



2014 Activities

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

For its fourth year, YCC performed erosion control projects to reduce polluted runoff, filter stormwater carrying phosphorous into the lakes, protect water quality and build awareness of lake stewardship. Thanks to support from grants, towns, lake associations and individuals, we provided technical assistance and project labor at minimal cost to landowners. In 2014 YCC

- ✓ Designed and installed 27 Best Management Practices at 14 project locations throughout the watershed. 8 of the 14 sites were in Fayette, and 12 were on Fayette's lakes (David – 3, Echo – 2, Lovejoy – 2, Parker – 5)
- ✓ Conducted 13 additional, free site evaluations, suggesting erosion control strategies.
- ✓ Trained and employed 4 local youth, providing hands-on stewardship experience.

Courtesy Boat Inspections: *Prevention*

Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) are the “first line of defense” against invasive aquatic plants, one of the biggest threats to our lakes. They educate boaters while preventing hitchhiking plant fragments from entering the lakes. In 2014, paid and volunteer CBIs

- ✓ Performed a total of 1,606 inspections at three public boat launches, including Parker Pond (589 inspections), a 15% increase from 2013.
- ✓ Staffed boat launches 922 hours (Parker: 305), a 16% increase from 2013, with 12 volunteers covering 128 of those hours
- ✓ Removed eleven plant fragments from boats and trailers.

Invasive Plant Patrol: *Early Detection*

Teams of trained volunteers survey the lakes for invasive aquatic plant infestations to detect invasions early. As regional coordinator, 30MRWA supports and trains volunteers throughout the watershed as we strive towards surveying all our waters. In 2014, 57 volunteers and staff conducted surveys of eight lakes and ponds, including Parker, David and Lovejoy Ponds, contributing over 350 hours of their time. No invasive plants were found.

Parker Pond Watershed Protection Project

The purpose of this three-year grant-supported* project is to protect Parker's water quality by decreasing polluted runoff coming from roads, driveways, paths, and residential areas. Towards this, we are working with landowners, towns and road associations. In 2014 (year 2), we provided technical assistance and funding to private road associations to rebuild both the Quimby Lane boat launch and Fellows Cove Road, greatly reducing polluted runoff into Parker Pond. Additionally, our YCC installed 13 Best Management Practices at 5 project sites.

**Project funding was provided in part by the U.S. EPA under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and administered by the Maine DEP in partnership with EPA.*

Gravel Road Erosion Control and Technical Assistance

To reduce road runoff, one of the biggest watershed polluters, we offer free workshops and technical assistance to road associations and other landowners. In 2015 this program will be expanded, in partnership KCSWCD, to include additional training, support and technical assistance for municipal leaders.

Flying Pond Watershed Survey

To protect water quality, we perform lake watershed surveys to identify, document and recommend solutions to address sources of erosion and runoff that are or could have a negative impact. In 2014 we partnered the Flying Pond Improvement Corporation to conduct a new survey of Flying Pond's watershed. 27 trained surveyors participated. The full report of findings and recommendations will be available in the spring of 2015.

Outreach

Through outreach and education we continue to raise community awareness about lake protection. In 2014 we

- ✓ Hosted the 6th annual Paddle trek, a daylong guided trip along 15 miles of connected lakes and streams, with 53 paddlers participating.
- ✓ Spoke at meetings of town select boards, lake associations and other community groups.
- ✓ Provided education about our programs and watershed protection through our website, electronic newsletter, social media, town newsletters, lake association newsletters, and local newspapers.

30MRWA's income for 2014 was \$138,835. Income sources included contributions from individuals and corporations (33%), grants (32%), coalition members (23%), donated services (9%), and program fees (3%). The Town of Fayette, one of these coalition members, contributed \$3,000. Town support is critical to protect the watershed and has been vital to the organization's success leveraging grants and contributions from individuals and other coalition members.

Clyde Walton is Fayette's representative on the Board of Directors, which meets monthly. To become a volunteer, a supporter or to learn more, visit www.30mileriver.org.

Thank you for your support in protecting our valuable lake resources.

Lidie Robbins, Executive Director

Formed in 2008, 30MRWA is a nonprofit organization and public-private collaboration of eight lake associations, seven towns, and two land trusts with a mission to protect, preserve and improve the land and water quality in the 30 Mile River Watershed.