

LAON

Spring 2009

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2008 Norway Lakes Water Quality Report* 3 Year Summary of Norway Lakes Water Testing

Clarity: high numbers = clearer waterPhosph: lower numbers = better water

	(Clarity) 2008	(Clarity) 2007	(Clarity) 2006	Phosph 2008	Phosph 2007	Phosph 2006
Maine Range	< 1-15	< 1— 15	< 1— 15	2-15	2—15	2—15
Maine Average	5.0 –5.5	5.5	5.5	5-8	5—8	5—8
Pennesseewassee	5.4	5.7	6.56	9	9	7
Hobbs	5.7	6.1	6.1	8	8	10
Sand	7.8	7.0	7.7	4	6	6
North	3.1	3.1	3.8	18	15	13

Report Summary

The LAON, with support from the Town of Norway, continued to monitor the health of the four Norway lakes in 2008. Water quality monitoring was a combined effort of volunteers and lake professionals. Monitoring of the lakes takes place from early May through September, during the time of year when lakes and ponds are the most biologically productive, and water quality problems are most likely to occur. In addition to monitoring lake water quality, LAON also conducted a screening survey for invasive aquatic plants on the four lakes. No invasive plants were found in any of our lakes or ponds. The Chinese Mystery Snail was found only in North Pond where it has been found for a decade. A native milfoil was identified in Norway Lake but is not invasive.

The 2008 monitoring season was characterized by heavy snow melt during the spring, followed by heavy rain, which was extreme at times, from mid summer through the end of the monitoring season. In fact, according to national Weather Service data, Portland, Maine experienced the 3rd wettest summer in 138 years!

We encountered mixed conditions in the four Norway lakes in 2008. Overall, Penneesseewassee and North Pond were average, compared to the historical data for each, while Sand and Hobbs were above average. Each lake and pond responds in a unique way to the influences of weather, changes in land use in the watershed, and other forces upon the ecosystem. This is because of the wide range of physical, chemical and biological characteristics of each lake basin and its watershed.

Pretty & Invasive:

Native to Europe, Purple Loosestrife, was introduced in America about 200 years ago. This plant now occurs in wetlands across the USA; with some of the largest infestations occurring in the Northeast states, including Maine. It's a wetland perennial that prefers open sunny areas and wet soil.

Purple Loosestrife can be found in wet meadows, floodplains, disturbed areas such as roadside ditches, along stream banks and around the edges of ponds, lakes and marshes.

A mature plant may produce up to 2.5 million seeds per year. Seeds, which remain viable in the ground for at least five years, are as small as a grain of sand and are easily carried by wind, water and passing animals, and may go undetected on muddy boots.

When Purple Loosestrife moves into wetlands, it displaces native plants such as cattails, sedges, bulrush and fern. Wetlands infested with Purple Loosestrife have decreased native biodiversity and quality of wetland habitat for migrating wading birds and waterfowl. Rare and threatened bird species are particularly vulnerable to exclusion.



Caroline Savage, St. Lawrence Centre

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

While removal of this plant by hand is possible, it must be done annually to control the growth. The Maine Department of Agriculture has been approved by the USDA to launch an experimental biological control program in which *Galerucella* beetles are introduced into several severely infested areas to control, not eliminate, the plant.

The *Galerucella* beetle has been used successfully for major infestations in Colorado since its release in 1995. The beetle is described as about the size of a 'dieting ladybug'. Maine is hoping that our experience will be similar.

Ref. Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants: p. 124. Available on Line.

Lakes Association of Norway

Annual Meeting

Saturday, June, 27 9-10 am

"The Little Red Schoolhouse"

Lake Road, Norway

A special Thank You!!! to Ed Stone for greatly improving our website:

Take a look at: www.norwaylakes.org



LAON

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LAON Annual Campaign 2009

- Business Partner: \$150 or more: Name of company, published in next newsletter
- Sponsor: \$150 : name published in next newsletter , donor's option
- Family Membership: \$ 50
- Basic Membership: \$30

LAON is a 501(c)(3) corporation: total contribution is tax deductible
An Opportunity for you to Preserve Norway's Beautiful Ponds & Lakes

Bring your donation to our Annual Meeting or use the mailer

Thanks for supporting our Lakes & Ponds!

What's LAON, Inc?

Original By-laws date back to 1971, and describe our purpose as a non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to collecting data and informing the public about issues affecting the lakes of Norway. We're about clean waters.

Members are concerned citizens, like you, who value the quality of life on and around the lakes of Norway, and want to encourage responsible recreational activities as well as the balance of aquatic life so that we can all enjoy our leisure time and the wonder of our natural resources.

Members are your neighbors who enjoy swimming, boating, fishing and water sports during the summer on the lakes as well as using them for snowmobiling, ice fishing, skating and cross country skiing all winter. Members are caring local businesses who value a balanced environment and economic growth.

Invest in the future. Consider membership in LAON to support Norway's four beautiful bodies of water: Sand Pond, Hobbs Pond, North Pond and Lake Pennessseewassee (Norway Lake).

Please Support Our Lakes and Ponds