



the Water Column

Vol. 8, No. 2

Provided free of charge to our monitors and affiliates

Fall 2003

BEYOND THE DATA: THE EXTENDED BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEER LAKE MONITORING

IF you are one of Maine's several hundred lake water quality monitors, you very likely already know the value of your work. Agencies, organizations, towns, educational institutions, businesses and others throughout the State use the scientifically valid data you collect to better understand Maine lakes and ponds and to provide the framework for protecting them. But did you know that the hours you spend on your water body of choice are subject to a "multiplier effect" that enables additional protection of Maine lakes?

In order to understand the additional benefits provided to Maine's lakes program by volunteer monitors, a brief discussion of the VLMP's funding sources might be helpful. Approximately 25% of our annual operating funding is from the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The USEPA provides CWA funding to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP administers the funds and makes CWA dollars available to nonprofit entities like

the VLMP through a grant program. In order for an organization like the VLMP to be eligible for CWA funds, we must be able to "match" the federal money with our own dollars or through "in-kind" value. The in-kind value that is provided and documented by the VLMP is based on volunteer effort – of which we have a great deal, thanks to several hundred active lake monitors. *In fact, the match provided by the VLMP through all of the volunteer activities of this program substantially exceeds our federal grant requirement.*

The surplus match (not real money, but a "value" derived from volunteer effort) greatly benefits other branches of Maine's lakes program that are supported partially or entirely by Federal CWA funding, some of which are in need of additional matching funds to meet their grant requirements. This includes regional lakes staff at Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and local lake watershed protection projects. Thus, Maine's volunteer lake monitors, who are already playing such an important role in

the collection of lake data (the estimated value of the data alone is approximately ½ million dollars/year), are also helping to enable lake protection efforts at an entirely different level.

The act of taking a Secchi disk transparency reading is relatively simple. But the long-term benefit of doing so to all Maine lakes is really incalculable. So, for all of you who spent time peering into the water column of your favorite lake or pond last summer, straining your eyes to view the disk as it slowly disappeared in the depths – Maine thanks you. We all benefit from your efforts! 



A May 2003 Volunteer Training Workshop

LAKESIDE NOTES



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October! Is it possible that summer has come and gone, and that most of us have already taken our last Secchi disk reading for 2003? The period from May through August is always a bit of a blur for the VLMP staff. Much effort is compressed into that four month period, during which we train new volunteers, re-certify about one-third of the existing force, conduct the Annual Meeting, present workshops throughout Maine with our collaborators, field thousands of telephone and email inquiries, assist the DEP with baseline monitoring – and the list goes on. Thus, summer passes and we find ourselves beginning the process of starting it all over again for next summer! This pace is not unlike the seasonal cyclical rhythms of our lakes and ponds, where activity at all levels begins to increase after “ice-out,” intensifying as the weather warms during the thermal stratification period from June through August (and later for our deeper lakes), and finally settling down during the fall “turnover.”

More volunteer lake monitors were trained in Maine during 2003 than in any previous year during the past three decades. Eighty individuals attended training workshops during the course of the summer. Some of these replace those who have retired, some are “alternates” for existing monitors, and a few are monitoring partners or assistants. The motivation that attracts individuals to become engaged in lake water quality monitoring varies from one person to the next, but it is clear that stewardship is the common thread shared by all. We welcome each of you to Maine’s lake monitoring family!

A record number of participants attended the Annual Meeting in June. More than 100 volunteer monitors registered for that event. Highlights of the meeting are shown elsewhere in this newsletter. The VLMP Invasive Plant Patrol workshops were also well attended. Sessions were held from York to Aroostook Counties, resulting in more than 350 newly Certified Plant Patrollers in 2003, joining the more than 250 existing volunteers who are on the lookout for aquatic invaders like variable milfoil and hydrilla in Maine lakes and ponds.

As always, our best experiences and memories for the summer of 2003 came from meeting with all of you. Your inspiration, commitment and enthusiasm keep us going through the cold winter months.

