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Dear [Short Salutation],

Happy spring! After a long, snowy winter, the snow is melting and within a few weeks ice-out will be here on our lakes and ponds.

As we gear up for our field season, with hiring summer staff, lining up YCC projects and more, it's also a good time for you to observe how runoff from snowmelt and spring rains are impacting your property. Whether you are having erosion issues in your yard or troubles with your camp road, we're here to help. Read on to learn about our resources that may help you protect your property, save money, and keep our lakes and ponds clean and healthy.

Best,

Lidie Robbins, Executive Director

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## We Are Hiring!

*Seeking applicants for summer and year-round positions*



**Program Assistant:** Support a wide variety of activities across all programs, including communications, fundraising, courtesy boat inspections, and special events. Must be a strong communicator, well-organized and dedicated to our mission. The position is based out of our office in Farmington. Year-round, part-time. Applications due **March 31st**.

**Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Crew Members:** Protect and improve water quality in our lakes through completing projects that reduce erosion and sources of polluted stormwater runoff, such as planting vegetated buffers, mulching pathways, and installing infiltration steps. Engage in a fun, outdoor, team experience while providing a

valuable service to the community by protecting our lakes. 6 weeks from July-August, 3 days/week. Note: YCC and CBI positions may be combined for full-time work. Applications due **April 9th**.

**Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI):** Be part of the “first line of defense” against invasive aquatic plants, preventing plant fragments found hitchhiking on boats, gear and trailers from entering our lakes. Search for invasive plant fragments, educate boaters and raise awareness of the impact of invasive species in our community, all while spending time at beautiful lakeside locations. Part-time, Memorial Day-Labor Day. Applications due **April 9th**.



For full job descriptions and application information, visit <http://30mileriver.org/get-involved/employment/>.

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## Mud Season Tips

### *Protect your camp road and our lakes*

Mud season – the process of thawing frozen ground – is an annual nuisance. The posting of some public roads with bright red signs serves as a reminder of temporary weight restrictions placed on heavy truck loads travelling over roads with dangerous frost and thawing conditions. Also, some private gravel roads become impassable and accrue expensive repairs during this



season. What causes the variety of mud season damages that occur on gravel roads used year round? Snowmelt and rainfall cannot penetrate the frozen soil. Instead, it puddles against snowbanks and overflows across the hard frozen ground surface, running downhill as storm water runoff. Depending on the duration and intensity of runoff, numerous rills and gullies are formed and create concentrated flows that displace soil. This water-soil slurry can move long distances and ultimately reach lakes, streams and other waters. The slurry contains soil particles laden with phosphorus, a major pollutant that leads to unwanted algal blooms.

### **How can you fix the mud season problem?**

- 1) Photograph the damaged site immediately.
- 2) As the thawing process permits, redirect the runoff off the road travel way and into the roadside ditches.
- 3) Keep culverts and ditches free of debris.
- 4) Trim back roadside tree branches to let in more winter sunlight/heat.
- 5) Add more culverts and ditch turnouts to better apportion runoff.
- 6) Upgrade the gravel road surface with a coarse gravel blanket and crown graded shape.
- 7) Minimize travel, especially by heavy vehicles.

See the article below for technical assistance resources available for road associations.

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## **Funding for Your Road Association**

***Matching funds for technical assistance – Deadline April 30th***

Does your camp road association need guidance in knowing how to spend money in the right areas and how to reduce long-term maintenance costs? Do you want to know how to better protect your investment and your lake? Thanks to a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, we have partnered with the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District to offer camp road management plans at half price! These management plans will identify existing sources of erosion on your camp road, outline Best Management Practices (BMPs) and maintenance recommendations, and provide estimates and guidance for prioritizing the work. Better camp road management will not only save you money in the long run but result in better water quality in our lakes.

If you're interested in applying for a matching grant, please contact Lidie at [lidie@30mileriver.org](mailto:lidie@30mileriver.org). The deadline for applications is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Funds are limited, so don't delay.

