

~ ~ ~ Lamoille Watershed Association ~ ~ ~ NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2006

VOLUME I, NUMBER 1



Lamoille Watershed Association (LWA)

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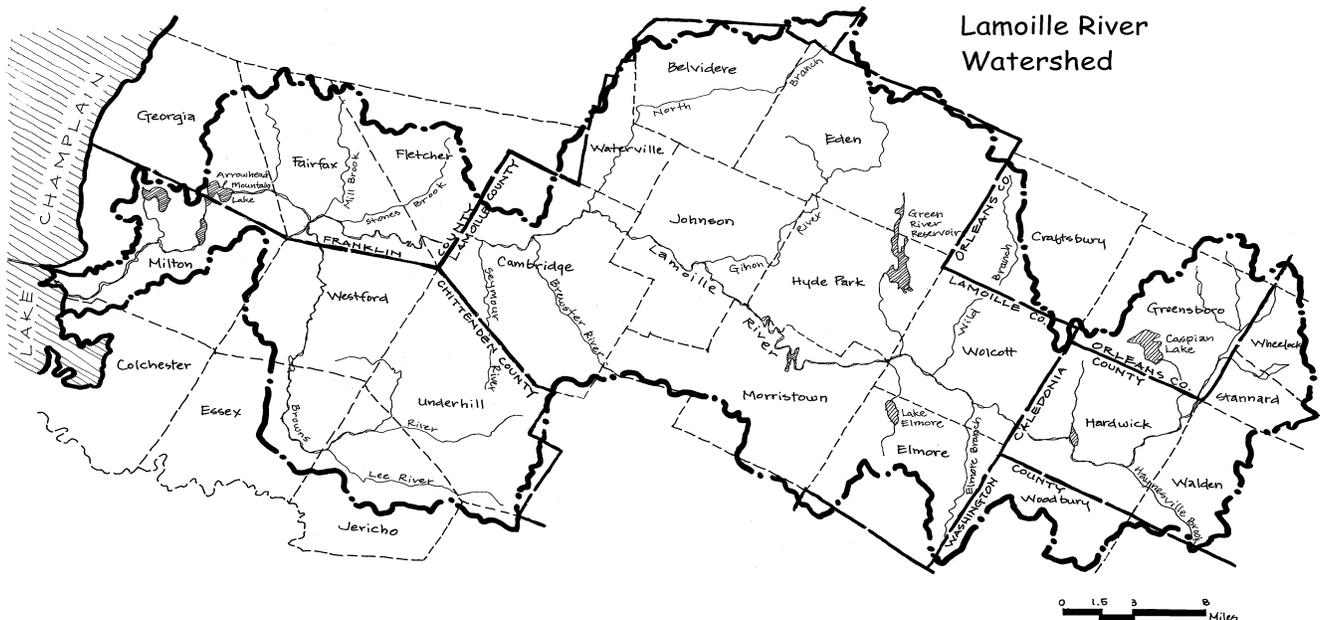
Faith Ingulsrud,
Coordinator

Citizens of a Watershed

We all live in a watershed. Rain falling on the land and flowing downhill connects us to others who live and work up- and down-stream. We all benefit when healthy, clean water is available for drinking, bathing, fishing and boating. By paying attention to the interdependence we have with the people, plants, animals, soils and terrain that shape the flow of water in our lives, we begin to recognize that we are indeed citizens of a watershed.

We usually think of citizenship as membership in a municipality, state or county. While important, allegiances based on political boundaries can sometimes be inadequate for addressing vital concerns like water quality. A different kind of citizenship based on "real," geo-physical boundaries like watersheds provide a powerful way to bring our varied perspectives and skills together to address common needs. Watershed citizens can work to ensure that our lives and those of future generations will always be blessed with a heritage of clean water.

From the Northeast Kingdom to Lake Champlain, the Lamoille River Watershed contains a beautiful, diverse landscape of farms and forests, and villages filled with amazing people and places. Check out the map below to find your place in the watershed. Join the new Lamoille Watershed Association and do your part as a citizen of the Lamoille Watershed.



