



On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter/Spring 2006

"We otter have clean water"

Join the *Friends* today and help to:

Save Our Shed

Inside this Issue!

2006 Maine Milfoil Summit	2
AmeriCorps*NCCC News	3
Volunteer Opportunities	3
Donor Thanks	4
More Donor Thanks	5
Educational Updates	6
The OTTER II	6
W.A.T.C.H.	7
Spring & Summer Programs	7
Job Openings	8

Wash Station Plans on Track

LL Bean Funded Guidebook Unveiled at Milfoil Summit



(L-R) Executive Director's Peter Lowell (LEA), Bob Moore (Friends) and Maggie Shannon (Maine COLA) display copies of the Boat Wash Station "How-to" Guidebook at the Maine Milfoil Summit held on March 3 at USM-Lewiston. In addition to the guidebook, L.L. Bean awarded funds to the Friends for the construction of a model wash station at Norcross Point in Winthrop (scheduled for May, 2006 completion) and additional 'seed' grants available to others (through the Friends) for the construction of additional wash station units.

Another weapon in the battle against Invasive Aquatic Plants (IAP) is now available. Hot off the press, the anxiously-awaited "How to build a Boat Wash Station" guide was unveiled on March 3 at the Maine Milfoil Summit, held at the University of Maine's Lewiston campus.

Wash stations are not new - the Midwest has installed several variations to assist with efforts in controlling Eurasian watermilfoil and the dreaded zebra mussel. In the Bridgton, ME area alone, five stations (all different) have been installed by local lake associations or towns, with assistance provided from the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA). But until now, a self-help book that documented "lessons-learned" and provided helpful recommendations simply did not exist.

With a grant provided from L.L. Bean, the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed contracted with the LEA to jointly develop a "how-to" guide. Five hundred copies of the guidebook were printed, with 150 copies distributed at the Summit alone! Additional copies of the free booklet are available through the offices of the Friends, LEA or the Maine Congress of Lakes Association, or can be downloaded from the Friends website. FMI and/or links to our partners, go to www.watershedfriends.com

Additional Seed Grants Available!!

Interested in building a Wash Station on your lake? L.L. Bean has provided additional funds to the Friends to aid construction of additional units. Go to www.watershedfriends.com to download an application.



"On the Water" is printed on recycled paper.

ENTER L.L. BEAN!

7th Maine Milfoil Summit Recap

Some Good (and bad) News to Report!

The 7th Annual Maine Milfoil Summit was held on Friday, March 3 at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston campus. Nearly 150 attendees heard from keynote speaker and new Maine DEP Commissioner David Littell. Littell heads the state agency that has the primary duty of protecting our environment, with much of his work centered on keeping our lakes, ponds and rivers clean and free from toxic pollutants and the spread of invasive aquatic plants.

By the end of 2005, 26 Maine waters had documented infestations from at least one of the 11 most unwanted non-native invasive plants. Between 2001 and 2004, at least one new infestation was discovered each year.

The good news: The summer of 2005 was the first year in which no new infestations were found in the Pine Tree State. "It is no accident no more infestations were found," said Littell. "Boat ramp inspections are working, and more and more of the public is becoming educated on the threat of this plant invasion."

Last year, 350 trained courtesy boat inspectors checked more than 40,000 watercraft entering or leaving the state's waters, with nearly 3,000 of those inspections occurring within the Cobbossee Watershed. These inspectors found, on at least five occasions, invasive plants attached to boats or pieces of boating equipment that were ready to be launched into uninfested waters. These plant fragments were removed before any harm could be done.



Friends Executive Director Bob Moore addresses attendees at the 2006 Maine Milfoil Summit on the topic of Courtesy Boat Inspectors - "Recruiting & Retaining Volunteers".

One of the five "catches" was by our own CBI Buffy DeMatteis, who on Labor Day last year prevented a boat with variable-leaf milfoil from entering Woodbury Pond.

The bad news: Said Littell, "Although boat inspections at launch ramps are key and have been successful, there remains a major obstacle. Maine has more than 6,000 lakes and ponds, while courtesy boat inspections are only taking place on 66 lakes and ponds and one river. This effort still has a long way to go."

"Invasive plant infestations will not go away," continued Littell. "Volunteers are not only helpful in this long battle, but essential." Preventing the introduction of these plants is by far the best choice for long-term control, because eliminating them once a water body is infested is difficult, expensive and often not very effective.

