



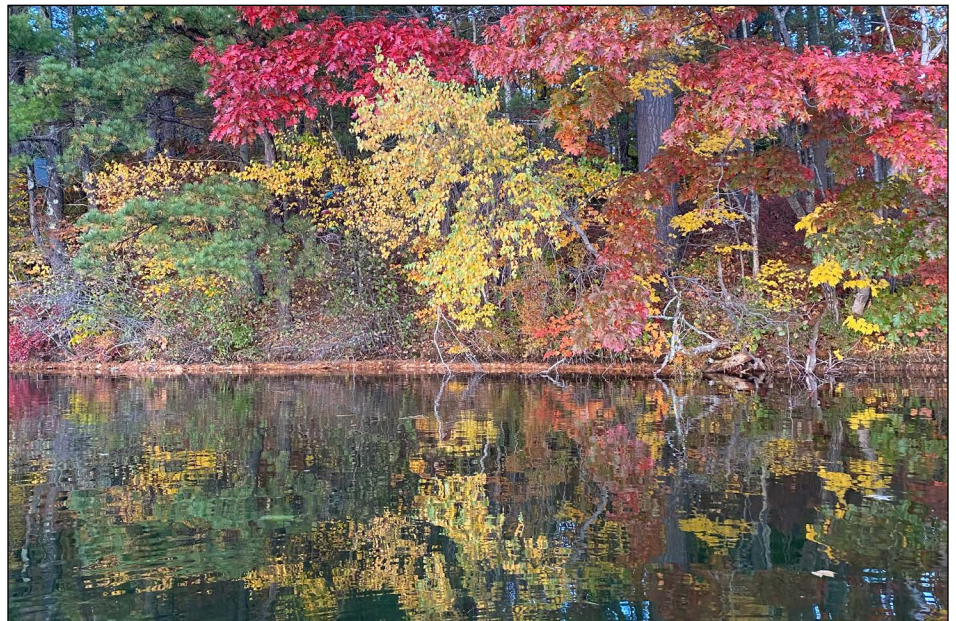
RAYMOND
WATERWAYS

Fall/Winter 2024

Quarterly Newsletter

What is the Raymond Waterways Protective Association?

Raymond Waterways is a 50-year-old non-profit, 501(3)c organization of mostly volunteers, dedicated to preserving the health of Raymond lakes, ponds, and streams. We fulfill our mission by educating the public, checking waterways and boats for invasives, helping landowners fight erosion, and advocating for healthy lakes. We are members of Maine Lakes, a larger lake protection non-profit, and the Maine Association of Non-Profit Organizations. We receive small grants from the town and state, but the funding for most of our work comes from donations.



Why Support Raymond Waterways?

Because Raymond Waterways

Are Connected: We serve all of Raymond's waterways—lakes, ponds, and brooks, which are physically connected:

If invasives show up in Panther Pond it does no good to eradicate them if more will be coming down the Tenny from Crescent, and eventually into Sebago; or to fight *phosphorus* in the Raymond part of Sebago if more is coming from Thomas Pond. Raymond Waterways complements the work of individual lake and pond

associations and covers waterways without associations.

Raymond Waterways has an economy of scale: The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program (CBI) is an example of inter-lake cooperation run by *Raymond Waterways* that benefits all lakes. Raymond Waterways receives some grants from individual lake associations, the Town, and Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), but that funding doesn't cover all expenses. Raymond Waterways hires, trains, monitors, and pays

the Inspectors who serve on multiple boat launches in town to prevent invasive species from infesting our waterways and to educate boaters on the dangers of invasives.

Raymond property values in all of Raymond depend on healthy waterways: The University of Maine recently completed a study finding that all town property values are directly affected by the health and clarity of its lakes. *The study also found that Maine's lakes contribute over \$14 billion to the state's economy annually.*

Raymond Waterways Needs Your Donations to Continue and to Augment Our Programs.

Since our April, 2024 fundraising mailing went out to more than 2000 shorefront property owners in Raymond, we have raised \$18,851 from 189 donors. The list of donors is on our website at raymondwaterways.org. Please

consider a donation, and we'll add you (or not, if you tell us not to) to the list. New challenges, including erosion, development, new and old invasive species, and rising water temperatures, will require more work and new programs.

