



Nictaux River in October 2013. *L. Freeman*



Waterstrider

News from CARP's frontline

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18 new adults found and 18 healthy hatchlings!

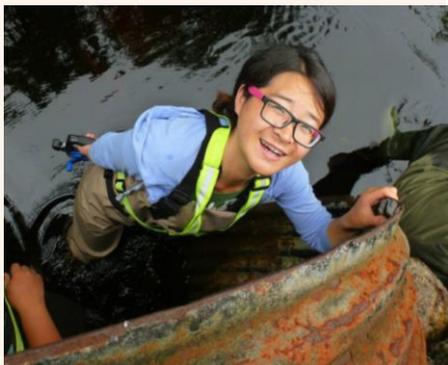


CARP celebrates a successful 2013 field season

It was a very busy and highly successful 2013 field season for us at CARP. We had a number of projects on the go, including: Annapolis River Guardians, Broken Brooks, Wood Turtle Research and Outreach, Striped Bass Research, Rural H2O Guardians and the Environmental Home Assessment Program. On top of that we launched our Agri-Stewardship Project (see page 4 for more). Our Project Leaders have their noses to the grindstone, working to analyze data and compile final reports. You can look forward to our 2013-2014 Annual Report in the new year to learn about project status and results.

An International Perspective Litig Niu- CARP Intern

Litig Niu is an international student attending the Environmental Education program at Florida Atlantic University, USA. She spent one month as an intern with CARP during the Summer of 2013.



My internship was definitely a remarkable experience. During my stay with CARP, I spent a couple of days studying the scientific project reports, organizational structure, funders and strategic planning documents in order to have a deeper understanding of the organization. I also got to conduct field work in order to better understand the ecological field projects. My field work included radio telemetry of the wood turtle, assessing culverts for fish passage using land survey techniques, and taking water

quality samples. The fieldwork was a whole new experience for me. It was my first time tracking wood turtles using radio telemetry, and conducting scientific research on their habitat and learn about how we can protect this endangered species. My advisor Carolyn Hann was so patient and helpful when guiding me. Sometimes it took us the whole day to find one little guy, but nothing can compare to the joy the minute we find them and know they are doing well in nature.

I'd like to thank CARP Team for all of their hospitality and guidance. The Director Monik Richard showed me great support the first time I contacted her to indicate my interest in volunteering. I was assigned to different supervisors during my internship, and rotated among the awesome programs



focusing on wood turtle, clams, water quality assessment, etc.

The experience was far more than the work I did with CARP; it's more about getting to see how people around the world are dedicating themselves to the environment and trying to make a change. For now, what I will do is to learn more, experience more, and become a real environmentalist in the near future. I'm interested in the environmental non-profit, and hopefully I can establish an environmental non-profit organization in China someday.

Meanwhile, I fell in love with the beautiful little town of Annapolis Royal and Nova Scotia, a place full of environmental friendly citizens. Thank you for the wonderful experience and I hope we can work together to build a better, greener world.

Stay Up to Date...



www.annapolisriver.ca



<http://www.facebook.com/CleanAnnapolisRiverProject>



@CARPAnnapolis



Riparian Planting Project

Stu Campana-
Environmental Technician

What are river banks good for?

Dangling one's toes in the water. Maybe a rope swing or two. And, of course, trees for fish.

Fish, as it turns out, need shade. They get it from vegetation in what is known as the riparian zone – the banks and borders of any lake, stream, creek, river or other waterway.

Riparian zones are important for other reasons as well. Trees or shrubs along a streambank hold the soil in place, preventing the kind of erosion that has been endemic to the Annapolis River in recent years.

They also prevent flooding, absorb pollutants and improve water quality on the whole, which is why CARP has begun a riparian planting initiative under the auspices of the Rural H₂O Water Guardians Program.



"Have you been taking care of your riparian zone?" we asked homeowners. "Absolutely!" they replied. "What is a riparian zone?"

Nevertheless, interest and uptake has been strong, and armed with a supply of native species from Springvale Nurseries and Windhorse Farm we have successfully planted more than 250 trees, shrubs and flowers on twenty-six residential properties in the Annapolis watershed.

The key has been to select plants that enjoy wet feet, which is to say they can survive periods of drought and flood as their roots work their way toward the water. In the best case scenario, these planted areas replace grass or bare soil which provide few of the functions that make riparian zones so valuable.

