

Isinglass River Local Advisory Committee
2008 Annual Report

Two thousand eight was an especially exciting year for the Isinglass River Local Advisory Committee (LAC). We witnessed great progress in protecting our river in so many ways.

- The LAC, working with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, with section 604(b) grant funding from DES, completed our River Management Plan and presented the plan with public meetings during the month of June. The new plan was distributed to member communities and stakeholder organizations throughout the Isinglass River watershed later in the summer.
- One of our LAC members developed new stream assessment field data sheets and trained volunteers in their use.
- LAC members participated in biological monitoring of the Isinglass (VBAP) as well as traditional summer water testing (VRAP) of the Isinglass River and several of the tributaries. Testing results were fantastic and showed that the Isinglass River remains a healthy river. VBAP results show that aquatic viability is good.
- LAC members participated in river clean-up events and hauled a full truckload of trash from one location. While working, we discovered an older illicit discharge into the Isinglass, which after investigation, led to the upgrade of a local business' septic system.
- In August, LAC members, along with many area conservation organizations and the town of Strafford, celebrated the completion of the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve project. Through a combination of land purchases and conservation easements, the conservation reserve project permanently conserved nearly 800 acres in the Isinglass River watershed, including over a mile of riparian land, with the assistance of the federal Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program.
- LAC members manned a booth at Waste Management of New Hampshire's *Get Wild about Water and Wildlife* Event in October at the Turnkey facility in Rochester on the Isinglass River.

Our LAC has been fortunate to partner with Waste Management for several projects, including the October river festival. We are proud to have partnered with Waste Management throughout the years, and congratulate them for their 2008 certification as a Corporate Lands for Learning site from the Wildlife Habitat Council. The designation provides encouragement for the use of Waste Management's hiking trails along the Isinglass as a learning laboratory and outdoor education center. We look forward to working with them to bring more river ecology programs into area schools. We would also like to thank Waste Management for their donation of water quality testing kits for the Isinglass River Local Advisory Committee. Our water quality monitoring volunteers use these kits weekly throughout the summer testing season. Having the additional kits

has allowed us to collect more data, expanding the testing program from six to 22 different sites, which in turn has allowed us to set priorities for our testing program. The Isinglass River is known for its high water quality. It is important to maintain our testing regime so that we will be able to both assess any possible threats to the river, and to celebrate the valuable habitats that our river supports. A biothon event held by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways at the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve lands in June 2008 found more than 350 species of flora and fauna, including such pleasant surprises as American Eels at several stages of development—a truly remarkable indication of the health of our river system.

The Isinglass River Local Advisory Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in the Turnkey Conference Room at Waste Management in Rochester. All are welcome to attend. For additional information, please contact our chairman or one of the representatives from your community.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rochester--
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Dean Peschel