



## Lewis Creek Association 2021 Program Highlights

Lewis Creek Association was busy with new projects this past year. Many reliable and talented volunteers and town and state staff helped to grow our community service programs, especially nature conservation activities and our water quality education and improvement program “Ahead of the Storm” (AOTS). Our area of work is the middle Lake Champlain Valley including the Lewis Creek, LaPlatte River, Patrick Brook, Thorp/Kimball/Holmes Brooks, and McCabe’s Brook watersheds. We focus on the health of Lake Champlain and its basin 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 and habitat enhancements that consider the emerging impacts from our climate crisis.

This year, your contributions were critical in helping to secure funds from towns and others including seven 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 do contact us. Visit our growing library at [lewis-creek.org](http://lewis-creek.org), and learn about our daily activities on Facebook.

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

#### Restoration and Conservation

- AOTS. Completed final documentation of new AOTS sites at CVSD campuses (CVU and Shelburne)
- Coordinated a boat launch steward program at Bristol Pond & Monkton Pond
- Thorp / Kimball invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 13 (Charlotte)
- LaPlatte Natural Area invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 10 (Shelburne)
- Completed invasive Yellow Iris control study on lower Lewis Creek (Charlotte/N. Ferrisburgh)
- Second year of non-native invasive Flowering Rush control study (Charlotte)
- Continued designing restoration work for an upstream area of Hollow Brook (Starksboro)
- Studied a potential stormwater treatment site in Hinesburg
- AOTS. Final design work for a LaPlatte water quality improvement/stormwater treatment project that includes wetland restoration (Hinesburg)
- AOTS. Worked to establish Charlotte Library as an AOTS demonstration site
- Continued development efforts for a Lewis Creek corridor conservation project plan in Starksboro
- Developed a planting plan for 3.4 acres of planting along Lewis Creek (Ferrisburgh)

#### Planning and Data Collection

- Developed water quality sampling plan in cooperation with VT DEC and ACRWC, and monitored 15 sites 10 times over the spring and summer with the help of 23 volunteers (Hinesburg, Shelburne, Charlotte, Ferrisburgh)
- Worked with an intern to list and prioritize potential projects for the Lewis Creek watershed for input into DEC’s Watershed Projects Database
- Began grant to prioritize McCabe’s Brook water quality improvement projects (Shelburne & Charlotte)
- Finalized online interactive water quality scorecard map (with multiple layers) & presented via Zoom
- Developed partnership plan for water quality-related outreach with state, federal, and local town and non-profit partners

#### Education and Outreach

- Presented two Zoom webinars on water quality (Bristol, Monkton)
- Held Zoom webinars on forest carbon storage & sequestration
- Began education-outreach grant that will help landowners determine how to improve stormwater management on their property, and explain why it is important
- Participated in water quality planning meetings including State Tactical Basin Plan and Clean Water Network update meetings, CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee meetings, Watersheds United Vermont meetings

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

*Louis duPont & Chris Runcie - Starksboro; Krista Hoffsis - Ferrisburgh; Peter Erb & Andrea Morgante - Hinesburg; Myra Handy - Charlotte; Glynda McKinnon - Vergennes; Stevie Spencer - Administration; Kate Kelly - Program Manager*