

# Maine Lakes Society

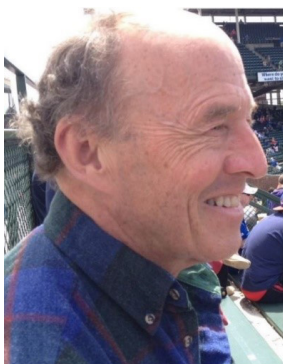
**SPRING CONFERENCE 2018**  
**Volume 44**

## Maine Lake Conference - Lakes, Loons, and Land!

**Keynote: Lessons Learned in 46 Years at Lea, Peter Lowell**

**Plenary: The Future of Loons in Maine, Harry Vogel**

**Peter Lowell will give the Keynote Address - - Lessons Learned at the Helm of the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA).**



If you're a lake activist in Maine, you probably know Peter Lowell, founding director of LEA in Bridgton, because Peter's strategic impacts on Maine lake law, the battle against invasives, and lake education have benefitted all of us. Without his influence, Maine wouldn't have the Milfoil Bill with its dedicated funds for Courtesy Boat Inspections and invasive aquatic plant management every year. Many Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) boats carry the stamp of his entrepreneurial inventiveness, and LEA's new Maine Lakes Science Center is dedicated to better

understanding of lake dynamics, and more effective lake monitoring and management. You won't want to miss what he has to say!

**Plenary Address - - Loons, Eagles, and Other Considerations, the Future of Loons in Maine, Harry Vogel, Director of the New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee (LPC).** The LPC was the first organized effort to study loons in North America. Today, its database of loon populations and productivity is the most complete and longest-running record that exists anywhere in the world. Its research is the most comprehensive ever undertaken on challenges facing loons and has established loons as sentinels that highlight threats to other wildlife and the aquatic environments on which we all depend. This is a unique opportunity to learn from the expert's expert about these charismatic waterfowl. An afternoon panel discussion will expand upon Dr. Vogel's morning presentation.

*continued on page 4 ...*

### Inside this Issue

- 2 President's Letter
- 3 Especially for Lake Associations
- 5 2018 Conference Program
- 11 Exciting Raffles, Great Odds!

## Nominate

*The Best Lake Stewards!*

We want to recognize those lake stewards and associations whose outstanding contributions advance lake protection in order to honor and learn from their examples. Winners will be announced at the Council of Lake Associations (COLA) Reception on June 22nd and at the Maine Lakes Conference on June 23rd at the University of Maine at Farmington.

### **Lake Steward of the Year**

Who has sparked important programs and seen them through to implementation? Who inspires others to give their best? Send us your nomination.

### **Lake or Watershed Association of the Year**

Does your association go above and beyond with education, invasive species prevention or control, water quality protection? Tell your story to us.

Use the form on page 6 of this newsletter or find Awards under Maine Lakes Conference on our website.

***Nominations close May 15!***



P.O. Box 447  
137 Main St.  
Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918  
Phone: 207.495.2301

## **OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

### ***President***

Peter Kallin, PhD

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Vice President***

Jennifer Jespersen

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President***

Steve Mogul, LD

### ***Secretary***

Roy Lambert, LD

### ***Treasurer***

Rob Jones

### ***Directors***

Susan Adams

Betsy Bass

Garrison Beck

Pat Donahue

Ailish Keating

Philip Nyhus, PhD

Jonathan Rubin

Len Rudin

Matt Scott

Pam Smith, MD

Wynn Muller

### ***President Emeritus***

Bart Hague

### ***Science Advisor***

Scott Williams

## **STAFF**

### ***Executive Director***

Margaret Shannon

### ***Lake Educator***

Phil Mulville

### ***Bookkeeper***

Mary Kerwood

## **Letter from our President**

*Dear Friends of Maine Lakes,*

As I write this, my lake is still largely frozen over but hopefully not for long. It always seems like winter and early spring should be relatively slow and easy for both the lakes and the Maine Lakes Society but it never is. This is always a busy time with our Conference Committee planning our Annual Conference, the Finance Committee pulling together end of the year financials and a budget for the new year, the Development Committee planning for the future, the Policy Committee tracking and responding to legislation at the State and National level and the Executive Committee planning a new board slate and a search for a new Executive Director later this year. Additionally, the LakeSmart and Education Committees have been planning this year's programs.

