



# On the Water

Volume 4, Issue 1

Winter 2004

**"We otter have clean water"**

Join the *Friends* today and help to:

**Save Our Shed**

## See what's inside!

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## Check out our Web Site!

In addition to finding out more about us, we have many helpful links regarding water quality. **DON'T WAIT!**

[www.watershedfriends.com](http://www.watershedfriends.com)



"On the Water" is printed on recycled paper.

## YEAR ROUND EDUCATION BEGINS!!

### "Calling All Educators!!"

Last summer, our "Tadpole Patrol" program & "Slow-the-Flow" PlayDays provided over 500 area children with a "hands-on" experience dealing with watershed education and water quality issues.

Stepping up our educational programs to a year-round effort was determined to be a major objective for 2005 and beyond. On February 14, Sarah Rodgers joined our organization to lead those efforts.

In addition to earning her degree in Environmental Studies from Bowdoin College in 2002, "Sarah brings extensive experience in the area of youth environmental education", says Bob Moore, Executive Director. "We are extremely fortunate to have found someone of Sarah's caliber, and are deeply grateful to the Unity Foundation (Page 5) for supporting this next stage of our organization's development."

Sarah has already rolled up her sleeves - working with Maranacook Community Middle School educators Mary Anne Knowles and Cindy Beane, a pilot curriculum is being jointly developed for over 100 middle schoolers, with roll-out planned for the third trimester beginning this March.



**Sarah Rodgers, Friends Watershed Education Coordinator** says "If we get kids excited about the water, they'll want to protect it."

"We're still trying to determine which grade(s) will provide the best fit for what we have to offer", says Rodgers. "At this point, we are wide open to all levels. My plans over the next few months will be to meet and introduce myself to all of the elementary and middle schools in the Cobbossee Watershed, learn about how they are structured, and see what opportunities exist for incorporating watershed lessons into teachers' existing curriculums. We hope that we can 'wet the students appetites' as to why watersheds - in this case the Cobbossee Watershed - are so important to the ecology and the economy of our society."

Expanded use of the OTTER, the *Friends* 20' pontoon boat, is planned as well. "The 'floating classroom' is a great tool that can now be utilized in the fall and spring, in addition to our summer programs," says Rodgers. "I am truly excited at the opportunity we have to impact these future stewards."

FMI, contact Sarah directly at **621-4100** or by emailing her at [mail@watershedfriends.com](mailto:mail@watershedfriends.com).



Summer programs like "Tadpole Patrol" and "STF" PlayDays will now be expanded year-round for area school children.

# Chronically Eroding Sites (Camp Roads too!) Need Attention by July 1st

By: *William Laflamme*, Maine DEP

Do you know what is the biggest pollutant to Maine's freshwater bodies? Mercury? Oil & Gas? Sewage? Litter? Nope, it's plain old eroded soil - aka **DIRT** - that brown stuff that we see suspended in water during storms and snowmelt. In fact, by volume, eroded **soil is the biggest pollutant on earth**. What harm can a little soil do, after all it's a natural organic compound. Unfortunately, eroded soil does plenty of harm; filling in waterbodies & covering up habitat for fish and aquatic organisms; while also depositing pollutants like nutrients, hydrocarbons, pesticides and bacteria that it picks up on its way.

Of particular concern to Maine lakes is the nutrient **phosphorus**. Phosphorus is a component of soil, fertilizer, manure, motor oil and pet wastes that attaches itself to soil particles. When these soil particles erode in a lake watershed they eventually find their way to the lake and stimulate algae growth. In addition to being an aesthetic issue, algae greatly reduces property values, destroys habitat for trout and salmon and makes a lake unappealing for recreational uses.

