



# 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

7 PM | 7/27/23 | Camp Bishopswood



















People



5

(Outload)









# Mission

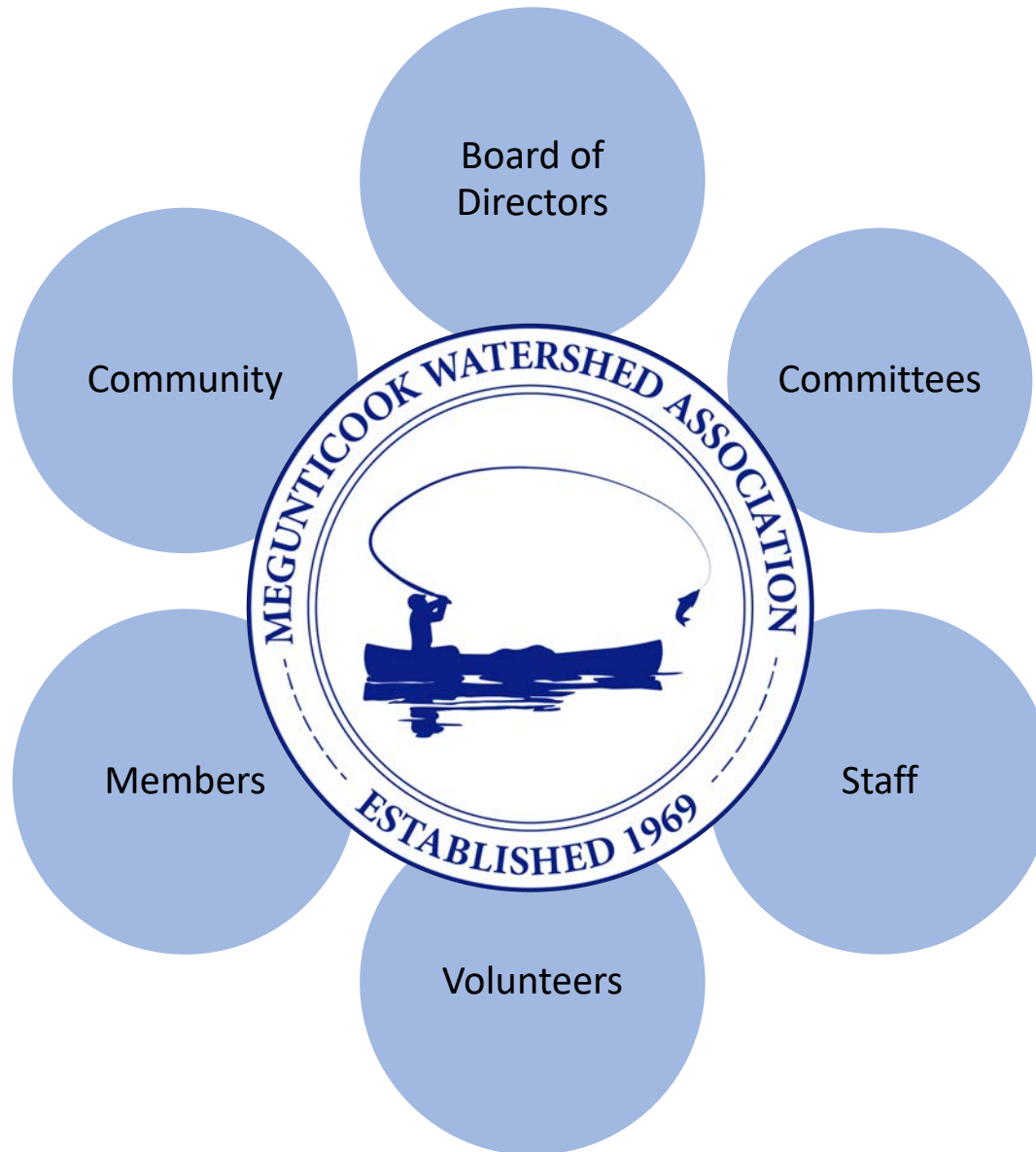


The mission of the  
**Megunticook Watershed Association**  
is to protect, preserve, and restore the  
natural resources of the watershed to  
ensure a healthy ecosystem for the  
benefit and enjoyment of all.





