

## Water Flow Control Device Installed at Joshua Pond Fishway

This November, a water flow control device (WFCD) was installed at the Joshua Pond Fishway located on Lower Pond (a.k.a. Joshua Pond) at the intersection of Joshuatown and Brockway Ferry Roads. The fishway, pond and dam are owned and monitored by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust (LLCT). Debris created by the ever-present beavers has been an ongoing problem as the resulting ladder blockages impede fish passage, and spillway blockages cause water to overtop and erode the earthen dam. Despite daily monitoring to remove debris, fish passage during the migrating season (April – May) is hindered and the dam is exposed to further damage.

Laurie Hoyt, Lead Steward for the fishway began researching the problem early this year by contacting Connecticut DEP Eastern District Headquarters. She was referred to Skip Hilliker, a Beaver Consultant with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), who helped design a system that, while allowing beaver to continue their normal activity would permit fish passage and protect the dam by maintaining the desired pond water level. According to the HSUS, the technology works by circumventing the beavers' natural instinct to plug holes where they hear and feel the flow of water.

Following several meetings with Skip Hilliker, the LLCT accepted a proposal from the HSUS to install the device. Shortly after, project funding was approved by the LLCT and in October, a permit was secured from Lyme's Inland Wetlands Commission.

Connecticut DEP Fisheries views the WFCD as an opportunity to help targeted fishes, such as alewife, better utilize the Joshua Pond Fishway. If successful, the application may be employed at other fishways experiencing similar problems.

The WFCD will require daily maintenance during the migrating season and weekly maintenance during the non-migratory season. If you desire additional information regarding the device, please contact Sean Guinan (HSUS) at 203-389-4411. In addition, if you would like to assist with maintenance, please contact Laurie Hoyt, Lead Fishway Steward at 860-526-5798. Our hope is that this device will enhance fish passage and protect the earthen dam from more damage in the future.