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PLEASANT | PARKER *Lake | Pond* ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

Summer has arrived, and with it comes the joy of returning to the waters we all love! As our Association continues its mission to protect and preserve Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond, I want to take a moment to share a few highlights of our ongoing work.

We remain committed to monitoring our waters for aquatic invasive species and water quality—efforts that are critical to keeping our lakes clean, safe, and healthy for future generations. We will be piloting an effort to increase Courtesy Boat Inspections at our boat launches; see inside this newsletter for more info.

You may also notice new and improved signage at our boat ramps this season. These signs are designed to help all visitors and residents better understand and follow Maine's waterway rules, including important reminders about no-wake zones and invasive species prevention.

This year, we're deepening our partnership with the Maine Warden Service. Together, we're working to increase Warden visibility in our area and provide helpful education to support compliance with conservation laws. Their presence and collaboration will be a valuable asset in keeping our community informed and our waterways protected.

Finally, we're continuing our outreach by distributing helpful resources—both in print and online—to make sure everyone has access to the information they need to enjoy and care for the lakes responsibly.

If you have questions, ideas for new activities or programs, concerns, or anything else to communicate, please email me at plppassoc@gmail.com.

Thank you for doing your part to care for our lakes—enjoy the season!

Benaé Francis,
*President, Pleasant Lake/
Parker Pond Association*



2025 Annual PL/PPA Meeting
SATURDAY, JULY 19th from 9:30-11:00AM
Casco Days Tent
940 Meadow Road in Casco

Join us for coffee and donuts from 9:00-9:30AM!

Membership is not required. All are welcome!

We're pleased to share that a Maine Game Warden will be joining us at this year's annual Lake Association meeting. As part of their commitment to safeguarding our waters and supporting a healthy lake environment, the Warden will speak with members about a range of important topics, including lake safety, resource conservation, and local regulations. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how we can all play a role in protecting Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond, and to ask questions about how conservation laws are enforced in our area. We're grateful for the Warden Service's partnership and look forward to their insights.

Inclement Weather Location: If raining, we will meet at the Crooked River Snowmobile Club at 665 Meadow Road, Casco, next to the Casco Fire Department and Casco Town Office.

Also at the Annual Meeting, we are hosting a **Fish Lead-Free Tackle Exchange**. The way it works is that you bring us lead tackle and we give you lead-free tackle ... for FREE! We continue to partner with Maine Audubon to help anglers switch to lead-free tackle.





Town of Casco WATER QUALITY AD HOC COMMITTEE

Protecting water resources was identified as a town priority during the development of Casco's Comprehensive Plan. Over the winter, Casco established the Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee to develop an overall water quality plan for the Town of Casco. The Committee met for the first time on April 2, 2025, and continues to meet every month.

The Committee's areas of focus:

- **Prevention:** Land use ordinance enforcement & watershed stewardship
- **Water Quality:** Testing, Tracking & Data Management
- **Inspection:** Courtesy boat inspections, documentation of shoreline conditions
- **Education & Outreach:** Public awareness of invasive aquatic species, water quality and watershed issues
- **Funding:** Research Federal, State and local grant opportunities

The Committee is comprised of seven Casco residents; we are grateful to have Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond representation from Jim Arsham, Levi Thornton, and Eileen Tidd. We look forward to working closely with the Committee to share our decades of lake steward knowledge and collaborate on recommendations that will help protect and preserve water quality for generations to come.

YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Your support makes it possible for us to continue to do everything we can to keep our lakes healthy and clean for all to enjoy. You can donate:

- By check (Pleasant Lake/ Parker Pond Association, Post Office Box 419, Casco, ME 04015)
- Online (debit, credit or PayPal)
- Or a Qualified Charitable Distribution

Visit here for full details:
<https://plppa.org/contribute/>

Or scan this QR code
to contribute online and
for other contribution options



CHILDREN'S ART WORKSHOP: Lake Wildlife in Living Color Thursday, July 17 from 3-5pm at the Casco Public Library

We're excited to partner with the Casco Public Library this summer to host a children's art workshop inspired by the theme "Growing Up Wild." This fun, creative event will invite kids to explore and express their love for the wildlife that call our lakes and ponds home. Through art and storytelling, we'll share messages about how we can all enjoy the lake while helping protect the habitats of loons, turtles, fish, and other native species. It's a wonderful opportunity to engage the next generation of lake stewards in a hands-on, meaningful way. To register for the event, please contact the library at 207-627-4541 or cascolibrary@gmail.com.



Casco
Public
Library



STATE OF MAINE 2025 LEGISLATION UPDATE

This legislative session in Maine saw a number of proposed bills focused on protecting our lakes and water resources. From improving septic system standards to addressing shoreline development and invasive species, lawmakers recognized the importance of safeguarding the health of Maine's waters for current and future generations.

A new law, LD 1550, updates septic system regulations to help protect Maine's lakes and ponds. It targets "short circuiting," a process where septic effluent bypasses natural filtration by quickly draining through sandy soils or along shallow bedrock into nearby water bodies. By improving design standards for systems in sandy soils near lakes and ponds, the law aims to ensure proper wastewater treatment and reduce pollution. "There are many aspects of lake health that are out of our hands, but managing septic systems is entirely within reach," said Susan Gallo, executive director of Maine Lakes. "This new law protects Maine's lakes and ponds, and the wildlife and people who use them, by ensuring that future septic systems are constructed to reduce both pathogen and nutrient flow into lake water."