I am glad to report that our stepped-up advocacy and policy campaign last fall helped stave off some of the most immediate threats to Maine's Lakes. Maggie's calls to action through the winter produced letters, meetings with Congressional delegations, emails, and phone calls from our membership that played a role in helping to restore most of the proposed cuts to USEPA's budget. Additionally, the dangerous Waters of the United States (WOTUS) budget rider was removed by the U.S. Senate and Maine's senators played key roles. Please thank them for their support if you get a chance. The proposed repeal of the Clean Waters Rule (WOTUS) by Secretary Pruitt, is still moving forward but now it is at least being done by the rules and the public and courts will have a say in whether it happens. Thank you to all who pitched in and we will keep you posted on our progress. We are also still working to get a new water bond passed in Maine.



We have a great annual conference coming up shortly and probably our best Lake Lovers Raffle yet. I hope to see many of you at UMF in June. In the meantime, check out our great prize list and contact a board or staff member if you are interested in purchasing some chances on one of our great prizes. All proceeds go towards offsetting the cost of the concert.

Help protect a lake you love and all its Maine sister lakes. It takes a village and everyone needs to pitch in. Ben Franklin once said, "When the well runs dry, then we know the value of water." Hopefully we will know the value of our lakes in time to avoid a similar fate for our lakes.

Best regards,

Peter  
President, Maine Lakes Society

# COLA - - Especially for Lake Associations

## How CBI Programs Build Activity, Member Recruitment, and Fund Raising

by Wynn Muller, Past President of Friends of Wilson Lake (FOWL) and Chair of the Council of Lake Associations

### Overview of FOWL CBI

We have been running the CBI program at FOWL (Friends of Wilson Lake) in Wilton since 2003. In those 15 years we have inspected over 9500 boats over 4400 hours, used 91 student monitors and, 176 Adult Support volunteers. We have spent \$26,000 of grant money, \$29,000 of FOWL cash contributions and invested 1900 volunteer hours.

### How did we get started?

We had no idea how to go about inspecting boats when we started in July of 2003. We spoke with our recreation department and were able to get 2 female high school graduates to work on Saturday and Sunday for 8 hours. During our first shift I received a call from the student reporting the police were ticketing her for loitering. What should she do? I went down and explained to the officer what we were doing and realized that on Monday I needed to go to the Police and the town and explain the program. I also learned the loitering charge was for lying on the dock, on a beach towel, in a bikini. That first year the girls left in mid August for college, so we only inspected for 40 hours and 34 boats. Obviously, we had a lot to learn and knew we needed help. We met that fall as a committee and created a plan for hiring students, a schedule, a training class in May, and appointed a chair. We made sure to oversee the program closely and had Maggie Shannon come to conduct our first training class. Right then, Maggie assured me that the CBI program would provide great visibility and prove to be a boon for member donations. This is what happened, and here's how we organized to bring it about.



### Activation - Adult Support Staff

Our first move was to create Adult Support Staff to act as on call supervisors for one weekend each. We drew up a list of their duties and began recruiting from our membership. We now have all 15 weeks covered with a support person each summer. The main purpose of the Support Staff is to make sure the students are present and presentable and also to serve as a resource if our CBI's have problems. It takes only about one hour per weekend and most people are willing to take on a minimal task such as this. This has provided us with a wonderful activation tool. The 15 Support Staff provide the nucleus of our CBI Committee. Even our State Senator, Tom Saviello, has been involved. He has taken on some shifts and both his offspring, Ben and Allison, have been CBI monitors.

Aside from loitering, we have had some interesting experiences over the years at our boat launch, as I am sure have others. We once had a monitor who recruited his friends to join in a soccer match in the parking lot. He now attends Maine Maritime. Another time a church performed a baptism by immersion with the surround sound of hymns being sung. But our top billing is for the monitor who came accompanied by her spinning wheel. That prompted our list of what is permissible at the launch site.

### Fund Raising by Selling Weekends

We have kept our membership dues at \$12 per family, but voluntary donations have now raised that to \$40 per family. However, that said, the total dues and donation revenue is only slightly more than \$6000. Our three annual newsletters run nearly \$3000 and the cash cost of the CBI program is in excess of \$5000 less a \$2000 grant. We needed to find new revenue sources if we were to run our Scholarship, loon program, water testing, etc. We came up with the idea of sponsoring each of the 15 weekends by a separate business. We already had established a solid mailing list of businesses in soliciting advertising for our newsletter. We packaged a weekend \$250 sponsorship with a week's display in our boat launch information kiosk, press releases on the program and the satisfaction of supporting the lake in the valuable CBI program. I made personal visits to the businesses with a copy of their display in ad our kiosk and the CBI on Duty sign. *continued on page 4 ...*



