



FALL 2020

MoosePondMatters

Our Pond Protection Partners

by CHIP WENDLER - VICE PRESIDENT

The Moose Pond Association (MPA) was established in 2008 to protect the lake that we love. Since the very first day, the MPA board has partnered with the Lake Environmental Association (LEA) to monitor the health of Moose Pond and encourage activities to help improve the health of the lake over time for the enjoyment of all for generations to come.

While our partnership with LEA to staff the Courtesy Boat Inspector program is very visible and relatively well known by most MPA members, other important programs – such as the annual Invasive Plant Survey, Water



THE LEA TEAM SURVEYING MOOSE POND FOR INVASIVE PLANTS ON AUGUST 6, 2020

Quality testing and periodic surveys of the watershed area surrounding the lake – are equally important but less visible and familiar to many.

For example, each year the MPA board works with the LEA to identify high risk areas of the lake that are potential breeding grounds for invasive aquatic plants such as variable leaf milfoil. Most often, these areas are in shallow high-traffic areas such as launch sights and marinas where transient boaters may

frequent. This year, on August 6, four members of the LEA team slipped on

continued on page 5

The Waves, They Just Keep Coming.

by DL DOLGIN



A special gift from pleasure boat manufacturers – we might call them Invasive Wave Wake Boats – has arrived with force. These crafts plow their hulls tilted up at a 20 - 25° angle, deploying 250 – 500 horsepower engines designed to generate walls of water up to four-feet high for simulated wave surfing. The waves capture that energy and push it both down as much as 20 feet in prop thrust and out as much as 750 feet across the surface in wakes. See our piece on this subject in the Moose

continued on page 6

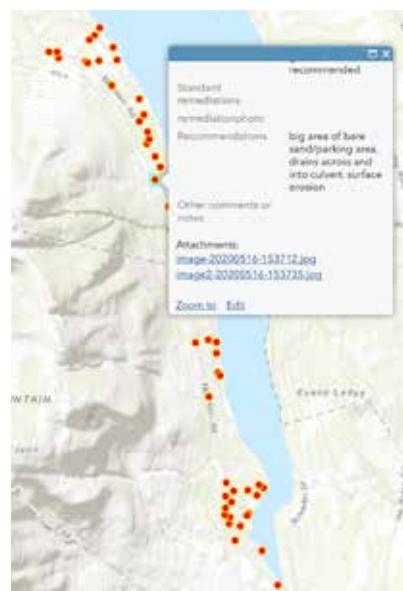
Watershed Survey

We started this spring with an update of the Moose Pond Watershed Survey. Volunteers gathered on the west shore of the middle basin and walked the properties and shoreline along Mountain Road. The results of the survey can be found on the MPA website. A big thank you to all of the property owners who let us have access to their properties to allow this to happen. We are still offering matching grants to those homeowners who wish to make their lots a bit more lake friendly. We hope to continue our watershed survey update this spring. If you want to help us, please contact MPA

President Mark Patterson. Training is provided and it's a great time to get out for a walk with your neighbors and learn firsthand what each of us can do to protect our lake from unhelpful runoff. **MPA**



TO SEE SURVEY RESULTS, GO TO: ARCG.IS/ETUi4 OR GO TO
MOOSE POND WEBSITE.



message from the president

message from the president

Hello again from the shores of Moose Pond! It has been another amazing year on our special Lake. With all of the craziness we have experienced over the last 9-12 months, I feel blessed to have a place like Moose Pond where my family and friends can come to relax and unwind. I suspect you feel the same way.

It has also been a busy year on the lake. We started this spring with an update of the Moose Pond Watershed Survey. Volunteers gathered on the west shore of the middle basin and walked the properties and shoreline along Mountain Road. The results of the survey can be found on the MPA website. A big thank you to all of the property owners who let us have access to their properties to allow this to happen. We are still offering matching grants to those homeowners who wish to make their lots a bit more lake friendly. We hope to continue our watershed survey update this spring. If you want to help us, please contact me directly. Training is provided and it's a great time to get out for a walk with your neighbors and learn firsthand what each of us can do to protect our lake from unhelpful runoff. (Picture). As in previous years we also contracted with LEA to perform our annual invasive plant survey and to help with water quality testing. Several articles about all three of these important initiatives appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Bill Muir continues to be the MPA coordinator for the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program and boat wash stations. He applies for DEP grants which provide a small subsidy to the program. We contract with LEA to provide the paid inspectors and manage the program. Volunteers can also provide boat inspections at our two launches. For those members who might have an interest in becoming a volunteer CBI, we offer an annual training program to that end. Many of the MPA board members and others are trained inspectors. From my personal experience, it is a great way

to meet your neighbors while providing an invaluable service to the MPA. And, on the slower days, it is also a great way to sit by the lake and read a good book. Again, contact me if you are interested in becoming a volunteer CBI. Collins plumbing continues to set up and take down the boat wash station in Denmark at no charge to the membership. Please show them your appreciation by patronizing their business.

