



# ASRA News

Fall 2010

Education, Advocacy, and Action on the Ausable River |

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## Only Rain In the Drain!

Wanda the Water Drop and a crew of droplets in training rolled down the streets of Keene Valley and Au Sable Forks this summer. Wanda (Carol Treadwell, E.D.) and her crews marked storm drains with “Only Rain in the Drain” plaques. The markers remind residents that water entering these drains is piped directly into the Ausable River without treatment. Motor oil, grass clippings, leaves, excess fertilizer, sediment, trash, and animal waste should be kept off streets and yards in order to keep the Ausable River and Lake Champlain clean and free of pollutants and excess nutrients that cause algal blooms.

According to the U.S. EPA, polluted storm water runoff is the nation’s number one water quality problem. For example, *did you know*: a single quart of oil can create a two (2) acre oil slick! A single dog dropping contains 3 billion coliform bacteria! If all that stuff gets into a river or lake people could get sick, and

beaches would get closed!

Ever wanda’ what you could do to help?

- Use zero Phosphorous fertilizer on lawns
- Pick up pet waste
- Repair oil leaks; properly dispose of motor oil
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not in the driveway or street
- Rake up leaves and yard clippings
- don’t dispose of them in the gutter
- Plant grass on bare soil

The Ausable River is one of the cleanest rivers in the U.S. You can help keep it that way! Help eliminate blue green algae blooms in Lake Champlain!

The storm drain marking program is part of an educational program presented by AsRA to children in schools and youth programs in the Ausable Watershed. Program funding comes from the Lake Champlain Basin Program through the Lake George, Lake Champlain Regional Planning Board.



Wanda works with Keene kids to apply storm drain markers.

Just add contractor cement..... and apply!





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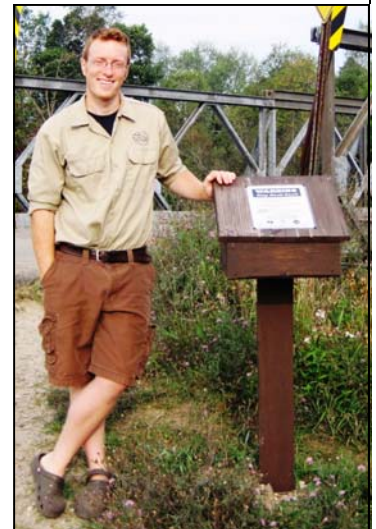
ASRA Board Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, at 6:30 PM, call for location. Members are invited. Please call the ASRA office: 873-3752 or email [info@ausableriver.org](mailto:info@ausableriver.org) to confirm date and location.

# Meet the Interns of the Ausable

Through the help of grants and private funding the Ausable River Association was able to employ 2.5 hard working interns this summer to carry out its mission. Kevin Chlad—River Steward and invasive species educator, Matt Brown — water sampling and laboratory analysis, and Martin McGuane — GIS mapping and outfall reporting. Each worked in their respective capacities for AsRA.

## Meet the stewards of the Ausable:

**K e v i n C h l a d ,** Ausable River Steward, has a degree in Adirondack Environmental Studies from SUNY Potsdam. Kevin is a genius with words and can win anyone’s attention in conversing about just about any topic. His task this summer was to convince fishermen to clean their gear! This was no small task; and Kevin attacked this task with enthusiasm. He won the attention of fishermen, fly shop owners, and visitor bureaus staff throughout the Tri-Rivers region. Kevin went above and beyond, constructing



Kevin stands next to an invasive species information box which educates stream users.



“cleaning stations” which he distributed to fly shops and river banks. Kevin also presented his findings at the Adirondack Invasive Species Forum held August 11-12, 2010 at Paul Smiths College. His talk entitled “Fishing for Fishermen, Spreading the word in order to prevent the Spread” was of great interest to many at the conference.

