

# ***The Penobscot River Watershed Education Program:***

*Celebrating and Strengthening Community Connections to the River that Sustains Us*

**Topic 1: Basic Watershed Hydrology/Ecology**  
*(September)*

**Topic 2: Sea-Run Fish Ecology**  
*(October)*

**Topic 3: Industrial Uses of the Penobscot River/River Resource Management**  
*(October)*

**Topic 4: Oral History**  
*(October/November)*

**Topic 5: River Restoration, Focusing on the Penobscot River Restoration Project**  
*(November/December)*



## **Program Description:**

During the 2007-2008 school year, faculty and fifth-grade students at Old Town Elementary School (OTES) are piloting a new, multidisciplinary education program. The Penobscot River Watershed Education Program received funding through the U.S. Geological Survey/University of Maine Water Resources Research Institute Grants Program and is being developed in partnership with the Maine Sea Grant Program, the University of Maine Senator George J. Mitchell Center, and the Penobscot River Restoration Trust. The program engages students in watershed and river restoration science, sea-run fish ecology, and cultural studies through five classroom and field-based curriculum units, and two community projects. The curriculum units started in September, focusing on: watershed hydrology/ecology; sea-run fish ecology; industrial uses of the river; cultural history/human ecology in the watershed; and current river restoration efforts. The community projects include conducting oral history interviews with Penobscot River watershed community members, and creating a series of educational posters for two permanent public information kiosks along the river. Through the program, the students met with watershed managers and fisheries biologists, local industry professionals, and river restoration and cultural history professionals working throughout the Penobscot River watershed. They also interviewed family and community members, explored historical documents and photographs in local museums, and conducted research on the cultural, social, economic, and ecological importance of the Penobscot River. The students are currently compiling information from their oral history interviews, field trips, guest lectures and classroom lessons to create three large educational posters. In the spring of 2008, they will help build two public information kiosks for their posters at waterfront sites in Old Town. When the kiosks are complete, the students will have a chance to show off their hard work to the community in an opening presentation.

## **Program Staff:**

Beth Owen Bisson, Education Coordinator,  
Maine Sea Grant Program  
Ruth Hallsworth, Outreach Manager,  
Senator George J. Mitchell Center  
Cheryl Daigle, Community Outreach Coordinator,  
Penobscot River Restoration Trust  
Hannah Webber, Graduate Student,  
University of Maine

**Old Town Elementary School Faculty and Staff:**  
Sandy Daniel, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher  
Kristy St. Peter, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher  
Cathy Lucas, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher  
Lynn Mayer, Librarian  
Jeanna Tuell, Principal

Photos from the project:

- 1) Old Town Elementary fifth graders conducting aquatic invertebrate surveys at Pushaw Lake.



- 2) Old Town Elementary fifth graders exploring the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery.



- 3) Old Town Elementary fifth graders on a field trip to see the Veazie Dam, where they listened to presentations on hydropower production, the history of Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish on the river, and efforts to restore sea-run fish to the river while balancing energy production.



- 4) Old Town Elementary fifth graders listening to a presentation by Penobscot Salmon Club members.



# Penobscot River Watershed Education Program Schedule

## ~ Fall 2007 Schedule – Guest Speakers and Fieldtrips ~

### September:

Monday, Sept. 17	<b>Parent Meeting: 6 – 7 pm, at OTES</b>
Tuesday, Sept. 18	<b>Fieldtrip: 8:15 am – 1:45 pm, Trip to Pushaw Lake, at Gould Landing in Orono</b> <i>Boat trip with the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute, aquatic insect sampling, and GPS activities.</i>

### October:

Tuesday, Oct. 2	<b>Classroom Guests: 8:30 – 11:30am, NOAA Fisheries</b> <i>Fisheries Biologists from the NOAA Fisheries Field Station in Orono will lead a fish dissection activity</i>
Tuesday, Oct. 9	<b>Fieldtrip: 8:15am – 1:30pm, Trip to the Orland Fish Hatchery</b> <i>Presentation and tour of the hatchery.</i>
Wednesday Oct. 17	<b>Fieldtrip: 8:15am – 1:30pm, Industry and Fisheries Tour</b> <i>Stops to meet local industry/ river resource professionals and fishermen at the Veazie Dam, the Penobscot Salmon Club, and the Great Works Dam.</i>
Tuesday Oct. 23	<b>Classroom Guests: Oral History Interviews, 9:00-10:00am</b> <i>Students will conduct recorded interviews with an employee of the pulp mill and a river guide</i>
Tuesday October 30	<b>Classroom Guests: Oral History Interviews, 9:00-10:00am</b> <i>Students will conduct recorded interviews with a member of the Penobscot Indian Nation and a resident of Eddington</i>

### November:

Tuesday, November 6	<b>Classroom Guests: Oral History Interview, 9:00-10:00am</b> <i>Students will conduct recorded interview with a member of the Penobscot Indian Nation and avid paddler/businessman</i>
Thursday, November 8	<b>Fieldtrip: Visit to Local Historical/Cultural Museums, 8:30am to 12:45pm</b> <i>(Trip to Old Town and the Penobscot Nation museums)</i>
Tuesday, November 13	<b>Classroom Guests: Oral History Interview, 9:00-10:00am</b> <i>Students will conduct recorded interview with longtime resident and local librarian</i>
Thursday, November 15	<b>Fieldtrip: Visit to the Penobscot Marine Museum, 8:00am – 1:45pm</b> <i>Students will look at historical photos, do a fish printing activity, and learn about the history of sea-run fisheries and fishing communities on the Penobscot River and Bay</i>
Monday, November 19	<b>Classroom Guests: Oral History Interview, 9:00-10:00am</b> <i>Students will conduct recorded interview with longtime resident and grand-daughter of river driver</i>
Thursday, November 29	<b>Classroom Guests: Penobscot River Restoration Project</b> <i>Presentations by Penobscot River Restoration Trust (PRRT) staff and other PRRT member organizations that are part of the PRRT</i>

**December:**

<b>Thursday, December 6</b>	<b>Classroom Guests: Penobscot Indian Nation Department of Natural Resources, Water Quality Program</b> <i>Presentation and class room activity led by water quality scientist, Angie Reed, with possible additional guests: Dan Kusnierz (water quality program director, and Lee Francis (Indian Island School's native studies teacher)</i>
<b>Thursday, December 13</b>	<b>Classroom Guest: Edwards Dam Removal Presentation and Fly-Tying Activity</b> <i>Presentation from Trout Unlimited volunteers on the Edwards Dam removal project, and a fly-tying activity for the students</i>
<b>Weeks of December 10-21</b>	<b>Student Poster Project: Classroom work time and family photo research</b> <i>Students will be asking to see old family and community photos as they work on their ideas for the large public educational posters that will be displayed in a permanent waterfront kiosk</i>

*~ Spring Schedule ~*

**Dates and Scheduling TBA:**

Students will participate in kiosk poster production, oral history interview transcription, public presentations to the community, and kiosk construction and opening celebration.