

the Water Column

35 years
1971-2006



A Publication of Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

Vol. 11, No. 1

Provided free of charge to our monitors and affiliates

Summer 2006

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Umbagog Lake by Mark Hunt www.mjhunt.com

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Funding for this newsletter is made possible by grants from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Printed on Recycled Paper by:
 Curry Printing & Graphics - Auburn, Maine

President's Message



Bill Monagle, VLMP President
 At the Annual Meeting on June 3 Bill was voted the new President of the VLMP Board of Directors. Bill is also the Executive Director of the Cobbossee Watershed District in Winthrop, and is a Certified Lake Manager (North American Lake Management Society).

I am delighted to be writing to you and introduce myself as the new President of the Maine VLMP Board of Directors. It is truly an honor to work with such a great organization. I have served on the Board the past 5 years, and have been extremely impressed by the progress the organization has made in that brief period, both at the board and staff level, as well as the volunteer monitor level statewide. Relocating the VLMP headquarters to the Brackett House on Lake Auburn and the creation of the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants are just a couple of the significant advances the organization has made in the past couple years. Exciting times for sure!

At the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD) where I spend much of my time, we have been monitoring roughly 20 lakes on a monthly basis since the mid-1970's. Throughout our history, we have served as the regional coordinator for the VLMP and have benefited from the additional Secchi disk data provided by VLMP-certified volunteers on about a dozen of these lakes. The data collected by volunteer monitors have bolstered our own data sets to provide for a more robust assessment of lake water quality trends. It is this credible lake water quality data that supports lake management-related decision making at the CWD and upon which we have guided successful lake and watershed restoration and protection programs over the years. The Maine DEP bases many of their lake water quality-related decisions on these data as well. In fact, on June 11th of this year, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection removed Cobbossee Lake from the state's list of impaired lakes (i.e., TMDL lakes), to which Governor Baldacci declared it "an historic day" and an "outstanding accomplishment".

What was the DEP's decision and the Governor's comments based on? It was the fact that the lake has not had an "nuisance" algae bloom, defined by the DEP as a minimum Secchi disk reading of less than 2 meters, for 9 consecutive years. And can you guess the source of the data? That's right; Secchi disk data provided by the CWD staff and the VLMP volunteer monitor for Cobbossee Lake, Cheryl Soucy. So you see, those of you who take to our beautiful lakes to collect water quality data are providing an invaluable service to those at many levels involved in making critical decisions regarding lake management and classification. Keep up the great work!

In closing, what has been particularly inspiring to me is the dedication and enthusiasm expressed by all of the volunteers who have served as lake monitors for many years, as well as the steady recruitment of new volunteer monitors. It's truly amazing that the VLMP family of monitors has exceeded 700 strong! And with other recently developed volunteer-based programs such as the Invasive Plant Patrol, the VLMP has become firmly established as the guardian in-residence of Maine's lakes. Again, these are certainly exciting times.

Cobbossee Lake Removed from "Impaired Lakes" List

On June 11, at a ceremony on the shoreline of Cobbossee Lake, Maine Governor John Baldacci announced the removal of the first large lake in Maine from the DEP's Impaired Lakes list. The Governor presented the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Outstanding Achievement Award to the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD).

The Cobbossee Watershed District is Maine's only lake watershed district. Formed in the early 1970's, in response to declining water quality in Cobbossee and Annabessacook Lakes in Winthrop and surrounding watershed communities, CWD's mission for more than three decades has been to protect and restore the 28 lakes included in the Cobbossee Lake watershed.

The long-term efforts of the Cobbossee Watershed District, the towns in the watershed, local lake associations, and individual landowners has led to significantly improved water quality for Cobbossee Lake, which has not experienced a nuisance algae bloom for nine straight years!

Congratulations to CWD Executive Director Bill Monagle, and his staff for their tireless efforts to protect the Cobbossee Lake watershed. This achievement demonstrates that lake water quality can be improved when a concerted, long-term watershed protection effort is undertaken.



Maine DEP Commissioner David Littell (center) and Cobbossee Watershed District Executive Director Bill Monagle (right) demonstrate past, present, and future water quality of Cobbossee Lake to Governor Baldacci at a ceremony removing the lake from Maine's Impaired Lakes list. Cobbossee's improved water quality is largely due to the work of Cobbossee Watershed District staff, watershed towns, landowners, conservation groups and volunteer lake monitors.

