



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

Our July 15th Annual Meeting will be on Zoom.
See last page for details.

Lakes Association of Norway (LAON) - 2023 Newsletter

How do we protect our lakes from us? This really is the key question that we should be asking ourselves. Our actions, or more accurately, our inattention or complacency, enable invasive species and erosion to become major threats to our lakes. We've talked about this before, but we've had some scary close calls with invasives, and our water quality is slipping. The threats are real.

Vigilance is important because once damaged lakes can take years to recover. While active LAON members accomplish a lot, the full impact of the 470 property owners in our watershed can easily overpower our lakes. This newsletter highlights a portion of our work. We hope it stimulates thinking about what you can do. Our website has more information plus many suggestions under "**Keep Lakes Healthy.**"

***Each of us needs to be engaged in protecting our lakes.
Working together we will strengthen our lakes' defenses.
(Check out the LAON website or email us to learn more.)***

- When it rains, observe where the water is flowing on your road and property. Control erosion by placing buffer plants or laying down Erosion Control Mulch (ECM).
- "**Clean, Drain, Dry**" after visiting other lakes (wash boat, pull drain plugs, dry with a towel). Invasives hide in "safe" plants, on fishing gear, anchors, and mud. Some critters, like larvae of invasive mussels live for days out of water.
- Jet skis: pull drain plugs, clear intakes, and flush, away from the water.
- Ballast tank are a new and growing danger. They can carry invasives from other lakes, and do not empty completely. Fill away from plants, and flush away from lakes.
- Limit your wake (0 wake within 200' of shore, minimum of 500' for wake 2' or more).
- Don't use weed killer (killer is the key word) or phosphorus fertilizer (feeds algae).
- Educate your guests, especially those who visit when you are not there (renters).
- Get involved with LAON's lake protection programs. Opportunities are described below.
- Give LAON your email address to stay informed and updated.

Water Quality Monitoring - Results Summary (See our website for historical data)

- **Phosphorus (P) levels have increased in bottom water.** They are now 3 to 6 times higher than at the surface in the three deep lakes (**Higher P = more algae**). Algal chlorophyll concentrations and clarity are around historical averages.
- **We continue to see much lower levels of dissolved oxygen at the bottoms of our deep lakes.** By August, our three deep lakes had no oxygen near the bottom. This is caused by algae sinking and decomposing, which consumes oxygen. Low oxygen prevents fish and other species from living in the deep water. Unfortunately, low oxygen also allows harmful phosphorus that is trapped in sediments to be released into the water.

Water Quality Monitoring (continued)

Last year, for the second time, Hobbs Pond had visible cyanobacterial (blue green algae) which can produce harmful toxins. Since blooms are associated with increased phosphorus (P) levels, we have begun to survey the watershed for sources of contamination and continue expanded monitoring and water testing. The P concentrations in the other lakes are also high, but to a much lesser degree. On the bright side, since watershed remediation was completed on North Pond, its phosphorus levels have decreased. We might not be able to prove a direct link since there are many factors involved, but we like the trend.

Remember: Excess phosphorus comes from erosion which is why each property owner's erosion control efforts are so important.

Watershed Protection

LAON worked with the Town of Norway, road associations, property owners, and the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) to remediate erosion sites and complete Phase 1 of our 10-year Lake Pennesseewassee watershed protection plan.

We replaced culverts, rebuilt roads and driveways, dug ditches, spread erosion control mulch, and established buffer plantings to control runoff. Our work over the past two years on 32 private and public roads sites and 13 lakefront property sites now prevents **66 tons of sediment** from getting into Lake Pennesseewassee each year.

Contractor and material costs were \$71,000 (\$57,000 was reimbursed by LAON's EPA grant). LAON volunteers and the Town donated an additional \$43,000 worth of time, with the Crockett Ridge Road project receiving the most volunteer time.



Just some of the volunteers and Norway Parks and Recreation staff who worked for many days on the park and culvert areas of Crockett Ridge Road.

During 2023, LAON will plan for Phase 2 at Lake Pennesseewassee and conduct a watershed survey of Hobbs Pond driven by recent algae blooms.

In recognition of Phase 1 accomplishments, OCSWD presented project leaders Sal Girifalco and Jim O'Brien, the Partnership in Watershed Conservation Award.

Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) again proved its importance through its “Saves” that prevented invasive milfoil from entering Lake Penneesseewassee. Although most boats are clean of plants, it only takes one fragment to hurt a lake badly. Removing plants is the boater’s responsibility, so if our CBI finds any plant, the boater has slipped up. We had difficulty hiring inspectors in 2022 but were fortunate to have two volunteers. **Let us know if you can be an inspector this year and please be sure your guests check their boats.**

We sadly report that former LAON Director Phil Lamoureux passed away this winter. Phil stepped up to become CBI coordinator and guided that program for three years with quiet efficiency and skill. Phil and his wife Judy moved to Arizona in 2019.