## Lakes, Loons, and Land! Continued

**Afternoon Breakouts: *Supercharging your Lake Association.*** Roberta Hill, Director of the Invasive Species Program at the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, who will talk about the Ripple Effect: How Volunteers Can Save our Lakes and How You Can Help make that Happen. None is better qualified than Roberta on this topic! **Organizing for Better Outcomes: Lake Association Advancement is the COLA Presentation this year.** Wynn Muller, longtime President of Friends of Wilson Lake, Head of the Council of Lake Associations and our chair of Development, will share proven strategies for growth and action.



**Exploring Connections between Humans and the Natural World.** Living well with loons and lakes means understanding the land-water connection. Today's more unpredictable and confusing seasons - - "rain bombs" and 60 degree December days followed by snow 48 hours later, make understanding this connection vital. From regarding birds and butterflies as bio-indicators to learning the best strategies for loon survival, we have brought together experts to help you create a future that supports healthy water and wildlife. You'll find good news and interesting new tools plus take home action steps that can make a difference for our lakes and the lives that depend on them in these 4 presentations:

**Habitat Network: A Tool to Improve and Connect Habitat at Home and Community,** Jacob Johnson, Habitat Network, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University

**Bringing Nature Home: the Plants, Practices, and Perks of Restoring Native Plants,** Eric Topper, Maine Audubon  
**Conserving Maine's Loons and their Lakes: Strategies for the Future,** Susan Gallo, Maine Audubon; Mark Pokras, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine; Vincent Spagnuolo, Biodiversity Research Center, Harry Vogel, NH Loon Preservation Committee

**The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Buffers, A Lakefront Landowner's Guide to Shoreline Assessment,** Jeremy Deeds, Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

**Using the LakeSmart Mobile App for 2018 Property Evaluations, Workshop for Coordinators and Evaluators,** Becky Schaffner, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

**Early Bird Discount until May 15 at [www.minelakessociety.org](http://www.minelakessociety.org)**

## How CBI Programs Build Activity, Member Recruitment, and Fund Raising. Continued...

**How did it work?** The first year, I got one business to donate \$100, another to purchase a \$75 newsletter ad and many who said that they might be able to budget for next year. After about 12 businesses I was getting discouraged, but then I visited Wal-Mart. The manager suggested I apply for a grant and I wound up with \$1,000, and \$500 the following year. That got me going! The following year I sent out a mailing to 30 businesses in January with follow up phone calls in February. I got two positive replies to my mailing and another 10 to my follow up phone calling. I continued to call until I got a Yes or a NO. Of the 12, 4 had never advertised with FOWL before and the others increased from the \$50 to \$75 level to \$250. In 2017 we used a similar approach and were able to sell 13 weekends with another 4 new businesses and some interest in support from individuals. As you can see, there is some work involved, but the results are rewarding. The fact that this is such a visible program benefiting the entire lake makes it ideal for sponsorship.

### Member Recruitment

So, you have heard about activation of members through Adult Support Staff and Fund Raising through weekly sponsorships, where does member recruiting come in? That is easy, just the visibility of the program gives a wonderful opportunity to recruit from prospective members at the boat launch be they boaters or others



## 48th ANNUAL MAINE LAKES CONFERENCE: IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO PROTECT MAINE LAKES

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON  
SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018

### MORNING SESSION (North Dining Hall)

Time	Topic
7:30 - 8:30 am	Registration and Breakfast
8:30 - 9:00 am	Maine Lakes Society Annual Meeting
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome and Conference Overview
9:00 - 9:15 am	President's Welcome
9:20 - 10:05 am	Lessons Learned through 4 Decades at the Helm of LEA ~ <b>Peter Lowell</b> , Lakes Environmental Association

### MORNING BREAK (10:05-10:35 am)

10:40 - 11:25 am	<b>Harry Vogel</b> , Executive Director, New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee	Loons, Eagles, and Other Considerations, the Future of Loons in Maine
11:25 - 11:40 am	<b>Pete Didisheim</b> , Natural Resources Council of Maine	Lake and Watershed News from the Frontlines in Augusta and Washington DC
11:40 - 12:00 pm	<b>Award Presentations:</b> Lake Steward and Lake Association of the Year, and LakeSmart Gold Achievement Awards	