# Organization







# Programs

## Watershed Patrol



## Environmental Stewardship







# Watershed Patrol



- **Call 911 in the event of an emergency**
- Please obey **headway speed zones** to improve safety and protect the ecosystem – where marked and anywhere within 200 feet of shore
- Please always have a life **jacket/personal flotation device** on board for each passenger - **EVEN** on a paddle board

Learn more at:

[www.megunticook.org/courtesy-patrols](http://www.megunticook.org/courtesy-patrols)





# Water Levels

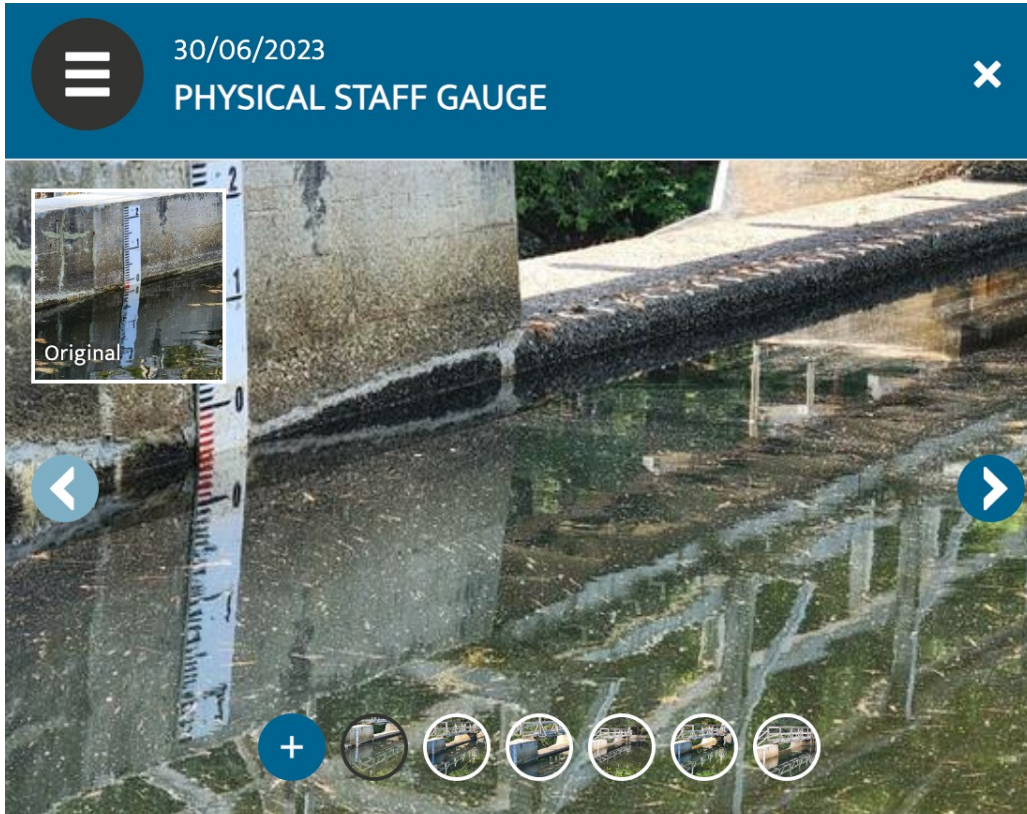
**The East and West Dams, which regulate the water levels in Megunticook Lake are owned and controlled by the Town of Camden. Lake Levels are subject to the Town's Dam Operational Guidelines.**







# Water Levels



🕒 26/07/2023

📁 Physical staff gauge

● Unit: Inch

● Water level: -5

❤️ 0 💬 0



**TOWN OF CAMDEN,  
PUBLIC WORKS**

” Lake level at the East dam is minus 5" below the spillway. The dam gate was adjusted from 12" to 4".

The Town of Camden posts near daily water level and dam operation updates on a new CrowdWater Tool

MWA is installing water level data loggers in late summer.

More info, including a link to the Town's Dam Operational Guidelines and Water Level Tool are available at:

[www.megunticook.org/water-levels](http://www.megunticook.org/water-levels).

