Maranacook Lake News

FROM FREEZE TO FLOW

2025 ICE OUT DATE

APRIL 10TH

The official date is defined by navigating a boat from the Readfield boat launch to the Winthrop boat launch

WINGS OVER WATER

2024 LOON COUNT

32 adults and 3 chicks

The loon count has been progressively increasing.

LINES IN THE LAKE

2025 BASS TOURNAMENTS

Date	Club Name
5/4/25	Waldo Cty Bass Addicts
6/18/25	Mainely Boaters
6/22/25	Man vs.Bass Club
7/26/25	So. ME Bass Chasers
8/2/25	Fishers of Men-ME Div
8/23/25	Classic Bassmasters
8/30/25	Student Angler Fed. of ME

MLA ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY JULY 12TH 8:00 - 10:00AM

AMERICAN LEGION POST #40

WINTHROP

REGISTRATION: 8:00 - 8:30am

Business Meeting/Presentation: 8:30 - 10:00am

Special Guest Speaker: Stay tuned on FB or the MLA website for this announcement! (see back pg)

A Message from the President

As MLA's new President, I'm very excited to be welcoming you all to summer on Maranacook Lake 2025! I would like to thank Peter Washburn for his many years of service to our lake community, especially in his role of President of this association! I would also like to thank Anne Schmidt for her years of service as the Secretary. Both of these people have left their respective MLA roles, but will continue to serve on the board.

We continue to be fortunate in the fact that we have no confirmed aquatic invasive species in our lake. As always however, we are "only one boat away" from disaster! Our goal is to create an emergency fund to allow us to react quickly in case this happens. We need your help to raise $20,000 in 2025.

The Watershed Friends (formerly Friends of Cobbossee Watershed) will continue to provide us with Courtesy Boat Inspectors, which are paid positions, but only during the weekends. One of our largest initiatives is to create a small army of volunteers to supplement these paid positions, especially throughout the week. Please see the link contained within this newsletter which will bring you to the sign-up sheet.

We are also planning to form 3 sub-committees within MLA and **we need your help** and expertise! Please consider joining one of the following:

*The Development Committee
*The Communication Committee
*The Finance Committee

We hope you can make it to our annual meeting on July 12th. Thank you very much for your support! Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Rob Schmidt

TOGETHER FOR CLEAN WATER: MEMBERSHIP MAKES IT HAPPEN!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

PAY YOUR DUES: $30/year

RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS!! More members=more resources to protect our clean lake

MAKE A DONATION! It is tax deductible (The MLA is a 501c3 organization)

VOLUNTEER for our CBI Program (SEE PAGE 4)

BE A COMMITTEE MEMBER

VOLUNTEER at one of our fundraisers

- MLA & Friends on the 4th 5k
  https://runsignup.com/Race/ME/Winthrop/FriendsontheFourthAnnual5K
- Run for Water Quality 5k on August 9th
  https://www.runreg.com/run-for-water-quality-5k

HOW DOES THIS HELP

The mission of the Maranacook Lake Association is to protect and improve the water quality of Maranacook Lake and its watershed for the benefit of all! There are over 600 households located on and around the lake, less than 1/3 are MLA members. There are community members in Readfield and Winthrop who are able to enjoy their town beaches. We need everyone's help to keep our lake clean and keep invasive species out of Maranacook!

A MEMBERSHIP FORM IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

The Maranacook Lake Association Board has lost a wonderful friend and powerful advocate for our lake. Lynn Roberts Reed passed away on March 26th. She served on the Board for many years in many capacities. Lynn could do it all and was willing to dedicate her amazing energy, knowledge, and time to the goals of the organization. Her commitment and love of this beautiful natural treasure was infectious!

Lynn believed that all of us who enjoy our lake need to be vigilant and aware of the potential risks to the health of the lake. Whether it was taking courses to learn about invasive plants, volunteering to inspect boats at the launches, or participating in a "Plant Paddle" to survey the lake shoreline, Lynn was there. She embodied the spirit of unselfish community service for the greater good, and she will be deeply missed and always remembered by many. Our thoughts are with her family.

