



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

Our July 16th Annual Meeting will be on Zoom.
We will need your email address.
See flipside for details.

Lakes Association of Norway (LAON) - 2022 Newsletter

An appeal: Last summer there was a serious condition on Hobbs Pond, but we could only alert people if we had their email address. (See Water Quality Monitoring Results below). Please send us your email address; we will not share it. We send very few emails (some are for members' lost items).

As Norway residents and visitors, we are lucky to be close to peaceful lakes, surrounded by forested hills, especially in these turbulent times. LAON's commitment to protecting the health of our lakes is as strong as ever, even as the threats against them intensify. **We hope we will inspire you to strengthen our defenses by controlling erosion on your property, educating your guests, and cleaning your boats...**each of us can engage in these small but crucial ways. This newsletter highlights only a portion of our work; our website has the full reports plus many simple suggestions about what you can do under "Keep Lakes Healthy." (A summer tip – don't use weed killer or phosphorus fertilizer.)

Lake Penneesseewassee Watershed Protection Project

LAON worked with local road associations, property owners and the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District to address many erosion sites. Fifteen private road sites managed by the road associations of Sandy Shore Lane, Goose Way, Boulder Way, and Gibson Brook Lane and six additional sites on residential properties were remediated. As a result, approximately 22 tons of sediment and 19 pounds of phosphorous are prevented from getting into the lake annually. Since phosphorous is the primary nutrient responsible for algae growth, limiting it is the focus of watershed protection for all our lakes.

Funds from a US EPA grant administrated by the Maine DEP reimbursed road associations and homeowners between 50% and 60% of their expenses. During 2022, LAON will work on two more private road sites and at least four residential property sites. LAON will also work with the Town of Norway to complete work on at least nine town road and public use sites identified in our survey. In our ongoing efforts to educate ourselves and our neighbors, we also offered workshops on camp road maintenance and the use of buffer plants to reduce runoff that we are glad to say were well attended.

Water Quality Monitoring Results Summary

We had a rather unusual occurrence in 2021. Hobbs Pond had a small cyanobacterial bloom (blue green algae) in late summer. These organisms may produce toxins that are harmful to people, dogs, and livestock, and one person did get very sick. LAON emailed as many members as we could (a benefit of us having your email addresses) and coordinated with the town to have warning signs posted. The bloom was probably caused by increased Phosphorus (P) levels. (See table on our website for historical data.) High average P is mostly due to the high bottom concentration. The bloom probably occurred as bottom water was stirred into the surface by wind mixing. The other lakes also showed increased P concentrations but to a lesser degree. The high P concentrations are also reflected in the higher algal chlorophyll concentrations and decreased light penetration/clarity.

- **Higher phosphorus levels** in bottom water concentrations remain 2-4 times higher than surface in the three deeper lakes. (*Phosphorus feeds algae*)
- **Much lower levels of dissolved oxygen at the bottom of our deep lakes** than is desirable. By August, our three deep lakes had no oxygen near the bottom. This is caused by algae sinking and decomposing, which uses up oxygen. Low oxygen prevents fish and other species from living in the deep water and allows sediments to release phosphorus into the water.

Since excess phosphorus comes from erosion, these results show why all of us need to do our part to control it and is why our watershed work is so important.

Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI):

We sadly report that Inspector Gerry Higgins passed away this spring. Gerry was a great asset to our program for 5 years and had LAON's first "save," preventing milfoil from entering Lake Pennesseewassee in 2017. We will miss our cheerful LAON ambassador.

When an inspector finds a plant of any kind (invasive seeds can be hidden in "safe" plants, or mud), it indicates a failure of our first line of defense, the boater's own inspection. Our inspectors cover about 56 hours per week, so CBI only serve as a backup to boater responsibilities. Be part of the solution: ***Please check your own and your guests' watercraft before launching, and flush water from jet skis (away from boat ramps). Also, communicate this to those using your place when you are not there.***

Monitoring our lakes for invasives (Aquatic Plant Survey, Yellow Iris, a new interloper and IPP)

Thanks to dedicated volunteer Lise Dietrich and her intrepid crew, we've managed to control the spread of invasive **Yellow Iris**, but we are still far from eradicating it. If you see any yellow iris blooming along the shoreline in June, contact us! Please don't try to remove or deadhead them without guidance or you might spread them instead. ***If you can help address them in July and August, let us know!***

For many years, LAON has had a comprehensive **Invasive Aquatic Plant Screening Survey** done by lake scientists (regretfully, they were not able to survey Hobbs or Sand Ponds in 2021). Fortunately, no invasive aquatic plants were found last year, **but** two large invasive purple loosestrife plants were seen on Lake Penn (along the shore, not aquatic). We will be developing a strategy to combat this new threat.

Volunteer Invasive Plant Patrols (IPP) conduct informal surveys while enjoying being out on the lake. There are already some active patrols on all our lakes, but we need more "eyes on the lake." ***Contact us if you want to attend a Plant Paddle training session this summer before starting your patrol.***

Invasives spread quickly and are difficult and costly to eradicate. We need to stay alert on all fronts!

We can't do all we need to do without your ongoing support.

- Ask us how you can get involved.
- Please send your annual membership dues in the enclosed envelope or pay online. Donations are tax deductible.

ANNUAL MEETING on Zoom JULY 16, 10:30 am

If you haven't Zoomed before, please send LAON an email beforehand for instructions.

The Zoom link below is also on our website:

<https://une.zoom.us/j/93245829312?pwd=MnZ1Q2NNb2cxhHJObkxycVIJckNGUT09>

Many people are concerned about boat wake causing dock damage and erosion on the shoreline. We have placed signs at both ends of the culvert and have reached out to the warden service for assistance. We are also updating the kiosk at the Lake Penn boat launch to include a depth and wake zone map. The kiosk upgrade is being paid for with donations in memory of Jay Partridge.



The 6th annual Lake Penn boat parade will be on July 3rd at 3pm. Meet at boat launch (decorations are encouraged). Last year's had 45 boats and 25 cars watching from the road!

The 7th Annual Length of Lake Swim will be on August 21st as a fundraiser and celebration of the health of our lakes. 2 and 3 person teams are welcome! 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) _____

Home Address _____

Mailing Address _____

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Thank You For Your Support