



Annual Report 2021



Working as a community for clean and healthy lakes,
ponds, and streams in our watershed



New Challenges

30 Mile began in 2008, largely in response to the growing threat of invasive aquatic plants. As the years passed, more and more lakes just outside our watershed became infested. At the same time, nearby lakes bloomed green with toxic algae. While neighboring watersheds dealt with these big challenges, our work continued to focus on prevention – keeping out invasives and reducing phosphorus that leads to algal blooms.

In the fall of 2020, invasive variable watermilfoil was discovered in Androscoggin Lake – the first time an invasive aquatic plant had been found in our watershed. Then in the late summer of 2021, Androscoggin also suffered a lakewide algal bloom that turned the lake pea-soup green. This crisis on Androscoggin poses a threat not only to Androscoggin, but to the whole watershed.

To tackle these problems, while rebounding from the pandemic, 2021 needed to be a year of big growth for 30 Mile. To ramp up, we added two year-round staff members, hired more boat inspectors than ever before, and created two new seasonal positions to survey for invasive milfoil.

In the pages that follow, you will see highlights of what you made possible with your incredible support. Thanks to you and our generous community of donors, volunteers and partners, 30 Mile is now stronger than ever. You have been there when we've needed you and our success is your success.

We now look forward to another year of enjoying time outside in this beautiful place and working hard for clean and healthy lakes.

With appreciation,

Lidie Robbins
Executive Director



Andy Tolman
2021 Board Chair



Tom Ward
2022 Board Chair



30 Mile Staff, 2021

Lidie Robbins
Executive Director

Whitney Baker
Program Manager

Lori Putnam
Development Director

Sonya Clark
Administrative Assistant

Frank Chin
Courtesy Boat Inspection
Program Coordinator

**Courtesy Boat Inspectors
(staff only):** Theo Cerami,
Gus Cooke, Tom Davis,
Remi French, John Knapp,
Silas Mohlar, Bridget Reusch,
Moriah Reusch, Brynne
Robbins & Maggie Stokes

Milfoil Survey Team: Maggie
Stokes & Silas Mohlar

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30 Mile Taking Action

All of our programs promote long-term sustainable change, either working directly to protect the natural environment or providing recreational and educational opportunities that foster stewardship.



Two lakes added to water quality monitoring program in its sixth season

In 2021, we expanded our water quality monitoring by 33%, adding Androscoggin Lake and Flying Pond to our program. Monitoring **eight lakes and ponds** on our five-month, bi-weekly schedule, May through October, we **completed nearly 100 sampling events throughout the season!** We worked alongside 37 volunteers who assisted us with data collection and on-lake transportation. Water quality reports are available at 30mileriver.org/water-quality-monitoring/.

100 sampling events completed on 8 lakes and ponds

Androscoggin ▪ Basin ▪ David Flying ▪ Lovejoy ▪ Minnehonk Parker ▪ Pocasset

Algal Bloom on Androscoggin Lake

In 2021, Androscoggin Lake experienced its first lakewide algal bloom in 20 years. The bloom turned the lake green, reduced visibility, and may have been toxic to pets and humans. With localized blooms starting in August, by late September, the lake had officially reached lakewide algal bloom status, which continued through October. By December, the water clarity in the lake had improved only slightly.

As the lake was blooming, we monitored water quality more closely, collecting water quality data and water samples. In 2022, our work to address the bloom and prevent future blooms will continue. We will increase monitoring to document trends and better understand the causes of the bloom; monitor phosphorus levels; and support landowners in reducing polluted runoff. A watershed survey is planned for May 2022 to identify erosion threats to water quality.

Stay up-to-date with our algal bloom response by signing up for our monthly newsletter at 30mileriver.org/newsletter.



More action in 2021

Responding to a crisis: Invasive Milfoil found in Androscoggin Lake

2021 was our first year fighting the infestation of invasive variable watermilfoil discovered on Androscoggin Lake in the fall of 2020. **This is the first invasive aquatic plant infestation in the 30 Mile River Watershed and puts the entire watershed at risk.** Because invasive milfoil grows and spreads rapidly, implementing aggressive, immediate control efforts is critical. Working in partnership with the lake association and Maine DEP, we made great progress throughout the season, surveying the whole lake and removing every invasive plant found until an algal bloom halted our efforts in October. We will continue the fight in 2022.



Milfoil Rapid Response Timeline

May 2021

30 Mile staff began **intensively surveying the infested area** (4-5 days/week), marking each individual milfoil plant found. Every 2-3 weeks, DEP staff carefully **removed the plants by hand.**

August 2021

44 volunteers from Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation's "Eyes on the Water" team, along with 30 Mile staff, **completed a full lake invasive aquatic plant survey** of all the near shore areas where aquatic plants are likely to grow. No other invasive milfoil was found.

July 2021

The Maine DEP and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife ordered a temporary **Surface Use Restriction** in the cove, closing the infested area.

October 2021

Milfoil work was forced to end early when the algal bloom turned the lake green and plants were no longer visible.

May 2022

Our fight against the milfoil will resume with a second full season of survey and removal work, working towards eradication.

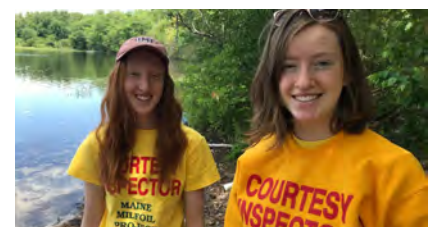
Boat Inspectors are the first line of defense.

