

# MEDUXNEKEAG RIVER ASSOCIATION INC.

## Up the Creek

### Ice Observation

The Meduxnekeag River Association carried out, for the second consecutive year, Ice Observations of the St. John River between Grand Falls and Woodstock, the Tobique and along the Meduxnekeag River. Ice observations are conducted through a contract with New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government and are intended to help predict ice jams and possible troublesome areas to help reduce the risk and danger of flooding.



### Meduxnekeag Annual Dinner and Auction

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meduxnekeag Dinner and Auction in April was another success, raising more than \$20,000 for property purchase and education! It was a great evening that couldn't take place without the support of local artists, business people, volunteers and guests who believe in our cause. Highlights of the evening were: the 115 pairs of knitted mittens donated by a local knitter, Doris Barry to help raise money for education initiative and the presentation of a new Friend of the Meduxnekeag to Ken Harding for his many years of support, both through his role at the Town of Woodstock and his personal generosity.



Mitten update, after all 115 pairs where purchased at the dinner, Ms. Barry generously knit us another 50 pairs to give to students who come out to the preserve without any!



Do you have yarn lying around the house that you don't know what to do with? Donate it! We will make it into mittens for more students! Donations can be dropped off at E. Cummings Contracting Inc. (852 Main St, Woodstock, NB E7M 2G1 ) or Stephen L. Wilson's Law office(733 Main St, Woodstock, NB E7M 2E5).



### Calendar and Clothing

As part of our on-going fundraising efforts we will be selling 2018 Calendars, t-shirts and hoodies! They will feature pictures of the creatures, understorey plants and views found throughout the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve!

Keep watching our Facebook page for chances to win and for more information on where you can purchase these amazing items!

Can't wait, pre-order today! Email Jennifer at [Meduxnekeag@nb.aibn.ca](mailto:Meduxnekeag@nb.aibn.ca)



## Education

In April we hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Meduxnekeag Environmental Showcase, "150 Ways to Preserve, Protect and Enjoy our Environment." The topic drew more than 700 student projects, the largest number of projects we've ever had. This year we were happy to provide Nackawic Elementary School with \$1000 E. Cummings Contracting Inc. Award for having the highest participation rate in the Environmental Showcase. Their school wide participation was wonderful education and inspiring to other schools who will try to follow in their footsteps in the future. Florenceville Elementary School also took home \$1000, winning the

DKB Enterprises Inc. award for being the school that most thoroughly covered this year's theme. We were also fortunate to receive \$1000 from Progressive Credit Union to help with the overall cost of the Showcase.



As always, Preserve Tours were a sought after field trip with 51 classes visiting between the last week in May and the third week in June. Showcase winners and their classes were also treated to a special extended two hour tour of the preserve that allowed them to bring a picnic lunch that was enjoyed along the Meduxnekeag River. Preserve Tours remain free to all schools with busing costs covered by the Woodstock Rotary Club's gracious \$5000 donation. In the

2016-2017 school year we are happy to announce that over 1700 students (78 classes) visited the preserve. To help accommodate our increasing program popularity we hired three summer students Celina Grant, Luke Watson and Abby Culberson.



## Social Media

We are continuing to increase our involvement on social media and would like to thank everyone who is following us, sharing and liking our post and participating in our contest! If you don't already, please connect with us on these platforms as they are our main means of sharing information and giving away merchandise.



Meduxnekeag Valley  
Nature Preserve



Twitter: @Meduxnekeag



Instagram:  
@Meduxnekeag



## Summer Students

Our summer students were hard at work even after school tours subsidized for the summer, with multiple trail improvement projects underway on the preserve along with the regular trail maintenance. You may have noticed the addition of sign-in boxes at 4 of our preserves: Wilson Mountain, Leonard Woods/VanDine Falls, Jim Goltz Forest and Bell Flats. We are thrilled to report that over 600 people have visited and left us notes in these books! Other improvements included new rope hand rails, two new bridges and trail alterations to increase your hiking pleasure!

Our summer students also completed old forest studies on 4 of the Preserves: Bell Forest, Jim Goltz Forest, Rosevear Cliff and Keenan Ridge. We are happy to report that all of the locations scored well during the assessment which is a testament to good land management practices of the previous land owners!

They also carried out biweekly roadside cleanups and one canoe trip down the Meduxnekeag to collect garbage and helped plan, map and research a new addition to the gold trail to help improve youth environmental monitoring programs on the preserve.



## Spruce Budworms:

You may have noticed little green traps hanging from spruce trees along the Red Trail and Black Trails -- these traps are part of Budworm Tracker Program. This program traps spruce budworms as a method of tracking their travels through the province to help predict areas that are most at risk for an outbreak. When budworm outbreaks occur they can completely defoliate spruce and balsam fir trees which is especially problematic in areas with single species plantations and during hot dry summers as they increase the likelihood of forest fires.

The last budworm outbreak (1972-1992) in North America resulted in approximately 128 million acres of damaged trees. The most recent outbreak started in 2006 and has already covered 18 million acres and it has begun to encroach into Atlantic Canada through the northern New Brunswick border.

If you think you may be interested in the Budworm Tracker: Citizen Science Program or for more information on this program

please visit [http://  
budwormtracker.ca](http://budwormtracker.ca)



## Funding

LUSH Charity Pot: We are happy to announce that we received funding from LUSH Charity Pot to expand and better equip our youth environmental monitoring programs. This is a middle school program where students from local schools visit the preserve and track environmental health and changes of the water, soil and trees. The funding has also allowed us to create and implement educational signs and redesign the gold trail to illustrate the effect that different forestry practices have on biodiversity and overall forest health.



We will be participating in an Awareness Event for LUSH's Charitable Giving Program at the Mic Mac Mall in Halifax NS Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> from 12-4pm. If you are in the area we hope to see you there!



MEC: We applied for and have received a capacity-building grant from Mountain Equipment Cooperative. We're presently using this support to redesign and rebuild our website as well as improve our use of social media. The new website - which will work better with mobile devices - will be online this fall.

ETF: Most of our day-to-day work is financed by annual contributions from New Brunswick's Environmental Trust Fund. This year we have again been successful in obtaining ETF support.

## Living Legacy

We have launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Living Legacy fund! Over the next five years we hope to raise funds to protect more of the rare Appalachian Hardwood Forest surrounding the beautiful Meduxnekeag River. All donations will go towards land protection and will receive a tax receipt.



Yes, I will make a pledge to the *Living Legacy* campaign



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

5 Years Post-Dated Cheques Provided?  Yes  No

Donor Status	Pledge	Per Year for
		5 Years
DIAMOND	\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOLD	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>
SILVER	\$300	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRONZE	\$200	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	\$_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Donor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_