



Greetings!

March 2019

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 9:30AM

Raymond Waterways Protective Association Annual Meeting

ALL LAKES ARE VULNERABLE; SOME MORE THAN OTHERS

Our guest speaker will be **Matt Scott, an Aquatic Biologist and a Certified Fisheries Scientist** by the American Fisheries Society. Retired after more than 46 years of service to the state of Maine, including service as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Matt is past president of the North American Lake Management Society and past president of the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine and served eight years on the Board of Environmental Protection. He is a Master Maine Guide and a backyard beekeeper for 50+ years. Matt was responsible for the creation of the Maine Lakes Division and Biological Program for the Maine DEP. He was a former member and Chair of the Maine Board of Environmental Protection. In 1970, he founded the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP – now known as Maine Lake Stewards) with Ron Davis and Steve Norton, the oldest program of its kind in the U.S. Matt currently serves on the Board of the Maine Lakes Society. **Come learn about your lake—how healthy is it?** We've also asked Matt to talk about metaphyton ("green cotton candy") for those who are concerned about it.

LOOKING FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON:

Courtesy Boat Inspections

- CBIs in Maine in 2018 caught Eurasian water-milfoil on boats from CT, NY, VT, and WI
- In Raymond, our CBIs found variable milfoil on a kayak in the Jordan River
- Boat inspections continue to be our most important defense against invasive aquatic plants
- **WE ARE HIRING CBIs FOR THE 2019 SEASON**, age 16 or older; go to raymondwaterways.org and click on "help wanted"

Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting, DASH

- 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 infestation.
- Our DASH crew continued work in the Bayview canals, greatly reducing the infestation in one and continuing to push toward the inner end of the other. Work will focus on these areas in 2019.
- Our DASH crew also continued work in the Jordan River. We are down to a few densely infested areas in the river. These areas are also deep and difficult to work in.

Water Quality Monitoring

- We are grateful to all the **volunteers** on all the lakes and ponds who regularly take readings for clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen in our waters. You can find the data for your lake at lakesofmaine.org
- We will purchase a special piece of equipment for **taking water samples at different depths to be analyzed for phosphorus content**. This will be available to all of the lakes and ponds. Contact us if you are interested.
- Help us keep our waters clean and healthy: cover bare soil with erosion control mulch, plant and maintain a vigorous buffer with native plants, divert stormwater runoff into vegetated areas. Remember: **SLOW and SINK**: slow water down and give it time to sink into the ground rather than run off into the lake.

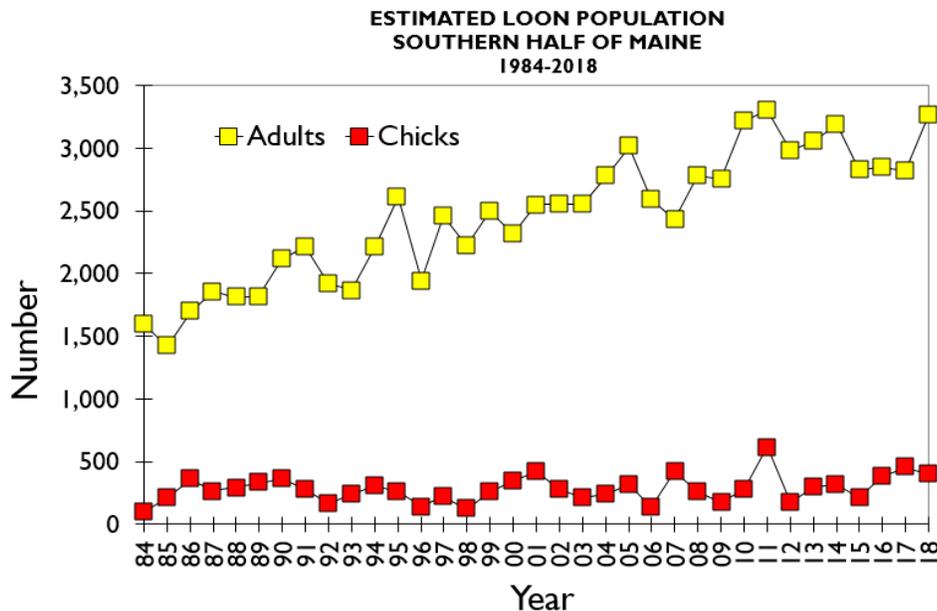
Invasive Plant Patrols

- Our thanks to all the **Invasive Plant Patrollers (IPPers)** who check our waters every summer for any invasive plants. IPPers found the Eurasian water-milfoil in Cobbosseecontee Lake in Winthrop. Later, IPPers found European frog-bit, also in Cobbosseecontee. Volunteers removed 9 pickup loads of frog-bit! This was the first frog-bit found in Maine. Last year, our CBI's checked 8 boats that were entering Sebago after being in Cobbosseecontee, so we're clearly at risk. We do not want it in Raymond waters!!
- We always need more IPPers. Free classes will be given by the superb staff of Lake Steward of Maine, the Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program. Check their website for class schedules.