In addition to Littell, Summit attendees heard from Major Greg Sanborn and the Maine Warden Service's enforcement plans and a variety of presenters on such topics as:

- 2006 CBI Cost-Share Grants - Peter Lowell, Lakes Environmental Association
- 2006 Plant Patrol Workshops - Roberta Hill, Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants
- Survey Results, Funding, Rapid Response & the use of Herbicides - John McPhedran, Maine DEP
- Recruiting & Retaining CBI Volunteers - Bob Moore, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed
- Regionalism for Resources & Efficiency - Maggie Shannon, Maine COLA
- Making Sense of Boat Inspector Scheduling - Rebecca Kurtz, Rangeley Lakes Association
- Secrets of Bottom Barriers & Suction Harvesting - Jim Chandler, Community Lakes Association & Scott Lowell, Little Sebago Lake Association
- Boat Wash Stations: "How-to" Guidebook & LL. Bean Grants - Bob Moore & Peter Lowell

Organized by Peter Lowell of the Lakes Environmental Association, this year's Summit was co-sponsored by Maine Congress of Lakes Association, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants, Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute, Portland Water District and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

AMERICORPS*NCCC- Is 2006 the end?

2007 Budget Cuts Call For Eliminating Entire Program



Over the past 3 years, the Cob-bossee Watershed has benefited greatly from AmeriCorps*NCCC.



Most of you are aware of the profound impact that AmeriCorps*NCCC has had on the Friends organization. Since 2003, when 11 young adults from across the country landed on our doorstep, our organization has not been quite the same. Additional teams arrived in '04 and '05, and their contributions are nothing short of sensational:

- Dozens of projects lessening erosion and pollutants from entering the Cobbossee Watershed waters.
- Hundreds of boat inspections helping to limit the spread of invasive aquatic plants in our waters.
- Assisting with dozens of children's programs and community events furthering our outreach objectives.

Go to www.savennccc.org and www.cns.gov to learn more about the accomplishments and status of NCCC.

David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National & Community Service announced recently that in order to meet the FY2007 budget of \$851.5M for his department (\$48.5M < 2006), he has recommended eliminating the entire AmeriCorps*NCCC program, which would equate to nearly 1/2 of the total savings required. Since beginning in 1994, AmeriCorps*NCCC has provided over 10,000 youth with a 10-month "commitment to community" experience that has benefited thousands of community-based organizations like the Friends.



WANT TO HELP OUT?

Volunteer opportunities abound!

Did you know that the Friends Courtesy Boat Inspection program saw volunteer hours increase from 113 in 2004 to over 750 hours in 2005?! Volunteers are the lifeblood of any successful non-profit organization, providing the necessary labor and talents that enable one to carry out their mission. As our membership continues to grow along with the services and programs offered, our need for volunteers continues to grow as well. FMI, please call us at 621-4100 or go to our website at www.watershedfriends.com under the <Membership> <How to Help> icons.

- Slow-the-Flow PlayDays - Like working with kids?
- Courtesy Boat Inspections - Want to keep mil-foil out?
- Invasive Plant Patrols - Do you like to canoe/ kayak?
- IAP Barrier Installation - Pleasant Pond follow-up
- 5K Road Race - Registration, finish line, food & drink
- Office Support - Computer skills, clerical, bookkeeping
- Volunteer Management - Recruiting & scheduling
- Other - Any other talents that you're willing to share?



2005 Financial Supporters - Many Thanks!

When the Board of Directors elected to eliminate membership fees at the start of 2003, some wondered if the strategy was a bit risky. After all, how would we be able to support operations, expand programs, and sustain our mission?

As the list below and on the accompanying page indicates, our initial belief is validated - that by offering programs and projects that have real, tangible results, financial support would follow. The Friends exist solely due to the interest and involvement that you - our members - have demonstrated on the issues and our associated initiatives. With deep gratitude, we offer our sincere thanks to the hundreds of individuals, businesses and organizations who have provided financial support since we began in 2002. Following are those who contributed to our 2005 operations and annual support .

