

6-30-2006

2006 Exeter River Alewife Festival

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6th Annual Exeter River Alewife Festival

A Final Report to The New Hampshire Estuaries Project

Submitted by
Theresa Walker
Exeter River Local Advisory Committee
Exeter, NH

June 30, 2006

This project was funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project as authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program



**New Hampshire
Estuaries Project**

2006 Exeter River Alewife Festival

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2006 Exeter River Alewife Festival

Executive Summary

On June 4, 2006, the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee (ERLAC) held the 6th Annual Exeter River Alewife Festival along the banks of the Squamscott River in downtown Exeter. Three dozen organizations exhibited at the Festival and event organizers estimate approximately 300 people attended the event despite the inclement weather. The purpose of the Festival was to increase awareness of the Exeter River watershed and the role it plays in the Great Bay ecosystem, as well as its role in providing drinking water, wildlife habitat, and scenic, historic and recreational resources for residents in the ten watershed towns. Funding provided by the New Hampshire Estuaries Project enabled ERLAC to print maps of the watershed for public education as well as posters, banners, and newspaper advertisements announcing the event.

Introduction

On June 4, 2006, the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee (ERLAC) held the 6th Annual Exeter River Alewife Festival along the banks of the Squamscott River in downtown Exeter. Three dozen organizations exhibited at the Festival and event organizers estimate approximately 300 people, including many children, attended the event. Attendance was not as high as anticipated due to rainy weather that forced ERLAC to postpone the event one day.

Project Goals

The goal of the Annual Exeter River Alewife Festival is to increase awareness of the Exeter River watershed and the role it plays in the Great Bay ecosystem, as well as its role in providing drinking water, wildlife habitat, and scenic, historic and recreational resources for residents in the ten watershed towns. These communities are some of the fastest growing in New Hampshire and the increasing population is threatening natural resources in the region.

Activities

The Festival Planning Committee, comprised of volunteers from ERLAC, watershed Conservation Commissions and historical associations, and representatives from the Seacoast Artists Association, met ten times during the contract period to establish a list of Festival participants, set the schedule of events, and work with a graphic artist to prepare publicity materials. In addition, ERLAC members researched and wrote articles to submit to area newspapers and town newsletters promoting ERLAC and committee activities such as the Festival and workshops on vernal pools and wildlife habitat. Finally, ERLAC worked with the Rockingham Planning Commission to print out several maps of the watershed to educate Festival attendees.

Results

The 2006 Exeter River Alewife Festival was a success for ERLAC despite the weather. Several attendees expressed support for the event and ERLAC to Festival organizers. ERLAC now realizes it was important to hold the Festival even in poor weather to keep the event in the minds of the community.

Festival attendees could receive information specifically related to the NHEP Management Plan, including; options for voluntary land protection, the importance of protecting shoreland buffers from development, the relationship between the Exeter River and the Great Bay, tips on septic system maintenance, identification of storm drains and the role drains play in protection of water quality and fisheries habitat.

Feedback from Festival exhibitors and attendees was very positive and will be used by ERLAC to develop additional outreach programs and plan the next Festival. ERLAC has received inquiries from six watershed residents interested in learning more about the Committee specifically and the watershed in general. Two new watershed residents expressed interest in joining the Committee.

ERLAC had good success this year securing press coverage for the event, with several articles appearing before and after the Festival. Following up on recommendations made after the 2005 event, ERLAC provided newspapers with draft articles about the event, all of which were used in subsequent articles.

Another recommendation made after the 2005 Festival was also completed successfully, which was to host a workshop on backyard wildlife habitat for watershed residents. ERLAC partnered with the UNH Cooperative Extension Coverts Project and held a workshop in Brentwood in October, 2005. ERLAC will host a similar workshop in October, 2006 at the request of the general public.

Conclusion

ERLAC will continue to host the Annual Exeter River Alewife Festival as part of an on-going effort to educate residents about the need to protect water quality and quantity in the watershed. The partnerships ERLAC has created with various agencies and organization have strengthened the Committee's ability to be an advocate for the river at the local and regional level.

Recommendations

ERLAC and the Festival Planning Committee met shortly after the event to review the day and make recommendations for the next Festival and other outreach projects. The following recommendations are a result of this meeting:

- Produce a "State of the River" report to highlight ERLAC's accomplishments since the Committee's creation in 1996. The report could be distributed at the 2007 Festival and be submitted to watershed communities for inclusion in local Annual Reports.
- Work with watershed Conservation Commissions to prepare a display of work being undertaken by CCs in the watershed. The display could be shown at the 2007 Festival and watershed libraries.

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5-26-2006

Alewife Festival to be held June 3

By Liz Chretien

newsletter@seacoastonline.com

[Complete Living Index](#)

EXETER — Exeter's sixth annual Alewife Festival, a day-long celebration of the Exeter River Watershed, will be held on Saturday, June 3, at Swasey Parkway, with this year's tours focusing on the challenges created by recent flooding in the area.

