

Maine Lakes Society

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017
Volume 42

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Join us at the 47th Annual Maine Lakes Conference!

7:30am to 4:00 pm, Saturday, June 24, 2017

Wells Conference Center, University of Maine at Orono

Register online at www.minelakessociety.org

Keynote: Ecological Puzzles and a Passion for Lakes: Cyanobacteria, Sensors, Citizens and Scientists. Dr. Kathleen Weathers of the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies is leading a broad team of researchers to unravel the mystery of recent widespread cyanobacterial blooms. They are in the news because they have the potential to generate toxins and to outcompete other phytoplankton, making their study a priority for scientists, policy makers and important to lake users and stewards. Kathie will explain how innovative citizen science led to the worldwide science network, GLEON (Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network), connected to several Maine lakes for research purposes today. If you steward a lake, you won't want to miss her talk,

Plenary Talk: The Forest-Freshwater Connection and the Role Forests Play in Climate Change Adaptation. Distinguished Professor Dr. Ivan Fernandez of the Climate Change Institute and the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine. Dr. Fernandez' work focuses on the ways forested ecosystems respond to our changing chemical and physical climate. He will examine how we can go about developing adaptation strategies for managing evolving ecosystem responses, particularly as they relate to terrestrial ecosystems and the freshwater resources they encompass. In addition to adapting to past and present change, he seeks to identify and promote the new ecological and economic opportunities that climate change will bring in its wake.

Plenary Talk: Build Team and Protect Your Lake: Using Watershed Surveys to Jump Start Long-Term Stewardship. Jennifer Jespersen of Ecological Instincts, is known to many of us through her watershed restoration work with lake groups as part of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Nonpoint Source Program. Jen will draw from this experience to show how watershed survey projects can build strong

continued on page 4 ...

Legislative Alert!

***EPA and Lake Water Bond
Stand Up for Maine Lakes!***

by Maggie Shannon

Has your association ever received 319 grant money for road work, Youth Conservation Corps or LakeSmart from Maine DEP's Nonpoint Source Program? Are you planning or hoping to do so in future? Now, you may have to think again.

EPA under Threat, and with It, Water

The Trump Administration intends to cut funds to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 31%. That will abolish Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, the source of Maine DEP's Nonpoint Source Grants, and our State's only major source of money for Watershed Restoration.

For decades, Maine's independent, resourceful lake communities have used 319 Grants to kickstart their own fundraising so they can implement watershed restoration. Their Yankee ingenuity and hard work have protected the lakes that drive our local economies,

continued on last page ...



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Letter from our President

Dear Friends of Maine Lakes,

As I write this, the ice has been out for about a month and water temperatures are into the mid-fifties. 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. The vast majority of Maine's lakes are dimictic lakes, which means they turn over, or mix top to bottom, twice a year, when water is at its densest just before ice in and shortly after ice out. For lakes deeper than about 25 feet, these turnover events are the only times during the year when these lakes become fully saturated with oxygen all the way to the bottom. We have also had some turnover in our organization. Shortly after the new year, our Executive Director, Cheryl Daigle, accepted a new position in Connecticut that was an opportunity to work closer to family in southern New England. We wish Cheryl well in her new endeavors and will be taking advantage of her generous offer to tie up some loose ends as a part timer while we transition to a new status quo. In the interim, Maggie Shannon has re-assumed the duties of Acting Executive Director for the 3rd time, in addition to Managing LakeSmart Policy.

Another turnover event for our organization is the loss of Dan Buckley, a former President of COLA, and our long-time Science Advisor. Dan will be retiring shortly from the University of Maine at Farmington and returning to upstate New York where he and his wife have family. Luckily Dan has left a large wake behind in the form of many former students he inspired and trained who are now playing significant roles in protecting Maine's lakes.