Bill Dexter and his sister, Elizabeth Stockwood, continue to coordinate our

Lake Smart program. See more information on this important program appears later in this newsletter. The Maine Lake Association developed and provides training for this homeowner-oriented effort.

In deference to the COVID Pandemic, we held our annual meeting via Zoom this year. To our surprise, the member turnout was about the same, if not slightly better, than we normally experience when we hold these meetings in person. We heard from many members that they appreciated the opportunity to attend remotely. We will hopefully be able to meet in person next August but will definitely try to make Zoom participation an option for those that cannot attend in person.

Laurie Vance continues as our treasurer. She coordinates with a local bookkeeping service to pick up and deposit our membership receipts from the local post office. Laurie also assembles our financial statements for all of our board and membership meetings.

Chip Wendler continues to be our vice president. The duties of the VP include planting and retrieving the MPA Annual Meeting signs that you see positioned around the lake every July and he is also responsible for sending out the donor thank you letters/tax receipts – a rewarding but time-consuming process. Chip is also leading the charge to help stabilize and restore Caruso Island to its former glory. This ongoing initiative is discussed in more detail later in this

newsletter.

Laurie Vance and I attended the Bridgton select person meeting this summer. The Town of Denmark – who owns the Moose Pond Dam – controls the structure and manages its maintenance. At that meeting, Denmark presented a plan for Bridgton, Denmark and Sweden to share the cost of an upcoming inspection and maintenance process. The proposal was to have each of the towns participate based upon the amount of frontage they have on the lake. Denmark and Bridgton have agreed to pay 47% each. Sweden has yet to agree to participate with their 6%. If you are a tax paying resident of Sweden, your lobbying assistance would be greatly appreciated. The total cost of the inspection and repairs are estimated to be in excess of \$180,000.

Our MPA Facebook page continues to be extremely active. All of us greatly appreciate the stories and especially the beautiful photos posted on the page. A big thank you to Peter Munstedt and Nancy Campbell for all of their fabulous photos. Nancy has put together another Moose Pond Calendar for 2021. Please message her on Facebook if you would like to have one (or more) of them. They make great gifts! And speaking of gifts, the often copied but never duplicated, MPA hats are still available. You can contact me on Facebook or the MPA website for one or stop by the Lil' Mountain Store on Route 302 in Bridgton. They agreed to sell them for us. Lil' Mountain is a great little store with awesome take out, a great beer selection and gas that is close by. The price of the hats is \$15.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not put a plug in for expanding the MPA membership. We hover around 20-25% membership for hundreds of Moose Pond residents. Some lake associations attain 80% membership. The more financial support we obtain, the more we can do to support our mission, "To maintain and improve the quality of life on Moose Pond for all to enjoy for generations to come".

Please stay safe and enjoy our special lake. **MPA** — Mark Patterson, President



Paddle For A Purpose 2021 postponed

We were considering a fundraising plan (May 2021) sponsoring a kayak ride, Paddle for a Purpose for 2021. Due to situation with pandemic and Memorial Day being early for being Covid safe, we would like to consider having a kayak ride fundraiser sometime in 2022. In the meantime, Peter and Anne will think of pandemic-safe ideas for fundraising in the coming year. Please let us know if anyone has thoughts to share for this upcoming spring summer as well as the kayak ride for 2022.

Thanks so much,
Anne and Peter Munstedt

LakeSmart 2020 Update

by BILL DEXTER



As with many programs this year, LakeSmart** evaluations took a bit of a hiatus due to concerns with the Covid virus - and people very responsibly deciding to hold off on evaluations. With a bit of luck (and lots of folks getting the vaccine!) we hope to have a much busier season in 2021!

From all accounts it was apparent that Moose Pond as well as, I suspect, most or all of the other recreational bodies of water in our area came under great use pressure this past year. I know of quite a number of folks who moved "upta camp" on Moose Pond to hunker down for the spring/summer/fall. It was great

fun seeing so many folks up and enjoying the lake. Certainly, though, More Use = More Opportunity for potentially degrading our lake, not just from the on water use but also from the land use, as well. And this is where LakeSmart can play a big role in helping protect our wonderful pond.

