

**Cooperation follows uproar over Songo Lock**



*Page 11*

**Another violation at Chase property on Long Lake**

*Page 9*

**GLOWING!**



**on Neon Night**

*Page 3*

*Fall 2011*

*Free*

# LEA Lake News

## 2011 water quality dips below average

By Colin Holme  
LEA Assistant Director

Although all the data is not yet in, a preliminary analysis has shown worse than average readings in our three most sensitive water quality indicators.

Clarity readings on 68 percent of LEA's regularly sampled lakes were shallower than normal in 2011. Only 14 percent showed better than average clarity. Sixty-four percent of our larger lakes showed higher phosphorus concentrations and 64 percent showed more chlorophyll (algae) populations.

There are several factors that were likely responsible for this overall decline in water quality. First, it was a wetter than normal summer, which means there were more opportunities for sediment and nutrients to wash into our waters.

We also had several intense storms such

*Continued on Page 9*



Executive Director Peter Lowell (left) and President Sean Dundon on a research trip to Lake Tahoe.

## Lake Tahoe trip is an eye-opener

By Peter Lowell  
LEA Executive Director

In late October, LEA President Sean Dundon and I took a research trip to Lake Tahoe that was a phenomenal eye-opener and raised serious questions about what Mainers must do to protect our most important economic and ecological resources – streams, lakes and watersheds. Maine was a trend-setter in 1972, when the Legislature mandated shoreland zoning, but has failed to keep pace with science and development pressures since then.

We made the trip thanks to funding from LEA's "Mystery Foundation," air miles and Sean's donation of lodging. The trip was planned to explore lake research sites to help us better understand what our future, proposed Lake Science Center might involve. We were able to meet with researchers and educators from several universities at the

*Continued on Page 10*

## Bridgton voters say Yes! to Pondicherry

Bridgton voters gave Pondicherry Park a resounding mandate on November 8. The vote was 1225 to 371 (70 to 30 percent) in favor of giving the Board of Selectmen authority to negotiate the terms of the park's conservation easement and stewardship agreement. Once LEA, Loon Echo Land Trust and the Select Board agree on terms, the board can accept the park as a town property.

LEA started the Pondicherry Park Project six years ago with the purpose of developing a "Central Park" for Bridgton that could be used for recreation and education. Loon Echo was brought in as a project partner to help with park design and to hold the conservation easement. Both groups have worked tirelessly to reach this point. About 700 donors contributed more than \$700,000, and more than 100 volunteers helped build trails, bridges, kiosks and walkways. Pondicherry Park is a key resource for LEA's education programs.



**CELEBRATE!**

*LEA's Education Program turns 20*

*Page 4*

LEA  
230 Main St.  
Bridgton ME 04009  
(Change service requested)

# Members keep LEA going strong in tough times

Over the past difficult economic years, LEA has been even more thankful than usual for its dedicated members.

“Strong member support has allowed LEA to maintain its full array of lake protection programs in a very tense economic climate,” said Executive Director Peter Lowell. “We are grateful for your loyalty and generosity and pledge to keep up our efforts to use resources strategically and productively to keep our lakes clean.”

The warmth, the strength and the closeness of the LEA community was very clear at this year’s annual meeting, held August 18 at beautiful Camp Winona on Moose Pond.

We also saw several changes on the board of directors. Anne Wold stepped down as LEA president after three very productive years, but remained on the board. Sean Dundon moved from vice president to president and Leigh Hayes became vice president. Connie Cross remains board secretary and Julie McQueen will again serve as treasurer.

Cindy Choate and Tom Churches left the board, and Bridie McGreavy and Nancy Kluck (see bios below) joined it.

The board chose Amy Tragert of Naples, who has been a volunteer and staff member at LEA for six years, as LEA’s “Person of the Year” for 2011. The “Volunteer of the Year” was LEA Treasurer Julie McQueen.