"Staff from New Hampshire Fish and Game will be giving tours of the Fish and Game fish ladder downtown," said Theresa Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission and the Alewife Festival Committee. "They will be explaining the fish ladder and the migrating habits of the fish, which has become a greater challenge than usual this year due to the flooding.

"Much stone and aggregate debris has collected near the stone bridge and the fish are pooling there, unable to reach the ladder."

Walker said participants can view the migrating Alewives and other fish. The festival is the primary education and outreach event of the year and is organized by the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee, according to Walker.

"We focus on the alewives because so many come to the fresh water rivers off the Great Bay to spawn," said Walker. "This festival is to highlight the relationship all of us on the watershed have with the river as well as the responsibility we have to protect this habitat."

Many events including the tours given by N.H. Fish and Game are scheduled, Walker said.

The tours will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and a canoe and kayak race will be held at 10:30.

At 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., a live animals program will be presented by the N.H. Audubon Society.

At noon, the Sandown Conservation Commission will be presented with the Exeter River Stewards Award by the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee for their work on behalf of the river.

"Every year this award is given to a group or individual who has worked diligently to protect the river," Walker said. "This year we're pleased to honor the Sandown Conservation Commission."

More than two dozen groups and exhibits will also be present at the festival, including artists, local fishermen and environmental organizations.

"We expect about 700 people to attend," Walker said. "It's a fun family event. We offer many things for children as well."

Kids will learn how to make fish prints and how to fly cast. Festival-goers will enjoy food and live music by The Secret and The Other Guys with Erinn Brown.

"There is a lot to attract kids," Walker said. "We also hope the festival will be thought provoking and helpful with information for residents in the watershed."

The ERLAC receives grant funding through the N.H. Estuary Project and the N.H. Coastal Program to support the festival, but Walker said the event would not be what it is without the tireless work of the committee.

"There is an enormous amount of time and enthusiasm dedicated to this festival," she said. "These people have shown in many ways how committed they are to the community and the Exeter River, and it demonstrates how many ways there are for people to get involved."

The rain date for the festival is June 4. For more information, call 778-0885.

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5-26-2006

Alewife Festival takes place June 3

EXETER - Come celebrate the annual migration of alewives and other fish from salt water to freshwater at the sixth annual Exeter River Alewife Festival, sponsored by the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee. The Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 3 at Swasey Parkway in downtown Exeter. The rain date is June 4. Scheduled family activities include music by the bands The Other Guys and The Secret, tours of the N.H. Fish and Game fish ladder, and two live animal presentations by N.H. Audubon.

More than two dozen participating organizations will have information and activities celebrating the wildlife, history and art of the Exeter River. The canoe and kayak race will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the sixth Exeter River Steward Award will be presented to the Sandown Conservation Commission at noon.

The Exeter River Local Advisory Committee is a citizens group representing the 10 Exeter River watershed towns. It works to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic, recreational and historic resources through education and collaboration with other organizations.


For information, call 778-0885 or visit www.exeterriver.org.

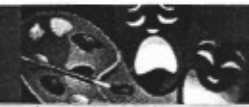
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Out & About: Line up early for Fest

By Michael Keating
 mkeating@seacoastonline.com

Due to another imminent day of nastiness, a last minute change in plans has pushed the big slurp scheduled for today to Sunday (rain or shine).

Gates open tomorrow at 11:30 a.m., but whacked out foodies start lining up way earlier for the chance to be the first to taste the goods at WOKQ's annual Chowder Fest.

The event officially kicks off the summer-long Prescott Park Arts Festival in Portsmouth.

This year 14 restaurants from throughout the Seacoast vie for the top prizes, both from the judges and the more coveted "People's Choice" awards.

Tickets are \$8 for the general public, \$7 for PPAF members and \$5 for children under 12.

For information, call 436-2248, or go online at www.prescottpark.org.

Go fish!

Years ago, when I was living on Cape Cod, I got the chance to see the alewives run the ladder at Buzzard's Bay. Man was that cool - sort of like watching the river come alive and move in a whole new way.

Today's your chance to watch this phenomenon up close and personal when the alewives get chased upstream by hungry stripers at the annual Exeter River Alewife Festival.



Quinn Prell, representing Jack Quigley's Restaurant and Pub of Portsmouth, serves up bowls of clam chowder to eager customers sampling 2005 Chowder Fest entries.
 File photo

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Swasey Parkway in Exeter. The best time to watch the runs will be during guided tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the nearby New Hampshire Fish and Game fish ladder.

For information, call 778-0885, or go online at www.exeterriver.org.

