

Do You Love Our Lakes? Consider Joining Our Board



Message from President Peggy Jensen

This is an exciting time of transition for RWPA. In the past 20 years,

we've beaten back a milfoil infestation, established protections against invasive species, developed a water quality testing program, secured DEP funds to survey and mitigate erosion hotspots, and helped neighbors apply for grants to address non-point source pollution.

What's next for RWPA? Certainly, maintaining our critical ongoing programs, such as Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI), water quality testing, and erosion control education. But now we have time and resources to undertake new challenges.

What's Next? Lend Us Your Ideas

We want to hear from you! We are seeking bright, energetic folks to serve on the RWPA board who have a strong attachment to Raymond's lakes and want to keep them beautiful and pristine. This is a perfect opportunity for you to capitalize on RWPA's goodwill and reputation, our strong partnerships with state and local governments, and, yes, our cash reserves to create a new vision for how RWPA can best serve our community for the next 20 years.

Some have suggested that we double-down on education. For instance, the RWPA could develop

a water quality curriculum to take to the schools. Or maybe we focus on community outreach by holding an annual clean water festival with rubber ducky races for kids, logrolling for young adults, and kayak excursions for young and old. Or perhaps we focus on establishing closer ties with shoreline residents who have the most to gain and lose from the quality of water in our lakes. Others say it's time to hire a full-time executive director, like we did in the 1990s, to expand the breadth and depth of RWPA's activities and impact.

Grand Tradition of Water Conservation

Founded 60 years ago by Ernest Bickford, Ernie Knight, and Charlie Turner, the RWPA in its early years focused on reducing the amount of coliform bacteria in the lakes by updating septic system codes. In the 1970s the group turned its attention to mitigating the impact of acid rain. By the 1980s, RWPA turned its attention to water quality monitoring and tracking the level of phosphorous and dissolved oxygen in our lakes to avoid toxic algae blooms that would spoil our pristine waters and kill its deep-water loving fish.

Some groups are now borrowing RWPA's special instrument, the Van Dorn, to take water samples at differing depths. These samples are analyzed for phosphorus, which feeds the slimy green stuff we don't like to see. In 2010, the RWPA's attention

turned to invasive aquatic species. We created the Divers Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) program to eliminate milfoil in the Raymond waters of Sebago Lake.

We have also helped support the IPPERs---Invasive Plant Patrollers--- who tour the perimeters of our lakes every summer, looking for invasive plants. So far, none found! To prevent invasive species from entering our lakes, we have trained and employed Courtesy Boat Inspectors to help keep invasive species from our waters.

Next Steps

There is still a lot of work to do to maintain and even improve our waters. RWPA has built up strong support from lake lovers, the people of Raymond, the town government of Raymond, and from state groups such as the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Lake Stewards of Maine. We need fresh ideas and energy to keep this well-established organization going.

Do you have ideas to share? Please tell us via email (info@raymondwaterways.org) or a letter. Better yet, if you have an hour a month, please consider serving on the board of directors where you'll work with fantastic colleagues who share the same mission of keeping Raymond's waters clean and healthy. A new term starts this summer! Let us know if you or someone you know might be interested! We'd be happy to chat.

Featured Interview – Alex Wong, Maine DEP



Alex Wong has 17 years of experience protecting sources of public and private drinking water, including rivers,

streams, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater. For the past year, he has served as coordinator for the Nonpoint Source (NPS) program for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

CAMP ROADS ARE A MAJOR SOURCE OF LAKE POLLUTION. HOW DO WE DESIGN AND MAINTAIN THOSE ROADS TO PREVENT EROSION?

Most people focus on surface flow of water when they see a camp road. It's easy to see washboarding, tire ruts, and other types of erosion and want to fix those issues. It's also important to consider the road base, which prevents groundwater from wicking up into the surface materials. When this happens, roads get soft or muddy, which is exacerbated by improper surface drainage and flow. The best designs address the road base and surface drainage. The [Gravel Road Maintenance Manual](#) recommends Maine DOT Aggregate for Base Type A (Spec. No. 703.06) for camp roads.

Proper drainage might include grading, ditching, slowing the velocity of water in ditches, and creating channels that flow water away from the road surface.

HOW CAN HOMEOWNERS AND ASSOCIATIONS REMEDY THIS SITUATION?