“Julie has revamped our entire financial system,” said Executive Director Peter Lowell. “She has spent countless hours working on the system and it will save us staff time in the future because everything is streamlined.”

Amy is back at the University of Maine now, studying Secondary Education with a concentration in Life and Environmental Sciences. We hope to see her back at LEA in the summer of 2012.



**Julie McQueen**



**Assistant Director Colin Holme presents LEA’s 2011 Person of the Year award to Amy Tragert, after her fifth summer as an LEA intern.**

“Over the years I have watched Amy get better and better at every task,” Colin said. “She is now our head water tester and she is comfortable with most anything. She knows all the procedures better than I do. She is amazingly efficient, and gets the job done so quickly. But she is also completely comfortable helping out with milfoil, trail work, databases – you name it. When we are short-staffed, she gets her friends to volunteer. She has even pulled her whole family into the LEA loop.”

“Amy continually goes beyond the call of duty to make sure things are done correctly,” Colin said. She really is a pleasure to work with. Amy truly deserves this award, and not just for putting up with me. She is a great employee and we greatly appreciate the time she has put in because of her dedication to LEA.”



**Nancy Kluck works on Pondicherry Park trails.**

**Nancy Kluck** recently retired after a career spent in environmental, and then medical, research. Her first venture was in forestry and horticulture at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, working on understanding the chestnut blight fungus as well as the genetics of the Connecticut state flower, the mountain laurel.

Her next job at the UConn Health Center Department of Psychiatry merged her budding expertise in computer programming with her research background as she managed a research lab focused on understanding the generics of addictions, primarily alcoholism.

Her last (or is it merely latest?) career move was as a director of information management for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. She has been coming to Highland Lake in Bridgton since she was six months old and two years ago she and her husband, Will Rhys, moved to Bridgton permanently. She is an avid outdoors person with a life-long respect for the environment and loves to take advantage of the many opportunities available to us in the Bridgton area. Among these are maintaining an ever growing series of gardens, cutting and splitting wood, hiking, camping, and kayaking.

## 2 new LEA Board members

**Bridie McGreavy** joined the University of Maine in Orono in 2010 as a doctoral student in the Department of Communication and the Sustainability Solutions Initiative.

Bridie was the Conservation and Education Director at Lakes Environmental Association from 2001-2010 where she developed place-based environmental education programming and served as a conservation biologist.

Her graduate research focuses on science communication and collaboration and in 2006, she was awarded a Switzer Fellowship for her environmental leadership.

One of her favorite activities is to serve as a salamander crossing guard each spring when amphibians migrate to wetlands. Bridie grew up in the Saco River watershed of Western Maine and finds home on the edge of the White Mountain National Forest with her husband Brian where they hike, bike, ski and wander in the woods in every season.



**Bridie McGreavy enjoys time with interns Adam Perron and Daniel Bishop at the annual meeting.**

## LEA Contacts

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<b><u>Executive Director</u></b>	<b><u>Board President</u></b>	<b><u>Directors</u></b>	Tom Stockwell
Peter Lowell	Sean Dundon	Steve Collins	Kathy Tragert
<b><u>Assistant Director</u></b>	<b><u>Vice President</u></b>	David Ehrman	Anne Wold
Colin Holme	Leigh Hayes	Matt Frank	<b><u>Honorary Directors</u></b>
<b><u>Membership Director</u></b>	<b><u>Secretary</u></b>	JoAnne Harbourt	Sonny Berman
Roberta Scruggs	Connie Cross	Peter Hathaway	Hubert Caplan
<b><u>Teacher-Naturalists</u></b>	<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	Nancy Kluck	Ray Caplan
Mary Jewett	Julie McQueen	Bridie McGreavy	Stan Cohen
Sarah Morrison		John O’Brien	Elise Goldman
		Jean Preis	Tom Rosen
		Anne Snodgrass	Eula Shorey

# AN EERIE NEON GLOW

# AT PONDICHERRY PARK

By Sarah Morrison  
Teacher/Naturalist

With hot cocoa in hand and neon apparel glowing, my fiancé and I arrived at the Depot Street entry kiosk ready to celebrate “Neon Night” in Pondicherry Park the Saturday before Halloween.

