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JUN 19 2017

the Beacon



SPRING/SUMMER 2017

LAKE SUNAPEE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

LSPA'S WATERSHED GRANT APPLICATION

LSPA has applied for a two-year watershed planning grant of \$50,000 from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to update LSPA's existing watershed plan so it meets the current requirements of DES and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

DES and EPA standards now require extensive computer modeling based on land use data. Existing conditions of the Lake Sunapee watershed will be used as a basis from which to develop projections of the impacts of building development, changing weather patterns, and increasing impervious surfaces.

An existing conditions baseline will show current nutrient loading into the lake. The computer modeling can then use the data to project future impacts down to the sub-watershed, or major stream, level. Twelve to 15 sub-watersheds will be included.

"We will not only have an accurate baseline, but also will be able to project where stormwater measures are most needed," says Robert

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WILD GOOSE BOAT RAMP AND PARKING LOT UPDATE

The proposed Wild Goose (WG) boat ramp project was robustly denounced during testimony given during a public hearing in March to the NH House Legislative Committee (Public Works & Highways) reviewing the State's Capital Budget. At that hearing, the committee heard significant

representatives.

Unfortunately, the House Public Works & Highways Committee voted to include the boat ramp project (which is now projected to cost \$3 million) in the Capital Budget. Members voted along party lines rather than voting on the project's merits – or demerits.



Natural shoreline at the Wild Goose site.

testimony detailing the downsides to the proposed NH Fish & Game (F&G) Wild Goose boat ramp project from LSPA, The Fells, area residents, and several local municipal

However, the Senate Capital Budget Committee voted (4 to 1) to remove the WG budget request from the Capital Budget.

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Watershed 2017

Education outreach to the four watershed towns is the 2017 focus for the LSPA Watershed Committee. "Enforcement of regulations has improved in all four watershed towns," says Nancy Marashio, LSPA committee chair, "and this year, town representatives have asked us to help them educate residents, contractors and land use boards on watershed stewardship."

The Watershed Committee works with Sunapee, New London, Newbury and Springfield on an array of strategies to develop and implement long-term best practices in the Lake Sunapee watershed. Efforts include sharing watershed-related ordinances across the four towns, such as wetland setbacks, steep slope criteria, and the overlay district criteria for wetlands, shoreland, streams and stormwater.

The 2017 education outreach shows property owners multiple ways they can take care of the watershed. (See box, right) The Watershed Committee is discussing establishing a watershed best practices certification program for contractors. It is also considering elements of a low impact development plan for the shoreland that the towns could implement.

Watershed - definition

The area of land where all of the water that falls on it and drains off of it goes to a common outlet.

Simple Ways To Keep Your Watershed Healthy

- If you have a lawn, make it low-impact. No pesticides, please. And, by state law, no fertilizer within a minimum of 25 feet of any water body.
- Redirect rooftop runoff from a gutter downspout to your garden or rain barrel.
- Capture roof runoff water and store it in a rain barrel. Water your garden with it or wash your car with it.
- Install a rain garden by landscaping to capture and infiltrate water runoff from a roof or paved surface. Go to soaknh.org for design and installation advice.
- Use native plants for landscaping. They need less water and fertilizer and better resist pests and diseases.
- Pick up after your dog and dispose of pet waste properly.
- Maintain your septic system.
- Plant a tree. Trees provide oxygen, clean the air of pollution, reduce runoff, and (when located correctly) can even lower heating and cooling costs.
- Dispose of hazardous wastes at household hazardous waste collection programs or at recycling centers. Do not discard them in the trash, sink or storm drain.

Wild Goose

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- The Wild Goose budget proposal met resistance from the NH Senate Capital Budget Committee. Members voted to remove from the capital budget the requested \$3 million for the proposed project.
- The full Senate voted on the Senate Capital Budget Committee's version of the budget on May 31st and passed it without the project.

Here's what happens next:

- The House Public Works and Highways Committee meets to consider accepting the changes to the budget submitted by the Senate Capital Budget Committee.
- If the House Public Works and Highways Committee does not accept the Senate Capital Budget Committee's changes, then a Committee of Conference (CoC) will have to be created to reconcile the differences between the two versions of the budget.
- The CoC members will be from the House Public Works and Highways and the Senate Capital Budget Committees. Sources indicate that WG funding would likely be controversial during CoC discussions.
- When the CoC members reach agreement, their recommended version of the capital budget goes back to the full House and Senate for approval. This version of the capital budget must be approved by both the House and the Senate.
- The approved capital budget goes to the Governor for signature and becomes law.
- The estimated time frame for the above steps to occur is by June 22, 2017.