Otter Level (\$5,000+)

AmeriCorps*NCCC (*In-Kind*)
 AmeriCorps*State (*In-Kind*)
 L.L. Bean
 Allen & Joan Bildner
 Charlie's Motor Mall (*In-Kind*)
 Clark Marine (*In-Kind*)
 Todd Johnson
 J.S. McCarthy (*In-Kind*)
 Rockingham Lodge
 H. Allen & Dianne Ryan
 Schiff Marketing (*In-Kind*)
 Jerry & Elaine Snider
 Andrew Escoll & Tina Snider
 Ed Snider
 Jay & Terry Snider
 Transco Office Solutions (*In-Kind*)
 Unity Foundation

Beaver Level (\$2,500+)

Boat U.S. Foundation
 Kennebec Savings Bank
 MacDonald Page (*In-Kind*)
 Lindy Snider

Osprey Level (\$1,000+)

Adept Screen Print (*In-Kind*)
 Caper's Catering (*In-Kind*)
 Charlie's Toyota
 Conrad & Lois Ayotte (*In-Kind*)
 DR Struck (*In-Kind*)
 G&E Roofing
 Todd & Laurie Gifford
 Liz & Steven Goldstone
 Harold H. Goldberg Fund
 Jeff Timm
 Vallee Real Estate

Loon Level (\$500+)

Mary Blouin
 Paul & JoEllen Cottrell
 Facial & Oral Surgery
 Hershey Ice Cream (*In-Kind*)
 Jon Knowles (*In-Kind*)
 Maine Office of GIS (*In-Kind*)
 Jack & Jane Manheimer
 Jim Newton & Cynthia Winne
 Royal Car Wash (*In-Kind*)
 Ken & Mary Smith
 Bill & Lesley Sprague

Heron Level (\$250+)

Bruce & Kathy Beatty
 John & Charlene Bridge
 Capitol Computers (*In-Kind*)
 David & Kaye Flanagan
 Coca-Cola (*In-Kind*)
 Ileen Forcine
 John & Pat Gannett
 Winston & Christine Kipp
 Lakeside Motel / Marina (*In-Kind*)
 Bob & Susan Moore
 Paul Rucha & Jen Smith
 Jack & Anita Smart
 Rick & Cyndie Smart
 Craig & Beth Snider
 Jay & Julie Stewart
 Tacoma Lakes Improv'mnt Society
 Warren & Barbara Winslow

Bass Level (\$100+)

Linda & Brian Adams
 Randall Anderson
 Ed & Laura Atlee
 John & Sonja Babb

BDW Watershed Association
 David & Anita Benoit
 Fred & Lisa Best
 Birches Campground
 Carol Brewster
 Brown Signs (*In-Kind*)
 Scott & Patricia Bullock
 Cornerstone Therapeutics(*In-Kind*)
 Andrew Curtain & Cynthia Cartwright
 Ruth Daggett
 Phil Davis
 David & Vivian Dennett
 Norm & Teresa Elvin
 Line Farr & Terry Harvey
 Percy & Elizabeth Field
 Elaine Fuller
 Neal & Diane Glazier
 Judith Goldberg
 Ben Goodall
 Norman & Shirlene Gosline
 Al & Natalie Graceffa
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 William & Katherine Grussi
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 Mark Penniman & Allison Nagel
 Karl & Nancy Peterson
 PFG-NorthCenter (*In-Kind*)
 Paul & Kathleen Pidgeon
 Pilgrim Lodge
 Roger & Carol Pomerleau
 Buddy & Annie Potts
 Steve & Deb Poulin
 Chuck Ravis
 Grant & Jo Reynolds
 John & Marcia Rizzo
 Norm & Lynne Rodrigue
 Scott & Elaine Schmitz
 Stan & Maureen Sclar
 George & Martha Spann
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 Larry Sterrs
 Shari & Eric Stram
 Rick & Sherry Thacker
 Clyde & Patricia Walton
 Dan Weiss
 Betty West
 Milt Wright
 Darryl & Karen Zeleniak
 Steven & Karen Zembroski

Tadpole Level (\$50+)