As we entered the Magic Lantern parking lot, a feeling of excitement enveloped us. At fifteen minutes to seven, the parking lot was packed, a huge crowd – about 200 adults and children – gathered at the kiosk, and more residents were streaming in. All around us families and their children were decorated in neon tiaras, necklaces, earrings, eye glasses, bracelets, rings, and glow-in-the-dark balloons. As the minutes counted down to the start of the walk, more and more neon was passed around casting a rainbow of greens, yellows, reds and blues on the faces of this energized group. As the numbers grew, it became apparent, that we would in fact be able to light up the park that night.

Just prior to the start of the walk, Peter Lowell, LEA’s executive director, gave a quick introduction to the evening’s festivities, saying, “This celebration of Pondicherry Park is to remind residents of Bridgton that the park is being offered as a gift to the Town on voting day, November 8.” And with a toss of a few more glow sticks out to the crowd, Peter lead the pack out from under the glow of parking lot lights, up and over the Bob Dunning Bridge, and into the dark Pondicherry Loop Trail.

The effect of the neon crowd on such a dark night was phenomenal. All

throughout the woods, you could see a line of bobbing, figures casting their colors on the trees around them. Friends and families chatted along the way, comfortable in the light resonating from their own apparel, as kids wove in and out of the line helping to lead the way, and attempting to scare their buddies.

Being smack dab in the middle of the line gave the effect of being a part of a never-ending train zipping along in the dark. As this glowing train reached the deck of the old Cook camp foundation, Lowell gathered a large group for a moment of neon silence. After enjoying the quite of the woods for a complete minute, the crowd took to hooting and hollering again, the rest of the way back to the parking lot.

Neon night was a complete success. Not only was the celebration of Pondicherry Park unique and unforgettable, but it had the sort of energy that emanates from holidays like the 4th of July. Everyone who joined in the fun that Friday night went home with smiles on their faces.



Becca Roy and Griffin Figueroa were part of the big crowd at Neon Night.

## LEA getting a new mural

When our lakes center opened in 1995, local artist Cynthia Baker, graciously offered to paint a huge mural to jazz up the north wall of the building. Cynthia and a team of volunteers spent a couple of weeks occupying a maze of scaffolding to complete the work and the friends of Robert Woldow raised funds to pay the costs and honor him.

This August, Cynthia offered to paint a new mural to replace the original, which had faded and worn at the seams. She researched paint and board materials to be sure she was using state-of-the-art products. Instead of using scaffolding to paint the mural in place, she unleashed her skills panel-by-panel in her garage. Even though Bob Woldow has passed away, his memory will live on in the new mural.

LEA is welcoming donations to pay for materials and to provide Cynthia with an honorarium. Contributions can be sent directly to the “LEA Mural Fund.”

Once the mural is installed, we plan a dedication and reception in the coming year. We are extremely grateful to Cynthia and her husband Perry who have dedicated a lot of time to this mission.



Artist Cynthia Baker works on the panels of a new mural for the lakes center.

## Nina’s Field – The final piece for Pondicherry

Nina Keene was honored by a bronze plaque in the six-acre field she very much wanted to become part of Pondicherry Park.

Nina offered the property to the project at a very generous price, completing the park’s seven acquisitions that total 66 acres. LEA negotiated the purchases over a six-year period.

The plaque reads: “The Maurice and Nina Keene Field – Given to Pondicherry Park in loving memory of Nancy and Geoff R. by their family and to honor Maurice Keene, whose genius with tools and machinery made him an irreplaceable local resource for generations, and to honor Nina Keene for making this

field available to the people of Bridgton and the Lakes Region.”