In order to address the problem of eroding soil, the Maine Legislature passed the state's first Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Law in 1996. The law essentially requires that erosion control practices be utilized on **all** soil disturbance activities, regardless of size or location, to prevent erosion beyond the project site or into a protected natural resource (lake, pond, stream, river, wetland, coastal water). The law was later amended to address chronically eroding sites. Chronically eroding sites are those sites, **including unpaved roads and shoreline areas**, that due to human activity began eroding before the law took effect, and continue to erode at present. This amendment essentially removed any "grandfathering" of existing eroding areas.

As part of the amendment, two deadlines were included in the law. The first deadline applies to **chronically eroding sites** located in the areas near waterbodies "most at risk" from development. According to the law, all existing eroding areas in these watersheds that drain directly to a protected natural resource must be stabilized by **July 1, 2005**. The other deadline applies to existing eroding sites in all other areas of the state. These must be stabilized by **July 1, 2010**.

Of particular interest to landowners in the Cobbossee Watershed is the number of lakes and ponds considered

to be "most at risk" from development - a full 21 of the 28 waterbodies in the Cobbossee Watershed alone including: Annabessacook, Cobbossee, Cochnewagon & Maranacook Lakes; Berry, Buker, Carlton, Desert, Hutchinson, Jamies, Jimmy, Kezar, Little Purgatory, Loon, Lower & Upper Narrows, Sand, Pleasant, Wilson & Woodbury Ponds & Little Cobbossee.



What this means is that in order to comply with the law, a landowner in these watersheds must assess their property and access roads to determine whether soil erosion is occurring. If it is, they must take corrective action before the July 1 deadline. To determine if erosion is occurring, look for exposed soil, gullies and sediment deposits. A good time to inspect areas is during a rain storm or when the snow is melting. These signs may not always be obvious for camp roads, however that does not mean that erosion is not occurring - if one is replacing road material on a regular basis, it's a good bet that an erosion problem exists that needs to be addressed.

If you have eroding land in one or more of these watersheds and you're starting to panic - **DON'T** - there is help available in the form of technical assistance from your local Soil and Water Conservation District - which in the Cobbossee Watershed is the KCSWCD. If you are a part owner of an existing eroding camp road that doesn't currently have an existing road association, contact the *Friends* offices (621-4100) to find out about resources that are available through the DEP and KCSWCD to help start one.

If work is ongoing to correct an erosion problem on one's property or camp road after the July 1 deadline, DEP Enforcement policy is to **not** pursue enforcement action under this law. **The key is getting a plan together for corrective action now.**

So go out and tackle those erosion problems this spring - , in addition to keeping you in compliance with the law, the actions you take will help protect your property values, recreational activities and your lake's water quality for future generations.

## **FRIENDS RECOGNIZED BY AMERICORPS**

### **"2005 Community Resource Corps Worksite of the Year"**

More than 200 people, including Congressman Tom Allen, attended an annual awards ceremony in December, in which the *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed* was recognized by the Training Resource Center (TRC) of Maine as the "AmeriCorps Community Resource Corps Worksite of the Year" for 2004.

The *Friends* have relied heavily on their association with AmeriCorps over the past two years - starting with the arrival of a team of AmeriCorps NCCC for ten weeks during the summer of 2003, followed by an additional contingent of NCCC Corps members for 6



Program Director Steve Niles and Executive Director Tom Nickerson of the TRC, from left, congratulate Bob Moore, Executive Director of the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed on the Friends selection as the "AmeriCorps Community Resource Corps Worksite of the Year" at the center's annual awards luncheon, held on Dec. 17, 2004 at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland.

weeks last summer. During their time in Maine, NCCC members have completed over 46 projects protecting 1.25 miles of shoreline, as part of our "Slow-the-Flow" program.

In 2004, the *Friends* were awarded an AmeriCorps position by the TRC - Sabrina Litton became Program Director for both our "Slow-the-Flow" and "Mil-Foiler" programs.

Since 2001, the TRC has become the largest recipient of AmeriCorps grant funding in Maine, which is administered through the Maine Commission for Community Services.