VLMP Website Updates

www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org

We want to know what you think!



If you have not visited the VLMP website lately, check it out. We have a new layout with easy to access information about our volunteers and the data they collect. There are summaries of water quality data, invasive aquatic plants, workshops, events, and the Brackett Environmental Center.

You can even look up specific information about your lake: who is monitoring the lake, summaries of their data, and a link to additional data on PEARL. Just click on the [Search for Info on Your Lake](#) link to get started.

Please provide us with your feedback. Are you able to find the information you are looking for? What additional online tools would be helpful? Do you have any specific feedback about the site? If so please send a note to vlmp@mainevlmp.org.

Lake Side Notes



By Scott Williams
VLMP Executive Director

This edition of The Water Column is coming to you a little later than usual, as a result of the early Annual Meeting and a hectic early summer schedule. As always, it was great to see so many friendly and familiar faces at our annual event. I had an opportunity to chat briefly with quite a few volunteer lake monitors, all of whom were pleased with the conference, but nearly all reinforced the message that we have heard often for a number of years, which is that they prefer the shorter, half-day version of the meeting, with attendees together in one location for all events. Many of you have also indicated that you prefer the meeting to take place later in the season, as was the case in July 2005. Accordingly, the 2007 VLMP Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Saturday July 28, at a location to be announced early next year.

Any experienced volunteer lake monitor knows very well that Secchi disk readings often vary considerably throughout the May/September (and later, in some cases) monitoring season. That is why it's so important to try to take readings twice monthly during the period. Otherwise, the lake data that we collect is a mere snapshot of conditions for the year - and perhaps not a very representative picture of conditions in the lake for that period. If only one or two readings are taken, the "average" for the year that appears in your annual lake report could be very misleading. But with several months of data, the sometimes dra-

matic changes in transparency that occur during a season are "smoothed out." This applies to nearly all indicators of lake water quality, but the evidence of this natural variability is often most pronounced, and evident, with Secchi transparency.

During the past several years, Maine has experienced some remarkably extreme weather. Several years of moderate drought around the turn of the century were followed in 2005 by one of the wettest years on record for much of the state. Winter and spring of 2006 were exceptionally dry and warm, with virtually no spring runoff for much of the state. The month of May was very dry, and the fire danger was high throughout Maine. Then the rain started - and continued for several weeks through early July, during which conditions went from "bone dry" to "sopping wet."

If you were able to take a Secchi disk reading during the month of May, perhaps you were surprised by how clear the water was. Maine lakes often receive the heaviest load of phosphorus and sediment from their watersheds during the spring runoff period. But this year the heavy rains and runoff occurred in June, instead of April and May. It came as no surprise when, a few weeks into the relentless rain, some volunteer lake monitors reported unusually low Secchi disk readings for their lakes.

Those who attended the Annual Meeting heard USGS scientist Glenn Hodgkins discuss changes in the "ice-out" dates for some of Maine's (and New England's) lakes and rivers during the past 150 years. Earlier ice-out dates are very likely linked to the global warming phenomenon, for which there is now abundant, credible evidence - even if there is not always universal agree-

ment about the causes of increasing temperatures (See *Not Like the Old Days*, page 5.) Longer periods of open water could have a profound influence on our lakes over time. Warmer water temperatures and a greater period of time during which sunlight is able to penetrate the water columns of lakes could result in measurable increases in biological productivity - beginning at the bottom of the food web with the algae. This could result in reduced water clarity. But such a simplistic view doesn't take into account the effects of other extreme meteorological phenomena, including drought, heavy precipitation and greater or lesser wind activity, to name only a few.

Many questions are being explored concerning the effects of extreme weather on lakes. This research (and moderate speculation) must take into account the unique variation of individual lakes and ponds. Current water quality conditions, the shape, depth and orientation of lake basins, the geochemistry and hydrology of individual watersheds, and development pressure (a potentially huge factor) all contribute to the way in which an individual body of water responds to external forces.

Volunteer lake monitors play a major role in sorting all of this out. Without your data and observations, there wouldn't be much information for researchers to work with. As the influences that affect our lakes become more complex and seemingly confounding, the information that you collect becomes more critical, and absolutely essential to answering the difficult questions about the future of our lakes. Remember to try to take two Secchi disk readings each month - and keep up the good work!