Our work has included at least one tumble into the river, startling the newly-shaded fish. From this we have concluded that although Red Maples may thrive with wet feet, biologists do not.

From now on we'll stick to planting actual plants.

Being a River Guardian

Vicky Parker- Annapolis
River Guardian

Curiosity and a sense of accomplishment are motivations for going out every other Sunday to take water samples from the bridge over the Annapolis River near Kingston. Even though it might be wet, cold, and messy during the collecting, I can hardly wait to go out and do it. Will the ducks or geese be swimming and training their young, will there be any fish visible, will the turtles be out sunning on their log, or will a cormorant have taken over the log so it can dry out? Every sampling day brings something new.



Photo: Vicky Parker

Although collecting the water samples and doing the testing for oxygen content provides valuable information for CARP, it is secondary to the interaction with other people while I'm collecting. "My" bridge is part of a popular route for walkers...



... (ctd from page 2) of all ages - young, old, families with strollers, bicyclists, and even motorized wheelchair riders. Since my equipment takes up a bit of room on the sidewalk, conversation generally ensues about what is happening. A common misconception is that I'm fishing with rather strange equipment. Everyone is interested once an explanation is given about the testing and how they can monitor the results on the CARP sign. They enjoy comparing notes about the wildlife each of us have observed, but mostly they appreciate the fact that the river is monitored for pollution. (No one likes polluters, eh?)

Being a River Guardian is a unique volunteer experience and one that has proved worthwhile and rewarding. It is challenging enough to be stimulating - always good for mental health - and provides opportunities for socializing, another "must have" for a healthy lifestyle.

CARP Launches Agri-Stewardship Project

Katie McLean-
Communications and
Outreach Coordinator

This past September marked the beginning of CARP's Annapolis Watershed Agri-Stewardship project, which aims to address issues with agricultural run-off using an approach that focuses on improving the ecological health of surrounding riparian areas.

Project Leader Angela Hughes is currently in the processes of recruiting farmers and agricultural landowners to participate in this project. Participating farms will undergo an assessment, to identify the positive contributions the agricultural landscape is making to biodiversity, and opportunities for improvement. Opportunities will vary based on individual practices, but examples include installing livestock fencing, riparian re-vegetation, covered manure storage, or alternate watering systems. Farmers and project staff will then work collaboratively to develop a stewardship agreement, based on opportunities that are of mutual interest.

One of the main goals of the project is to convey to land owners the importance of healthy, well vegetated riparian areas, which can provide benefits such as:

- Improved water quality through filtration
- Decreased severity of flooding and high water events
- Bank stabilization and erosion control
- Improved water quality for livestock watering or irrigation
- Energy conservation for nearby farm buildings

Shell Fuelling Change

The Agri-Stewardship project is currently a contender for twenty-five thousand dollars of funding as part of the Shell Fuelling Change Program. If CARP is to

secure these funds, community support is imperative.

By registering at <http://fuellingchange.com/main/index> you can earn 'votes', to be allocated to a project of your choice. You can then earn additional votes by making purchases at Shell, and redeeming them online with the code on the bottom of the receipt.

This is a quick and easy way for our community to support this project, without ever having to leave their homes.

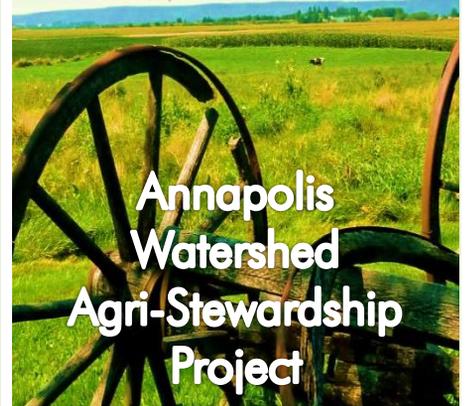
Are you an interested land-owner or farmer?

Those interested in participating in this project, or who want to learn more first, are encouraged to contact Project Leader Angela Hughes:

angelahughes@annapolisriver.ca,
or (902)-532-7533

Support positive change in your community.

VOTE



<http://fuellingchange.com/>



2013 Volunteers

We want to send out a special thanks to this years volunteers!