Donate

Online by credit card or PayPal at:
raymondwaterways.org

Check by mail to:
Raymond Waterways
PO Box 1273
Raymond, ME 04071

Courtesy Boat Inspections for Invasives at Raymond Boat Launches

Raymond Waterways Keeps an Eye on Your Lakes and Ponds

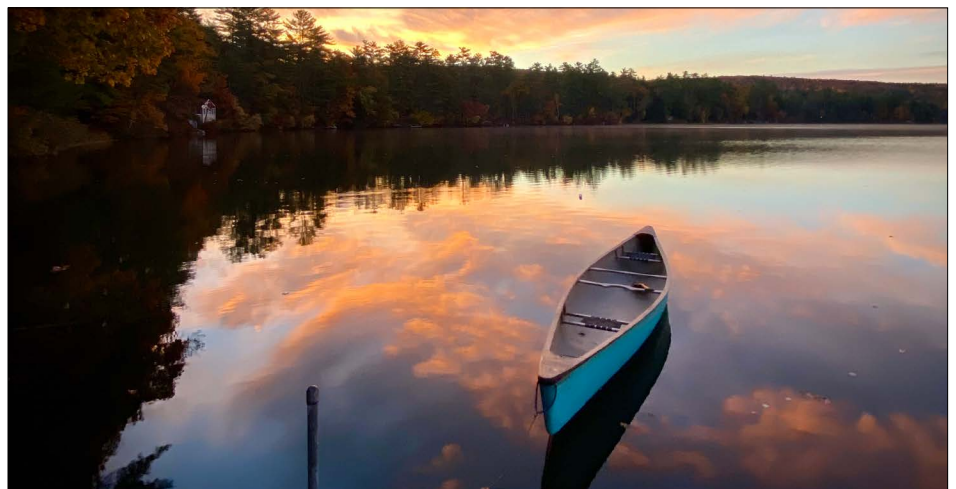
One of the most important services we carry out is our Courtesy Boat Inspections, where we hire trained people to take shifts at the various boat launches in Raymond—on Sebago and Crescent Lakes, and Panther and Thomas Ponds—to check boats for invasive plants and to help educate boaters about the need to “Drain and Dry” their boats far away from shore as they travel from lake to lake either from out-of-state or within Maine.

This service is the most important step we take to protect our waters from *invasive aquatic plants and animals*. Invasive species which can bring choking, foul-smelling weeds, are one of the two biggest threats (besides erosion) to the quality of lakes. All of Raymond's lakes and ponds (with the exception of Sebago Lake) are free of aquatic invasives, our CBI program is a major reason they have remained so, despite the presence of variable milfoil in

surrounding waterbodies such as *Sebago, Little Sebago, Thompson, and Long Lakes*. Education is another part of our work: In recent years, our CBIs have been finding fewer pieces of the invasive variable milfoil at the Sebago launch site than they did just a few years ago—*evidence that boaters are learning how to remove hitch-hiking plants*.

Our CBI manager, Sarah Henderson, reported the following for Raymond Waterways' work during the summer of 2024:

1. Number of inspectors: With variable availability, we had between 8-11 inspectors. We had a number who worked part of the season, either starting and then leaving early, or coming in later.
2. CBIs conducted a total of 3,102 inspections across the four ramps this season. The majority of those inspections were done by paid CBIs, with 1,127 hours worked. 2,261 of the *inspected boats* were motorized, and 841 were non-motorized. 15 plant fragments were found. None was invasive.



Volunteer Opportunities: One and Done or Longer-Term!

Join many others before you in volunteering to keep our beautiful lakes and ponds healthy.

Whether it's a "one-and-done project" or a long-term commitment, we have ways you can help keep our lakes clean and healthy and support Raymond Waterways. Ask your kids to join you so you can plant the "volunteering" seed in future generations to keep our lakes beautiful.

"One-And-Done" Volunteer Opportunities

1. Help stuff envelopes and write notes to potential donors for our fundraising mailing for a day in late March next year. (Writing notes: remotely for as many as you like; stuffing envelopes: 1 Day in Raymond in March)
2. Help distribute Rack Cards *with tips on keeping lakes healthy* to local businesses next summer. (2-4 days in Raymond during the summer)
3. Sign up for one or two days to work with *our trained LakeSmart evaluators to assess erosion-control problems for lakefront property owners* under the state-wide LakeSmart Program.

Intermittent volunteer work on an "As-Needed Basis":

1. Take photographs of the lakes for our newsletter and web page (however many and however often you'd like)
2. Show up at local town meetings to support Raymond Waterways (a few evenings, throughout



the year). The next Raymond Comprehensive Plan Meeting will be Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30 pm at town hall (*I think it is at Jordan-Small Middle School-Broadcast Studio, 423 Webbs Mills Rd*). Attend and be sure to convey to the committee how important healthy lakes are to Raymond.

3. Write articles for the local press and our website on news affecting Raymond Waterways.

Summer 2024 Opportunities as a Volunteer

1. Become an "ipper," an invasive plant patroller, on your lake or pond. One-day training in the spring required
2. Volunteer or even work as a paid employee as a CBI inspector: work as many hours as you can, or fill in for absent inspectors next summer as needed. Training in the late Spring is required.