Even though we did not do many evaluations this year, we have a host of brochures and handouts and pamphlets illustrating ways that we can all reduce the runoff into the pond that can rapidly degrade water quality.

So... please let me know if you would like to have any of this literature, I would be delighted to connect with you and forward it on. And, please let me know if you would like to have a LakeSmart evaluation done in 2021! **MPA**

Bill Dexter • dexathome@gmail.com
207-232-0726

**FOR THOSE THAT ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE LAKESMART PROGRAM, IT IS A STATEWIDE PROGRAM DEDICATED TO HELPING PRESERVE THE QUALITY OF OUR LAKES/PONDS/RIVERS PRIMARILY BY HELPING PROPERTY OWNERS REDUCE RUNOFF – RUNOFF BEING ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CULPRITS IN DEGRADING WATER QUALITY! A “No Cost, No Hassle, No Penalty” EVALUATION CAN BE SCHEDULED WHERE WE TAKE A WALK AROUND YOUR PROPERTY, MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON UTILIZING BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE OR PREVENT RUNOFF... AND...IF YOUR PROPERTY GETS ENOUGH “POINTS”, YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A COOL SIGN TO POST BOTH LAKESIDE AND ON YOUR DRIVEWAY ... LOOK FOR THESE SIGNS AROUND THE LAKE!

Thank You To Our Supporters!

by LAURIE VANCE, TREASURER

I am happy to report that we had a financially stable year at the Moose Pond Association! We sent out over 900 requests for donations and, while our response rate continues to hover at around 25%, our donors were very generous and we raised more than we have in any other year. This allowed us to hire boat inspectors for the Denmark and Bridgton boat ramps (which produced a Milfoil “Save” this year!), fund increased water testing to ensure we understand the health of the lake and pay for the ongoing cost of the boat wash stations. Additionally, we were able to build a small reserve so that we can ensure covering these costs in the future and rapidly respond to a milfoil infestation in the unhappy event that this becomes necessary. We would love to reach more of the population on Moose Pond so if you are reading this and haven’t donated please consider it. Adding hours to the boat inspectors

and directly helping more land owners make their properties more lake friendly through matching grants would be small steps that could make a big difference. Many volunteers came out this year to help assess our shorefront and determine

where we could target to remediate factors that will lead to declining health of the lake. If we financially help support recommended changes, in addition to the boat inspectors and testing, we will help keep Moose Pond healthy for our future generations!

Thank you again for another great year on Moose Pond! **MPA**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Letters Sent	928	926	922	920	924
MPA Members	252	254	219	224	231
Contributions (\$)	25,720	26,971	24,874	26,112	36,825
Response Rate (%)	27	27	24	24	25

Additionally, please thank Collins Plumbing for their continued support in opening and closing the wash stations. We appreciate their contribution in helping provide boaters the facilities to keep their boats clean and Moose Pond safe.

Courtesy Boat Inspectors: Our First Line of Defense

by CHIP WENDLER, VICE PRESIDENT

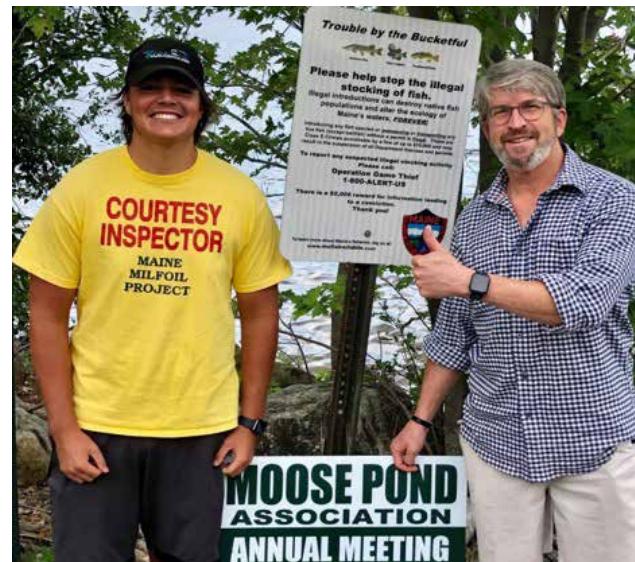
If you haul a boat in or out of Moose Pond anywhere from late June to early September you will very likely be greeted by a friendly Courtesy Boat Inspector. These CBIs, as they are commonly referred to, are our first line of defense to protect Moose Pond from a variety of invasive species that could cause a tremendous amount of harm to the lake that we love. Amongst the worst of these aquatic offenders is variable leaf milfoil. A tiny and seemingly dried up shred of this invasive aquatic plant attached to a propeller, trailer or boat hull can rehydrate after launch and wreak havoc on the lake's shoreline – causing it to be nearly unusable and resulting in a significant depreciation in lakeside property process if left unchecked.