Livin' la vida local

Head on over to the Currier Museum in Manchester today and get a guided tour (en Español) of "Voces y Visiones: Highlights from El Museo del Barrio's Permanent Collection," led by educator Patrick Picciano at 1 p.m., followed by a musical performance by Los Cimarrones del Sur, a six-member troupe from Puerto Rico, at 3 p.m..

The performance, in vibrant costume, will demonstrate the bomba and plena rhythms from the Caribbean islands and South America.

The exhibition features works ranging from pre-Columbian artifacts to contemporary Latino art and captures the "voices and visions" of these artists and cultures.

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7-3-2006



Liam Seekamp, 7, of Brentwood and Tyler Kilimonis, 8, of Kingston look for creatures residing in vernal pools in Kingston last Saturday.

Photo by [Jamie Cohen](#)

Finding frogs: Vernal pool offers hands-on science project

By Erik Zygmunt

newsletter@seacoastonline.com

[Complete Living Index](#)

When wetlands scientist Michael Seekamp caught a garter snake last Saturday morning, he told children at the workshop he was assisting, "It's a friendly one; he hasn't even bit me yet." Then the snake clamped onto his middle finger.

"Does it hurt?" someone asked. "Uh, yeah. His teeth are in my finger," Seekamp replied, as he struggled to remove the stubborn reptile.

Kids love science. Sure, some have trouble sitting still for the institutionalized,

classroom version. But send them outside to combine their natural curiosity with their high energy, and they couldn't be happier.

Last Saturday morning, close to 50 kids, parents, and kids-at-heart broke with their normal weekend routines to explore a vernal pool - the birthplace for frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles.

Classroom time

The kids did more than just go out and stamp around in the mud. The group met at 10 a.m. in the large conference room at the Kingston Town Hall, where Patrick Seekamp of the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee gave a concise presentation on vernal pools and their inhabitants.

A vernal pool, Seekamp explained, is a depression in a forest or open field that collects water from late fall rains and winter snow pack. When the snow melts, he said, the water runs down slopes to collect in the pools, which attain a depth of 3 ½ to 4 feet in the center.

Seekamp emphasized that vernal pools are isolated bodies of water not fed by springs or streams. When a vernal pool forms in the spring, Seekamp said, amphibians and reptiles such as salamanders, frogs and turtles seek them out as a place to lay their eggs.

"It's a race against time as water levels drop, and trees sprout leaves and plants grow," he said. "The eggs have to hatch and the critters have to develop legs and get out of the pools before they dry up."

His brother Michael, also a wetland scientist, played recordings of the calls of the various frog species that hatch in the pools. Of course, as soon as he asked the children in the audience to demonstrate a spring peeper call, it was all over. The kids chirped and whistled through the rest of the presentation.

Hands-on science

Following the brothers' presentation, the group carpoled to the Kingston Town Forest. Just minutes after arrival, shouts of "A frog! A frog!" were heard, and a dozen kids converged on a square foot of the grassy area immediately outside the forest.

"I'd hate to be that frog," said one of the adults.

The Seekamp brothers, equipped with hip-boots, nets, and buckets, led the way to a large vernal pool located immediately to the left upon entrance to the forest.

Water-bugs skated around on the surface of the brownish-tinted water. The pool was a large one, roughly 70 feet in diameter, and the water level reached Patrick Seekamp's hips as he sloshed around to find tadpoles and egg masses.

As the Seekamps put their finds in buckets and displayed them to the children, Betsy Sanders, also of the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee, explained the purpose of these outings. "Our mission is to increase awareness of vernal pools, as well as ponds and rivers," she said. "By holding some of these (outings), and getting publicity, we help our organization, also. It helps us with outreach, and it helps us get grants."

According to Sanders, each year the group gives the presentation to a different town in the Exeter River watershed. "Every year we get a few more participants," she said.

"This has grown."

Sanders added that she loved the way the children were both enthusiastic and well-behaved. Of one young pool-explorer, she said, "He walks up to me and says, 'Look at my mosquito larvae,' and he could hardly talk!"

Kidstuff

Children ran around in rubber boots, and some had even brought their own nets. Lauren Smith, 11, said, "My favorite part was when I found three tadpoles. I learned that tadpoles have gills."

Lauren added that she likes to explore wetlands on her own, too. "I check this stuff out a lot," she said. "I have a little stream in my backyard."

According to Jeremmy St. Pierre, 9, his favorite part of the morning was "finding the dragonfly larvae, because I really like dragonflies."

Patrick Seekamp showed the children a mass of wood frog eggs that he had placed in a bucket. The egg mass resembled a clear jelly, filled with tiny, dark eggs, and covered with green algae. The children listened intently as he explained the symbiotic, or mutually beneficial, relationship between the algae and the eggs.

"The kids really respond to getting out," Seekamp said, "and I'm always amazed at how smart they are."

