

Range Ponds Reporter

Summer 2014

Saturday morning, September 21, 2013, a Plant Paddle was arranged with Christine Guerette of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program to assist volunteers in identifying plants in the Middle Range area that was previously infested with Milfoil.

Jeanne Fifield of Upper Range arranged the outing. Attendees Jeanne Fifield, Bill Herland and Ann Gagne collected numerous plant samples to identify on a windy morning in canoes and kayaks.

None of the samples taken were anything other than native plants that belong in the lake.

Plant Paddles are crucial to monitoring the lakes for invasive species.

Maine VLMP offers many workshops in various locations throughout the state to train volunteers in identifying invasive plants.

However, it cannot be done with only 3 or 4 people. Each lake needs a many volunteers to monitor a lake. July and August are the best time to look for invasive species, which is when they are easiest to spot.

We need volunteers to step up and assist in setting up the procedures for an annual plant paddle.

If we find invasive plants, we need to act before they can spread.

Invasive plants are spread by many ways; boats, trailers, motors, paddles, kayaks, canoes, fishing gear, birds.

We can do our best to protect but unless we monitor, we won't know.

So come to the annual meeting and help set up the Annual Plant Paddle – your lake will thank you.

Go to MaineVLMP.org for more information on Plant Paddles.

RPEA Annual Meeting
ALWAYS the LAST SUNDAY in JULY!
Sunday, July 27, 2014
9:00 A.M.
@ Cyndi's Dockside Restaurant

Maine Audubon will be speaking on the lead-free tackle law and effect of lead on Loons.

Javier Argueta and Jason House from Poland Regional High School each spent two and a half hours on a spring Thursday afternoon cleaning up the trash at the boat launch between Upper and Middle Range Ponds. They earned community service credit for doing a job well done!

RPEA will be installing signs at various access points around the lake to remind people that this is a carry-in / carry-out facility. There are no trash bins and neither the town nor the state collects the trash. RPEA does not supply trash bins anywhere around the lakes.

What is dumped near the lake will end up in the lake.

Thank you again Javier and Jason for making it possible for people to enjoy a clean boat launch this summer.

LD 1626 – “An Act to Leverage Expert, State-based Resources for Emergent Intervention and Long-term comprehensive Resource Protection of Lakes” or more commonly known as the “Milfoil Bill” became law on April 2014 as an Emergency Measure without the Governor's signature.

Summary: this bill increases the fees collected for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State by \$7 for residents and establishes a \$35 fee for nonresidents. It also directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a program within the department that uses the revenue from the increased fees to work on removing invasive aquatic plants that exist in lakes of 10,000 acres or more in area. The department is also directed to establish a long-term management program to prevent future infestation of invasive aquatic plants.

http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_126th/billtexts/HP119801.asp

RPEA President's Message

Dear Range Pond Members, Watershed Residents & Property Owners and Lake Enjoyers,

The focus of many of the lake associations nowadays is keeping invasive species out of their lake or eradicating and/or controlling invasive plants already in their lakes. And with good reason, the expense of eradicating invasive species can be very expensive. In Maine, we already have; variable-leaf milfoil, hydrilla, curly-leaf pondweed, European naiad and Eurasian water-milfoil. See maine.gov/dep/water/invasives for full information.

Everyone using the lake needs to be vigilant in watching for these plants – they cause significant habitat disruption, loss of native plant and animal communities, loss of property values, reduced fishing and water recreation opportunities. No one wants these in their lakes. Contact us or the VLMP if you need a plant checked out.

Many people believe the state monitors our lakes for invasive plants. They do not. They assist and train volunteers for that role. It is up **US** to find those plants. Do you know what they look like? Would you know who to contact? We need an Annual Plant Paddle to monitor the lake for invasive species just as the lake water quality is monitored. 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.

