



Range Ponds Reporter

Summer 2017



Range Ponds Association Annual Meeting
ALWAYS the LAST SUNDAY in JULY!
July 30, 2017
Cyndi's Dockside 9AM-11AM (at the latest)

Light pollution does not affect the water quality of the lakes but it does affect the ability to see the night sky. Because our lakes are not large, lighting from across the lake can affect another's enjoyment of the evening. Be mindful of your lights. Enjoy the evening. Your lake neighbors will appreciate it.

Lake Levels- The Effect on Your Property

Anyone who has lived on our ponds for a number of years has seen the rise and fall of water levels. The "right" level depends on what you're looking for. Those with fixed docks can find their docks flooded or too far out of the water depending on the lake level. Too high a water level and it may prevent getting under the bridge between Upper and Middle Range. Too low, the same problem as motors hit the sand.

If the water's too high when the lakes freeze, the broken and floating ice can severely erode and damage the shoreline during spring thaw. If the water's too low before it freezes, then there are complaints about being too shallow under the bridge, getting floating docks out of the water, etc.

Our association is taking our mission's position- protecting our lakes and environment. Some of our lakes' rise and fall is natural, i.e. too much rain or drought. However, we have two dams, one between Middle and Lower Range and one where Lower Range empties into Waterhouse Brook. These are controlled by the Town of Poland.

To protect our shorelines from erosion, monitoring of our lake levels is essential. Our association and residents of the Range Ponds continue to work with the town to monitor the dams and control levels. As town personnel change it's important to keep them up to speed on what the lakes mean to the residents and the tax base.

One of the biggest threats to our lakes is the above mentioned erosion caused by shifting winter ice. Many lakes in Maine controlled by dams purposely draw down the lakes 2-4 feet in November to protect against spring ice damage. We will be looking at a scheduled lowering of our ponds' water level to protect your property and our lakes for the coming winter.

Bob Limoges, Vice-President

Hello to everyone,

I want to thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. This is our labor of love for the lakes. We are all volunteers. This year we lost a wonderful one, Jeanne Radziszewski. Jeanne was a high-energy, can-do woman and she and her laugh is greatly missed by everyone.

We received our 2016 Water Quality report and it is posted on our website (RangePonds.org) along with past water quality reports and other tidbits of information. Last year's drought took a toll on gardens and wells but the lack of rainfall was beneficial for the lakes for lack of runoff into the lakes.

Phosphorus and nutrient runoff is very harmful to our lakes. It's easy to get people involved when invasive plants are the culprit as there is something tangible to fight and proven ways to eradicate or control them. It's harder when it's runoff whether fertilizer, animal waste, bad septic systems, dirt roads or construction. Sometime the runoff is of unknown origin or it's you or your neighbor and you don't know how to change it. We can help and if we can't, we can find someone who can. We just care about the lakes and want to keep them around and healthy for a very long time, long after we are gone.

At the Poland town meeting in 2017, there was an article to change the area on the north side of the "bog" on Middle Range near the bridge and Upper Range from Resource Protection District to Limited Residential Zoning. Even though the Planning Board recommended approval, the article was voted down. This area is a very sensitive and important part of the lake. The voters attending agreed.

And we have board positions open this year. We would love to have you join us. See you at the Annual Meeting at Cyndi's Dockside!

Ann Gagne, President

Tamra Wight, Children's Author, photographer and Range Pond Campground owner will be our speaker at the annual meeting.

You can now pay online at our website
RangePonds.org



Range Ponds
Association

Congratulations! You protected the Ponds with a septic system pump out!

\$25.00

Valid for reimbursement; all you need to do is send a copy of your clean-out invoice with this coupon and we'll send you a check!

Range Ponds Association
PO Box 451
Poland, ME 04274

Coupon holder name

Address where coupon is valid

Expires December 31, 2017

Date of service

RPA Septic Pump-Out Program

How do septic systems work?

A typical home with two baths and three occupants will produce over 85,000 gallons of wastewater annually. This is 250 to 300 gallons per day! Your septic tank is a living digestive system that collects scum and solids and separates liquids before they flow into the drain-field for final purification. It takes 24 to 48 hours for this process. Even a good system not cared for may become a neighborhood health hazard and an expensive problem. Failed systems may cause ground and surface water pollution and costly property damage. It is important to maintain your septic system.

To learn more about septic systems, see: http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/groundwater/septic_systems.pdf

How is water quality related to septic systems?

Organic waste from your home contains nutrients. The nutrients that do not get filtered out by your septic system eventually drain into the groundwater and then to nearby rivers and lakes.

Nutrients – especially **phosphorus** - are vital to plant and algae growth but high levels of phosphorus causes unnaturally rapid growth; algae blooms. Rapid algae growth leads to rapid algae death and decomposition, which can ruin healthy lake chemistry. These processes compromise the lake's water quality, and can happen fairly quickly.

How can we each help protect our Ponds?

One of the best actions you can take is to have your septic system pumped out regularly. To encourage pump-outs, the RPEA will provide \$25 rebates to the first 10 residents in the **Range Ponds shoreland zone** who have their systems pumped in the summer/fall of 2017.