On Saturday, June 3, the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee will sponsor the annual Exeter River Alewife Festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Swasey Parkway in downtown Exeter. An alewife is a herring-like fish, and the festival celebrates their annual migration. The event will feature live music, food, a kayak race, art displays and more. For more information, call the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee at 778-0885.

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Civic Club Offer Rainbows

The Hampstead Civic Club again offered rainbows to boys and girls... trout that is! Stocked rainbow trout were hauled out of Shop Pond on Main Street, at the annual Hampstead Civic



Club Fishing Derby for youngsters. It was a cannon start as Zach Grover, 5, gets some very special help from his Uncle Jim Dennison. Awards and prizes were also given by Civic Club members and pictures, above, are worth a thousand words.

(CTN photo by Larry Kennedy)

PACE after Hours

PLAISTOW - The Plaistow Area Commerce Exchange (PACE) Business After Hours will be held on Thurs., June 8, from 5:30 -7:30 p.m., at the Pond View Restaurant in Kingston.

Members of PACE, their guests, and any business seeking more information about PACE activities are welcome to attend. Admission is \$10.00. Participants will have an opportunity to network and meet new members. Everyone is urged to bring a supply of business cards to exchange.

PACE is group of business owners and representatives from Atkinson, Hampstead, Kingston, Newton and Plaistow as well as other surrounding communities whose purpose is to establish a line of communication throughout the business community which it represents. PACE also holds an annual auction, the proceeds of which benefit local high school seniors as well as other community services.

For further information on the Business After Hours or to find out more about PACE, please call 382-3634, visit www.pacenh.com or email lduquette@verizon.net.

Relief Fund

EPPING - Bruce Duchemin, 227 Main Street, Epping, was involved in a serious accident on Rte 125 in Brentwood on March 28. This left him paralyzed. He spent five weeks in Brigham & Womens' Hospital in Boston and is now in Spaulding Rehab in Boston.

A relief fund has been set up to help his family through this catastrophe. Please help this family. Donations can be sent to: Bruce Duchemin Special Fund, c/o TD Banknorth N.A., 53 Church Street, Kingston, NH 03848.

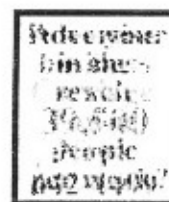


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Benefit Cookout

EXETER - Shaw's Market in Stratham is holding a Memorial Weekend Benefit Cookout on Friday and Saturday, May 26 and 27, to aid the Exeter St. Vincent de Paul which operates the local food pantry. The cookout, held in the parking lot of Shaw's from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., will feature hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, sausages, chips and soda for a donation of \$2.00.

An all-volunteer organization, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Michael Conference, assisted over 1500 local households last year distributing more than 84,000 pounds of food to the needy. The group also helps families who have emergency financial problems through referrals and direct assistance. The food pantry is located at Michael House, 11 Linden Street and is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

As last year, Citizen's Bank, which has a branch located in the Stratham Shaw's, is the Contributing Corporate Sponsor. Their contributions help St. Vincent de Paul to continue their work in the community.

This is the second year that Shaw's has held a Benefit Cookout for St. Vincent de Paul's. Employees of the store as well as volunteers from St. Vincent de Paul will be manning the grills for the two days.

For more information, contact Cleo Castonguay at 778-7143.

Canoe/Kayak Race

EXETER - The fourth annual Exeter Canoe and Kayak Race will be held Sat., June 3, at 10:30 a.m., at Swasey Parkway, Exeter.

Racing and recreation canoes and recreation and sea kayaks will compete in men, women, and coed classes over the 5-mile course on the Squamscott River in downtown Exeter. The race is part of the annual Exeter River Alewife Festival held at the same location. The race and Festival are organized by the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee with support from the NH Estuaries Project and the NH Coastal Program.

The fee is \$13.00 per paddler. Call 778-0885 to pre-register or for more information. Racers may register beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the race. A registration form is also available online at www.exeterriver.org

New Plans for Thrift Shop

HAMPSTEAD - The Friends of the Hampstead Library have exciting plans for the Hollyhock Thrift Shop. It will soon have a new, permanent home in the basement of the Hampstead Public Library. The contract for the needed renovations to the space has been awarded and work will soon be underway. Painting, carpeting and setting up the clothing for sale will follow the structural work. Volunteers are needed for the painting and the sorting and organizing of the clothing.

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7-3-2006

Fun on the river race for paddlers

EXETER - The fourth annual Exeter Canoe and Kayak Race will be held Saturday, June 3 at 10:30 a.m. at Swasey Parkway.

Racing and recreation canoes and recreation and sea kayaks will compete in male and female classes over the five-mile course on the Squamscott River in downtown Exeter.

The race is part of the annual Alewife Festival set at the same location.

The fee is \$13 per paddler. Race T-shirts are free for anyone registering before May 22. Call 778-0885 for details.

