North Pond News

Website > www.NorthPondMaine.org< Find us on FB! Summer 2021

North Pond Association
Protect Preserve Educate
Mercer ~ Smithfield ~ Rome
— Maine —

North Pond Association Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to support and conduct social, educational, and stewardship efforts to benefit the natural environment of North Pond and Little Pond and all users thereof.

CHECK THIS OUT!

UPCOMING NPA EVENTS!

Are You Buff Enough? Get LakeSmart Workshop - VIRTUAL - Saturday, July 10, 9-11am

***Loon Count - Saturday, July 17, 2021 7am-7:30am**

*ANNUAL MEETING - Virtual - **Tuesday, August 10, 7-8pm**

*Invasive Plant Patrol - **Thursday, August 12 8am Boat Launch**

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President's Message

Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. Release it. WELCOME BACK! The NPA has continued to stay busy meeting once a month online in preparation of the work ahead. The NPA is proud to be spearheading the North Pond Restoration and Preservation efforts. With your help, each and every one of you, we will meet our goals. Outreach is at an all time high from the NPA to YOU. The Outreach Committee has been hard at work laying the groundwork for what is yet to come. Thank you to everyone on the committee!

I am sure everyone has noticed the increase in boating traffic, PWCs (jetskis), kayaks, canoes, paddle boards etc. on North and Little Ponds, the same goes for every lake in Maine. The recent scuba diver and boater accident in the news has thrust the importance of Boater Education into the spotlight. We have listed FREE online boater safety courses inside NPN. Have the family, your friends, sit with you to go over the rules & laws so you all KNOW BEFORE YOU GO. Stay safe out there and look out for your fellow lake lovers.

It is the NPA's vision to increase our membership to 100%. With only about ⅓ of those on the lake as members, we believe we can do it! Help us help you and our lake.

The NPA has 2 additional LakeSmart Screeners in training and Ed Glasheen is looking for more appointments! Cruising around the lake it is noticeable how many of you are participating in "letting it grow," meaning your buffers on the shoreline are looking lush! If you look at your shoreline and see bare soil or steep slopes where water can run straight into the lake, give the Youth Conservation Corps a call or Ed Glasheen. They will all give you practical ideas how you can improve your waterfront while beautifying it. Keep up the great work and keep adding to your buffer! Have a happy and safe summer!

All my best,
Jodie Mosher-Towle, NPA President

WBMP

North Pond Association Receives Conditional Award from Maine DEP to Develop a Watershed-Based Management Plan!

NPA teamed up with Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District (KCSWCD) and 7 Lakes Alliance to submit a 604(b) planning grant application to Maine DEP in April to develop a Watershed-Based Management Plan (WBMP) for North Pond. The grant request of $45,363 **received the evaluation team's highest ranking**, and resulted in a conditional award from Maine DEP in May. An additional $4,237 in grant funds has
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since been allocated to the project. The project is anticipated to begin in January 2022 and end in December 2023.

The project's seven primary tasks include:

1) Water quality monitoring and in-lake assessment led by 7 Lakes Alliance, sediment analysis by Colby College, and an updated bathymetric map led by NPA;

2) A Water quality analysis led by 7 Lakes Alliance that will examine trends in the short (5-10 years)- and long-term data (50 years).

3) Watershed assessments including a septic vulnerability analysis and septic survey led by 7 Lakes and Colby, and a field survey to assess current impacts from developed and agricultural land;

4) Watershed modeling and internal loading analysis led by project consultants including a land-cover update and a review of available data to quantify internal recycling of phosphorus from bottom sediments and for making recommendations for restoring the water quality in North Pond;

5) A Municipal ordinance review led by the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG) in cooperation with the towns of Rome, Smithfield and Mercer to help review existing ordinances, prepare a report of the findings, and meet with town officials to present the results.

6) Stakeholder Engagement & Public Outreach will be directed by a project consultant and include development of a Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee to guide the planning process, as well as a public meeting and various other types of outreach throughout the project period.

7) A Watershed-Based Management Plan will be developed outlining actions needed to restore water quality in North Pond over a 10-year planning period. The plan will include a detailed action plan with associated costs and a timeline for each action. The plan is a requirement for applying for federal grants to restore water quality for impaired lakes in Maine.

Submitted by - Jen Jesperson - EcoInstincts

Annual Loon Count

July 17, 2021

It always takes place on the 3rd Saturday in July from 7am -7:30am. There is nothing like the calm of the Loon Count morning in anticipation of how many will be counted!