Primary funding to purchase the field was given by a mysterious donor who wanted to honor Nina Keene and her late husband. LEA has also benefitted from the donor’s generosity over the past two years to remodel our lake lab and basement work space, to support our watershed educators, and to develop a technical support program for local planning boards and code enforcement officers.

No one at LEA knows who our benefactors are, but it’s nice to have a secret now and then. We greatly appreciate their help and all it allows us to do.



Nina Keene with Peter Lowell.



Fourth graders at Bald Pate

# Have we ignited the interest of our citizens?

You never know where an LEA education program might lead. A decade ago, Leigh Hayes chaperoned her son's LEA field trip up Bald Pate Mountain and got hooked. Since then she has attended as many walks, hikes, and workshops as possible. In 2008, she joined LEA's Board of Directors, and today she's the board's vice president.



**Sarah Morrison**  
Teacher/Naturalist

"The most powerful tool LEA has is education," Hayes says. "A citizenry that is well informed regarding environmental and economic issues is one of the best guarantees that the community will make wise decisions regarding its future in these areas."

The 20th anniversary of LEA's Education Program is coming up in 2012. So it's a great time to ask if the program has fulfilled its mission: To engage and educate a wide range of Lake Region citizens about the local environment, specifically focused on lakes and general watershed issues. In short, has the LEA Education Program ignited the interest of our citizens?

That question takes us back to 1972, when Peter Lowell became LEA's first and only executive director. Lowell and the LEA Board knew that reaching out to children in local schools was a long-term investment in lake protection because increasing student awareness could increase adult stewardship. Lowell began giving presentations to one class at a time, working his watershed message into the schools. It wasn't until 1992, however, that LEA officially started an Education Program by hiring its first educator, Roberta Hill.

The program's first challenge was finding a place in jam-packed school curriculums. With the help of teachers, Hill introduced the *Living Connections*

**"Thank you, Mary, so much for taking time out of your own day to come and teach us about water and its different stages."**

**-Derek Mondville, 6th grade, Lakes Region Middle School**

**"All of the students bring their outdoor clothing because they are excited to get outside with Sarah. She handles silly questions well. And she's good at demonstrating things so that they'll understand what she is talking about. Sarah helps them work through information to arrive at conclusions."**

**- Lili Needham-Fox, teacher, Stevens Brook Elementary**

Program to sixth graders at Stevens Brook Elementary School in Bridgton. Now, sixth graders and the *Living Connections* program are at Lake Region Middle School, which includes students from Bridgton, Casco, Naples and Sebago. The *Living Connections* program also reaches sixth graders in Harrison and Denmark elementary schools.

From the start, this watershed course covered groundwater, aquatic insects, limnology, erosion, and invasives and culminated with the still popular "Hey You!" cruise. Hill motivated her students to create A Place Called Hope, a small park in downtown Bridgton. Hill, who is now a program director at the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, also initiated LEA's involvement in the high school's advanced placement Environmental Science classes.

By 1996, LEA offered a wide range of programs outside schools to help visitors and residents understand local ecosystems. Known as the Natural Resource Series or Ham Series (because it was initially funded by the Kendall and Anna Ham Foundation), the series drew a variety of participants to programs about animal tracking, forest ecosystems, wildflowers and other topics.

Today, the series is funded by longtime LEA members Hu and Ray Caplan and is known as the Caplan Family Environmental Education Series. It attracts more than 200 people a year, averaging 12 participants per event. The Caplan series fills an important educational gap for adults who never had the opportunity to study watersheds in school. JoAnne Diller of Bridgton, for example, enjoys the workshops and hikes because they give adults and their families a chance to "learn about the natural world, explore who and what is out there, and understand how everything is interrelated."

The Caplan series helps LEA accomplish its mission by educating citizens about the importance of the environment while instilling a sense of stewardship even in young children.