### LUNCH (South Dining Hall) ~ (12:00 - 1:00 pm)

#### WORKSHOP A: SUPERCHARGING YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Time	Speaker	Topic
1:00 - 1:50 pm	<b>Roberta Hill</b> , Invasive Species Program Director, Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program	The Ripple Effect: How Volunteerism Can Save Our Lakes and How You Can Help Make that Happen
2:00 - 2:50 pm	<b>Wynn Muller</b> , Chair of the Council of Lake Associations (COLA), Friends of Wilson Lake	Organizing for Better Outcomes: Lake Association Advancement

#### WORKSHOP B: GARDENING FOR HABITAT, BEAUTY & LAKE RESILIENCE

Time	Speaker	Topic
1:00 - 1:50 pm	<b>Jacob Johnston</b> , Habitat Network, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University	Habitat Network: A Tool to Improve and Connect Habitat at Home and Community
2:00 - 2:50 pm	<b>Eric Topper</b> , Director of Education, Maine Audubon	Bringing Nature Home: the Plants, Practices and Perks of Restoring Native Plants

#### WORKSHOP C: PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF LOONS & LAKES

Time	Speaker	Topic
1:30 - 2:00 pm	<b>Mark Pokras</b> , Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and Toddy Pond Association; <b>Susan Gallo</b> , Wildlife Biologist, Maine Audubon; <b>Vincent Spagnuolo</b> , Loon Program Director, Biodiversity Research Institute; <b>Harry Vogel</b> , Executive Director, NH Loon Preservation Committee	Conserving Maine's Loons and their Lakes: Strategies for the Future, A Panel Discussion with New England Loon Experts
2:00 - 2:50 pm	<b>Jeremy Deeds</b> , Lake Assessment Program, Maine Department of Environmental Protection	The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Buffers, a Lakefront Landowner's Guide to Shoreline Assessment

**3:00 - 3:30 pm DRAWING FOR THE LAKE LOVER'S RAFFLE! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

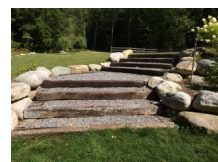
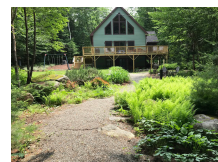
## LakeSmart in the News

The winter edition of **LakeLine**, the North American Lake Management Society's (NALMS) magazine, featured **LakeSmart** as one of its **Success Stories** under the title, The Evolution of a Model Volunteer Lake Protection Program. The article highlighted LakeSmart's uniqueness, its direct interpersonal contact that promotes behavior change. Research shows that programs relying on media advertising may raise awareness but rarely bring about actual changes in social behavior. Traditional marketing programs which view the desired behavior as a product to be sold may be equally ineffective because adopting a new behavior is far more complex than choosing one product over another. It turns out that real behavior change can't be accomplished using only the advertising toolbox. LakeSmart's person-to-person visit relies on lake associations to convey the stewardship message from trusted members of a lake community. This is the heart of its success. The article covered the years 2003 through 2015 highlighting the three years LakeSmart was first under Maine Lakes Society administration which showed the strong growth continuing today. The article in its entirety can be found at [www.minelakessociety.org](http://www.minelakessociety.org)

**Online LakeSmart Training Available to Lake Association Hosts** Funding from the Elmina B. Sewall, Horizon, Maine Community and Onion Foundations contributed to the 3-part online training workshop for LakeSmart Coordinators and Evaluators. This means volunteers from the Society's partner associations can learn the basics anyplace, anytime, and experienced LakeSmarters can refresh and improve their knowledge from the comfort of home. If interested in becoming a Host partner, contact the Maine Lakes Society, 207-495-2301 or [msshannon@mainelakessociety.org](mailto:msshannon@mainelakessociety.org).

**The Town of China Maine raised and appropriated \$20,000 in support of the China Lake Association's LakeSmart Program!** The funds will be pay for labor and material used by the China Region Lake Alliance Youth Conservation Corps to implement LakeSmart NPS work recommended by the CLA LakeSmart Team under the direction of Marie Michaud.

**New Mobile App for LakeSmart Surveys** LakeSmart Coordinators and Evaluators can now use a mobile App to record data from their LakeSmart surveys, saving hours of time. Maine Department of Environmental Protection staffer Becky Schaffner have created the App using Survey 123. Training for using the App is available at the Maine Lakes Conference on June 23.