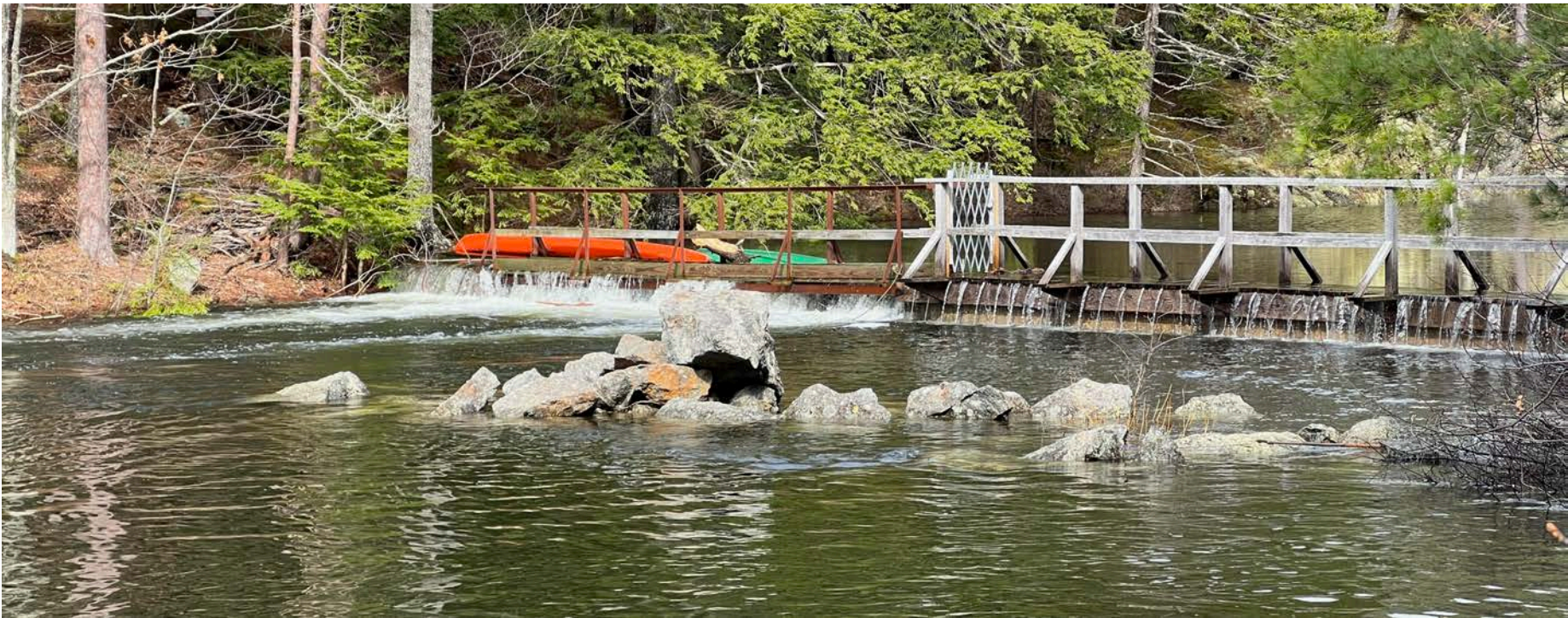




# Water Levels

## Ways you can help:

- Secure waterfront docks, floats, and boats
- Move items higher than you think you need to and/or double secure
- Label items with your contact info







# Environmental Stewardship



- **Monitor bacteria levels at 8 locations, including public beaches – posted on our website and social media!**
- **Monitor lake and pond water quality through the Lake Stewards of Maine Program**
- **New Program: With funding from the Town of Camden, we installed 7 water quality data loggers in the Megunticook River.**
- **Maine Audubon Loon Count and other wildlife programming**
- **Invasive species management:**
  - Employ Courtesy Boat Inspectors at the 3 public boat launches
  - Resident Canada goose management program
- **LakeSmart/Nature-based landscaping**





# LakeSmart



## Nature-based landscaping to protect water quality and habitat.

- Diverting runoff
- Preventing erosion
- Enhancing buffers
- Contact us!!

[betterbuffers@megunticook.org](mailto:betterbuffers@megunticook.org)





# Good Bird/Bad Bird Report

## Good Bird

### Maine Audubon Loon Count

**11 Adults**

**4 Chicks**



## Bad Bird

### Resident Goose Management

**Found 15 Nests**

**Humanely Addled 60 Eggs**





**Is the  
Megunticook Watershed  
Healthy?**



# Water Quality

DEP says Megunticook Lake and Norton's Pond are in "pretty good condition, but don't push it"

