



Greetings!

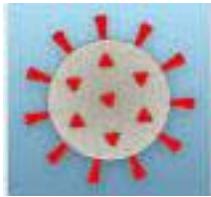
March 2020

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 9:30 AM

Raymond Waterways Protective Association Annual Meeting

Join US for our Annual Meeting, mix with your lake neighbors, enjoy some morning refreshments, and hear the latest news from Rep. Jessica Fay, member of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and member of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. Working with these committees, Jess is uniquely positioned to shepherd legislation that has important impact on our lakes region. (see Rep. Fay's update later in this issue)



It's too soon to know if the coronavirus crisis will force us to postpone, cancel, or move our annual meeting. If we make changes in that regard, we'll send updates to all members whose email addresses we have. If you haven't given us your current email address, you can do so by sending a short message to info@raymondwaterways.org We'll also post the information on our Website at <http://raymondwaterways.org> . **Also, please see below for donations.**

LOOKING FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON:

Courtesy Boat Inspections

- In 2019, our CBI's completed 4122 boat inspections, removing all plant material found
- NO plants removed were invasives!
- Completing boat inspections and engaging with boaters about invasive species continue to be our most important defense against invasive species
- WE ARE HIRING CBIs FOR THE 2020 SEASON, AGE 16 OR OLDER. CONTACT RWPA FOR INFO at raymondwaterways.org – use the "Help Wanted" tab.



Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting

- Our DASH crew maintained the 3 areas previously cleared of variable milfoil—Turtle Cove, Mason Cove, and Port Harbor Marina, all reduced to single digit or less percentage of infestation. We call this at ‘maintenance level’. Variable milfoil is so persistent that we have to keep returning to these sites and removing the few sparse plants that we find each time.
- Our DASH crew continued to work in the Bayview canals, greatly reducing the infestations in both canals. We are now at maintenance level there, too!!
- And our DASH crew continued to work in the Jordan River. We are anxious to get back on the river to assess the condition there this season. We hope to find only a few patches left to work on.



Water Quality Monitoring

- We so appreciate all the time and energy our awesome volunteers spend on regular monitoring tasks. Look on the lakesofmaine.org website for data for your lake.
- The Secchi disk readings for clarity are an important measure of the health of the lake



- Temperature readings from different depths throughout the season track the warming trend and help predict algae blooms and stress times for fish
- The dissolved oxygen readings, especially the ones from near the bottom of the lake, tell us if there is a danger of getting phosphorous re-entering the

lake from the sediments and thus feeding algae. Also, low levels of oxygen at the bottom of lake can greatly stress cold water fish.

- If you wish to take multi-level water samples to be analyzed for phosphorous, contact RWPA. We would be happy to loan you our special device for taking these samples, and teach you how to use it. Lab fees for each sample are about \$25.

Invasive Plant Patrols

- Our huge thanks to all the Invasive Plant Patrollers who check our waters every season, looking for any invasive aquatic plants. So far, none have been found. (Excepting the variable milfoil we know about in Sebago Lake, Dingley Brook, and the Jordan River.)
- We have the CLIPPers on Crescent Lake, the PPIPPers on Panther Pond, the RIPPers on Raymond Pond, and the TIPPers on Thomas Pond. Super thanks to you all!
- We always need more IPPers. Are you curious about the plants growing in your lake? Would you be willing to check a stretch of shoreline? Sign up for free training at lakesofmaine.org. Or contact RWPA for a local mentor.

SPRING COMES TO RAYMOND!!

We had a pretty mild winter, with some whipsawing of cold and warm temperatures. It now feels like spring is rapidly approaching. The main body of Sebago Lake never froze and the lower bay and Jordan Bay are still ice covered. The smaller lakes and ponds are still iced over, but fishing huts are getting moved off the ice. Pussy willows are showing in wet areas and snow is receding in sunny spots.

THANKS

We received a \$50 contribution from FJ Charitable Fund, Fidelity Trust. There was no other identifying information. Our thanks to this anonymous donor.

A MESSAGE FROM REP. JESSICA FAY

Augusta –

It has been a busy session for both committees on which I serve. In the Environment and Natural Resources Committee we are discussing consumer fireworks use and how to best address concerns around the persistent and toxic chemicals called PFAS. In the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee we had interesting conversations about biodegradable fish hooks and boat noise. The increase in the “milfoil sticker” fee, passed last session, should result in additional grant funding for prevention and mitigation of the spread of invasive aquatic species.

There are about 8 weeks left in the Second Regular Session of the 129th Maine Legislature. Committees are busy finishing up work on bills and reporting them out to the full Legislature. The supplemental budget is a major focus, and there are some items of importance to our area that have been proposed for funding.

DIFW has asked for funding for some repairs to dams it owns, including the one at Mill St.. DEP has requested funding for several new positions which will help clear the backlog of permits, some of which are in the Shoreland Zone. There is also funding proposed for several wastewater infrastructure projects, including potentially for grants that could help municipalities with infrastructure like culvert replacement. Not directly related to water quality, but of consequence to many shorefront property owners is the focus on property tax relief through aid to education and municipal revenue sharing. I will continue to advocate for clean water and protection of our natural resources, these are so important to our local quality of life and economic well-being.

I am always happy to hear from people with ideas and concerns, so if you'd like to get in touch with me I can easily be reached at jessica.fay@legislature.maine.gov or 415-4218. I look forward to hearing from you.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

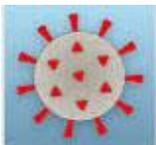
From the 2020 spring issue of HABITAT, the publication of Maine Audubon:

- There will be a sale of native Maine plants , Saturday, June 13, at Gilsland Farm Audubon Center, Falmouth
- You can find lists of what plant for what place at the Maine Audubon Native Plant Finder, <maineaudubon.org/plants>

Native plants are the best option for buffer planting to help slow down stormwater runoff and to give that water time to sink into the soil instead of running into our lakes.



- Between 1983 and 2019, populations of the COMMON LOON in southern Maine doubled from about 1500 to 3000, as indicated from data from the volunteer powered Maine Loon Project
- Maine's BALD EAGLE population increased from 21 pair in 1967 to 734 pair in 2019 (we older folks remember NEVER seeing bald eagles in Maine!)
- Maine's MOOSE population dropped from 76,000 in 2013 to between 60,000 and 70,000 in 2018 due primarily to debilitation caused by ticks
- VIRGINIA OPOSSUM expanded into Maine starting in the 1970's. Good news for us! Cary Institute researchers report that opossums can eat thousands of ticks each season.



A note on **DONATIONS**: Donations made by credit card will save us from handling paper, and save you from licking the envelopes! We'll be sending out our annual appeal letter soon. If you'd like to make a donation by credit card or PayPal, just go to our Website raymondwaterways.org and click on the red **DONATE** tab. Thank you.

To be removed from our newsletter mailing list, just drop a note to info@raymondwaterways.org