



CLWA Spring 2024 Newsletter

“President’s Message”

Friends of Crescent Lake! Greetings!

As we look forward to another year of enjoyment on and around Crescent Lake, we are excited about our upcoming efforts in 2024!

In addition to our ongoing efforts with Courtesy Boat Inspections, Invasive Plant Patrollers, Lake Monitoring, LakeSmart, and Education/Outreach programs, CLWA is undertaking a Watershed Survey. Hopefully, you have all seen our emails and communications over the past eight months concerning this effort and the fundraising to move it forward. Thanks to your generosity, we met our fundraising goal for 2023 to support this survey. We have engaged FB Environmental Associates to partner with us as we tackle this important undertaking.

Why do a Watershed Survey you may ask? It is really a simple answer. To identify and record the current picture of potential runoff hazards to the lake. With the pressures of increased development and climate change, the lake is in a constant state of flux. As more rain falls, combined with a changing shoreline, more pollutants are washed into the lake. This is referred to as Nonpoint Source pollution (NPS). Increased pollutants mean more unwanted plant growth such as algae blooms and decreased water quality, impacting ecosystems and overall lake health. By identifying potential

sites of this NPS infiltration we can then make plans to mitigate these areas of concern.

In 2024, CLWA will be focused on Phase I (conducting the Survey) and fundraising for Phase II (developing a Watershed-based Protection Plan based on our Survey findings). Upon completion of the survey and plan, we will be positioned to apply for grants and assistance in implementing the plan. Watershed Surveys and Watershed-based Protection Plans must be updated every ten years to qualify.

We look forward to sharing more information about this exciting effort to preserve and protect our lake in the coming year. Please keep your eyes and ears open for our upcoming communications concerning this effort.

I look forward to seeing you on the lake this summer! Thank you for your support.

Russ Hutchinson
President, CLWA

Mill Street Dam Reconstruction 2024



The dam on Mill St governs the lake levels for Panther Pond, the Tenny River, Raymond Pond and Crescent Lake. The dam, constructed during the late 19th or early 20th century and operated by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), is scheduled for reconstruction during the summer of 2024. The reconstruction plan calls for the reduction to the lake level of 6” to 1’ commencing about early to mid-June, 2024. For more information, including a project explanation issued by the Panther Pond Association which has been working closely with IF&W for several years, a copy of the March 2020 Inspection report, copies

of the construction documents and update announcements issued by the IF&W may be found on the Crescent Lake website.



Water Quality Monitoring

The CLWA Water Quality Monitoring Team's report for the 2023 season, focused on clarity, dissolved oxygen, and phosphorus levels. Last summer's weather patterns had various impacts on the lake. While our clarity readings remained within the range for a "moderately productive lake," they showed decreased clarity compared to previous years, likely due to soil runoff from frequent rains, which increases nutrient loading and biological activity. Warmer temperatures accelerated the dissolution of oxygen, crucial for a healthy lake, throughout the season, resulting in zero levels of dissolved oxygen being recorded at shallower depths. This trend was observed in lakes statewide, attributed to abnormal rainfall. Reduced oxygen levels in the water may lead to the release of phosphorus from lake bottom sediment, as indicated by phosphorus levels near the lake's bottom, while surface phosphorus levels remained stable and within the normal range. CLWA's efforts to control additional phosphorus entering the lake are increasingly vital as summer weather patterns evolve and more frequent rains produce increased runoff into the lake.

LakeSmart Erosion Control Mix

Recently, I had the opportunity to see the dramatic effects of the application of erosion control mix or mulch (ECM) to a yard. In one case, water that formerly flowed in a rapid and erosive flow to the lake was completely absorbed by the ECM. The erosion that used to occur was eliminated. In another case, the erosion from last summer's intense storms was also prevented by the ECM.

ECM is much heavier than other types of mulch. It is a chunky mixture of elongated fibers, gravel and soil that lock together to protect the underlying soil

from erosion. Like other mulches, it also retains moisture, controls weeds and improves the soil as it decomposes. It can be used on paths, slopes and between plantings. ECM should completely cover areas of bare soil to a thickness of 3 to 4 inches. ECM can be ordered for pick up or delivery from local sand and gravel operations.

For further information about LakeSmart or to arrange an evaluation contact Hugh Savage at lakesmartclwa@gmail.com with your name, phone number and address.

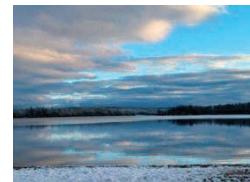
Education/Outreach

Legislative updates:

Be sure to check out Maine Lakes' advocacy page <https://www.lakes.me/advocacy> for updates, and feel free to email Susan Gallo at sgallo@lakes.me with any questions or concerns.