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## **Erosion Problems on Your Property?**

***Sign up for a free YCC site visit***

Once the snow has melted and water is running across your property, it's the perfect time to look for erosion issues that could be harming the water quality of your lake. We're here to help! Our Youth Conservation Corps provides erosion control measures and sustainable landscaping on our lakeshores at a reduced cost. We are now accepting project requests for the upcoming YCC Season. Common projects include infiltration steps (shown here), vegetated buffers, roof dripline trenches, mulched pathways and driveway water diverters. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or email [steward@30mileriver.org](mailto:steward@30mileriver.org).



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## **New Kayaking Program to Explore Our Waters**

***Donate your unused kayak and help local kids get out on our lakes***



This summer, we are launching a new paddling program to give more people a chance to get on the water and experience the beauty of our watershed. Knowing that many people don't have an easy way to access our lakes and ponds, our program will provide opportunities to experience the watershed in a new way – by kayak. With our trailer of kayaks, our staff will travel to waters throughout our watershed providing free programs for youth, families and the general public.

**Do you have an extra kayak that doesn't get used?** Please consider donating or lending it to us and we will put it to good use! Contact Lidie at [lidie@30mileriver.org](mailto:lidie@30mileriver.org) for more information.

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## Are You Ready for Big Night?

*The biggest amphibian migration of the year is coming soon*

During our Maine winters, amphibians are hibernating in the mud at the bottom of ponds or underneath logs and leaf litter. During the first warm rains of spring, after the ground has thawed and when temperatures rise above 40 °F, the mass exodus of frogs, toads, and salamanders - or "Big Night" - begins. On Big Night these amphibians migrate from their winter homes to vernal pools, which are shallow depressions in the ground that contain water for only part of the year and are vital breeding habitat for amphibians.

The journey from hibernating to breeding is a long and strenuous one during which amphibians must often cross several roads. Unfortunately, it is very difficult for us to see amphibians crossing while driving, as they tend to look like blowing leaves, sticks, or rocks.



What can you do to protect amphibians during Big Night? Stay off the road. If you need to drive, drive slowly so you can spot amphibians prior to hitting them. If you start seeing live or dead amphibians on the road, pull over until the crossing is finished.

To learn more about Big Night, [click here](#).

Photo of an Eastern Newt by the Lemon Bay Conservancy

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## Welcome to Our Environmental Steward

### Meet Lawson Jaffe

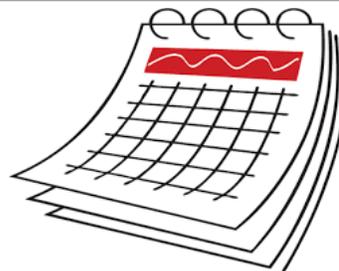
Lawson is our 2019 Environmental Steward through AmeriCorps and the Maine Conservation Corps. He will be serving with us until November, leading our Youth Conservation Corps and monitoring water quality. Lawson is a recent graduate of the University of Florida with degrees in Biology and Economics. Studying abroad in New Zealand, interning at the Florida Aquarium, tutoring elementary school-aged children, and serving as an ambassador for the University of Florida Dean of Students' Office sparked his passion for environmental service. A native of Tampa, Florida, Lawson is enjoying living in Maine and becoming a part of the community. Arriving in January, he survived the Maine winter by purchasing his first snow shovel, winter tires, and warm clothing. He is proud to be at the 30 Mile River Watershed Association and looking forward to making a positive impact on the environment.



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## Save the Dates

- **Friday, July 5th: 9th Annual Classical Meets**  
*Pop* concert and fireworks at the Mount Vernon Community Center, featuring alumni musicians from NPR's *From the Top*. More details to come.
- **Saturday, July 27th: 11th Annual Paddle Trek!** This group paddle from Mount Vernon Village to Wayne Village is an adventure that folks look forward to year after year. Paddle all 15 miles, or just a portion. More details to come.



The 30 Mile River Watershed Association's mission is to preserve, improve, and protect the land and water quality of our watershed. Individuals like you play a critical role in keeping our conservation programs running, and we greatly appreciate any support you can give. Donations can be made [online](#) or sent to:

30 Mile River Watershed Association  
PO Box 132  
Mount Vernon, ME 04352

Visit our website at [www.30mileriver.com](http://www.30mileriver.com) or find us on [Facebook](#)

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