



Hello,

As a Maine Lakes supporter, we know you care deeply about the future of our lakes, both for the short-term – next month and next year – and for the long-term – when our great-grandchildren are grown and carrying on our shared legacy of lake protection. Thank you for your support!

As we ask for your support in 2025, we want to acknowledge that these are challenging times. The impacts from federal layoffs, changing markets, and cuts to natural resource agencies are rippling through our communities.

Maine Lakes is bracing for the challenges as these ripples spread, from the loss of federal infrastructure to the shortfalls within our state agencies to the need for additional local support for lake protection initiatives. We need to work harder than ever to support lake protection programming that engages volunteers and keeps our lakes healthy.

Your donation to Maine Lakes will help us meet the challenges ahead. Not only will you receive information, resources and support to help you protect lakes, you will know that your donation goes directly to lake programming. We are proud that we consistently keep our administrative costs to less than 15% of our annual revenue. Maine Lakes has received a Gold Seal from GuideStar and a Four-Star Charity ranking by Charity Navigator, recognitions that highlight our financial health, transparency, accountability, and capacity to execute our mission of lake protection.

We hope you agree that protecting the future of healthy lakes is a priority in these chaotic times. See the reverse for a few of many highlights of our summer programming. You can find more information on our webpage ([www.lakes.me](http://www.lakes.me)) and in our upcoming newsletters.

Thank you for supporting Maine's healthy lake future, and for all you do to keep our lakes clean, clear, and blue.

Susan Gallo  
Executive Director



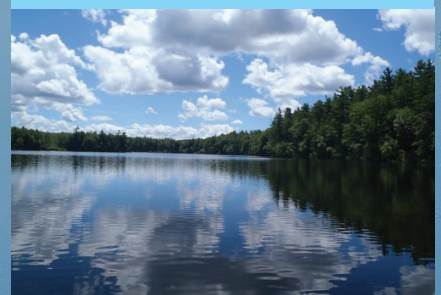
*Maine Lakes "Lake Legislative Alerts" are a smart way to keep up with lake bills that need our support. Maine Lakes makes it easy to take actions that support clean and healthy lakes.*

**David and Kim Hallee**



*The roll-back of environmental regulations at the federal level is threatening our clean lakes and their important economic contributions to our state. That is why I contribute annually to Maine Lakes, and list Maine Lakes as a beneficiary in my estate plan. I am proud to help protect our lakes, especially Maine Lakes and LakeSmart, as part of my legacy*

**Steve Kahl, former board member and past Maine Lakes President**



*Maine Lakes is a powerful force for protecting the health of Maine's waters. Through programs like LakeSmart, they provide practical tools and education, helping lake communities make a real difference. Friends of Worthley Pond proudly uses LakeSmart to promote pond-friendly living and preserve our waters for future generations.*

**– Tina West, Friends of Worthley Pond Board President**



# *Your Support Helps Maine Lakes Programming Succeed!*

## LakeSmart Expansion

Our Lakesmart leadership team of Andrea Stevens and Caroline Seibert are gearing up for a busy season with an incredible team of enthusiastic and passionate volunteers on more than 60 lakes across the state. It's not too late to get involved. Email [lakesmart@lakes.me](mailto:lakesmart@lakes.me) FMI. Learn more at [www.lakesmart.org](http://www.lakesmart.org).

## Look Out For Loons Volunteers Busier Than Ever

James Reddoch has returned for his third year supporting more than 70 volunteers who help reduce disturbance to loon pairs and increase nesting success. To support LOFL activities in your area, contact James at [loons@lakes.me](mailto:loons@lakes.me).

## LakeSmart Buffer Pilot Project

Inadequate vegetative buffers are often a barrier to LakeSmart awards. To address that challenge, we are piloting a program to help install and expand native plant buffers. The project will produce new resources, including planting plans and native plant resource guides, to help enhance buffers with native plants. Watch future newsletters for updates on this project!

## Introducing the Lake Protection Coalition

Maine Lakes is one of six founding members of the Lake Protection Coalition, which is developing a strategic plan for more and stronger lake protection policies and for long-term, sustainable lake funding. The Coalition hired Sarah Nichols, an experienced advocate at Omnium Collective ([www.omniumcollective.com](http://www.omniumcollective.com)) to help navigate the current legislative session and to help plan for more comprehensive lake protection. Look for more information about this exciting initiative, including ways to get involved, in the next newsletter.

## Wrapping up the 132nd Legislative Session

It's been a whirlwind of a session, with many important bills still in flux in the legislature. Thanks to all our lake advocates who have spoken up for lake protection bills. Your voices have been heard. Check out [www.lakes.me/advocacy](http://www.lakes.me/advocacy) for the status of current lake bills. And look for an update on the session in the next Maine Lakes newsletter.

*Thank you,* for supporting Maine Lakes in 2025!

Whether you've attended a webinar, received our enews, or attended a lakes conference, we hope you find value in the work we do. Please join us today with a donation to support clean and healthy lakes.

## *Mail in Donation Form*

Please update contact information below if needed, and return this form along with your check addressed to:

**Maine Lakes, P.O. Box 91, Yarmouth, ME 04096**

Use the **QR code** to donate securely online or visit: [www.lakes.me/donate](http://www.lakes.me/donate)

*QR code*



Please use this donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for programs that keep Maine's lakes healthy.