



Pictures Courtesy of Nanci Brandt

RPEA Board Member List

President	Matthew Brettler (2012)	mattlynn@fairpoint.net
Vice President	Kim Brandt (2012)	kbrandt@msad51.org
Treasurer	Carmen Evrard (2012)	slecjne@roadrunner.com
Secretary	Ann Gagne (2012)	rangepond@gmail.com

Directors

Cyndi Robbins (2011)	crobbins@pivot.net	Mo Clegg (2013)	bsci13@adelphia.net
Marilyn Closson (2012)	mclosson@adelphia.net	Sandy Moreau (2013)	loons163@hotmail.com
John Crouch (2012)	jedgec@aol.com		

RPEA Mission Statement

The Range Ponds Environmental Association is dedicated to protecting the water quality of Lower, Middle and Upper Range Ponds by consistent water quality monitoring and by providing education and technical assistance to residents and municipal officials.

RPEA
P.O. Box 451
Poland Spring, ME 04274

RPEA President's Message

Dear Range Pond Watershed Residents,

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter! We hope you find it educational and enjoyable. Your RPEA board members have been busy getting the 2011 season off the ground and we have been finishing some projects and continuing to work on some others. A summary of current projects is listed below.

For the first time ever, we have RPEA T-shirts for sale!! You can purchase these at our annual meeting and also on our new website "RangePonds.org" in the next few months. These heavy cotton shirts are white with navy blue logo and are priced at \$10.00 each. The monies raised will go towards our ever increasing monitoring costs.

Our former website was created and designed by local resident Wayne Andrews and we are grateful to him for initiating it and keeping it updated for us. We hope Wayne will continue to provide us with guidance and suggestions for the new site. We have decided to move onto a new website that we have named "RangePonds.org". This site is operational now and we are revamping and updating it with more current information so you will notice changes to it as time moves on. If anyone has any interesting lake stories or photographs they would like to share and place on the website please email them through the link on the website.

One more item to note: Thanks to the efforts of RPEA member and former President Bob Limoges, the milfoil infestation that has plagued Middle Range Pond by the channel area has been free of these invasive plants for two years now. Maine DEP will be surveying this area in early summer. The markers that delineate the area will not be placed back unless there is evidence of milfoil. It is still a good idea to avoid this area if possible.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on Sunday, July 17th at 9AM at Cyndi's Dockside Restaurant, Route 26 in Poland. Cyndi has been very generous in hosting our annual and board meetings at her restaurant and has been an enthusiastic and involved board member for RPEA the past few years. This meeting is usually well attended. We will be voting on one open director's position this year.

See you at the meeting!

Matthew Brettler, RPEA President

Our new T-shirts – a variety of sizes, heavy duty cotton, white with navy blue logo.
Priced right at \$10.00 – Get the word out – they will go fast!



What is the RPEA and why is it important to YOU?

The Range Ponds Environmental Association is YOU and all of us who live within the twelve and one half square miles that make up the Range Ponds Watershed. The RPEA was originally formed by concerned neighbors who were committed to protecting the water quality of all three ponds. Today the RPEA is made up of four Board members and six Directors who are dedicated to fulfilling this mission. Our day-to-day actions can inadvertently add to lake pollution. Lawn care, washing our vehicles, growing crops and clearing the land can all negatively impact the ponds. The good news is that our water quality, when checked last year, was still very good. Please become part of the RPEA and help us all protect the ponds we love so much. The vast majority of your annual dues and any donations go to the cost of testing the ponds' water quality. If we discover a negative trend, we can ask the state for help, so it is imperative that we continue to test the waters! Thank you to everyone who is currently supporting the RPEA and, if you are not currently a member, please join today!

RPEA Annual Meeting
Sunday, July 17, 2011
9:00 A.M.
@ Cyndi's Dockside Restaurant

The Presence of Loons

Kim Brandt

Ice-out is always soon followed by the arrival of the first male loons. Their cries in April are a promise that summer is coming. I can remember cool summer evenings in the 1970's, sitting on the water's edge after dark with my grandmother, listening for the "laughter of the crazy woman" as she used to call the loons' cries. Even this spring, so many decades later, when I first heard our returning loons, I thought of her and our shared time on the lake with great fondness. Now as an adult, I am so appreciative of the people who have protected the water quality of our ponds over time. I am thankful to live near a body of water that is still clean, despite the negative trend of so many lakes. My hope is that several generations from now our children's children will still be able to enjoy the simple pleasure of sitting at the water's edge with their loved ones, listening to the loons. It is up to us, our responsibility, to protect these ponds, maintaining the good water quality that will ensure the return of the loons each year.