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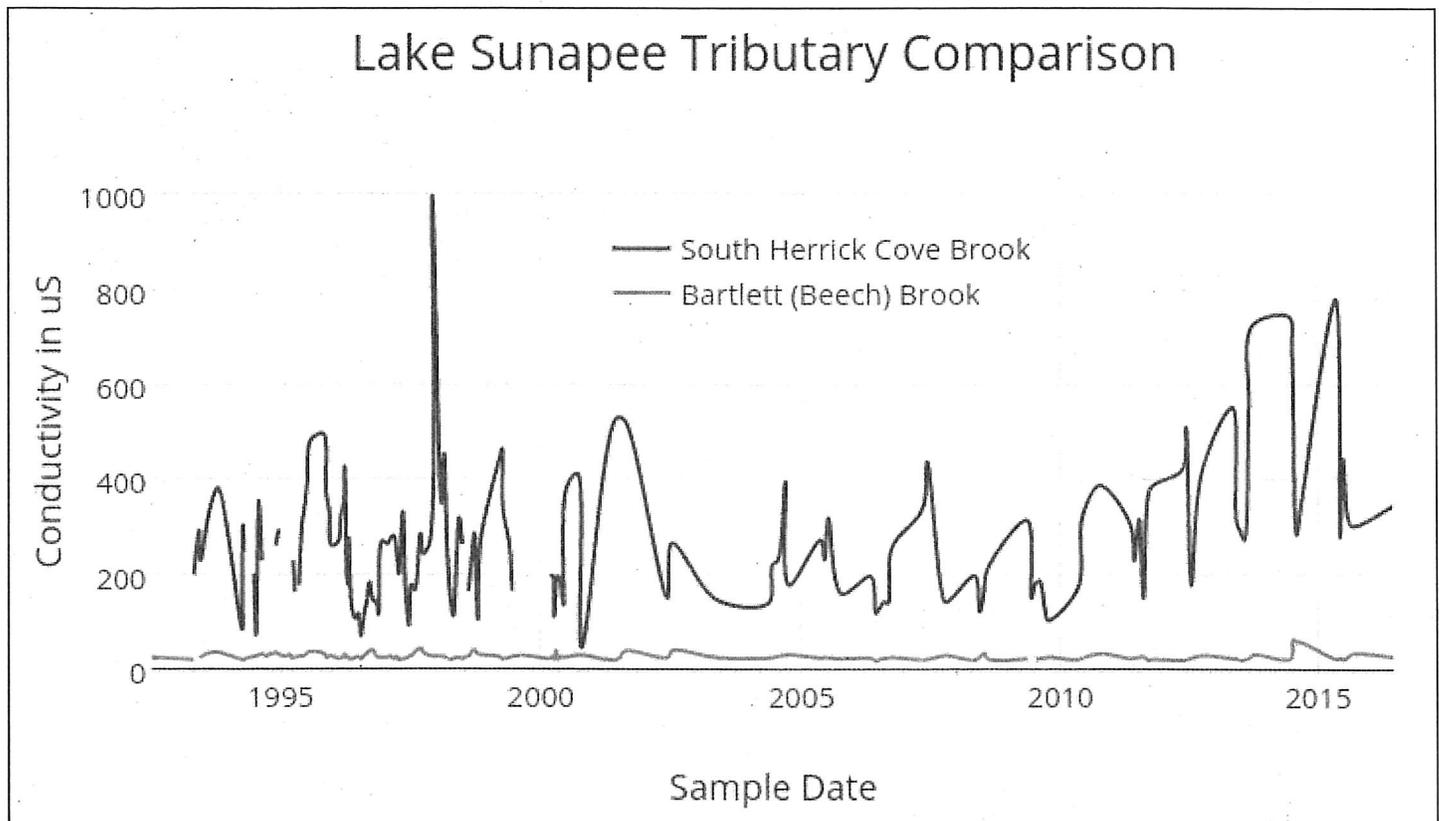
Learn the ins and outs of your septic system at "Water In, Water Out – All About Your Well and Septic Systems". Experts from the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development offer an in-depth program for homeowners in the watershed. Free. Join us on July 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the LSPA Learning Center.

Water Sampling Snapshot: Conductivity

Regular water sampling since 1990 shows conductivity levels in specific locations on Lake Sunapee and in its tributaries. This graph (taken from the LSPA website) shows a relatively stable level of conductivity for Bartlett Brook, and a clearly increased level for South Herrick Cove Brook.