Winter is also the time when we close out the previous year, plan for the new year, write grants, adopt budgets, plan for our upcoming conference, complete our strategic planning process, send out membership renewals and a myriad of other administrative details. Those of you who receive Maggie's Email Legislative Alerts also realize the legislative session is underway. Historically, this has often been a relatively quiet time for the strictly nonpartisan Maine Lakes Society as we worked diligently with legislators from both parties to develop proactive science-based legislation to protect Maine's lakes, such as

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the Shoreland Zoning (SZ) Rules or Milfoil law. Of late, there have been concerted anti-science, anti-environment agendas advanced both nationally and at the state level. We work closely with groups like the Environmental Priorities Coalition to track dozens of bills including “defensive priorities” to ensure we don’t lose ground in protecting our lakes. Staff, board members, and numerous other volunteers have served on numerous legislative stakeholder groups, such as SZ, and prepared and delivered science-based testimony, for, against, or neither for nor against various bills that affect Maine’s lakes. If you have received Maggie’s Legislative emails, you know we have been largely successful in our efforts, although we experienced the “thrill of victory” when our septic bill passed the committee and both house and senate unanimously but then suffered “the agony of defeat,” when the house failed to override the governor’s veto by a handful of votes. NB: It’s not over yet. Please see Maggie’s Legislative Alert and act to pass LD 178 our Nonpoint Source Bond and help protect the Clean Water Act by fending off a 31% cut to the Environmental Protection Agency. We can’t do it without you!



So what can you do to help? Become an active member of your lake association and help keep it viable. Come to our 47th annual conference in June. Join Maine Lakes Society as an individual “Friend of Maine Lakes.” Recruit others to join. We need your help. The more members we have, the more effective our advocacy can be. Contact your legislator if we issue a “Legislative Alert.” Consider volunteering to become an MLS board member. Help protect a lake you love and all its Maine sister lakes. Don’t have time for any of the above? Go to our web site (www.mainerlakessociety.org) and click the “Donate Now” button.

Best regards,

President, Maine Lakes Society



Since ice-out, Dr. Kallin has been hard to locate. Clues have been found, however, so we are cautiously optimistic he will make an appearance in Orono on June 24.

Please Join the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program at our Annual Conference:

“Monitoring the Health of Maine’s Lakes in a Changing Climate”

Saturday, July 29th at The Great Outdoors

52 Naiad Lane, in Turner, Maine

Registration opens at 8am, Conference begins at 9am

Lunch will be available at 12:30, afternoon workshops at 1:30

For more detailed program information, online registration and a map/directions, please visit: www.mainevlmp.org/lake-monitoring-conference-2/

Conference Continued

communities of volunteers united in the common cause of lake protection.

Afternoon Breakouts provide practical stewardship practices and fresh information about wildlife protection and restoration. Whether you are interested in **Supercharging your Lake Association, Lakeside Landscaping,** or learning about **Wildlife Habitat and Restoration**, you will acquire enriching knowledge and take home actionable plans to help you improve effectiveness and build community. Three successful lake associations will provide insider tips on building capacity, fundraising, and community outreach. Other offerings include advice on Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers, Alewife, Loon and Arctic Char Restoration, and how to Launch and Build a Successful LakeSmart Program, and a very special landscaping talk will show how to use what you already have to beautify and enhance your own personal watershed.

Special Bonus! **6th Annual Lake Lover's Raffle!** With 25 great prizes, you are sure to find several items you want to take home. Overnights, dinners, a trolling motor, hobo sensors and boot warmers, books galore, guided fishing trips, Boston Museum of Science passes, and Grandpa Pete's boutique beer and ale are just a few of the prizes up for grabs at the Conference

You don't have to be present to win, but you do have to buy a ticket! Check out Raffle prizes at <http://www.mainelakesociety.org>
For tickets, call (207) 495-2301 or
write msshannon@mainelakesociety.org

Lakes Worldwide Feel the Heat

By Alexandra Witze in Science News, Magazine for the Society of Science and the Public, May 1, 2017

