

the Water Column



A Publication of Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

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Cover: Invasive Plant Patrollers pause for group photo during IPP Field Methods workshop on Damariscotta Lake

President's Message



Bill Monagle
VLMP President

Well, another summer is behind us as we turn now to enjoy our beautiful, but brief Maine autumn, and begin preparing for our longest season, winter. But before we go trading Secchi disks for snow shovels, I feel it is incumbent upon me to recognize and thank the hard working staff of the VLMP, the VLMP Board of Directors, and the hundreds of volunteer monitors and supporters for another great year. It would be hard to imagine Maine's many beautiful lakes and ponds maintaining their reputation as some of the most pristine in the nation if not for the attention paid to the health of our lakes by the VLMP over the past 37 years.

Under the direction of Executive Director Scott Williams, the VLMP staff of Roberta Hill, Jim Entwood, Tania Neuschafer, Jackey Bailey, Christine Guerette, and Linda Bacon (DEP Technical Advisor), as well as interns and office volunteers represent the drivetrain of arguably the finest non-profit lake protection organization in the nation. And the VLMP is fortunate to have such exceptional, dedicated directors from diverse backgrounds that offer their time to provide support and guidance to the staff, as well as serving on one or several committees to tackle specific issues.

This past June, I attended the annual conference of the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC-NALMS) in Lake Morey, VT. The main conference theme was a celebration of the 30th anniversary of Vermont's Lay Monitoring Program, as well as recognition of other New England programs, including the Maine VLMP (the longest-running such program in the U.S.; at 37 years!). Our own Roberta Hill was there demonstrating and promoting the VLMP's virtual Secchi re-certification program, as well as the newly updated *Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants*. I received many comments from other attendees about how impressed they were with these new products and how on the "cutting edge" the Maine VLMP is. It really made me proud to be associated with such a great organization. I'm sure most, if not all of you feel the same way. And so, when you receive your copy of this edition of *the Water Column* and read this message, I anticipate hearing a collective round of applause no matter how distant you may be!

Lakeside Notes

Connecting Volunteer Lake Monitoring Data with the Watershed



Scott Williams
VLMP Executive Director

As you may know, the water quality data you collect not only reflects the conditions in the lake, but also gauges the health of the surrounding watershed—the land mass and tributaries that drain into the lake. Watershed development can alter the natural balances that help maintain stable lake water quality. As a VLMP monitor, you are trained to measure indicators of lake water quality that are affected by changes in the watershed. For example, Secchi disk readings measure the abundance of algae in lake water, which is largely determined by the concentration of phosphorus in the lake. The amount of phosphorus in individual lakes is influenced by both natural and human factors in lake watersheds.

You may have become interested in monitoring your lake because of questions you had about changes in your lake's water quality. And you might have quickly discovered that the answers to those questions could be traced to factors external to the lake. In fact, most discussions about lake water quality invariably shift to the watershed, because what we observe in the water is determined in no small way by the land area that drains into the lake. Nearly all of the water in a lake travels through some portion of the watershed before it reaches the lake basin, where we take Secchi disk readings and gather additional water

quality data. From a scientific perspective, lakes and their watersheds are one interconnected physical, chemical and biological ecosystem.

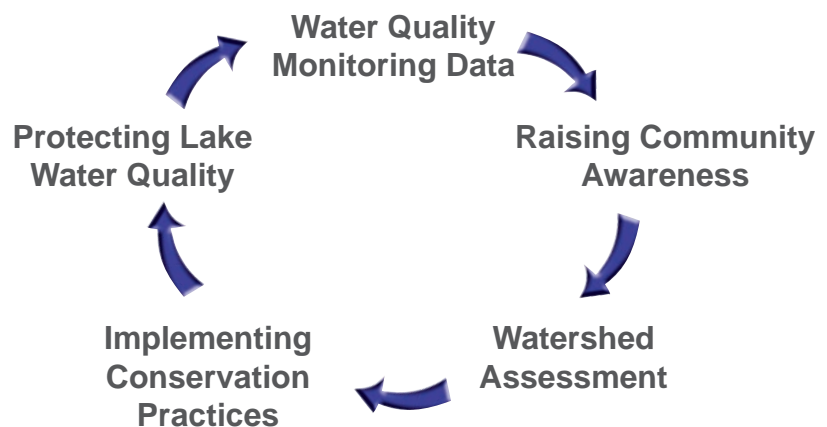
Over the years, the VLMP has helped support the work of hundreds of volunteer monitors in their efforts to protect the lakes that they monitor. *The consistent, science—based message to volunteer monitors and their communities has always emphasized that watershed stewardship is the primary means of ensuring long term lake health.*

As a volunteer lake water quality monitor, you may already know a fair amount about the watershed of the lake that you monitor, including which towns are completely or partially contained in the drainage area, and the overall expanse of the land area that drains into the lake. You may also be aware of the location of the watershed boundaries, tributary streams, wetlands, and a good deal more.

What Can You Do?

Community understanding of the lake and watershed connection is fundamental to virtually all efforts to protect lake water quality. As a volunteer lake monitor, you have the potential to greatly facilitate and heighten local awareness by sharing your experiences and knowledge with individuals in your watershed communities, including members of local lake associations, conservation commissions, planning boards and others.

Another way in which you can add help to make the connection between your lake data and the watershed is by helping to organize, and participating in a watershed survey—a project that is focused on identifying specific sources of phosphorus in the watershed that can pollute stormwater runoff that flows to the lake. In recent years, dozens of such surveys have been conducted in lake watersheds throughout Maine. The information gained



from a watershed survey is a great way to heighten community awareness of lake and watershed connections, and it can be an important first step toward fixing watershed problems, improving lake water quality, and providing long-term protection for the lake.

You can also play a valuable role in communicating information to watershed community residents concerning the use of lake-friendly conservation practices, such as vegetated buffers, which can very effectively filter pollutants like phosphorus and sediment from stormwater runoff.

Starting in 2009, the VLMP will more actively encourage and assist volunteer

lake monitors in helping their communities connect lake data with the watershed. Whenever possible, we will guide volunteers toward existing programs that are already working to help protect lake water quality, such as the Watershed Stewards program at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the work of the many County Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the state, and the Maine DEP's LakeSmart program.

As a volunteer lake monitor, you are trained to collect objective scientific water quality data on your lake. But there is also an important science-based stewardship role for volunteers

to play in helping watershed communities understand the connection between, and the influence of watersheds on lakes. We encourage you to learn more about those connections, and to use your knowledge to help your community better understand the link between the data you collect and your lake watershed.

For more information see the following article on *Lake and Watershed Connections*.

Lake and Watershed Connections

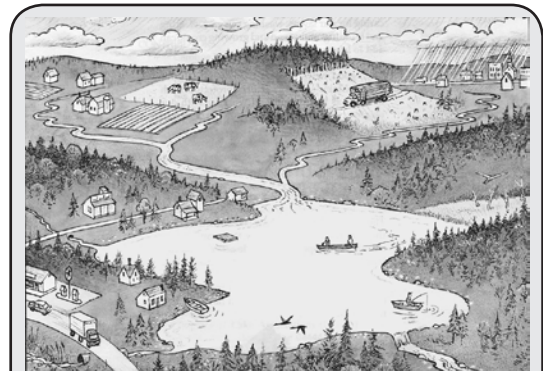
By Scott Williams

The Basics

Every lake and pond has a watershed, which in its most simple form, can be thought of as the bowl-shaped land area surrounding a lake that drains to the low spot in the landscape where all of the water in the bowl eventually flows—the lake.

Watershed boundaries are defined by high points in the terrain surrounding the lake, such as ridges and hilltops. Water that falls on the land on the inner side of the boundary flows toward, and will eventually reach the lake (unless it evaporates along the way). Outside of the watershed boundary, water flows to another body of water—another lake, or a stream or river. All water ultimately flows to the sea.

