



# Hammond River Angling Association Spring 2021 Newsletter NATURE CAMP / EVENTS

## Hammond River Nature Camp Summer 2021

Hammond River Nature Camp is looking like it will be a huge success this year! With 9 weeks of camp, we will have over 250 campers throughout the summer! Many weeks are sold out and we even have a wait list. Isabella has done an amazing job as our Camp Director in 2020 and we are so excited to see what new and exciting things are in store for this coming summer! This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nature Camp and we will be celebrating!!

To register, visit our website [hraa.ca](http://hraa.ca) under Nature Camp!

- Week 1 (June 28-July 2) – Munchkin Week
- Week 2 (July 5-9) – Fishing Week 1
- Week 3 (July 12-16) – Adventures in the Wild Week 1
- Week 4 (July 19-23) – Wild Water Week 1
- Week 5 (July 26-30) – Fishing Week 2
- Week 6 (Aug 9-13) – Adventures in the Wild Week 2
- Week 7 (Aug 16-20) – Dirt to Dinner Week 1
- Week 8 (Aug 23-27) – Wild Water Week 2
- Week 9 (Aug 30-Sept 3) – Dirt to Dinner Week 2



## Events

### Spring Clean-up Day

On Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 3pm, we will be having a clean-up day! All are welcome to help! We will have pizza, drinks and snack for everyone at lunchtime, and will be doing river clean-up, landscaping, shed repair, painting and more. Bring the whole family out for this event! There is something for everyone to do!

## Events

HRAA Family Fishing Derby (June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021)  
Saturday 9am – 9pm and Sunday 9am – 12pm.

Hammond River Angling Association will be hosting a Family Fishing Derby this spring! It will be held during Fish NB Days (June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>). It is a fun way to enjoy fishing and our province's natural beauty. On these days, residents and non-residents can fish without a license or guide.

Beginners are welcome! Bring your fishing pole and bait (nightcrawlers and worms work well) and enjoy a fun day (or two) of fishing. Awards will be presented for the most species caught as well as biggest fish in each age category at noon of the second day.

- Children (0-10)
- Youth (11-20)
- Adult (21-59)
- Senior (60+)

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Admission is \$20 for your whole family and pre-registration is required. These funds will go towards our Kids Fishing Club.

Each day from 11-12, we will be offering free pizza, chips and drinks to all registered participants!

Here's the best part!! Every family who enters will automatically have 1 ballot entered into a draw to win a 1-day fishing trip with Marlon Prince. Marlon offers bass, trout, muskie, pickerel, and pike trips!

To learn more about Marlon and his trips, check out his website at <https://stjohnnysox.wixsite.com/guide>.

To register for the derby, go to our website [www.hraa.ca](http://www.hraa.ca) under events and click on Fishing Derby.

We can't wait to see you there!



# Hammond River Angling Association

## Spring 2021 Newsletter

### OPERATIONS/NEWS

## OPERATIONS

### Dinner Committee Report

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Auction unfortunately had to be cancelled again this year due to COVID-19. We have every hope that we will be back up and running for next year.

### Rentals

We are open for rentals at the Hammond River Conversation Center! We have a COVID Operational Plan in place and are filling up quickly for summer 2021! Call Melissa at 645-1698 to book your rental today! Members receive 20% off all rentals!!

### Office

The offices are currently closed to the public; however, an appointment can be made by calling or emailing!

You can reach us by phone at 832-1230 or by email at [office@hrra.ca](mailto:office@hrra.ca).

### Maintenance

The Conservation Center has undergone some changes during 2020. We have new countertops in the kitchen, surveillance cameras set up throughout the property, a washer/dryer unit installed for camp, and new portable dividers for the upstairs room. We are planning a spring clean up day and hope to get the building painted!

## NEWS

### Congratulations

A big congrats goes out to our very own, Paul Daigle on his nomination and appointment onto the Wildlife Trust Fund Board of Directors. Paul will make a great addition to their team as Chief Financial Officer.

### AGM Cancelled

The AGM for 2020 that was planned for February 2021, had to be cancelled. With COVID-19 still very much a concern, we didn't want to take any unnecessary risks. In this newsletter, we have done a summary of 2020, much of what we would have discussed at the meeting. All of our board members have agreed to keep their positions for another year. Thank you, Board Members, for all you do! If you would like a copy of the 2020 Financial Statement, please contact Melissa at 832-1230 or [office@hrra.ca](mailto:office@hrra.ca).