Nancy Grigg and her son Kyle, avid participants in Caplan events, say the series has instilled a stronger sense of stewardship for natural areas. Kyle, age 9, has a strong passion for machinery, excavating, and woodlands, but says he would "never use any heavy construction equipment near vernal pools when he runs his own construction company." If he hadn't gone to the Caplan series, Kyle says, he never would have considered the importance of vernal pools.

In 2001, Bridie McCreavy was chosen to lead the Education Program to a new level. McCreavy expanded the school-based program with a fourth-grade and fifth-grade program, further



Kyle, Rob and Nancy Grigg go snowshoeing with Leigh Hayes and Carolyn Ehrman.

*Continued on Page 5*

# LEA celebrates 20 years of watershed education

Continued from Page 4

developed the sixth-grade program and expanded the outreach to include the Waterford and Denmark schools.

McGreavy also began an afterschool program called *Discovery Kids* as well as two summer nature camps, Place Camp and Local Explorers. Today, 20 students participate in *Discovery Kids* every week throughout the school year, while 24 come to Place Camp each summer. These programs support LEA's mission by engaging and educating children about our local environment through exploration and hands-on learning.

Alyssa Romano, a Place camper for six years, says she feels more at home in the woods of the Holt Pond Preserve, than she does in the woods of her home in Illinois. Nora Tafuri, who has attended Place Camp, also enjoys *Discovery Kids* so much that she sang a song for the group about her love of the program and the natural world itself! It is connections like these that support the worthiness and effectiveness of the educational programs.

By 2006, McGreavy was teaching 400 students and collaborating with teachers in 24 classrooms, including Crooked River, Stevens Brook, Waterford, Harrison and Denmark elementary schools, and Lake Region middle and high schools. LEA hired a second educator to take over some of McGreavy's classes, giving her time to focus on the creation of a yearlong program for seventh-graders called Ecosystem Field Studies.

"LEA programs offer students a connection with the outdoors that schools are unable to provide – an opportunity to fall in love with nature," says Jean Preis, former LEA president.

In 2007, LEA got hard evidence that its education program was having an impact. On the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) test, eighth-graders across the state were asked: "How would building a shopping mall in a wetland impact the environment?" At Lake Region Middle School, 80 percent of eighth-grade students correctly answered that building a shopping mall in a wetland would decrease available habitat for wetland organisms. It was the highest number of correct responses of all of the questions in the science section of the assessment. The science department at Lake Region Middle School attributed this outstanding test result to the lasting effects of the Living Connections and Ecosystem Field Studies.

Kathy Minigell, a sixth-grade teacher at LRMS, has noticed a definite increase in local awareness and stewardship in her students since she began using the Living Connections program six years ago.

"Students are much more aware of nonpoint source pollution," Minigell says. "They recognize that they can't dump trash or liquids anywhere without it eventually reaching the watershed."

In 2009, Mary Jewett, who first connected with the environment through the LEA Education Program, became LEA's second educator. When McGreavy left to get her doctorate at the University of Maine in 2010, LEA hired me. Mary and I now teach in 68 classes, educating 1,355 students – more than



Fifth grader Justin Mushrow completes his soil observations.



Nora Tafuri enjoys *Discovery Kids* so much that she sang a song for the group about her love of the program and the natural world.

triple the 400 in 2006 – about watersheds, ecosystems, and their connections to the health of the environment, economy, and quality of life in the Lakes Region. Student hours each year now total 11,000.

"I think the program is wonderful and I love that it is hand-on. The lessons are very appropriate for this age group. They are fun and the kids learn and are trying to make connections," says Bern Twichell, a teacher at Harrison Elementary School.

Alumni of our education programs are playing important roles at LEA and throughout the region. Three of LEA's students, Amy Tragert, Christian Oren, and Tyler Oren, are now in college, but spend their summers working at LEA. Two others, Dan Bishop and Adam Perron are at graduate school, but continue their watershed work by working on LEA's milfoil crew. Many of LEA's courtesy boat inspectors are students from Lake Region High School.