Scott Williams, Executive Director



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LAKE LINGO

Lake Productivity:

Lake productivity? This sounds like it might be part of the Puritan work ethic! But, rather than a value judgment about how much work a lake is able to accomplish, lake productivity pertains to the rate of biological activity in the ecosystem.

Productivity in lakes and ponds can be discussed at a number of levels. For example, biologists use the term in assessing fishery abundance and health in lakes and ponds. Those who are concerned with the potential spread of invasive aquatic plants, such as Eurasian milfoil or hydrilla, might consider the productivity of native rooted water plants in a water body as an indicator of the potential habitat available for invaders.

In a broader context, productivity is used in assessing lake water quality, and it can be estimated fairly accurately with a Secchi disk. That is because the Secchi disk measures planktonic algal density in the water. These free-floating, primitive, microscopic (or nearly so) plants occupy all lakes and ponds. Algae are at the bottom of the lake food chain, and as such, are referred to as the "primary producers." They derive their energy through the production of simple sugars in a sunlight-driven process known as photosynthesis. Lake life forms that are higher-up on the food chain ultimately depend on the primary producers.

Optimum productivity in individual lakes and ponds depends on one's perspective and interest in the waterbody. Maine lakes and ponds experience a wide spread of productivity, as indicated in the range of average Secchi values in 2002, which varied from 1.3 to 15 meters!



QUALITY COUNTS!

Linda Bacon, Maine DEP QA/QC Advisor

Are you appreciated? You'd better believe it! Those of you attending the 2003 Annual Meeting witnessed such recognition when Malcolm Burson, Maine DEP's Quality Manager, presented this Award Certificate to the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. Well done! ...And, *thank you!* We couldn't ask for a better group of people!

This certificate of appreciation is presented to the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program in recognition of your continued efforts to assure that Maine leads the nation in the quality of lake water quality monitoring data collected by volunteers.

Dawn R. Gallagher, Commissioner
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
June 28, 2003

Volunteer Reminder

Volunteers need to submit data to their regional coordinators by **October 15th** if the data are to be published in the Annual Report.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW MAINE LAKES?

Question: What is the optimum number of Secchi disk readings to be taken on the average Maine lake during the summer sampling season? (Note: "optimum" implies the most information for reasonable effort expended. Obviously the best number of readings would be infinite.)

Answer:

- A. 2
- B. 5
- C. 10
- D. $N = (\text{Maximum lake depth}) \times (\text{Average lake depth}) / \text{Lake Flushing Rate}$
- E. 16

Only certified volunteer lake monitors are eligible for the prize. If you think you know the answer to this question, please contact the VLMP office via phone or email. The winner will be selected from a drawing of correct answers.

Congratulations to Stan Wood, winner of the Summer 2003 'So You Think You Know Maine Lakes' quiz and LL Bean Gift Certificate!

LITTORALLY SPEAKING

BY: ROBERTA HILL



With summer's green beginning to fade from the leaves and the loons beginning to raft up in anticipation of their fall migration, the end of the 2003 Invasive Plant Patrol season is fast approaching. It has been a wonderful season and we are very pleased to welcome three hundred and fifty new patrollers, from York to Aroostook county, to Maine's plant patrol team. We are happy to report that the number of invasive plants "detected" this year is down considerably from last year. So far there have been only two new sightings:



An experienced volunteer plant patroller sets out to survey his assigned shoreline sector.

- ◆ Variable-leaf milfoil was discovered in Shagg Pond in Woodstock early in the season. This finding was the direct result of efforts by the Community Lakes Association (covering the lakes of Woodstock, Greenwood and Songo Pond) who contracted trained surveyors to conduct an invasive plant screening survey of their lakes. The effort was funded in part through the DEP Invasive Species Cost Share Grants program.
- ◆ In July, field biologists from the Maine Natural Areas Program (Maine Department of Conservation) reported their discovery of about a dozen stems of curly-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) floating scattered along the southwest shore of West Pond in Parsonfield. It is important to note that the crew found no rooted plants, even after making an extensive search of the pond. MNAP staff will be returning to West Pond next season to resume their search for possible rooted plants. This is the first sighting of this invader in Maine waters.

