

Range Ponds Reporter

Summer 2013

What is RPEA and why is it important to YOU?

The RPEA was loosely formed 1978 to create an organization that would collectively look after our precious lakes. Shortly after organizing, there was a threat from a large developer that was going to put a hundred units on Upper Range Pond while trying to skirt the environmental concerns for such a large development on such a small body of water. The RPEA was successful in stopping that, doing much to preserve the lake environment. Another major battle was to prevent jet skis on the lakes, which were huge polluters (two-cycle motors, PVC's, stirring up water on sensitive areas). The RPEA also coordinated various state agencies, the town and Marcal Paper to repair the dam at the bottom of Lower Range Pond and have the town to take over ownership of it.

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 four Directors who are dedicated to fulfilling this mission.

Daily actions we take can inadvertently add to lake pollution. Lawn care, pets and animals, washing vehicles, growing crops, fertilizers, clearing land, installing beaches all negatively impact the ponds but you can minimize or negate that impact by changing your habits. The good news is that our water quality is still very good BUT our lakes get stressed in the summer.

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
Always the last Sunday in July
Sunday, July 28, 2013
9:00 A.M.
@ Cyndi's Dockside Restaurant

Poland Spring Brookie Buddies: Water, Fish and ME program.

On May 10th, 5th graders from RSU16 participated in the annual Brookie Buddies trout release held at Range Pond State Park. The release marked the finale of a four month program in which students raise brook trout in their classroom. The purpose of the Brookie Buddies program is to expose students to issues of water quality through the raising of brook trout in a classroom environment. Students gain an appreciation for water quality issues as they examine the effects on brook trout and other aquatic life. From January through May, each classroom is provided with a 30 gallon fish tank as well as all the necessary components to create a healthy environment for their finned friends. The students start the program with brook trout eggs and over the course of the program will watch them develop into fry. Each month a Poland Spring educator conducts a lesson centered around a variety of program themes including habitat, anatomy and ecology. At the conclusion of the program, each student releases a fish into a state approved local body of water and has the opportunity to reflect on what they have learned and accomplished. Furthermore, by examining their local watersheds, students obtain a personal sense of obligation towards the promotion of conservation and an understanding that their environment may only become better through their commitment and involvement.

Heather McBean
Poland Spring Water
Education & Outreach Manager

RPEA President's Message

Dear Range Pond Members, Watershed Residents, Property Owners and all others interested,

**“From then on, none of us ever thought there was another place in the world like that lake in Maine.”
(E.B. White)**

If you don't live on or don't own property on the lakes, you may be asking why you received this newsletter. The RPEA wants to reach all the watershed residents to help them realize what they do on their property can affect the quality of the lake water. Maybe you fish from the bridge or take a morning or evening kayak or enjoy a day on the lake on your pontoon boat or listen to the loons; we know you love the lakes as much as we do. And we want to include you in what we learn about how to protect the lakes.

This is my first stint as president, nothing like jumping in from being Secretary; thankfully, I have a lot of wonderful help from the board members.

*We have a new website wizard, Suzanne Davies from Upper Range Pond. She is doing a wonderful job and I plan on giving her as much to put on the website as I can find. **RangePonds.org**
I want to thank Wayne Andrews and Cyndi Robbins for starting our website.*

We also have a facebook page, so if you are a facebook fan, make sure you LIKE us – there is a facebook link on the website or search on facebook for Range Ponds Environmental Association.

Many people believe the state monitors our lakes for invasive plants. The state does not get involved until invasive plants are found. It is up to the people on the lakes to find those plants. Do you know what they look like? Would you know who to contact? Our lakes need someone to spearhead a Plant Patrol. A Plant Patrol program divides your lake into sections and those sections would be monitored by volunteers from the lake once a year in late July, early August when the plants are easy to spot.

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.

Your annual dues are what make the annual water testing possible. And on that note, we have finally been approved as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We always believed we were, however, it was pointed out to us a couple of years ago that we were not on the IRS website as a 501(c)3 organization. It has taken over two years and lots of follow-up with the IRS by Matt Brettler but finally this past April, we received notification and the IRS made it effective retroactively so, in effect, we have always been a non-profit.

Happy Summer everyone,

Ann Gagne, President

See you at the meeting on the Last Sunday in July – ALWAYS!