Our focus is on lake watersheds, because watersheds are an integral component of lake ecosystems, and conditions in the watershed influence conditions in the lake. Watersheds come in a wide range of shapes and sizes, depending entirely on the lay of the land surrounding individual lakes. A watershed boundary may follow the general shape of the lake, extending only a short distance from the shoreline, though that is not generally the case. The surrounding terrain may be such that the watershed extends miles away from the

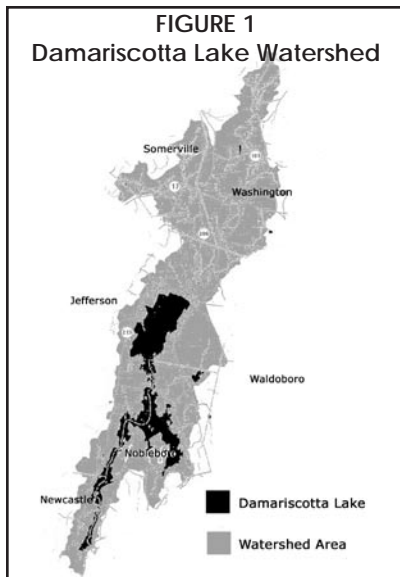


A lake's watershed encompasses all the surrounding land that drains into it. Human activities on the land within the watershed can affect water quality as pollutants such as soil and fertilizers are carried into the lake by stormwater runoff.

shoreline into nearby communities. For example, the direct watershed for Damariscotta Lake (Figure 1) encompasses an area greater than 75 square miles, extending into five towns.

Direct and Indirect Watersheds

A *direct* watershed consists of the land area that drains directly to a lake, without first draining to another lake. All lakes have a direct watershed. However, some lakes also have *indirect* watersheds, because one or more upstream (higher elevation) lakes discharge into the direct watershed of the downstream lake. In such cases, the watershed of the upstream lake(s) is the indirect watershed of the downstream lake.



The concept of direct and indirect watersheds is pretty straightforward. Imagine a “chain of lakes”, in which the water that flows out of one lake at a higher elevation eventually flows into another lake that is situated lower in the landscape. The chain might consist of just two, or several interconnected lakes. The indirect watershed for the lake at the bottom (lowest elevation)

into the towns of Norway and Raymond. This map does not show topographic contours, but the major streams that flow through the watershed are shown to help illustrate how land that is situated several miles away drains to the lake. If included on this map, the topographic contours would confirm the location of the watershed boundaries, as well as the stream channels, but all of this information would be difficult to sort out in black and white. Thompson Lake has a surface area of 4,225 acres. The *direct* watershed area for the lake, which is the light shaded area that surrounds the lake, measures about 35.3 square miles. The *indirect* watershed, which also includes the watersheds of Saturday, Moose and Sand Ponds, measures 39.3 square miles. The dark shaded area that surrounds these three small ponds denotes their direct watersheds, which are included in the indirect watershed of Thompson Lake, because all three discharge into Thompson Lake, because all three discharge into Thompson Lake. Note that each of the smaller ponds has a surface elevation higher than that of Thompson Lake.

of the chain would include the watersheds of all of the lakes situated at higher elevations (upstream). But the lake at the top of the chain would have only a direct watershed, because there are no further upstream lakes.

Figure 2 illustrates the direct watershed for Saturday Pond in the Town of Otisfield. Saturday Pond has a surface area of about 171 acres. The direct watershed (the boundary of which is drawn with the heavy shaded line that surrounds the pond) encompasses an area of 1.31 square miles. All of the Saturday Pond watershed is situated relatively close to the lake. In this illustration, the boundaries are drawn on a topographic map that shows the contours of the terrain. A close look at the elevation of the contours on the map (numbers drawn on the lines, indicating feet above sea level) shows that the watershed boundary follows the highest points in the terrain surrounding Saturday Pond. The low point in the watershed is Saturday Pond itself, which has an elevation of 531 feet above sea level. All of the terrain in the watershed is higher, as shown by the map contour elevations. Water that falls inside of the boundary of the Saturday Pond watershed will eventually reach the pond, unless it evaporates along the way. Note that the only point where the watershed boundary intersects the shoreline of the pond is where the water is flowing *out* of Saturday Pond, thus leaving the watershed.

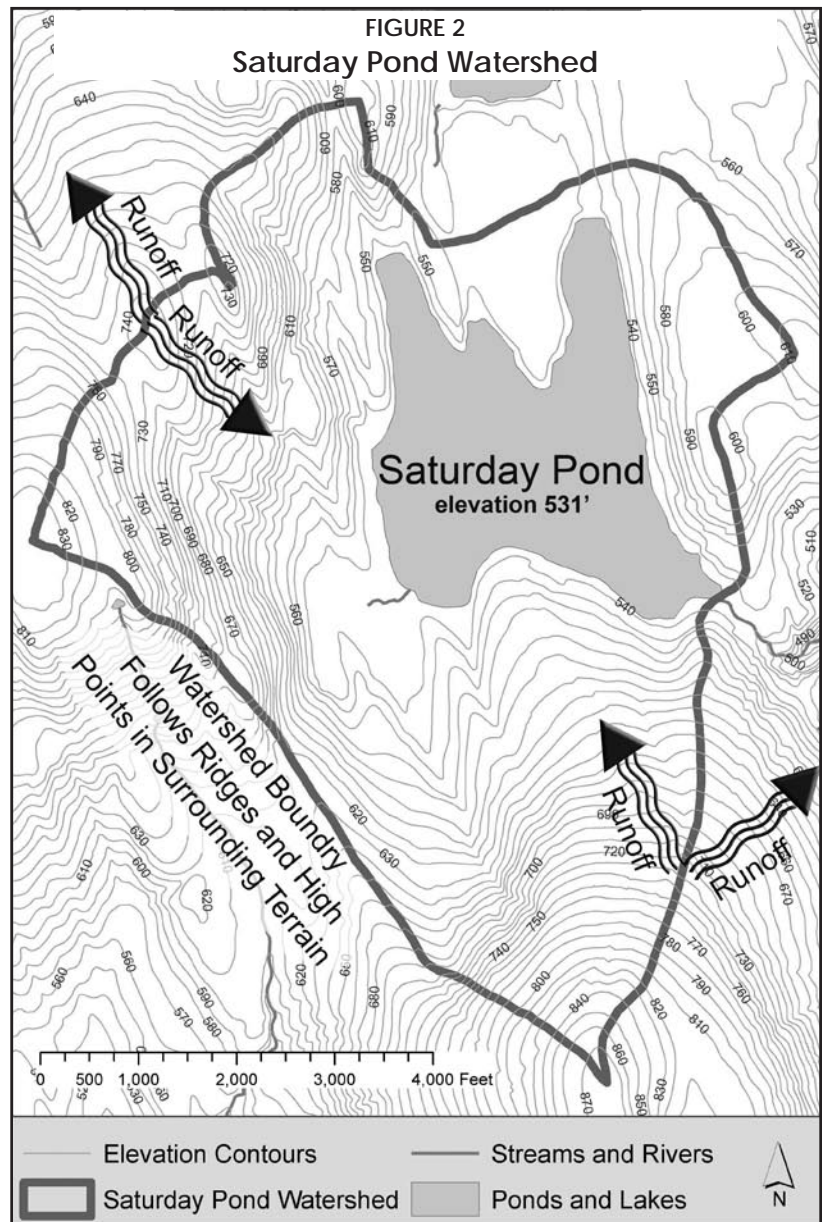
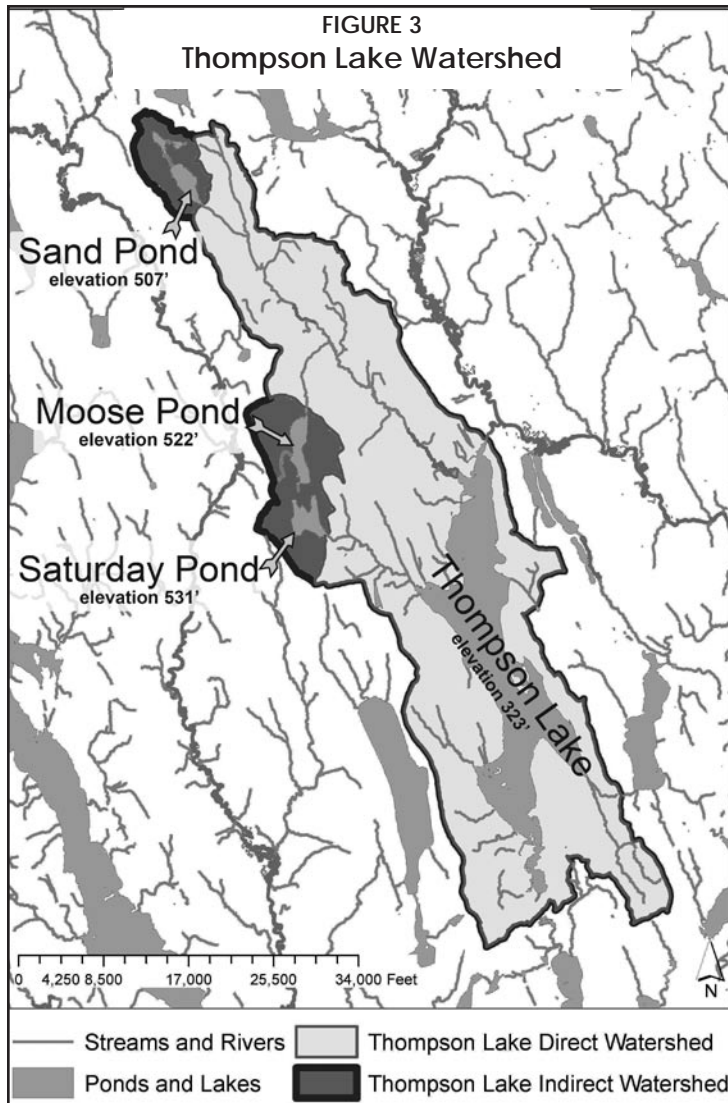