Specific conductivity is a direct measure of dissolved ions in water, including metals and salts (such as calcium and chlorides), and is measured in microsiemens (μS). The ions give water a level of electrical conductivity. It is also an indirect measure of the "saltiness" of the water.

Local waters have low natural conductivity but decades of road salt use has helped to greatly increase these levels. The conductivity in Lake Sunapee ranges from 85-100 μS and varies in tributary waters. At high levels of conductivity (900 to 1,300 μS), fish and other freshwater organisms cannot survive.



Photos courtesy K. Wilson

John Wilson (above) making repairs and renovations to the loon raft in Jobs Creek on Lake Sunapee. Kittie and John Wilson installed a new avian guard and the nesting material has been refreshed.

The loon raft in Burkehaven needed some patching on the cover and attention to the nesting materials. "A muskrat had started a nest on the raft, probably last fall, and the vegetation had been moved around quite a bit," said Kittie. "I added some soil and planted more ferns, as well as added lots of nesting material."

The Burkehaven loons have been out to check on their raft a number of times and should nest in the near future.

LSPA's Summer Interns!



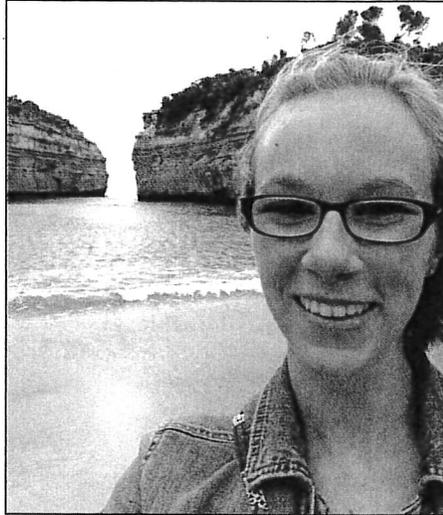
Colleen Clausen

Colleen Clausen

Colleen joins the LSPA Water Quality Lab this summer following her junior year at Colby-Sawyer College (CSC), where she is working on a degree in biology. A native of New London, NH, Colleen is passionate about life sciences and has broadened her knowledge about the natural world by attending several environmental classes and camps during the past three years. These exposed her to specific skills such as building salmon habitat and GIS floodplain mapping. She also learned the art of scientific illustration, or portraying the natural world through artistic composition.

Along with her lab duties, Colleen will be working with CSC professor Nick Baer, member of the LSPA Board of Directors. She will assist Nick on a raptor banding project that includes capturing birds of prey, collecting and recording data on them, and collecting parasite samples for lab analysis. The parasites collected are flat flies which are tested for the presence of West Nile or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). This testing will indicate if birds with the parasite are carriers of either of these two diseases.

When she is not focused on her studies, Colleen enjoys being outdoors and has made a habit of hiking Mt. Kearsarge each summer since moving to New Hampshire. Colleen is excited that the LSPA summer internship will provide her with the opportunity to work in – and help – the community in which she lives.



Tricia Temple

Tricia Temple

Tricia enters her senior year at CSC this fall. She is a Biology major (on a pre-med track) with a dual minor in chemistry and psychology. A native of Bolton, Massachusetts, Tricia joins the LSPA Water Quality lab this summer and is looking forward to getting some hands-on experience both in the Lab and out in the field.

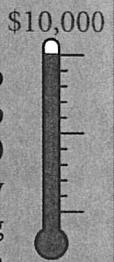
Tricia is interested in the natural and environmental sciences and for the past three years, she has worked in the CSC Natural Science Laboratory. After graduation, Tricia hopes to bring her biology degree and lab experience into a full time work experience in a laboratory.

Last year, Tricia traveled to Australia for the fall semester where

she studied the Great Barrier Reef and the native rainforest. These environments offered a wide spectrum of learning about a variety of animal and plant species. She spent time with on-site researchers, conducted experiments, and gathered data. With the drastic environmental changes that are occurring on the Great Barrier Reef and around the world, her firsthand observation and involvement in the issues and measures that are being taken left Tricia with an ever-deepening commitment to her chosen field of study.

We reached our goal!

In 2016, an anonymous LSPA member generously offered to match new membership amounts – up to \$250 per family – for all new members. The matching funds totaled \$10,000 in 2016.



LSPA is grateful and thankful to all the new members and to the anonymous donor!

LSPA's Watershed Grant Application

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Wood, LSPA Associate Executive Director.

Plans include forming an LSPA Watershed/Water Quality Committee that will work with a DES representative and an environmental consultant on the computer modeling. Municipal and public participation will be an important element of the project. If funded, the planning grant project will be completed by December 2019 with implementation to follow.