Only 20 miles to the south of Moose Pond it took several years and many thousands of dollars to bring the milfoil infestation in the Songo River Locks under control and last summer, in early June, another infestation was discovered on the shores of Long Lake. Remediation of a milfoil infestation often includes milfoil harvesting barges, scuba divers and underwater rubber mats to control regrowth. The commercial barges used to harvest severe milfoil infestations are expensive with capital outlays ranging

from \$50,000-100,000 and annual costs for regular control of an infestation can be several thousand dollars per hectare.

This is why the Moose Pond Association (MPA) partners with the Lake Environmental Association (LEA) to staff both the Route 302 and Denmark Boat ramps during weekends from late May through late June and on most days of the week from July 1 through the end of August. Inspectors are also present on these ramps during the weekends in September. Their job is relatively straight forward. Check the trailer, hull, anchor, engine, propeller and ropes. Inspection participation by boatauthors is voluntary, but the importance of these CBI inspections should not be underestimated. The presence and diligence of the CBIs increases the odds that invasive species will be identified and removed before they enter the lake and, importantly, CBI

activities also provide boat owners with a constant reminder that they should pay attention to where their boat has been and keep it plant fragment free.



CBI JADEN POULIN BEING CONGRATULATED BY MPA VICE PRESIDENT CHIP WENDLER FOR A JOB WELL DONE.



MILFOIL BEING HARVESTED ON LAKE MINNETONKA IN MINNESOTA.

During the summer of 2020, donations to the MPA helped fund nearly 1400 Courtesy Boat Inspector hours. Through August of last year, more than 1100 boats were inspected on the Route 302 boat ramp and another 500 boats were inspected on the Denmark ramp. One of those hours – on July 4th – was particularly important when inspector Jaden Poulin discovered a fragment of suspicious plant material on a boat that was coming from Lake Sebago to Moose Pond. The plant was identified as invasive Milfoil by the LEA staff. All residents of Moose Pond should be incredibly grateful to Jason and all of the other CBIs for the hundreds of hours they put in each year to protect our precious lake.

A big thank you to Jason and all of the other CBIs for their diligence and dedication. The MPA is also grateful to the LEA for their partnership in recruiting/staffing the CBIs and as well as the generosity of Moose Pond Association members who contribute the funds that allow us to pay for this incredibly important program. **MPA**

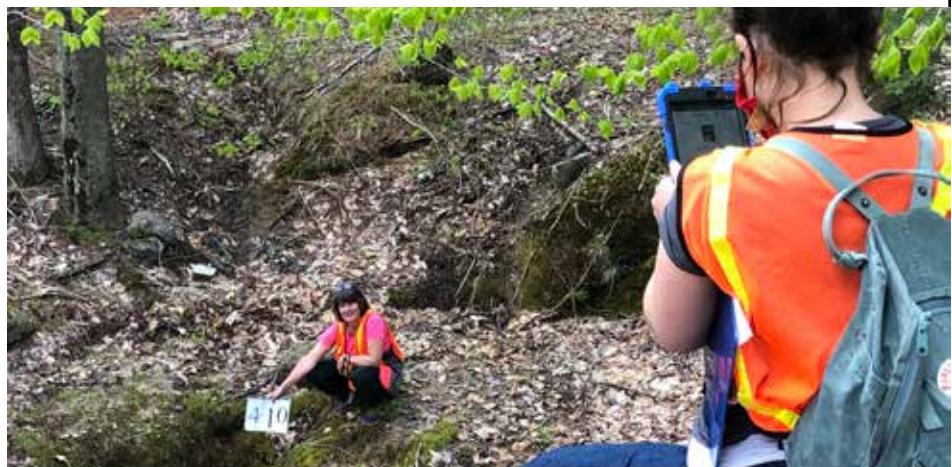
Protection *continued from page*

their wet suits and surveyed six key locations of concern including the Route 302 boat launch ramp, the Denmark boat launch ramp, the narrows between the middle and lower basins, as well as the Lakeside, Alpine Village and Knights Hill community docks. Fortunately, no invasive species were discovered.