Figure 3 illustrates both the direct and indirect watersheds for Thompson Lake, a much larger lake, with a much larger watershed. The lake is situated in the towns of Oxford, Poland, Casco and Otisfield, but the watershed extends further

Indirect watersheds can be very large. For example, the indirect watershed for Sebago Lake measures 361 square miles, which includes many lakes and ponds, each with their own watershed, eventually draining into Sebago. This watershed includes portions of 23 towns.



Watershed Influences on Lakes

Watersheds influence lakes in a number of ways. *Natural* features of lake watersheds have a strong bearing on the basic chemistry of lake water, including the availability of nutrients like phosphorus. The size of the watershed, relative to the volume of water in the lake affects how often the water is exchanged, or “flushed” during the year. Other natural factors include soil types, steepness of terrain, the location of wetlands, the types, density and location of vegetation that absorbs and filters water and recycles nutrients, and the natural pathways (tributaries) by which water travels down through the watershed.

Lake water quality is also strongly affected by *human factors*, because the natural watershed influences described above

can be dramatically altered by development. The creation of roads, residential and commercial buildings and other structures, parking areas, agricultural land and virtually everything else associated with all forms of development, changes the ways in which water flows through the watershed. Development typically causes increases in both the volume and the velocity of stormwater runoff, resulting in increased soil erosion, higher concentrations of phosphorus in stormwater runoff, as well as the introduction of other pollutants in the water travelling to lakes.

In addition to the *quantitative* changes (increases in) stormwater runoff from developed areas in lake watersheds, changes in *quality* also occur. When compared to runoff from similar undeveloped areas, stormwater runoff from developed watersheds typically contains higher concentrations of substances that can cause lake water quality to decline, such as phosphorus, and sediment from soil erosion. *A study conducted by the Maine DEP in the 1980's found that stormwater runoff from residential development may contain up to 5-10 times more phosphorus than runoff from similar undeveloped watersheds.* The findings of this Maine study were similar to those of similar research conducted in other areas of the country.

Protecting lake watersheds from the effects of watershed development protects lake water quality because lake ecosystems include the watershed. The use of conservation practices to minimize the effects of both new and existing development is essential to the long-term health of our lakes. For lakes with complex indirect watersheds, the greatest “bang for the buck” can be achieved by addressing issues in the direct watershed. If problems in all of the direct watersheds can be resolved, then the indirect watershed issues are also addressed.

Future articles on this topic will cover more specific information about how both natural and human factors in lake watersheds influence lake quality, and case histories of watershed assessment and stewardship projects, in which volunteer lake monitors have played key roles.

Thanks to Kristen Feindel, Maine DEP for help in preparing the watershed maps for this article.

Quality Counts!

Recertification Blues

www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org/recertify

One of the frequently asked questions we get is ‘Why do we need to be recertified so often?’ This is often followed up with something like ‘I’ve been doing these readings for 12 years, I should have it down by now.’ We realize that it takes time and seems like a bother, but it is the foundation the VLMP sits upon. And the foundation has a **new addition...**

Recertifications are an integral part of this program. It assures that data collected by volunteers is reliable. It also provides volunteers with the opportunity to provide feedback to program staff on everything from an address change to how the data was used at a town meeting, and even to whine about having to spend the better part of a day getting recertified. As you likely know, certifications for Secchi Disk Transparency are required every three years while Certifications for Dissolved Oxygen and other advanced monitoring techniques are required annually. The annual certifications will continue to occur as they not only allow us to check the techniques used by monitors but allow us to check the equipment being used with the hope that equipment malfunctions will be identified early in the season before a volunteer has invested lots of time and energy acquiring dissolved oxygen data. There is nothing worse than spending ones precious time gathering numbers and then being told they are no good.

The good news is that we have been hearing your dismay about the time and travel (including gasoline expense) required for Secchi recertifications and have introduced an **online tool** that may be used to satisfy the Secchi recertification requirement. Our **Secchi Simulator** went online in June of 2008. This tool was built by ASAP Media Services students in Orono who viewed video tape footage of a Secchi disk being lowered in a variety of water types then constructed animations to simulate a variety of conditions.

To access this tool, go to the web address above. At the top, you may log in to the system and begin the official recertification process, or near the bottom, there is a “Try it Out” option.

When you begin the online recertification process, you are asked to choose conditions that best represent your lake: clear, intermediate, productive, dystrophic (highly colored), dystrophic and productive. Be sure to read the descriptions that accompany each lake type to help choose a lake similar to the one you monitor. An interactive animation will appear. Use the up and down arrow keys to raise and lower the disk. When you think you are at the exact point where the reading should be taken, take a reading and submit the result. The next screen tells you what the target reading was, how close you were and if you were within tolerance. It is really a great tool. You can try it out just for fun or use it to satisfy your recertification requirement. If you choose to use the tool for the latter, there is a short review of the technique for you to read and a short quiz to take as well.

This tool has gotten great reviews by folks running volunteer organizations across the country and most importantly, great reviews by monitors in the program:

“I had to try it out! VERY Impressive! This is going to be a huge time and money saver for all involved. Great job.” *Terri Marin*

“This is awesome!” *Peter Vaux*

“Wow! How cool!” *Jennifer Jespersen*

“I just finished the re-certification (disc) on line and want to commend everyone involved for streamlining the process. Thanks for your always appreciated hard work.” *Barry Kutzen*

So please give the simulator a try! It is a ‘green tool’ in more ways than one!