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The Natural Resources Protection Act regulates activities in, on, over or adjacent to protected natural resources such as rivers, streams, lakes, coastal wetlands and freshwater wetlands.

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/38/title38sec480-B.html>

Any time a person, proposes to disturb soil or remove vegetation in, on, over or adjacent to (within 75 feet) of a resource they must obtain a permit from the DEP.

To bring in sand and create or add to a beach (within 25' and/or in the water) would require an individual NRPA permit. Each application is evaluated individually and on its own merits but creating or adding to a new sand beach is not an activity that generally receives approval from the DEP.

There are several reasons for this including: **sand that migrates away from the beach covers valuable fish spawning habitat and contributes to the pollutant load of the lake.**

If you need to replace beach sand that has washed off your beach into the lake, the new sand would end up there also.

Dawn Hallowell

**Licensing & Compliance Manager in the Bureau of Land & Water Quality
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
(207) 557-2624 | Dawn.Hallowell@maine.gov**

**RPEA Annual Meeting
Always the last Sunday in July
Sunday, July 28, 2013
9:00 A.M.
@ Cyndi's Dockside Restaurant**

**At our 2012 annual meeting, we voted to ALWAYS hold our annual meeting on
The Last Sunday in July!
You can now plan ahead without having to wait for a newsletter to let you know the date.**

**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!

Be a Friend! Tell a friend! Tell your neighbor!

We are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization!

Treasurer's Report

2012-2013 - Cash Basis Accounting
As submitted by Sandy Moreau

Beginning Balance	April 1, 2012	9,238.36
Income		
	Membership dues 2012	3,830.00
	Town of Poland	1,000.00
	T-shirts sales at annual meeting 2012	50.00
	Donations from individuals	80.00
	Bank Interest	11.08
	Total Income	4,971.08
Expenses		
	Lake and Watershed Resource Management Association (water quality testing)	-
	2011 bill	1,900.00
	2012 bill not yet received at time of report	-
	Newsletter expenses - printing & envelopes	2,446.50
	Newsletter postage	460.39
	Maine COLA membership dues 2012 pd in prior year	-
	T-shirts	283.18
	Crockett, Philbrook & Crouch, PA - ME annual report fees	35.00
	PO Box Rental	63.00
	Total Expenses	5,188.07
Ending Balance	May 31, 2013	9,021.37

What can YOU do to help RPEA?

Come to the annual meeting!

COLA has an annual workshop that you could attend and bring back info.

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 a 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 and write an article?

YOU ARE NEEDED!

A LAKER'S DOZEN

Lakes are fragile! Caring for them today will preserve their benefits for tomorrow.

Stolen from MaineCOLA.org (Maine Congress of Lakes Association)
MaineCOLA.org has an immense amount of lake information on their website.
It's worth a few minutes of your time to read some of their materials.

1. Always check your boat, trailer and equipment for plant fragments before you launch and after take-out to avoid spreading invasive plants from lake to lake. Don't transfer water or fish from lake to lake; this can harm fisheries.
2. Respect the Shoreland Zone Regulations. Before making any change on your property, check with your town office or Code Enforcement Officer to see what's permitted and what's not permitted in the shoreland zone - the area within 250 feet of lakes and 75 feet of streams.
3. Control storm water run-off from buildings, paths, driveways and road. Check your property on a rainy day and fix run-off sites by planting vegetation, placing gravel and small stones, or constructing swales and rain gardens to capture runoff and soak it into the ground.
4. Cultivate a wooded buffer beside the lake. Trees, shrubs, and grasses protect water quality by slowing rainwater and filtering out soil and pollutants before they are carried to the lake.
5. Take a Break, Put down your Rake, and Save the Lake! Limit lawn size, mow less often, leave the clippings instead of using fertilizer, and don't rake within 75 feet of shore.
6. Limit fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use. Long lasting residues in these products not only can harm children pets and aquatic life; but they also feed algae, turning lakes green.
7. Don't stress your septic system. Inspect the system yearly and pump the tank every 2-5 years. Systems 20 years of age and older should be inspected by a specialist. Use phosphorus-free cleaners and detergents. Stagger laundry loads. Minimize water use. Don't put toxics or grease down the drain.
8. Construct docks with lake-friendly materials. Choose cedar, cypress, plastic, or aluminum instead of wood which has been pressure-treated with arsenic.
9. Dogs, humans and boats should never be washed in the lake!
10. Observe headway speed within 200 feet of shore. Fast boating in shallow water disturbs habitat of aquatic animals, stirs up sediment, and can erode the shoreline.
11. Give wildlife a chance. Lake shallows and lands near the shoreline provide food and shelter to many native species and serve as nurseries for their young. Walk softly on the shorelands!
12. When it's time to replace a boat motor, choose a clean-burning 4-stroke engine.
13. Support your local lake association with funds and time, and join Maine COLA!