Here's how:

- 1.) Have your septic tank pumped by a certified company between now and 12/31/2017.
- 2.) Send/email us a copy of your dated receipt, along with your address.
- 3.) We'll send you a check for \$25!

The Range Ponds Environmental Association encourages residents to keep phosphorus from septic systems and other sources out of the lakes. Contact a Board member if you'd like additional information about methods to keep your property lake-friendly.

The fine print:

One rebate per household.

One rebate in a 3-year period.

Rebates will be awarded by postmark date. First come, first serve.

Eligibility is the sole responsibility of the RPA Board of Directors.

2016/2017 Friends of the Lakes - Contributors

Thank you for your generous contributions to keep the RPA working. We cannot do this without your support.

<u>Lake Protector \$125+</u>			<u>Lake Lover \$50 - \$74</u>			<u>Lake Friend \$35 - \$49</u>		
Audesse, David & Patricia Erickson	Cappucci, Michael & Bonnie	Beausang, Ned & Pat	Chandler, Barry & Diane	Corb, Clifford & Amy	Bernstein, Michael	Chute, Robert	Crouch, John & Poppy Conner-Crouch	Buerger, Stephen
Demers, Pat & Andy	Field, Craig & Christine	Cimino, Joseph	Dye, Teresa M.	Fisher, Timothy & Kathleen	Moreau, Larry & Sandy	Gambardella, Paul & Susan	Gagne, Ann	Morris, Bev
Geiger, K C	Haslip, Richard	Northam, Sue	Gendron, Gw in & Georges	Herland, Bill & Cheryl	Pillsbury, Mary	McCann, Anthony	Hill, Michael & Cynthia	Provost, Richard & Susan
Poland Spring Campground	Lamb, Paul & Susan	Simard, Roger	Raymond, Janet M.	Lasky, Marc	Testagrose, Carole	Richard, Steve & Lynne	Limoges, Robert & Gloria	Tinsley, Paul & Cindy
Saccone, Tim	Lindsay, Stephen & Christine	Williams, Bill & Beth	The McWilliams	Morgan, Barry & Mary	<u>Other Contributions</u>			
Anderson, Eric	Radziszewski, Joseph & Jeanne	Cyndi Robbins for the café at the Lodge	Fifield, Richard & Jeanne	Range Pond Campground				
Hutcheon, Dr. Alex	Resteghini, Bruno & Joanne	for our annual meeting & cash prizes	Kutzen, Barry & Roslyn	True, Daniel & Nancy	for the 4th of July Boat Parade!			
Ray, John & Elizabeth		Tow n of Poland for \$1,000 for	(contributions are through April 30, 2017)				conservation.	

Treasurer's Report				
Balance on 5/1/16				11,474.54
Income	Membership dues		3,045.00	
	Tow n of Poland - Donation		1,000.00	
	Misc Donations		430.00	
	Interest		9.87	
	Sales of hats, visors, t-shirts		448.25	4,933.12
Expenses	LWRMA - w ater quality report 8/2015		2,290.00	
	LWRMA - w ater quality report 8/2016		3,500.00	
	Treasurer State of Maine - buoys		100.00	
	Portland Presort Service - mail new sletter		231.17	
	Curry Printing - new sletter		710.53	
	Hats, Visors, supplies		741.74	
	Treasurer State of Maine - 2 signs		90.00	
	Trafton & Matzen - filing fee		145.16	
	P O Box Rental Fee		62.00	
	Web hosting		119.70	
	misc supplies- checks, flow ers,		136.90	8,127.20
Balance on 5/31/17				8,280.46

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The RPA no longer uses envelopes for your contributions/dues to keep our mailing costs low.

We prefer to use the funds for lake expenses.

We hope you choose to contribute using this form OR pay on-line using our website and paypal.

Name:

Mailing Address:

Summer Address:

Email:

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

Please make your check payable to RPA.

Thank you.

Lake Friend \$35 Lake Lover \$50 Lake Patron \$75 Lake Protector \$100

Please join or renew your membership today!

Be a friend! Tell a friend!

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

RPA, PO Box 451, Poland Spring, ME 04274



Range Ponds Association Mission Statement

The Range Ponds 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.

RPA Board Member List with Lake and Term End Date

**Come to our meeting, join our board, start a committee and make a difference.
Board serves for a three year term, we can have nine board members.**

Four (4) Board positions open and up for vote.

Ann Gagne - Upper (2017) President (2018)	Jane Pentheny - Upper – (2019)
Robert Limoges- Upper (2017) Vice-President (2018)	Joe Radziszewski - Middle – (2018)
Sandy Moreau - Middle (2018) Treasurer (2017)	Lynne Richard - Middle (2018)
Jeanne Fifield - Upper (2017)	Carole Testagrose – Middle (2019)

email – OurRangePonds@gmail.com

email – INFO@RangePonds.org

facebook - [Range Ponds Maine](#)

**The Shoreland Zone is the land area within 250 feet from the normal high water mark.
Contact code enforcement prior to ANY tree, earth or construction work in the Shoreland Zone.
These codes were enacted to protect the waterways of Maine.
Your lake association is here to assist you while helping protect the lakes.**

Range Ponds Association (RPA)
PO Box 451
Poland Spring, ME 04274