2021 was our biggest season ever, in response to the invasive milfoil in Androscoggin. We doubled our **hours of staffing to 2,189** - conducting **2,814 inspections** on four lakes and ponds. Joining our 10 paid staff, this year's team of **11 volunteers** was our largest yet, allowing us to expand our coverage an extra **244 hours.**



2,814

boat inspections performed



Being "LakeSmart" in the 30 Mile River Watershed

LakeSmart is a statewide education and reward program that helps lakefront homeowners manage their properties in ways that protect water quality. The program is free, non-regulatory, and voluntary.

30 Mile is a regional LakeSmart "HUB" support center, helping our lake associations deliver LakeSmart education property-by-property and shore-by-shore to create a conservation ethic across the lake community.

In 2021, our LakeSmart teams completed **20 evaluations**, with four of the evaluated properties receiving LakeSmart awards. We are working to expand the program in 2022, adding more lakes to the program.

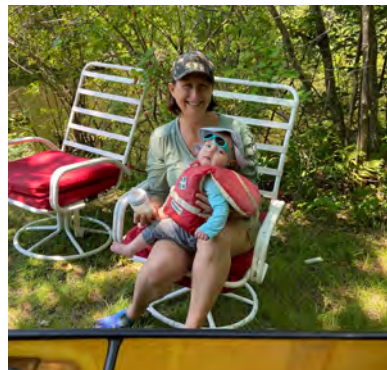
If each homeowner does a little, the sum of many small actions adds up to a lot of lake protection. And being LakeSmart is the place to start! Visit 30mileriver.org/lakesmart to request a free evaluation today.



Sharon & Bob l'Anson receiving their LakeSmart award, the very first certified LakeSmart property on Flying Pond!

The Paddle Trek returns!

After taking a year off due to COVID-19, the 12th Annual Paddle Trek brought together **42 paddlers** of all ages for this beautiful, scenic adventure traveling through **10 picturesque** and distinctly different lakes, ponds, and streams within the watershed, from Mt. Vernon Village to Wayne Village.



Visit us!



30 Mile has a new website!

In the fall of 2021, with input from our community, we launched our new website. We invite you to visit, explore the watershed, and learn more about the impact your support is having keeping our lakes and ponds clean and healthy.

30mileriver.org



Thank you to our 2021 Donors!

Individuals and Businesses

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Evelyn & John Andrew
Androscoggin Wooden Boat Works
Michael & Jennifer Arbour
Jan & Tom Arminio
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Robert & Mary Ellen Arsenault
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 in honor of Tom Ward
 In memory of Kenneth Keniston
 In memory of George Smith
 Anonymous (13)

Foundation and Government Grants

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 Maine Community Foundation
 Onion Foundation
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Coalition Members

Lake Associations

Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation
 Basin-David-Tilton Ponds Association
 Flying Pond Improvement Association
 Greater Minnehonk Lake Association
 Kimball Pond Association
 Lovejoy Pond Improvement Association
 Parker Pond Association
 Pocasset Lake Association

Conservation Organizations

7 Lakes Alliance
 Kennebec Land Trust

Municipalities

Chesterville
 Fayette
 Leeds
 Mount Vernon
 Readfield
 Vienna
 Wayne

Other Partnerships

Lake Stewards of Maine
 Maine Lakes Society

Board or staff members are in bold.

This list of donors reflects gifts received from January 1 to December 31, 2021. It is our intention to recognize all our generous supporters. Please let us know if we have made any errors in compiling this list.

2021 Financial Report

| INCOME | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Individuals | \$134,312 |
| Coalition Members | \$61,507 |
| Grants | \$44,823 |
| Corporations | \$14,333 |
| Special Events | \$1,075 |
| Other | \$3,137 |
| TOTAL | \$259,187 |

| EXPENSES | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Programs | \$180,801 |
| Development | \$50,488 |
| Administration | \$11,266 |
| TOTAL | \$242,555 |

Income exceeding expenses went toward 30 Mile's reserve fund to stabilize finances by providing a cushion against future unexpected events and losses of income.

75% of expenses spent directly on programs

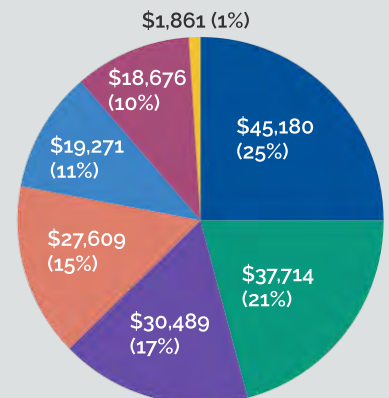
Fundraising Highlights

2021 was our most successful fundraising year ever thanks to you!

430 individual and corporate donors contributed \$148,645 in 2021, exceeding our goal of \$140,000

Dollars raised from individual donors more than **DOUBLED** in just two years.

Program Expenses



- Outreach & Education
- Roads/Erosion Control
- Courtesy Boat Inspections
- YCC & LakeSmart
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Watershed Surveys
- Milfoil Control (Androscoggin)



30 Mile River Watershed Association

P.O. Box 132,
Mt. Vernon, ME 04352

2021 Annual Report

Thank you to our 2021 Volunteers!

Volunteers are a vital part of 30 Mile's team, generously contributing thousands of hours to make this work possible. They fill key roles across all areas of our work, including boat inspections, water quality monitoring, LakeSmart evaluations, invasive plant surveys, watershed surveys, office support, our Board of Directors, and more.



Stay Connected with 30 Mile!

(207) 860-4043
info@30mileriver.org



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date with watershed news:
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