In Our Back Yard Not Like the Old Days

In the previous issue of the *Water Column*, *In Our Back Yard* explored the connection between ice cover and global warming. This edition we look at the broader effects of climate change and its effects on natural ecosystems. This insightful essay by 8th grader Brooke Johnson (photo at right) of Skowhegan won first place in the 2005 "Jeepers Peepers" essay contest.



Hello Spring!

Only March this year and many are seeing flowers budding, birds chirping, and green grass growing! Are these good indicators that can tell us if spring weather is coming earlier?

Based on lake ice out dates, I think spring is coming earlier than it used to here in Maine. People began paying attention to ice out dates in about 1880 when lakes were often used for winter transportation.

Using USGS and US Weather Service data, my class found that the ice out dates of Damariscotta Lake, Lake Auburn, Rangeley Lake and Moosehead Lake are all showing evidence of a trend toward earlier spring weather - 8 to 16 days earlier! The trend, *or overall average over time*, also shows that the average winter air temperature has gone up about an average of one degree Fahrenheit, even though there is a lot of variability from year to year.

There are other things we can look at to determine if spring weather is coming earlier, such as flowers budding earlier and wildlife that you

don't normally see in winter - like the skunk I saw in mid-March. Green grass, and birds chirping spring songs earlier than usual can be good indicators that spring weather might be coming earlier.

One indicator that I'd like to learn more about is wildlife. If I were a scientist I'd investigate the seasonal changes in plants and animals each year. I'd also like to know more about their habitat and food web cycles and if these are being affected.

Other questions I'd want to look into are: What is causing the earlier spring weather? Is it possible that eventually we might not even have winter here in Maine? If some of our animals depend on cold weather, what will happen to our ecosystems?

As you can see from the scientific data, the evidence on these and other indicators seems pretty conclusive that spring weather is coming earlier than it used to in the early 1880's.

In Our Back Yard is a weekly column of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Ice-Out 2006

for Selected Maine Lakes
Courtesy of MaineLakeCharts.com

| Lake, Town | Reported Ice-Out |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Big Lake, Princeton | 4/1 |
| Chickawaukie Pond, Rockland | 3/18 |
| China Lake, China | 3/29 |
| Cobbossee Lake, Manchester | 3/31 |
| Crystal Lake, Grey | 3/31 |
| Damariscotta Lake, Jefferson | 3/27 |
| East Pond, Smithfield | 3/27 |
| Graham Lake, Ellsworth | 3/29 |
| Great Pond, Cape Elizabeth | 3/19 |
| Great Pond, Belgrade | 4/3 |
| Highland Lake, Falmouth | 3/24 |
| Hosmer Pond, Camden | 3/26 |
| Lake Auburn, Auburn | 3/31 |
| Lake St. George, Liberty | 3/29 |
| Lancaster Mill Pond, Clinton | 3/19 |
| Little Ossipee, Waterboro | 3/23 |
| Little Sebago Lake, Windham | 3/27 |
| Long Lake, St. Clair | 4/28 |
| Long Pond, Belgrade | 4/1 |
| Maranacook Lake, Winthrop | 3/30 |
| Megunticook Lake, Camden | 3/28 |
| Messalonskee Lake, Oakland | 4/3 |
| Moosehead Lake, Greenville | 4/19 |
| Mooselookmeguntic Lake, Oquossoc | 4/23 |
| Nicatous Lake, T40MD | 4/4 |
| North Pond, Smithfield | 3/31 |
| Norton Pond, Lincolnville | 3/28 |
| Pemaquid Pond, Nobleboro | 3/23 |
| Pleasant Pond, Richmond | 3/29 |
| Pushaw Pond, Old Town | 4/1 |
| Rangeley Lake, Rangeley | 4/23 |
| Richardson Lake, Richardsontown Twp. | 4/23 |
| Sabatus Pond, Sabatus | 3/27 |
| Sebago Lake, Casco | 3/25 |
| Sebec Lake, Dover-Foxcroft | 4/14 |
| Thomas Pond, Casco | 3/24 |
| Threemile Pond, China | 3/22 |
| Toddy Pond, Orland | 4/1 |
| Webb Lake, Weld | 4/14 |
| Wesserunsett Lake, Madison | 4/2 |
| West Grand Lake, Grand Lake Str. | 4/3 |

Life Long Service to Maine Lakes

The outstanding long term commitment of our volunteers is the primary reason for the success of the VLMP. Now in our 35th year of monitoring and protecting Maine's lakes, many of our current volunteers have been with us since those early beginnings.

