



## News from the 30 Mile River Watershed Association

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During the COVID-19 health crisis, we are continuing to work as a community for clean and healthy lakes, ponds and streams in our watershed. As more people are eager to get outdoors this season, our mission is as important as ever.

To do our part in keeping our communities safe, we have adapted our programs as needed as you will read below. Our staff continue to work from home, and you can [reach us via email](#).

Wherever you are, we hope you are able to get outside and enjoy nature!

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### Our Courtesy Boat Inspectors are back!

Boating season has begun and on Memorial Day weekend we kicked off the summer season with the return of our Courtesy Boat Inspectors!

Invasive species pose a serious threat to our lakes and ponds in the watershed and boat inspections are an essential first line of defense. With the sunny, warm weather,



boat launches were busy, and on this first weekend our team of six staff conducted 157 courtesy boat inspections at four launches from Vienna to Wayne. During these challenging and unique times, the safety of boaters and our staff is our top priority, so this season we have made some changes to our protocols, following guidance from the CDC and the Maine DEP, such as wearing masks, keeping physical distance, and not

touching boats or equipment.

If you launch your boat without a CBI present, please remember to do your part to protect our waters from invasive plants and animals and clean, drain, and dry. Clean plant debris, mud and algae from all boating and fishing gear and dispose of it in the trash or on high, dry ground where there is no danger of it washing into the water. Drain the live well, bilge water and engine water away from the water body. Dry anything that comes into contact with the water. Drying your boat, trailer and equipment in the sun for at least five days is recommended if rinsing your boat, trailer parts and other equipment with hot, high pressure water is not an option.

[Click here](#) to learn more about our Courtesy Boat Inspection program.

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## Critical Project on Sandy River Road to Protect Parker Pond

*Chesterville Residents Vote Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>*

At Chesterville's annual town meeting on Monday, June 1st, residents will vote on funding to complete a critical culvert project on the Sandy River Rd. 30MRWA has already been awarded \$175,000 in grant funding for this project; the town must now raise matching funds.

This stream crossing on the Sandy River Road has been a chronic problem for many years. The stream connects the outlet of David Pond with Parker Pond. In 2011, during our Parker Pond watershed survey, this site was identified as one of the highest impact erosion sites on the lake.

The road sits on the remnants of the old Bachelder's Mill, a saw and grist mill. The road shoulders are nearly vertical and have been collapsing and eroding into the stream for many years, threatening Parker's water quality and posing a hazard to the public.

The culverts are a barrier to fish passage, severely undersized, clog easily and cannot accommodate a 100-year flood event or larger storms associated with climate change. It is estimated that the culvert/crossing will completely fail, collapse or wash out within the next 1-3 years.



*Over the past several months, 30MRWA applied for and was awarded two grants to support the project:*

- \$95,000 provided by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for Stream Crossing Public Infrastructure Improvements Projects
- \$80,000 provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA

The project includes replacing the current structure with a substantially larger capacity, open bottom structure spanning the stream, designed to handle 100-year flood peak flows, for an estimated cost of \$307,800. With \$175,000 covered by the grants, the town will be responsible for the remaining \$132,800. Beyond the benefits to Parker Pond, the project will have many benefits to the Town, including public safety, protecting public infrastructure, and protecting the tax base.

If you are a Chesterville resident, we hope you will come support this Monday night, **June 1 at 7:00 PM at the Chesterville Fire Department**. If this project is not completed now with grant funds, it will need to be in the future without grant funds. This opportunity will likely never come again.

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## Program and Event Updates

**Invasive Plant Patrol:** Searching for invasive aquatic plants is a perfect solo activity and plant surveys will continue this year. If you're interested in joining one of the lake teams in our watershed, please contact us.

**LakeSmart:** Teams of trained volunteers will be conducting property visits on Androscoggin Lake, Parker Pond and David Pond beginning in June. The Lovejoy Pond team will conduct visits as they are able. Due to COVID-19, there is a new opportunity available this year called "LakeSmart Start" for landowners to take the first step in evaluating their own properties.



**Water Quality Monitoring:** Our monitoring began in May and current data on water clarity, dissolved oxygen and temperature are on our website.

**Youth Conservation Corps:** Due to COVID-19, we will not be completing any YCC projects this summer. However, we are continuing to take [project requests](#) and will be planning projects for the summer of 2021. We will be conducting site evaluations later this summer.

**Paddle Trek:** Due to COVID-19, this year's Paddle Trek has been canceled. Stay tuned for other opportunities that will be announced this summer.

**Classical Meets Pop Concert:** Due to COVID-19, this year's July 4th concert has been canceled. It may be rescheduled for September.

For more information on our programs, visit our website or contact [lidie@30mileriver.org](mailto:lidie@30mileriver.org).

## Events

### **Gravel Road Evaluation & Maintenance Workshop, Bridgton**

Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Hosted by Lakes Environmental Association

### **Wakeboats: Concerns and Solutions for Potential Lake Degradation**

Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM

Free webinar hosted by the Maine Lakes Society

### **LakeSmart 2020: Q and A for Evaluators and Coordinators**

Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM

Free webinar hosted by the Maine Lakes Society

### **Maine Lakes Society's Annual Meeting with keynote: Lake Citizen Science: Tools, Opportunities & Challenges**

Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM (via Zoom)

### **Parker Pond Association Annual Meeting**

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> (via Zoom, details TBA)

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## Why Donate?

These are challenging times and we know that for many, giving at this time may be difficult. If you can, please consider a gift today to support our ongoing work.

New law change for tax-deductible contributions: Under the CARES Act, taxpayers who do not itemize can now take a deduction for up to \$300 in charitable contributions.



[Donate Today](#)

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