Call 778-0885 to pre-register or for information.

Racers may also apply beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the race.

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7-3-2006

Growing a natural buffer

By Liz Chretien

newsletter@seacoastonline.com

EXETER - Those attending the Alewife Festival this year will be privy to a special event - the grand opening of a demonstration garden at Norris Brook along Swasey Parkway.

The garden's purpose is to educate residents about why it is important not to mow lawns or remove bushes along river and stream banks, and what kind of native vegetation can be planted along these banks, according to Theresa Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Walker, who helped secure funding for the project, said this has been in the works for a couple of years, when the town of Exeter and the Conservation Commission began looking at areas where the town could improve landscape maintenance to protect water quality.

"The two parks that they focused on were Swasey and Gilman, and they looked into how they are maintained," Walker said. "These areas are a speedway for pollutants when grass is mowed near the water."

Norris Brook drains from the northwest corner of Exeter into the Squamscot River, running through Swasey Parkway. In the past, according to Walker, the grass was mowed to the edge, resulting in much erosion, and dirt and sediment seeped into the waterway.

"It's better to let the grass grow and let natural vegetation take over," Walker said. "Tall grass and bushes along river and stream banks help keep soil from eroding during floods; keep water temperatures cooler, which is important for fish and other wildlife, filter contaminants running off of lawns and pavement, and provide a corridor for wildlife that travel and live right next to water."

Thanks to funding from the New Hampshire Coastal Program, the Exeter Conservation Commission, and the Department of Public Works, planting took place June 1 at Swasey Parkway. Invasive species that were growing were removed, and native plants were put in, Walker said.

Last year, a no-mow buffer was put up in the form of a small fence near the brook in hopes of letting grass grow. This is the second phase.

An educational kiosk sign was also put up in the area, letting residents know about the

project and urging them to do the same near their homes if they are near the water.

"At the Alewife Festival, people can walk up and see the work being done," Walker said. "We hope it will be informative for people."

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6-6-2006

Planting for protection

By Liz Chretien

newsletter@seacoastonline.com

EXETER - Members of the Exeter Department of Public Works and the Exeter Conservation Commission joined forces Thursday to plant a buffer, also known as a riparian area, near Norris Brook where it flows through Swasey Parkway.

"This was the Conservation Commission's idea," said Phyllis Duffy of the DPW, who assisted in the planting.

"They wanted to show people how to help protect banks from erosion and provide shade for a stream by not mowing to the edge of a water source."

Theresa Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission said education for those living on shoreland areas is key.

"We need to let people know it's better to let the grass grow and let natural vegetation take over," Walker said.

Duffy said there were existing areas of vegetation near Norris Brook that included invasive plants, which were removed during the planting of new shrubs and plants. About 92 plants were put in the ground, with funding obtained by a grant from the New Hampshire Coastal program.

Shrubs and perennials were the preferred types of plants for the project.

"We chose some that would have a food value too," Duffy said. "Many will have berries for the birds and other wildlife to eat."

Duffy said the plants would also help keep the water cool, which was necessary for fish traveling into the river.

"If the temperature rises there is a problem with dissolved oxygen, which isn't good for fish," she said.

"The area around the brook was starting to erode," Duffy said. "This spot was chosen because of its need. Grass had been continually mown to the edge of the brook and **there were no plants.**"

Duffy said the area was eroding because of the way the water flows and hits the bank where no vegetation lies.

"The shrubs and root system will help stabilize the bank, filter sediment and nutrients, and stop the erosion."

Duffy pointed out a tree sitting precariously on the edge of a bank.

"A little more erosion and we'll lose that tree," she said. "When rivers and streams are not stable, we lose banks, and if the streams become shallower, then there is less of an environment for fish and bugs to live in."

Water quality is a serious issue as well, and educating people on being careful of what goes into storm drains is also important, Duffy said.

"People should use less fertilizer and properly store and dispose of any household chemicals. What goes into storm drains goes untreated into the river."

The Conservation Commission will do additional planting at Norris Brook as well as removal of invasive species throughout the spring. Duffy said the town is also looking to join forces with interested teachers to use the site as a field trip spot and educational tool.

"This is a great little project," Duffy said. "Not only are we helping this stream, but this is a demo project to show others what they can do. And people can look at this and say it looks nice too."

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7-3-2006

Today's Community Calendar

today

Meetings/club events

SEACOAST FUN BRIDGE GROUP continues their season playing the first and third Fridays of May and June from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Portsmouth Recreation Center on Greenleaf Avenue. \$3. (207) 363-7712.

Fund-raisers

ROTARY MILLION DOLLAR HOLE IN ONE GOLF CHALLENGE will be held from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 2 and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 3 with finals to follow at the Sagamore Golf Center & Practice Facility in North Hampton. 235-8530 or www.portsmouthsunriserotary.org.