For those who wish to make donations in Lynn's memory, the following was suggested by her family: Maranacook Lake Association, P.O. Box 6, Winthrop, Maine 04364 or Kennebec Land Trust, P.O. Box 261 Winthrop, Maine 04364.

We kindly ask everyone on the lake to be exceptionally cautious and vigilant when it comes to safety. Please be courteous and respectful to both fellow boaters and wildlife that call our waters home.

If you witness dangerous or disrespectful behavior on the lake, we encourage you to take note of the boat's registration number and other identifying details, and report it promptly to the Maine Warden Service at 207-624-7076

Together, we can help keep the lake safe and enjoyable for all.

SAFETY ON THE WATER! KNOW THE LAWS!!

Special Alert: Current Surface Use Restrictions: Portion of Androscoggin Lake, Wayne Portion of Annabessacook Lake, Monmouth Portion of Cobbosseecontee Lake, Manchester

Maine Boating Laws: https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf

Protection sticker (known as the milfoil sticker): https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/boating/protection-sticker.html

Boating Safety: NEW law: a person born after January 1, 1999 must take a safety course
https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html

Beginning on August 9, 2024, a new Maine law goes into place that prohibits the operation of a motorboat engaged in a wakesurfing activity in less than 15 feet of water or within 300 feet of the shoreline. Wakesurfing activity is defined as an activity that involves using a surfboard, wakeboard, or similar device while being propelled by a motorboat's wake or while on or in a motorboat's wake directly behind that motorboat.

Help Protect Maranacook Lake: Volunteer with the CBI Program

Summer in Maine is a time of fun and outdoor play, but also, much concern about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – a growing threat to lakes, property values, and summer recreation!

Why It Matters

- AIS threatens swimming, fishing, boating, and the local economy.
- Maranacook Lake is surrounded by other lakes already affected by AIS.
- Just a small fragment of an invasive plant can spread and cause damage.

What the Maranacook Lake Association (MLA) Is Doing

- Works year-round to protect and improve water quality, all local residents/volunteers.
- Partners with Watershed Friends to fund Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBIs).
- Pays $16,700 annually (with help from grants and towns) for CBI coverage on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Introducing the Volunteer CBI Program

- Aims to increase lake protection coverage through trained volunteers.
- Volunteers help inspect boats and educate boaters on preventing AIS spread.
- Each shift is just 2 hours long, we need coverage on Fridays!

Training Provided

- By Watershed Friends or Kim Bowie (trained CBI volunteer).
- No experience needed–just a willingness to help and learn.
- Training is only one hour of your time.

Why Your Help Is Needed

- Maranacook sees high boat traffic, sometimes more than Cobbossee.
- Nearby lakes are already infested:
  - Cobbossee: 3 types of AIS including Eurasian Watermilfoil.
  - Annabessacook & Pleasant Pond: other confirmed invasive species.
- Risk of spread is high and fast–AIS can survive even when dry.

Get Involved

- Spend a couple of hours outdoors while protecting your community's lake.
- Meet visitors, provide education, and make a real difference.

Contact: Kim Bowie - Call/Text: 207-831-4464
Email: bowiewomyn@gmail.com
Sign up: https://signup.com/go/sOzpoEU

https://youtu.be/3eQdMMwyX-E

*** photo credit goes to the Watershed Friends ***

SAVE THE DATE

Our RUN FOR WATER QUALITY 5K will be held in Readfield during Heritage Days. This race is open to all runners, joggers and walkers. Awards and prizes for top runners in their age groups will be presented. Pre-registration is open: $30 per person plus a $2.75 processing fee. Same day registration is $35 CASH please!

DATE: August 9th
TIME: 8:00AM
LOCATION: Maranacook Community High School
REGISTRATION: https://www.runreg.com/run-for-water-quality-5k

News from Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD)

By Wendy Dennis, May 2025

Maranacook Lake Water Quality – How was it in 2024?

Cobbossee Watershed District monitors Maranacook Lake water quality every year. We perform physical, biological, and chemical testing as well as visual observations. CWD starts on-lake monitoring in May and continues into October or November. We tracked water quality in 2024 in both north and south basins of Maranacook Lake. We anchor the boat at the point of greatest depth in each basin to conduct the monitoring. Here's what we found in 2024:

- Water clarity is measured by using a Secchi disk, pictured at right.