President – Jim Gillespie

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Bruce Moore

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Roy Marchand

Secretary – Chris Taylor

Treasurer – Natasha Mazerolle

Past President – Adam Chateauvert

#### Board Members

Bob Bardsley

Cindy Matthews

Jack Cole

John Blenis

Louis Duffley

Rick McKillop



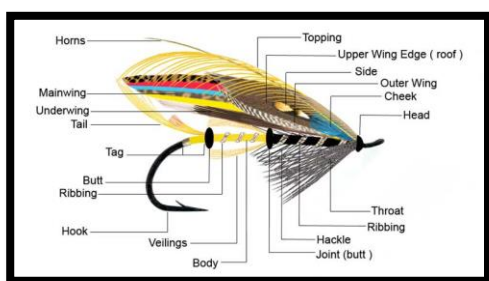


# Hammond River Angling Association Spring 2021 Newsletter 2020 PROJECTS – A YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2020 PROJECTS

1) **Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxin Monitoring Program** - We partnered with ACAP Saint John, Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, Belleisle Watershed Coalition, Canaan-Washademoak Watershed Association, Jemseg Grand Lake Watershed Association, Nashwaak Watershed Association, Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve, The St. John River Society, and the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. We deployed two SPATT collectors within the watershed, as well as temperature and light data loggers, and have collected benthic cyanobacteria mats (rock slime) for analysis. This project will help advance our understanding of cyanobacteria, its toxins, and the risk it poses for humans and wildlife.

2) **Eco-Logic (Sponsored by The Wildlife Trust Fund)** – Covid-19 made us change our delivery strategy for these programs. Previously, we have gone into the classrooms and delivered these lessons in person. This year, we had to transition our lessons to an online format. Our Eco-Logic classes this year include the Lifecycle of the Atlantic Salmon, an Introduction to Fly Tying and Winter Birds of New Brunswick. These classes have also been offered to those who have decided to do homeschooling, subsequently increasing our engagement and outreach. We have delivered over 45 lessons between April 2020 and March 2021. We also participated in NB Science week, which had over 50 classes participate in our Winter Birds class!



Introduction to Fly Tying

3) **Milfoil** - We partnered with the NB Invasive Species Council, Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, and the Belleisle Watershed Coalition, to find and research the Invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil. We've kayaked lengths of the Hammond River, Kennebecasis River and the Belleisle watershed, doing grid searches to find locations of milfoil. Unfortunately, Darling's Lake has become completely saturated with milfoil. Research is underway to determine the best path forward. In partnership with the New Brunswick Invasive Species Council, HRAA staff installed Clean, Drain, Dry signage in the watershed to notify residents on the importance of cleaning boats, waders and gear to avoid spreading invasive aquatic plants.



4) **DataStream** – We have uploaded 20 years of historical water quality data onto the Atlantic Water Network's DataStream - an online open platform that has standardized water quality datasets and allows for ease of comparison and sharing of historical data. We now have the ability to easily compare datasets from 1998-2020!

5) **Ducks Unlimited Classes** – We successfully completed 11 Ducks Unlimited Classes this past fall. Grade 5 students were bussed in from different schools all throughout Quispamsis, Rothesay and Hampton to learn about the importance of wetlands, ducks, and macroinvertebrates!





# Hammond River Angling Association Spring 2021 Newsletter 2020 PROJECTS – A YEAR IN REVIEW

6) **Culvert Assessment (Sponsored by the Wildlife Trust Fund)** - Throughout the 2020 season, HRAA staff surveyed over 25 culverts in the watershed. This survey included documenting size, shape, type, overall condition of the culverts, and which culverts did not allow fish passage. Based on this assessment, staff have been able to prioritize the top 10 culverts that need remediation, and proposals to address these issues are currently underway.



7) **Riverkeepers (Sponsored by The Environmental Trust Fund)** - HRAA was able to engage 12 classes, as well as 10 homeschool classes, in the Riverkeepers program, reaching over 200 kids in total. The Riverkeepers program uses the Water Rangers test kits to sample water for pH, conductivity, air and water temperature, alkalinity, chlorine, and hardness. The Riverkeepers program provided kids with a better understanding of water science, biodiversity conservation, and most importantly, how to connect with nature. Nature Camp kids also got to participate in the Riverkeepers program, taking multiple samples throughout the summer from the river, and comparing results to samples taken from the pond. The HRAA believes the best way to promote ecological awareness is through proactive education. Environmental education programs are essential to protect and conserve the environment, as they educate students on threats to our ecosystems and foster a sense of responsibility in our youth.

8) **Conserving Future Atlantic Salmon Population through Monitoring and Education (Sponsored by Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation)** - In the fall of 2020, HRAA staff electro-fished a total of 22 locations within the watershed (4 of these locations were in partnership with the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians live gene bank program). In total, 700 individual fish were documented, as well as a total of 14 different types of species. 47 adipose fin clips of Atlantic Salmon were also taken during this time to support the live gene bank program. In November, 17 volunteers and HRAA staff completed a Redd Count Survey- approximately 12.5km of the river and its tributaries were surveyed, and 49 redds were counted.



9) **Restoration** – In partnership with Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, we have successfully planted over 400 willows along a 300m stretch near the Hammondvale Bridge. This area had become eroded and was allowing significant nutrient overloading in the river. The HRAA pledges ongoing monitoring of our restoration efforts, and we will check in on this stretch of river in Hammondvale in order to assess the level of riparian health success. Special thank you to the Estey family for volunteering to plant willows with us!

