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# PLEASANT | PARKER *Lake | Pond* ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

**Dear Members of the Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Association (PL/PPA) and others who enjoy our lakes:**

December is a logical time to reflect on the past year and anticipate the year coming. 2021 gave Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond a hot June, a wet and cold July, the welcome return of Casco Days, a successful Courtesy Boat Inspection program, good water quality readings, and a reminder of the need to be alert for invasive species of all types.

If you have questions, ideas for new PL/PPA activities or programs, concerns, or anything else to communicate, please email me at [plppassoc@gmail.com](mailto:plppassoc@gmail.com).

See you in 2022!

David Randall,  
*President*  
Pleasant Lake/  
Parker Pond Association



**COURTESY BOAT INSPECTION PROGRAM**

Our 2021 program to inspect boats, trailers, and other personal watercraft for invasive plants ran from Memorial Day through the end of September. Inspectors staffed the Casco ramps serving Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond on weekends and holidays. We reported this inspection information to the State of Maine:

**2021 Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Update**

Lake	# of Inspections	# of Inspections Where Fragments Found	# of Confirmed Invasive Plants	Total Paid Inspector Hours
Pleasant Lake	179	0	0	299
Parker Pond	152	0	0	270
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>569</b>

We performed fewer inspections in 2021 than in 2020, which may be related to July's cold and wet weather. We're pleased that our inspectors found no invasive species. The program would not exist without the invaluable guidance of and administration by Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) in Bridgton.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

The 2022 PL/PPA Annual Meeting will be **Saturday, July 23, 2022, from 9:30-11:00AM.**

Meeting logistics will be provided in the Summer Newsletter (June 2022).



## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Our CBI inspectors found no invasive plant fragments, but we cannot be complacent. In late summer, Association member Rona Fried spotted purple loosestrife growing along the shoreline on the east side of Pleasant Lake in the Casco cove. Members attempted to remove this growth but were hampered by difficulty identifying the plants after their flowers were gone and by high winds that hampered lake access to them. This group of plants was near another growth that Rona identified in 2020, which members Holly and Art LeBlanc subsequently removed.



The presence of more purple loosestrife in the area is a concern. As described on a State of Maine website it is “an attractive but invasive perennial (that) has become established in a wide range of habitats including riverbanks, lake, and pond shores.”

Maine Audubon describes it as a terribly invasive plant that can be found across the country. With tall, pinkish purple racemes it is an unfortunately beautiful plant, but it can quickly take

over swamps and meadows. Without some control, this non-native flower will continue to push out our native flora and create monocultures unsuitable as habitat for other wildlife.

It has an affinity for water --- it’s frequently seen in roadside ditches or highway median strips – but is not always visible to those patrolling for invasive aquatic species in canoes and kayaks. If it is growing on a lakeside bank, then it is on someone’s property. Eradicating it requires the landowner’s approval.

Next spring, we will remove the existing plants, inspect the area for other growth, and provide more information to members about how to identify and remediate this invader. Until then we need to educate ourselves to ensure it does not expand its foothold on our lakes.



## CONTRIBUTIONS TO PL/PPA

For many, calendar year-end is a time to acknowledge those who have enhanced our lives and to support their works financially. One of our fundraising imperatives is to maintain capital reserves that will enable us to respond quickly and effectively to threats to the ambience and quality of Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond. To that end, you can make a charitable contribution by sending a check to Pleasant Lake/ Parker Pond Association, Post Office Box 419, Casco, ME 04015, or by any of the other methods described on our website including an online donation (debit, credit or PayPal) or a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Check here for full details: <https://plppa.org/contribute/>



HAPPY  
*New Year*