We recorded better water clarity in the south basin than in the previous year. The 2024 south basin average Secchi disk transparency was 6.5 meters (m), which is just over 21 feet. The south basin of Maranacook Lake has had very good water quality throughout the years. However, two years ago, in 2023, the average Secchi disk transparency was almost 1 meter (3.3 feet) less than usual and was the lowest season average for Maranacook south since 2013. We attributed that to the excessive rainfall and runoff in 2023 and expected an improvement in 2024.

We measured typical water clarity in the north basin.
The 2024 north basin average Secchi disk transparency was 4.6 meters (15 feet). Note that the north basin has lower water clarity than the south basin due to its shallower depth, larger watershed area, and higher nutrient concentration promoting algal growth. Water clarity declined in October.

- Every three years we monitor for chlorophyll and phosphorus concentrations; we did that in 2024.

Chlorophyll is a plant pigment and the concentrations give an idea of the abundance of algae in the water. **There were no algal blooms in either basin in 2024, but the chlorophyll levels were somewhat high in the north basin on several dates and represent moderately high algal production.**

Phosphorus is a nutrient essential for plant growth and therefore it is usually the case that the higher the phosphorus concentration the greater the algal growth and the lower the water clarity. Phosphorus levels in the south basin were moderate in 2024. **Phosphorus levels were higher in the north basin and very elevated near the bottom where the water was depleted of oxygen.**

At right: CWD staff collecting a deep-water sample for phosphorus analysis.

For lake information contact the Cobbossee Watershed District at 207.377.2234, email cwd@fairpoint.net, or find us at facebook.com/CobbosseeWatershedDistrict.

CLEAN WATER - What Can You Do to Protect Lake Water Quality?

All lakes risk degradation from environmental and development impacts. Warmer water temperatures, more intense rainfall, and increased alteration of the natural landscape are ongoing changes that negatively affect lake water quality by promoting excess algal growth. There are some steps you can take to fight for a clean lake, guided in part by these facts:

- A modest increase in phosphorus in the north basin could potentially result in algae blooms.
- An increase in phosphorus in the south basin could lower its very good water clarity status.
- Phosphorus is found in human and animal waste, fertilizer, and soil.

Recommended actions:

- ✓ **Maximize natural vegetation**. Plant more, and maintain existing, trees, shrubs, and groundcover. These filter nutrients (like phosphorus) and reduce their introduction into the water. These planting don't have to obscure all views of the lake but will keep your water view blue.
- ✓ **"Lakes Like Less Lawn"** is a well-known slogan in the lake protection community. Replacing areas of lawn with deeper-rooted plants as in the previous recommendation will increase absorption of runoff and nutrients.
- ✓ **Avoid fertilizer that contains phosphorus**. For lawn maintenance, most soil in this area has enough phosphorus to grow grass, so unless a soils test indicates insufficient phosphorus, use a phosphorus-free fertilizer as indicated by a 0 in the middle of the product formula: ex. 20-0-10.
- ✓ **Cover areas of bare ground and stabilize soil**. Exposed soil can easily wash into the lake. If planting vegetation is not possible there are mulch products, preferably erosion control mix, that can be applied. If raking, leave a layer of pine needles or leaves.
- ✓ **Have your septic tank pumped and inspected**. Pumping every 3 years is recommended unless the septic service indicates otherwise. Inspection for structural integrity of the system is especially important to protect the lake from one of the highest near-shore sources of nutrient and bacterial pollution.
- ✓ **Maintain your gravel camp road to minimize surface erosion and poor drainage**. Examine where runoff from driveways and camp roads goes and re-direct if necessary to woods or vegetated areas where it can infiltrate. This is a major phosphorus source.

A well-vegetated shoreline at a property on Maranacook Lake.

There are many resources on specific best management practices (BMPS). Contact CWD if you need help finding them. Remember that a permit is needed for some work in the shoreland zone so be sure to check.

cobbossee watershed district

FRIENDS of the COBBOSSEE WATERSHED

Watershed Friends: 2024 Update and 2025 Season Plans

Greetings from the Watershed Friends (formerly known as the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed)! As we prepare for another great season protecting our waterbodies from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), we consider the accomplishments and challenges from 2024.