Our first "Advanced Screening Survey Field Methods" IPP workshop was a resounding success. The conditions on Beals Pond in Turner were perfect for the occasion—crystal clear September skies, no wind, the surface of the pond was like glass. Sixteen experienced volunteer patrollers had an opportunity to go through all the steps of conducting a screening survey, receive feedback from instructors, and, later to share thoughts, experiences, general ideas and concerns about invasive plants with the group. A TV crew from the PBS Quest program videotaped the activities all morning for their upcoming episode on invasive species. (We will keep you posted regarding the date of the program broadcast.)



This September, sixteen experienced plant patrollers assembled on the shore of Beals Pond in Turner for advanced field training. Notice the perfect survey conditions - what luck!

The Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants is already starting to put together the IPP workshop schedule for 2004. If you or your group is interested in hosting or sponsoring a workshop, please contact us at 207-225-2070 or mciap@mega-link.net.

We are honored and proud to be working with, and in support of, those who so willingly devote their time and energy to this noble, if largely unheralded effort. It is your work and growing expertise that make the goal of creating a viable and effective "early detection system" for Maine's thousands of lakes and ponds possible. *Thank you for keeping your eyes tuned to the littoral zone!*

INVASIVE PLANT PATROL WORKSHOP DOCUMENTED BY MAINE PBS



Chad Diamond & Laura Schenck from Maine Public Broadcasting

A crew from Maine Public Broadcasting attended the September 13th advanced field workshop in Turner. They stayed all morning to interview VLMP staff and videotape volunteers collecting and identifying aquatic plants. The video will be used in an upcoming Quest episode about invasive species in New England.

PARADISE LOST

A MESSAGE TO ALL MAINE RESIDENTS

Understandably, I was ecstatic when my husband received orders to be stationed at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii. Little did I know the environmental devastation I would witness in our new home in paradise.

The most shocking and striking event occurred in Lake Wilson, located in Wahiawa, right next to Schofield Barracks. On numerous occasions I had driven by the lake and had lamented the fact that it seemed so polluted, with tires and trash lining the shores, the water an unhealthy brownish hue. The worst, however, was yet to come. One day last December, I gazed out at the lake as I was driving by and was stunned not to see a lake at all! What I saw instead looked like a field. The entire surface of the lake was covered in plant matter. This plant matter turned out to be an invasive aquatic plant, *Salvinia molesta*. Giant *Salvinia* multiplies at such a rapid rate that the entire 475-acre lake was overgrown in *two months!*

The State of Hawaii's typical response to environmental issues tends to be reactive as opposed to proactive. Negligence in preventing this sort of disaster costs the state \$1.5 million in cleanup, with no guarantee that the plant has been completely eradicated. Bulldozers were brought in to clean the lake, which now once again reflects the sky, but officials continue to urge volunteers to patrol the lake and to destroy any suspicious-looking plant material.

I am so happy and proud that the people of the State of Maine have enough concern and forethought to educate residents about invasive aquatic plants. It really is a serious issue. It really can happen. Take a long look at the photos of Lake Wilson and remember the damage that even one plant can swiftly cause. Please be careful with Maine. It, too, is a paradise to be saved and savored.

Susan C. Healey
Resident of Newcastle, Maine & Schofield Barracks,
Hawaii

(Salvinia molesta has never been found growing as far north as Maine and, for the time being is not considered a threat in northern climates.)



Lake Wilson in Wahiawa, Hawaii, overgrown with Salvinia molesta.