Monitoring our lakes for invasives: Our CBI program continues to find aquatic invasives, but inspectors cannot always be present, and we have shoreline invasives, so it’s critical that we monitor our lakes in three ways:

- Each year, we hire lake scientists to perform a comprehensive **Invasive Aquatic Plant Screening Survey (IAS)** on each lake. They have found shoreline invasives, but fortunately no aquatic species. Not all lakes were surveyed in 2021 and 2022 due to Covid and health reasons but all are scheduled for 2023.
- Thanks to Lise Dietrich who leads the **Shoreline Invasives Program**, key volunteer Jim Gibson who developed mitigation techniques, and several other volunteers, we’ve largely controlled the spread of invasive Yellow Iris, although they are not gone. If you see any blooming along the shoreline in June, let us know! Do not remove or deadhead them without guidance as you might spread them. There is also a need to control the spread of two other interlopers:



Yellow Iris



Purple Loosestrife



Water Forget-Me-Nots

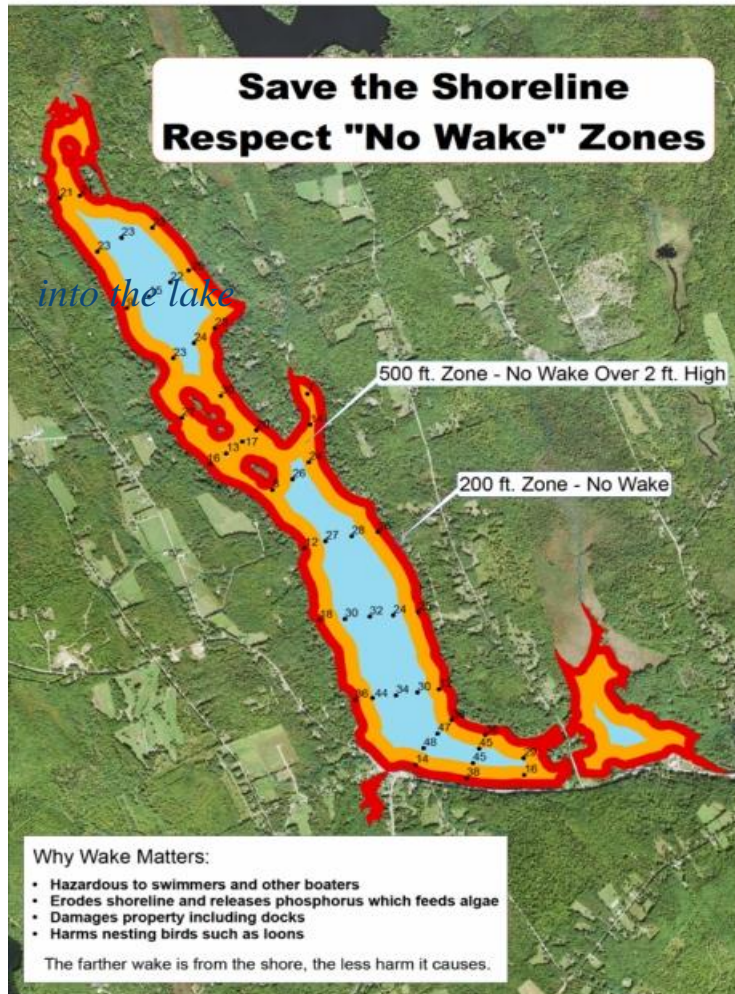
- **Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP)** volunteers look for underwater invasives while enjoying being on the lake and scan the shoreline for shoreline invasives. We have patrols on all our lakes but more “eyes on the lake” are needed. **We need volunteers for this effort so join us if you can.**



Part of the IPP volunteer team
Contact us to help eradicate shoreline invasives and/or join the Invasive Plant Patrol

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

- To get involved look at the listing of volunteer opportunities mentioned in this newsletter, at (norwaylakes.org), or email us.
- Send your annual membership dues in the enclosed envelope or pay online. All donations are tax deductible.



Boat wake damages docks and erodes the shoreline. LAON created waterproof depth and wake zone maps for Lake Penn, North Pond, and Sand Pond, showing wake limits, including a 500' zone for wakes over 2 feet. Maps are available at the kiosks and by email. Let us know if you would like one to help guide your guests and visitors.

Why we should all care about boat wake



Waves erode shorelines and deposit nutrient laden soil directly into the lake. (AND big ones can knock people over)

The 7th annual Lake Penn boat parade is Saturday, July 1 at 3pm (rain date: Sunday, July 2). Meet at boat launch (decorations are encouraged).

The 8th Annual Length of Lake Swim is Sunday, August 20. The annual fundraiser and celebration of the health of our lakes welcomes 2 and 3 person teams. If you want to swim or help with a party boat, contact Susan at skjacoby@comcast.net or 617/833-0646.

LAON ANNUAL MEETING on Zoom Saturday, JULY 15th, 9:30 am

You need to register for the meeting at the link below, or on our website (<http://norwaylakes.org>).

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcemspzlpHdV4dimQN05kchSRqjt_WXRK

Email LAON If need help with Zoom or registering (norwaylaon@gmail.com).

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