On the third Saturday of July 2010, volunteer observers for Maine Audubon spotted six adult loons and three chicks within a half hour period on Upper Range Pond. Loons were also observed on Middle Range during this same half hour period (www.maineaudubon.org). This is very good news for us, as loons require clear water to fish and nesting loons indicate good water quality, which is vital to us all. The presence of the loons means that our ponds are still healthy. For now.

I hope you are enjoying this lovely summer and that you will join or renew your membership with the RPEA this year. Working together will give us our best chance of keeping our ponds healthy and allowing future generations to enjoy the beautiful quality of life that we have today.

Annual Dues: \$35.00

Your annual dues support the continuation of RPEA's efforts to protect the water quality of our Range Ponds.

Please join or renew your membership today!

Tell a friend!

Tell a neighbor!

Treasurer's Report

2010-2011

As submitted by Carmen Evrard

Beginning Balance: May 26, 2010.....\$5,903.74

Income:

Membership dues 2010 (56).....	\$3,491.00
Coffee and Raffle Intake @ Annual Meeting on 7/18/2010.....	53.00
Town of Poland 7/19/2010.....	250.00
Town of Poland 11/1/2010.....	250.00
Bank Interest.....	<u>8.69</u>
Total Income.....	\$4,052.69

Expenses:

Lake & Watershed Resource Mgmt. Assoc. (water quality testing).....	\$1,900.00
Newsletter expenses.....	276.65
Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, (guest speaker).....	100.00
T-shirt expenses	339.87
Crockett, Philbrook & Crouch, P.A.....	35.00
PO Box rental.....	<u>44.00</u>
Total Expenses.....	\$2,695.52

Balance on May 16, 2011.....\$7,260.91

RPEA Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 17, 2011

9:00 A.M.

Cyndi's Dockside Restaurant

Middle Range Pond

Jason C. Libby
Executive Director
Poland Spring Preservation Society and Park

Owning shore front property is such a wonderful asset and being able to reside year round is even better. The recreational opportunities and visual aesthetics make it such a unique living situation even in a state with over 3,000 bodies of water. With this great privilege comes a myriad of responsibilities to steward the land and water and ensure its value to your investment and the community-at-large.

The RPEA allocates a substantial amount of money from its operating budget to test the water quality of the ponds which helps to track the health of the water bodies. Each landowner has an impact on the water through the use of garden or lawn fertilizers, planting of shoreline buffers, using driveway de-icers, and more. One of the important "to do" items is to maintain a healthy septic system by remembering to have your septic properly maintained.

Septic systems in disrepair are likely to negatively affect water quality due to the higher amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen that may be released. The rise in phosphorus levels leads to an increase in algae growth and makes way for a reduction in dissolved oxygen levels which affects fish and other aquatic life. If you live year-round on the ponds, remember to inspect your tank, pump every 2-3 years and even try to use non-toxic cleaners in your toilets and sinks. Also planting tree or shrub buffers downhill from your septic tank and in general your house lot will help to filter excess water and assist in preventing shore erosion.

You have a beautiful area that you live and recreate in and the RPEA strives to assist you in keeping it that way. Have a great Summer!

