

## RWPA Completes its Milfoil Mission and Enters a New Era!



### Letter from RWPA President Peggy Jensen

We are so excited to share the news

that our Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) crew has worked itself out of a job! The team has mostly defeated the invasive variable milfoil in RWPA's areas of responsibility. Aside from the inevitable stray plants that will regenerate from small bits of stem or root, there are only two very small, stubborn patches of variable milfoil left in Raymond. That means there is not enough work to keep a 3- to 4-person crew busy for the season.

### DASH Transitions to the Town of Raymond

After investigating all possibilities, we have decided to transition the

DASH program to the town of Raymond. RWPA will work with the town as it takes ownership of the boat and equipment so it is prepared to address a resurgence in aquatic invasive species, if that occurs. RWPA will also assist the town in applying for Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grants.

RWPA will work with the town of Raymond to hire a private contractor to monitor already cleaned areas and remove invasive plants found. For its part, RWPA will continue to monitor Dingley Brook which flows from Thomas Pond into Sebago Lake and the upper Jordan River from Mill St. to Route 302 and remove any invasive plants found there. (A private contractor works on the Lower Jordan River from Route 302 to the opening of Sebago Lake.)

RWPA is eager to shift its energy and resources from remediation to proactive work. In the short term, we will shift our focus to two areas: 1) beefing up our Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) program that prevents milfoil proliferation and 2) supporting the efforts of our lake associations to protect water quality.

### Seek Your Input for Next Phase of RWPA

For the past 50 years, the RWPA has stayed true to its mission of protecting and improving the water quality of Raymond's lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams and fostering watershed stewardship. We seek your ideas for this next chapter in RWPA's work. Please send us ideas or suggestions to [info@raymondwaterways.org](mailto:info@raymondwaterways.org)

## Testing Maine Well Water

If you want to use a well for drinking water, you must first have the well water tested. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a list of approved laboratories that can test your water for bacteria and other contaminants. Once your water has been tested, you will be given a permit that allows you to use the well for drinking water. If you are not sure if your well water needs to be tested,

you can contact the DEP for more information.

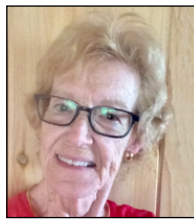
In Maine, well water is piped into the homes of approximately 50% of residents. The presence of arsenic is found in one out of every ten of those wells. The presence of radioactive materials such as uranium and plutonium in well water is also common. By controlling the flow of water, you can easily control your [water supply](#).

If you want to get your water tested in Maine, you can either contact your local water district or the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. If your water has been tested and there are any harmful chemicals in it, you can order a water testing kit from a certified laboratory. It is a good idea to test your water every two years, but it is also a good idea to keep an eye on it for any changes in taste, odor, or color.

## A Tribute to Valued Colleagues



Locke MacDonald



Lisa Hall

At the end of the 2022 summer season, our association lost two valued directors and officers. Lisa Hall and Locke Macdonald both developed sudden illnesses and died

unexpectedly. All of us in the lakes community are saddened and miss them greatly.

Lisa and Locke both represented Crescent Lake on the RWPA board. Lisa was Secretary and Locke was Vice President. Lisa was a sparkly, life-loving bundle of energy. She organized and led the CLIPPERS, the Invasive Plant Patrollers on Crescent Lake, and was always up for any projects that came along—from tarp making to kill off invasive milfoil,

to tree decorating for a gift to the Raymond Village Library. Locke ran the Courtesy Boat Inspection program for several years. He had a special rapport with the young people he hired; they liked and admired him.

Lisa and Locke loved Crescent Lake and they were loved by many there—the outpouring of contributions in their memories at the Crescent Lake Watershed Association is a testament to that. We miss you, Lisa and Locke!

## Clean Water Act Under Attack

As we celebrate 50 years of progress due to the Clean Water Act's effectiveness, the U.S. Supreme Court is hearing a case that could cripple it. In **Sackett v. EPA** — an already historic occasion as Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's first case — a radical opponent of clean water is seeking to withdraw the act's longstanding protections for roughly half the nation's streams and wetlands. In Maine, more than 206 miles of streams could lose protections.