LWA MISSION STATEMENT

LWA works to improve the health and vitality of the Lamoille River

Watershed by

- ◆ *coordinating between the organizations serving the watershed,*
- ◆ *supporting local watershed-improvement actions and*
- ◆ *raising public awareness through effective communications, education and engagement.*

Volunteer for Annual Streamside Plantings

If you or your organization would like to participate in planting days May –June 2006 or in future years, please contact LWA or your Natural Resource Conservation District. (See contact information for NRCDs on page 5.)

Help Bring Watershed Education to Schools

Contact LWA if you are:

- A teacher or school administrator (K-12) interested in watershed education
- A conservation-oriented person who loves to work with kids and can volunteer at schools on weekdays

Lamoille Watershed Association (LWA)

Recognizing the need for a group that can lead watershed-wide implementation efforts a number of organizations that were involved in the Lamoille Watershed Plan process created the Lamoille Watershed Association (LWA). With help from a series of small grants from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, a part time coordinator was hired to create a structure for the organization, fundraise, and do outreach. Now into it's second year of existence, LWA operates under the auspices of the Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District and is dedicated to serving all parts of the watershed within and beyond the boundaries of Lamoille County.

Current LWA Projects

- *Trees for Streams Expansion Project.* For years the Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District has directed a successful program for reestablishing wooded buffers along streams in rivers. The Lamoille River Watershed Plan recognizes the *Trees for Streams* program as a model to be emulated in other parts of the watershed. Three Natural Resources Conservation Districts - Caledonia County, Winooski and Lamoille County - are working with LWA to expand *Trees for Streams* to the Upper Lamoille River and the Browns River.

With funding from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Section 319 Grant program, a new protocol is being developed to identify suitable locations for riparian buffer plantings. Based on data collected through fluvial geomorphic assessments (a process for analyzing the physical character of streams and rivers), riverbanks that can support long-term tree and shrub growth are being identified and landowners along those sections invited to participate in the program. For a small in-kind fee interested landowners can receive native trees and shrubs and volunteer assistance in planting them this spring. LWA is helping to coordinate the project and will assist the Natural Resources Conservation Districts in organizing volunteers for tree planting.

- *Browns River Corridor Project.* The Browns, a major tributary of the Lamoille River, runs from the western slopes of Mount Mansfield through the Chittenden County towns of Underhill, Jericho, Essex and Westford. Abbey Willard from the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District is taking the lead in developing a corridor management plan, and identifying strategies for improving the water quality and stability of the Browns River. LWA will help with outreach to municipalities and landowners.
- *Education and Outreach to Schools.* A surprising number of schools in the Lamoille watershed are located next to streams and rivers. LWA will help teachers take advantage of this fortuitous learning opportunity by developing a system for bringing watershed education to classrooms. Through a 2006 project funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program, experts in watershed education from around Vermont will help LWA match existing programs with teachers and students while mobilizing local volunteers to provide hands-on classroom and fieldwork assistance. The goal is to create an on-going network that can consistently bring watershed education to students throughout the watershed. Educators interested in participating and others who would like to assist with this program should call LWA at 802-899-4155 or email: LamoilleWatershed@verizon.net.



Jim Ryan discussing the watershed plan with Sterling College students

Lamoille Watershed Plan

Additional information on the Lamoille watershed planning process:

http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/planning/htm/pl_lamoille.htm

Contact:

Jim Ryan
Watershed Coordinator for the Lamoille Watershed Plan
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
5 Perry Street, Suite 80
Barre, VT 05641
jim.ryan@state.vt.us
(802) 476-0132



Stream bank planting in Johnson – May 2005

UPDATE on the Lamoille Watershed Plan

By Jim Ryan, Watershed Coordinator, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

After several years of collaboration with the Lamoille Watershed Council, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has completed a pre-publication draft of the Lamoille Watershed plan. The plan has been in a holding pattern while the Vermont Water Resources Board (transitioning to the Vermont Water Resources Panel of the Natural Resources Board) considers changes to the original surface water typing and classification petition from DEC's White River Watershed plan. This petition is being discussed by DEC, the Water Resources Board, and several non-profit organizations. The Lamoille Watershed plan will be finalized and distributed for public review after the issues associated with the White River Watershed plan are resolved, hopefully sometime in the first half of 2006.