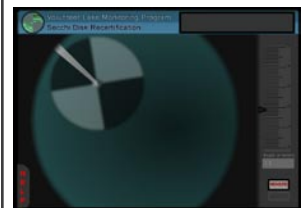
By Linda Bacon
Maine DEP Technical
Advisor

The Secchi Simulator has multiple lake types to test your technique

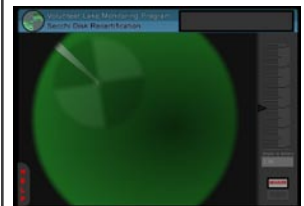
Clear Lake



Intermediate Lake



Productive Lake



Littorally Speaking

Strengthening the case for early detection: Eurasian water-milfoil in Salmon Lake

By Roberta Hill
Program Director, VLMP's Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants

On August 4, 2008, Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), one of Maine's "eleven most unwanted invasive aquatic plants" was confirmed to be present in Salmon Lake (also known as Ellis Lake) in Belgrade. Widely known as one of the most aggressive invasive aquatic plants in North America, Eurasian milfoil was previously known to occur in only one other Maine waterbody: Pleasant Hill Pond, a small quarry pond in Scarborough.

Unlike Pleasant Hill Pond, which has no public access, sees little if any recreational activity, and has limited connectivity to other Maine waters, Salmon Lake has an active public boat ramp, supports a wide range of recreational activities, and is a primary headwater to a major chain of lakes. But thankfully (for Salmon Lake and all of us) there is another big difference. The earlier infestation in Pleasant Hill Pond had almost entirely overtaken the available habitat in that waterbody by the time the infestation was detected. The infestation in Salmon Lake, by contrast, was detected relatively soon after introduction, before it became widespread in the waterbody. *It is this singular fact—the fact that the offending invader was detected early rather than late in the process of establishing itself in the waterbody, that tips the balance in favor of Salmon Lake.*

Early detection was of course not the only factor working to help assure a



The infestation of Eurasian water-milfoil in Salmon Lake (located near the public boat launch in an area known locally as Kozy Cove) was detected early and the response was swift and well executed, all of which bodes well for future efforts to control its spread.

favorable outcome for Salmon Lake. The entire course of events set in motion by the "early detector" Kurt Lakin—the vacationing Tennessee fisheries biologist who first noticed the suspicious plants—functioned like clockwork. Shortly after the suspicious plants were detected, specimens were collected and brought to the VLMP Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants for species confirmation. Within hours of documentation, the Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) began to mobilize their Rapid Response Plan. By August 5th, four days after the discovery of the infestation, DEP biologists had surveyed the site where the plants were first detected, and had determined that the infestation was sparsely distributed throughout a shallow cove, roughly seven acres in size. The area, known locally as "Kozy Cove," is between the public boat ramp off Route 8 and an outlet stream lead-

ing to Great Pond. Three days later, on August 8, a DEP dive team was dispatched to remove all visible plants. Simultaneously a team comprised of local residents, State agency personnel, trained Invasive Plant Patrollers, University of Maine Farmington faculty and students, and VLMP staff was organized and set to the task of surveying Salmon Lake and adjacent waters to determine if the plant had spread beyond the Kozy Cove area. As of this writing no additional infested areas have been found.

In addition to these actions, state officials have deployed buoys identifying plant sites, improved signage at the nearby boat ramp, communicated with lake shore residents on appropriate boat usage, and increased the hours of Courtesy Boat Inspections occurring at the boat ramp. Local residents and conservation groups have met to begin discussing strategies to guide future prevention, early detection, rapid response, management and monitoring efforts in light of the newly identified infestation. DEP divers have conducted three more "search and destroy" missions in the cove, removing any additional plants found (either undetected earlier, or newly sprouted; any tiny stem or root fragment left behind can quickly produce a new plant). A total of roughly one hundred stems have now been removed from Salmon Lake, and though new stems are found each time the divers look, there is good reason to believe that the

day will come in the not too distant future when no Eurasian milfoil plants are found. And the hope, of course, is that regular monitoring over time will provide Salmon Lake with a continued clean bill of health.

Nonetheless, the fact remains... had the infestation in Salmon Lake gone unnoticed for one, two or three years more, all the while spreading quietly within Salmon Lake and into adjacent waters, the efficacy of the subsequent "rapid response," no matter how swift and well executed, would have been significantly diminished. Like a serious illness or epidemic, the earlier an infestation is detected, the better the chances are for effective remediation.

In addition to providing a model of superbly executed rapid response, recent events at Salmon Lake have given us important, concrete evidence of the critical importance of building a strong, sustainable, statewide early detection team. Thanks to all of you who have participated in one or more Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) workshops and have spent time monitoring the waters of Maine for aquatic invaders, we are well on track in this regard.

Consider the following...

- Nearly every known infestation in the State of Maine has been detected by an informed and alert citizen.
- Roughly seventy percent of the invasive aquatic plant survey activity being conducted in Maine is now being done by trained volunteers.
- The number of waterbodies with reported surveys has increased nearly four-hundred percent since the IPP program began.

There is, of course, much yet to be done. There are still thousands of lakes and ponds, and tens of thousands of miles of stream habitat in Maine that have never been surveyed for the pres-

ence of aquatic invaders, and to do the job right, *all* Maine waters should be surveyed routinely and repeatedly for the foreseeable future. But every year we make significant progress. Every year more and more of you join the ranks of Maine's Invasive Plant Patrol. Every year more waterbodies are screened. With your continued involvement and support, we will continue to build upon what is already seen as one of the most effective citizen-based early detection teams in the US.

Toward this end, there is one thing that all of you could do, starting today, that would help immeasurably... and that is, simply tell others what you are doing. Spread the word to friends, family, local schools, and community, any time the opportunity arises. Describe your work as an Invasive Plant Patroller. Share what you enjoy about the work and what inspires you to continue. Send those who are interested in learning more about the threat of invasive aquatic plants, and perhaps in becoming involved in Maine's early detection effort, to the VLMP website at: www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors/mciap/ipp. There are no limits to the power of this kind of face-to-face public outreach. If each of you could encourage just one person to attend an IPP workshop next year, we could double the number of trained eyes out on Maine waters in a single summer! And considering all that is at stake here in our beautiful water-rich state, that would be no small achievement.



Staff from DEP survey for invasive Eurasian water-milfoil in Salmon Lake.

Help the VLMP Bring New Lakes Onboard

Do you know someone who might be interested in becoming a water quality monitor or plant patroller? Let us know and we'll send you information and an application form to pass along. Or we can contact them directly if you'd prefer. We can also send you a packet of information including an article for your lake association newsletter to help recruit new volunteers.

The VLMP relies primarily on word of mouth from individuals and associations to recruit new volunteers and bring new lakes into the program. We greatly appreciate your help with this effort and welcome any questions or inquiries.

SPREAD THE WORD

Welcome New Certified Water Quality Monitors

Over 40 new Water Quality Monitors were certified this year. Water Quality Monitors collect data twice a month from May through September. They receive training and certification for measuring water clarity with a Secchi disk and collect water samples to measure Total Phosphorus. Some monitors also volunteer for advanced training to measure Dissolved Oxygen and additional indicators of water quality. Their data is certified by the VLMP and used by State and Federal Agencies, municipalities, regional and local associations, educational institutions and others.



