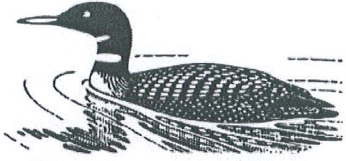


Range Ponds



Environmental Association

RangePonds.org

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 Board Member List (term expires)

President	Matthew Brettler (2012)
Vice President	Kim Brandt (2012)
Treasurer	Sandy Moreau (2013)
Secretary	Ann Gagne (2012)

Directors

Cyndi Robbins (2014) Mo Clegg (2013) Marilyn Closson (2012) John Crouch (2012)

General email – OurRangePonds@gmail.com

RPEA
PO Box 451
Poland Spring, ME 04274-0451

Local
Postal Customer

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

RPEA President's Message
(From Kim Brandt, Vice President)

Dear Range Pond Members, Watershed Residents and Property Owners,

“It’s hard to beat a person who never gives up.” (Babe Ruth)

As I greet you this summer, I am feeling grateful for the effort, the tenacity, the power of our association members and volunteers. In particular I am thinking of our President, Matt Brettler, our Secretary, Ann Gagne, Bob and Gloria Limoges and our Board member Cyndi Robbins.

For six years Matt Brettler has facilitated every meeting, organized each annual event, and communicated with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and with Scott Williams, the aquatic biologist who tests our waters. Matt has spearheaded and participated in every effort this association has made for six years.

Ann Gagne not only designs and creates our annual newsletter, she has invested the time to participate in workshops to learn what milfoil looks like and she has taken that knowledge and applied it to monitoring our ponds.

Bob and Gloria Limoges spent countless hours diving, laying mats, putting out the warning buoys and monitoring the milfoil that once existed in Middle Range.

Board member Cyndi Robbins has made Cyndi’s Dockside available for all of our meetings, which she attends faithfully and Cyndi has managed the annual Fourth of July Boat Parade for several years. Cyndi has also been instrumental in updating our current web site.

Our Board members and many more volunteers invest time and energy in thinking about how to continue and better protect our ponds and how to get more of us involved in this great, worthy effort.

Our members’ annual dues are what make the annual water testing possible.

There is something so rewarding about working together and then seeing the positive results of that effort. In that vein, we have two pieces of outstanding news to share with you:

Last summer, all three Range Ponds were as clear or significantly clearer than they have been historically. They also had concentrations of total phosphorous and algae that were average or better than the historical average. Scott Williams, the aquatic biologist who, along with volunteers, tests the waters of our ponds reports that in 2011 Maine lakes overall were less clear than their historical averages. But not the Range Ponds. They are doing well.

*Milfoil can strangle a body of water and ruin it for some wildlife and for human enjoyment. Once milfoil takes hold in a pond, it is almost impossible to be rid of it. Almost impossible, but not impossible. “Middle Range Pond (Poland) is one name missing from the 2012 infested waters list. With credit going to the Range Ponds Environmental Association, DEP announced three years without detecting variable-leaf milfoil, **earning Middle Range Pond official removal from the state roster of infested water bodies.**” (Maine Department of Environmental Protection in their Invasive Species News dated March 2, 2012. www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives)*

For those of us who love the Range Ponds, this is just about the best news we could hope to receive. But nothing is static. Our ponds are still fragile and vulnerable and we need your continued support to keep them healthy.

We are also in desperate need of new people to step up and fill several Range Ponds Environmental Association Board seats. We recognize that everyone is extremely busy. We also know that the hard work of our current RPEA is yielding results that are good for all of us. The time commitment is not overwhelming with approximately five 90-minute meetings per year and the annual meeting one

Sunday morning in July. Members are great about dividing tasks to get the work done. We welcome new faces and new ideas! There are four open Board seats including Vice President and Matt is hoping someone is willing to take over as President of RPEA. He would take a Board seat if this happens. Please consider joining the RPEA as a Board member now. Contact Matt at mattlynn@fairpoint.net if you are interested. Keep the great work of the RPEA going by stepping up to help!