New Bills for 2024:

LD 2101: Protecting our Shorelines
LD 2141 and LD 1342: Support for Reducing Invasive Species Spread
LD 2284: Managing Wakesurfing to Protect Lake Health (Wakeboats)

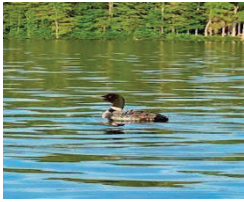


Ice In/Ice Out:

"Ice in" occurred 1/6/24 and "ice out" occurred on 03/14/2024; the earliest "ice out" on record.

For "ice in" and "ice out" data go to Lake Stewards of Maine website.

Another resource for “ice out” data and to sign up for updates, go to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry website.



Loon Education and Annual Count:

Loon Education. If your road association or other group/organization would like a presentation on Loons and how you can protect and preserve them, please contact Sallie Worcester at clwanews@creseentlakemaine.org.

The 2023 annual loon count showed 6 adults and 1 chick. Results of the 2023 Loon Survey can be found on the Maine Audubon website.

Fish Lead Free-Protect Loons and Other Wildlife:

Maine’s Lead Tackle Law: The sale and use of lead sinkers and unpainted lead jigs less than 2.5” long and/or weighing less than 1 ounce is prohibited.

New Addition: Beginning September 1, 2024, the **SALE** of painted lead jigs less than 2.5” long and/or weighing less than 1 ounce is prohibited; and beginning September 1, 2026, the **USE** of painted lead jigs less than 2.5” long and/or weighing less than 1 ounce is prohibited.

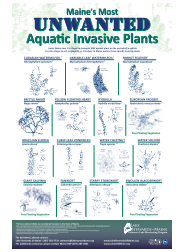
New Feature:



Scan this QR code! You will land on our website that will provide direct links to the websites and emails mentioned in this newsletter!

Invasive Plants Identification:

For a downloadable copy of “Maine’s Most Unwanted” poster of Aquatic Invasive Plants go to the Lake Stewards of Maine website.



Boater Safety and Education:

This course is recommended for anyone operating a boat and required for persons born on or after January 1, 1999. An online course can be found at Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website.



Annual Picnic

The Annual meeting will take place on July 13, 2024 from 12:00PM to 2:00PM at Pam Aker’s home on the north end of the lake, 96 Edwards Road, Casco, ME. Please keep an eye on our website and emails for any updates and the agenda!



Volunteers Needed

Treasurer Opening:

Anyone, who likes working with numbers and spreadsheets, and would be interested in volunteering for the Treasurer position, please contact Ray Bersch at raybersch@gmail.com and/or 908-229-5886.

Volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) Needed:

If anyone is interested in volunteering to be a CBI on Crescent Lake this summer, please contact Ray Bersch at raybersch@gmail.com and/or 908-229-5886.



Thank You!

A huge thank you to the generosity of those who support the preservation and protection of Crescent Lake and are partners in its stewardship!

2023 Supporter List

Town of Casco
Town of Raymond
Crescent Lake Cottages Condominium Association
Port Harbor Marine
Camp Agawam
Camp Crescent Cove (Jason & Nicole Feig)
Camp Nashoba North
Gwen Akers
Pamela Akers
Frank & Pamela Anthony
Joel Aranson
Robert Atkins
Catherine Baldi
Thomas & Christine Barnard
Jan Beilby
Ray Bersch & Carol Friend
Erin Bohula
Sheila Bourque & Janet Walker
William & Laurie Brennan
Frank & Bernadette Bruns
Donald P. Bulens, Jr.
John & Charlotte Calhoun
John & Karen Canora
Louise Carpenter
John Carter
Gertrude Chayer
Nancy & Jerry Cobb
Arthur & Kathleen Connolly
Gene Crockett
Bethany Curtis
John & Lynne Erkinen
Stephen & Patricia Fournier
Lawrence Gelberg
Michelle Glen

Brian & Erin Graves
Irma Gregory
Robert Hafner
Walter & Diane Hebold
Tom & Marcia Hennessey
Russ & Deborah Hutchinson
John Jodoin
Jim & Linda Jones
Margaret Laforest
Stan & Caroline Leroy
Elden & Deborah Lingwood
Meghan Lockwood
Paul & Susan Mahoney
Karen Malm
Dick Martel & Carla Lake
Craig & Ann Mason
Leeland Mason
Peter & Lynne Mason
Philip Mason
Charles McCormick
Charlie & Janice Miller
Donna Morris
Edward & Anne Olsen
Paul & Georgette Ouellette
Robert & Garry Paans
Karen Packhem
Steve Philbrook
Georges Prouty
Kathleen Prouty
Stephen Rathmell
Brien & Denise Richards
Jeanne Saunders (Trails End)
Hugh & Caroline Savage
Donna Selden
Raymond & Vivian Stevens
Dave & Laurie Tate
Janet Ver Planck
Ralph & Harriet Whitney
Peter & Karen Wilson
Jeffrey Wolf
Victor & Lana Woltornist
Elliott & Sallie Worcester
Allison Rock Wuthmann