SOLO SECCHI READING

BY: MARC CIVITTOLO

VOLUNTEER MONITOR ON DYER LONG POND, JEFFERSON



Marc Civittolo with his dog Abby

Having completed my training as a volunteer lake monitor, I was excited about getting on my lake to take that first reading. Weather and schedules being what they are, my trip was put off slightly. Finally on June 16th, the “last day” for the school where I work, I had my opportunity. It was a beautiful, sunny day; a bit breezy for canoeing but nothing I hadn’t dealt with before. Being a fisherman, I figured I would get my secchi disk reading then spend the rest of the afternoon fishing. So, as is my usual course of action for fishing, I got everything together, grabbed some dog treats and my dog, Abby, and headed out. Unfortunately I had to spend a few hours at school for final activities. It was a long, boring few hours but I had the enormous pleasure of checking on Abby periodically so everything wasn’t all bad. Finally at one o’clock we arrived at Dyer Long Pond in Jefferson. The wind was blowing about five miles an hour and it was a nice sunny, eighty degrees or so. I unloaded the canoe, packed it with fishing gear, a bag of snacks and extra clothes in case of rain and of course my monitoring tools. We paddled across the lake to the deep hole and found it right where the map showed it. I checked out my landmarks in order to make future visits easier, then it was on to taking the reading. Abby was a bit con-

fused when I got off the seat and knelt on the canoe deck but she seemed confident that I knew what I was doing. After finding my shadow I pulled out some tape and made sure it was lying unobstructed in the canoe. As I dropped the disk into the lake I grabbed the scope and placed it down into the water. Moving slightly so I was comfortable, I put my face against the scope mask and peered at the disk sinking towards the bottom. It was exciting to be finally helping with the huge task of water quality monitoring and I was concentrating on that disk waiting for it to disappear from my sight. Abby must have been excited to help as well because she quietly moved closer to me and put her head down near mine trying to look into the mask to see what I was doing. At sixty pounds her weight plus mine leaning over the side caused the canoe to tip and before I knew it we were both in the water.

Actually Abby was not with me and the canoe did not tip over but the story was lacking in drama, so I took some poetic license. Abby does join me on most fishing trips, and she does amazingly well in a canoe. On this trip, however, I felt it best to leave her at home because leaning over the side of a canoe to look through a scope sounded challenging enough to me. After a few readings maybe I’ll feel confident taking her with me. Until then she will have to wait for those trips that are for fishing only. 🐾

WHAT’S YOUR STORY?

We welcome you to contribute articles, pictures, poems or suggestions:

Send your ideas to:
vlmp@megalink.net

or

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program
P.O. Box 445
Turner, Me 04282

VOLUNTEERING AND FAMILY COHESION

Volunteer
Perspectives

By: Tom Hansen

Washington County Regional Coordinator & Volunteer Monitor on Beddington Lake, Beddington

I periodically write about the three dimensions of marital and family relations – cohesion (how connected one feels to one’s partner or other family members), adaptability (the working style of the couple or family) and communication (the facilitating dimension). And it is in the spirit of interpersonal cohesion that I’m thinking of the concept of volunteering.

As a clinician in mental health for the past 22 years in Down East Maine, I’ve often utilized volunteering as a behavioral construct for getting people who are isolated and disconnected from family, friends and community more connected and engaged. Basically, there is hardly a better way of meeting people than through the process of volunteering. Why? Well, among other reasons, it has an enormous payback in the form of feeling good about oneself through assisting others or working with animals or cleaning up the environment. When one volunteers, one usually does so in an area that he or she has some interest in. And, unless you’re volunteering to be a fire tower observer in an isolated fire tower on top of a mountain, you’re likely to run into people who share similar interests and beliefs. All of which normally leads to increased amounts of connectedness and, yes, sometimes even romantic connections for those unconnected.

Several years ago I recognized that volunteering could also be a “family affair” that brought

about the same rewards. My son and I volunteered to be “lake monitors” on the lake where our camp is located through the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). After some initial training, VLMP provided us with some basic equipment and we agreed to take “readings” of the water clarity a couple of times a month from May to September. This entire process has generated substantial amounts of fascination for both of us as we began to get readings over the course of the summer, and now begin to compare readings between different years. We’ve even thought of taking our boat and going to several lakes that are not covered in the program and taking readings in those lakes just to compare the different levels of clarity from one to another.