Susan Gramlich: Chemo Pond, Bradley
 Jessica Harold: Various Lakes
 Elin Haugen: West Harbor Pond, Boothbay Harbor
 Dan Lagueux: North & Little Ponds, Rome
 Stephen Martin: Hutchinson Pond, Albany Twp
 Davis Martin: Hutchinson Pond, Albany Twp
 Bill Messer: Androscoggin Lake, Leeds
 Paula Monaghan: Collins Pond, Windham
 Susan Moore: Raymond Pond, Raymond
 Ray O'Hara: Little Purgatory Pond, Litchfield
 John Orne: Adams & Knickerbocker Pond, Boothbay
 Alice Phillips: Damariscotta Lake, Jefferson
 David Richardson: Plymouth Pond, Plymouth
 Kurt Rockafellow: Plymouth Pond, Plymouth
 Mike Rowland: Norcross Pond, Chesterville
 Lois Ruff: Bryant Pond, Woodstock
 Joe Saunders: Cochnewagon Pond, Monmouth
 John Scholz: Loon Lake, Dallas Pt
 Ray Snedeker: Little Pennessseewassee, Norway
 Carl Stillwell: Damariscotta Lake, Jefferson
 Jim Timmins: Pleasant Lake, T04 R03 WELS
 Bill Watts: Lower Sysladobsis Lake, T05 ND BPP
 Beatty Watts: Lower Sysladobsis Lake, T05 ND BPP
 Jim Wescott: Unity Pond, Unity
 Elizabeth Whitmore: Walker Pond, Brooksville
 Fran Zambella: Torsey Pond, Mount Vernon

Penny Appleby: Pleasant Pond, Turner
 Charlie Baker: Chemo Pond, Bradley
 Matthew Brettler: Upper Range Pond, Poland
 Mike Bridges: Megunticook Lake, Camden
 Chip Byrne: Bauneag Beg Lake, North Berwick
 Halina Byrne: Bauneag Beg Lake, North Berwick
 Jen Chase: South & Round Ponds, Greenwood
 Cayce Dalton: Various Lakes
 Bev Daniels: Raymond Pond, Raymond
 Michelle Deblois: Various Lakes
 Larry Esancy: Washington Pond, Washington
 Megan Facciolo: Various Lakes
 Larry Gaudreau: Bauneag Beg Lake, North Berwick
 Nelson Gouterman: Sand Pond, Denmark

The 2008 volunteer training workshops were made possible thanks to the generous contributions of individuals, local and regional lake and watershed associations who contributed to our recent spring appeal, and from recent grants from the:

- Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the US EPA
- Roy A. Hunt Foundation
- Horizon Foundation
- The Betterment Fund
- Maine Community Foundation's Kay E. Dopp Fund through the Community Building Grant Program
- John Sage Foundation
- Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust

Welcome New Certified Invasive Plant Patrol Monitors

Out of the 190 individuals who attended one or more IPP workshop in 2008, 42 new volunteers became officially certified. The goal of the IPP Certification Program is to encourage and support individual and group commitment to the annual collection and submission of invasive aquatic plant screening survey data. To become a Certified Plant Patroller, you must have participated in at least one Introductory IPP workshop (or equivalent training), complete an application and sign a statement of commitment. In addition to the materials distributed to workshop attendees (including the *Field Guide* and IPP Handbook) VLMP provides all certified patrollers with standardized data forms, an ID card, a bucket scope, annual updates and ongoing technical assistance. If you have recently attended an IPP workshop and are conducting invasive aquatic plant screening surveys and would like to be certified, please contact us. Application forms are available on line at www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org/mciap/IPPCertForm.pdf

Sharon Abair: Damariscotta Lake, Jefferson
Biff Atwater: Anasagunticook Lake, Hartford
Charla Bansley: Green & Branch Lake, Dedham/Ellsworth
Bill Bausch: Biscay Pond, Damariscotta
David Bradbury: Watchic Pond, Standish
Michelle Broyer: Lovewell Pond, Fryeburg
Mike Caiola: Forest Lake, Windham
Michael Camacho: Clearwater Pond, Industry
Kathleen Cotter: Abrams Pond, Eastbrook
Buzz Crostou: Anasagunticook Lake, Hartford
Megan Devine: Clearwater Pond, Industry
Alan Dorr: Donnell Pond, T09 SD
Donald Drew: Watchic Pond, Standish
Rocco Fucetola: Georges Pond, Franklin
Meghan Goff: Lakes in Acadia National Park
Janene Gorham: Forest Lake, Windham
Karen Hall: Forest Lake, Windham
Carolyn Hardman: Damariscotta Lake, Jefferson
Adeline Harris: Clearwater Pond, Industry
Roberta Hodson: Thompson Lake, Oxford
Ed Keenan: Forest Lake, Windham
Tom Larned: Kennebunk Pond, Lyman

Sally LaVertu: Green Lake, Dedham
Patricia Levesque: Sand Pond & Little Sebago Lake, Litchfield/Windham
Patricia J. Macfarlane: Graham Lake, Mariaville
Connie Mahaffey: Donnell Pond, T09 SD
Jim Olson: Damariscotta Lake, Jefferson
Ivan Ossander: Forest Lake, Windham
Pamela Parvin: Eagle Lake, Bar Harbor
Adrien Polky: 30 Mile-river Watershed Association
Helen Presz: Horne Pond, Limington
Joseph Presz: Horne Pond, Limington
Donald Richardson: Crystal Lake, Gray
Lidie Robbins: Parker Pond, Fayette
Duncan Smith: Forest Lake, Windham
Carroll D. Snyder: Branch Lake, Ellsworth
Nancy Stine: Walker Pond, Brooksville
Fred Stine: Walker Pond, Brooksville
Alecia Tenney: 30 Mile-river Watershed Association
Tom Tuttle: Pitcher Pond, Northport
Ted Webersinn: Lower Patten Pond, Surry
Bud Weiland: Branch Lake, Ellsworth



Moosehead Lake Volunteer Monitoring Initiative Update



The 2008 Moosehead Lake Survey Team, comprised of trained volunteers, agency personnel and VLMP staff, was superb. Not all team members could participate the entire week, but at maximum capacity the team was a dozen strong. From left to right Jackey Bailey, Elin Haugen, Bunny Wescott, Christine Guerette, Roberta Hill, Bob & Sibyl French, Keith Williams and Ross Wescott. Absent from this photo are Mark Whiting, Kelly Stewart, and Sally Breen (who volunteered to be the team chef!)

Once everyone had settled in to “base camp” a daily routine fell into place— by six o’clock AM the kitchen was humming with activity... preparing breakfast... packing lunches. Then the table was cleared... maps out... team meeting to determine the portion of the lake to be surveyed that day and the strategy for achieving the task. Generally these discussions included such things as how the team du jour would be broken into smaller survey units; sector assignments; access strategy; transport needs and logistics, etc. Then, ready the gear... break into units... travel to survey sites... launch boats... survey all day long. (The sun shone gloriously every day, even on the day of the giant thunderstorm.) Next it was wrap up the data entry... pack up boats and gear... return to base camp for a big family-style dinner... clear the table, trays out for “botany fest” (a spirited show and tell involving the native plants collected that day)... and finally... rest... and (if we had the energy) a rousing game of “Pictionary.”

As many of you know, the VLMP Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants recently received a major grant from The Betterment Fund to launch an exciting project in the Moosehead Lake region. The primary goals of the Moosehead Lake Volunteer Monitoring Project are:

- to lay the foundation for an ongoing, volunteer-based, invasive aquatic plant prevention and early detection program in the Moosehead Lake region
- to engage trained volunteers in the largest invasive aquatic plant screening survey ever attempted in Maine
- to screen the entire littoral area of Moosehead Lake for the presence of invasive aquatic plants over the next two field seasons
- collect baseline information on Moosehead Lake's native aquatic plant communities

With the first year nine months of the Moosehead Lake Initiative and an extraordinarily active and exciting field season behind us, it is a good time to review progress to date.

The first thing to note is that some elements of the project have not particularly gone according to plan. The initial plan for 2008 called for holding advisory committee meetings and IPP workshops in the Greenville area this summer, organizing an IPP team comprised of trained local volunteers, VLMP staff, agency personnel and others, and then launching one of the most comprehensive invasive aquatic plant screening surveys ever attempted in Maine. And while tremendous progress has been made on all of these fronts this past summer—outreach, organization, and survey activity—the way things played out was somewhat different than initially envisioned.

Dwight D. Eisenhower put his finger on it when he quipped that “plans are nothing; planning is everything.” This project has been a case in point. By continually adapting the original plan to address real life challenges on the ground, the Moosehead Initiative has not only met initial expectations; it has, in a number of ways, already far exceeded them.

