



Email: norwaylaon@gmail.com
Website: www.norwaylakes.org

Because of the pandemic, our July 11th
Annual Meeting will be on Zoom.
We will need your email address.
See flipside for details.

Lakes Association of Norway (LAON) - 2020 Newsletter

LAON's officers and directors hope that during this pandemic you are healthy and able to enjoy our sparkling lakes. We are the only local group dedicated to preserving their health and beauty and the related value of our properties. We have to do things differently this year, including how we communicate. This newsletter only briefly highlights our ongoing projects; the **full and detailed reports are on our website, under "Keep Lakes Healthy"**. The Website also has more information on protecting your corner of our watershed. Don't hesitate to email us if you have questions or want to volunteer. **Our programs rely on your volunteering, attention to lake friendly practices, and financial support!**

Monitoring Water Quality: To monitor the health of Norway's four lakes, we sample them monthly between May and September, alert to emerging threats. Analysis shows that our lake quality is generally in the middle range. Surface phosphorus concentrations in all lakes are lower than historical averages, but bottom water concentrations were higher in Lake Penneesseewassee and Little Penneesseewassee. Whole lake phosphorus concentrations declined or remained the same, except in Little Penneesseewassee. Water clarity data deteriorated, indicating increased algal growth. There was much lower levels of dissolved oxygen at the bottom of our deep lakes than is desirable, caused by algae sinking and decomposing, which uses up oxygen. While a concern for aquatic life, it also releases phosphorus in the sediments. Addressing erosion through our watershed protection program will reduce phosphorus levels.

Protecting our Watershed: We did our first survey on North Pond in 2016. With the benefit of a grant and support from property owners and road groups, we were able to remediate 26 erosion sites, preventing 35+ tons of sediment from entering the pond annually. Sediment carries phosphorus, which feeds algae. Phosphorus levels in 2019 were the lowest in years. We can't say for sure if our work was the primary reason for the improvement, but it is a very good sign.

Our 2019 survey of the Lake Penneesseewassee watershed identified 180 erosion sites. Our approved Protection Plan presents a strategy to complete remediation in three phases over a ten year period. With local support, we were able to apply for a grant that will enable remediation of 48 impactful sites on a combination of roads and lakefront properties.

Each of us can see changes on our own properties where runoff is causing erosion and washing sediment into our lake or a stream. Contact us if you would like a team member to provide advice. How we assess your area will depend on the state of the pandemic at that time.

Preventing Invasive Species infestation: It is alarming that in 2014, there were 23 infested lakes in Maine, now there are 30. While the pandemic is restricting our movement, invasives are still mobile. Our Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) performed nearly 2,300 inspections last year, with roughly 700 of those on boats that had last visited another lake and were potential threats. Any watercraft or its trailer can carry an unwanted aquatic hitchhiker (power boats, jet skis, canoes, or kayaks). ***Significantly, there were four times in the last few years that inspectors found invasives on boats about to launch.***

While we provide an inspector for about 55 hours each week, we cannot inspect all boats. **The individual most responsible for preventing the spread of invasives is the boater.** Maine is one of the least infested states, so any waterbody in any other state has to be seen as a serious threat. If you visit an infested waterbody, please be extra thorough with your inspection and please be sure that your guests' boats are inspected. We ask boaters to review the brochure on our website that provides a list of Maine's infested water bodies and a quick inspection guide.

We hire specialists to conduct a comprehensive aquatic plant screening annually and are building up a fund to enable us to respond immediately if any invasive is found on any of our lakes. They have remained clear so far, but any fragment could change that. We must be vigilant because combatting an infestation would be both very difficult and very costly.

Invasive Plant Patrol: We now have two teams, one on North Pond, and one on Lake Penneesseewassee. The Patrols are an early warning system that provides "eyes on the lake." We plan to do a Plant Paddle this summer to train more volunteers on how to identify invasives. That will enable us to strengthen our patrol teams and to expand to other lakes. Join us!

Controlling the Yellow Flag Iris: We are a state leader in developing a mitigation strategy for this pretty but invasive plant. We survey the shoreline during the bloom period, and deadhead blossoms to halt the spread of seeds (they are disposed of; not composted). Deadheading does not prevent roots from spreading, so we repeatedly cut back foliage to remove their energy source. Our intrepid volunteers even go into hard-to-access areas to do their work. Plants are marked with orange driveway stakes. While you're enjoying the lake, you could also be looking for that gleam of yellow. **If you see a Yellow Iris, do not dig it up!** Even a tiny root fragment can float to a new location and take root. Instead, email us (GPS and photos are a big help).

ANNUAL MEETING on Zoom JULY 11, 10:30 am (practice at 10am)

If you haven't Zoomed before, please connect early at 10:00 to practice with us! Zoom can be downloaded on any device (computer/tablet/smart phone) at: www.zoom.us. **If we don't have your email address, please email it to us.** The zoom link is in the copy of this newsletter sent to you via US mail, and/or email.

We can't do all we need to do without your ongoing support. Please send your annual membership dues in the enclosed envelope or pay online. Donations are tax deductible.

Fun Notes: The 4th annual Lake Penn boat parade will be on **July 4th at 3pm.** Meet at boat launch. The 5th Annual Length of Lake Swim will be on **August 16th** as a fundraiser and celebration of the health of our lakes (will be Covid safe). If you want to swim or have a party boat, contact us!



Member Dues and Support Information

LAON: Protecting Norway's Lakes Since 1971

Yes! I want to help protect Norway's Lakes by joining LAON or by renewing my membership at the following level.

_____ Benefactor; \$1,000 or more*

_____ Patron; \$500 or more

_____ Steward; \$250 or more

_____ Friends of the Lakes; \$150 or more

_____ Family; \$50 or more

_____ Individual member; \$30 or more



*We hope you can support
us at least at this level*

Checks can be mailed to:

Lakes Association of Norway
P.O. Box 505
Norway, ME 04268

****Please make checks payable to LAON****

LAON is a 501(c)(3) organization. ALL donations are fully tax deductible.

Contributions can also be made on our website (www.norwaylakes.org) under
"Membership and Support" using PayPal

**If you mail this sheet back, please provide this Information
(Please Print Clearly)**

Name(s) _____

Lake Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Thank You For Your Support