## Nomination Form for 2018 Stewardship Awards

Please complete this form and send it to the Maine Lakes Society by May 15, 2018

P.O. Box 447, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Help us recognize deserving lake stewards!! Winners will be announced June 23

**Lake Steward of the Year** Who has sparked important programs and seen them through to success? Who inspires others to give their best? Send us your nomination.

**Lake or Watershed Association of the Year** Does your association go above and beyond with education, invasive species prevention or control, water quality protection? Tell your story to us.

Select 1 category: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Steward of the Year, \_\_\_\_\_ Lake or Watershed Association of the Year

Nominee for Lake Steward of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_

OR Nominee for Lake/Watershed Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Best phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Best email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Home Lake: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Best Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In 400 words or less, please describe how your nominee meets our criteria:



Our hardworking Education Committee (Betsy Bass, Pam Smith, Maggie Shannon and Jen Jespersen) has been diligently lining up 2018 LakesAlive! Programming. Lakes Alive! is an innovative and award-winning lake education program designed to engage both children and adults in understanding and protecting Maine's lakes. Our 30-foot pontoon boat, the Melinda Ann, is the centerpiece of Lakes Alive! Outfitted with innovative instruments, it is the most stimulating classroom that students and adults have ever visited.

Our exciting summer programs are available to schools, community groups, lake associations, summer camps and other organizations that want to provide a fun and educational day on the water. As the Melinda Ann cruises, we explore our lakes through exciting hands-on activities that raise awareness, inspire wonder, and deepen knowledge of how lakes work. We supply the boat, the analytical instruments and the expertise.

Lake Associations can benefit from sponsoring a local 1/2 day or full-day trips on their home lake by involving children and adults in shared learning; providing a tangible benefits for Lake Association members; motivating your members to be more involved with your organization; adding to, or jump-starting, your educational initiatives with a proven curriculum and expertise. It can also be used to recruit new members or to raise funds for your organization.

On the tour you will be introduced to many different scientific instruments used by Limnologists to study lakes including a Secchi Disk & Aqua Scope to measure water clarity, a Plankton Tow which collects zooplankton, a Benthic Dredge to collect samples of sediments and macroinvertebrates from the lake bottom, a Water Column Sampler to collect water samples from various depths in the lake; a Dissolved Oxygen Probe to compare oxygen levels at different depths, and a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) with an underwater camera, among others.

Here's where we'll be:

**May 10th-** Wiscasset Middle School & High School (Watershed Model)

**May 24th-** Academy Hill School, Wilton (Classroom- Introduction to Watersheds)

**June 1st-** Friends of Wilson Lake/Academy Hill School 4th Graders

**June 19th-** Crescent Lake Watershed Association- Crescent Lake, Raymond

**August 16-17th-** Camp Agawam on Crescent Lake (week long summer camp for local youth)

**June - August-** Great Pond weekend Boat Tours are in the works if you want to schedule a trip in beautiful Belgrade Lakes. A schedule will be released in early May.

For more information and pricing, please contact Maggie Shannon at (207) 495-2301 or by email at [info@mainelakessociety.org](mailto:info@mainelakessociety.org).



Pantheon  
of Lake  
Champions



## Announcing our Pantheon of Lake Champions

We're pleased to announce The Society's "Pantheon of Lake Champions," a cumulative list of members who have included MLS in their estate planning or provided significant support to MLS during their lives. We will regularly recognize Pantheon members in MLS publications as persons and entities whose support is the bedrock foundation for MLS activities.

We'll inaugurate the Pantheon with a reception on June 22, the evening before the Maine Lakes Conference. We suspect there is a good likelihood that some individuals who qualify for inclusion in the Pantheon have not yet informed MLS of their expected planned giving. ***If you have made plans for future bequests, please let us know so that we can invite you to this event!*** Invitees will include all known Pantheon members, VIP's and our conference speakers and sponsors. Please contact Maggie Shannon if you have included the Society in your estate planning and have not yet informed us. You can reach her at [msshannon@mainelakessociety.org](mailto:msshannon@mainelakessociety.org) or (207) 495-2301.

# Preparing for Summer Should Include Protecting your Investment

Chris Richmond, Allen Insurance and Financial, Camden, Maine

When you head to camp, you plan ahead: What clothes to pack, what equipment to bring, what to put in the cooler for the trip. All this so you can enjoy the peace and quiet of your lakeside retreat. You should also add insurance to your planning check list. Talk with your insurance agent before the start of the season – because this can help you protect your investment and ensure more worry-free days. Items to check include:

**General Liability.** This will cover claims made against individuals or associations for bodily injury or property damage. Your general liability coverage will respond with both defense costs and pay damages if you are found legally liable.