Adept Screen Printing
 April Alderson

Kevin & Jennifer Baack	Tom & Brenda Laverdiere	Andy Bosworth & Judy Gates	Paul & Wanda Mansir
Evelyn & Leslie Baker	George & Gail Lee	Beth & Bob Brauer	Norm & Carolyn Manwell
Warren & Christine Bartlett	Mike Levey	Jackie & Richard Camire	Julie Marston
Cynthia Bean	Sylvia Lund	Central Maine Bassmasters	Mike & Betsy Masciarelli
Mike Becker	Ben Lund & Barbara Granville	Diane Clay & Joel Packer	Tom & Katie Mayer
Joline & Lawrence Bell	Manchester Recreation	David & Pam Cline	Cynthia McDonnell
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James & Judith Bromley	Michael & Kathryn O'Donnell	Ron & Jackie Davis	Arlene & Dale Prescott
Jeff & Sandy Brown	David & Marilyn Palmer	Scott & Holly Davis	Wayne & Gerrie Rankin
Bill & Barbara Buck	Larry & Nancy Perkins	Wes Davis	Ralph & Kathleen Record
Gary & Carolyn Burns	David & Shirley Petherbridge	Mike & Gail D'Errico	Ed & Sue Reinke
Jerry Casey & Patrice Putman-Casey	Bill Pond	Linda Dodd	Tom & Nancy Robustelli
Don & Haeja Chai	Peter & Sandra Prescott	Rick & Sheila Dorey	Roger & Deborah Rocque
Sheila Comerford & Stephen Gove	Bob & Carolyn Purrington	Kevin & Deanna Doyle	Dana & Elda Sanborn
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	Bob Baudo	Ken & Vera Lincoln	Dale Winters & Bonnie Beach
	Leland & Elizabeth Bickford	Steven & Lori Long	
	Dina Blodgett & Sandra Smith	Doug & Nancy Ludewig	

Winters Off?? - Not For Watershed Education!!

School Program Offerings Continue To Expand

Education Director Sarah Rodgers knows watershed education is sometimes better understood outside of the classroom. The OTTER as a learning tool has certainly proved that - but other opportunities exist as well.

Seventh grade students in Litchfield plan to install a water bar and vegetated buffer at the Woodbury Pond boat launch to reduce runoff from the dirt road. After assessing the runoff problem during a fall field trip, students obtained municipal and state approval to proceed. The work will be partially funded by a \$1,000 educational grant supplied by the Maine DEP. Planning continues - Who will dig the trench? What kinds of plants should be used? Where will other materials come from?

Check back later this spring on our progress!



(Above) 3rd grade students at the T.C. Hamlin School in Randolph use a watershed model to observe the effects of non-point source pollution. In nearby Gardiner, the end-point of the Cobbossee Watershed is formed where Cobbossee Stream empties into the Kennebec River.

(Below) 8th grade students at St. Mary's in Augusta use aerial photographs to pinpoint locations of non-point source pollution within the CW. The maps, provided by the Maine Office of GIS, was the final session of a 4-part series which introduced students to local water quality issues and concerns.



WANT THE FRIENDS IN YOUR SCHOOL OR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM?

From a single lesson to a year-round watershed-based curriculum, the Friends stand ready to serve. Though school classrooms are the most popular programs (teachers please call to set something up!), homeschool groups, afterschool care, and almost any other children's venue is a possibility.

Contact Education Director Sarah Rodgers at 621-4100 or email her at sarah@watershedfriends.com to learn more about programs available to match your specific needs.

HERE COMES THE "OTTER II"!

New Boat to Accommodate Increased Educational Needs

The "OTTER", the Friends 20' ice cream pontoon boat, is one of the areas most recognizable and loved vessels. Christened in 2002, the OTTER has provided information, ice cream and programs to thousands on waters within the of Cobbossee Watershed and by participating in numerous area community events.

With program growth continuing to explode, we have upgraded to a boat that will handle 14 passengers vs. the current nine. Thanks to the continued support of Clark Marine, a new 22' Avalon pontoon boat, the "OTTER II" will debut this spring. Thanks also to Doug Ide and Carol Saunders, proud owners of the original OTTER.

Though the original OTTER will still be around, the OTTER II will better meet the increasing needs of popular programs like Tadpole Patrol, STF Play Days and other education initiatives.



W.A.T.C.H. - More Updates on Education

(Watershed Awareness - Teaching Children How)

"That's gross! You mean, I might be drinking 'garbage juice' or gasoline chemicals?!"

Litchfield 5th graders and Monmouth 5th/6th graders have been busy with many watershed ecology lessons, recently focusing on learning in-depth about the different types of pollutants (toxins, nutrients, bacteria, and soil) that degrade water quality. Groundwater models and surface runoff demonstrations helped students to visually see how pollution from our backyards, landfills, parking lots, and lawns can easily end up contaminating the water supply if we're not careful.