- Claire Diggins
- Orris Orlando
- Dr. Tami Parks
- Bob Rowe
- Tim d'Entremont
- Matthew Dill
- Mark Hebert
- Melanie Hobbs
- Dr. Donna Hurlburt
- Joel Stoddart
- Earl Acker
- Peter Dalton
- Greg Turner
- Wendy Courtice
- Daren Parks
- Frank Thomas
- Vicky Parker
- Marissa Murphy

- Rose Hogeterp and sons Reuben, Matthew and Isaiah
- Angela Nichols
- Liting Niu
- Steve Murphy
- Michael Tobin
- Lucas Roch
- Michael Ryan
- Andy Sharpe
- John Bottomley
- Emily Rideout
- Jillian Olsen
- Jocelyn Calvert
- Rick Shanahan



Second Season of Wood Turtle Monitoring a Huge Success

Carloyn Hann- CARP Biologist

The Wood Turtle Monitoring and Stewardship Project completed its second field season this year with great success. Throughout the months of April and May field surveys were conducted with the help from many dedicated volunteers... (ctd pg 8)



"Stumps", one of our turtles monitored this season

Have you seen



a wood turtle?

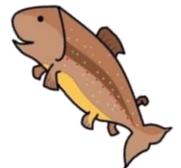
How to help!

- * Do not collect or disturb the turtle
- *Take a picture
- *Write down the location
- *Take GPS coordinates (if possible)
- *Report all sightings

Report a sighting:

Toll free: 1-866-727-3447
E-mail: sightings@speciesatrisk.ca
Online: <http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings/>

Attention Anglers!



Have you fished the Nictaux River?
If so, we want to hear from you.

You can contribute your knowledge by completing our online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LDB2X3B>

Did you know the CARP office doubles as a Striped Bass Stewardship Center?

Anglers can help monitor and conserve Striped Bass populations by providing catch data to researchers. As a stewardship center, we act as a community liaison. You can drop by our office to pick up a log book and/or scale envelopes if you are interested in sharing your catch data.



Highlights from the field



Check out Fish Habitat Technician, Lindsey Freeman, conducting CABIN* sampling on the Nictaux.

*Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network



... and a total of 14 turtles were found with another 4 turtles found during nesting surveys. Nine of the 18 turtles had not been identified in our past season and turtles were found across three different rivers in the watershed. This year we were able to radio track 5 turtles (3 females and 2 males). These turtles taught us a lot about movements, habitat uses and types.

We tracked the 3 tagged females daily throughout the month of June in conjunction with nesting surveys and discovered three new nesting areas and protected three wood turtle nests with nest boxes to help prevent predation. Two out of 3 of our nests emerged successfully resulting in 18 healthy hatchlings being released this season.

We have continued our wood turtle outreach program across the watershed to create awareness and provide education about the wood turtle and have been working on a stewardship program in order to work with landowners who live in areas of wood turtle habitat.



Wood turtle hatchling, Sept. 15 2013

Do you find wood turtles as irresistible as we do? Contact us if you are interested in becoming involved as a field volunteer during our 2014 season!

2013 Funders

- Acadia University
- Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Environment Canada:
 - Atlantic Ecosystem Initiatives
 - EcoAction
- Echo
- Gulf of Maine Council of the Marine Environment
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- Irving Oil
- NSLC Adopt-a-Stream
- Province of Nova Scotia:
 - NS Economic Rural Development & Tourism
 - NS Environment
 - NS Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal
- Sage Environmental Program
- Shell Fuelling Change
- TD Friends of the Environment
- RBC Blue Water Leadership
- CURA H2O

Membership and Donations

Membership

Please enclose a cheque for the annual membership selected

- Individual (\$7.00) Student (\$5.00)
 Family (\$10.00)
 Life Time Member (\$100.00)
 Organization/Institution (\$25.00)

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ Province: _____
 Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

- I would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the Waterstrider Newsletter
 I am interested in learning about volunteer opportunities with CARP

Donations

Please find a cheque enclosed for \$ _____

I would like a receipt

To donate online visit:
<http://www.annapolisriver.ca/givingoptions.php>

Mail to:
 Clean Annapolis River project
 PO Box 395
 Annapolis Royal, NS, B0S 1J0