Maranacook Lake News

FROM FREEZE TO FLOW

2026 ICE OUT DATE

APRIL 9, 2026

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

WINGS OVER WATER

2025 LOON COUNT

32 adults and 1 surviving chick

The loon count has been steady for Maranacook, but chick count was down from 2024 to 2025

LINES IN THE LAKE

2026 BASS TOURNAMENTS

Date	Club Name
6/17/26	Mainely Boaters
6/20/26	Androscoggin Bassmasters
6/27/26	Western Maine Bassmasters
7/25/26	Freedom Bass Trail
8/29/26	Classic Bassmasters
9/27/26	Mainelunkers Bass Club
10/10/26	Bronzeback Mainiacs

All community members welcome!

Only 2026 MLA members can vote.

Key Agenda Items:

Key Note Speaker: Stuart Cole

Voting on updated By-Laws

Voting on new board members
(we need a Secretary)

MLA ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY JULY 11TH 8:00 - 10:00AM

AMERICAN LEGION, 117 Bowdoin St, Winthrop

REGISTRATION: 8:00 - 8:30am

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

Paid members can pick up the decal at the meeting!

A Message from the President

Is there anything better than Maine in the summertime? If you enjoy kayaking, swimming, paddleboarding, or just relaxing on a dock, then the answer is probably "no!" Well, here we are, so welcome to Lake Maranacook, summer of 2026!

The Maranacook Lake Association (MLA) has been busy this winter. Our new website is looking great, we have a new membership structure, a new line of merchandise, and of course, we're gearing up for the Watershed Friends/MLA 5K on the 4th of July.

If you haven't had a chance yet, check out the website https://maranacooklakeme.org/. This site provides a great deal of information, including how you can become a member, make a monetary donation, or volunteer your time.

At this point, I believe the word is out that Maranacook is one of the few lakes in central Maine that does not have a confirmed case of aquatic invasive species (AIS). I cannot state too many times that we are just one boat away from disaster. That is why we need money and volunteers. We pay the good folks at Watershed Friends each year to provide us with wonderful services that are designed to protect our lake. For our investment, we get Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) as well as full lake surveys, but we need more! More CBI's at each boat landing, and more surveyors. Visit our website for ways that you can get involved.

I hope to see you at the MLA annual meeting at the Winthrop Legion on Saturday, July 11th.

Sincerely,

Rob Schmidt
President- MLA

TOGETHER FOR CLEAN WATER: MEMBERSHIP MAKES IT HAPPEN!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

DONATE HERE

PAY YOUR DUES

VOLUNTEER for our CBI Program

BE A COMMITTEE MEMBER

VOLUNTEER

BECOME A MEMBER

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.
- There are surrounding community members who enjoy boating, fishing, and snowmobiling.

We need everyone to help keep our lake clean and keep invasive species out of Maranacook!
(MLA is a 501c3 organization)

Join Us for a Presentation with Stuart Cole at the July 11th Meeting

The Maranacook Lake Association is pleased to welcome Stuart, an environmental professional and lifelong outdoorsman with deep Maine roots. A graduate of the University of Maine at Farmington with degrees in Environmental Policy and Geology, Stuart combines his passion for protecting water resources with a love of the outdoors–and even knows every Maine frog call.

During his presentation, Stuart will explain how phosphorus impacts Maine lakes and why non-point source pollution from camp roads is one of the largest sources of phosphorus entering our watersheds. He will introduce the LakeSmart program and discuss how outreach, site evaluations, homeowner recommendations, and recognition awards help property owners protect water quality.

Drawing on the successful local LakeSmart programs, Stuart will share how the 7 Lakes Alliance operates as a LakeSmart Hub serving the watershed. He will emphasize practical solutions such as runoff mitigation, vegetated shoreline buffers, nature-based approaches, and preserving wildlife habitat. Stuart will also review the importance of working with contractors certified to perform projects within Maine's shoreland zone.