Kevin talks to a fly fisherman on the stream bank. Have you Checked, cleaned, or dried your gear? Then “go fish! “

## The Interns of the Ausable (cont.)

**Matt Brown** is currently an Environmental Science major at SUNY Plattsburgh with minors in Chemistry and Hydrology. He hopes to pursue a graduate degree in environmental engineering and do research in mine waste transport in surface waters. He was hired by AsRA and the Lake Champlain Research Institute to conduct the laboratory analysis of Ausable River water samples. Four separate trips sampled 58 locations along the Ausable including every bridge crossing and major tributary mouth. The ongoing study is designed to locate



Matt stands in front of the Atomic Adsorption Spectrometer while analyzing Ausable Water samples.

and detect hot spots or areas of concern and their sources. Matt uses the Ion Chromatograph, Atomic Adsorption Spectrometer, and other instruments at the lab to test for soluble ions, metals, nutrients, total suspended solids, total carbon, conductivity, and pH. The job requires patience! Matt will write a summary report once the data analysis is complete and earn credit toward his degree.

Right: The intrepid Ausable Water Sample volunteers pose for a picture after a day of sampling. From left: Wes Krewiec, Ph.D., Matt Brown, Carol Rupprecht, Ph.D., Tim Mihuc, Ph.D., Carol Treadwell, Ph.D. Not pictured here: Joe Kahn and Dorris Marrie Firsching.

**Martin McGuane** is a graduate of Paul Smiths College (PSC) in Fish and Wildlife Sciences, concentrating in Fisheries. While at PSC he earned a GIS Certificate, a skill he put to use this summer while working for AsRA and Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Marty uses the Trimble GPS unit to locate a dry hydrant. The data will be used to create a map database.

Martin traveled the roads along the Ausable River recording the location of storm drains, bridges, and culverts that dump sediment or other pollutants into the river. He used a map accurate GPS to record the location of the outfalls. Physical data is recorded in the unit's internal computer. Martin downloaded the information into Arc GIS to create a map of the watershed that displays the pipe locations and information.



# Ausable River Association

Education,

Advocacy,

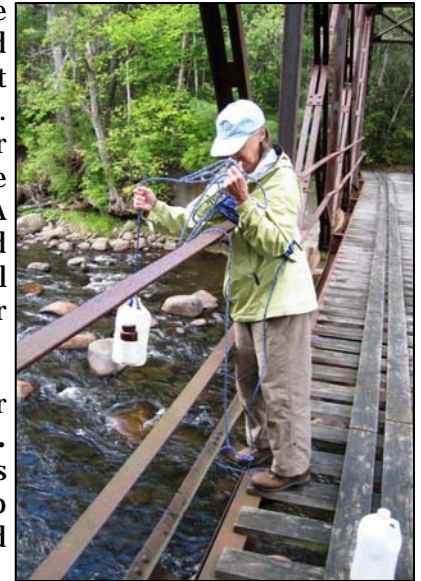
Action!

The Ausable River Association has implemented a full schedule of river protection projects this summer. Below is a brief description of our initiatives organized by action type.

## Water Quality Protection:

**Water Quality Testing.** The Ausable is one of the cleanest rivers in the United States and AsRA is working to keep it that way by monitoring water quality. Early detection of pollutants allows for speedy resolution and helps avoid large expensive fixes. For example, AsRA provided the water data which helped the Village of Lake Placid obtain federal funds to complete its new wastewater treatment plant.

A water quality issue uncovered by water sampling is **road salt contamination**. AsRA is **tracking its extent** in brooks in the Town of Keene, in order to help the Town define the magnitude and extent of contamination.



An **Outfall Inventory** was compiled as part of Watershed Management Planning. This inventory records all of the locations where storm drains, culverts, bridges, and pipes introduce pollutants into the river.

The West Branch of the Ausable River between Placid and Wilmington is one of the most heavily used stretches of river in the Adirondacks. Hundreds of fishermen, bicyclists, and scenic tourists recreate there. Unfortunately, the closest public facility is miles away in Lake Placid. AsRA secured funds to supply **seasonal sanitary facilities** at popular fishing and scenic pull-outs in order to keep untreated waste off the stream banks.

## Habitat Restoration:

**“Trees for Trout”** - Trees are extremely important for stabilizing stream banks, keeping pollutants and sediment out of the river, and providing shade to cool the water. Good tree cover contributes to good trout habitat! Each year the Ausable River Association helps a riverfront landowner restore natural vegetation to a stream bank.