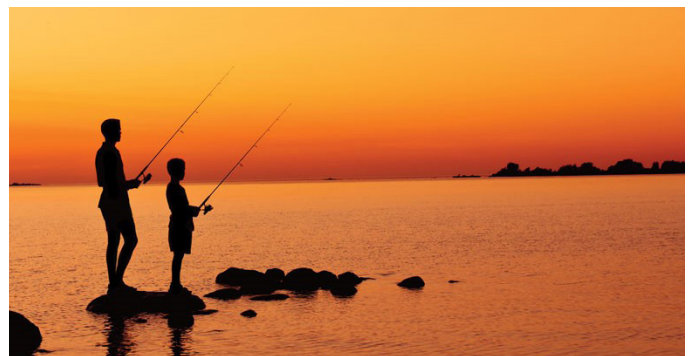
When most people think of climate change, they picture melting glaciers, shrinking sea ice or flooded coastal towns. But worldwide observations from limnologists are vaulting lakes into the vanguard of climate science. Because lakes reflect the long-term changes of their environment in their physics, chemistry and biology, "They're sentinels," says John Lenters, a limnologist at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Globally, lakes are heating up but not all in the same way or with the same ecological consequences. In eastern Africa, Lake Tanganyika is warming relatively slowly, but its fish populations are plummeting, leaving people with less to eat. In the U.S. Upper Midwest, quicker-warming lakes are experiencing shifts in the relative abundance of fish species that support a billion-dollar-plus recreational industry. And at high global latitudes, cold lakes normally covered by ice in the winter are seeing less ice year after year — a change that could affect all parts of the food web, from algae to freshwater seals.

Lakes also affect the global environment. Although they cover only about 4 percent of the land surface not already covered by glaciers, lakes play a key role in several planetary processes. Lakes cycle carbon between the water's surface and the atmosphere. They give off heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, while simultaneously tucking away carbon in decaying layers of organic muck at lake bottoms. They bury nearly half as much carbon as the oceans do. And as they heat, lakes will breathe out more methane, a greenhouse gas.

Understanding such current changes is crucial for humans to adapt to the changes that are likely to come, limnologists say. Ecological changes put into motion during a particularly cold or hot time can send ripples during the following seasons, researchers are finding, and the morphology, orientation, and biogeochemistry of a lake all play into its response to fluctuations in temperature.

With so much uncertainty remaining about where they may head in the future, limnologists need to keep gathering as much information as possible. "There are aspects of the Pacific Ocean we know better than Lake Superior," he says. "Lakes are woefully understudied."



Fishing on Lake Huron - ALPAMAYOPHOTO/GETTY



*Passive Craft Sticker - Available at Maine Lakes
Available on our homepage or by calling the office*

Here's a New Revenue Source in the Aquatic Invasives Fight!

Funding Courtesy Boat Inspections and managing infestations is tough. Here's a new fund raiser to help you. These colorful, civic-minded stickers for passive watercraft cost 35 cents each and can be made available to lake association members, friends and recreationists for a suggested \$5 donation. The four-color, vinyl, weather-proof sticker shows support for Milfoil control, love of the lake, and helps you spread the word about the importance of controlling invasive aquatic plants.

How to Order: The Maine Lakes Society will ship them to you for 35 cents apiece plus shipping and handling. We're selling them by the 100's for \$35 a batch. We will also sell them at the Conference and take orders for more then, too. Use the order form on our website. You'll find a **Passive Craft Sticker** button on our home page, or you can call the office at (207) 495-2301.

LAKES ALIVE! At Porter Lake

Phillips Middle School Science Teacher, Tom Pietrak, wanted his 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students to explore the hidden life of lakes aboard the Melinda Ann after going on a Lakes Alive! trip funded by Porter Lake Association member Peter Judkins last summer. So, on a sunny day this May, 43 middle school students from MSAD 58 visited the Strong Boat Launch and Beach to learn about Porter Lake, life in and around it, and to decipher local history from old stone walls and recent geocaches. The day did not disappoint! Tom plans to expand the opportunity to all MSAD 58 middle schools in 2018.

In the **Lakes Alive!** part of the day, students set out aboard Melinda Ann to explore underwater dynamics with Lake Educator Phil Mulville, while others learned about fish biology from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife scientist Liz Thorndike, became amateur anglers with Hooked on Fishing and used dip nets to capture and identify macroinvertebrates and other shallow-water critters. Aboard the boat, passengers took the ambient temperature, measured windspeed and the lake's temperature at various depths, found the thermocline and estimated its thickness, gauged light penetration with a Secchi disk, captured zooplankton at depth and viewed them magnified on our Ken-a-vision screen, and plumbed the depths with our ROV-mounted camera to see what life might exist at the bottom of the lake. At the end of the day, we heard one fish was caught, but that may have been a myth. Nevertheless, Mr. Pietrak's kids bagged a net full of science, history, math, woods lore, language arts, fresh air and fun.

