



## Lewis Creek Association 2019 Program Highlights

Lewis Creek Association was busy with several new exciting projects in 2019. Many reliable and talented volunteers, as well as town and state staff, helped LCA grow its community service programs, especially the water quality education and improvement program “Ahead of the Storm.” Our area of work includes the middle Lake Champlain Valley including the Lewis Creek, LaPlatte, Thorp/Kimball/Holmes, and McCabe’s watersheds. We are concerned with the health of Lake Champlain and its feeder streams, which send the bulk (~80%) of phosphorus pollution to the lake when streams are experiencing their more frequent high flow events. LCA’s “Ahead of the Storm” program helps towns and landowners design more resilient stormwater fixes that consider the impacts from our climate crisis.

This year, your contributions were critical in helping to secure funds from towns, private donors, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and various state funding sources (eight new grants this year). With this support, we have been able to afford the projects highlighted below. Our partner network continues to grow, and includes town, state and regional groups. To visit a board meeting or assist with special projects and board activities, please contact us. Visit our growing library at [lewiscreek.org](http://lewiscreek.org), and learn about daily activities on Facebook.

### **Program Highlights** (\$100,000 annual budget)

#### Restoration and Conservation

- Worked with Shelburne Community School and local volunteers to build a rain garden on campus
- Began construction to restore the floodplain near the Hinesburg town garage, to be completed 2020
- Identified top three locations for climate change refugia enhancement for cold water species such as Brook Trout in Lewis Creek, led public education event (Charlotte/Hinesburg/Starksboro)
- Worked with Champlain Valley School District and Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to plan for two water quality improvement projects (at SCS and CVU), to be implemented 2020
- Thorp / Kimball invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 11 (Charlotte)
- LaPlatte Natural Area invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 8 (Shelburne)
- Began invasive Yellow Iris control study on lower Lewis Creek (Charlotte/N. Ferrisburgh)
- Began invasive Flowering Rush control study (Charlotte)
- Worked with Charlotte Invasives Collaborative to manage Charlotte’s invasive plants
- Helped conserve 2 miles of Lewis Creek and tributaries including 70 acres of uplands (Charlotte)
- Began investigating a Lewis Creek conservation project in Starksboro

#### Planning and Data Collection

- Completed water quality sampling plans for LaPlatte River, Patrick Brook, McCabe’s Brook, Thorp Brook, and Kimball Brook
- Provided support for completing Addison County River Watch sampling plans for 6 watersheds
- Initiated stream reclassification activities for Lewis Creek in cooperation with VT DEC

#### Education and Outreach

- Trained teachers and community members on stormwater, AOTS sites, and how to educate; organized school visits to educate students and help further train community members
- Held screenings of two films related to cyanobacteria and neurodegenerative diseases
- Held a vernal pool field trip (Hinesburg)
- Co-sponsored a “Septic Social” (Hinesburg)
- Co-sponsored a “Water Matters” event with Responsible Growth Hinesburg, preventing water quality impairment in Hinesburg village (Hinesburg)
- Participated in Basin Plan updates, Shelburne Stormwater Advisory Committee and VT Clean Water Network meetings
- Shared water quality condition reports with towns, VT DEC, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and others

#### *LCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF*

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