



Celebrating 40 Years
America's first citizen lake monitoring program

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Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

May, 2011

Dear Lake Association Trustees and Members,

Did you know that a trained VLMP volunteer is collecting scientifically credible lake water quality data and/or conducting invasive aquatic plant screening surveys on your lake? Their commitment to monitoring your lake provides a strong basis for on-going efforts to insure that the health of your lake will be protected – now and in the future.

The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) provides training and certification for volunteers who are interested in learning to monitor lake water quality, and to conduct screening surveys for invasive aquatic plants on their lake. *This training, along with the basic equipment needed to collect lake data, is provided at no cost to the volunteer.* In addition, the VLMP provides certified volunteers with an annual report on the health of their lake, as well as for hundreds of lakes throughout Maine, educational updates and watershed stewardship information through the VLMP newsletter, free registration at our annual conference for volunteer monitors, and ongoing technical support from our staff. VLMP volunteer monitors, and the data that they collect, are the cornerstone of state and local efforts to help keep your lake clean and clear.

Many lake associations throughout Maine support the efforts of their volunteer monitors through an annual contribution to the VLMP. If you are one of these organizations, please accept our sincere thanks for helping us to support the work of monitors on your lake. We hope you will continue that support this year with an annual donation from your association. If your organization has not provided financial support in the past, please consider that an investment made in the *prevention* of problems on your lake by routinely monitoring its' overall health is only a fraction of the cost of addressing catastrophes like nuisance algae blooms, or an infestation by an invasive aquatic plant. *Volunteer lake monitors are Maine's best insurance against these destructive and difficult to address problems.*

Please consider making an annual contribution today. For 40 years, the work of VLMP volunteers has been, and continues to be a driving force in protecting Maine's lakes and ponds and their watersheds. By positioning local knowledgeable and active citizens on lakes throughout the state, the VLMP and its volunteers are on the frontline of efforts to insure that Maine will continue to have some of the cleanest lakes in the nation.

We hope you will consider making an annual gift today in the amount of \$100, \$250, \$500, or whatever amount you consider to be appropriate to support the continued costs of training and supporting the volunteer(s) on your lake. Please send your annual donation to: **Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, 24 Maple Hill Road, Auburn, Maine, 04210.**

Sincerely,

Scott Williams
Executive Director

Tamara Lee Pinard
Board President