One challenge was finding a mutually agreeable date, time and place for a geographically dispersed group of interested but tremendously busy individuals to meet formally as an advisory committee. This challenge was overcome by shifting to more flexible forms of communication and collaboration, including phone conferencing, email exchanges and daylong trips to the region for individual face-to-face meetings, etc.

Meetings with local community leaders, in turn, brought a second challenge to light—the plan to offer IPP workshops in the Greenville area during the first year of the project was premature. As one local contact put it, “until a person has a sense that there is a serious problem at hand, it is unrealistic to expect that he or she may want to step forward to be part of the solution.”

This reality check led to rescheduling the workshops for 2009 and redirecting efforts toward more direct and fundamental forms of awareness building.

And so it has gone. Every challenge has given way to new opportunities; each of these opportunities, in turn, has opened up new pathways to advancement. Here is an example of one such ripple effect... When informed through an email notice about the goals of the Moosehead Initiative, a reader suggested we make contact with DIFW Warden Michael Favereau. The subsequent meeting with Michael at his office in Greenville led to the creation of an invasives educational outreach kit to be displayed at DIFW Greenville headquarters visitor center and also in the Department's "Operation Game Thief" unity a traveling display that is viewed by hundreds of area residents and visitors each summer. At that meeting Michael also suggested that VLMP staff take part in Greenville's Fourth of July festivities, one of the area's most well attended community events. This suggestion was further elaborated upon by Greenville Chamber of Commerce Director, Bob Hamer who added that one of the best ways to bring attention to the cause would be to enter a float in the parade. The resulting *Beware of Aquatic Invaders* "float" (comprised of VLMP's own Christine Guerette sporting a plant-infested hat and sandwich board) caught the eye of many along the parade route including Bill Fletcher, owner of Beaver Cove Marina. Bill and his wife Sandy have been concerned about the threat of aquatic invaders for some time and had been looking for ways to promote prevention practices at their marina. Christine's interaction with Bill led to an invitation to VLMP staff to make a presentation on the Moosehead Initiative at the marina's upcoming National Marina Day Festival. And Roberta Hill's talk, providing an introduction to the threat of aquatic invaders to marina staff and festival goers, resulted in many new connections to the community, and interest in next year's workshops.

Another ripple nudged us toward the door of Kineo View Motor Lodge owners George and Diane Edmondson. It was that meeting and the Edmondson's subsequent offer to allow the VLMP to rent their lakeshore condominium at a greatly discounted price, that made possible what may prove in time the most auspicious stroke of good of luck of all. Before these gracious accommodations were secured, the prospects for conducting an effective and efficient volunteer survey of Maine's largest lake seemed far more daunting. But once we had a suitable base of operations for strategizing and mobilizing daily forays, everything else seemed to fall perfectly into

place. "Moosehead Lake Survey Week" was on its way to becoming a reality; and as far as *progress* goes, Survey Week could not have been a more resounding success.

The accomplishments of Moosehead Survey Week were many. Here are just some of the highlights:

- The littoral areas of roughly half of the lake were surveyed. (The focus of 2008 was on the southern half of the lake; 2009 will cover the more northerly portions.)
- No invasive species were observed.
- The survey included a native plant inventory. An inventory of this magnitude had never been attempted on Moosehead Lake. A total of 55 aquatic plant species were identified including five native milfoil species.
- Daily survey activity generated a great deal of local interest. Many of the people we met expressed an eagerness to attend IPP trainings next year and to become more directly involved in ongoing survey activity.
- Interest has also grown, and planning has begun, for the establishment of a Courtesy Boat Inspection program for the area.
- Importantly, we have made many new friends among team members and within the Moosehead community.

Survey week, and the planning that proceeded it, has also produced an intriguing spin off ... In the process of working out how best to tackle the particular task at hand (establishing a viable citizen-based monitoring program on Maine's largest lake), we have hit upon a what we believe is a unique and potentially highly-effective model for jump-starting lake-wide monitoring programs elsewhere in the State, particularly on lakes that have special state-wide significance, but where current citizen-based monitoring is limited or non-existent. (Indeed, we have already been urged by our colleagues at Acadia National Park to bring the VLMP's new "IPP jump-start unit" to the Park as soon as it becomes feasible to do so.) The possibilities seem endless here, but a good many details are yet to be worked out, so please stay tuned. As always, we welcome your input and involvement in the development of this exciting new idea.



For more on the Moosehead Initiative please visit the online photo journal at:
www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org/photos/Moosehead

Thank you

Successful spring fundraising campaign trains volunteers to monitor more lakes in Maine, including those "at risk", and provides continued technical support to volunteer monitors.

The following list of individuals and lake and watershed associations reflects donations received as of October 7, 2008 toward the spring fundraising campaign.

A list of all contributions received in 2008 will be posted in our winter 2009 newsletter and our 2008 Maine Lakes Report.

If you feel there are any errors or omissions to this list, please contact Tania at (207) 783-7733. Thank you so much, for your generous support of our work—together we are helping to ensure the future health of our lakes.

"Thank you to all who contributed to this special spring fundraising campaign. Your gift really made a difference in helping us train volunteers to monitor more lakes in Maine this year. We hope you can make a gift to our upcoming Annual Fund Drive, coming in November. Each year, this Annual Fund Drive raises the essential operating funds we need to conduct and expand our work. We value your support!"

Tamara Lee Pinard, VLMP Board of Directors & Development Committee Chair

Lake and Watershed Associations

Alford Lake/Lermond Pond Association
Bear Pond Improvement Association
Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance
Berry Dexter Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Boyden Lakes Association
Branch Pond Association
Bunganut Pond Association
Camp Seasmont
Cathance Lake Association
Citizens Association of Liberty Lakes
Clearwater Lake Improvement Association
Clemons Pond Association
Cold Stream Campowners Association, Inc.
Craig Pond Association
Crystal Lake Association
Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association
Dexter Lakes Association
Embden Pond Association
Five Kezars Watershed Association
Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed
Green & Mirror Pond Association
Howard Pond Preservation Association
Hidden Lake Association
Kennebec Water District
Kennebunk Pond Association
Keoka Lake Association

Lake Anasagunticook Association
Lake Moxie Campowners Association
Little Ossipee Lake Association
Little Wilson Pond Improvement Association
Loon Lake Association
Madison Water District
Mousam Lake Region Association
Nickerson Lake Wilderness Preservation, Inc
No Name Pond Watershed Management Association
Papoose Pond Landowners Association
Parker Pond Association, Inc.
Pemaquid Watershed Association
Pickerel Pond Association
Pitcher Pond Improvement Association
Pleasant Lake Parker Pond Association
Pleasant Pond Protective Association
Portage Lake Association
Sabattus Pond Watershed Partnership
Sabbathday Lake Association
Sebasticook Lake Association
Summer Haven Lakes Association
Swan Lake Association
Taylor Pond Association
Wilson Lake Association
Worthley Pond Association

Individuals

Adsert Technologies, Inc.

Martin Arnold

Pat Baldwin

Skip Bartosch

Mike Becker

Forrest Bell- FB Environmental

Scott Bernardy

Michael & Joanne Bernstein

Don Blodgett

Joel W. Bloom

Mr. George Bouchard

Kathy Boutselis

James & Susan Bowersett

Anne & Rich Bray

Leon Bresloff & Mary Bayer

Peter & Bette Briggs

Warren H. Bryant

Charlotte & John Calhoun

Rob Caron

Deborah Cayer

Carmen & Jacob Coulombe

Robert E. Crawford

Jane Crosen Washburn

George A. Cross, Jr.