From The Lake Book, by the Maine Congress of Lake Associations

Science, Education, and Policy to Protect the Lakes We Love



**RPEA is on Facebook – LIKE us – we'll keep you informed.
Range Ponds Environmental Association.**

And our website – RangePonds.org – where you will find water quality reports and other great information concerning the Range Ponds.

**Do you know why the Range Ponds are pronounced Rang?
Post the answer on facebook or email us at
info@RangePonds.org or OurRangePonds@gmail.com**

2012 Friends of the Lakes - Contributors

Lake Protectors \$125+

Closson, Marilyn
Demers, Pat & Andy
Gambardella, Paul & Susan
Moyer, Dr. David and Mary Kay
Ouellette, Daniel & Debra
Range Pond Campground
Raymond, Janet M.
Wolf, Matt

Lake Patron \$75 - \$124

Geiger, Kenneth
Hart, Greg & Deb
Hutchen, Alex & Liz
Kutzen, Barry & Roslyn
Richard, Steve & Lynne
Small, Michael
Westerman, Gary & Karen

Lake Associates \$50 - \$74

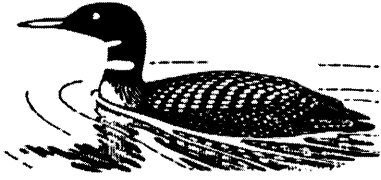
Almy, Bill & Jeanette
Chandler, Barry & Diane
Chappell, Jeff & Cathy
Chute, Robert
Clegg, Frederick & Moira
Fifield, Richard & Jeanne
Finn, Robert & Merelie
Gagne, Ann
Herland, Bill and Cheryl
Higginbotham, Thomas
Larson, Greg and Charlene
Metayer, Roland
Northam, Sue
O'Donnell, John
Pellerin, Linda & Donna Bouchard
Pentheny, Dr. Jane E.
Poland Spring Campground
Radziszewski, Joseph & Jeanne

Lake Members \$35 - \$49

Anderson, Eric
Auburn-Lewiston YMCA
Bailey, Michael & Claire
Beausang, Ned & Pat
Bernstein, Michael
Boyle, Robert & Jane
Brettler, Matt & Lynn
Budreckis, Gedy and Jacklyn
Burdick, Jon & Celeste
Carnevale, Gerald
Coletti, Mike & Coleen
Driscoll, Patti
Ellis, Andrew and Susan
Fifield, Craig and Christine
Ford, Ronald & Donna
Gilleberlo, Paul & Maureen
Given, Edward
Harmon, Deborah
Holloran, John & Beverly
Knight, Ken
Lasky, Marc
Leonard, Bill
Levesque, Walter A.
McGillivray, Patricia
Moreau, Larry & Sandy
Resteghini, Bruno & Joanne
Rosser, Robyn
Sexton, Charles & Rosemary
Simard, Roger
Spaulding, Heather
Tinsley, Paul & Cindy
True, Daniel & Nancy
Wallace, Mary & Jim

The RPEA would like to thank
Cyndi Robbins for the use of café
at the Lodge for our board meetings
and for Cyndi's Dockside for our
annual meeting.

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 (with Lake)

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Ann Gagne – Upper (2014)
Matthew Brettler- Upper (2014)
Sandy Moreau - Middle (2013)
Jeanne Fifield - Upper (2014)

Directors

Jeannette Almy - Upper (2015)
Mike Bailey – Middle (2015)
Marilyn Closson – Middle (2015)
Jeanne Radziszewski - Middle (2015)

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email – OurRangePonds@gmail.com

RPEA
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