Bring Lakes Alive to Your Waters! The good news is that Melinda Ann still has a few unscheduled days this summer and thanks to a foundation grant, ***we have 2 discounted trips available for a full day of Lakes Alive! learning with Hooked on Fishing added on.*** First come, first served!

Land your day by emailing msshannon@mainelakessociety.org or calling the Maine Lakes office at (207)- 495-2301.



Lakes Alive! At Porter Lake
Phillips Middle School

47th ANNUAL MAINE LAKES CONFERENCE

YOUR LAKE, YOUR HOME: COMMUNITY-BASED LAKE PROTECTION

7:30 - 8:30 am *Registration & Breakfast*
8:30 - 9:00 am *Maine Lakes Society Annual Meeting*
9:00 - 9:10 am *Welcome & Conference Overview*

PLENARY SESSION

Time	Speaker	Topic
9:10 - 10:20 am	Kathleen C. Weathers Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies	Ecological Puzzles and a Passion for Lakes: Cyanobacteria, Sensors, Citizens and Scientists
10:20 - 11:05 am	Ivan Fernandez , Climate Change Institute University of Maine	The Forest-Freshwater Connection, and the Role of Forests in Climate Change Adaptation

MORNING BREAK

11:20 - 11:50 pm	Jennifer Jespersen , Ecological Instincts	Build Team and Protect Your Lake: Using Watershed Surveys to Jump Start Long-Term Stewardship
11:50 - 12:10 pm	Maggie Shannon , Maine Lakes Society	Legislative Report: News from the State House

LUNCH

WORKSHOP A: LAKE-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

Time	Speaker	Topic
1:00 - 1:30 pm	David Maynes , Richardson & Associates Landscape Architects	The Bright Minded Home: Context-Driven Design and Place-Making
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Dave Gay , Belgrade Lakes Association; Marie Michaud , China Lake Association	How to Grow Your LakeSmart Program: Lessons from Two Continuing Success Stories
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Roy Lambert , Woods Pond LakeSmart Committee; Nathan Durant , YCC Director, Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance	A LakeSmart Start: How we Began on Woods Pond The BMP's Made Clear: LakeSmart Tips that Communicate the Changes We Want to See

WORKSHOP B: WILDLIFE HABITAT & RESTORATION

Time	Speaker	Topic
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Jeremy Deeds , Maine DEP	From the Outside In: Healthy Shorelines, Healthy Riparian Zones
1:30 - 2:00 pm	Karen Wilson , University of Southern Maine	"Desperate Alewives"
2:00 - 2:30 pm	Michelle Kneeland , Biodiversity Research Institute	Restore the Call: The Loon Restoration project
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Jason Seiders , Fisheries Biologist, MDIFW	Arctic Char Restoration and Invasive Aquatic Species in Northern Maine Lakes (Pending)

WORKSHOP C: SUPERCHARGING YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes	Speaker	Topic
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Wynn Muller , Friends of Wilson Lake; Rick Watson , North Pond Association; Carol Johnson , Belgrade Lakes Association	How we Did It: Lake Association Panel Discussion, Outreach, Membership, and Funding
2:00 - 2:30 pm	Firooza Pavri , University of Southern Maine	Lake Vulnerability to Water Quality Declines: Role of Lake Associations and Stakeholders
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Roberta Hill , Maine VLMP	How to Manage Volunteers Like a Pro And Keep them Coming Back

3:00 - 3:30 pm **3RD ANNUAL LAKE LOVER'S RAFFLE PRIZES ANNOUNCED!**

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ONSET



Portland Water District
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A. E. Hodsdon



Protecting Maine's Lakes and Wildlife by Upgrading Culverts

By Sarah Haggerty, Maine Audubon

Maine is the last great place for wild brook trout in the eastern U.S., with self-sustaining populations in over 1,000 lakes and ponds and over 22,000 miles of stream habitat. When we think about protecting brook trout, we usually think about water quality in lakes and streams where they live. But there is one piece we often overlook—culverts.