I hope this is your best summer yet on the Range Ponds. As you swim, boat, ski, float, fish and just sit on the shore these next months, I hope you will thoroughly enjoy the clear, clean water and the birds and wildlife that inhabit this beautiful area. And I hope you will think of Matt, Ann, Bob, Gloria, Cyndi and the RPEA Board members and volunteers, remembering that it is because of their hard work and stick-with-it-ness that our ponds continue to be healthy and gorgeous.

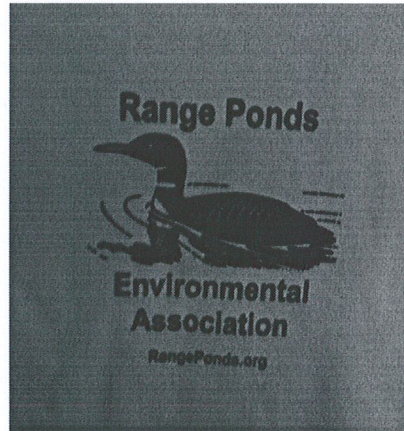
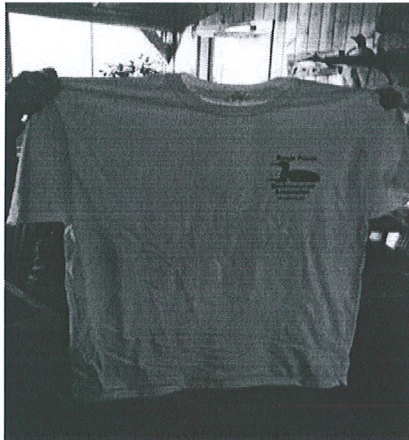
Thank you, Matt Brettler, for your leadership and for being that person who never gives up.

Happy Summer everyone,

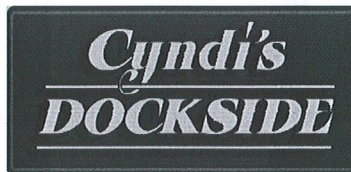
Kim Brandt, Vice President

See you at the meeting!

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!
We have ordered more for the July meeting as we ran out of some sizes.



The Range Ponds Environmental Association thanks Cyndi Robbins for the use of her restaurant, Cyndi's Dockside, for our annual meeting and board meetings though out the year.



Now open year round on the Middle Range Causeway on Rt 26, Poland Spring, Maine.
998-5008

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, installing beaches can all negatively impact the ponds. The good news is that our water quality is 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 29, 2012

9:00 A.M.

@ Cyndi's Dockside Restaurant

FREE!!

Invasive Plant Patrol – Local Workshop

The RPEA is participating with Sabbathday Lake, Crystal Lake and Tripp Lake Associations to offer an Invasive Plant Patrol workshop at the Sabbathday Lake Grange on **Saturday, August 25 from 8:30AM to 2PM.**

This is a great hands-on workshop to identify invasive and non-invasive plants. You walk away with a wealth of information and usable material and actually get to see and touch the plants that can destroy our lakes.

IPP workshop has information on how to set up your lake to monitor for invasive plants.

There aren't that many workshops offered and we were very lucky to get this date. There is a maximum of 50 participants among the four lake associations so let us know **NOW!!**

Email **OurRangePonds@gmail.com** to register and save your place. This is a **FREE** workshop. We ask you to bring a bag lunch; we will supply the fixings, drinks and dessert.

Our goal is for lake owners to form an Invasive Plant Patrol to monitor the lake. When the lake is monitored on a regular basis and broken up into easily monitored areas, it does not take long to monitor on an annual basis.

Let's keep our lakes invasive plant free!

Dues:
Lake Member \$35.00, Lake Associate \$50, Lake Patron \$75, Lake Protector \$125
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!