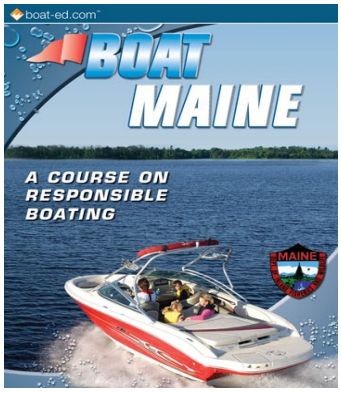
If you would like to participate in the Maine Audubon Annual Loon Count on North Pond, please contact Louise Proulx for your map by calling 207-362-5120.

NEW Signage to Keep YOU Informed

Keep your eyes out for our new signs! The NPA board has placed signs outside of Tri-Pond Variety and at the Smithfield Fire Station to notify lake dwellers of the current water quality throughout the summer months. Working with Lake Scientist Dr. Danielle Wain of 7 Lakes Alliance the signs will be updated on a weekly basis based on current water quality measurements. The measurements are collected using a Secchi disk, which is a weighted disk that is lowered into the water to determine how deep the sunlight can penetrate into the water. A high amount of sediment or algae results in a lower Secchi disk reading, indicating deteriorating or poor water quality. Our latest Secchi disk reading on June 22nd was calculated to be 13 feet, designating our current water quality as good. These are the water quality parameters that have been created with Dr. Wain:

Secchi disk reading of
13 feet or greater: Good
13-10 feet: Fair
10-7 feet: Poor
7-3 feet: Algal Bloom
<3 feet: Potentially Toxic Algal Bloom

Danger On and Under the Water



A recent boating accident on North Pond, which could have been preventable with proper knowledge of boating laws, rules and regulations, has prompted these links to be published in the NPN. Check these sites out and get refreshed!

https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf
https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html

Online Boating Courses

BoatUS Foundation Online Course, ***America's Boating Education Course***, ***Paddlesports Safety Online***

SPEED REGULATIONS - "Water Safety Zone" or "No Wake Zone", a watercraft may not be operated at a speed greater than "Headway Speed" within 200 feet of the shoreline of a mainland or island. "Headway Speed" is defined as the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage and control of the watercraft while the craft is moving. There is an exception to this "No Wake Zone" in that a watercraft may enter this zone to pick up or drop off a water skier. However, in doing so, it is the responsibility of the operator not to endanger any person or property. Be mindful of the wake that is generated by your boat with wildlife in the area as well.

DID YOU KNOW... *A boat towing at slow speeds creates the most wake that can cause shoreline erosion and propeller wash that causes scouring, sediment and destruction of aquatic life which factor to murky water and high phosphorus (30 ppb) like we observed in North Pond in April 2020.

NoPo ICE OUT

April 2, 2021

LakeSmart- what is it??

(Oh, we know you are "WICKED SMAHT," but here is how to become WICKED LAKESMAHT!)
As we roll into the summer season and more time on the lake, we want to make everyone aware that we now have 3 LakeSmart evaluators who are actively looking for more properties to evaluate. The group has completed 5 evaluations to date and would like to keep helping lake owners looking for ways to make their properties LakeSmart. So what does LakeSmart mean?? It's a process to look at your properties, looking at "best management practices," which identify areas on your property that you could improve to redirect and reduce the direct impact of your property to the ecology of North Pond. Examples of small projects that you can easily do on your own would be adding drip trenches below your roof line on the ground, adding flowers and shrub gardens (raingardens) to catch water runoff, adding some bark mulch or an improved porous paver walkway or infiltration steps. All of these "practices" work to stop direct water runoff into the lake by either redirecting, slowing down or filtering it which reduces the detrimental elements from entering. Elements like phosphorus, a major contributor to algae blooms on the lake. If you would like to schedule a LakeSmart evaluation, call Ed at 399-6211 and schedule an evaluation. You can make a difference and we are here to help you with some ideas! Read on to join in a workshop. - LakeSmart Evaluator for NPA, Ed Glasheen

7th Annual
Are You Buff Enough? Get LakeSmart! Workshop

The 7th annual workshop will be held virtually again this summer...here is the link and QRcode for your registration convenience thanks to

www.lakes.me for assisting us with our virtual efforts! Register here:
>>>https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cSI0wSXOQ3eXdACgceIy8Q <<<
Get ready to "Buff up!" at the 7th Annual Are You Buff Enough? Get LakeSmart Workshop! This virtual event is presented by the North Pond Association in collaboration with Friends of Messalonskee, Belgrade Lakes Association, McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association and East Pond Association. Learn about LakeSmart, a homeowner education and reward program encouraging lake-friendly landscaping, and other lake-friendly practices. View projects, hear from keynote speaker, Charlie Baeder, see mini BMP videos and much more at the 7th Annual "Buff Enough" workshop, presented via Zoom on July 10, 2021, 9am-11am.
*****If you are a North Pond-er, you must also sign in at northpondmaine @ gmail.com if you would like to qualify for a Watershed Financial Award (WFA) - receive up to $150 back by attending the workshop and making improvements to your property as a result. Simply keep track of your efforts then show us receipts and you can get up to $150 back in your pocket! (Must have camp on North Pond to qualify.)