**Sackett v. EPA** was brought by Michael and Chantell Sackett: Idaho landowners backed by polluting industries, including the oil and gas industry, mining companies, developers, and corporate agribusiness. The Sacketts are represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation — **a longtime anti-environmental legal group.**

The Sacketts started their dispute with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2007, after purchasing a

parcel of land that was subject to Clean Water Act protections. The parcel — which included sensitive wetlands a stone's throw from Priest Lake, one of the largest lakes in Idaho — required a wetlands permit before being developed.

Instead of following EPA's processes to get a permit to fill sensitive wetlands to build a lake house, the Sacketts sued. This 14-year legal battle now has them before the Supreme Court, for the second time. (The Sacketts first appeared before the justices in 2012, securing the right to bring a court challenge against an EPA compliance order.)

The Sacketts' case against the EPA, however, is not about a parcel of land, let alone a lake house, but is **a coordinated push by industry polluters** that want to blow a hole in the Clean Water Act, bulldoze cherished wetlands, and contaminate the country's streams with waste from mining, oil and gas, and agro-industrial

operations as they see fit, just to maximize their profits.

The Supreme Court will issue a ruling in spring 2023.

(This article is based on a column by Anya Fetcher in the **Lewiston Sun Journal** and an article published by **EarthJustice.**)

### Annual Loon Count - 2022

Lake	Adults	Chicks
Panther	8	1
Crescent	2	0
Raymond Pond	6	2
Thomas Pond	2	0

Source: Audubon Society

## Thanks!

RWPA would like to thank:

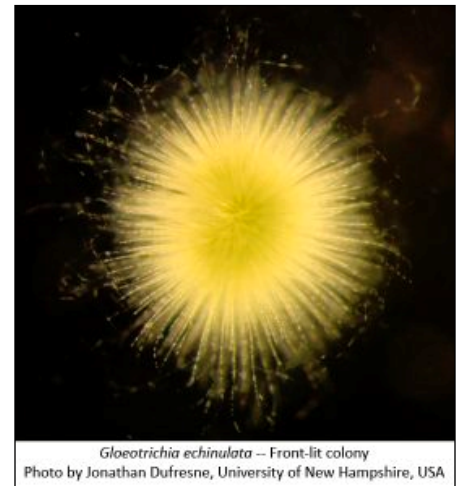
- Port Harbor Marine for their ongoing support for our DASH program with docking space and maintenance assistance.
- Sebago Trails Paddling Company for their continued support for our
- DASH work in the Jordan River.
- Town of Raymond Public Works Department for their help with moving the DASH boat and storing for the winter.
- Neil Jensen for supervising the successful DASH crew and
- readying the boat for transfer to the town.
- Our DASH crew for their awesome work clearing invasive variable milfoil from our waters.

## Gloeotrichia

**Gloeotrichia** (pronounced “glee-oh-tricky-ah”) **echinulata** is a colonial bluegreen algae that forms tiny spheres, which can be seen without magnification in lake water. “Gloeo” has been known to exist in Maine lakes for many years, but it has typically been observed in late summer, in relatively low densities. However, during the past decade, Gloeo appears to have been on the increase in lakes throughout much of New England. Gloeo blooms have occurred earlier in

the summer, and in higher densities. Research on the life cycle of this alga has suggested that Gloeo may play a role in declining water quality of otherwise clear, low nutrient lakes.

The photo beside shows a highly magnified single Gloeo colony. Observed in the water, Gloeo colonies appear to be the size of the head of a small pin. Gloeotrichia monitoring protocols and training are available through the LSM. Please contact [Lake Stewards of Maine](#) for more information.



## Time to Donate?!

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

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

**CONTRIBUTE HERE!**

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

## RWPA Board of Directors and Members

- 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 Crane – Member (Raymond Pond)

If interested in serving, let us know! To be removed from our mailing list, contact us at [info@raymondwaterways.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@raymondwaterways.org)

Mailing address: PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071

Website: [raymondwaterways.org](http://raymondwaterways.org)



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