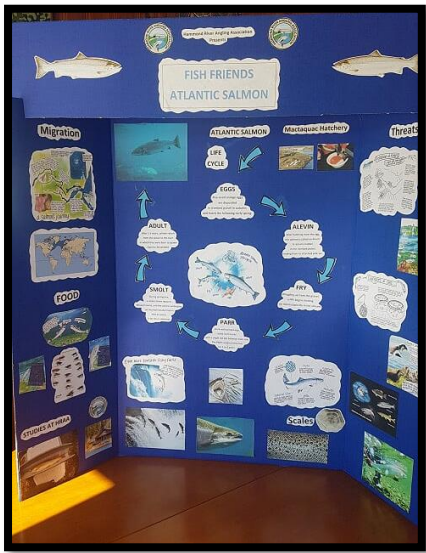




# Hammond River Angling Association Spring 2021 Newsletter 2020 PROJECTS – A YEAR IN REVIEW

10) **Fish Friends** – Last March, we set up 10 tanks and delivered salmon eggs for classes to raise. Normally, these schools would have come to the Conservation Center for Splash Day and release their salmon fry; however, due to Covid-19 restrictions, these school field trips were cancelled. Instead, teachers were invited to bring their salmon fry to the Conservation Center, while Sarah and Josh used an underwater camera to film the release, and these movies were given to the teachers to share with their classes from home!

12) **Hammond River Nature Camp (Sponsored in part by The Wildlife Trust Fund)** - Nature Camp 2020 happened right after we emerged out of lockdown while we were living in an uncertain world and trying to adapt to a new normal. As we opened the doors, we witnessed how children wanted to claim back their childhood: be silly, joyful, unrestricted, curious, and daring. The 2020 Nature Camp program was able to deliver our initial goals while putting a strong focus on supporting campers' emotional wellbeing. In total, we had 258 campers, a 6% increase from 2019. Activities included fishing, swimming, paddle-boarding, critter dipping, building a caterpillar city, learning about the wonderful world of frogs, survival skills, wild water fun, water quality sampling with the Water Rangers kits, fishing line recycling, fly tying, cooking fun, and working in the vegetable garden.



11) **River Clean Up** - We successfully completed a summer river clean up event! With a group of awesome volunteers, we were able to clean up garbage from Silver Hill, Tabor Bridge, Damascus Bridge, the Deep Hole, and the HRAA Boat Launch. In total, we removed 27 bags of garbage from the riverbanks! Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated. If you are interested in volunteering at any of our events, you can let us know by going to our website ([hraa.ca](http://hraa.ca)) under "Community" and clicking on "Volunteer".







# Hammond River Angling Association Spring 2021 Newsletter UPCOMING PROJECTS AND EVENTS

## 2021 PROJECTS

- 1) **Hammond River Nature Camp (Sponsored in part by The Wildlife Trust Fund)** - This year will be our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we are committed to enhance and expand what has been done in past years. The HRNC 2021 project will develop an exciting, fun and interactive new program that follows HRAA's commitment to improve New Brunswick's sustainable social, economic, and environmental development. The program will include new activities that will follow the majority of the 17 Goals from the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the implementation of this program will definitely be worth celebrating for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!
- 2) **Riverkeepers (Sponsored by the Wildlife Trust Fund)** - We will be expanding upon our Riverkeepers 2020 program, to not only include youth to participate in water quality sampling, but to allow adults and newcomers to join! Adults and newcomers will be given the opportunity to sign out the Water Rangers kit from HRAA and sample an area of the Hammond. Riverkeepers 2021 will also begin to explore precipitation monitoring by purchasing and installing 15 rain gauges throughout the watershed.
- 3) **Lake Assessment (Sponsored by The Environmental Trust Fund)** - Staff will be assessing the Biological, Chemical, Physical and Recreational health and viability of 7 different lakes throughout the watershed. This will include identifying any aquatic invasive species, fish community, water quality, shoreline habitat assessments, microcystin analysis (cyanobacteria), and landowner engagement opportunities.
- 4) **Cutting Hedge Technology: Using Shrubs to Sequester Carbon and Restore Palmer Brook (Sponsored by World Wildlife Fund)** - In early June, staff will be planting over 1000 shrubs in the riparian zone along Palmer Brook. This project will also include taking core soil samples to determine carbon sequestration. Given that most shrubs have multiple stems, unlike trees, they can withstand ice shears- even if part of the shrub gets cut off, it can easily regenerate. Shrubs also have the ability to produce flowers, fruits, and nuts, subsequently increasing wildlife capacity. Their many leaves and stems make them efficient at photosynthesis, pulling carbon out of the air, and their roots hook up with the underground biome as contributing patterns, engaging in carbon sequestering in the soil. Shrubs also grow faster and reach maturity and maximum carbon storage at a faster rate than trees. We gratefully acknowledge the support of WWF Canada.
- 5) **Maintaining Water Quality Data while Adapting to Climate Change (Sponsored by The Environmental Trust Fund)** - While maintaining our 12 water quality index sites, we will be expanding to assess the magnitude of the hydrological alteration, associated with climate change, by investigating several tributary confluence points in the main stem river, and assess sediment load transport. Additional water quality samples will be taken monthly at the confluence points of the 12 index sites, as well as 6 additional tributaries in the Caledonia Highlands region of the watershed.



# Hammond River Angling Association Spring 2021 Newsletter SPONSORS

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