Dam Committee Report

The dam was lowered on March 25 by members of the dam committee. The dam is regularly cleared of debris by hand or with a rake. No Trespassing signs have been affixed to the posts of the dam. This a reminder to all that the dam and 10 square feet on either side, is owned by the North Pond Association and access is granted only to those with permission from the NPA Board. This spring a lock was installed to deter tampering of the beams. Since the installation, there have been no reports of tampering. We are most thankful for the dam committee and all of the work that they are doing. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Stuart, NPA Board contact for the dam, at rstuart23@gmail.com.

319 Grant NEWS

Phase II of 319 Grant Projects on North and Little Ponds are ongoing and some are already completed. **Thank you** to **Charlie Baeder** for being the point person, coordinator and overseer for the NPA!

NPA's President makes cut to Compete for Cash

Can You Survive?

NPA's outgoing president, Jodie Mosher-Towle, hopes to raise awareness and funds as her term as president comes to an end in August. She will compete in a four day version of the television show "Survivor" called ***Can You Survive?*** She will "survive" the elements, compete in challenges, and vote others out all while playing for the charity of her choice which is the **NPA's Restoration and Preservation Fund! The winner is guaranteed $1000 toward their charity.** The **more extra money raised**, the more donations given to the charities of second place, third place, fourth place and so on. She loves a good challenge and the opportunity to also raise awareness of the plight of so many lakes in our watershed and across the state of Maine who are struggling with similar issues like the nuisance algae blooms makes her a fierce competitor. Help her raise $$ and awareness and especially to get her pumped up to win!
There are 3 ways to donate:
Venmo: @canyousurvive
PayPal: https://www.paypal.me/canyousurvive
GoFundMe: https//gofund.me/57f1c9bc
Type: *Team Jodie* in the memo/comment section so your contributions help her win immunity in the first round of the game. She thanks everyone for cheering her on. The entire event will be ~live streamed~ to **Can You Survive? - Charity Event** Facebook page. So go on FB and LIKE the page now so you don't forget! We wish Jodie the best of luck!

Invasive Plant Patrollers Wanted

IPP is taking place, August 12 8am with RAINDATE - Friday, August 13. Meet at the North Pond Boat Launch. Reach out to Kelly at (603) 325-3067 or kellnh@comcast.net FMI

NPA COMMITTEE UPDATES

The NPA Board has formed several committees who are all working hard for the benefit of everyone in the watershed.

Science Committee: *A group of like minded scientists, volunteer members of NPA, a few NPA directors are all making sure the research necessary for analysis is being collected and studied. This committee ensures our water quality research goals are being met. See NPN article about Fireworks.*

Communication/Outreach: *This group created the brochure describing the fundamentals of the water quality concerns. Perhaps you received it in the mail or maybe picked it up at the town office or local store. Expect to see more information about our efforts through additional mailings, emails, and Facebook messages. Updated information and the status of our efforts can be found at* ***www.northpondmaine.org****.*

Fundraising: *This committee continues efforts to find grants and develop fundraising ideas. We will seek support from businesses and municipalities as well. Remember, we will be seeking donations of 2% of the tax valuation of property owner's camps in order to raise the majority of the funds needed to cover the cost of remediation and restoration.*

Membership: *Of the about 350 camps on North Pond, only about 120, or about a third, of shoreline property owners are NPA members. We would like to see that number grow to 75% this year and 100% the next THEN keep it that way! Your dues allows the board of directors to help all of us help the lake. Please renew your membership using the remit envelope in this newsletter or go to northpondmaine.org and pay via PayPal. Spread the word that the NPA needs each and every one of you.*

Grange Grapevine

Hi All !

Welcome back to Summer and North Pond.

The Grange is up and running post Covid but has decided not to do the weekly Grange Suppers we all love. There was still enough uncertainty that we just couldn't plan. Next year.

The Grange grounds are looking good. We could use a little rain for sure. A shout out to our neighbors for mowing when we can't get there to take care of it.

The Grange is available for rent for your special occasion. Call Karie at 399-2099 for info.

