

Annual

Androscoggin River Watershed



Conference

Thursday, April 11, 2019

(8:45 to 2:15)

Summit Hotel, Sunday River Ski Resort



Co-sponsored by Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

The focus of this year's conference is on fish and wildlife habitat improvement and conservation. Two sessions will discuss the land base and wildlife habitat from Lake Umbagog to Merrymeeting Bay. Two other sessions will discuss the fisheries in the river and in its tributary streams. An afternoon session will present a number of programs that may be used to conserve or improve land and water conservation and fish and wildlife habitat. The conference should be of interest to anyone who has an interest in the land and water resources in Androscoggin watershed. Outdoor recreation enthusiasts, outfitters, tourism service providers, land trusts, and municipal officials will find sessions of interest.

Sessions include

Fishing on the Androscoggin from a Guides Perspective

Work on Tributaries is Providing Improved Habitat and Protecting Municipal Infrastructure

Wildlife in the Watershed from the Mahoosucs to Merrymeeting Bay

The Importance of the Land Base and How it is Changing

Programs that Assist with Conservation, Habitat Improvement and Infrastructure Improvements

The Berlin Superfund Site and Mercury Contamination

ARWC projects

Fish Passage Projects in Maine and New Hampshire

Androscoggin River Trail Improvements

Annual Source to Sea

Full Agenda, Speakers and Registration at

www.androscogginwatershed.org

8:30 – 8:40 – Welcome and Introduction

8:45 – 10:00 – Concurrent Sessions

Fishing on the Androscoggin from a Guides Perspective: The Androscoggin River has become a noted freshwater fishery. Guides now offer their services over its entire length. This session will offer information on the fishing opportunities along the Androscoggin. Jim Pellerin, the lead fish biologist for the Androscoggin will moderate the session.

Wildlife in the Watershed from the Mahoosucs to Merrymeeting Bay: This session will review the wildlife and habitat in the Androscoggin watershed from the Mahoosucs to Merrymeeting Bay. The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) recently published an updated Ecological Atlas for the Upper Androscoggin River. Alicia Heyburn has been providing guided tours and developing a deep understanding of the ecology of the Merrymeeting Bay and surrounding area.

10:00 – 10:15 - Break

10:15 – 11:30 – Concurrent Sessions

Work on Tributaries is Providing Improved Habitat and Protecting Municipal Infrastructure: ARWC has been working with numerous partners to improve fish and aquatic organism passage, especially on the tributaries. Ashley Newell has been coordinating an extensive inventory of passage in the New Hampshire portion of the watershed. Alex Abbott, a consultant for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will discuss the principles of providing passage, and Jeff Stern, ARWC staff, will review several of ARWC's projects and relate both the aquatic and infrastructure benefits that result from improvements.

The Importance of the Land Base and How it is Changing: Changing land ownership patterns have been impacting the Upper Androscoggin Watershed for several decades. Fragmenting ownership impacts wildlife ecology and forestry, as well as public access to land that was owned by only a few paper and forestry companies not long ago. AMC has been tracking the land ownership changes. In addition, The Nature Conservancy staff will discuss the need for landscape scale conservation, and Lindsey Webb, from New Hampshire Fish and Game will discuss working with private landowners to encourage their stewardship of the land for the benefit of wildlife.

11:40 – Noon – Short Concurrent Sessions:

Discussion of programs and needs related to the morning sessions: We'll provide the opportunity to join a discussion on the mornings topics. Ask more questions or provide your input.

Mercury and other contaminants at the Berlin Superfund Site: The faculty and students from Dartmouth College have been evaluating the mercury issues, including impacts on the Androscoggin River for a number of years and will continue to do so. They will present information on the history and impacts of the former Chlor-Alkali facility that processed chemicals for the paper industry.

Noon – 1:00 – Lunch and ARWC Annual Meeting

1:00 – 2:15 - Programs that Assist with Conservation, Habitat Improvement and Infrastructure – A panel of speakers will provide information on the various programs and funding sources that may be used to assist with land and water conservation and habitat improvement.