- MWA Newsletter circa 2000





# Water Quality

**Where are we 23 years later?**

## Summer Lake Sampling Results

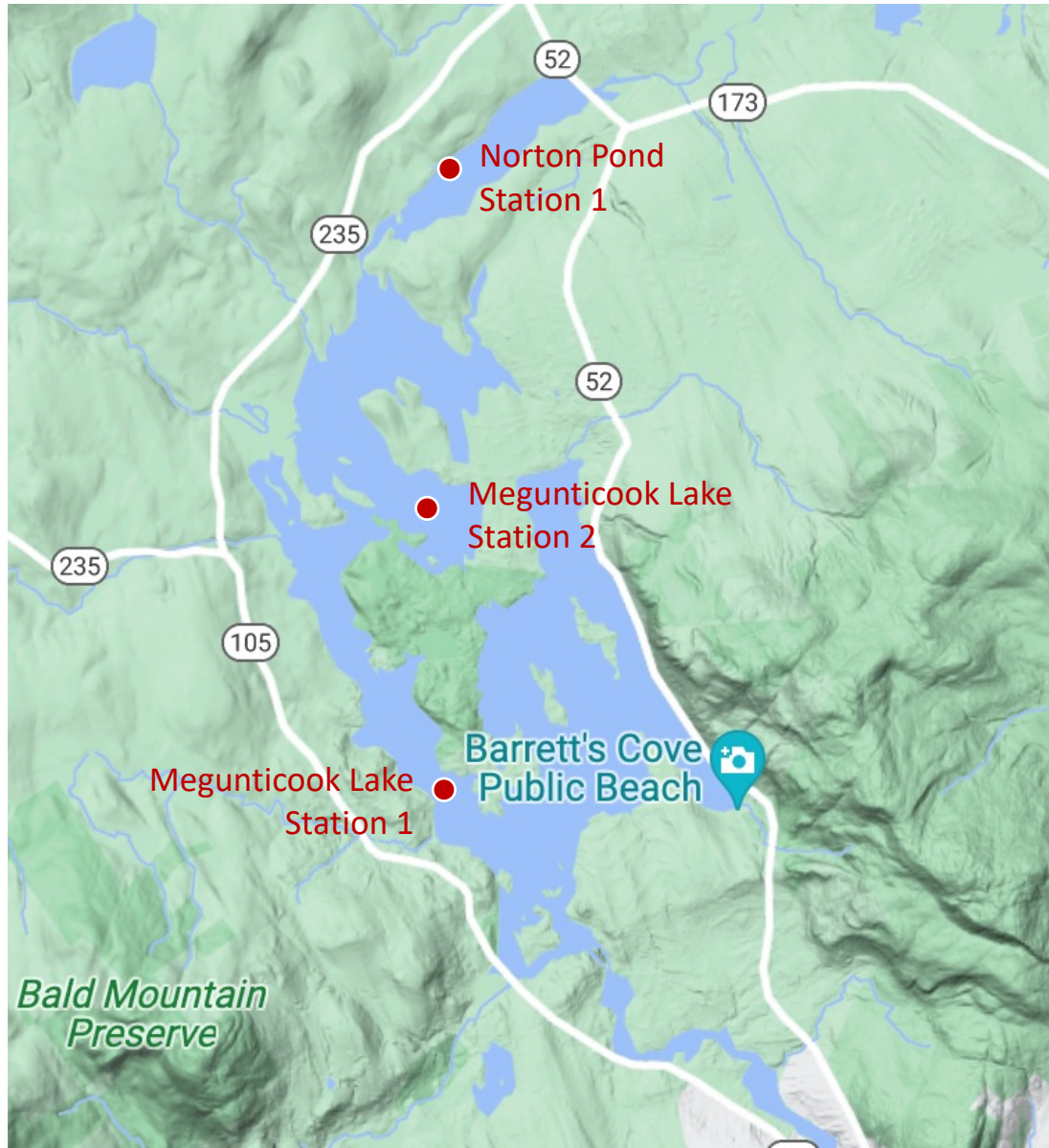
**R**oy Bouchard, Lakes Biologist for Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), has reviewed the results of this year's oxygen, phosphorus, and algae sampling and says there is good news and bad news. The good news is that the levels of phosphorus and algae in Megunticook Lake and Norton's Pond aren't too high. The bad news is that there are extensive areas of the lake where dissolved oxygen was depleted during the summer. Bouchard recommends the watershed community increase efforts to reduce erosion and other sources of phosphorus and increase monitoring efforts.