My son and I are also the “official” loon counters on our lake, serve as volunteer observers for Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and most recently, have a registered site for frog identification. Each of these activities provides us with ample opportunities to learn a host of interesting information about the environment and the animals in our immediate location, has the impact of connecting us to various local and state-wide individuals connected to these different projects, and last but not least, enables us to bond around different subjects and activities. Of course, we could do some of this bonding just through playing – as in fly fishing and swimming. And believe me, we do our share of

that as well. But with our volunteering projects, the value of community service is being instilled in my son, as is the positive impact associated with one’s self-esteem when giving something back to the communities we live in.

So, if you want to increase the level of connectedness with your loved one or family members, try volunteering in projects in your community as a couple or family. Try setting a goal of spending a certain number of hours per week or month assisting non-profit organizations or individuals and do so as a couple or parent-child coalition. If anyone is interested in more information on the VLMP, the Audubon’s Loon Count, the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, or the National Frog Identification Project, please contact the VLMP office.



Tom Hansen with his son Jared.

Tom Hansen, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., is a counselor and consultant in mental health and relationship issues in Ellsworth, ME and Clinical Director of Mental Health Services for Sunrise Opportunities in Machias, ME.

Adopted from an article in *Island AdVantages* (Stonington), *Weekly Packet* (Blue Hill), *The Castine Patriot* (Castine) & *The Machias Valley News Observer* (Machias).

NEW VOLUNTEER LAKE MONITORS FOR 2003

The following volunteers were trained and certified at workshops in 2003. We welcome them to Maine's lake monitoring family!

David Ackley, Ell Pond, Wells
 Carol Bassett, Kimball Pond, Vienna
 Nelson Begin, Maine Water Utilities Association
 Ralph Bohm, Little Pushaw Lake, Hudson
 Emily Brodsky, Branch Pond, Ellsworth
 Brian Brunette, Three Cornered Pond, Augusta
 Kendall Brann, Pease Pond, Wilton
 Philomena McPhee-Brown, Little Wilson Pond, Turner
 Donald Buck South Branch Lake, Sebois Plt.
 Alvena Buckingham, Alford Lake, Hope
 Gary Bucklin, Notched Pond, Raymond
 Barry Burgason, Third Lake Matagamon, T7R10 WELS Hay Lake, T6R8 WELS, Jerry Pond, T5R7 WELS
 Michael Cannon, Leighs Mill Pond, S. Berwick
 Marc Civittolo, Dyer Long Pond, Jefferson
 Gail & Gerry Clark, Pemaquid Pond, Nobleboro
 Mary Corr, Lower Togus Pond, Chelsea
 Michael Corson, Hancock Pond, Embden
 Phyllis & Robert Courter, Lower Wilson Pond, Greenville
 Jennifer & Rosalie Cross, Songo Pond, Albany TWP
 Lainey Cross, Songo Pond, Albany TWP
 Janie Crowell, Craig Pond, Orland
 Lance Cunningham, Third Lake Matagamon, T7R10 WELS, Hay Lake, T6R8 WELS, Jerry Pond, T5R7 WELS
 Chad Day, Third Lake Matagamon, T7R10 WELS Hay Lake, T6R8 WELS, Jerry Pond, T5R7 WELS
 Steven Eslin, Nokomis Pond, Newport
 Linda Fuller, Beach Hill Pond, Otis
 Beatrice Gagnon, Lovejoy Pond, Fayette
 Mike Gagnon, Crawford Pond, Union
 Randy Gammon, Anasagunticook Lake, Hartford
 Missy Gaston, Graham Lake, Mariaville
 Andy Gilson Hancock Pond, Embden
 Tom Goodridge, Indian Pond, Greenwood
 Frank Grant, Hatcase, Dedham
 Beth Graves, Branch Pond, Ellsworth
 Robert Hall, Sebec, Willimantic
 Libby Hewes, Little Ossipee, Waterboro
 Clyde Hutchins, Craig Pond, Orland
 Ann & Bill Lackey, Long Pond, Belgrade
 Jerry Leach, Craig Pond, Orland
 Dana Little, Taylor Pond, Auburn
 George London, Carlton Bog, Troy
 Peter Marcinuk, Raymond Pond, Raymond



