

Conservation Matters

A monthly column focused on conservation education, as the result of collaboration among several area conservation commissions and organizations. If your town's commission or conservation organization would like to contribute articles, please contact Jessica Tabolt Halm jess_tabolt@hotmail.com

Title: Connecting Kids with Nature at Quincy Bog

Written by: Peggy Grass, Rumney Rangers Afterschool Program at the Russell Elementary School, Rumney, NH

Rumney has a very special spot where naturalists and everyday people can go and observe the wonders of nature, rest on a bench next to a shady spot in the trail and take photographs of birds, trees and clouds reflected in the pond. Not everyone in Rumney has heard of the Quincy Bog, let alone visited it. Have you?

Well, the students from Russell Elementary School (RES) have been given a wonderful opportunity to explore the Bog in all seasons. The 1st and 2nd grade participants in RES Rumney Rangers Afterschool Program have explored the Bog in two different seasons. In the fall, we were able to join Eric, a naturalist from the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center to explore forest animal habitats. This was an extension of the Animal Habitat enrichment program we were offering as part of the afterschool program.

In February, we studied animal adaptations with Audrey Eisenhauer, Education Director at Squam Lakes Natural Science Center as we snowshoed through the Bog. The students found different ways animals prepare for and survive the winter. Visiting this local resource provided other benefits as well. It gave the students an opportunity to discover a place where they could visit with their families and it supported our afterschool enrichment program.

Rumney Rangers Afterschool Program is provided in part through a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the NH Department of Education. RES picks up the balance of the costs. One of the goals of this grant is to enhance students' science inquiry skills. What better way to excite a student's interest in nature and to fill their mind with questions that help them gather or collect information than to immerse them in a wonderful setting. The Quincy Bog

Natural Area is a great place for kids to 'get their hands dirty' and build a new appreciation for natural resources close to home.