Phosphorus is the same fertilizer that helps garden plants grow and bloom. In lakes it allows floating algae to grow and reproduce. If too much phosphorus is available algae blooms can occur that cause lakes to be covered with green scum. Most phosphorus enters a lake through soil erosion, runoff from lawns, and faulty septic systems.

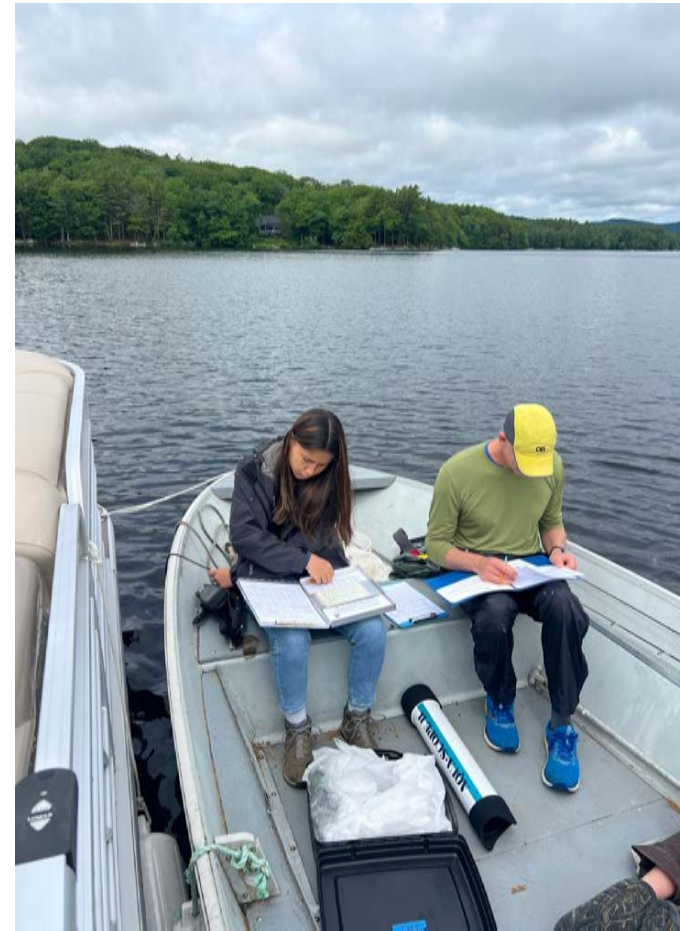
**- MWA Newsletter circa 2000**



# Water Quality



## Lake Steward Monitoring Locations



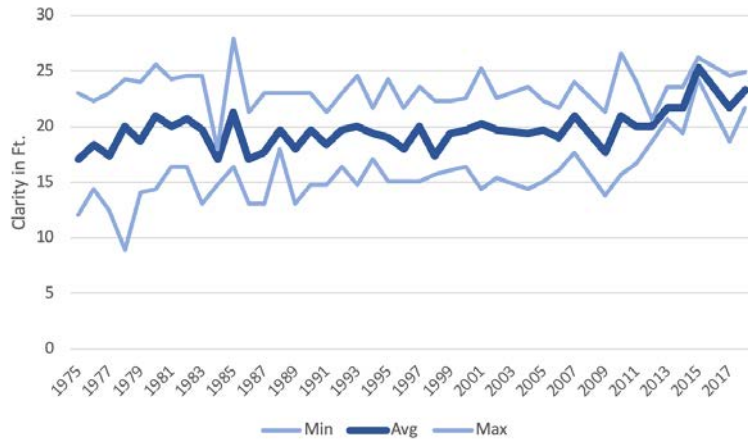




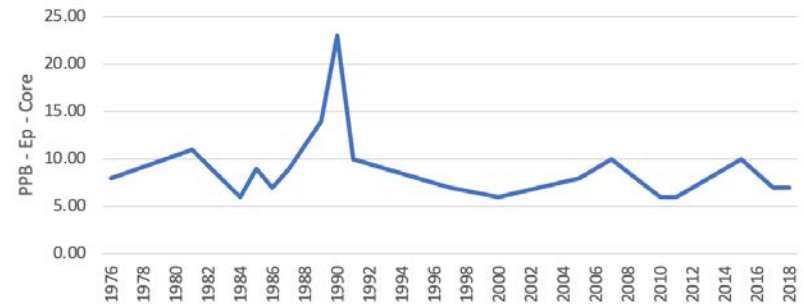
# Water Quality

## Megunticook Lake: Station 1

Water Transparency



Phosphorus Concentration



Temperature and DO Profile

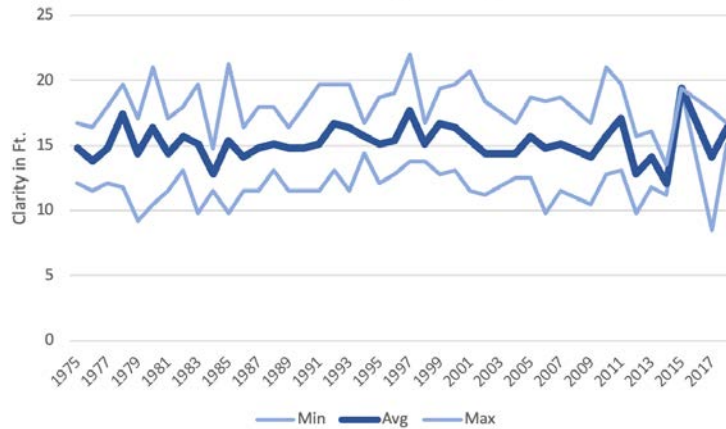
Date	Depth (m)	Oxygen (ppm)	Temp. (C)
09/13/2018	0	8.7	22.1
09/13/2018	1	8.7	21.6
09/13/2018	2	8.6	21.5
09/13/2018	3	8.6	21.5
09/13/2018	4	8.5	21.4
09/13/2018	5	8.4	21.4
09/13/2018	6	8.4	21.3
09/13/2018	7	8.0	20.8
09/13/2018	8	2.1	16.6
09/13/2018	9	0.7	12.6
09/13/2018	10	0.8	11.3
09/13/2018	11	1.1	10.4
09/13/2018	12	1.2	9.8
09/13/2018	13	0.7	9.1
09/13/2018	14	0.1	8.8
09/13/2018	15	0.0	8.6
09/13/2018	16	0.0	8.6
09/13/2018	17	0.0	8.5
09/13/2018	18	0.0	8.5
09/13/2018	19	0.0	8.5



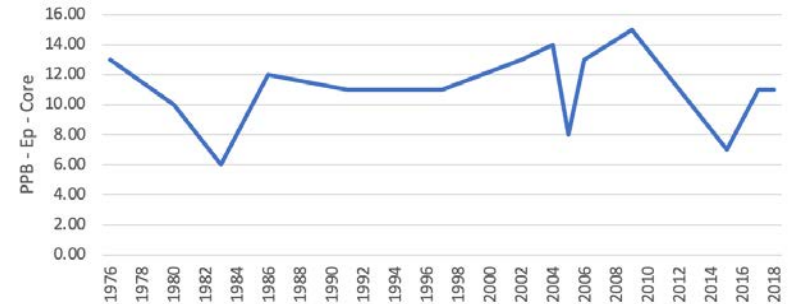
