Baker River Appreciation Day July 20th 2013

The spirit of teamwork came out in force on Saturday, July 20 when nearly forty volunteers of all ages from New Hampshire and Massachusetts took to the Baker River for Baker River Appreciation Day.

Enthusiasm abounded on the river as volunteers peered the clear waterway for debris and artifacts that history and storms have deposited into the mica-infused riverbed. Similar to archaeologists, volunteers dove beneath the surface on a mission to extract items, while others scouted the sandy riverbanks. Their cleanup territory spanned the stretch from Main Street Bridge in Rumney to their takeout at the Baker River Campground where volunteers happily shared their river finds. Volunteers were rewarded for their efforts by the Baker River’s refreshing qualities and the surrounding beauty of the Baker River Valley.

Volunteers who opted to serve on land were scattered across public areas of Rumney from the Rest Area along Route 25 to the Jim Darling Natural Area and the ever-popular beach at the Main Street Bridge. Equipped with gloves, hat protection and immense pride in their watershed, persistence was hard at work as this team focused their attention against heavy vegetation under full morning sunshine that heated as the clock ticked on.

Collectively, the cleanup volunteers delivered trash that included numerous and sizeable tires, all of which ultimately found a rightful home at the Rumney Transfer Station.

The successful event entailed extensive planning, including volunteers dedicated to shuttle service and debris transport, as well as the cooperation from riverfront property owners. The Baker River Watershed Association is grateful to the Paly family, RiverBrook RV Resort and the Baker River Campground, all of Rumney, for providing access to and from the river. The Association also recognizes Dunkin’ Donuts and Hannaford Market of Plymouth for their generous donations of food and water for our volunteers. The success of Baker River Appreciation Day 2013 would not have been possible without the volunteers who brought their love of the watershed to the forefront of their weekend and we are sincerely grateful to them for their dedication.

Coordinated by the Baker River Watershed Association Chair, David Saad of Rumney, this year’s event was in collaboration with the Baker River Arts and Music Festival, D’Acres of Dorchester and American Rivers, an organization working to protect the nation’s rivers and streams.

While this event was not the first of its kind, it is essential in the ongoing responsibility of maintaining the beauty and water quality of the Baker River for future generations and in preserving a healthy habitat for vegetation, fish and wildlife which thrive in the watershed. We encourage you to join us in preserving the Baker River Watershed by becoming an active member of the Baker River Watershed Association. Annual memberships start at $10. Membership forms are available on our website at bakerriverwatershed.org. Please join today. If you would like to participate in the next Baker River Appreciation Day event please email chair@bakerriverwatershed.org. You can also find us on Facebook.com/BakerRiverNH.
Summary:

The Baker River Cleanup was a great success!

41 volunteers from Massachusetts and New Hampshire took part in the cleanup event.

The following trash was removed during the cleanup:

- 28 tires
- 24 bags of trash
- miscellaneous lumber/plywood pieces
- 60 feet plastic hose
- 3 metal posts
- 20 feet metal pipe
- 8 ft section of aluminum ladder
- car parts including 1/2 transmission case
- several air mattresses/vinyl rafts
- metal canopy tent

For further information contact:

David Saad, Chairperson  
Baker River Watershed Association  
www.bakerriverwatershed.org  
facebook.com/BakerRiverNH  
email: chair@bakerriverwatershed.org