Other support comes from the Bridgton Rotary Club, which adopted a section of the Stevens Brook Trail; Dave Langley, who involves his Vocational Center students in challenging trail work at Holt Pond, and Nancy Grigg volunteers with *Discovery Kids* because her family enjoys LEA programs.

After 20 years of solid progress, LEA can celebrate the accomplishments of the Education Program and look forward to its future. Mary and I are now working with Lake Region High School teachers to create a ninth-grade watershed curriculum, and the staff at LEA is creating a database that better informs municipal officials and code officers of land and watershed laws.

Even with our citizens deeply interested in local watersheds, science-based education is still in jeopardy. School districts are moving towards a testing-centered philosophy in which students who are one or more grade levels behind in reading and/or math will not access science and social studies instruction. Rather than attend a science or social studies class, students are now being sent to reading and mathematics remediation.

Despite these changes, LEA is striving to ensure that every student receives an LEA education. We believe that with continued hard work and collaboration, we can continue to celebrate an increase in stewardship and awareness in the community in our students, visitors, educators, land owners, municipal officials, and land use professionals. Throughout the past 20 years, LEA has most definitely ignited an interest in our citizens.

**Please** support the LEA Education Fund. By donating \$50, you will give a student the opportunity to explore Pondicherry Park during our after-school program, *Discovery Kids*. A donation of \$100 will fund one of LEA's interactive Caplan events, such as birding, hiking or snowshoeing. By donating \$150, you will give a child a chance to investigate the wonders of Holt Pond during a week-long session of Place Camp. Most importantly, donations of any amount, no matter how small, will support LEA's program to help the 1,355 students in the Lakes Region learn how to be stewards for our lakes.

# A new curriculum for Pondicherry Park

In the book *Last Child in the Woods*, author Richard Louv describes the importance of childhood experiences of nature. Louv was the first to introduce the concept of Nature Deficit Disorder. He recognized the importance of having a sense of connection to nature and that children especially need that connection to establish a relationship with their environment. The importance of understanding the environment around you cannot be overstated, especially for a community like



Mary Jewett  
Teacher/Naturalist

ours that depends so heavily on our natural resources. For many people a basic understanding leads to an appreciation and for some a deep sense of responsibility as a citizen.

According to the national No Child Left Inside Coalition, about one in three children in America are overweight or obese. While the causes of such conditions are varied, it's clear that one factor is that young people are spending less time outdoors, whether because recess periods are being cut back or because kids spend more time inside after school and on the weekends.

One of the biggest factors keeping older students inside is a discomfort in the outdoors. A new poll conducted by The Nature Conservancy found that among youth whose body mass index classifies them as obese, there are notably lower rates of participation in outdoor activities and less interest in pursuing them in the future. Just 10 percent of respondents in the Northeastern region of the country describe themselves as strong environmentalists, and only 26 percent of teens surveyed report that they have had a meaningful experience in nature.

Through our many education programs at LEA, we have found the most powerful lessons are hands-on and outside. Through fun field trips and passionate educators, we strive to give students a memorable experience so they can establish a relationship with nature. But as much as we would love to be in every classroom there just aren't enough of us to do so.

When the Pondicherry Park project was underway LEA realized that there

was great potential for increasing awareness in the school system, especially Stevens Brook Elementary School.

We started using the park for field trips, but wanted to take it further. So in the spring of 2010 we started work on the Pondicherry Park Curriculum. With the help of a Recreational Trails Program grant from the Maine Department of Conservation we were able to provide the school with a multi-disciplinary curriculum guide for use in Pondicherry Park. The curriculum has lessons for kindergarten through fifth grade.