Data collected by MWA through Lake Stewards of Maine

## Norton Pond: Station 1

Water Transparency



Phosphorus Concentration



Temperature and DO Profile

Date	Depth (m)	Oxygen (ppm)	Temp. (C)
09/13/2018	0	8.9	22.3
09/13/2018	1	9.0	21.4
09/13/2018	2	8.9	21.0
09/13/2018	3	8.8	20.9
09/13/2018	4	8.2	20.5
09/13/2018	5	4.4	16.1
09/13/2018	6	3.6	11.0
09/13/2018	7	4.5	7.6
09/13/2018	8	5.0	6.3
09/13/2018	9	4.5	5.8
09/13/2018	10	4.2	5.5
09/13/2018	11	3.2	5.2
09/13/2018	12	0.9	5.2
09/13/2018	13	0.0	5.2
09/13/2018	14	0.0	5.2
09/13/2018	15	0.0	5.2
09/13/2018	16	0.0	5.2







# Water Quality



**Overall water quality is generally good and stable!**

**Why is the watershed so stable?**

- Good land use
- Good neighbors
- Good geography



# Water Quality

## Water Temperatures

**Surface waters in the lake and pond appear to have increased in temperature 3-5 degrees Fahrenheit in past 30 years.**

The 100 year average ice-out date for Megunticook Lake is around April 20, so this year it may not be far off the average. Last spring, Megunticook and Norton Pond were both declared ice free March 28. The latest recorded ice out in more than 100 years from Megunticook was May 2, which occurred in 1926 in 1939; the earliest on the record was March 23, 1903.