Jeff McNelly, Maine Water Utilities Association
 Peter Melgard, Washington Pond, Washington
 June Mooney, Cobbosseecontee Lake and Carlton Pond, Winthrop
 Roberta Morin, Lovejoy Pond, Albion
 Dick Neil, Horn & Moose Pond, Acton; Symmes Pond, Newfield
 Aaron Newhall, Nokomis Pond, Newport
 Tom O'Rourke, Kennebago Lake, Davis TWP
 Linda & Jim Palmer, Faulkner Lake, Selden
 Dean Parsons, Cochnewagon, Monmouth
 George Peters, Maine Water Utilities Association
 Charles Pragm, Floods Pond, Otis
 Janet Redman, Branch Pond, Ellsworth
 Jenna Richardson, Branch Pond, Palermo
 Don Roberts, Cold Stream Pond, Enfield
 Maynard & Candy Russell, Lower Wilson Pond, Greenville
 Richard & Lonny Schneider, Indian Pond, Greenwood
 Ed Simmons, Beaver Mountain Lake, Sandy River Plt.
 Jack St. Jean, Lake Auburn, Auburn
 Scott Stanhope, Hatcase, Dedham
 Evan Stout, Threecornered Pond, Augusta
 Dianne Strasser-Karn, Little Sebago, Windham
 Van Terrell, Branch Pond, Ellsworth
 Roger Theriault, Pleasant River Lake, Beddington
 Jim Tonilini, Indian Pond, Greenwood
 Dick Warren, Stevens Pond, Liberty
 Randy Webber, Wassoakeag Lake, Dexter
 Chris Weismann, Maine Water Utilities Association



◆ THANK YOU DONORS TO THE VLMP ◆

WITH the additional expenses of our move to the new Woodbury Brackett Environmental Center, we are particularly grateful for the generous gifts from our donors. Thank you for your continued commitment to Maine lakes!

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Wayne Village Pottery

Thanks to All!

ON THE MOVE

Dear Readers,

The VLMP staff eagerly anticipates our move to the Woodbury Brackett Environmental Center in Auburn this October. We have many exciting ideas about ways to expand our programs once we are in our new home, including the development of a new outreach and training center.

Thanks to all who have helped us with the costs of moving! Special thanks to VLMP Board member Dick Thibodeau for volunteering his time as a Master Electrician to bring our new offices up to date. Thanks also to William Holman of Torsey Pond for donating a hand truck.

See you in Auburn!
VLMP Staff

P.S. For a map to the Brackett Center see the back cover of this Newsletter.

HELP WANTED

Skilled, semi-skilled, and un-skilled volunteer help is needed for **Home Improvements** at the Brackett Center.

The Skilled:

- ✂ Replace sheetrock in kitchen ceiling.
- ✂ Plumbing repairs.

The Semi-Skilled:

- 🔨 Paint trim.
- 🔨 Rip-up carpets.

The Willing:

- Assist, clean, and/or move stuff.

Call the office today! 225-2070



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- Paper Shredder
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- Snow Shovels



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



Pat Bell has been monitoring Manhanock Pond with her husband Dick since 1985. She is also the volunteer Data Coordinator for Kennebec county.

Pat's commitment to Maine Lakes and the VLMP is outstanding.