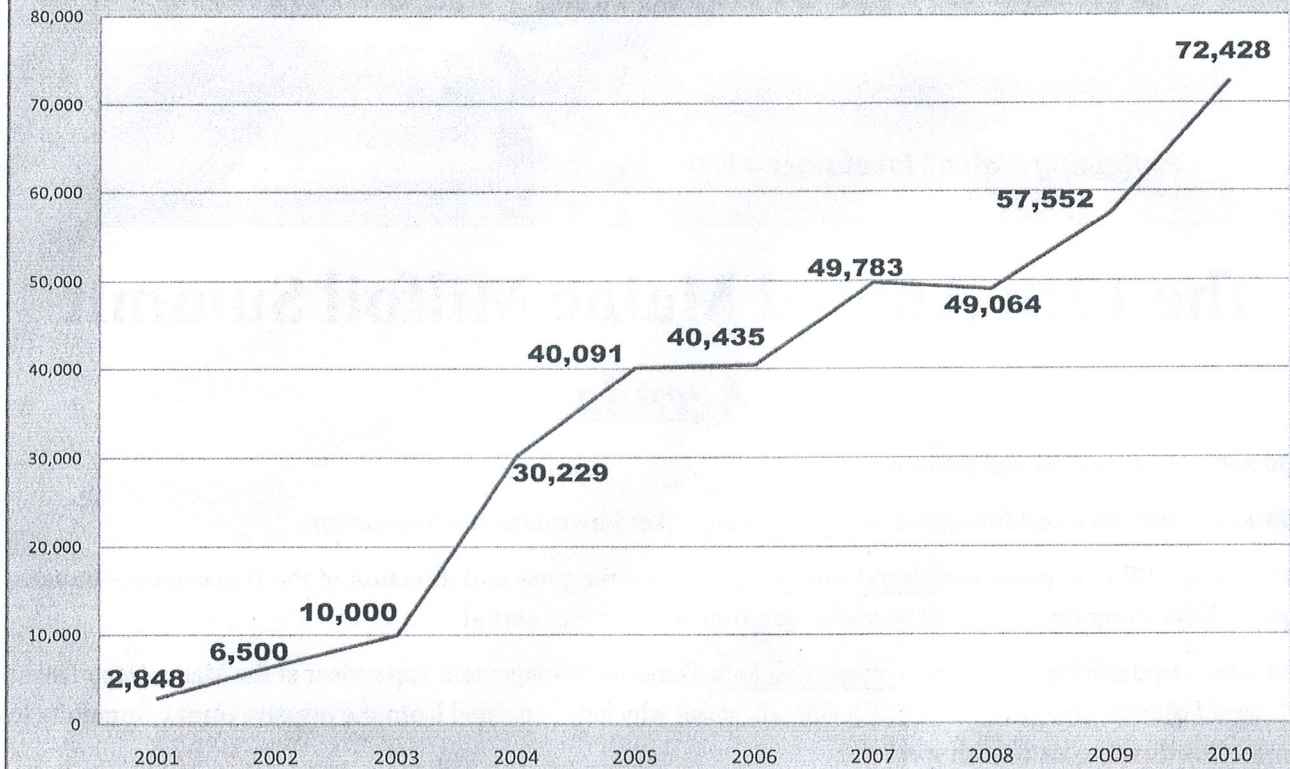
The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has several great resources including Septic Systems: How They Work and How to Keep Them Working which can be found at:
http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docgw/septic_systems.pdf

August 24, 2010, Jeanne Wright and Ann Gagne from Upper Range Pond, attended the Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) Workshop sponsored by the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) in Waterford. This was a six hour course, though shorter ones are offered at certain times, and covered an immense amount of material. Participants come away with a very good working knowledge of how to identify invasive plants. Identifying these plants is broken down into various steps including leaf arrangement, leaf type and leaf pattern. We walked away with informational material to identify invasive aquatic plants. At the seminar, we participated in a hands on session in identifying invasive plants against our native plants – some were easy, some not so easy. The water chestnut, with its four sharp points on its fruit, was one of the more frightening plants that we would not want to see on our shores. RPEA is looking into having an IPP workshop in conjunction with the other area lakes in the future. Unfortunately, they are all booked up this summer.

We've included information from the DEP concerning the invasive plants found entering and leaving various Maine water bodies in 2010. These invasive plants were found through courtesy boat inspections. Many of these lakes and ponds are in neighboring communities. More information can be found on MaineVLMP.org.

Currently, if you suspect an invasive plant, call VLMP at 207-783-7733.

Statewide Courtesy Boat Inspections



CBI statistics	2009	2010
Lakes infested with invasive plants	32	33
Infested lakes with inspections	12	13
Waterbodies with inspections	84	119*
Total plants found	1849	2334
Total invasive plants found	254	281
Invasive plants on entering boats	30	40
Invasive plants on leaving boats	224	241
Total inspectors	458	661*
Inspection hours	31,784	37,165
Boats with sticker	93%	94%
Participating organizations	50	112*

*Increase partly due to bass tournament inspections

Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Confirmed 'saves' 2010	Boat direction	Invasive plant
Cobbossee Lake	1 entering	Variable milfoil
Great Pond	1 entering	Eurasian milfoil
Great East Lake	2 entering	Variable milfoil; Fanwort
Lake Arrowhead	23 entering 141 leaving	Variable milfoil
Messalonskee Lake (Oakland)	2 leaving	Variable milfoil
Mooselookmeguntic	1 entering	Curly-leaf pondweed
Pleasant Pond (Litchfield)	7 leaving	Variable milfoil
Salmon Pond (Whisperwood Lodge)	1 entering	Eurasian milfoil
Sebago Lake (Raymond)	2 entering 7 leaving	Variable milfoil
Sebago Lake State Park	4 entering 66 leaving	Variable milfoil
Songo River	5 entering 17 leaving	Variable milfoil
Thompson Lake	1 leaving	Variable milfoil