**Directors and Officers coverage.** Designed to protect board members, directors, officers and managers from wrong doing claims brought against them in regards to their role in governance of the association. D & O coverage is liability insurance which provides personal financial protection for board members and officers of the association.

**Coverage for your boat.** If your association owns a vessel, you will want coverage for that. Be very specific on how the vessel used. Is it used for water quality sampling? Weed mitigation? Do you have a trailer for it and is that insured? Boats often have a layup period so check to see if your operating season fits what your policy allows. If you have extra equipment used for water quality or weed mitigation, you will want to have this listed with a stated value, as well.

**Workers Compensation.** Does your association have paid staff? If so, you will need to have workers compensation insurance. You could be faced with penalties and fines for not carrying workers comp so take care to keep this in force. Subcontracted workers are not required to be on your workers comp policy but you should ask them for a certificate of insurance beforehand to make sure they have their own insurance.

**Commercial Auto Coverage.** Does your association have a vehicle? If it is titled to the association you will need a commercial auto policy. Hired and non-owned auto coverage will provide the association with liability coverage for privately owned vehicles that are being used for official use.

By planning now and understanding the risks your association may have, you can help ensure peace of mind. Bring this list to your insurance agent before there is a claim, because after that is too late.

## Let's Talk Planned Giving

Wynn Muller, Chair of Development and the Council of Lake Associations

As the Chair of the Society's Development Committee, I want to speak with you about planned giving. Many of you are members of the Maine Lakes Society (MLS) and make annual cash donations for which MLS is most appreciative. Your donations are the foundation for MLS activities.

Your annual giving suggests that you are likely to care about how best to support MLS using some of your estate assets. Let's talk about some possibilities in addition to the inclusion of MLS as a named beneficiary of your estate planning.

But first, note that your use of any of these giving techniques for the benefit of MLS likely qualifies you for the MLS Pantheon of Lake Champions. An article about the Pantheon appears in this same newsletter. Please let MLS know of your gift planning so that you may be recognized as a Pantheon member.

Some charitable giving techniques provide more tax advantage to you as compared with cash gifts of the same value. I'm outlining some of them below. If you qualify (and for this you'll need to consult your tax advisor), we encourage you to consider these tax-advantaged avenues for your gifting.

- **Gifts of Stock, Real Property or Other Appreciated Property:** A gift of appreciated property will have better results than a gift of the cash resulting from the donor's sale of that property. Both a cash gift and a gift of property will give the donor identical charitable contribution deductions, but the property gift will allow the donor to avoid any tax on the gain she would realize on sale of the property.



## Living Silver Connects Maine Lakes to the Ocean

Nick Bennett, Staff Scientist, NRCM

A few years ago, on a beautiful September evening, I was out on the Kennebec River in a boat I co-owned with a friend. He had his young daughter with him, and both of them were sitting in the bow. I was driving the boat in the stern. Opening day of duck hunting season was just around the corner, and the ostensible purpose of our trip was to scout for ducks. Really, we were just out for the ride and the beauty of the evening.



That boat was fast (I own a slower, more sensible boat now), and we were moving along at a good clip when I cut the power quickly. I jostled my two passengers who wanted to know what I was thinking. I wasn't sure myself, but something had caught my eye. I looked around and noticed that the Kennebec was shimmering silver as far I could see in every direction. The setting sun made the sparkling even more intense, but I had to look closely below the boat to learn the real cause: billions of juvenile alewives. ***I have seen many natural wonders here but none more powerful than this flow of energy, life and food into the Gulf of Maine.***

Because of dam removals and fish passage construction on the Kennebec and Sebasticook Rivers and a few upstream lakes, the Kennebec alewife run is now the largest in the world. The largest gatherings of American Bald Eagles on the East Coast now occur along the Sebasticook when alewives are running there. The massive run I saw is still the result of only partial fish passage restoration in historic spawning ponds in the Kennebec watershed and the river itself. Overall, the status of sea-run fish in Maine remains dismal at about five percent of historic population levels.

Restoring these native fish is a huge challenge. Maine has thousands of dams, and the vast majority of them lack fish passage. Many of these dams are at the outlets of lakes that used to be spawning areas for alewives. We need new infrastructure to help fish get above these dams to spawn and then get adults and juveniles back through the dams to the ocean.