When road/stream crossings were first built, the only concern was getting water through a road without washing it out. Little thought was given to fish and wildlife, and we didn't worry about the inevitable trickle of fill around undersized culverts. After all, adding a little fill every few years didn't seem like a big deal! What we've come to understand is that culverts can block fish and wildlife movement, and that small trickle of fill adds up to tons of sediment in our waterways, lakes, and ponds. Worse yet, an undersized culvert washing out sends huge amounts of sediment downstream, smothering spawning habitat and flowing into lakes and ponds.



Undersized Culvert

Brook trout also need to move throughout the year and throughout their lives. They need access to cool water during summer, nursery areas when young, and spawning habitat as adults. Undersized and improperly placed culverts can block those movements; Maine has thousands of culverts and most are barriers to fish passage at some point during the year.



Eastern Brook Trout

Becoming StreamSmart

Fortunately, upgrading culverts to meet Stream Smart principles can maintain fish and wildlife habitat and protect roads and public safety. Stream Smart crossings allow the stream to act like a stream, passing fish and wildlife and higher flows that come with large storms. A Stream Smart crossing spans the stream, has the correct elevation and slope, and contains natural stream bed materials. These features help species move safely across the landscape, protect water quality, and protect our investments in our roads.

If you know of a camp road with a problem culvert, contact the Maine Lakes Society and have an assessment done to discuss options today!



Stream Smart Crossing

Where Have They Been?

by Laurie Fenwood, Editor of the Cold Stream Campowners Association Newsletter

As much as I would like to picture our majestic loons basking in the Florida sunshine with the fishy equivalent of a Pina Colada, winter is a lot of work for the Great Northern Diver! After a summer of defending a territory, nesting, fishing for food, dodging boats, and possibly raising a chick, adult loons depart the scene. The now fully feathered chicks are left to fend for themselves—no more photograph worthy, free rides on Dad's back or fishing lessons from Mom. The young ones often hang out on their natal lake until ice threatens, then head for the coast. Being left behind is a good thing! This provides opportunity for them to fish with less competition. Young loons may not return to establish a territory and breed for 7 years, spending the summer on different lakes.

Maine loons tend to stay on our lakes longer than loons in Wisconsin and Minnesota; they are not going to Florida after all, just over to the Atlantic Ocean. Most of them spend the winter along the coastlines of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine. A few banded birds have also been located as far south as the Carolinas or in the Canadian coastal Provinces. Large lakes also provide staging areas for groups of migrating loons to rest and fish and as well as some wintering habitat.

Loons in winter must adapt to a saltwater lifestyle. They have salt glands, located in the skull between the eyes, which remove excess salt they swallow from fish and ocean water. Loud yodels, tremolos, and hoots of summer are traded for a silent season. In late summer, the brilliant black neck and sharply white checked back is traded for feathers that show a subtle gray and dull white. During this 2-3 week period of molt loons are flightless and extremely vulnerable. Molting allows new, strong flight feathers to grow. In order to fly at all, loons need all their flight feathers in order to support their heavy bodies. In addition, new feathers provide the best protection from cold and water. Prior to spring migration, dull winter feathers are shed for the breeding plumage.

Loons need very clear water to fish effectively. When our lakes are frozen, open coastal ocean is best. Their solid bones allow them to dive deep for fish and crustaceans. Fishing is mostly solitary, though they may gather in loose rafts at night. Their strong territorial drive is forgotten for the fall and winter, allowing closer contact without conflict and more time for eating. Favorite winter foods include: flounder, crabs, lobster, shrimp, gulf menhaden, bay anchovies, and silversides.



Menhaden has been reported to be so important that it can influence loon migration.

Wherever loons wind up for the winter, they get there fast. Loons have been clocked at up to 90 miles per hour and we know that they can migrate considerable distances. Returning in the spring is a matter of timing and loyalty to their summer homes. In most years loons arrive back before ice-out and have to wait for a small section of their lake territory to open before they can land. Loons need about a quarter mile running start in the water to take flight so they have to be careful not to get trapped. They keep checking the situation at their home lakes by taking day trips back and forth from larger lakes and rivers. Male loons arrive about 2 weeks before the females, announcing their territorial intentions with the familiar haunting calls we associate with our wonderful summers on Cold Stream Pond.