Mary Jane Dillingham

Fred Dillon

Thomas Dionis

Claire Drew

Sandra Dumont

Bruce & Sharon Eastman

Jim Easton & Melissa Evers

Joe & Ruth Emerson

Dr. Roy Farnsworth

Bruce Fenn & Susan Therrien-Fenn

Carrol Florkiewicz

Ken Forman

Yolande Gay

Robert Giencke

Bill Gies, II

Bob Hall

Tom & Judy Hamilton

Phoebe Hardesty

Ken Hodsdon

Kenneth Holt

Ellie Hopkins

Ms. Joan R. Jagoliner

Neil & Peggy Jensen

Richard A. Johnson

Denise Joy & Fred Flammia

Roberta Hill

Robert & Patricia Keeler

Dr. Barry Kutzen

Mr. & Mrs. Marc E. Lasky

Melissa Legg & Richard Reeves

Peter M. Leslie

Steve Lewis

Robert & Gloria Limoges

Eldin Lingwood

Joanne A. Luppi

Mary G. Lynch

Betty & Bert Mason

James & Jean McIntyre

Suzanne Uhl-Melanson & Jeff Melanson

Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Meyer

Bill & Grace Monagle

Bob & Susan Moore

Earl & Joanne Morse

Wynn Muller

Richard Neal

Kirsten Ness

Tania Neuschafer

Steve & Karen O'Bryan

James J. Orino

Barbara & Donald Paiton

Elizabeth Payne

Wally & Barb Penrod

Tamara Lee Pinard

Joe Potts

Buddy Potts

Waldo Preble

Jeanne Raymond

William Reid

Dennis Roberge

Meg Rothberg

Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Schaefer

Richard Schneider

Claudia & John Sholz

Ron Schutt

Matt Scott

Rick & Becky Southwick

Lea & Ken Stabinski

Bud & Doe Stewart

Eben B. Thomas

Bob Tracy

Mr. & Mrs. George Tranchemontagne

Brainard Tripp

Kenneth D. Truscott

Alexander Turbyne, III

Thomas & Jeanne Tuttle

Peter Vaux

Herman & Nancy Voigt

Clyde D. Walton

Bob Warren

John Wasileski

Michael & Penny Weinstein

F. W. Weston, Jr.

Lew & Miriam Wetzal

Mark Whiting

Stanton Whitman

Paul Wight

Nancy Willard

Ann K. Williams

Mary (Pixie) Williams

Scott Williams

Pat & Tom Willis

Upcoming Annual Fund Drive to Raise Essential Operating Funds

We know these are challenging times in our economy. We feel it, as do our funders. But our work to ensure the health of Maine lakes continues regardless of economic times. We still need to use our boats to take Secchi disc readings, conduct volunteer trainings, and screen for invasive aquatic plants. We still need to administer the lake data of over 500 lakes in the program to be sure that this lake data is available to the state, lake groups, town planners and communities. And, we still need to ensure that our training and certification programs continue to qualify volunteers to gather credible lake data that is relied upon by these groups.

The essential lake data collected by VLMP volunteers is used to help these, and other groups to make decisions concerning lake protection, including creating local and state storm-water management standards and watershed development controls. Our lake monitoring efforts also help to ensure

early detection of aquatic invaders, resulting in a rapid response to this threat to Maine's lakes. VLMP data are even being used to help document climate change. Ultimately, VLMP volunteer data help to secure the future quality of Maine's lakes and ponds, so that we can continue to rely on our lakes for swimming, fishing, drinking water and natural beauty.

We value your support for our program. And we hope that you will consider making a contribution next month to our annual fund drive. Each year, this annual fund drive provides essential operating funds that we rely on to continue to expand and conduct our basic work—protecting Maine's beautiful lakes and ponds. **Every donation directly contributes to ensuring the health of Maine's lakes.** Thank you so much, in advance, for continuing your support of our program.

Passings

Frank Perkins



Frank Perkins was a VLMP water quality monitor for 31 years, during which time he monitored Square Pond in Acton and Wiley Pond in Boothbay. Frank's thirty years of monitoring Maine lakes with the VLMP is a statement of commitment that stands on its own. But it only touches on his lifelong work to protect Maine's water resources. He worked for many years with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Maine Department of Marine Resources in Boothbay, then with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. He also taught Marine Biology, in which he had a Ph.D.

In the early days of the VLMP, Frank often helped construct Secchi disks and scopes, and repaired and maintained other monitoring equipment for DEP staff and new volunteers, which is how he first became involved in the program. More recently, he could always be counted on to attend recertification workshops, where he shared many personal stories with fellow monitors and VLMP staff. Frank was friendly, gracious and humble, and always quick to acknowledge the work of others. Frank was recognized at the VLMP's 2007 Lake Monitoring Conference for his many years of volunteer service. We will miss him.

Certified Monitors Recruited by University of Maine to Participate in Survey

Certified Volunteer Lake Monitors — Here is an opportunity for you to provide important information about your lake and its watershed, to be used for research that could benefit all Maine lakes in the future. Please keep an eye on your mail box for the survey from the University of Maine.

Lakes and the landscape of Maine are changing before managers have a solid understanding of the drivers and consequences of change. Researchers from the University of Maine are conducting a sustainable lake management research project examining issues related to recreational use of lakes, residential development, water quality and invasive plants and fish. This project hopes to help managers better understand the implications of changes in the landscape surrounding lakes. They need your help to improve knowledge of recreational use

of, and the built environment around lakes in Maine. Volunteer lake monitors are an important source of water quality data, as well as other kinds of ecological and social science data. In a short period of time you may receive a survey in the mail. Certified monitors are encouraged to fill out the survey as soon as possible. This is your opportunity to supply information about residential development, recreation and land use around your lake. Thank you for helping to create a more complete picture of Maine lakes!

Brackett Environmental Center News

VLMP's Statewide Training Facility for Lake Monitors



By Kirsten Ness,
VLMP Board of
Directors and
Building Committee
Chair

As many of you know, the VLMP was fortunate to have established its current home a few years ago at the Brackett Center on Maple Hill in Auburn. The Brackett Center is owned by the Auburn Water District (AWD), to whom the property was left by Barbara Brackett, who desired that it be used as an environmental center. VLMP has a great working relationship with AWD and in 2001, developed a long term lease to establish the Bracket Center as its statewide training facility, as well as the home of offices for the VLMP.

If you have visited the Brackett Center in the last few months you might have noticed our new sign, a new paint job, and the replacement of badly deteriorated garage doors. You also might have had the opportunity to see our new au-

dio visual equipment. These, and other improvements, including a draft plan for demonstrating conservation projects for protecting lake water quality from stormwater runoff, were made possible thanks to a generous contribution from Poland Spring.

Upcoming projects for the building, dependent on additional funding, include: upgrading the electrical system, fixing a leaky window on the second floor, reducing moisture in the basement, and establishing the Center as a demonstration site for additional conservation practices to protect lake water quality from stormwater runoff, serving as a model for homeowners visiting the training Center.

If you are interested in getting involved in the VLMP Building & Maintenance Committee, please contact us. And, as always, we look forward to seeing you at the VLMP Brackett Center soon for one of our trainings or a public outreach event.

VLMP 2008 Lakes Conference Highlights



See video from the conference panelists on the VLMP website
www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org/videos

The 2008 VLMP Lake Monitoring Conference focused on the question: How have Maine lakes benefited from 37 years of volunteer monitoring? A panel of presenters (above from left to right: Roy Bouchard, John McPhedran, Scott Williams, Jami Fitch and Wendy Dennis) shared their perspectives on the value of volunteer lake monitors and their data. We also heard from many volunteers (right) about how their work has directly benefitted their lake.



Gerry Nelson
Cushman Pond



Bill Allanach
Thompson Lake



Joe Emerson (center) received an award for 35 years of service as a water quality monitor on Upper Narrows Pond from Scott Williams (left) and Cobbossee Watershed District's Wendy Dennis (right).



Scott Williams (left) and VLMP President Bill Monagle (right) presented the volunteer service award for 10 years to Bob Francis on Parker Pond (2nd to left) and the award for 25 years to John Laskey on Tripp Pond (2nd to right).