The rewards of sea-run fisheries restoration are big. Rivers and lakes that have their native alewife runs feel more alive. Watching stripers or seals feeding at an outlet dam many miles from the coast is thrilling! Loons swimming after alewives as they enter into a lake are a spectacular sight. And we will never have a prosperous coastal groundfishing industry again without restoring native sea-run fish. Lakes are wonderful places to enjoy everything that makes Maine special. They are even better with native sea-run fish and all the wildlife that comes with them. Reconnecting our lakes and rivers to the oceans should be a priority for all of us.

## Planned Giving, Continued

• **Charitable Remainder Trust:** A charitable remainder trust is a trust for a defined term (which may be the donor's life or the joint lives of the donor and his spouse) which pays a specified level of trust income annually to the donor. At termination of the trust, the charitable organization specified in the trust agreement receives the trust assets held at that time. For example, a donor may form a trust which pays the donor 5% of the trust asset value annually, with the trust to continue for the life of the donor. (The annual distribution may also be specified as a percentage of the initial value of the contributed property.) At the donor's death, the charitable beneficiary would receive all trust assets then held by the trust.

A charitable remainder trust allows the donor to benefit from the assets contributed to the trust during her life and to obtain a current charitable contribution deduction for the actuarial value of the charitable interest in the trust. The annual trust distribution the donor receives will generally be taxed as ordinary income to the extent that the trust itself realizes ordinary income. If the donor's trust distributions exceed the trust's ordinary income, the excess will be taxed as capital gain to the extent of the trust's capital gain.

A gift of appreciated property to a charitable remainder trust provides the triple benefit of (1) a current deduction for the actuarial value of the future charitable gift; (2) avoidance of any current tax on the appreciation of the contributed property; and (3) continued lifetime income generated by the value of the contributed property.

• **Use of Life Insurance in Charitable Giving:** The possibilities for using an existing or new life insurance policy for tax-advantaged charitable gifting are too numerous to outline. Please consult with a knowledgeable life insurance professional to consider some options which may be available to you.

# The Death and Life of the Great Lakes

## *Environmentally Naive once upon a Time, They Are not so Now*

*A Review of Dan Egan's Book by Peter Kallin*

The Great Lakes form the largest (by surface area) interconnected chain of lakes on Earth with 21% of the volume of freshwater on the surface of the planet. Like Maine's lakes, they were created by the melting ice sheets at the end of the last ice age, about 14,000 years ago. For at least the last 5000 years, humans have relied on the Great Lakes for clean water, sustenance, transportation, and economic activity. Dan Egan's well-researched, fascinating, and clearly written book, traces this interaction from an ecological and economic perspective, concentrating on the past 200 years, since the Welland Canal provided upstream passage around Niagara Falls for both ships and aquatic organisms such as the sea lamprey. He recounts a long cavalcade of invasive species that have had significant ecological and economic impacts on the Great Lakes since then, especially on the commercial and sport fisheries. Through extensive interviews with dedicated limnologists, fisheries biologists, and others, he illustrates both the fragility and vulnerability of lake ecosystems to hydrologic manipulation, cultural eutrophication, and invasive species, but also the inherent resilience in these systems and the ability of humans to help protect and restore these ecosystems through programs like the Clean Water Act and inter-state and international regulatory agreements that explicitly address invasive species. As a direct descendant of Great Lakes lumberjacks, fishermen, ship builders, and steamship captains, I found this an incredibly personal and powerful book. The lessons learned in this book are applicable to all aquatic ecosystems and are especially relevant to Maine's lakes, where we have many of the same issues and are still in a better position to proactively protect our lakes through appropriate actions.

The book is available through Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.com>).

Please select the Maine Lakes Society to receive the charitable donation portion of your purchase.

## Collaboration for Clean Water, Today and Tomorrow

**Partnering for Clean Water:** Water utilities have to supply clean, safe drinking water to the public and protecting the land surrounding drinking water sources is the most effective tool to ensure safe drinking water. The cleaner the source, the safer the water, since preventing pollution is more effective and less costly than trying to remove contaminants from water. Many Maine groups, such as municipalities, lake associations, land trusts, and schools work toward similar goals. By collaborating, partners may be able to leverage resources and achieve a bigger impact.

**Grants available:** The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) recognizes the benefits of collaboration among these groups in protecting drinking water sources. The DWP offers grant programs to public water systems for projects that demonstrate protection of a drinking water source. These projects can include developing watershed-based curriculum, creating a Watershed Based Protection Plan, purchase of land for conservation, or easements and stewardship of protected lands. Grants must be awarded to community (i.e. water utilities, mobile home parks) or non-profit non-community (i.e. schools, parks and campgrounds) water systems. By partnering with your local water system you may gain access to these funds for projects that demonstrate protection of a drinking water source.