Whether you are interested in becoming LakeSmart-certified or simply want to learn how small changes on your property can make a big difference, this promises to be an informative and engaging morning dedicated to protecting the future of our lakes.

MLA Volunteer Opportunities
Adopt a Shoreline plant surveying and Courtesy Boat Inspectors

Last year we started a volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) program and thanks to the work of DeEtte, Gabe, Marc and Kim we collected data to support the need for paid CBI coverage during the 2026 season at both launches on Fridays from 1:00-7:00 p.m.

We will continue to have volunteer CBI program opportunities during other very vulnerable times on Maranacook Lake: Thursdays late afternoon and Friday early mornings. Please reach out to Kim Bowie with questions or to sign up for 2 hour volunteer shifts bowiewomyn@gmail.com or visit the Watershed Friends website to sign up for a CBI education or plant ID workshop https://www.watershedfriends.org/workshops

Do you love to kayak? NEW THIS YEAR, another great volunteer opportunity through MLA is to join our adopt a shoreline plant survey team. Finding invasive plant species early allows us the ability to manage the spread. Since so many lakes in Central Maine, within a short drive from Maranacook Lake, have at least 1 invasive plant it is more important than ever to remain diligent because Maranacook Lake is only one boat, anchor, fishing lure or boat trailer away from infestation.

Androscoggin Lake: variable leaf milfoil

Annabessacook Lake: variable leaf milfoil

Cobbossee Lake/Jug Stream: Eurasian Water Milfoil and Frog's Bit, variable leaf milfoil and water chestnut

Great Pond: variable leaf milfoil

Messalonskee Lake: variable leaf milfoil

Pleasant Pond/Cobbossee Stream: variable leaf milfoil and swollen bladderwort

Please join our volunteer team today and you can make a difference in the quality of Maranacook Lake for future generations!!

Big Wakes. Real Danger. Serious Consequences.

One careless wake can change lives forever. Watch your wake—before it watches you.

Summer on Maranacook Lake means early morning fishing, afternoon tubing, sunset cruises, paddling, swimming, and simply enjoying one of Maine's most treasured natural resources. With so many people sharing the water, safe and responsible boating is more important than ever.

Maine law requires all boats to operate at **headway speed**—*the slowest speed necessary to maintain steering and control*—within **200 feet of any shoreline, island, or anchorage**. This rule helps protect swimmers, paddlers, docks, and shoreline property while also reducing erosion and disturbance to wildlife, including nesting loons.

Recent changes to Maine law also address wake surfing. Boats engaged in wake surfing activities must operate in water at least **15 feet deep** and remain at least **300 feet from shore**.

Responsible boating means more than following the law. It means:

- Watching your wake and slowing down near shore.
- Giving paddlers, swimmers, anglers, and other boats plenty of room.
- Keeping music and noise at reasonable levels.
- Avoiding repeated circling/activities that harass others, prohibited under Maine law.
- Operating a boat while impaired is NEVER an option.
- Ensuring everyone on board has access to a properly fitting life jacket.

Large wakes are more than just an inconvenience—they can be dangerous. Excessive wakes can throw passengers from boats, swamp kayaks and canoes, damage docks, and endanger swimmers and paddlers. **Under Maine law, operators are responsible for the consequences of their wake and can face fines, civil liability, and even criminal charges if reckless operation causes injury or death**. Simply put, creating unnecessary wakes is not only inconsiderate—it can have life-altering consequences. Responsible boating protects lives, preserves our shorelines, and helps ensure that everyone can safely enjoy Maranacook Lake.

Courtesy and common-sense matter. By making waves responsibly, every boater can help keep Maranacook Lake safe, healthy, and enjoyable for generations while protecting the clean water and natural beauty that make it special.