## **Annabessacook Lake Improvement Association**

### **Committed To Making A Difference!**

The Cobbossee Watershed is fortunate to have Lake Association's for (7) of our larger waterbodies. The Annabessacook Lake Improvement Association (ALIA) is one such group that, in addition to supporting efforts of the *Friends*, also dedicates resources (time & money) to the protection and improvement of Annabessacook Lake.

ALIA President Doug Grant, also a member of the *Friends* Board of Directors, says "It is critical that if we want our lake to continue providing enjoyment for our kids and their kids well into the future, we need to be involved now. Although we have an extremely dedicated Board, it is everyone's actions that will determine whether we are successful or not." Adds Grant, "Becoming a member of the ALIA shows that you care about Annabessacook Lake - and by joining the ALIA you also get membership in the *Friends* - a great 2-for-1 deal!"

At a January Board meeting, ALIA Directors committed to undergoing Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) training offered by the *Friends*, while at the same time volunteering 100% participation by Board members to help staff the Waugan Road launch site this coming summer.

ALIA member Sharon Benoit has agreed to be the "Lake Coordinator" for CBI efforts on Annabessacook this summer, as part of the *Friends* "Mil-Foiler" program. FMI on becoming a member of the ALIA, contact Doug Grant at **933-5600** or via email at [doug.grant@biw.com](mailto:doug.grant@biw.com).



Members of the ALIA Board meet in January at the home of Secretary Mike Levy to prepare for the 2005 summer season.

# Maine Takes Immediate Action to Address Eurasian Watermilfoil

*(Reprinted with permission of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection)*

(12/2/04) Stressing that “Maine is out front on this,” the state’s Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Dawn R. Gallagher announced an immediate plan to combat the state’s first confirmed detection of Eurasian Watermilfoil. An infestation of this aggressive aquatic plant has been identified in a Scarborough gravel quarry. The DEP’s rapid response plan includes water draw down already underway. Dredging, herbicide treatments or the combination of these actions are likely in the coming spring. “We were the last state in the lower 48 to be free of Eurasian Milfoil,” said Gallagher. “Now that it’s here, I want a thorough and aggressive response.”

In addition to undertaking control strategies in the 28-acre private quarry, the DEP will contact residents and businesses in the area to determine all possible sources of introduction. The DEP will also seek help from local lake associations and the Maine Department of Conservation’s Natural Areas Program to increase surveillance of area ponds, lakes and streams.

First reported to DEP in late October by the quarry’s landowner, the presence of Eurasian Watermilfoil has been verified by Don Cameron, a botanist with the Natural Areas Program. DEP estimates this infestation to be at least five years old and has determined that it is well established throughout the quarry.

The quarry is private and offers no boating, swimming or fishing - the most likely routes of plant invasion in Maine lakes and ponds. “Without the usual suspects, DEP biologists are already surveying the outlet stream and

nearby waters to determine whether the plant is isolated to this quarry,” said Commissioner Gallagher.

Never detected before in Maine, Eurasian Watermilfoil (scientific name: *Myriophyllum spicatum*) is a stubborn and fast-growing invasive plant that degrades water quality by displacing native plants, fish and other aquatic species. This plant also forms stems reaching up to 20 feet in length that cause fouling problems for swimmers or boaters when introduced into recreational lakes & ponds.

Eurasian Watermilfoil is able to dominate fresh water ecosystems quickly when fragmented by boat props and by way of buds and surface runners. The aquatic weed also tolerates a wide range of environmental conditions including low light levels, high or low nutrient waters, and freezing temperatures. For these reasons, Eurasian Watermilfoil can not only out-compete native aquatic plants, it can infest a lake more aggressively than Variable-leaf Milfoil, the most common aquatic invasive plant established in Maine.

**Don’t let the scene on the right happen to Maine’s lakes, ponds and streams.**

**Contact the Friends today to see how you can help. ACT NOW BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!**



## Mil-Foiler Program Needs You!



Two of the most aggressive Invasive Aquatic Plants (IAP), Hydrilla & Eurasian Milfoil, are now in Maine. Fortunately, both infestations are in confined water bodies that lessen the chance for spreading to other fresh waters.