Another important activity that takes place annually and throughout the summer is water quality testing. You may have driven by LEA sight marker buoys without even thinking twice about why these floating white posts are present in each basin. Several times during the summer, members of the LEA testing team motor out to these locations test for phosphate and chlorophyll levels as well as water clarity. Over time, we will be able to accumulate enough data to spot year-over-year trends as well as the impact of both our protection and remediation activities.

Every eight to 10 years, the MPA works with the LEA and several state agencies to conduct a survey of the watershed land surrounding Moose Pond. The goal of the survey is to identify erosion sites on roads, properties, driveways and trails where lack of ground cover and poor drainage systems can allow excess – and often phosphate-laden – run off to enter Moose Pond. With the help of several dozen volunteers, we conducted this year's watershed survey in mid-May. More than 95 erosion sites were identified and approximately 65% of these problem sites allowed unhelpful run off to directly enter our lake. The MPA plans to contact these property owners in the early spring to suggest potential remediation steps and, if necessary, will be able to offer financial incentives to help pay for the projects and encourage the completion of these important projects.

It is your annual financial support of the MPA that allows us to fund these important activities. The MPA board would like to thank all of the members for their ongoing generosity. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join the MPA if they are not already involved. **MPA**



VOLUNTEERS DOCUMENT UNHELPFUL EROSION SITES DURING THE SPRING 2020 MOOSE POND WATERSHED SURVEY.

Order your Personalized Moose Pond Association Home Sign

\$70.00 (*regularly \$90*)

Option A:

Roadside for 911 requirements



Option B:

Lakefront for neighbors



11" x 23" 1-sided, outdoor durable PVC sign with customized
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**Founding member*

Caruso Island Needs Our Help

by CHIP WENDLER, VICE PRESIDENT

In recent years, Caruso Island has been under assault from a combination of severe weather events along with increased boat and foot traffic to the point where it has lost much of its topsoil, a number of its trees and most of its ground cover. If you look

half of that amount from a core group of generous donors.

Phase 1 is stabilizing the base of the island and adding soil/erosion-control mulch. **Phase 2** involves planting new trees and vegetation. If you want join with us in support of this important



closely, the root systems of many of the remaining trees are exposed putting these trees at risk too. The island is now in a place where it is increasingly vulnerable to accelerating deterioration if we do not take action.

The Moose Pond Association has been working with a landscape architect, the LEA and several other contractors to scope out a two-phase project to revitalize Caruso Island. The cost of the project is approximately \$20,000 and we already have commitments for more than

project, please send a check made payable to Moose Pond Association (PO Box 674 Bridgton, ME 04009) with "Save Caruso" in the memo line or send contributions via our go-fund-me site. The web address of that site is [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) then search for "Caruso Island Restoration Project".

We ask that you consider this an extra/one-time donation that is separate from your annual funding of the Moose Pond Association's work to control the introduction of invasive species to our lake. **MPA**

Marcia Storkerson's Legacy Donation to the MPA

On November 2, the members of the Moose Pond Association (MPA) Board were both delighted and surprised to receive a legacy gift of \$5,000 from the estate of Marcia Storkerson of Sweden, Maine.

It is said that Ms. Storkerson died peacefully at home on Thursday, August 6, 2020. Marcia was very involved with public radio including a long-time association with WGBH. She was also very involved with the Sweden Historical Society and spent nearly three years working closely with others to complete a project that celebrated the town of Sweden's 200th anniversary. The project, "Living, Learning and Worshiping: Buildings of Sweden, Maine, 1813-2013," was published in December 2014.

The MPA would like to thank Ms. Storkerson for her very generous gift and the love of Moose Pond which her gift clearly seems to reflect.

Waves *continued from page 1*

Pond Association newsletter here: mpame.org/2020/01/18/wake-hazards/.

An increasing number of states find themselves home to a riparian battle arising between those, on the one hand, who treasure the increasingly scarce peaceful, small lakes and ponds beloved for fishing/swimming/small boat pleasures, like our Moose Pond and, on the other hand, the National Marine Manufacturers Association who advocates increasing sales of expensive boats built to generate large wakes.