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**:
207-624-7076

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

Protecting Maranacook Lake Starts at Home: The Importance of Vegetation

Protecting our lake begins right in our own backyards. According to the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD), one of the most effective actions property owners can take to preserve water quality is to plant and maintain native vegetation. Healthy shoreline buffers help filter runoff, reduce erosion, and keep excess nutrients out of the lake, making vegetation one of the first lines of defense. CWD recommends the following sources:

Source 1: the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP):

Shoreline Landscaping for Lake Protection

Shoreline trees, shrubs, and groundcover plants buffer/protect lakes by acting as a sponge for stormwater runoff. These buffer strips or ribbons of vegetation catch sediment and other pollution before it reaches the lake.

Trees and shrubs intercept raindrops and reduce their impact on the soil while low growing plants and the "duff" layer filter runoff. The deep tangled root system of trees and shrubs hold soil in place and absorb water and nutrients. In addition, buffer plants can enhance privacy, filter noise and wind, plus attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife. And believe it or not, these areas are very important to aquatic animals such as fish living in the shallows along the shore.

Landscaping and managing your lake shoreline to protect and/or restore buffer vegetation is the most important way you can help your lake and have a low-maintenance, great-looking property.

Click on the Shoreline Landscaping link below for more information.

Shoreline Landscaping for Lake Protection, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Source 2: Lakes Environmental Association (LEA):

https://mainelakes.org/resources/landowners/top-10-ways-to-protect-your-land-and-lake/

CWD has a tips list as well, but this list from LEA has good photos and an easy-to-read presentation. Do realize that the Clean Lake Check-up is a service offered within LEA's area, which does not include Maranacook Lake, so do not contact Emlyn. However, Cobbossee Watershed District provides technical assistance site visits as our schedule allows. Email cwd@fairpoint.net.

EXCITING NEWS

Wear Your Love for Maranacook Lake

Show your lake pride and help protect the waters we all cherish! The **new Maranacook Lake Association Merchandise Store** is now open, featuring apparel and gifts designed for everyone who loves Maranacook Lake.

Every purchase helps support MLA's work to protect water quality. Whether you're looking for a favorite sweatshirt, a hat for the boat, or the perfect gift for a fellow lake lover, your purchase makes a difference.

https://maranacooklakemainemerch.qbstores.com/

Shop today and turn your love for Maranacook Lake into action—because every item purchased helps keep our lake healthy, beautiful, and thriving for generations to come.

Support the lake. Share the mission. Wear the difference.

FRIENDS of the COBBOSSEE WATERSHED

Watershed Friends Announces Daniel Griffin as New Executive Director

WINTHROP, MAINE – Watershed Friends is pleased to announce the appointment of Daniel Griffin as its new Executive Director, bringing more than 15 years of nonprofit leadership experience in development, strategy, and communications to the organization's mission of protecting the Cobbossee Watershed.

Griffin joins Watershed Friends with a lifelong commitment to nonprofit service, community partnership, and mission-driven leadership. Throughout his career, he has helped strengthen community organizations and educational institutions through thoughtful fundraising, strategic communications, and relationship-building. He holds a BA in Political Science and Journalism from the University of Arkansas, as well as an Executive Master of Nonprofit Administration from the University of Notre Dame, and previously served as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Rwanda.

In his new role, Griffin will support Watershed Friends' efforts to protect the Cobbossee Watershed and strengthen the connection between healthy waters, thriving communities, and future generations. He looks forward to working alongside volunteers, partners, neighbors, and donors who share a deep commitment to this remarkable watershed.

"I am honored to join Watershed Friends and serve a mission that is so vital to the health of this region," said Griffin. "The opportunity ahead is both exciting and urgent: to work with this community to protect the watershed, strengthen its resilience, and build sustainable impact for generations to come."

Watershed Friends works to protect and preserve the Cobbossee Watershed through stewardship, community engagement, and conservation efforts that support environmental health and regional quality of life.

For more information on Aquatic Invasive Species or how you can get involved, please visit our website at watershedfriends.org or email mail@watershedfriends.org.

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

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207-242-0468

Maranacook Lake Association Membership/Donation page

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

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WATCH FOR UPDATES AND EVENTS!!