Watershed Restoration, Protection, and Assessment Projects

The 2005 field season was a busy and productive one. Numerous hands-on projects to improve water quality and aquatic habitat were completed in the 2005 field season. DEC worked closely with several partners including the Natural Resources Conservation Districts, USDA, Lamoille Watershed Association, Youth Conservation Corps, Regional Planning Commissions, angler and local watershed groups, landowners, municipalities, and other state agencies. These collaborative efforts resulted in-stream and streambank stabilization, riparian buffer plantings, canoe access path development, stream and ravine clean-ups, stormwater management, restoration of impaired waters, agricultural best management projects, and road erosion control projects.

Projects took place along several sites on the Lamoille River, tributaries to the Gihon and Brewster Rivers, and Lake Lamoille in the towns of Morristown, Hardwick, Johnson, Walden, Georgia, and Cambridge. The vast majority of these projects involved reducing sediment and other non-point source pollution sources to lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands in the watershed.

Additionally, DEC worked closely with the Town of Morristown and Vermont River Conservancy to protect a key public access to Terrill Gorge. Terrill Gorge is one of the watershed's most popular and scenic waterfalls and gorges. A key access to this site had been proposed for subdivision. Many additional projects have been identified for implementation in the 2006 field season. I am working closely with watershed partners to secure funding, develop designs, and initiate required permitting to move these projects forward.

DEC and its watershed partners are continuing to conduct fluvial geomorphic assessments watershed-wide in an effort to better evaluate the physical health of the watershed's stream systems. Results of these assessments are being used to better prioritize watershed restoration and protection sites to improve water quality and aquatic habitat and assist landowners and municipalities in better managing lands within river corridors.



Lamoille River Anglers Association

Mail:

c/o Green Mountain Troutfitters
233 Mill Street
Jeffersonville, VT 05464

Phone:

802-644-2214 (GMT,
Chris Lynch and Mike Kontos)

Email:

dan@streambanks.org

(Dan Noyes, President)

Website:

www.lamoillerveranglers.org

Meetings:

Last Wednesday of each month (except summer), 7:00 p.m., usually at the Town and County Resort on the Mountain Road in Stowe.

Mission:
The Lamoille River Anglers Association

is dedicated to the preservation, conservation and restoration of the Lamoille River and its tributaries for the benefit wild fish, wildlife and the community.

Lamoille River Anglers Association (LRAA)

Working to Preserve and Restore Wild Trout Habitat

Looking out at the icy Brewster River from the cozy warmth of the Green Mountain Trout Fitters Shop in Jeffersonville, shop owners Chris Lynch and Mike Kontos, and Dan Noyes, President of the LRAA, discussed their organization with LWA.

What does LRAA do? (Dan) *We raise funds and use the money to improve wild trout habitat. Our primary activity is planting trees and shrubs to create woody buffers along rivers and streams. We also do in-stream habitat improvement projects, help the Agency of Natural Resources with data collection, organize river clean ups and do outreach to schools.*

How do you get the funds for this work? (Chris) *In November we raised \$2,800 in one night with a poker tournament and silent auction. We plan to continue doing poker tournaments for LRAA three times a year.* (Dan) *We've also gotten grants to do specific restoration and conservation projects and solicit tax-deductible contributions.*

How does a volunteer group like yours get motivated to do all this? (Dan) *LRAA gives us an excuse to get together and drink beer! But seriously, we all want to improve the environment and as anglers who spend time on the streams we can't help but see the problems.* (Mike) *We can also see the huge potential of the Lamoille River and its tributaries. This was once one of the top 100 rivers for anglers in the U.S. – full of brook trout.*

What's the trout situation today? (Mike) *Many of the feeder streams are still full of wild little fish but the problem is lack of good habitat on the Lamoille main stem where they can grow. There's not enough access to cold water pools.* (Dan) *Lack of trees providing shade over the river is a major issue because the resulting warm water and low dissolved oxygen levels are bad for trout. Warm runoff from roads and developed areas, too many widened and straitened sections of the river and not enough woody debris, all make the situation worse.*