**- Mr. Lakefront Newsletter in 2007**







# Water Quality

DEP says Megunticook Lake and Norton's Pond are in "pretty good condition, but don't push it"

**What happens if we push it...???**





















## NOTICE: Cyanobacteria Present

Cyanobacteria has been found in this area. Midcoast Conservancy and the local municipalities are actively monitoring water quality.

### Best Practices:

- Avoid dense or scummy areas
- Avoid inadvertently drinking lake water
- Prevent dogs from drinking lake water

For up to date information follow "Damariscotta Lake Watch" on Facebook and Instagram.

[www.midcoastconservancy.org](http://www.midcoastconservancy.org)



Town Of Nobleboro





# Worsening algae blooms are making Maine's lakes and ponds more toxic

by Julia Bayly, Bangor Daily News | Wed, August 17th 2022, 7:56 AM EDT



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[VIEW ALL PHOTOS](#)

*FILE - South Portland Parks and Recreation says it found a toxic blue-green algae bloom in Hinckley Park. (South Portland Parks and Recreation)*





# Water Quality

**STAY OUT OF LAKES AND RIVERS IF YOU SEE SCUM OR CHANGES IN WATER COLOR.**

You could get sick from water with **cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)** by...



**TOUCHING IT**



**BREATHING IT IN**



**SWALLOWING IT**



[www.cdc.gov/habs](http://www.cdc.gov/habs)

**Algal blooms have a negative impact on water quality, fish and wildlife, and potentially the health of humans and pets.**



# Water Quality

**Even though our water quality is stable, warming waters and increasing frequency and intensity of severe rainstorms could upset the balance of the watershed and lead to increased erosion, increased pollution, and algal blooms.**







**Don't push it...  
PUSH BACK**





# Water Quality

## How can you help?

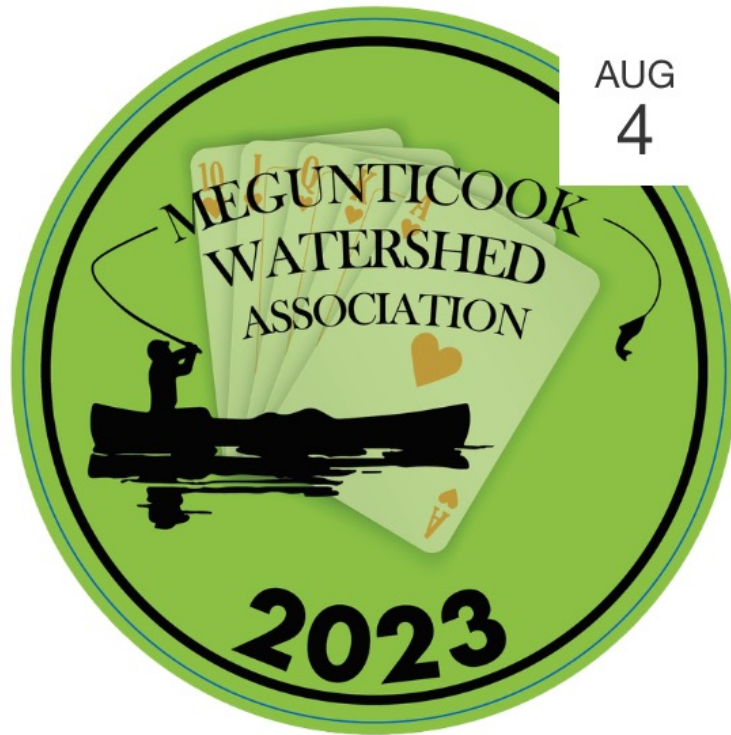
- Plant and maintain buffers/LakeSmart
- Avoid pesticides and fertilizer use
- Maintain your septic systems
- Obey headway speed zones to reduce wake
- Maintain your camp roads
- Support MWA
- Be an advocate – tell your friends!







# Upcoming Events



## 2ND ANNUAL POKER RUN

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM · Megunticook Lake



## 8TH ANNUAL MEGUNTICOOK LAKE CONCERT

## 8TH ANNUAL MEGUNTICOOK LAKE CONCERT

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM · Megunticook Lake



# THANK YOU



[Info@megunticook.org](mailto:Info@megunticook.org)

[www.megunticook.org](http://www.megunticook.org)