The value of the credible lake data that they collect, and of their stewardship for their lakes is priceless.

33 years

Joe Emerson, Upper Narrows Pond

32 years

Robert Susbury, Howard Pond

31 years

David Hodsdon, Clary Lake

30 years

Ralph Johnston, Highland Lake

Charles Turner, Panther Pond

29 years

John Dudley, Pocamoonsshine Lake

Charles McClead, Phillips Lake

Richard Offinger, Cathance Lake

Frank Perkins, Wiley and Square Ponds

28 years

Thomas Dionis, Balch & Stump Ponds

Kenneth Holt, Bear Pond

26 years

John Wasileski, Kennebunk Pond

Stan Wood, Swan Lake

25 years

Kenneth Forde, Stearns Pond

Charles Hodsdon, Great East Lake

20 years

Edward Ketchen, Meddybemps Lake

Mary Ryan, Wilson Pond

15 years

Pat Dolbec, Turner Pond

Denise Joy, Cox Pond

Steve O'Bryan, Paradise Pond

Brad Rounds, Forest Lake

Anita Weidknecht, Knight Pond

Susie Wilding-Hartford, Woodbury Pond

Keith Williams, Highland Lake

10 years

William C & Noreen Blaiklock, Sewall Pond
Art Bubar, Long Pond
Andy Buck, Cold Rain Pond
Deb Cayer, Parker Pond
David Cloutier, Pushaw Lake
Dick Cook, Green Lake
Janet Coulter, Ingalls Pond
Earnest Desrosiers, Pleasant Lake
Steve Dionne, Oaks Pond
Bob Dunlap, Green Lake
Ray Franson, Rangeley Lake
Anne Gagne, Upper Range Pond
Ron Gestwicki, Jewett, Mud, Middle, and Back
Ponds
Clayton Harvey, Cold Stream Pond
Jeff Hayward, Pushaw Lake
Barb Hildreth, Pushaw Lake

Mary & Craig Hitchings, Sheepscot Pond
Lucy Hodgkins, Green Lake
Kenneth Hodsdon, Portage Lake
Chuck Lakin, Salmon
Holly Lapointe, Sand Pond
Steve Lewis, Horseshoe Pond
Terri Marin, Green Pond and Mud Pond
Reynold Martin, Cross Lake
Tom Mower, Crystal Pond
Robert Newton, Webber Pond
Bob Simmons, Granger Pond
Francie Tolan, Sewall Pond
Paula Wheeler, Songo Pond
Warren Whitney, Richardson Lakes
Gordon Wright, Mooselookmeguntic Lake

5 years

Charles Andrews, East Pond
Mike Becker, Annabessacook Lake
Richard Bredeau, Adams Pond and
Knickerbocker Pond
Bob Crawford, Wassookeag Lake
Edward Dodge, Maranacook Lake
Joe Feely, Messalonskee Lake
Thomas Finlay, Gardner Lake
Karen Fisk, Nehumkeag Pond
Jillian Glover, Great Pond
April Gray, Salmon
Ned Hammond, Messalonskee Lake
Tom Hansen, Beddington Lake
Bob Heyner, Forest Lake
Jack Holland, Clary Lake
Al Huff, Kezar Pond
Edgar Johnson, Gardner Lake
Gilliam Johnston, Messalonskee Lake
Ed Knapp, Damariscotta Lake

Robert Lemelin, Granny Kent Pond
Thomas Mansfield, Knickerbocker Pond and
Adams Pond
Roberta & Dave Manter, Hales Pond
Erwin McNally, Wassookeag Lake
Roger & Joan Noyes, Dodge Pond
Anthony Pileggi, Threemile Pond
Tom Ray, Thompson Lake
Dave Raymond, Sebec Lake
Adrienne Rollo, Toothaker Pond
Marshall Sonksen, Lermond Pond
James Stewart, Webb Lake
Rob Taylor, Parker Pond
Peter Thoits, Crystal Lake
Lewis Williams, Halls Pond
Richard Young, Second Lake and Gardner Lake

VLMP Annual Meeting Awards



Ralph Johnston Volunteer Monitor on Highland Lake was recognized at the VLMP Annual Meeting for 30 years of service.