FMI contact Sophia Scott at the Maine CDC-Drinking Water Program. [sophia.scott@maine.gov](mailto:sophia.scott@maine.gov) or by phone at 485-4058.



*Summary of the many types of partnerships that can form to protect local drinking water sources*

Graphic credit: Environmental Finance Center, Portland Water District, and Maine CDC Drinking Water Program.

# The Lake Lovers Raffle Returns!

34 unique prizes and good odds make the Lake Lovers Raffle a great bet, and proceeds support Maine Lakes Society programs. Choose from Fishing Trips with Registered Maine Guides, an exquisite quilt, Onset Water Temperature Loggers (4!), overnight stays at lakeside inns (2 of them!), dinners for 2 at exclusive restaurants, regional sampler baskets, beautiful framed prints and photographs, Boston Museum of Science tickets, a Reny's Adventure, a half-gallon of private reserve maple syrup, and much, much more! There's something for everyone.

See [www.mainelakessociety.org](http://www.mainelakessociety.org) for prize details.

**Drawing takes place June 23 at the Conference in Farmington.**

**You don't need to be present to win!**

**Tickets are 1 for \$5 • 3 for \$10 • 7 for \$20**

**21 for \$50 or 42 for \$100!**



## NEW! Northwoods Dream Package

*An Adventure for 2 • Worth over \$1,600!*

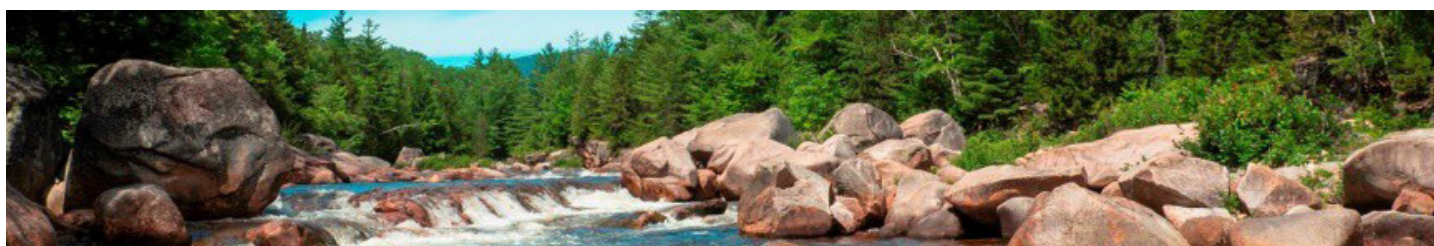
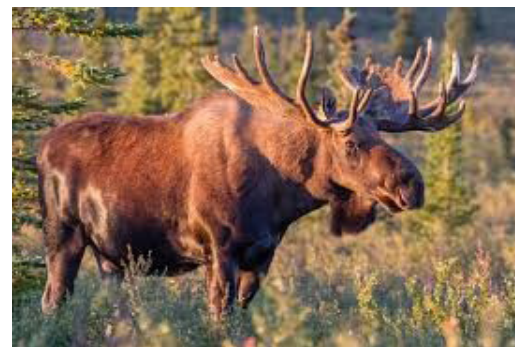
15 extraordinary experiences in Maine's storied Northwoods include a scenic overflight of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, a Guided Moose Tour, whitewater rafting on the West Branch of the Penobscot, an overnight Yoga Retreat at Sewall House, paddleboard rentals, special gifts, and that's just the beginning! 3 full days of excitement await the winners of this once in a lifetime adventure.

**Drawing at the Maine Lakes Conference on June 23**

**Tickets are 1 for \$20 or 3 for \$50. Credit cards accepted!**

**Check out the details on our website [www.mainelakessociety.org](http://www.mainelakessociety.org)**

**Get tickets from a board member, write  
[mlsadmin@mainelakessociety.org](mailto:mlsadmin@mainelakessociety.org) or call (207) 495-2301**





# Maine Lakes Society

P.O. Box 447  
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918  
[www.minelakessociety.org](http://www.minelakessociety.org)



Find us on  
Facebook!

**SAVE \$5 TODAY**  
**BEFORE THIS OFFER**  
**FLIES AWAY!**



**The Early-Bird Conference**  
**Registration Ends May 15<sup>th</sup>!**