On behalf of the VLMP, Scott Williams received the Jewel of the First Water award from the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute's Executive Director Shippen Bright. The annual award is given to the, "individual or organization that has demonstrated a commitment to understanding, preserving, and sustaining the health and values of Maine's lakes and their communities."

We thank the following businesses for their generous in-kind gifts for volunteer prize drawings

- Belgrade Canoe & Kayak
- DeLorme
- Farmingdale Canoe & Kayak
- Patagonia

This was the first year that we presented the Oops! Award to the volunteer with the best story about an unusual experience that occurred "in the line of duty." This year's winner (based on vote from the audience) was Fred Cummings who shared a story about a planned beaver dam demolition that was thwarted by a nest of black watersnakes.



2008 Lake Conference Volunteer Awards

Outstanding Water Quality Monitor Award—Keith Williams

The 2008 Outstanding Water Quality Monitor Award is presented to Highland Lake monitor Keith Williams. We can't begin to do justice to his "above and beyond the call of duty" volunteer work on Highland Lake and its watershed. Keith monitors a wide range of indicators of lake water quality, he is a relentless Invasive Plant Patroller, he has been a major player in volunteer watershed surveys and remediation projects, he has served on his local planning board, and Keith has even developed mathematical models that look at the relationship between annual lake water quality for Highland lake and building permits in the watershed. For those of you who don't know Keith, he is a very colorful individual, who doesn't just talk the talk when it comes to protecting Highland Lake, where he practices responsible watershed conservation and stewardship.



Keith Williams

Invasive Plant Patroller of the Year—Dennis Roberge

Dennis always wanted to snorkel different lakes in Maine, and started doing so in the summer of 2006. He was on the fifth lake (Lake Arrowhead) and met a Courtesy Boat Inspector and started talking about the invasive milfoil in the lake. He decided that if he was going to snorkel Maine's lakes he should know what the invasive plants look like. He attended his first IPP workshop in the late summer and was hooked.



Dennis Roberge and Roberta Hill

In 2007, Dennis single-handedly surveyed thirty four Maine waterbodies, and along the way took thousands of exquisite photographs of life below the surface, which he has generously offered to share with the VLMP. Many are now posted on our website and I encourage all of you to check them out if you have not already done so:

www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/LakeLife

Asked what motivates him, Dennis says that basically it is the realization of how easy it is for an invasive plant to take over a lake. (The lake he spent time on in NY was heavily infested with Eurasian milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and water chestnut!) Having learned that the best hope for eradication is early detection, Dennis says he could clearly see the importance of getting involved in Maine's early detection effort.

Dennis grew up in the Bronx in NY which he describes as "all apartment buildings, concrete and blacktop." He spent summers as a child on Mousam Lake with his family, an experience he describes as "heaven." He would go snorkeling with his father and brother every day and fish, catch turtles and frogs, and pick wild blueberries. In Dennis' words, Mousam was a place where "all was right with the world." When it was time to leave Maine, Dennis would fill a jar with lake water and plants to take some of Mousam back to the Bronx. Last year Dennis made his permanent home on Mousam Lake. He says it still seems like a dream and hopes it will always stay that way.

Invasive Plant Patrol Team of the Year—Crystal Lake Association

CLA was originally formed in 1970, and an attempt to revive the association was made in 1990 with limited success. In 2001 a fragment of Eurasian water-milfoil was removed from a boat about to launch into Crystal Lake, and the public beach on the lake was closed due to high levels of *e. coli*. These two incidents helped to galvanize the lake community. Roughly 50% of the shorefront property owners now actively support the lake association.

Crystal Lake Association co-hosted an IPP workshop in the region in 2007 and several members later participated in an IPP field methods workshop. Once trained, this small but extremely motivated group comprised of two teams: John and Cheryl Welch covering one half of the lake and, Don Richardson and Harvey Gerry covering the other, took on the task of completing a thorough, level-three survey of Crystal Lake. The mission was accomplished,

and the VLMP promptly received the report we always hope for: no invasive plants were found.

CLA has also launched a CBI program, is working to expand the volunteer pool, and plans to have 4 teams on the lake conducting IAP surveys in 2008.

2008 Lake Conference Volunteer Awards

Outstanding Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Effort—Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association

Variable water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) was first documented in Lily Brook in August of 2000. By August 2001, the Lily Brook variable water-milfoil population had roughly doubled in size, and a pioneer colony was observed in the small outlet cove of Pleasant Lake.

Volunteers with the Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association (PLPPA) responded to this disconcerting news with an aggressive and comprehensive action plan aimed at controlling the variable milfoil in Lily Brook and the Pleasant Lake outlet cove. Having been cautioned that eradication of an invasive aquatic plant, once well-established, is rarely possible, PLPPA decided to move systematically, with determination, toward complete eradication. In 2001, PLPPA formed a ten-member committee to develop and provide guidance for the management effort.



Left to right: Scott Williams, Fred Cummings, Lew Wetzel, Joel Bloom & Roberta Hill

Their methods have included:

- using Courtesy Boat Inspectors to prevent milfoil from spreading into Parker Pond and further into Pleasant Lake
- frequent screening and mapping surveys to monitor plant growth
- using manual harvesting of plants with SCUBA divers
- and using benthic barriers to smother large plant colonies

By the summer of 2008, only 12 individual plants could be found in the entire stream. Each plant was carefully removed and the removal sites were covered by small benthic mats. Just this month, Lew Wetzel and Fred Cummings surveyed the entire stream using Lew's underwater video camera, and "no milfoil was observed anywhere!" Monitoring will continue, but *PLPPA is now cautiously optimistic that complete eradication of variable milfoil from Lily Brook, if not yet entirely achieved, is very close at hand.*

Our warmest congratulations to PLPPA for their outstanding achievements in invasive plant control on Lily Brook.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Prevention Award—Raymond Waterways Protective Association

Raymond Waterways Protective Association (RWPA) has worked to protect the lakes, ponds, and streams in the Town of Raymond for over thirty years through water quality monitoring and watershed education. There are seven lakes in the Town of Raymond, including part of Sebago Lake. In 2001, RWPA began to expand their efforts to include invasive plant surveys, invasive plant removal projects, boat inspections, and erosion remediation projects. With this expansion, RWPA transitioned from a volunteer organization to hiring part-time staff. RWPA now has one part-time year round staff person and five summer Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs). Financial support comes from local donors, the town, and grants.

Here is a quick summary of RWPA's accomplishments. RWPA:

- conducts lake-wide invasive plant surveys on all the "smaller" lakes in Raymond and sections of Sebago Lake each year to ensure no new invasives have been introduced
- works to control variable water-milfoil with volunteers at six sites on Sebago Lake. They have had the most success at Dingley Brook—after six years of remediation, no rooted or floating fragments were visible at the end of the 2007 season. It remains 90% clear to date and RWPA intends to maintain the control effort with one dive per season.
- Runs a CBI program some highlights... 2004—removed invasive Curly leaved pondweed from a boat entering Sebago Lake; 2005—removed Eurasian water-milfoil

from a boat entering Sebago Lake; 2006—removed 23 VWM fragments from boats exiting Sebago Lake

In addition to IAP prevention RWPA is working hard to protect water quality the lakes and ponds in the Town of Raymond, by supporting Water Quality Monitors in Raymond. They have completed watershed surveys on the 4 main smaller lakes in Raymond. RWPA is managing two federal 319 grant Conservation Projects to reduce erosion impact to Panther Pond and Raymond Pond with plans to manage similar projects on other Raymond lakes.

For these reasons and more besides, the 2008 Invasive Aquatic Plant Prevention Award goes to Raymond Waterways Protective Association



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Lake Monitoring Program
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Auburn, Maine 04210

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Volunteers—Please send in your data!

Please remember to send in your field forms from the 2008 season.

- ➔ Water Quality Monitors by October 15 to your Regional Coordinator
- ➔ Invasive Plant Patrollers by November 1 to the VLMP office