Treasurer's Report

2011-2012

As submitted by Carmen Evrard

Beginning Balance: May 16, 2011.....	\$7,260.91
Income:	
Membership dues 2011 (59).....	\$2,990.00
T-shirt sales at Annual Meeting 2011	330.00
Raffle Intake @ Annual Meeting 2011.....	71.00
Town of Poland Conservation Committee.....	250.00
Bank Interest.....	<u>7.49</u>
Total Income.....	\$3,648.49
Expenses:	
Lake & Watershed Resource Mgmt. Assoc. (water quality testing).....	\$.00
(bill not yet received for 2011 at time of report)	
Newsletter expenses.....	636.04
Maine COLA membership dues)2011 &2012)	300.00
US Treasury – charitable status.....	400.00
Accountant fee – charitable status.....	100.00
Website Domain renewal.....	154.00
Crockett, Philbrook & Crouch, P.A.....	35.00
PO Box rental.....	<u>46.00</u>
Total Expenses.....	\$1,671.04
Balance on March 30, 2012.....	\$9,238.36

You are needed and necessary to the RPEA if we're going to survive.

We are in danger of becoming extinct.

We need some new board members, there are four positions expiring this year and we need people to take over those positions. It takes a few hours a year, that's all.

Cyndi would like someone to take over the website as she is very busy with her businesses.

We need to set up PayPal for our website for paying of dues and selling of t-shirts.

COLA has an annual workshop that someone should attend. Want to be a volunteer lake monitor?

How about setting up the Invasive Plant Patrol for your lake, we'll need one for all lakes – there's three people needed right there – sign up for the workshop – lots of info and it's not hard.

How about being the leader of trash pickup in the spring and fall?

Want to help with the newsletter or keep up the mailing list – it would be very welcome.

How about setting up e-blast for emailing the newsletter?

YOU ARE NEEDED! – You and your ideas are needed!

What can YOU do to keep our waters CLEAN?

REMEMBER: Anything you throw into a river, stream or storm drain will end up in the water!

Don't be the stink of the neighborhood! Make sure your SEPTIC SYSTEM is not leaking or overflowing by having the system inspected every 2-4 years!

PLANT native shrubs and flowers on shorefront property (vegetative buffers) as well as on other exposed areas near drainage systems! Vegetative buffers help remove sediments and other nutrients from runoff before entering the lake!

NEVER bath or wash your boats in the lake with soaps and detergents containing phosphorus! Mariners have water safe products!

NEVER bring in new SAND to add to existing beaches or to make a beach! This is ILLEGAL in the state of Maine!

Quack, Quack!! You may be tempted to throw those waddling ducks a cracker, but think twice before you do! DO NOT FEED THE DUCKS! There is plenty of natural food in the pond for the ducks. Feeding them ANYTHING that is not naturally occurring in the watershed will put unnecessary amounts of nutrients (DUCK POOP!) in the lake. DUCK POOP acts as excess fertilizer which can result in ALGAE BLOOM!!

BUY Eco-Friendly cleaners!

Never throw hazardous household chemicals or car oil down sewer or storm drain!! Dispose of properly.

Construct DOCKS and FLOATS with environmentally friendly materials! Pressure treated and painted wood are toxic to living organisms!

Minimize SALT use in the winter months! Salt kills plant and animal life! Magnesium Chloride is biodegradable and water soluble – protecting bodies of water – use in place of salt!

An alternative to salt for traction and melting ice is ALFALFA meal – contains nitrogen so melts ice but is safe for the environment. Can be found at most nurseries!!

If you use SAND for traction, sweep it up and reuse for future storms and following years!

CLEAN up after your PETS!! Their waste contains phosphorus ~ when it rains their waste gets washed in the lake!! Keep a waste container and pooper scooper handy.

NEVER rake leaves into the lake! This will add phosphorus and nutrients directly into the lake as well as create an excellent habitat for LEECHES at your personal swimming area!

Keep LEAF piles 250 feet from shoreline or 50 feet from other drainage areas!

Let's all do our part to keep our waters CLEAN for generations to come!