"JUMPIN' IN JUNE" concert by the Portsmouth Music and Arts Center, will be held at 7 p.m. at South Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth. Adults \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door; \$6 for kids under 18 in advance, \$7 at the door, and entire family of one household, \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. 431-4278.

HAMPTON LIONS CLUB TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Galley Hatch Conference Center, 815 Lafayette Road, Hampton (at the Inn of Hampton). \$100 with re-buys and add-ons available. Registration from 4:40 to 5:45 p.m. at the door with play to begin at 6 p.m. Submit an entry form or contact: Vic Maloney at 926-2032.

Health and science

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from noon to 5 p.m. at the Moose Hall in Dover. All blood types needed. [Www.newenglandblood.org](http://www.newenglandblood.org). ID required.

Something for everyone

"SPIRITS 2006 - BRINGING THE DEAD TO LIFE" will open its third season with storyteller Jackson Gillman in "The Magic of Rudyard Kipling - Just So," at 6 p.m. at the Tyco Visitors Center at Strawberry Banke Museum. Free, donations accepted. 436-5096, akmann@comcast.net.

"ALL ABOUT DANCE" kicks off the summer schedule at Seacoast Civic Dance

PORTSMOUTH LAUGHTER CLUB, led by Laughter Yoga instructors Kathryn Thompson and Jeanne Russell, will meet from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. at **Portsmouth Center for Yoga and the Arts, 95 Brewery Lane No. 9, Portsmouth. Gentle stretching, breathing techniques and laughter. Free and open to all ages. 431-4755.**

Something for everyone

"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN" will be performed by the Bell Center Teen Acting Company from June 3-11, Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. **with a special matinee at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 10, at the Bell Center, 47 Fourth St., Dover. \$15. RSVP: 742-2355, www.bellcenter.org.**

"ALL ABOUT DANCE" kicks off the summer schedule at Seacoast Civic Dance Company with performances at 1 and 7 p.m. at the Winnacunnet Performing Arts Center, 1 Alumni Drive, Hampton. \$15. Call SCDC at 474-2444 for tickets.

EXETER CANOE/KAYAK RACE will be held at 10:30 a.m. at Swasey Parkway, Exeter. \$13 per paddler. Racers may register at 8:30 a.m. the day of the race. Register: 778-0885 or www.exeteriver.org.

ELIOT GARDEN CLUB'S ANNUAL PLANT SALE will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Eliot Congregational Church McPherson Hall.

EXETER RIVER ALEWIFE FESTIVAL will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Swasey Parkway in Exeter. Rain date: June 4. Scheduled family activities include live music, **tours of the NH Fish and Game fish ladder, and two live animal presentations by the NH Audubon. 778-0885, www.exeteriver.org.**

8-HOUR RED CROSS BABYSITTER'S training course for 11-15-year olds, will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kittery Recreation Department, 2 Cole St., Kittery, Maine. Bring a lunch. The cost is \$56 and includes a Red Cross tote bag and first-aid kit. (207) 439-3800.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY on Mt. Agamenticus will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the top of Mt. Agamenticus. Sponsored by the Mt. Agamenticus Steering Committee, **Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea, Conservation Initiative and the Kittery Trading Post. Enrollment limited. E-mail: info@ktp.com, (888) KTP-MAINE.**

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH POT ROAST SUPPER will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the church, 1035 Lafayette Road in Portsmouth. Adults \$7, children 12 and under, \$3. Directions: www.christepiscopalchurch.us.

YORK COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY EVENING FIELD TRIP, a search for Whip-poor-wills, will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Meet at Buffleheads Restaurant on Hills Beach at 7 p.m. Limited to 10. Free and open to the public. RSVP: (207) 284-5487.

BAKED BEANS/ HOT DOG SUPPER will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Greenland Parish House, Post Road. \$6.

NORTH MILL POND CLEAN-UP will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. by the Advocates for the North Mill Pond, Portsmouth. Volunteers are needed to pick up debris along the North Mill Pond. Register at Ricci Kitchen Centre, Bartlett Street. Supplies provided. Neighbors of the North Mill Pond who would like to have help cleaning up their area may call 433-1160 and arrangements will be made. Info: 433-1160.

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6-6-2006

Alewife festival wet day of fun

BY Liz Chretien

newsletter@seacoastonline.com

EXETER- Despite the ugly weather, people streamed into Swasey Parkway for the sixth annual Exeter River Alewife Festival Sunday. Postponed from its original date of Saturday, June 3, organizers said they were surprised by how many people came out despite the continuing rain.

"We're short of our record 750 people, but it's been a great turnout with this weather," said Theresa Walker, organizer of the event.