But there are other factors that affect lakes that have been pushed to the background. Soil erosion along with fertilizers (nonpoint source pollution) adds phosphorus to lakes. Phosphorus is a nutrient that can lead to algae blooms and is harmful to fish habitat. We have never had an algae bloom. In July 2012, Crystal Lake in Gray had an algae bloom that was attributed to the warm weather and soil erosion adding phosphorus to the lake to feed the algae. The big green cotton candy blobs that you see in the lakes are not algae blooms, they are metaphyton blooms (imagine what an algae bloom would look like) and they have increased over the years. Metaphyton blooms are currently being studied to see what effects they have on lakes.

Thompson Lake in Poland/Casco just received a two year \$87,938 grant to reduce sediment going into their lake to try and stop their declining water quality. We could do this, can you help? Can you research and spearhead?

Our Board members and 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. We love your input but we need your hands on help more!

So come with ideas and come to help!

Your annual dues are what make the annual water testing possible. Water reports are on our website RangePonds.org.

Happy Summer everyone,

Ann Gagne, President

INFO@RangePonds.org
OurRangePonds@gmail.com

See you at the meeting on the LAST SUNDAY in JULY – ALWAYS!

LIKE us on Facebook!

There is a facebook link on the website or search on facebook for Range Ponds Environmental Association.

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RPEA positions up for election this July.

All two year terms – come and vote, come and run, come and make a change!

Matt Brettler chose NOT to run for re-election this year, we will need a Vice-President!

President
Vice-President
Secretary

Top 10 Ways to Protect our Lakes.

1. Leave the natural vegetation

The trees, shrubs, bushes and groundcovers between your home and the water are the lake's last line of defense. This area is often called the buffer because it "buffers" the lake from excess nutrients, sediment and stormwater. It also provides an essential habitat corridor for riparian animals. Whether you live on a lake, pond, river or stream, this area is crucial for maintaining water quality. However, a view of the water is also important for most lakefront landowners. This is why shoreland zoning which is designed to protect this area, has provisions to allow trees to be limbed up 1/3 of their height.

2. Plant a shrub border or 'island'

If all you have between your home and the lake is grass or trampled sandy soil, then consider planting a shrub border or "island" to help soak up rainwater. After picking up speed on your driveway or roof, stormwater needs a place to slow down and get absorbed back into the ground. Low-growing, native woody shrubs hold back the earth and take up much more water than grass or bare ground. Using the proper plants which are suited to the area can also be easier to maintain than a lawn. Go native!

3. Stop over-fertilizing your lawn

Eighty percent of all soils tested by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in the last five years did not need the nutrient phosphorus to grow grass. Still phosphorus laden lawn care products are routinely added to waterfront lawns. The use of lawn fertilizers in the last 15 years has skyrocketed and our lakes are paying the price. Topical fertilizers easily wash into the lake. In addition to nutrients that harm both fresh and marine waters, most lawn fertilizers are also often full of pesticides which are known to cause cancer. Is a green lawn worth that much? The safest way to a green and healthy lawn is by building up the soil. This can be done by adding good quality compost and natural fertilizers like alfalfa meal and corn gluten.

4. Fix your driveway

Lakefront driveways are one of the biggest problems of erosion on residential lots. Having a home on the lake means that by necessity, you are at the bottom of the watershed and therefore water is coming your way. Erosion of your driveway is also erosion of your money. No matter what, roads and driveways always need some level of maintenance but if you are just adding gravel every couple of years and watching it slowly wash away towards the lake then it is time to think about alternatives. Often times a berm at the top of the driveway can force water off into woody areas which can absorb stormwater. Open-top culverts and rubber razors are an easy way to get water off the driveway for seasonal homes that don't require plowing. Routine grading or raking can help keep a proper crown or pitch so that water runs to the side instead of down the whole length.

5. Fix your path

Paths are like little driveways except they run all the way down to the lake. They channelize stormwater and wash soil right down into the water. However, they are often a lot easier to fix than driveways. Waterbars made from logs or landscape timbers can push runoff into adjacent areas with vegetation. Steps back filled with crushed stone can stabilize the walking surface while providing infiltration.