Some of the risks are well known: the prop thrust of these boats can disturb the lake bottom, uncovering and dispersing unwanted phosphates into the body of the lake; the wash of water can break open pods of aquatic invasive plants, spreading their seeds to the detriment of good lake health; and the surface wakes erode shorelines and adversely affect those in small boats.

Studies are underway at the University of Minnesota Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory, which specializes in hydrodynamics, endeavoring to determine just how much environmental damage these boats do. Additional studies are underway elsewhere to better determine how far and how deep the waves carry a damaging physical effect.

A Vermont legislator introduced a bill in 2019 (SB69) to ban the boats. The National Marine Manufacturers Association says of that bill: "Blocking passage of this bill is a top priority of the NMMA and the Watersports Industry Association."

Will report more when we see the results of some of these studies. **MPA**

Thank You

Collins Plumbing & Heating
For Maintaining the
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10 Common Loon Fun Facts

1. The Common Loon swims underwater to catch fish, propelling itself with its feet. It swallows most of its prey underwater. The loon has sharp, rearward-pointing projections on the roof of its mouth and tongue that help it keep a firm hold on slippery fish.
2. Loons are water birds, only going ashore to mate and incubate eggs. Their legs are placed far back on their bodies, allowing efficient swimming but only awkward movement on land.
3. Loons are agile swimmers, but they move pretty fast in the air, too. Migrating loons have been clocked flying at speeds more than 70 mph.
4. A hungry loon family can put away a lot of fish. Biologists estimate that loon parents and their 2 chicks can eat about a half-ton of fish over a 15-week period.
5. Loons are like airplanes in that they need a runway for takeoff. In the case of loons, they need from 30 yards up to a quarter-mile (depending on the wind) for flapping their wings and running across the top of the water in order to gain enough speed for lift-off.
6. Loons are well equipped for their submarine maneuvers to catch fish. Unlike most birds, loons have solid bones that make them less buoyant and better at diving. They can quickly blow air out of their lungs and flatten their feathers to expel air within their plumage, so they can dive quickly and swim fast underwater. Once below the surface, the loon's heart slows down to conserve oxygen.
7. Migrating Common Loons occasionally land on wet highways or parking lots, mistaking them for rivers and lakes. They become stranded without a considerable amount of open water for a long takeoff. A loon may also get

- stranded on a pond that is too small.
8. The Common Loon is flightless for a few weeks after molting all of its wing feathers at the same time in midwinter.

stay there for the next two years. In the third year, young loons return north, although they may not breed for several more years (on average they are six years old when they start breeding).



9. Like many young birds, juvenile loons are really on their own after mom and dad leave at about 12 weeks. The parents head off on migration in the fall, leaving juveniles to gather into flocks on northern lakes and make their own journey south a few weeks later. Once the juveniles reach coastal waters on the ocean, they
10. The oldest recorded Common Loon was a female, and at least 29 years old, 10 months old when she was spotted in Michigan in 2016 and identified by her band. She had been banded in the same state in 1989.

Source: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Moose Pond Web Master Wanted!

FEELING CREATIVE? LOVE MOOSE POND? HAVE SOME WEB SKILLS?

Please consider helping us maintain the moosepondassociation.org website. We currently use WordPress to populate our content. Updates are relatively easy and include the following:

- Date of annual meeting (determined by Board)
- Board member names and pictures (Supplied by Board)
- Board meeting notes (supplied by Secretary)
- Courtesy Boat Inspector statistics
- Newsletter, LEA reports, Loon counts
- Pictures
- Other items of interest

We have the support of Scott Rowley Associates who created our site for questions or any hurdles you might encounter. You can do the minimum or let your artistic side shine. We would just love any help you could give. **Thank you!**



«NAME»
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BRIDGTON, ME 04009



PHOTO BY NANCY CAMPBELL



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MOOSE POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

DATE _____

I wish to contribute to the Moose Pond Association in the following category

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 \$50 FAMILY

\$100 MOOSE POND SUPPORTER
 \$500 MOOSE POND CUSTODIAN

\$1000 MOOSE POND BENEFATOR
 \$_____ OTHER AMOUNT

Moose Pond Association is a tax-exempt 501c3 Non-Profit corporation (U.S. Federal Tax ID# 27-0519466).
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Will you allow us to add your name(s) to our Web site as contributors to Moose Pond Association? Only names will be listed.

YES NO

Please make checks payable to "Moose Pond Association."

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Moose Pond Association

PO Box 674

Bridgton, ME 04009

Or go to the MPA website to pay by credit card.