What a special spot and how lucky we are to have an up to date, clean, facility right on the shore of North Pond.

The flags flying throughout Smithfield are a project of the Grange and we want to thank the Smithfield Fire Department for putting them up for us. To contribute to the flag fund please send $$ to Attention: Sharon Wood, Secretary, 709 Village Road, Smithfield 04978.

Please stop by and say hello if you see us working around the Hall or grounds. Have a great Summer,

Rick Watson, Master, Fairview Grange

Welcome Packets

The NPA has welcome packets containing information about our lake intended for new camp owners but really, everyone could benefit from the up to date information in them! Directors may also drop by to welcome you in person and hand one to you. We are hoping if you are new and reading this you will reach out via FB message or northpondmaine@gmail.com to request one today!

NEW DOCK IN PLACE!

Thanks to the generosity of many of NPA's Business Members, The Borman Foundation, your donations over the years and Mainely Docks of Oakland, the NPA was able to purchase 3 new dock sections. It is made of lightweight aluminum with removable panels to make for ease of putting in the water and taking out. There are cleats and bumpers as well. Stop by and check out the Best Management Practices display as you walk up the infiltration steps and onto the porous paver walkway to get to the grange, store, ice cream, history house, town office, garage...etc! ENJOY!

NPA BUSINESS MEMBERS ARE AMAZING!

Patriot Waste Disposal
297 North Pond Road, Rome, Maine
207-397-2500 207-409-2635
patriotdisposal01@gmail.com Weekly Pick up and Side Jobs

Smithfield Ice Cream Place
855 Village Road, Smithfield
Hard & Soft Serve Ice Cream Only
Smithfieldicecreamplace855@gmail.com
call ahead @ 362-5039

Foss Enterprises
159 South Main Street, Solon
Fossenterprises@tds.net 207-643-2068
Portable Toilets & Septic Inspections & Pumping

Day's Store
182 Main Street, Belgrade Village
daysstore.diane@gmail.com 207-495-2205
Groceries, specialty and Maine products, pizza, sandwiches

Skowhegan Equipment & Tool Rental
14 Somerset Business Park Skowhegan 207-474-6543
Skowheganequipment@gmail.com
Call for your equipment rental needs!

Hight Chevrolet Buick GMC
29 Madison Avenue Skowhegan, Maine
HightChevy.com New cars trucks, Fisher Plows, service & parts 207-474-3371

Hight Ford
242 Madison Avenue Skowhegan, Maine HightFord.com New and used cars, trucks, service and parts 207-474-3334

Hight Chrysler Dodge Jeep, Inc
507 Lakewood Road Madison,
MaineHightchryslerdodgejeep.com New & used cars, trucks, service & parts 207-474-3371

Rick Labbe Excavation
Smithfield, Maine LabbeRick@ymail.com DEP Certified Septic Systems, Camp Roads, Ponds, Site Work Prep Free Estimates
fax 362-6471 cell 465-5560

Advance1 Cleaning
57 Water Street, Waterville 207-873-1241
tj@advance1clean.com Full service cleaning company specializing in fire, water & mold remediation. Carpet and upholstery steam cleaning.

Stripe-A-Lot
Safety Lines & Pavement Marking
Parking Lot Striping/Stenciling ~ Free Estimates
207-873-7290 or 207-692-4312

Lakewood Nursery
711 Lakewood Road Madison, ME 207-612-2006
Wide variety of trees, shrubs & perennial.

Lynch Landscaping
474-2420 john@lynchlandscaping.com
Norridgewock, Maine LakeSmart Certified Landscaping Free Estimates and Consultations!

Smithfield General Store
858 Village Road Smithfield, Maine Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner-Dine in or Take Out! *362-5555*

Three Lakes Storage Units
Corner of Rtes 8,137& 225 Smithfield, Maine 465-5501 Call for all your storage needs! Boat storage too!

Mike Wainer Plumbing and Heating
79 George St. Norridgewock, Maine 207-858-4455 Quality is our priority. mwainerph@yahoo.com

Korner Store & Deli
45 Oak Street Oakland, ME 04963 207-465-3215 Homemade Meatballs, Famous Lobster Rolls, Take out and Delivery (5 mi)
Andy@kornerstoreanddeli.com

J's Boathouse
91 Taylor Road New Sharon, ME 04955
207-897-8834 jason@jsbhouse.com
"It's all in the sound."