3. Train and do some consulting work as a LakeSmart evaluator, helping lakeshore owners learn how to avoid erosion into the lakes throughout the summer.
4. Help eradicate invasive milfoil in Turtle Cove on Sebago.

Longer-term Volunteering

1. Become our next "Director of Volunteers," developing volunteer opportunities, and helping train, keep track of, and thank volunteers.
2. *Could we use volunteer help on graphic design—for web page, newsletter, or other publications?*
3. Join our Board of Directors—our meetings are by Zoom, once a month.
4. Your ideas for volunteer work?

Let us know your interests and availability at raymondwaterways.org. Thank you!

Our Invasive Plant Patrollers At Work!

Led by the hard-working and capable duo of Sibyl French and Bunny Wescott, various volunteer Invasive Plant Patrollers--"Ippers"--spent many hours this summer patrolling our Raymond lakes and ponds looking for invasive plants. In tandem with our Courtesy Boat Inspections, these efforts keep invasive plants from settling in and spreading across our waterways.

The table below shows what volunteers have accomplished this season.

Lake or Pond	Number of Volunteers	Total Hours Spent Patrolling this Summer
Panther Pond	23 Volunteer Monitors	Total on-water hours = 96 hours
Crescent Lake	14 Volunteer Monitors	Total on-water hours = 46 hours
Raymond Pond	1 Volunteer	Total on-water hours = 4 hours
Thomas Pond	1 Volunteer	Total on-water hours = 5 hours

RWPA Testifies at Meeting on Casco's New Comprehensive Plan

A special Town Meeting in Casco approved a new Comprehensive Plan for the town earlier this year and set up an Implementation Committee (CPIC) to study how best to put its proposals into action. The first of seven areas, called "Big Ideas" in the plan, is to "protect woods, waters, and open space."

To help address this Big Idea, Raymond Waterways was invited to participate in a September 26 hearing before the CPIC to describe our lake protection work in Raymond. Other invited participants were leaders of lake associations for Pleasant Lake/ Parker Pond, Crescent Lake, and Thomas Pond and representatives of the Lakes Environmental Association and the Portland Water District.

Representing Raymond Waterways, Steve Craine described the benefits Raymond has gained from having a town-wide water conservation

organization. For example, he mentioned, keeping boat ramps staffed with courtesy boat inspectors requires personnel, resources, and coordination that may be beyond the ability of each lake individually. Therefore, RWPA hires a crew of part-time inspectors and a project manager to meet the inspection needs of each lake, as determined mainly by the lake associations. This past year, we conducted over 3,000 inspections on the four public boat ramps in Raymond.

Steve also noted that, while lake association volunteers are the front line in lake protection, a multi-lake association can be a big help supporting monitoring activities on all lakes and ponds, including smaller ones that do not have established lake associations and adequate numbers of local volunteers, and sharing the

accomplishments of each. (SEE ARTICLE ON IPPers)

In another example, Craine related the successful launch of a LakeSmart program in Raymond. This state-wide program helps waterfront landowners manage their property to minimize erosion from stormwater and reduce the risk of non-point-source pollution reaching the lake. In Raymond, only Crescent Lake had an ongoing LakeSmart program. With the help of Hugh Savage, an experienced LakeSmart evaluator at Crescent Lake, Raymond Waterways trained three new evaluators this spring and evaluated 11 properties on three lakes this summer and fall. As with CBIs, having a pool of evaluators to draw on improves our ability to respond to homeowner requests for assistance. We expect to build on this successful first season and expand this work next year.

Call for Milfoil Removal Volunteers

The warmer winters and early ice out have had the unfortunate side effect of increased variable water milfoil growth. The DASH team spent several days removing milfoil from Turtle Cove and the Canal this year, but quite a bit remained. Much of this remaining growth is near shorelines and docks, often in wadable depths. We are looking for volunteers to be trained to do hand removal of these shallow plants in 2025. Training is very important, as improper plant handling, removal and disposal can cause more harm than good. Every plant fragment is a potential new growth, so great care must be taken. It should also be noted that removal of plants requires a permit by the DEP. Our trained volunteers will work under the town permit and the supervision of DEP. We are now gauging interest and, if a group is found, we will be scheduling a training session in early summer and a few other removal days during the year. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Peter Rowland at phrowland6@gmail.com. Once you are on the list, you will be contacted with all the details.



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Contact us: info@raymondwaterways.org

Mailing address: PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071

Website: raymondwaterways.org



To donate and to learn more about the RWPA,
go to Raymondwaterways.org