More than two dozen organizations participated in educational demonstrations, games, and activities, and local vendors showed off their wares. Canoers and kayakers paddled furiously in the race on the river despite the drizzle as people stood on the banks and cheered them on. The public was also invited to participate in tours of the N.H. Fish and Game Fish Ladder, to learn about alewives and other fish that migrate to the Exeter River.

Dave Kellum of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project brought live American eels for the public to see, as well as a game of "Eel of Fortune."

"American eels are a good species to discuss when talking about how healthy the watershed is," Kellum said. "These eels are affected by pollution and dams in their travels from the Sargasso Sea in Florida up here to the Squamscot River. We use them because they are interesting to look at and we try to engage people to see how we are connected to them."

Kellum had children spin the "Eel of Fortune" to show the eels travels from Florida to New Hampshire. Kids were asked trivia questions about the river and were awarded for correct answers by a peek at the eels.

"Every year we offer financial support for the festival," Kellum said. "It's a good community event."

Phyllis Duffy of the DPW explained to interested attendees about the Norris Brook demonstration garden that was planted this past week as a buffer to the water as well as the importance of keeping storm drains clear of pollutants.

"The main reason we attend the festival is education," she said.

Since Exeter was designated as a Phase II town in the stormwater program, meaning

it needs permits to discharge storm water, it is required to do public outreach and education programs such as this.

"I think it has made a big difference in the community," she said.

"This festival definitely promotes good awareness," said Lori Ripa, an Exeter resident who attended the festival with her family. "We have all these great resources in our back yard and no one knows how to take care of them."

Ripa said the kayak race was definitely a draw. "My husband is racing today," she said.

Live music by The Other Guys and The Secret played throughout the day. Prints from The Copper Canoe were available to purchase, and food and ice cream was plentiful. The Exeter Center for Creative Arts showed children how to make prints of the fish found in the river.

"We do this every year and the kids love it," said Shelley Nason, ECCA board member.

Interactive games and information drew people to the tents as they learned about animal pelts, natural habitats, and how to protect water quality.

"I'm surprised we've had such a great turnout with this weather, but it's great that people are learning and becoming educated," Duffy said.

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MAY 30, 2006

VOLUME 23, NO. 12

Alewife Festival

EXETER – Come celebrate the annual migration of alewives and other fish from salt water to fresh-water at the 6th Annual Exeter River Alewife Festival, sponsored by the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee. The Festival will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Sat., June 3, at Swasey Parkway in downtown Exeter. The rain date is June 4th. Scheduled family activities include music by the bands The Other Guys and The Secret, tours of the NH Fish and Game fish ladder, and two live animal presentations by NH Audubon.

Over two dozen participating organizations will have information and activities celebrating the wildlife, history and art of the Exeter River. The canoe and kayak race will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the sixth Exeter River Steward Award will be presented to the Sandown Conservation Commission at 12 Noon.

The Exeter River Local Advisory Committee (known as ERLAC) is a citizen's group representing the ten Exeter River watershed towns. ERLAC works to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and scenic, recreational and historic resources through education and collaboration with other organizations. Festival supporters include the NH Coastal Program, NH Estuaries Project, Rockingham Planning Commission, Squamscott Press, Peter Olney, Cathy Arakelian and JoAnne Trahan.

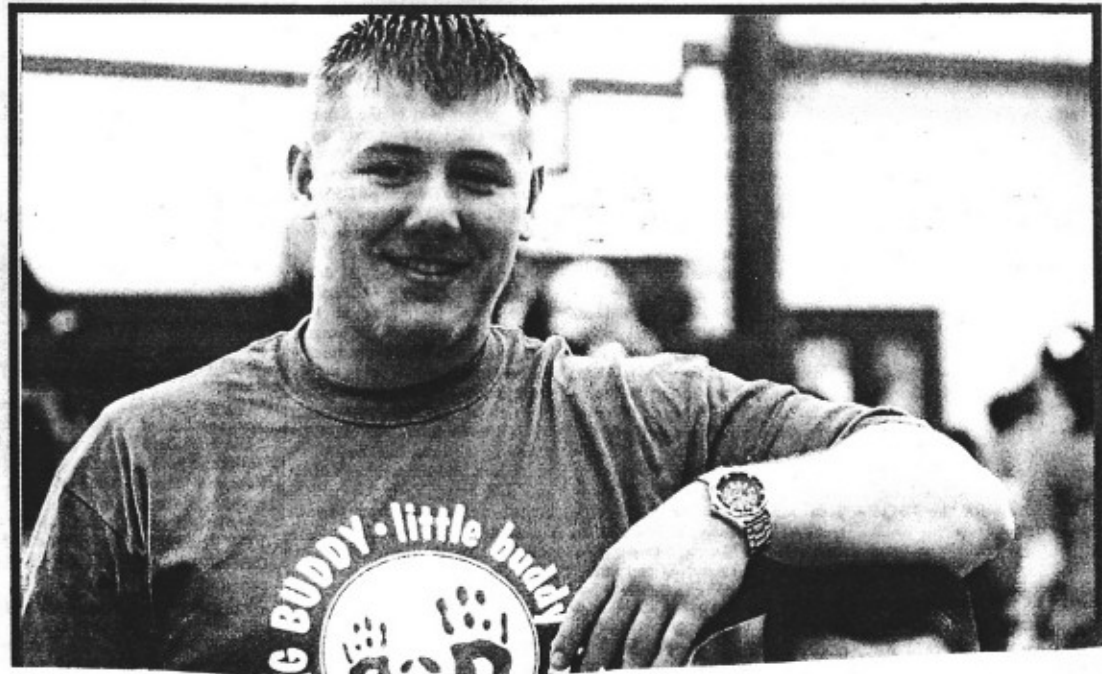
For more information, please call 778-0885 or visit www.exeter-river.org.