Make no mistake though - the threat is real. Eurasian Milfoil is all around us - over 500 lakes in New England alone!

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Our “Mil-Foiler”

program is determined to keep IAP’s out.

Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) training will be offered once again in May & June to prepare volunteers for boat launch staffing. Training sessions last just 45-60 minutes, and each certified CBI is asked to volunteer at least once for a 2-hour shift at a local launch site.

Whereas the CBI program focuses on prevention - the Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) program focus is on early detection. This summer, the *Friends* will be hosting an IPP workshop, conducted by the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (MCIAP). Stay tuned for mailings or check out our website under the “Mil-Foiler” tab.

## BASS Tournament Slated for Cobbossee

By: Scott Bradford, President - Maine B.A.S.S Federation

The National B.A.S.S. Federation, along with the Maine chapter, will be hosting a Divisional Tournament on Cobbossee Lake from September 18 – 23. Over \$500,000 is estimated to be spent in the immediate area during this event, which is also scheduled to be televised by ESPN.

Fourteen states and Ontario will send 14 anglers each, who will spend three practice days and three days of competition in the 1st round of a 3-year, 3-round competition.

Different pairings are established each day, with a 5-fish limit per day, per angler. All fish caught must be kept alive in the boat's livewell before being weighed and then released. In the event an angler reaches his/her limit, a smaller fish may be replaced in the livewell at that time to continue bettering one's total bag weight.

After the three days of this competition, the pairings and competition weights are tallied, with the winning state receiving the largest cash prize. In addition, an individual State Champion is crowned for each state, who then gets the opportunity to advance to the National Tournament in 2006. From that tournament, just 6 anglers move on to compete in the BASS MASTERS CLASSIC in 2007.

It's not easy to make it to the Divisional Tournament –

each successful state representative has to beat out 250 – 2,000 competitors in each of their respective states.

This is one of the strongest Maine teams ever compiled, and many feel that the Maine team is the favorite to win it all.

The Bass Angler's Sportsman Society was formed in 1969 by founding member Ray Scott, with the Maine chapter being established in 1974 by Dave Barnes.

The major purpose of Maine B.A.S.S. is to stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. We promote adherence to all regulated conservation efforts, and are always on the lookout to protect our waters - we won't hesitate to report polluters or other violations dealing with these vital natural resources. We are also very active in promoting our program with the youth in the state – local clubs have completed dozens of projects over the past few years such as building duck boxes, loon nests and organizing shoreline clean-up days. FMI about Maine B.A.S.S., check out our web site at [www.mebass.com](http://www.mebass.com).



## Unity Foundation & L.L. Bean Award Grants

The **Unity Foundation** has a long history of supporting the *Friends*. Beginning with an original grant in 2002 of \$5,000 to help fund the purchase of the OTTER, the Unity Foundation followed up in 2003 with a 2-yr \$70,000 challenge grant that enabled the *Friends* to fund a full-time Executive Director position.

Their unwavering support of our organization continues with the announcement of a 5-yr \$150,000 challenge grant beginning in 2005, which will enable the *Friends* to expand their educational programs year round. Thanks to their philanthropy, Sarah Rodgers was recently hired as the *Friends* full time Watershed Education Coordinator.

Established as a public grant-making foundation in 2000 by the late Bert G. Clifford of Unity, Maine, the Unity Foundation remains committed to the dream of Bert, who passed away in August 2001. His vision of supporting high-performance, mission-driven nonprofits that demonstrate "best practices" in administration and management remains their guiding principle.

FMI, visit their web site at [www.unityfdn.org](http://www.unityfdn.org)

**L.L. Bean** announced in January the awarding of a 2-year \$30,000 grant to the *Friends* for a pilot program to help combat the effects of Invasive Aquatic Plants (IAP).