# Accomplishments 2010

**Upper Jay Dam Removal:** This project will open 5 miles of spawning habitat and allow trout to access to cool upland streams that provide refuge from the warm summer temperatures in the East Branch.

## East Branch Ausable Restoration

at Rivermede Farm. AsRA has recently been appointed the local coordinator for this long standing project and as a result a contractor has finally been assigned. This project will restore deep pools and stable riffles to the upper East Branch. Not only are the benefits to aquatic life tremendous, adjacent landowners will regain land lost to the river through unnaturally rapid erosion. When complete, the project will be the first comprehensive natural river restoration project in the region.

## Invasive Species Management and Education:

The **Ausable River Steward** worked to spread the word in order to prevent the spread of river invasive species, The Steward covered the Tri-Rivers area educating fishermen, fly shops, and visitor bureau staff about using “Check, Clean, Dry” to clean gear and prevent invasives such as Didymo, A.K.A. “Rock Snot” from entering the Ausable River.



AsRA hosted a **Native Plant Sale** which offered gardeners native plants to be used in gardens and landscaping as an alternative to species that are invasive.

AsRA presented two talks at the **Adirondack Invasive Species Forum**, held in Paul Smiths, New York on August 11-12, 2010. E.D., Carol Treadwell, presented: “Using a Watershed Approach to Combat Invasive Species.” “Fishing for Fishermen; Spreading the Word in Order to Prevent the Spread” was presented by Kevin Chlad, Ausable River Steward.



## Recreation:

The **Community Paddling Program (CPP)** is a cooperative effort between AsRA and the Town of Wilmington. It is a low cost boat rental program sup-

ported by locally donated water craft. Boat contributions are gratefully accepted and acknowledge by a charitable donation tax receipt from AsRA.

The CPP will be enhanced through the creation of a **Paddling Nature Trail**. A unique padding experience, residents and visitors will be able to enjoy the spectacular scenery and natural habitat surrounding the Ausable River at Lake Everest. The “trail” will begin at the town beach, where brochures will be available.

**Floating River Clean up:** The best way to take trash out of the river is to boat it out! The Ausable Armada came to life on July 17 to float from the Route 86 bridge to Monument Falls. The clean-up



crew liberated two tires, numerous beer cans and bottles, and one bait can (tisk) from the river. Great job! Thank you!



Data compiled by AsRA’s 2005-2009 creel survey is being used to **save the Essex County Hatchery**. The Creel Survey shows that 15% of catches on the West Branch are Rainbow Trout. The E Co. Hatchery is the only source of Rainbow Trout for this branch of the river. If the hatchery is eliminated, fishermen will notice and may recreate elsewhere! Currently, Ausable River angling brings \$4.5 million to the region annually.

## Ausable River Association Presents at International Watershed Conference

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) was recognized, recently as a world leader in forging watershed partnerships that result in implementation of management projects. The Ausable River Association was chosen to represent the New York side of the Champlain Basin at the UNESCO gathering of the North American HELP basins held in Portland Oregon May 10-12, 2010. The Executive Director gave a presentation describing the partnerships and projects on the New York side of the Basin and its link to LCBP. AsRA links into the



bigger watershed picture by participation on the Essex and Clinton County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC), the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York (CWICNY), and the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. Communication is key to good partnership and the ED attends many meetings. Residents in the Ausable Watershed benefit from these collaborations because the ED is able to leverage funds for water quality improvement projects within the Ausable Watershed. These projects are accomplished by a group of partners. The installation of a second vortech unit in Wilmington was a collaboration of the partners listed above, for example. Funding came from a grant to CWICNY and work was done by NYS DOT. A partnership unique to this region.

## Ausable River Association Publication Distributed State Wide



## Clean Gear Clear Water

Now in its fourth year of publication AsRa's "Stop Rock Snot" brochure has received a face lift. It was republished this year as "Clean Gear – Clear Water." The double sided rack card describes the top four river invaders and methods for cleaning recreational gear. Didymo, New Zealand Mud Snail, Rusty Cray Fish, and fish diseases can be removed from gear by following the "Check, Clean, Dry" protocol.

Forty thousand copies of the rack card were published with funds from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and NY State Council of Trout Unlimited.

