

Featured Interview – Carl Branson, Port Harbor Marine



Port Harbor Marine has been a long-time supporter of RWPA, providing place to store our DASH boat, a crane to lift baskets of milfoil, and a place

to store its harvest. Carl Branson is location manager of Port Harbor Marine in Raymond. He's served in this role for the past three years, after spending 27 years at the company's South Portland location. Port Harbor Marine has had a presence in Raymond since 1996.

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN A LONG-TIME SUPPORTER OF THE RWPA?

We are very fortunate to live in an

area that has so many bodies of water that are easily accessible. We have a great natural resource that supports a lot of businesses as well as a lot of family fun. It's vitally important that we do whatever we can to support all the stakeholders, including the RWPA, water-based businesses, and the families that live and play on the water.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF PORT HARBOR MARINE, ESPECIALLY AS IT PERTAINS TO THE COMMUNITY AND OUR LAKES?

Our mission is to create the ultimate boating experience by consistently providing products and services that exceed customer expectations. This mission serves the lakes in a variety

of ways, helping to create a fun and safe boating experience. Our goal is to educate boaters and provide services that help keep our waterways clean and safe.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING RAYMOND'S LAKES?

The biggest is boater education. There has been a huge boom in boating in the last three to four years, but a lot of boaters don't know all the rules and how to properly operate their boats. Some drive too close to shore which can cause erosion, others move from one lake to another which can spread milfoil.

Annual Meeting on June 25 at 9:30 a.m.



After a two-year hiatus, the RWPA will once again hold its annual meeting in person. The date is **Saturday, June 25 at 9:30 a.m.** at the newly renovated and historic

Hawthorne House. Located at the throat of Raymond Neck on 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 Jim Paruk, associate professor at St. Joseph's College in Standish Maine. Jim will talk about findings



Jim Paruk

from his new book, *Loon Lessons*, that celebrates uncommon encounters with Maine's iconic bird. Jim has

researched loons for nearly 25 years so you won't want to miss this presentation!

Please be vaccinated for Covid. Masks optional.

Tenny River Gains Its Second Conservation Easement

The calm winding waters of Tenny River. Shannon Bryan photo.

Loon Echo Land Trust has conserved a small but significant 25 acres of forested land with 900 feet of frontage along the eastern shore of the Tenny River in Raymond. This most recent easement of 25 acres, along with 28 acres placed in a conservation easement previously, results in 53 adjacent acres of land and 1,700 feet of shoreline on the river, protected forever. Well done!

The Tenny River was previously identified by the Sebago Clean Waters partnership and the Town of Raymond as a high priority for protection. The 25 acres of the conservation easement runs along the bank of the mile-long river that connects Crescent Lake and Panther Pond.

The terms of a perpetual conservation easement, which is attached to the land regardless of future ownership, will preserve the quality of the water resources, plant and animal habitat, and the scenic character of the property while encouraging the use of the property for educational and recreation opportunities.

The 25-acre parcel is owned by the Pine Tree Council of the Boy Scouts of America, but the land is legally protected by a conservation easement held by Loon Echo Land Trust. Pine Tree Council has managed the property as part of Camp Hinds, a wilderness camp, for more than 85 years.



The calm winding waters of Tenny River. (Shannon Bryan photo)



The Tenny River Culvert under Route 85 (Shannon Bryan photo)

RWPA True or False (answers on page 3)

1. Maine is the only state with one syllable in its name.
2. Maine supplies 90% of the nation's lobster.
3. Maine has 10,000 active lobstermen.
4. The first naval battle in the Revolutionary War was fought in Bar Harbor.
5. The Maine state fish is the cod.

Milfoil: The Plague of Maine Lakes

Variable leaf and Eurasian water milfoil are serious threats to Maine’s waters. These plants are so vigorous and propagate so fast that they crowd out native plants, affect fish populations, and make swimming and boating difficult, if not impossible. When that happens, costly control measures are needed.

The state has developed a program to reduce the risk of spreading milfoil and other invasive aquatic species (IAS) including plants, fish and small-bodied animals. It’s called the **Courtesy Boat**



Variable Milfoil

Inspection (CBI) Program, and it’s our first line of defense against these

species. The RWPA has run CBI inspector program for Raymond’s lakes for many years. Inspectors educate boaters about invasive species and inspect boats, trailers, and gear, removing anything found.

Thanks to more than a decade of work by the RWPA, Raymond lakes are nearly free of milfoil. Nonetheless, we remain diligent about eradicating the species, especially in the Raymond portion of Sebago Lake and Jordan River where pockets of milfoil can still be found.

Stop the Transport and Spread of Invasive Species

Here are a few tips to prevent the spread of milfoil and other invasive species:



CLEAN your gear before entering and leaving the water access site. Remove all plants, fish, animals, mud and debris from boots, gear, boat, trailer, and vehicle and throw it in the trash.

DRAIN bilge, ballast, wells and buckets away from the water before you leave the area.

DRY equipment completely before launching watercraft into another body of water.

DISPOSE of unused or unwanted bait baitfish on land or in the trash. Never release any live baitfish into a water body.