Woodbury Brackett Environmental Service Award

Mark Fuller

The Woodbury Brackett Environmental Service Award recognizes those who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the Center. This year we are very pleased to recognize Mark Fuller, who has volunteered his time, experience, and support to the Center in a number of ways.

From volunteering his professional services as a landscaper, developing the Brackett Center landscaping master plan, maintaining the grounds and paths, to using his handyman skills to improve the electric system, we are very grateful to Mark for all of his hands-on work at the Center. Mark has also been instrumental in recruiting other professionals to volunteer their services, and raising community awareness in Lewiston/Auburn about the the VLMP and Brackett Center.

In addition to his work at the Brackett Center, Mark is on the VLMP Board of Directors, spearheading our fundraising efforts.

Mark's Response to his Award:

Dear Scott,

I was quite surprised and pleased to learn that I was the recipient of this award. The beautiful plaque will forever be among my most cherished mementos and I will wear the VLMP vest with pride.

I am humbled and honored to be recognized within such a large group of talented and dedicated individuals united in such a worthwhile environmental cause. I have often stated that it is a privilege for me to be associated with your staff and volunteers. I have learned so much through this association.

It is my hope that more people will take an interest in the Brackett Center and its' development as a campus of learning, as well as a home base for the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants. We have a site where volunteers can get involved in constructing and maintaining test plots for organic gardening methods, constructing trails and an outdoor classroom to be utilized in the Lecture Series and outreach environmental education efforts, or constructing "Best Management Practices" demonstration plots showcasing pollution runoff prevention practices. The site is begging for some gentle care in maintenance of the existing floral and shrub beds, as well as presenting many opportunities for further beautification through further plantings. Seasonal maintenance will always be needed.

The location close to the shore of Lake Auburn presents an ideal situation for training of future volunteers from around the State of Maine. The new pontoon boat will further enhance that training. We need to further develop the Brackett Center as a centralized training facility, with adequate parking and inside training capabilities. Newly trained volunteers will benefit from seeing firsthand how the program works at the Brackett Center. Having a centralized training facility will also bring public focus to the entire program. Public awareness and support is critical to sustainability of the program.

We have also talked of developing an environmental studies library within the Brackett Center, with particular emphasis on aquatic matters. We may be able to provide experiential education segments to the environmental programs of our universities, forming valuable bonds with both students and faculty. The availability of summer interns has already proven invaluable to the staff.

None of this can happen without the support and assistance of many people. The participation of volunteers and the financial support of the community will be needed to achieve these goals.

Why did I get involved? I think it was an irresistible force called Roberta. Her passion for the environment is evident in everyone I have met since my first exposure to the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program.

Thanks again for the award!

Very truly yours,

Mark Fuller



Mark Fuller received the Woodbury Brackett Environmental Service Award for his continuing guidance and work on the development of the Brackett Environmental Center.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Joe Emerson

Joe Emerson has been monitoring the water quality of Upper Narrows Pond in Winthrop for 32 years. Our records indicate that at this time he is the longest-standing, continuously active volunteer lake water quality monitor in Maine! Joe began collecting water quality data as a volunteer for the Cobbossee Watershed District in 1974, at which time he sampled three stations for water clarity, pH and dissolved oxygen. Joe's readings are the first recorded Secchi data for Upper Narrows Pond.

Wendy Dennis, a limnologist for the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD), indicates that Joe has been a reliable, dedicated volunteer who has always been willing to take on extra duties when asked to do so. In 1992 when staff reductions caused CWD staff to look for volunteer partners to accompany them on regular monitoring of the lakes in the District watershed, Joe volunteered to take on several lakes in addition to Upper Narrows. He kept this unpaid job for three years! In 1994 when two additional monitoring stations were added to Upper Narrows Pond, Joe accepted the responsibility, and he still managed to take 22 Secchi disk readings at his regular station that year. (By the way, if that number is typical, Joe has probably taken more than 700 readings over the years on Upper Narrows Pond alone!!)

