

LAON

Spring 2010

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LAON

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2009 Norway Lakes Water Quality Report 3 Year Summary of Norway Lakes Water Testing

	Clarity 2009	Clarity 2008	Clarity 2007	Phosph 2009	Phosph 2008	Phosph 2007
Maine Range	< 1-15	< 1-15	< 1— 15	2—15	2-15	2—15
Maine Av- erage	5.0-5.5	5.0 -5.5	5.5	5-8	5-8	5—8
Pennessee- wassee	5.7	5.4	5.6	11	9	9
Hobbs	4.9	5.7	6.1	9	8	8
Sand	7.2	7.8	7.0	6	4	6
North	2.7	3.1	3.1	17	18	15

Clarity: high numbers are good Phosphorus: low numbers are good

“Spring runoff from melting snow and rain typically carries a high percentage of the annual phosphorus load to lakes from their watersheds. This has a strong bearing on water clarity throughout the summer monitoring period...According to the national Weather Service data, Portland, Maine experienced the wettest summer in 138 years, a fact that would not surprise anyone who spent time on the Norway lakes last summer!”

Overall, there was a measurable decline in the Norway Lakes in 2009. This was most probably due to the cumulative effect of two years of very heavy precipitation and runoff, which carried phosphorus and sediment from the watersheds into the four lakes. The fact that both North and Hobbs Ponds, and their watersheds drain into Penneesseewassee means that when either of the smaller ponds declines, Penneesseewassee is likely to experience a similar change.

Invasive aquatic plants: none were found in any of the four bodies of water. As noted previously, the Chinese Mystery Snail has been observed in all four of the Norway lakes.

Our thanks to Patti Ann Douglas (Sand); Warren Bryant (Penne) Ray Snedeker (Hobbs) for collecting water clarity data many times last summer.

You can access the full 2009 Norway Lakes Water Quality Report and the minutes of last year’s annual meeting on line at www.norwaylakes.org.

2010 Ice Out: Breaks Record

An interview with Hank Burns, long time teacher at OHCHS, and an official weather observer for WCSH6 News.

Q. How is Ice Out defined?

A. Determining when ‘Ice Out’ occurs is not a science. The generally accepted definition is navigating a boat from one end of the body of water to the other. Obviously, this leaves much to interpretation: how large is the boat, is the route directly in the middle or on the sides of the lake, is a little bit of ice acceptable...if so, how much is ‘a little’?

Q. Who determines when it occurs?

A. Though ‘Ice Out’ declaration seems to be official, it is not. There is no-one responsible such as a game warden, fire chief or town official. It’s actually left up to local observers. From 1874—2005 records are available for Lake Penneesseewassee. (When Hank realized no-one was keeping them up, he began tracking himself.)

Q. How did you know it was Ice Out ?

A. This year, I touched base several times with a number of year round lake residents living on different parts of the Lake. From my own personal observations and their information, I determined that this year Ice Out on Lake Penneesseewassee was, March 25th. Local articles indicate it was the 24th!



Q. What are the other March dates?

A. Well, we even have a controversy over that. While it is well established that it occurred on March 29, 2006, there is a difference of opinion about a 1981 date for Ice Out. Some say it happened on March 31st while others claim it was April 1st. These are the only 2-3 recorded March Ice-Outs since 1874!

Thoughts from others:

Scott Williams, Aquatic Biologist, states: “Obviously, this is a very unusual year. The only thing that could possibly cause the ice to melt this early is the weather...The implication for lakes is that they could be warmer for swimmers this summer, but there could be other potentially serious implications for earlier ice-out dates

Glenn Hodgkins, USGS hydrologist, said, “ice-out dates have become significantly earlier in the past 30 or 40 years...it’s hard to say whether early ice-outs are caused by global warming or natural variability. It’s difficult to know.

Lakes Association of Norway

Annual Meeting

Saturday, June, 26: 9-10 am

“The Little Red Schoolhouse”

Lake Road, Norway

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- Business Partner: \$150 or more: Name of company, published in next newsletter
- Sponsor: \$150 : name published in Spring 2011 newsletter , donor's option
- Family Membership: \$ 50
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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!

P.O. Box 505
Norway, ME 04268

**SPRING 2010
LAKES ASSOCIATION OF NORWAY, INC**

Annual Meeting

June 26, 2010

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 Pennesseewassee (Norway Lake).

Your Donation Envelope is Enclosed

Please Support Our Lakes and Ponds