The publication was distributed state wide to fly and spin fishing enthusiasts.

# Galleracella Beetles continue to Eat Invasive



## Loosestrife on Mill Pond!



The Galleracella Beetles released into wetlands along the edge of Mill Pond in summer of 2009 have reemerged this summer and continue to consume Purple loosestrife. The beetles ability to survive our harsh Adirondack winters was in question. However, photo monitoring of their success shows that the beetles continue to back the invasive population. Monitors also observe the return of

native plants.

Below are before and after pictures showing the beetle's success. Dense populations of Purple loosestrife were first photographed in 2007. Galleracella beetles were introduced in June 2009. Monitoring in both 2009 and 2010 recorded significant leaf and flower destruction. Galleracella eat only purple loosestrife.



# Adirondack Task Force to Reduce Road Salt

There is increasing momentum within the Adirondack Park to reduce the amount of Rock Salt (sodium chloride) applied to Adirondack roads. Adirondack lakes adjacent to roads have chloride concentrations 22 times higher than remote lakes (Kelting, 2010). The Cascade Lakes in the Ausable Watershed are two of the most heavily impacted. The East Branch Ausable River has surprisingly high chloride levels as well (Treadwell, 2009). This is very unusual in streams and suggests that salt built up in roadside soils and groundwater is leaching into streams even during the summer months.

Alarm for this condition prompted the Executive Director to add AsRA's voice to the NY Road Salt Reduction Task Force. This group, made up of NGO's, State and County agencies and the NYS DOT met in May in order to set in motion an effort that could become

ground breaking. The goal of the group is to develop an alternative road maintenance strategy for the Adirondack Park. Suggested actions include the use of brine, creation of a Road Weather Information System, mapping of sensitive ecological areas, and added training for road crews.

The take home message from the conference... something needs to be done NOW and legislation at the top level is needed to make it happen. A petition is currently being sent to the state from the Task Force.



Kelting, Daniel, and Laxson, 2010, Review of Effects and Costs of Road De-icing with Recommendations for Winter Road Management in the Adirondack park; Adirondack Watershed Institute Report #AWI2010-01, 76 p.

Treadwell, Carol, 2009, Water Quality Monitoring of the Ausable River, interim report, report to the Department of State in partial fulfillment of Watershed management Planning, 14 p.

## Introducing the New Association Logo!



The AsRA logo has been simplified to make it more representative of the entire watershed and more easily reproducible. Help from a local artist finally made this goal happen.

The new logo depicts Marcy and Noonmark, the two most iconic mountains in the Ausable Watershed. A brook tumbles off the mountains and feeds an open mouthed trout. Forests give way to a village representing the importance of community for protection of the river.

Ball caps with embroidered logos are available for \$20 or FREE with a new membership of \$100.

Call the AsRA office to get your cap: 873-3752.

# 2010 Members

(Membership year June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011)

Thank you for Supporting the work of the Ausable River Association!



The Ausable River Association is a grassroots, member supported organization that implements projects to protect the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Ausable River and its watershed. It is the only

organization that dedicates its entire mission to the Ausable River. Each dollar donated allows AsRA to spend more time on river protection and less time on fundraising. Thank you to our project supporters!

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## Membership Form

Please complete this form and return to:

**Ausable River Association**  
**P.O. Box 217**  
**Elizabethtown, NY 12932**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle (\$1,000+)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Brook Trout (\$250-499) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tiger Trout (\$500- \$999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Trout (\$50-99)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Trout (\$100-249)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnow (\$30)           |

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## Ausable River Association Fall 2010 Newsletter

	<b>Community Paddling Program</b> 	
<p>The Ausable CPP is a cooperative effort between the Town of Wilmington, Ausable River Association, and Essex County Planning. We seek to provide recreational opportunities to the community and bring business to the heart of Wilmington.</p> <p>Canoe, paddle, and PFD donations are currently being accepted in order to assemble a fleet of canoes to be rented at the Wilmington Town Beach starting summer 2011.</p> <p>To Donate: call Randy Preston, 946-7179; or Carol Treadwell, 873-3752.</p> <p>* Your charitable donation to a 501(c)(3) is tax deductible as allowed by law.</p>		