Can you identify the individual between Scott Williams and Roberta Hill in the photo above? Is it:

- ① Lawrence of Arabia
- ② Howard Hughes
- ③ Keith Williams, volunteer monitor extraordinaire for Highland Lake

FAREWELL FROM STASIA SAVASUK

On Tuesday, July 28th, my husband and I received a phone call from the Peace Corps Placement Office, asking us if we would be willing to leave for Moldova on September 8th, 2003. My first thought was... Moldova? We quickly learned that Moldova is a small country in Eastern Europe, bordered in the north by Ukraine and in the south by Romania. We accepted the invitation right away, then quickly began browsing the Internet and the bookstores for everything we could find on Moldova. When this newsletter reaches your home, I will be living with a host family in Moldova, in the midst of my Pre-Service Training. During this 10-week period, my husband I will be separated, and we will each be studying furiously the culture, tradition, and language of Moldova, as well as our new jobs. Then, our two-year service begins. I hardly know what to expect really. I've read that the primary source of transportation is horse and buggy, and that people traditionally take baths once a week in a tub with a single bucket of water. I hear that electricity is scarce, though we may be fortunate to have it several hours a day, depending on where we are living. Agriculture and viniculture are two of the major industries in Moldova, so rest assured that I will have plenty to eat (boiled cabbage, baked cabbage, broiled cabbage, fried cabbage) and drink.



Preparing to the leave the VLMP has been no easy task. I love my work! I've had so many wonderful conversations with all of you... it's what I enjoy most. The people in this organization, from the DEP staff to the volunteer monitors, are nothing short of amazing. If it weren't for all of you, my time here wouldn't have been nearly as rewarding!

You know, if someone had asked me only last year where I thought my life's journey would take me, I would never have said Moldova. We just never know what the universe has in store for us... Enjoy the ride!

MAINE LAKES PHOTO CONTEST!!!

Photographers, amateurs, and shutterbugs - enter the 2003 VLMP Maine Lakes Photo Contest. We are seeking photo submissions from which to select the cover photo for the 2003 Annual report.

Last year's cover of Sabattus Lake was donated by local photographer Annie Woods. For 2003 we will select a winner from all submitted photos to appear on this year's Annual Report. Runner-up photos will be used in newsletters and on the VLMP website.



Your Photo Here

2003
Maine Volunteer Lake
Monitoring Program
Annual Report

- Rules:
- The lake and surrounding features must be prominent.
 - Submissions must be received by December 1, 2003.
 - The winner will be notified in February 2004.
 - Digital entries must maintain clarity when enlarged to 7 x 9.5 inches.

Photograph submissions should be dropped by the office or mailed to:

Photo Contest
Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program
P.O. Box 445
Turner, Maine 042852

2003 VLMP Annual Meeting



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Matt Scott
5 years monitoring Pleasant River
Lake and a program founder.



Peg Morrill 20 Years	John Laskey 20 Years	Ken Holt 25 Years	Joe Emerson 30 Years
--------------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------

FRIENDLY FACES



Dick Johnson



Ken Holt & Jon VanBourg



Ken Hodsdon



Sharon & Bruce Eastman

Thanks to all who came and made the 2003 VLMP Annual Meeting the best ever attended.



Fred Flammia & Denise Joy

When one is not enough...

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

At the annual meeting we announced two awards for Volunteer of the Year for 2003. Congratulations to Peg Morrill and Charlie Turner. Giving of yourselves to help protect Maine Lakes is an inspiration for us all!



Peg Morrill (receiving her award from Stasia in the photo above) has an extraordinary résumé for her 20 years of service. She monitors Clearwater Pond in Industry and also works as the Regional Coordinator and Data Coordinator for both Somerset and Franklin Counties. Wow!



Charlie Turner is now in his 27th year as a monitor for Panther Pond. Charlie has been an outstanding volunteer, and as Cumberland County Regional Coordinator, is always giving more of himself than is asked. Charlie is quick with a joke and a smile, and it always brightens our day to get a call from him.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Thomas Dionis and Joe Emerson were both awarded lifetime achievement awards. Thomas has been the monitor on Balch and Stump Ponds in Newfield for 25 years. Joe has monitored Narrows Pond in Winthrop for 30 Years. Both received an award and plaque in recognition of their many years of service.





MAINE VOLUNTEER LAKE
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Above is a map to the new home of the
VLMP at the Woodbury Brackett
Environmental Center.

Come visit us at 24 Maple Hill Road in
Auburn!