Attend the Conference at Home!

Already have weekend plans but don't want to miss out on the Maine Lakes Conference? Don't worry, we've got you covered! For just \$25, you can stream all the day's talks into the comfort of your own home and watch them as many times as you want! Register online at <http://www.mainelakessociety.org/-maine-lakes-conference/> The day of the conference, all purchasers will receive a link for live streaming the Plenary Talks and Lake Friendly Landscaping Breakouts. After the Conference, the two other afternoon breakouts will be available.

THE MAINE LAKES SOCIETY'S 6th Annual Lake Lover's Raffle

1 TICKET FOR \$5, 3 FOR \$10, 7 FOR \$20, 20 FOR \$50 OR 40 FOR \$100!



**Discovery Tour of Your Home Lake
Aboard Maine Lakes Society's
Floating Classroom Including a
Custom Cookout for 8**



**Electric Trolling Motor – Minn Kota
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6 Pairs ThermaCELL Heated Insoles



**Overnight Stay for Two (with
Breakfast) at the Wilson Lake Inn
along with an Exclusive Tour of the
Lake Provided by the President of
the Lake Association!**



**Fin and Feather Seekers Guide
Service - One Half-Day
Guided Fishing or Waterfowl
Hunting Trip**

**Onset HOBO Water Level or Water
Temperature Logger**



**Belgrade Lakes Golf Club
Round of Golf for Two (plus cart)**



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Belgrade Lakes**



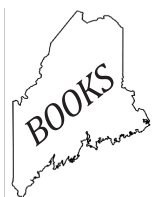
**Dinner for Two at the
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**Moosehead Marine Museum - Two
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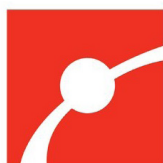
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***Sampler of Grandpa Pete's Unique
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Museum of Science

***Museum of Science - Set of Six
Exhibit Hall Passes***



Calzolaio Pasta Co. in Wilton, ME



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***Two Bat Houses (One large,
One small)***



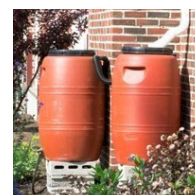
***Museum of Science - Set of Six
Exhibit Hall Passes Quilted
Wall Hanging***



***Six Jars of Delicious Maine
Made Honey***



***Rain Barrel (Donated by Portland
Water District)***



***Overnight Stay at the Midcoast
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Call us at 207-495-2031!

Maine Lakes Society

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Legislative Alert

continued from front page...

provide recreation and respite, drinking water, habitat, and kept Maine's special way of life for all citizens and visitors enjoy. Now, when more violent storms are increasing pressure on lakes, is not the time to throttle community-led conservation.

Write Senators Collins and King, Representatives Pingree and Poliquin to prevent this huge misstep. The simplest way to do this is to Google these legislators and fill in the contact form their web sites provide you. Please, take time today to write them, asking them to preserve the Clean Water Act, Section 319 Grants. Tell them why it matters to you.

Bond to Fund Watershed Restoration *if it passes*

Last fall, we asked Representative Russell J. Black of Wilton to sponsor a \$5,000,000 Bond bill to augment DEP's Nonpoint Source Fund. This bill, **LD 178, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide Jobs, Improve Road Infrastructure, and Protect Water Resources**, will *double* the State's money for watershed restoration, presuming we are able to save the 319 program at EPA (see above). In the event that we and others across the US do not stop the EPA cuts, LD 178 will save DEP's Nonpoint Program staff and the Nonpoint Source Watershed Restoration Program there. It is vitally important that we all get behind this measure and see that it passes in our legislature this June.

What You Can Do, Part 2

LD 178, along with two other water bonds, will make its way to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs in early June, just about the time you are reading this article. **We ask you to support this bill with all the energy you can muster.** Go to <http://www.minelakessociety.org> and sign up for Legislative Alerts. We will notify you what to do and when!



*Rome Town Road,
Crystal Springs*



*Rome Town Road,
North Pond Road*



*Private Road,
Rome, Beaver Brook*