REMINDER: Summer is a great time to check your septic tank levels! A tank should be pumped when it is half full, about every 2 to 3 years for year-round residents and every 3 to 4 years for seasonal residents.



NEW! Volunteer COURTESY BOAT INSPECTIONS (CBI) Team Pilot Program

Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond face a growing threat from aquatic invasive species (AIS), such as milfoil, which are often introduced through plant fragments transported on boats and trailers. As boat traffic increases, so does the risk of infestation. While our current Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program—staffed with paid inspectors on weekends—serves as our primary defense, it provides limited coverage (20 hours per week at each boat launch).

To strengthen protection during high-traffic periods and foster community engagement, we are piloting a Volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspector Pilot Program for Summer 2025. This initiative aims to supplement our scheduled paid weekend coverage with trained volunteers during select peak boating dates. Volunteers will be responsible for educating boaters, inspecting boats for invasive species, and recording basic inspection data.

The pilot will involve:

- **Training:** Volunteers complete a short online course, review a handbook, and attend a brief practice session.
- **Coverage:** 10–12 volunteers will staff approximately 32 four-hour shifts on high-traffic days (e.g., July 4th, Casco Days)
- **Coordination:** A Volunteer Coordinator (Meredith Sasser) will oversee training, scheduling, and data collection.

This pilot will be evaluated at the end of the season to determine its effectiveness and future viability. The program offers a low-commitment, high-impact way for community members to help protect our lakes while building public awareness.



Interested in joining the volunteer team? You can sign up for just one 4-hour shift!
Email us at plppassoc@gmail.com and we will provide more details.

PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE: Get Involved Today!

Our non-profit lake association relies heavily on the dedication and energy of volunteers—and we are so grateful for all who lend their time to protect and care for our lakes. As we head into another busy summer, we're looking for new volunteers to join our efforts and help continue this important work.

There are many ways to get involved, whether you're interested in science, community outreach, or local policy. Our volunteers help collect water quality and dissolved oxygen data, monitor for invasive aquatic plants, and record loon counts for Maine Audubon. Others capture seasonal ice-in and ice-out data, collaborate with Casco and Otisfield on dam management and other lake-related issues, assist with grant applications, and help share important information with our community. Whether you have a few hours to give or want to dive into a specific project, we'd love to hear from you!



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BOAT SMART, BOAT SAFE: GET READY FOR THE SUMMER!

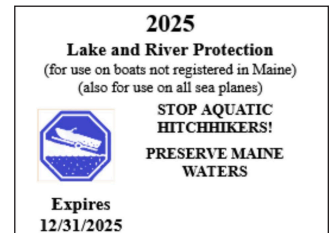
As summer kicks off, now is the perfect time to make sure you're boat-ready before hitting the water. Start by ensuring your boat registration is up to date and visible. Check that you have enough U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets for everyone on board, including properly sized ones for children. Inspect all safety equipment—like fire extinguishers, navigation lights, and throwable flotation devices—to confirm they're in working order. Don't forget to review Maine's boating laws and be mindful of no-wake zones and distance-from-shore regulations. A little preparation goes a long way in keeping everyone safe!

Boat Registration, Lake and River Protection Sticker

Before putting your boat into the water, make sure that you renew your registration (required annually!) and apply the appropriate stickers to your boat. The stickers are mandatory for all motorized vessels, with its cost supporting initiatives to prevent and manage Aquatic Invasive Species, like the Courtesy Boat Inspection program!

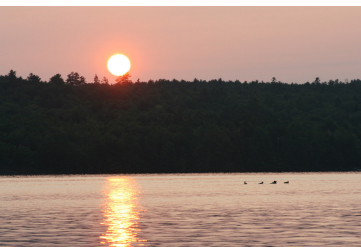
To renew your Maine registered boat, you can visit your local town office or you can renew online at <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/boat/>

Non-Maine registered watercraft that are properly registered in another state and display a valid registration do not need to be registered in Maine. However, these watercraft are still required by law to have a Lake and River Protection Sticker. **There is no online option to purchase these stickers this year, so please plan ahead!** To purchase these stickers, please visit an authorized agent (e.g., Casco Town Office, Otisfield Town Office); check here for a full list of sticker agents: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/boating/protection-sticker-agents.html>



Share the lake RESPONSIBLY

Please review Maine's waterway regulations, especially the no-wake zones within 200 feet of shore. These rules protect people, wildlife, and the natural beauty of our lakes. Watch for swimmers, avoid boating between docks and swim floats, and give birds and animals plenty of space to move away safely. Let's all do our part to reduce stress on native species.



Lifejacket (PFD) Reminders

All watercraft – including canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards (SUPs) – must have at least one United States Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device (PFD) – sometimes known as a “life jacket”, for each person on board.

In addition:

- Children 10 years of age or younger must WEAR an approved personal flotation device at all times, unless the watercraft is docked, anchored, or moored.
- Each person must WEAR an approved personal flotation device on a personal water craft (PWC, jet ski).
- Anyone being towed behind a watercraft must WEAR an approved personal flotation device.
- One approved throwable device must be on board watercraft 16 ft or longer (except canoes, kayaks, SUPs).

Operation Dry Water

Maine Game Wardens will be actively patrolling waterways this Fourth of July weekend as part of **Operation Dry Water** to ensure boaters are not operating under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This is a nationwide initiative aimed at reducing boating accidents and fatalities related to impaired operation. Wardens will also be checking for required safety equipment, like life jackets and sound-producing devices.