsboro, the dam removal is intended to provide better flood resiliency and restore natural fish passage.

Down river from the dam removal, the first engineered log jam (pictured below) in New York is being installed. Engineered log jams have been used in other states to provide bank stabilization, provide fish habitat, and enhance the geomorphology of the stream. The purpose of these structures is to capture debris at certain locations during high flow and flooding events. By capturing debris, bank stabilization is provided as the debris helps to dissipate the waters energy as well as acting as buffer.

Fish habitat will also be enhanced by providing places for fish to hide under logs and scour pools that will be created with time. This section of the river is a popular fishing site, and a fishing access point will also be established once the project is complete.



Before (above) and after (below) the Dam Removal
Photos courtesy Vic Putman, 2015



Annual BRASS Events and Projects Update

Clean Up Day and Trashy Art Event – Each year in the spring or fall, BRASS volunteers remove garbage from the along the Boquet River and ponds, and promote keeping it clean with the Art from Trash event as a reminder to keep our rivers and roadways free from litter.

Water Testing – BRASS volunteers conducted testing at 14 sites from the headwaters of the Boquet to the WWTP in Willsboro. is testing the river water in every sub-watershed and corresponding it with historical data to watch for trends and identify any emerging issues.

Tree Planting – Each year BRASS volunteers team up with the Essex County Soil and Water Conservation Service to plant trees. Next spring we will be assisting the Town of Willsboro planting forage and trees after the North Bank Stabilization projects are implemented.

Newsletters – BRASS produces two newsletters a year. You can sign up to receive the on-line newsletter, which will allow quick access to links for more information and save BRASS postage costs.

BRASS Rambles – Each season BRASS Board members and volunteers host guided tours of the river and its drainage areas. We climb mountains, hike, bike, bird, collect mussels, canoe or kayak, and have a great time while learning about our landscape and wildlife. This past summer, Bob McGoldrick and Schelling McKinley guided kayak and canoe trips along the Boquet.



Willsboro Dam Clean Up

BRASS Board of Director members Victor Putman, Anita Deming (both shown), and AJ Longware as well as member volunteer Brad Caldwell (both not shown) clean up concrete and other debris that was left behind following the dam removal.

Annual Cookie Fun Run/Walk

BRASS hosts a four mile race in Wadhams along the scenic Boquet River, starting at the Dogwood Bakery to the Peirce Farm and back. Every participant gets a large cookie and we award pies for the Best runner in several age groups, depending on how many pies we get. This year, five apple pies, which were provided by the BRASS Board were awarded to the winners.

BRASS expresses a huge THANK YOU to the Dogwood Bakery for providing the delicious warm homemade cookies to the runners, walkers and workers at the finish line.

2015 Cookie Fun Run & Walk Results

Best running times and taking home a pie were:

Female 1st Place	Holly Rippon-Butler	30:30
Female 2nd Place	Kelsie Meehan	31:38
Male 1st Place	Sean Davis	23:50
Male 2nd Place	Cole Starkey	24:35
Senior Overall Best	Michael Davis	26:33

The run is usually held on the second Saturday in October. Mark your 2016 calendar and join the run.



The Mountaineer Trail Run – The Mountaineer hosts an annual trail run in June, which begins at the foot of Baxter Mountain and ends in Keene Valley. The ASRA (AuSable River Association) and BRASS provide the food for runners and spectators as a fundraising event. BRASS is grateful to the Mountaineer for their ongoing support.

Annual BRASS Fish Fest - Regretfully, the event had to canceled in June 2015 due to flooding at the E'town Fish and Game Club. The 2016 Fish Fest will be held on Sunday, June 26th from 10am to 1pm. Mark your calendar to join the fun while learning more about the river.

From the President (continued from front)

newal and to donate whatever amount you are comfortable with giving in addition to the membership fee. Of course, BRASS will take memberships and donations at any time throughout the year, but you will receive only one reminder annually with the Fall newsletter.

Your financial support to help to cover the additional costs for the annual water testing program, insurance, and other special projects is critical. Currently, BRASS relies heavily on grants to complete most of our projects, including water analysis, bank stabilization, and constructed wetlands.

If you prefer volunteering, BRASS could use your help with the following: home made cookies for events, extra hands to help plant trees or clean up litter along the streams, and hosts for a BRASS ramble, educational talk and/or tour of the watershed. We call these special volunteers our “friends” and ask that you consider becoming a Friend of BRASS. An e-call will go out whenever BRASS is involved in an event and/or needs volunteers. To join Friends of BRASS group, email Kathy Linker at sneezebeez@yahoo.com, sign up on BRASS’ Facebook, or call 518-962-4810 x 409.

Your “membership” and “friendship” are critical to the Boquet River Association. The time to enroll has come again and we hope you will find some resources to help us protect and enhance our water resources and communities.

Thank you in advance for your support!



BRASS hats and T-shirts are available for \$15 each or \$25 for both when purchased together.

Contact adklady1@westelcom.com
We will ship via USPS for \$5.

MEMBERSHIP FORM Select: New member Renewed member Updated info Gift Membership*

Name _____ Address _____

Email _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check here if you wish to receive your newsletter by email. **Alternate Address (Summer/ Winter)**

Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Life Membership \$500

Full Creel \$100

Brown Trout \$35

Minnow (student) \$10

Atlantic Salmon \$50

Speckled Trout \$25

Additional Donation \$ _____

*If this is a gift membership, please let us know if you would like us to send a gift card in your name:

Please make checks payable to the Boquet River Association.

Complete and return this form to: Boquet River Association, P.O. Box 374, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

You can join BRASS, renew your membership and/or donate to BRASS online at www.boquetriver.org

In most instances, your membership and donation is fully tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

Help Protect Our Watershed

More than 70 nonnative invasive species have crept into the Adirondacks. Terrestrial species of concern include common reed grass, giant hogweed, purple loosestrife, yellow iris, garlic mustard, buckthorns, wild parsnip, swallow-wort, and Japanese Knotweed.

Invasive species not only change the way an area looks but the way it functions ecologically. Infestations can disrupt water and nutrient absorption, crowd out native habitat and can create a toxic environment for wildlife and humans. Invasive species degrade natural habitat quality which can reduce the number and variety of fish and wildlife.

Visit www.adkinvasives.com for more information about how to identify, report, and manage invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals.



Japanese knotweed is found along forest edges and stream banks, as well as in disturbed and open areas such as roadways. Knotweed's early spring emergence and dense growth give it an edge over native plants, enabling it to take over large areas. Its thick rhizomes can extend horizontally through soils for 60 feet or more..



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