



Email: norwaylaon@gmail.com
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Our July 10th Annual Meeting will be on Zoom.
We will need your email address.
See flipside for details.

Lakes Association of Norway (LAON) - 2021 Newsletter

While LAON is a relatively small nonprofit, we manage several programs to protect our lakes from their greatest threats: invasive species and erosion. The pandemic never interrupted our work, and we want to share our thinking, successes, and challenges with both new readers of this newsletter and our long-term supporters. Our ongoing programs are only highlighted below but full reports are posted on our website under “**Keep Lakes Healthy.**” The Website also has much more information on how you can protect your corner of our watershed (1st summer tip – don’t use weed killer or phosphorus fertilizer).

While we rely on our hard working and dedicated volunteers, they alone cannot do all that needs to be done. ***All of us together have tremendous impact on the lakes and we each need to be mindful of how our individual actions affect the lake and use only lake friendly practices.*** This season, in addition to supporting our work financially, please consider participating in one of our programs. Don’t hesitate to email us if you have questions or want to volunteer.

Water Quality Report (highlights)

Monthly samples were collected on the four Norway lakes between May and September. Water clarity in the lakes remained about the same with some improvement noted in Hobbs Pond. Oxygen levels in the three deep lakes were zero at the bottom as early as July. Not only is this bad for organisms living in the lakes, but it also causes phosphorus to be released from bottom sediments. As a result, bottom dwelling organisms die while fish and other organisms are forced to higher and warmer levels of the lake, which may be less suitable for them. This also has a negative impact on birds and other wildlife which depend on healthy lakes. Test results show a decline in surface phosphorus concentrations, which is good. However, bottom water concentrations increased in Sand Pond and Hobbs Pond, indicative of the release of phosphorus from the sediments. LAON now does so much watershed work precisely to minimize the amount of phosphorus flowing into our lakes.

Restoring our Watershed

The watershed is the surrounding land that drains into our lakes. Without appropriate mitigation, human presence removes natural erosion protections. Erosion allows harmful nutrients and pollutants to enter our lakes, promoting algae growth. LAON realized we had to become proactive and developed a multi-year mitigation plan. As we embark on our 5th year of watershed work, we have already made significant progress. In 2016, we surveyed North Pond and secured our first federal grant. By 2019 we had remediated 26 sites, keeping more than 35 tons of sediment out of the pond annually.

In 2020, we completed a massive survey of Lake Pennesseewassee, developed a multi-phase 10-year plan and secured another federal grant, with funds to be matched by road associations and property owners. As part of phase 1, we replaced three large culverts on Goat Island. This season we will support additional road related projects and work with property owners on individual issues, but the impact of our work extends beyond private property; both the Town of Norway and the State are remediating erosion sites we identified on public roads.

Look for erosion on your property. If runoff could get into a lake, please contact us.
Controlling boat wake is also critical; wakes erode the shoreline and damage property.

Courtesy Boat Inspectors are our last line of defense for keeping invasive species out of our lakes (**boats are the first line**). Working only 56 hours each week, our inspectors have found four invasives on boats about to launch from Norway's public boat ramp. We also engage lake scientists to conduct an annual survey of all our lakes and no other invasives have been found **yet**. If invasives are ever found, all of us will have a big problem. Invasives spread quickly and are extremely costly and difficult to eradicate. They can ruin a lake and cause real estate values to plummet. These programs are our largest expenses, but are a bargain compared to the cost of addressing an established infestation. We cannot inspect all boats! **Please check all your own and your guests' watercraft before launching, and flush water from jet skis (away from the boat ramp) if they visited another lake.**

Invasive Plant Patrols are our key backup. In a Plant Paddle training session, volunteers learn to identify invasives while enjoying their section of the lake. There are now several active patrols on all our lakes, but we need more "eyes on the lake." **Let us know if you can attend a Plant Paddle this summer.**

Yellow Iris control started three years ago after an alert member noticed the large bright yellow blooms. Left uncontrolled, this invasive Iris will crowd out native plants and can choke a waterway. A small group of intrepid volunteers monitor and control bloom sites. You can help. **If you see yellow iris flowers along the shoreline (usually in early June), let us know.** Take a photo with identifying shoreline details, and if you can, note the GPS coordinates using a phone app. Don't pull it out because you could inadvertently cause it to spread, and not all yellow flowering plants are harmful. Let us know if you want to help with this effort and contact us if you have any questions.

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

If you haven't Zoomed before, please connect at 10:00 to practice! 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 since an email from us is the easiest way to connect.** The zoom link is: <https://une.zoom.us/j/93245829312?pwd=MnZ1Q2NNb2cxhHJObkxycVlJckNGUT09>, and is on our website. If your device doesn't have a camera or microphone, call **929-205-6099**. (You could then watch via computer.) **Meeting ID: 932 4582 9312; Passcode: 644492**

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 5th annual Lake Penn boat parade will be on July 3rd at 3pm. Meet at boat launch (decorations are encouraged). Last year's had 53 boats and 30 cars watching from the road!*

The 6th Annual Length of Lake Swim will be on August 15th as a fundraiser and celebration of the health of our lakes. Two person teams welcome! If you want to swim or have a party boat, contact us!



Thanks to Richard Lee @brock222 for making this photo available freely on Unsplash

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 _____

Email Address _____

Thank You For Your Support