

MRA ADDS NEW PRESERVE PROPERTY



The Meduxnekeag River Association has partnered with NB Power to conserve and maintain a unique riverside property within the town of Woodstock. This 49-acre property, located off Searle Street, is owned by NB Power. The MRA has entered into an agreement with NB Power to manage the property through a conservation easement. This will ensure that the property is protected from future development in perpetuity.

"We are excited by the potential of this new addition to the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve" says MRA Administrator George Peabody. "It is our only property within the town limits and also has the potential for a fully accessible trail. In addition, part of the easement agreement is for us to consult with the Wolastoqey community on management of the property. We see this as another opportunity and are looking forward to working with the Wolastoqey community on this new project." One of the key features of this property is a well maintained linear trail that is 1.2 km long each way (2.4 km total). The trail runs parallel to the Meduxnekeag River and provides beautiful views throughout. The property includes both an extensive wetland and a forested area which provides important habitat for a variety of birds and small animals like squirrels and snapping turtles. It is an easily accessible shared space where everyone can enjoy the magic of nature. The trail is open for walking, running, birding, biking, and snowshoeing. In the past, the Town of Woodstock has generously maintained the trail. The MRA is currently in discussion with the town, with the hope that they will continue to support the conservation and maintenance of the property.

EDUCATION REPORT- TOURS/WORKSHOPS



October was a busy month for fall school tours. A total of 35 classes and 759 students visited the Preserve to participate in tours and workshops. As our tours and workshops take place outdoors and are thus considered a low risk activity during the COVID-19 pandemic, we expect to continue to see large numbers of student visitors to the Preserve in the months to come.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 2022

The MRA is passionate about protecting natural areas and we can't do this alone. Land conservation is a shared effort and we need support. One of the ways you can show your support is by purchasing an Annual Membership. Annual Memberships for the Supporters of the MRA will be available for 2022. Memberships will cost \$25, and can be purchased at an in person event taking place on November 27th at 11 am at the parking lot of the newly acquired property located at the end of Searle Street in Woodstock. Memberships can also be purchased at any time from our online shop on our website at www.meduxnekeag.org. Each member will receive an attractive Member Supporter 2022 Bumper sticker.



TRAIL MAINTENANCE



A lot of work was carried out on the trails this fall. Along with routine trail maintenance, boardwalks were constructed to cover a large wet section of the red trail. This project was a team effort and MRA staff, members of the MRA board of directors and volunteers were involved. The boardwalks have been a hit with school children and are keeping our feet cleaner and drier.

We are currently rerouting a small section of the orange trail and constructing a bridge over a wet portion of the trail. We are aiming to have this project completed over the coming weeks.

A large volume of garbage was collected and removed from one of our more newly acquired additions to the Preserve.



MRA STAFF MEMBER COMPLETES CABIN TRAINING



At the end of August, Kristyn, our Project Coordinator, spent two days in Nova Scotia completing Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) training with Environment and Climate Change Canada. CABIN is a monitoring program that involves collecting the bugs (benthic macroinvertebrates) that live among the rocks and dirt in a stream bed. Sampling for these bugs can provide valuable information about ecosystem health because they are sensitive to disturbances, are present in all freshwater ecosystems, are an important part of food webs, and they reflect conditions at the specific location where they are collected. Though our current water monitoring programs that test for chemicals in the water are useful, CABIN sampling can provide more information about ecosystem health. Climate change, changes in water levels and flow, the introduction of invasive species, changes in land use, the effects of chemicals interacting, and unknown contaminants are all things that our regular water monitoring cannot detect, but that impact the aquatic organisms collected via CABIN sampling. Therefore, CABIN sampling can give us a more complete picture of river health than other types of monitoring can. After the samples are collected, they are sent to a lab where the bugs can be identified, then the information is sent to us and uploaded to a database that will tell us how healthy that section of the river is. We can then compare different parts of the river and observe changes from year to year. This information will allow us to better focus our restoration efforts in the future. We hope to begin our new CABIN sampling program next fall and we look forward to sharing any interesting information we discover!

EMERALD ASH BORER MONITORING



This summer we worked with the NBISC CEENB to place an Emerald Ash Borer trap in a mature Ash tree along one of our trails. With winter coming we have just removed it and thankfully did not find any evidence of the presence of the Emerald Ash borer.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a small invasive, wood-boring beetle that feeds on the vascular tissue under the bark of the ash eventually causing the tree's death.

The metallic green beetle, native to East Asia, was accidentally imported to North America within the wood of shipping crates. It was first discovered near Detroit in 2002.

This pest is not a threat to human health, but is likely to cause significant damage to native and urban ash forests throughout the province.

Unless treated, Emerald Ash Borer threatens to eradicate our native ash trees regardless of size, age or vigor.

We plan to continue to monitor for the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer on the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve next year.