Joe has also been a constant loon watcher and protector, recording important information about the loon population on his lake, and building nesting platforms to help insure the survival of future generations.

For most of his years as a lake monitor, Joe has continued to take readings well into the month of November, after most volunteers have packed up their gear and sent in their data at the end of the season.

In 1994 Joe was recognized by CWD for 20 years of volunteer service. Twelve years later, he is still going strong. He has established an admirable track record, and one that will not be easy to beat. He is certainly an inspiration to all of us! Thank you Joe, for 32 years of remarkable commitment to Maine lakes.



Joe Emerson received the VLMP Lifetime Achievement for 32 years of service, going above and beyond the call of duty, as monitor on Upper Narrows Pond in Winthrop.

Posthumous Award to Eddie Mayer

When Eddie Mayer passed away at the age of 93 in 2005, he had been monitoring the water quality of Long Pond in Belgrade for 31 years, making him the third longest standing volunteer in the history of the VLMP. Eddie was an extraordinary individual by all accounts. His intellect, wit and good nature were the foundations of his commitment. His desire to protect Long Pond and other lakes in the Belgrade region went far beyond taking Secchi disk and DO readings.

He was an active member and advocate for the Kennebec Land Trust, recognizing the exceptional long-term benefit of protecting and preserving watersheds in order to protect lake water quality. Humility was another admirable trait of this exceptional individual, and Eddie downplayed our previous efforts to recognize him for his contributions to Maine lakes. Eddie was last seen by VLMP staff at a recertification workshop in 2004, at which time, he informed us that his failing

eyesight in one eye would not be an obstacle to taking a Secchi disk reading. "I simply shut the bad eye and multiply the reading from my good eye by two" were his parting tongue-in-cheek words.



Eddie Mayer, pictured here with his wife Kaye, monitored Long Pond in Belgrade and received the lifetime achievement award posthumously for his 31 years of service.

Water Quality Awards

Outstanding Lake Stewardship

Dan Guerette

Dan Guerette has been monitoring the water quality of Sabattus Pond for 12 years. Many of you are probably aware that Sabattus Pond has a history of serious water quality problems, characterized by persistent, late-summer severe algal blooms. This unfortunate fact has been the motivation behind Dan's personal commitment to improve the quality of the lake. His efforts toward that end have gone far beyond monitoring water quality, although of that he has done a great deal.



Scott Williams (left) presents Dan Guerette with the Outstanding Lake Stewardship award for his work to improve the water quality in Sabattus Pond.

Dan has participated in watershed surveys, he has been very

active in remediation efforts throughout the watershed, and, recognizing the importance of raising public awareness about the link between watersheds and lake water quality, he co-founded the Sabattus Pond Watershed Partnership several years ago.

That organization has focused on raising public awareness about a wide range of water quality-related topics and issues, and in working with landowners, town officials, the Androscoggin County Soil and Water Conservation District, DEP staff, and others, to identify and resolve specific sources of water quality problems, and of preventing new problems from developing. Dan has even taken on the responsibility of serving on the Sabattus Pond Dam Commission, in an attempt to establish a water level regime designed to improve water quality.

Anyone who has spent time working in the Sabattus Pond watershed knows Dan. He is one of those individuals who is always there when the need exists and work is to be done. We are pleased to present Dan with the VLMP Outstanding Lake Steward Award for 2006.

Volunteers of the Year

Gerry and Meg Nelson

The Volunteer of the Year award is presented to individuals who have made significant, sustained and unique contributions to Maine lakes and the VLMP. This year's award is presented to Gerry and Meg Nelson, who monitor Cushman Pond in Lovell.

In addition to monitoring water quality, the Nelsons are extremely active in the management and control of the variable milfoil infestation in Cushman Pond, and they have developed a successful prevention strategy for the 7 lakes and ponds in the Kezar Lake watershed. Both are also involved in regional invasive aquatic plant prevention coordination for southwestern Maine.

Gerry has single-handedly developed a stewards guide for the lakes and ponds in the Kezar Lake watershed. Meg and Gerry have also participated in two watershed surveys to identify sources of polluted runoff in their watershed.