Maranacook Lake is considered an uninfested waterbody, meaning there is currently no known AIS infestation in the lake. However, due to known infestations in waterbodies nearby, Maranacook is also considered highly vulnerable. Our work is multi-faceted; we work to prevent AIS from entering Maranacook Lake and educate boaters to self-inspect and Clean, Drain, Dry their vessels, trailers, and equipment through our Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program. We also conduct plant surveys in order to catch AIS infestations quickly. If an infestation is found, we have the capacity to control and remove these plants using our watershed-wide Plant Control Crew or by deploying other best management practices under the directive of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

In 2024, a total of 1,192 Courtesy Boat Inspections were performed at both the Route 41 Public Boat Launch in Readfield and the Norcross Point Public Boat Launch in Winthrop. Over 13% of these inspections yielded plant fragments that were removed. None of these plant fragments were identified as invasive. In 2025, we plan to have CBI coverage on both launches every Saturday and Sunday from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

In 2024, the Watershed Friends' 6-person roaming plant survey team surveyed almost 200 acres on Maranacook, focusing on areas around the Route 41 Public Boat Launch and the Norcross Point Public Boat Launch. No aquatic invasive plants were found during these surveys. In 2025, we plan to survey both boat launches and are working closely with the Maranacook Lake Association (MLA) to survey additional areas, with the goal of conducting a full lake survey over the next few years.

The cost of these programs is not free; in 2024, the total cost of the CBI program on Maranacook was $12,443, and the total cost of plant survey efforts was $818. With rising costs due to inflation, increased survey needs, and higher staff wages, costs are likely to increase in 2025.

Both launches are incredibly popular for recreation, and our data indicates a high number of inspections per hour, showcasing the importance of CBI coverage and early detection plant surveys on Maranacook. The costs of these preventative measures are far less than control efforts after Aquatic Invasive Species become established. Mechanical/chemical means of control can cost $200-$2000 per lake-acre annually. For a lake like Maranacook, which is 1,844 acres in size, plant control costs could be as high as $3,688,000.

For more information on Aquatic Invasive Species or how you can get involved, please visit our website at watershedfriends.com or contact the Director of Conservation, Jennifer Peasnall (jennifer@watershedfriends.com).

See you out there!

Maranacook Lake Association
P.O. Box 6
Winthrop, ME 04364

URGENT
TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION
PLEASE READ

Contact us at maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com

Visit our website at www.maranacooklakeme.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rob Schmidt, President
207-485-2278

Michelle Delisle, Vice President
207-215-9731

Monett Wilson, Treasurer
207-458-1111

Kim Bowie, Secretary
207-831-4464

Tom Baker, Web Coordinator
978-886-3964

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207-458-0922

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207-215-9732

Marc Levesque
207-592-5782

Penny Pray
207-242-0468

Maranacook Lake Association Membership/Donation page

https://maranacooklakeme.org/how-to-help/

Lake Association Membership and Donations

Like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/maranacooklake

WATCH FOR UPDATES AND EVENTS!!

Maranacook Lake Association

"Keep our Lake Alive"

Membership for Dues Year(s)_____ Date:_____

The annual dues for members are $30 per year for a household and/or industry, association or organization.
1 year - $30 ___ 2 years - $60 ___ 3 years - $90 ___

Credit for payment of dues will be given January 1 through December 31 of the year in which it is received and subsequent years in the appropriate year(s).

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ **Is this a winter ____ or summer ____ address?**

E-Mail Address _____ **Phone** _____

Other Address _____ **Phone** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Preference for Future Communications: E-Mail____ U.S. Mail ____ No Preference ____

I would like to contribute an additional donation. _____

The mission of the Maranacook Lake Association is to protect and improve the water quality of Maranacook Lake and its watershed for the benefit of all.

The objectives of the Maranacook Lake Association are to:

- **Promote public awareness of water quality related issues;**
- **Educate the public about strategies to protect water quality related issues;**
- **Enlist citizen, community organizations and municipal involvement;**
- **Support initiatives by agencies and related associations benefitting the Maranacook Lake watershed;**
- **Conduct programs and projects to achieve our goals; and**
- **Promote responsible stewardship for present and future generations.**

Please join us by filling out this membership form and sending it to us along with your annual dues.