2018 MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT, Information from Maine Audubon

- Maine Audubon loon count for state: 1350 people participated on 303 lakes. Using a random sample of counts from lakes from each of seven different size categories, **Audubon project a population of 3,269 adult Common Loons and 406 chicks for the southern half of Maine.** (Each year, their estimate is for Maine south of the 45th parallel, where there are enough lakes covered by counters to make a reliable estimate.)
- RWPA’s own Elwood ‘Woody’ Beach of Raymond Pond has been coordinating the Raymond area loon count for 27 years! **Thanks, Woody!**
- The total number of adults was “steady” from 2015-2017, but then jumped this year to the second-highest estimate ever recorded. The number of chicks saw a bump in 2016 from 2015, followed by similar numbers in 2017 and 2018. The 2018 estimate for chicks is the fifth-highest ever recorded. Anytime we are producing more chicks, we have the potential to see more adults in six or seven years (the time it takes to reach mature breeding age).
- **Gearing up for 2019** The 36th Annual Loon Count will happen on the morning of July 20, 2019! To learn more about the count and how you can get involved, visit the loon count page at <https://www.maineaudubon.org/news/results-of-the-2018-loon-count/>



SPRING HAS A HARD TIME GETTING TO RAYMOND!!

Winter came early to Raymond, with snow on the ground since mid-November and early ice by mid-December on the smaller lakes and ponds. We had some wonderful ice-skating over clear, see-down-to-the-bottom, 'black' ice. Now, the last week in March, most of Raymond is still blanketed in snow and ice while towns just south of us have lots of bare ground showing. Some pussy willows have braved the cold to put on their spring 'dress'.

FEBRUARY 2, 2019 SEBAGO LAKE SYMPOSIUM

Some Highlights:

- **Sebago Lake has retained several water quality standards. Clarity, total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and bottom temperature have not changed for decades**
- **Surface temperature has been gradually warming earlier and cooling later**
- **Ice out records since 1807 show 1937 first winter Sebago Lake did not freeze over**
- **Data from the lake monitoring buoy can be found at Portland Water District website <https://www.pwd.org/sebago-lake-monitoring-buoy>**
- **Fish stocking in Sebago started in 1930's**
- **DDT sprayed to kill mosquitoes in 1950's killed off smelts and salmon fishery collapsed. Use of DDT stopped 1960's**
- **At request of fishing groups, lake trout stocked 1972-1982**
- **75% of the boats inspected last year on entering Sebago Lake that had last been in out of state waters had been in waters with known infestations of invasive aquatic plants**
- **Videos of the symposium presentations can be found at St. Joseph College website <https://www.sjcme.edu/centers/sustainable-communities/sebago-lake-symposium/>**

NEWS FROM THE LAKES AND PONDS:

From Panther Pond: The Panther Pond Association (PPA) continues to thrive with more than 125 dues-paying members. Panther Pond also continues to have water quality data that is "Above-average" when compared to other Maine lakes according to the Lake Stewards of Maine. That is due in a large part to the PPA's diligent efforts to control erosion and runoff at waterfront residential property. In fact, the PPA was just recognized by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for the successful completion of the Phase III Panther Pond Protection Project. This project received financial assistance from the Clean Water Act, Section 319 Grant. The project was also supported by the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Town of Raymond, Portland Water District, Raymond Waterways Protective Association and the conscientious property owners on Panther Pond who work to "Preserve Panther Pond, One Person At A Time". Significant accomplishments of the project included:

- Providing technical assistance and site recommendations to 38 properties
- Instituting or improving conservation practices at 17 sites
- Preventing an estimated 16.6 tons of sediment and 14 pounds of phosphorous from entering the Pond each year

The PPA would like to fondly remember our Environmental Officer, Phil Boissonneault, who passed away in 2018. Phil moved to Panther Pond in 1968 where he raised his family and enjoyed all aspects of living on the lake. Phil was a chemist for the Portland Water District and he collected and analyzed Panther Pond water quality data each year. His warm smile, hard work and dedication will be missed.

In addition, the PPA would like to thank Peggy Jensen who served as the PPA President from 2010 until 2018. Peggy brought her positive energy and organizational skills to the PPA and was an inspirational leader. The PPA would like to thank Peggy for all her hard work and dedication. John Wolanski, a Panther-Ponder since 1991, will be taking over the role as PPA President .



And finally, the 2019 annual PPA meeting will be held on Saturday, August 10, from 10AM to 1PM at Camp Timanous on Panther Pond. Please check out the Panther Pond Association website <https://www.raymondmaine.org/community-resources/panther-pond-association> or [Facebook](#) page for more details.

(We hope to have news from CLWA and TPIA for the next edition.)

HELP WANTED: Courtesy Boat Inspectors--\$13/hour, mostly weekends, 16 yrs and older

Check the RWPA website for more information

raymondwaterways.org

Contact RWPA if interested: <mailto:lakes@raymondmaine.org>

OUR THANKS TO:

- **John Wolanski** and **Terry Turner** of Panther Pond for becoming water quality monitors
- **John Paradiso** of Sebago Lake for becoming a water quality monitor
- **Town of Raymond, Public Works**, for storing boats and trailers
- **Portland Water District**, for assisting water testing
- **All our volunteers** for all the important work you do!

Raymond Waterways Protective Association, PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071
<http://raymondwaterways.org>

To be removed from the newsletter mailing list or change your email address, please drop us a note at <mailto:lakes@raymondmaine.org>