Although there will always be spot maintenance, overall, a good fix for a road should last more than one season. If homeowners or associations find that roads need to be resurfaced every year, or if there are always tire ruts in a certain location and it doesn't go away no matter how much gravel is laid down, they should consider reaching out to a [DEP Certified Contractor](#).

HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE FACTOR INTO ROAD EROSION?

Climate change exacerbates this situation. Warmer temperatures, drier soils, and increased precipitation in the form of intense and sporadic events can easily wash out roads, overwhelm ditches, and blow out culverts.

HOW CAN WE MITIGATE THESE CHANGES?

It's important to ensure that road ditches and culverts are properly sized to accommodate flows associated with extreme storm events, which are becoming more common. They also need to be spaced properly to disperse water flow over a larger area. Associations need to include culvert assessments in their watershed-based management plan updates, and they should plan to regularly replace culverts as part of regular maintenance activities.

WHAT IS THE STATE (DEP) DOING TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

- The DEP's five-year NPS Management plan:
- Incorporates climate change and resilience planning into watershed-based plans.
- Increases field crop agriculture's use of soil health practices to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and offset carbon emissions.
- Adopt new standards for stream crossings (new, repair and replacement) to improve aquatic organism passage and improve hydraulic capacity and resiliency to larger storms.

Milfoil doesn't take a year off, why should you?

CONTRIBUTE HERE!

Or send your donation to RWPA, PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME04071.

Thanks to Sebago Trails Paddling Company!

The RWPA has good friends in Raymond who have made our work so much easier. This quarter, we'd like to thank Sebago Trails Paddling Company for their long-time support for our milfoil mitigation work in the Jordan River. They have provided dock space to help us manage our equipment and unload our harvest. They have worked tirelessly to clear the Jordan River of fallen

trees and limbs, which has made it possible for us to clear those areas of milfoil.

Sebago Trails Paddling Co. offers a wide variety of kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes for rental and purchase, along with the essential gear needed to get out on the water and have a great time! The staff there recommends where to go kayaking throughout the greater Sebago Lake



region and, best of all, they deliver any watercraft to your doorstep! Give them a call, email, or stop by their shop in Raymond, ME. www.sebagotrails.com.

Annual Meeting on June 24 at 9:30 a.m.

The RWPA will once again hold its annual meeting in person at the newly renovated and historic Hawthorne House. Located at the throat of Raymond Neck at 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond, Hawthorne House was the boyhood home of one of America's preeminent literary figures in the 19th century, Nathaniel Hawthorne, author of *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of Seven Gables*.

Our **featured speaker** is Chris Hanson, assistant Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Raymond. Hanson, who grew up in Gray, is no stranger to Raymond's lakes. "I was



swimming at my grandparents' camp on Sebago when I was six years old," he said. Chris will discuss Raymond's zoning laws and how they protect the

quality of our lakes. He will explain how lakefront residents can make home improvements while adhering to these regulations.

Mariners Yard Sale

Before and after the annual meeting, RWPA will be selling left over equipment from its DASH program, including:

- Ropes – dock lines and other pieces of rope of various sizes and lengths
- Snorkeling gear – masks, fins, snorkels
- PFD's (life jackets)
- Clamp-on fishing rod holder
- Chemicals: motor oil, fuel stabilizer
- Manure fork (really!)
- Battery box
- Large wire mesh waste baskets
- Landscaping stakes and T-pegs for garden markers or kindling
- Hamper

All equipment is used and sold "as is" to support RWPA. Outfit your boat and support RWPA!

Need a Summer Job? Consider Becoming a Courtesy Boat Inspector

RWPA is hiring Courtesy Boat Inspectors for the 2023 season! We are also looking for volunteers to serve as inspectors when paid staff are unavailable.