Thank you!

If you would like to use this form as a mailer, simply fold into thirds with the MLA's address showing, enclose a check(be sure to tape the sides to keep the check in) and mail to:

Maranacook Lake Association
P.O. Box 6
Winthrop, ME 04364

Dear Community Member,

We are excited to announce the partnership between **The Maranacook Lake Association** and **Watershed Friends** for this year's **Friends on the 4th 5K Road Race**. This marks the **23rd anniversary** of the July 4th event, which has become a beloved tradition for friends, families, and community members. Last year's race brought together **596 runners, walkers, and joggers**, along with hundreds of spectators—providing incredible visibility for our sponsors.

More than just a race, this event is a powerful fundraiser for our Clean Water Efforts. All proceeds directly support efforts to protect our **lakes, ponds, and streams from aquatic invasive species**, ensuring that our water remains safe and healthy for generations to come.

Additionally, we are thrilled to continue another tradition—our **Run for Water Quality 5K Race** held during Readfield Heritage Days on August 9th, which expands Maranacook Lake Association's impact on protecting the water quality of our cherished lake.

At the completion of both races, we will hold an awards ceremony, where sponsors will be recognized both at the event and on race materials.

We invite you to **join us as a sponsor** for these exciting traditions and take part in **protecting the clean water that sustains our community waterways.**

Understanding that local businesses receive many requests for donations, we are offering an exclusive opportunity: a **"Platinum Sponsor" package for donors contributing $1,000 and above**. This package provides premium recognition at **both races,** including **signage and acknowledgments** to maximize visibility and appreciation for your generosity.

The **clean, healthy waters of our region are vital to our local economy and quality of life**, bringing visitors and supporting businesses throughout the year. Protecting these precious natural resources requires a community-wide effort, and **your support will make a lasting impact**.

We have enclosed sponsorship details for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to one of our race co-chairs. We truly appreciate your support in keeping our waters clean and thriving!

With gratitude,

Peter Washburn, Friends on the 4th Race co-chair
2211goober@gmail.com
Cami Wilbert, Friends on the 4th Race co-chair
wilbertcami@gmail.com
Michelle Delisle, Run for Water Quality Race chair
jmdelisle623@hotmail.com

Sponsorship Opportunities

Support Our Races & Protect Clean Water in the Watershed

We offer multiple sponsorship levels to provide businesses with valuable visibility while supporting this important cause:

Platinum Sponsor – $1,000+ (Includes Both events: Friends on the 4th & The Run for Water Quality Race)

- Premium placement of company logo on registration sites, event pages, social media & more
- Company logo featured on Friends on the 4th t-shirt & all race materials
- Individual signage & recognition at both events
- Framed appreciation photo to display at your business

Gold Sponsor – $500-$999 (Friends on the 4th Race Only)

- Company logo on registration site, event pages, and social media
- Company logo on the Friends on the 4th t-shirt & race materials
- Group signage & recognition at event
- Framed appreciation photo to display at your business

Silver Sponsor – $250-$499 (available for both races)

- Company logo on registration, event pages, and social media
- Company logo on race materials
- Group signage & recognition at event
- Framed appreciation photo to display at your business

Supporter – Under $250

We welcome and deeply appreciate donations of any amount to support clean water initiatives in our watershed. Every contribution makes a difference!

Sponsorship Commitment Form

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sponsorship Level:

☐ **Major Sponsor** – $1,000+ (Includes Both Races)

☐ **Gold Sponsor** – $500-$999 (Friends on the 4th Race Only)

☐ **Silver Sponsor** – $250-$499 (Available for both races)

☐ **Donation toward clean water**: $_____

For questions or to submit your sponsorship, please contact:

Peter Washburn, Friends on the 4th Race co-chair 2211goober@gmail.com

Cami Wilbert, Friends on the 4th Race co-chair wilbertcami@gmail.com

Michelle Delisle, Run for Water Quality Race chair jmdelisle623@hotmail.com

Mail to: MLA PO Box 6 Winthrop Maine 04364