RWPA True or False Answers (questions on page 2)

- 1. TRUE
- 2. TRUE
- 3. FALSE: Maine has 4,500 active lobstermen).
- 4. FALSE: It was fought off Machias, Maine. The British ship HMS Margareta was pulling out of Machias harbor when some locals armed with homemade weapons and pitchforks sailed out to engage them. The Americans seized the ship and killed the commander.
- 5. FALSE: Maine’s state fish is the landlocked salmon.)

Summer is here – Keys to Responsible Boating

With more people heading out to enjoy a day of boating or fishing, it is more important than ever to be a responsible boater to keep you and everyone on the water safe. Here are a few reminders:

- **“Headway Speed”** means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the watercraft. You must operate a watercraft at “headway speed” while:
 - Within 200 feet of any shoreline, including islands.
 - Within a marina or an approved anchorage in coastal or inland waters.

This law was designed to keep everyone on the water safe, reduce erosion, and to help protect wildlife such as loons that nest on the shoreline.

- When **towing someone** on water skis, a surfboard, tube, or another device, ALWAYS have a responsible person at least 12 years of age in a position to observe the towed person(s) continuously, in addition to the boat operator. The person(s) being towed must wear a life jacket.
- **You are responsible for your wake.** Always pay attention.
- **Be respectful of others.** Give other boaters, swimmers, and

anglers plenty of space and always drive at a reasonable and prudent speed for conditions, congestion of other boats, and wildlife.

- **ALWAYS wear a life jacket.** If you think you will have time to put it on after you are in the water, think again.
- **Stay alert!** Never drink and boat.

Before you go, view all of Maine's boating laws at mefishwildlife.com/laws.

Courtesy Lake Stewards of Maine

Take a Boating Safety Course

The key to an enjoyable boating season is to be safe and prepared, for yourself, your passengers, and everyone on the water. Take an **online or in-person** boater safety course to improve your knowledge of boating safety, laws, and rules.

Register for an online class or find an in-person class near you.

Courtesy Lake Stewards of Maine

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, ME 04071.

New Boater Education Law Goes Into Effect – Letter from Jessica Fay



Rep. Jessica Fay, a small business owner and community volunteer, is serving

her third term in the Maine House of Representatives. She serves on the Appropriations Committee and the Government Oversight Committee.

“A new Maine law will require a boater safety course for people under the age of 25 operating a boat with a motor over 25 horsepower. Beginning in January of 2024 (in practice, though, not until the ice goes out), younger people will need to show proof of completion of a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) certified boater safety course.

There is a current requirement that a person between the ages of 16-18 operating a personal watercraft must have a boater safety course certificate, and this will not change.

People under 16 have not been legally allowed to operate a personal watercraft without immediate supervision since 2003.

Currently these courses are offered through the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) webpage <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html>, and there is even one offered for free. The Department also offers an in person class for those who don't have online access, and once the requirements go into effect, IF&W will offer more in person courses.

Out of curiosity, I decided to take the BoatUS free course offered through the IF&W webpage. It was easy to navigate and I actually learned some new safety information. I am glad I brushed up and will be a safer boater this summer.

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will also be convening a stakeholder group over the coming months to address some of the more complicated issues regarding safety requirements on both inland and tidal waters.

There have been increased conflicts, accidents and near misses on Maine's lakes and ponds as we see increased recreational boating. Unfortunately, not everyone has had the chance to learn the "rules of the road". Harm to wildlife, the environment and water quality, as well as personal injury can result from boaters who simply aren't aware of the law. This new safety requirement should help with that.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Recreational Safety Division Office at (207) 287-5220 or to Rep. Jessica Fay at jessica.fay@legislature.maine.gov.”

Water Quality Monitoring – Two Great Offers!

Matching Grant from the RWPA

An important way to keep our lakes clean and healthy is to regularly monitor them for clarity, temperature, and chemistry. All the lakes have people who volunteer to monitor water quality and we value their work. This year RWPA is offering all Raymond lake associations a 50-50 match to upgrade or enhance water monitoring equipment, such as replacement batteries, membranes, new meters, and lab fees. We have set aside \$1,000 for each lake group to use over 5 years. We already collaborate with lake associations to fund Courtesy Boat Inspectors. Here's another great opportunity to work together! Contact me (pjensen@gwi.net) for more information.

LSM Watershed Survey Grants

Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) is now offering grants to Maine lake associations and communities to survey their lake watersheds. These surveys are conducted by community volunteers to identify and resolve land use problems that impact lake water quality. Watershed surveys also provide valuable opportunities to engage community members about threats to lake health. These surveys are intended to identify soil erosion problems that are relatively easy to detect and resolve.

Download a document (<https://rb.gy/kz0atp>) that describes the process of conducting volunteer watershed surveys. For more information and an application form, contact stewards@lakestewardsme.org.

RWPA Board of Directors and Members

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- Locke Macdonald – Vice President (Crescent Lake)
- Marie Connolly – Treasurer (Panther Pond)
- Lisa Hall – Secretary (Crescent Lake)
- Neil Jensen – Member (Panther Pond)
- Wayne Eckerson – Member (Panther Pond)
- Elwood Beach – Member (Raymond Pond)
- Holly Hoglund – Member (Thomas Pond)

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).