How are you helping to restore trout habitat on the Lamoille? (Chris) *Our first priority is to establish forested buffers all along the river. Trees and shrubs not only shade and keep the water cool but help to hold streambanks and filter pollutants from runoff.* (Dan) *When people see us out there planting trees it gives us an opportunity to educate and involve them in restoration.* (Chris) *Educating and involving kids is an important part of a long-term restoration strategy. We plan to partner with other organizations to bring programs like "Trout in the Classroom" to Lamoille Valley schools in the future.*

What's next for LRAA? (Dan) *We've invited John Shane, UVM Dendrology professor, to speak on woody plants that are most appropriate for stream bank restoration at our next LRAA meeting on February 22nd.* (Chris) *In the spring we'll be working with the Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District to plant trees and shrubs on the Lamoille River. We'll also be looking for volunteers who can be trained to do river morphology assessments next summer. Anyone interested is welcome to join us for any of these activities!*

<p style="text-align: center;">Other Lamoille Watershed Partners</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Regional Planning Commissions www.vapda.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Natural Resources Conservation Districts http://vacd.org/conservation_districts</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Franklin County <i>Lower Lamoille Arrowhead Mountain Lake StonesBrook</i></p>	<p>Northwest Regional Planning Commission 155 Lake Street St. Albans, VT 05478 524-5958</p> <p>website: www.nrpcvt.com</p>	<p>Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District 27 Fisher Pond Road, Ste 1 St. Albans, VT 05478 524-6505</p> <p>contact: Rena.Masse@vt.nacdnet.net</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lamoille County <i>Middle Lamoille North Branch Gihon Green River Reservoir Lake Elmore Wild Branch</i></p>	<p>Lamoille County Planning Commission P.O. Box 1009 43 Portland Street Morrisville, VT 05661 888-4548</p> <p>website: www.lpcvt.org/</p>	<p>Lamoille County Resources Conservation District 109 Professional Drive, Suite #2 Morrisville, VT 05661 888-9218</p> <p>website: www.lcnrcd.com</p> <p>contact: Christina.Goodwin@vt.nacdnet.net</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Chittenden County <i>Lower Lamoille Browns River</i></p>	<p>Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission 30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 206 South Burlington, VT 05403 846-4490</p> <p>website: www.ccrpcvt.org/</p>	<p>Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District 617 Comstock Rd., Suite 1 Berlin, VT 05602 828-4493</p> <p>contact: Abbey.Willard@vt.nacdnet.net</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Caledonia County <i>Upper Lamoille River Hayneville Brook</i></p> <div data-bbox="126 1619 440 1902" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  <p style="text-align: center;">Lake Champlain Basin Program</p> </div>	<p>Northeastern Vermont Development Association <i>(Includes Orleans County)</i> P.O. Box 630 36 Easter Avenue, Suite #1 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 748-5181</p> <p>website: www.nvda.net</p>	<p>Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District 481 Summer Street, Suite 202 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 748-3885 ext.114</p> <p>contact: Kerry.Gemmett@vt.nacdnet.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This newsletter was made possible by a grant from the</i> Lake Champlain Basin Program 54 West Shore Road Grand Isle, VT 05458 800/468-5227 (NY & VT) or 802/372-3213 WWW.LCBP.ORG Coming soon – LWA webpage at: http://www.lcbp.org/watersheds/assoc.htm</p>

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Help Support the Lamoille Watershed Association

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(if applicable) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please contact me regarding:

- Outreach to schools*
- Starting a local watershed initiatives*
- Volunteering for stream buffer planting*
- OTHER* _____

- Friend of LWA \$20
- LWA Supporter \$35
- LWA Partner \$50
- LWA Benefactor \$100

Send your tax deductible
contribution to:

**LWA c/o Lamoille County
Natural Resource
Conservation District
(LCNRCD)
109 Professional Drive
Suite 2
Morrisville, VT 05661**

For more information:
PHONE: 802-899-4155
EMAIL: LamoilleWatershed@verizon.net

~~ **THANK YOU!** ~~