Sweepstakes Countdown

EXETER – The countdown to June 17th Annual Sweepstakes event has begun. You only have the chance to win \$10,000 in cash if you purchase a Sweepstakes ticket. There is also an additional \$3,000 in cash prizes along with many other premium prizes. Tickets are \$100.00, and admit two to the party. You can get as many people as you like to go in on a ticket or think

Big Buddy – Little Buddy Day



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE EXETER RIVER!

See migrating Alewives and other fish! Meet representatives from local and regional environmental and community organizations! Learn about the river's role in area history! Exhibits by local artists and fishermen! Join in kids activities and a canoe and kayak race and raffle! Enjoy hot and cold food and live music by two local bands!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- All day Live Music by *The Secret* and *The Other Guys* with *Erinn Brown*
- 8:30am Canoe and Kayak Race Registration Begins
- 10am Festival opens
- 10am Tour of the NH Fish and Game Fish Ladder
(next to the Dam View Restaurant on Water Street)
- 10:30am Canoe and Kayak Race Begins
- 11am Avian Adventures – a live animal program
Presented by NH Audubon
- Noon Exeter River Steward Awards *Presented by ERLAC*
Recognition of the 10th Anniversary of the
Exeter River Local Advisory Committee
- 1pm Scales to Skin – a live animal program
Presented by NH Audubon
- 2pm Tour of the NH Fish and Game Fish Ladder

Enter our
Kayak raffle!

PARTICIPANTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Audubon Society of NH | Lamprey River Advisory Committee |
| David Carroll, Artist and Naturalist | Lifewise Community Projects |
| Laurette Carroll, Artist | NH Coastal Program |
| The Copper Canoe Gallery | NH Department of Environmental Services |
| Exeter Center for Creative Arts | NH Estuaries Project |
| Exeter Historical Society | NH Fish and Game |
| Exeter Open Space Committee | NH Rivers Council |
| Exeter River Local Advisory Committee | Rockingham Land Trust |
| Exeter River Study Committee | Rockingham Planning Commission |
| Great Bay Coast Watch | Seacoast Arts Association |
| Great Bay Discovery Center at Sandy Point | Squamscott Community Coalition |
| Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership | Town of Exeter DPW |
| The Gundalow Company | UNH Cooperative Extension |

FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS

Cathy Arakelian • NH Coastal Program • NH Estuaries Project • NH Department of Environmental Services • Peter Olney • Rockingham Planning Commission • Squamscott Press • JoAnne Trahan


EXETER RIVER
LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Discovering the Past, Preserving the Future

For more information please
contact us at 603-778-0885
156 Water Street, Exeter, NH 03833
www.exeterriver.org



SIXTH ANNUAL EXETER RIVER ALEWIFE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006
10AM – 2PM
SWASEY PARKWAY, EXETER, NH

RAIN DATE JUNE 4TH

SPONSORED BY
THE EXETER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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JOIN US JUNE 3RD TO CELEBRATE THE EXETER RIVER



Enter our Kayak raffle!

Free family fun!

SIXTH ANNUAL EXETER RIVER ALEWIFE FESTIVAL

See migrating Alewives and other fish! Meet representatives from local and regional environmental and community organizations! Learn about the river's role in area history! Exhibits by local artists and fishermen! Join in kids' activities and a canoe and kayak race and raffle! Enjoy hot and cold food and live music by two local bands!

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD • 10AM – 2PM
SWASEY PARKWAY IN DOWNTOWN EXETER, NH
RAIN DATE JUNE 4TH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: 10am-2pm Live music by *The Secret* and *The Other Guys* with *Erinn Brown*
• 10am & 2pm Tour of the Fish Ladder (next to the Dam View Restaurant) • 10:30am Canoe and Kayak Race
• 11am Avian Adventures – a live animal program Presented by NH Audubon • Noon Award Presentation
• 1pm Scales to Skin – a live animal program Presented by NH Audubon

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