Inspectors greet boaters at boat launch ramps, explain the voluntary inspection process, and conduct thorough examinations of boat exteriors, including trailer and vehicle wheel wells, trailer bunks, motors,

propellers, and boat interiors, including live wells, fishing gear, etc. The inspector removes and bags all plant material and delivers the bags at the end of the shift to designated drop-off sites. The inspector records required information on a phone app provided by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Inspectors must be at least 16-years old, like being outdoors,

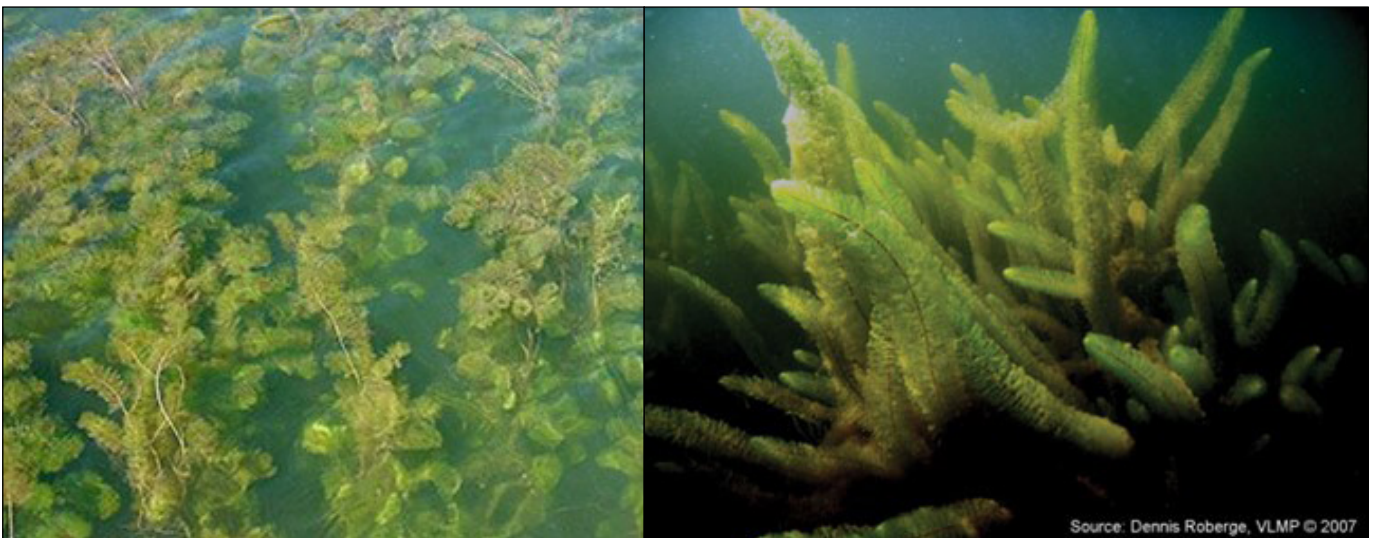
and have transportation to and from launch sites. Shifts run 6 to 8 hours and are on weekends and holidays and occasionally on Thursdays and Fridays. Launch sites are at Sebago Lake, Crescent Lake, Panther Pond (Mill St.), and Thomas Pond. **The pay rate is \$18/hour.** Contact us at info@raymondwaterways.org.

Time to Donate?!

Raymond Waterways Protective Association, Lake Stewards of Maine, Crescent Lake Watershed Association, Panther Pond Association, Raymond Pond, and Thomas Pond Improvement Association thank you for your help in watching for milfoil, European Naiad and all the other aquatic invasive plants.

To keep our lakes perpetually free from invasive plants, please consider making an annual donation to RWPA, which is a 501(c)(3) corporation, so your gift may be tax deductible.

**MILFOIL DOESN'T TAKE A YEAR OFF, WHY SHOULD YOU?
CONTRIBUTE HERE**



RWPA Board

- Peggy Jensen – President (Panther Pond)
- Marie Connolly – Treasurer (Panther Pond)
- Neil Jensen – Member (Panther Pond)
- Wayne Eckerson – Member (Panther Pond)
- Elwood Beach – Member (Raymond Pond)
- Holly Hoglund – Member (Thomas Pond)
- Raymond Bersch – Member (Crescent Lake)
- Steve Craine – Member (Raymond Pond)
- Jessica Fay – Member - Sebago Lake

If interested in serving, let us know! To be removed from our mailing list, contact us at info@raymondwaterways.org.

About RWPA

Founded more than 50 years ago, the Raymond Waterways Protective Association is dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality of Raymond's lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams and fostering watershed stewardship.



Contact us: info@raymondwaterways.org

Mailing address: PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071

Website: raymondwaterways.org



Raymond Pond (lower left), Crescent Lake (middle right), Panther Pond (middle-left), Thomas Pond (middle top- barely visible), and Sebago lake (top).