**We are now on Facebook – check us out – we'll keep you informed.
Range Ponds Environmental Association.**

**Our website – RangePonds.org – where you will find water quality reports and
all other great information concerning the lakes.**

2011 Contributors
Thank you for your generous donations.

Lake Protectors \$125+

Richard & Nancy Bastow
Sam & Carmen Evrard
Paul & Susan Gambardella
Jack & Elizabeth Ray
Janet Raymond & Katherine Steinback
Town of Poland
Matt Wolf

Lake Patron \$75 - \$124

Greg & Deb Hart
Dr. Alex & Elizabeth Hutcheon
Dr. Robert & Gloria Limoges
Cyndi Robbins

Lake Associates \$50 - \$74

Bill & Jeanette Almy
Eric Anderson
Robert & Vicki Chute
Fred & Moira Clegg
Steve & Marilyn Closson
John Crouch & Poppy Conner-Crouch
Ronald & Donna Ford
Ann Gagne
Poland Spring Campground
Linda Sprague-Lambert & Roland
Joe & Jeanne Radziszewski

Lake Members \$35 - \$49

Nat & Pat Beausang
Michael & Marilyn Bernstein
Jane & Bob Boyle
Matt & Lynn Brettler
Celeste & Jon Burdick
Gerald & Janet Carnevale
Dr. Barry & Diane Chandler
Mike & Coleen Coletti
Dr. John Derry & Ms Lois Schlappa
Patricia Driscoll
Dr. Gerald & Margaret Dugal
Christine & Craig Fifield
Jeanne & Rick Fifield
Paul & Maureen Gilleberto
Edward & Madelyn Given
Sharon Glass
Debra Grondin
Richard Haslip & Patricia McGillivray
William & Cheryl Herland
Thomas Higginbottom
John & Beverly Holloran
Roger Jope
Dr. Barry & Roslyn Kutzen
Elaine & Marc Lasky
Roland Metayer & Claire Breton
Sandy Moreau
Beverly Morris
Daniel & Debra Ouellette
Robyn Posser
Paul & Thelma Thurlow
Paul & Cynthia Tinsley
Nancy & Daniel True
Bruno & Joanne Resteghini
Charles & Rosemary Sexton
Tonia & Roger Simard
Greg & Leanne White



SCRAPS OF INFO

There is so much information that we wish we could include in our newsletter. We add information to our website as we can, so check it out every now and then. Here is some information you may find valuable.

PolandTownOffice.org – Shoreland zoning regulations on line from Poland's website.
Nicholas Adams – Poland Code Enforcement Officer.
998-4604 or nadams@polandtownoffice.org

NewGloucester.com – Shoreland zoning regulations on line from New Gloucester's website.
Debra Parks Larrivee – New Gloucester Code Enforcement Officer.
926-4126 ext. 3 or dparks@newgloucester.com

Your code enforcement officer is there to help you wade through all the codes and regulations concerning Shoreland Zoning before you begin.

The Shoreland Zoning Act is there to protect the lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands from us. They will be here long after we are gone, let's keep it clean and alive for future generations.

The Shoreland Zoning Act is a State Law administered by municipalities with assistance from the State DEP. The Act establishes a setback of 100 feet on lakes and 75 feet on all other waters, including wetlands, for structures and/or development, such as houses, decks, driveways, etc.

The Shoreland Zoning Act regulates the following activities within 259 feet of lakes, rivers, tidal waters and wetlands and within 75 feet of streams:

- ❖ The uses of lots (e.g. residential vs. commercial)
- ❖ The size of new lots
- ❖ Earthwork activities
- ❖ The expansion of non-conforming (grandfathered) structures
- ❖ Cutting and/or removal of vegetation.
- ❖ Clearing to create openings is prohibited within 100 feet of a lake or 75 feet of other bodies of water and wetlands

In February 2012, a Raymond resident was fined \$25,500 by the town and by the DEP for violating shoreland zoning laws and also has to restore the site prior to the violation. You can avoid problems like this by working with your CEO. The write up on this was in the Lakes Region Weekly for February 24, 2012: Vol. 9 Issue 20.

Department of Environmental Protection - Maine.gov/DEP
Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program – MaineVLMP.org
Maine Congress of Lakes Association – MaineCOLA.org

**Remember to always check your boat for vegetation
when taking it out of the water and putting it in.
Get rid of those hitchhiking plants!!**