6. Take care of roof runoff

While water coming directly off the roof is relatively clean, it builds up enough volume and velocity to immediately erode the soil as soon as it touches the ground. Using dry wells, drip edge drains, rain gardens or rain barrels can alleviate erosion caused from roof runoff and reduce your homes overall environmental footprint.

7. Mulch bare areas

Heavily used areas frequently have compacted soils and little capacity to absorb runoff. These spots are often devoid of vegetation and have exposed tree roots protruding from the soil. Storm water builds up on these areas and has the ability to wash out natural vegetation, shorefront or beaches below. If you can't plant or at a minimum get grass to grow, consider top dressing with super humus or erosion control mulch. These products are primarily made from ground up stumps and bark and look similar to garden mulch but they are much less erosive. They not only slow down and absorb water but they also protect tree roots (and bare feet from tree roots). Always make sure not to cover existing plants when bringing in mulch and remember to contact the Code Enforcement Officer if you are planning on getting more than 10 cubic yards.

8. Take care when storing your dock

Docks are an integral part of lakefront access but in the off season their storage can leave a swath of dead vegetation right along the water's edge. The plants and shrubs in this area are too important to be smothered for six months and then spend the rest of the year trying to recover. Storing your dock directly on your footpath or outside of the 100 foot buffer are the two best options. If these are not feasible because of the docks weight or size, consider upgrading to a different type. There are many dock systems available today that are both lightweight and portable.

9. Pump your septic tank

Although you don't see your septic system, it is there and it is very important. It also requires maintenance to function properly. When septic tanks are not pumped regularly, sludge from the tank begins to flow out into the leach field which is designed primarily to percolate water. The sludge can clog the bed and cause the system to fail. Aside from being a threat to water quality, a failed system often means backed up pipes with no ability to drain water. Replacing a leach bed also requires a substantial amount of excavation and can be quite expensive. To avoid all these problems have your tank pumped every two to three years if you live year-round and every five years if you are seasonal. If you have a filter on your tank that prevents debris from entering your leach field this should be regularly hosed off too. This will help prevent your system from backing up at the outlet of the septic tank. Pumping your septic tank regularly will extend the life of your leach bed and protect the lake.

10. Do a rainy day survey

If you are not sure how your property is affecting the lake, grab an umbrella and raincoat and head outdoors during the next heavy downpour. This is the best time to really see what is happening with stormwater and how you could fix problems. Start at the top of the property and work downward towards the lake. Take pictures or notes of where water is channelizing, where sheet flow is heavy and areas of vegetation that might be able to absorb some of the water. The key to treating stormwater is to break it up and divert water flow to stable areas as often as possible. Use some of the techniques above to get stormwater off driveways and paths. If there is already a ditch designed to hold stormwater, make sure it is stable by armoring it with rocks or vegetation. Natural tributaries and wet areas should be left alone.

2013/2014 Friends of the Lakes - Contributors

(contributions are through May 31, 2014)

**Thank you for all your generous contributions to keeping the RPEA alive and well.
We cannot do this without your support!**

Lake Protectors \$125+

Bastow, Richard & Nancy
Closson, Marilyn
Crouch, John & Poppy
Demers, Pat & Andy
Gambardella, Paul & Susan
Ouellette, Daniel & Debra
Ray, John & Elizabeth
Raymond, Janet M.
Wolf, Matt

Lake Patron \$75 - \$124

Anonymous
Burdick, Jon & Celeste
Geiger, Kenneth
Hart, Greg & Deb
Kutzen, Barry & Roslyn
Limoges, Robert & Gloria
Metayer, Roland
Radziszewski, Joe & Jeanne

