



Range Ponds Reporter

Summer 2018



Range Ponds Association Annual Meeting

ALWAYS the LAST SUNDAY in JULY!

July 29, 2018

Cyndi's Dockside 9AM-11AM (at the latest)

*Invasive plants are an unwelcome resident at any lake.
Invasive plants are not our lakes biggest threat though.
Storm runoff of soil and sand, fertilizers and failing septic systems hurt our lakes more.
Please be aware that what you do near your lake, affects your lake.*

Sensitivity of Shallow Littoral Areas in and Around the Range Ponds

Shallow flooded areas within lake systems are generally referred to as "Littoral zones". Depending on the depth, exposure to wind and wave action, substrate (bottom composition) and other factors, such areas are often the most biologically productive and diverse habitats of lake ecosystems, supporting a wide range of beneficial aquatic plants, invertebrates, amphibians, waterfowl and fish. Littoral areas are beneficial for not only aquatic organisms, but many terrestrial creatures, as well, as anyone knows, who has witnessed a Moose, happily munching away on aquatic plants in a lake.

The health and integrity of the immediate upland shoreline area (referred to as Riparian zones) has a strong bearing on the health and ecological integrity of littoral areas, and to the overall lake system, as well. Research from the National Lakes Assessment (NLA), conducted by the US EPA and individual State environmental protection agencies (including the Maine DEP), found that one of the factors that most strongly correlated with overall lake health was the integrity of shoreline riparian and littoral areas.

The large, shallow flooded wetland that connects Upper and Middle Range Ponds is a healthy and productive littoral area that provides abundant habitat for fish and wildlife, both aquatic and terrestrial.

The shoreline area that borders the wetland is protected from potential negative disturbances to the sensitive littoral and terrestrial habitat by Maine's Shoreland Zoning Act. The adjacent shoreline area is currently zoned "Resource Protection", in order to maximize the protective benefit of setbacks (from development) from the shoreline. This level of protection is beneficial to both the rich littoral area, and to the health of the three interconnected Range Ponds.

Scott Williams, Limnologist
Lake & Watershed Resource Management Associates

Note added by RPA: The area at the west end of Upper Range Pond is also a Littoral area.

President's Letter

And another year has passed. And change happens.

We have new board members, others have resigned, life does have a way of taking over sometimes. We currently have seven board members, we could use more, we won't take advantage of you too much.. We don't meet that often. We need your help to protect the lakes so they will be here for your children and grandchildren.

This year, we updated our bylaws and those need to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of Members at the end of July. So come out and vote YES for our new bylaws please. The Bylaws will be posted on facebook and the website when we have the final version.

The Poland Town Manager, Matt Garside, will be our guest speaker at our Annual Meeting. So show up for a meet and greet and bring some questions. Cyndi will provide us with some breakfast snacks and coffee at the Dockside.

And if you can't make it to the meeting, you can still become a member and pay your dues by check or online at our website.

Only members in good standing (paid up for the 2018/2019 membership year) are allowed to vote at the meeting, two per household.

We will continue to monitor the lakes twice this year and that does cost money. But that is stated our mission, to protect the lakes by monitoring the water quality.

We finally sold all our RPEA t-shirts at the Heritage Days at the Poland Spring Inn on June 23. We still have RPA hats and visors available. We hope to have some different items to sell or giveaway, not sure what they may be yet or if they will be ready for the annual meeting this year.

We hope you come to our annual meeting, it's only a couple of hours, we promise not to take up too much of your time.

You can pay your dues online at our website!
RangePonds.org

Easier than writing a check.
Do it NOW while you remember!

**Notes from the State House
Second Session 128th Maine Legislature**

**By State Representative Jessica Fay, House
District 66, Poland, Casco, Raymond and
Environment and Natural Resources Committee**

There is still some ice on local ponds and lakes as I write this, so I am glad to be thinking about the upcoming summer. As we all begin imagine paddling, fishing, swimming and boating, I wanted to let you know about some of the things that have been happening in Augusta and around the state. The Environment and Natural Resources Committee had a quiet second session in terms of Shoreland Zoning changes and water quality issues.