Morrow's Garage & Auto Body
818 Village Road Smithfield, Maine 362-4161 Quality Preowned Vehicles & Full Service Repair

Hamlin's Marine
290 West River Road, Waterville, Maine 207-907-4385
Marine Sales & Service plus Storage
tross@hamlinsmarine.com

Triple D Redemption
Jim and Sonya Ross 207-634-2774
2 Ferry Road, Off Rte 2,Norridgewock, ME
Let us take care of all of your redemption needs!

Butler's Carwash
24 Hour Touchless Automatic Car Wash
134 Madison Ave, Skowhegan
(207) 798-9044

Tri Pond Variety & Redemption
164 Village Road Smithfield, ME 04978 207-362-2010
24 hour fuel, hot coffee, great food, liquor and a huge beer cave and over 600 microbrews

Native Notions Ecological Landscapes
200 Augusta Road Belgrade, ME 04917 207-314-9530 OR NativeNotions@hotmail.com *Landscapes that beauty, function and ecology*

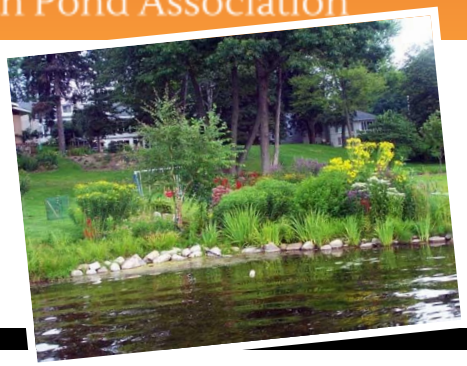
Are You Buff Enough?

Saturday, July 10, 2021. 9 – 11 am

Virtual Workshop

Brought to you by 7 Lakes Alliance Lake Trust ~

Hosted by North Pond Association



Learn The LakeSmart Way!

Guest Speakers ~ Video Demos ~ Tips & Techniques ~ Erosion Control Practices

- Protect Maine lakes and waterways from runoff and erosion while beautifying your grounds.
- Discover how easy it is to live lightly on the lake the LakeSmart way.
- Learn how to stabilize slopes, dooryards, shorelines and parking areas on your watershed property.
- Take Lake Friendly ideas back to your own property!
- Discover new ways to stop runoff and erosion while beautifying your property!
- Sign up for a FREE Lake Smart assessment!

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cSI0wSXOQ3eXdACgcely8Q

Brought to you virtually by Maine Lakes. www.lakes.me

7 LAKES ALLIANCE

Ensuring Our Future

North Pond Association
Friends of Messalonskee
East Pond Association
Belgrade Lakes Association
McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association

MAINE lakes

Are You Buff Enough?

What do you do when the lake's not blue,
Do you stand on shore and cry boohoo?
You cut and you clip for a big wide view
You mow down to dirt – that's NOT what you do!
Erosion and runoff a deadly team,
Toxins and phosphorus, a steady stream.
You big lawn's the cause, what do you mean?
Could it be that's why the lake is so green?
The answer you know, ain't all that tough –
Let it grow to the edge, that's not so rough!
Put your rake down,
leave all the duff,
check out YOUR shore...

Are you buff enough?

Author - Linda C. Rice

NPA Board of Directors

Jodie Mosher-Towle President, Kelly Marshall Vice President, Ed Glasheen Secretary, Caroline Harlow Treasurer, Debra Cunningham, George Fowler, Doug McCartney, Ricky Stuart, Carol Sullivan, Tom Bondaruk, Melissa Michonski, Josh Dostie, Louise Proulx, Frank Ten Broeck, Catherine Smith

Celebrate the 4th of July with the sake of the lake in mind!

While fireworks seem to go hand and hand with the 4th of July, there are a number of Best Management Practices that you can follow to help keep our lake free from debris and prevent harmful chemicals that are contained in fireworks from affecting water and aquatic life.

1. Be respectful of your neighbors and their pets and consider the timing and frequency of fireworks displays.
2. Become knowledgeable of surrounding drinking water supplies.
3. Devise a plan that minimizes potential runoff from launch areas, and don't launch from bare soil or sand.
4. Launch fireworks at a steep angle that promotes maximum height allowing the complete ignition and combustion. Fireworks launched at a low trajectory may result in premature submersion in the water and incomplete burning of potentially hazardous compounds.
5. Rake the launch area and clean up all debris immediately following a fireworks display. Retrieve any visible non-combusted materials from the water.
6. Collect and dispose of all "duds" in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.

For more information contact NHDES, "Fireworks and New Hampshire's Waterbodies," Fact Sheet

North Pond Association

Jodie Mosher-Towle, NPN Editor
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NORTH POND NEWS
www.NorthPondMaine.org
and find us on FB