Finally, the Nelsons are both members of the VLMP Board of Directors, for which they have each volunteered many of



Meg and Gerry Nelson (right) received the VLMP award for Volunteers of the Year.

hours of their time to help insure that this organization will be able to continue to move forward and to provide all of our volunteers with training, technical support, and yes - recognition. Thank you, Meg and Gerry for your ongoing commitment to Maine lakes.

Water Quality Awards

Outstanding Lake Stewardship

Bart Hague

This year the VLMP is presenting an Outstanding Lake Stewardship award to an individual who is not a volunteer lake monitor, but who, through his professional career and personal achievements, has certainly fostered stewardship of Maine's lakes and ponds. That individual is Bart Hague, of McWain Pond in Waterford.

You probably know of Bart. He serves as a member of Congress of Lake Associations' Board of Directors. Or you may have recently seen him at one of the proposed Plum Creek development public hearings, at which he strongly advocated for protecting lake water quality and the wilderness experience in the Moosehead Lake region.



Bart Hague received the award for Outstanding Lake Stewardship at the VLMP Annual Meeting award ceremony. Bart's life long commitment to healthy lakes began with his work in the Eisenhower administration

The Natural Resources Council of Maine presented Bart with an award for the volunteer work that he undertook to establish watershed protection

standards to be used during the construction of the Portland Pipeline project. Bart has also negotiated with Central Maine Power Company to establish buffer standards to protect water quality from the effects of power pole construction.

These are only a few of the many impressive projects that Bart has taken on since he retired to Maine a number of years ago. But prior to that, he had a professional career, spanning several decades, which was spent developing policies, programs and initiatives aimed at protecting the environment in general, and water resources in particular - including tangible benefits to lakes and ponds in Maine and throughout the country.

Bart's career started in the Eisenhower administration in Public Works and Planning, which involved protecting water resources from the effects of public roads. In the 60's he worked for the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, which was the predecessor to the US EPA. He helped organize the New England section of EPA, eventually working for EPA Region 1 from 1972-1996. During that time he was directly involved with developing the federal Non-Point Source Pollution program, which evolved into what we know today as Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Many lake associations and volunteer lake monitors have benefited directly from the 319 Program, which, among other things, has provided grant funding to support lake watershed assessment and nonpoint source mitigation projects throughout Maine.

Through his work at EPA with the 319 Program, Bart also developed grant programs for state water resource initiatives, including Maine's Shoreland Zoning Program at the Maine DEP. It would be difficult to name a program that has had a greater positive influence on Maine lakes during the past three decades than Shoreland Zoning.

Bart has remained very active in clean water conservation issues since his retirement to Maine, demonstrating that he is willing to "Walk the Talk." His successful battles against developers to insure adequate standards to protect water quality are legendary. It was at one such extended battle that Bart "blew his cover," when the parties involved came to the realization that they were up against not simply a well-meaning retiree, but an individual with substantial knowledge and credentials.

Bart has also been very active with the Western Foothills Land Trust and the Crooked River Initiative, where he is working to develop conservation easements and trails along the river, and he continues to be very active in his own backyard in the protection of the McWain Pond watershed. His current passion is to help protect Maine's Gem Lakes from the effects of sprawl.

We are very pleased to present the VLMP Outstanding Lake Stewardship Award to Bart Hague for his many years of commitment to clean water and clean lakes.

MCIAP Awards

Invasive Plant Patrollers of the Year

Buffy DeMatteis, Buker Pond
Diane Clay, Buker Pond
Susie Wilding-Hartford, Woodbury Pond

This year's Invasive Plant Patroller of the Year Award is going to three individuals who work together as model IPP team on the Tacoma Lakes.

The "Tacoma Lakes Girls" (as we fondly refer to them, and hope they don't mind) surveyed the littoral area surrounding and adjacent to the boat launch on Woodbury Pond in 2004. They found the work was not only satisfying from a volunteer standpoint, but that it was highly enjoyable. They enjoyed discovering the native

aquatic plants, being out on the lakes that they love, and each others company.

In 2005 they attended advanced workshops and, applying their newly honed skills, repeated the Level 1 survey of the Woodbury Pond launch site. They then conducted a detailed survey of the old launch site on Buker Pond.

Their enthusiasm for their work and their attention to quality and detail is exemplary.



Buffy DeMatteis, Diane Clay, and Susie Wilding-Hartford are the 2006 Invasive Plant Patrollers of the year for their work in the Tacoma Lakes.