If you have any questions about making an environmental complaint or to express a concern about a site, determining if a suspicious aquatic plant is invasive or reporting a problem with a septic system, this link will be very helpful. The folks at DEP are there to respond.

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/index.html>

Maine's shoreland zoning protections work to maintain our excellent water quality. Keeping good riparian buffers has been proven effective. Because we will most likely continue to have increased heavy rainfall and extreme weather events, making sure that runoff and non-point source pollution stay out of our lakes and streams is going to become increasingly important.

In the 129th Legislature there will most likely be bills that will address this issue in a number of ways. Making sure we maintain strong vegetative buffers, well-functioning septic systems especially in the shoreland zone and keeping an eye on how development might impact algae blooms like the dangerous cyanobacterial bloom on Highland Lake in Windham/Falmouth could be areas for legislative action. In addition, strengthening approaches to mitigating invasive aquatic plants could be another area of legislative interest.

When the next legislature begins its work in January of 2019, keeping track of what we are up to is easy to do using www.maine.gov. Until then, please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns or ideas for changes or additions to our state laws protecting our environment, particularly the water quality of our lakes and streams. I'm always happy to hear from you.

Last session we did hear a bill that would have required septic system inspections in the fresh water shoreland zone upon sale of the property. That bill didn't survive a veto, but I hope we will have a chance to revisit the issue in the future.

NOTE: If you believe you have found an invasive aquatic plant in the lake, you can also contact us at our email address, ourrangeponds@gmail.com, we monitor our email on a daily basis.

Mark the spot with a bouy, milk carton, float noodle or something you may have on hand so the spot can be found again for testing. We are here to help.

Loon Friendly Practices

Obey the no-wake zone within 200 feet of shore.

Use lead-free tackle. Good alternatives are made of steel, tin and bismuth.

Dispose of fishing line properly so it does not tangle in loon's feet or bills.

Use phosphorus free fertilizer and plant shrubs on your shoreline as a buffer to reduce runoff.

Keep your distance from nesting loons, watch with binoculars instead.

Keep garbage out of reach of loon egg predators, like skunks and raccoons.

Personal Watercraft

Enacted In 2003 - Operating Personal watercraft on Upper and Middle Range Pond is prohibited by the State of Maine (section 13071-A (4) (A) / (B).

Lower Range has a horsepower limitation which effectively prohibits personal watercraft.

A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 not more than \$500 may be adjudged.

A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed three (3) or more civil violation under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

The Act was clarified in 2007 with a definition of personal watercraft under section 13001:

"Personal Watercraft" means any motorized watercraft that is 14 feet of less in hull length as manufactured, has as its primary source of propulsion an inboard motor powering a jet pump and is capable of carrying one or more persons in a sitting, standing or kneeling position.

"Personal watercraft" includes, but is not limited to, a jet ski, wet bike, surf jet and miniature speedboat.

"Personal Watercraft" also includes motorized watercraft whose operation is controlled by a water skier.

Personal Watercraft" does not include a motorized watercraft that does not have a horsepower rating greater than 15 horsepower and does not generate an unreasonable amount of noise.

The boat launch on Upper Range and Cyndi's Dockside has signs installed to remind users that Personal Watercraft are prohibited.

**Call the Maine Game Warden Service to
report a violation.**

1-800-228-0857



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 fifteen board members.**

We have board positions open!

Ann Gagne - Upper (2020) President
Jane Pentheny - Upper (2019) Vice-President
Sandy Moreau - Middle (2018) Treasurer
Mary Jo Morgan - Middle (2020) Secretary

Barry Morgan -Middle – (2020)
Joe Radziszewski - Middle – (2018)
Bill Williams - Middle (2020)

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)
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