Lake Associates \$50 - \$74

Anonymous
Almy, Bill & Jeanette
Bailey, Michael & Claire
Bazinet, Gary & Karen
Chandler, Barry & Diane
Clegg, Frederick & Moira
Derry, John & Lois
Fifield, Richard & Jeanne
Fisher, Timothy & Kathleen
Ford, Ronald & Donna
Herland, Bill & Cheryl
Jope, Roger
Lamb, Susan & Paul
Patti, Kellie & Kurt
Pellerin, Linda & Donna Bouchard
Ray, Ernest & Rita
Resteghini, Bruno & Joanne
Sexton, Charles & Rosemary

Lake Members \$35 - \$49

Auburn-Lewiston YMCA
Brettler, Matt & Lynn
Cappucci, Michael
Carnevale, Gerald
Dugal, Marg & Jerry
Fifield, Craig & Christine
Levesque, Walter A.
Lindsay, Stephen &
McCurry, John &
Morris, Bev
Northam, Sue
O'Donnell, John
Simard, Roger
Tinsley, Paul & Cindy
Watson, Patricia

**The RPEA thanks Cyndi Robbins
for the use of the café at the Lodge
for our board meetings
and for Cyndi's Dockside for our
annual meeting!**

Additional Donations

Anonymous
Raymond, Janet
Wolf, Matt

Veto of Lake Protection Bill Threatens Maine's Lakes

April 2014

The Lake Protection bill (LD 1744) was to sustain lake quality including having buffer zones for applying fertilizer near water - The link below is from the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

This article for the link below is interesting but too long to include in this newsletter.

<http://www.nrcm.org/news/veto-of-lake-protection-bill-threatens-maines-lakes/>

RPEA Annual Meeting
Always the LAST SUNDAY in JULY
Sunday, July 27, 2014
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.

Treasurer's Report 2013-2014 as submitted by Sandy Moreau, Treasurer

Beginning Balance 6/1/13		9,021.37
Income		
Town of Poland	1,000.00	
Donations from individuals	125.00	
Interest	6.79	
T-shirt sales	50.00	
Membership Dues 2013	3,060.00	
Total Income	4,241.79	
Expense		
Crockett, Philbrook & Crouch, PA - Annual report	35.00	
Lake & Watershed Resource Mgmt. Assoc. (water quality testing)	3,925.00	
(two years - 2013 & 2013)		
P O Box rental fee	54.00	
Postage and printing for newsletter	770.00	
Me Lakes Society (COLA) dues	150.00	
Web hosting	154.70	
supplies for boat launch cleanup	12.40	
Total Expenses	5,101.10	
Balance on 5/31/13		8,162.06

-----Tear here-----

With this newsletter, we are experimenting with NOT sending a contribution/dues envelope.
 Due to the high expense and the low return rate, we hope you choose to contribute using this form.
 We do expect to have on-line contributions available next year for your convenience.

Name:

Mailing Address:

Summer Address:

Email:

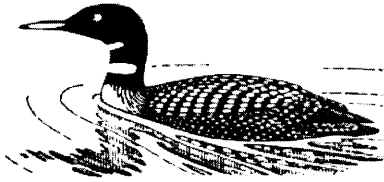
Your annual dues support the continuation of RPEA's efforts to protect the water quality of our Range Ponds. Please make your check payable to RPEA. Thank you.

Lake Member \$35.00 Lake Associate \$50 Lake Patron \$75 Lake Protector \$125

Please join or renew your membership today!
Be a Friend! Tell a friend!

We are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization!
RPEA, PO Box 451, Poland Spring, ME 04274

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 (2015)
Jeanne Fifield - Upper (2014)

Directors

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

email – INFO@RangePonds.org
email – OurRangePonds@gmail.com

The Shoreland Zone is the land area 250 feet from the normal high water mark.
Contact code enforcement prior to any tree, earth or construction work done in the Shoreland Zone.
These codes were enacted to protect the waterways of Maine.
Your CEO is there to assist you and to help protect the lakes.

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