Invasive Plant Prevention Action Award

Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust

Under the leadership of Rebecca Kurtz, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (RLHT) has developed what now is seen throughout Maine and beyond as a shining example of an effective regional program.

Every year since their program has been in place, RLHT has coordinated with MCIAP to offer Invasive Plant Patrol Workshops in the Rangeley Lakes area, working steadily to increase and support local interest and involvement in the local early detection effort. Through their encouraging (and persistent) outreach efforts, RLHT has attracted a strong corps of volunteers to the cause, from young children learning how to identify milfoil through the RLHT's Eco-venture program, to such luminaries as Gerry Smith of Aquatic Control Technologies. Gerry volunteered his

time to conduct complete screening surveys of the two largest lakes in the Rangeley Lakes chain.

RLHT also has a model regional CBI program. Starting with modest goals in 2002, and steadily increasing in scope and size since then, last year, the program included 3 paid Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI), and a dedicated team of volunteers. Over 2000 boats were inspected between ice out and September 30th on 6 different lakes and 9 different launches.

The importance and value of RLHT's efforts was clearly demonstrated last summer when a boat from Shirley Lake in Massachusetts tried to launch at the Rangeley town park. One of the paid CBI's spotted plant material in the trailer rails and removed it. It was later confirmed to be Eurasian water-milfoil.

For their dedication, foresight, resourcefulness, and all of their excellent work, which is indeed "expanding the zone of protection in western Maine," we are very pleased to present this year's Invasive Plant Prevention Action Award to RLHT.



Rebecca Kurtz (right) received the Invasive Plant Prevention Action Award on behalf of the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust along with volunteers Willis and Ellie White.

New At VLMP

Jackey Bailey

The VLMP has some new help onboard for the 2006 field season. Jackey Bailey started with us this spring and is helping to organize the Invasive Plant Screening Survey data. She will also be co-presenting some of the Invasive Plant Patrol workshops this year. In her spare time Jackey is working on her Masters thesis in Ecology and Environmental Studies with a focus on control methods for variable leaf water-milfoil.

Name: Jackey Bailey

Home: Poland, Maine

Occupation: Master's Candidate / Part-time VLMP/MCIAP

University: University of Maine

Degree: Ecology & Environmental Science

Research Focus: I am comparing three control methods for variable milfoil as well as looking at vegetative reproduction.

What made you decide to study variable leaf milfoil?

As an undergraduate I did my senior seminar on invasive species and found that topic very interesting. When I decided to go back to graduate school I knew I wanted to study invasive plants so I just narrowed it down by talking with various organizations in Maine. Variable milfoil was at the top of everyone's list as a species to study so it was an easy choice.

What does your field work entail?

Essentially I am out at one of my nine research lakes just about every day taking data, scuba diving, whatever needs to be done. The diving takes the most of my time as it is quite involved and removing milfoil is slow going. The University requires me to have a diving buddy, which makes it challenging but, I have been fortunate to have found volunteers for the past two summers to help me. If I couldn't find divers I wouldn't be able to complete my research.

What do you plan on doing next?

Once I complete my master's research I plan to continue with school and become a PhD candidate. I would like to investigate some of the questions that have come up in my master's research.



Jackey Bailey is studying control methods for variable leaf water-milfoil at UMaine. You may meet her this summer as she is also co-presenting some of the 2006 Invasive Plant Patrol workshops for the VLMP.

Christine Guerette

We'd like to introduce our new summer intern, Christine Guerette. Christine is a resident of Sabattus, where her family is very involved with water quality efforts. She is currently attending the University of Maine as a senior and is pursuing a B.S. in Biology.



I've always been interested in the natural world and it's inhabitants. After taking a limnology class I realized that I wanted to focus on aquatic and semi-aquatic systems. When I learned that the VLMP was looking for a summer intern I jumped at the chance to gain real life experience in the field.

Christine has been involved in a variety of activities at the VLMP office. She has been helping to coordinate and prepare materials for workshops and with the processing of plants sent in for identification. She has also participated in water quality and invasive plant patrol workshops as well as the Summer Lecture Series.



Maine Volunteer
Lake Monitoring Program
24 Maple Hill Rd
Auburn, Maine 04210

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