Outside of the classroom

Watershed ecology was the topic of games and activities for children during **February Vacation Camp** held at the Kennebec Valley YMCA's Augusta campus.

Children aged 6-9 had fun learning about many different animals that depend on clean water (loons, moose, and frogs were the most popular!), discovering different methods of camouflage and how to escape from "predators", and found out how hard it would be if you were a great blue heron!

Sarah Rodgers
Education Director



Sometimes science can be cold and wet!

In the months since our last newsletter, students from Monmouth's high school ecology class joined together with a group of 5th and 6th graders to venture into Wilson Stream during the brisk days of November. In small groups scattered along the stream, we used kick nets to collect aquatic insects from the stream - caddisflies (and the little pebble "houses" they cover themselves in) were abundant! The high schoolers were able to teach the younger students about how different stream characteristics affect what kinds of insects will be found. We brought our samples back to the classroom and sorted the invertebrates into different groups. Notebook sketches of these insects were pretty impressive! *A huge crayfish was the most popular catch of the day*, and all the critters were returned to their home in Wilson Stream.

Upcoming Spring & Summer Programs

Some Old, Some New, Some Borrowed...Never Blue!

- **LakeSmart-Start!** - Popular program offering free 'landscape-friendly' consultation services returns for the second year. Sponsored by **DR Struck** (once again offering a 15% discount on all shrubs and plants to participants) and **Hillier & Associates, Inc.**, a full-service engineering firm that offers landscaping architect services to those property owners wanting a detailed, coordinated plan.
- **Slow-the-Flow** - With high demand, this program offers waterfront property owners design and build services at no cost, paying for materials only. In 3 years, 75 projects have been completed protecting 1.75 miles of shoreline.
- **Mil-Foiler** - looking to spend some time in the beautiful outdoors while also helping to protect the Cobbossee Watershed from invasive aquatic plants? Courtesy Boat Inspectors & Plant Patrolters is your calling!!
- **Tadpole Patrol & STF PlayDays** - in three years, over 1,000 kids have experienced this unique educational offering. This summer, we look to double our attendance to 1,000 kids this year alone! Stay tuned for details.
- **4th Annual "Friends on the 4th" 5K Road Race** - Sponsored by **Vallee Real Estate & Kennebec Savings**, over 300 runners are anticipated for this year's race, making it the largest 5K race in central Maine.



LOOKING FOR AN ENGAGING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHILDREN DURING APRIL VACATION WEEK?

Stay tuned for details about our April Vacation Camp being offered for children in grades 3-5. A great way to get outside and explore nature, have lots of fun, and learn about protecting our environment.

FRIENDS MISSION STATEMENT

"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

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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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mail@watershedfriends.com
www.watershedfriends.com

Summer Job Openings - Program Directors Needed!

In conjunction with the AmeriCorps program administered through the Training Resource Center in Portland, the *Friends* are looking to fill Program Director positions for our "Slow-the-Flow" and "Mil-Foiler" programs. Both of these AmeriCorps positions require a 900 hour commitment, with the successful applicants usually working April - September. FMI, contact Steve Niles at 775-5891 x425 or via the web at www.trcme.com, or contact Bob Moore of the Friends at 621-4100 or via email at mail@watershedfriends.com. Visit our website at www.watershedfriends.com to view the full job postings.

"Slow-the-Flow"

The successful candidate will supervise our Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), who perform erosion control and shoreline stabilization projects throughout the Cobbossee Watershed. This year's YCC staff is anticipated to be staffed by a contingent of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) volunteers along with area high school students.



2005 Program Director Crystal Hitchings installing rip-rap with AmeriCorps members.

The Program Director will also be responsible for our "LakeSmart-Start!" program, which offers free "landscape" consultation services to residents in the areas of buffer plantings, water retention devices and erosion control procedures.

"Mil-Foiler"

The successful candidate will be responsible for our efforts in fighting the threat of Invasive Aquatic Plants:

- Administering the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program, including the recruiting, training and scheduling of volunteers and paid staff.
- Expanding and administering the volunteer Invasive Plant Patrol program.
- Coordinating an invasive plant bottom barrier installation project on Pleasant Pond in Litchfield, part of the Cobbossee Watershed
- All other initiatives associated with IAP's.



2005 Program Director Stefany Gregoire with milfoil buoy installation on Pleasant Pond.