Funding for 2005 will be directed toward developing a program with guidebooks, signage and publicity to launch a "Boat Wash Station" at a public boat launch site within the Cobbossee Watershed. The second year of funding will support the installation of additional "Boat Wash Stations", and provide seed money to local lake associations that will be selected based on an application process.

The *Friends* have partnered with Maine COLA ([www.mainecola.org](http://www.mainecola.org)) and the LEA ([www.mainelakes.org](http://www.mainelakes.org)) to help develop and promote the guidebook, which is scheduled to be completed by early summer, 2005.

L.L. Bean actively supports nonprofit organizations that strive to preserve wilderness recreation areas, foster outdoor recreation, protect wildlife habitats and further conservation education. The *Friends* are grateful for L.L. Bean's support towards our efforts, as we share their belief that we are all stewards of this land – and that every contribution helps to ensure that future generations will enjoy this nation's natural beauty.

FMI, visit their web site at [www.llbean.com](http://www.llbean.com)

## OUR MISSION

**"To protect & improve the 28 Lakes & Streams  
of the Cobbossee Watershed"**

### OBJECTIVES

- Promote public awareness of water quality issues
- Educate the public about strategies to protect water quality
- Enlist citizen, community and municipal involvement
- Support initiatives by agencies and related lake associations benefiting the Cobbossee Watershed
- Conduct programs and projects to achieve our goals

## Board of Directors

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Tom Johnson	Bob Moore, <i>Exec. Director</i>

*On the Water* is published three times a year for members and friends of the *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed*.

For more information, or if you would like to submit an article or news item for publication, please contact Executive Director Bob Moore via phone, email or postal mail.

The *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed* is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Maine corporation. All contributions and donated services are deductible to the fullest extent of the tax laws.

### MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!!

Contact our offices to become a *Friend* today.



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www.watershedfriends.com

## JOB OPENINGS - PROGRAM DIRECTORS WANTED!

In conjunction with the AmeriCorps program administered through the Training Resource Center (TRC) of Portland, the *Friends* are looking to fill Program Director positions for (2) of our signature programs: "Slow-the-Flow" and "Mil-Foiler". Both of these AmeriCorps positions will be full-time for a period of 5-6 months, beginning in April and ending in September. FMI, contact the TRC by phone at 775-5891 x425, via the web at [www.trcme.com](http://www.trcme.com) (just click on the AmeriCorps label under the PROGRAM tab), or contact the *Friends* offices; by phone at 621-4100 or via email at [www.watershedfriends.com](http://www.watershedfriends.com)

### "Slow-the-Flow"

Our "Slow-the-Flow" program is designed to combat the effects of Non-Point Source (NPS), one of two major threats facing the 217 square-mile Cobbossee Watershed. The successful candidate will be responsible for the direct supervision of Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), who perform erosion control and shoreline stabilization projects throughout the Cobbossee Watershed. This year's YCC staff (15-18 individuals) is anticipated to be staffed by two components: (2) teams made up of a contingent of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) volunteers, along with a 3rd team staffed by local youth.

The Program Director will also be responsible for implementing a new initiative being offered this year called "LakeScape". Partnering with a local landscape nursery, the *Friends* will offer consultation services to local residents and businesses in the areas of buffer plantings, water retention devices and erosion control procedures. Seasonal full-time from April through September.

### "Mil-Foiler"

Our "Mil-Foiler" program is designed to combat the effects of Invasive Aquatic Plants (IAP), one of two major threats facing the 217 square-mile Cobbossee Watershed. The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- growing the volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program
- establishing a volunteer Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) group and assist the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants with training
- coordinating an invasive plant removal project on Pleasant Pond, part of the Cobbossee Watershed
- assisting with the implementation of a Boat Wash Station
- all other initiatives associated with IAP's.

Seasonal full-time from April - September, some weekend work may be required.