Working with teachers from Stevens Brook we were able to identify lessons that they could use outside while still complying with the Maine Learning Results. We included lessons for science, mathematics, social studies and language arts. Because the school is so close to the park students do not need permission slips and teachers don't have to jump through a lot of hoops to get their students outside. Our hope is that Pondicherry Park will become another classroom for the teachers to use, kind of like the gym or the library.

We completed the guide this summer and got the final product to the teachers as soon as school started. Teachers have already sent us pictures of their classes out in the field using our lessons. It is such a great feeling to see the lessons and worksheets we designed being used by students. By beginning outdoor education as young as five and six years old the hope is that students will develop skills for using the forest for both learning and playing.

LEA would like to thank all the teachers and volunteers who helped make this project possible. Special thanks to the entire staff of Stevens Brook Elementary School and to Leigh Hayes, vice president of the LEA Board of Directors, for editing our lessons.



First grader Ryan Philbrook uses the *Word Scavenger Hunt* from the new Pondicherry Park curriculum.

## Discovery Kids start a botanical collection, identify insects

By Mary Jewett  
Teacher/Naturalist

Growing up in rural Maine provided me with a special relationship with nature. As soon as I got off the bus after school I would drop my bag at the front door and run into the woods with my cousins and sister. We would explore the forest and stream behind my house until it got too dark or our parents called us in for dinner. We would make believe we were fairies or different animals and play for hours.

This was my daily routine for years as I grew up and I thought that this must be a common occurrence in this part of the country. Therefore I was shocked when I started teaching in our region and realized how few students go out and play in the woods these days. A few of my older students complained about getting dirty or being too cold. Many said they would prefer to stay inside and watch television or play video games.

As frustrating as these responses were the most disconcerting have come from younger students. I had one boy who resisted going for a walk in Pondicherry Park because his parents told him the woods were dangerous. Last fall one of the applications for our *Discovery Kids* program had a short plea from a student. She told me that her mom did not want her playing in the woods alone and so *Discovery Kids* was the only time she got to spend outside.

*Discovery Kids* is an after-school nature club offered to students in grades 2-5. Everyday a healthy snack is provided followed by outdoor explorations and science activities. Through our education programs LEA is trying to encourage a bond with the environment for kids and adults. In the *Discovery Kids* program we are trying to develop a deeper understanding with a smaller group size and fun scientific activities. Another key to the *Discovery Kids* experience is that we spend as many of our sessions outside as possible. Because this is an optional program we don't run into kids complaining about getting dirty or being too cold. These kids want to be outside and, for some, *Discovery Kids* is their best chance to do so.



Gage Mowatt and LEA's Sarah Morrison investigate aquatic insects.

This year in *Discovery Kids* we will be having many educational outdoor adventures. Our goal is to introduce kids to activities that they can share with their friends and families. We want to teach kids science in an outdoor setting while keeping it fun and interesting. Already this fall we have started a botanical collection, identified aquatic insects and explored part of beautiful Pondicherry Park. When the snow flies we will spend a lot of time tracking and exploring different animals that live in Bridgton. And in the spring we will visit a vernal pool and the fascinating creatures that need them to survive.

Many people have supported this wonderful program. Thanks to all of our members who understand the importance of teaching the next generation. Thank you to Food City for providing a healthy snack each week to our explorers, and to the Bridgton Community Center for being the calm in the midst of our storm of kids. And special thanks to the Quitobaquito Fund for its donation, which helps us pay for space and provide scholarships.

# The Caplan Family Environmental Education Series\* and LEA Events Calendar

All events start at the LEA office, 230 Main Street, Bridgton, unless another location is specified.

Contributions of \$5 per person for each program are appreciated; LEA members attend free.

Program	Date	Time	Guide
<b>Exploring Seasons in Maine – November: A Month of Winter Preparations.</b> * The first snows of the season have arrived, many birds have headed to warmer feeding grounds, and both reptiles and amphibians are beginning to hibernate. Join LEA for a November walk through Pondicherry Park as we explore lichens covering bare trees, beaver lodges being renovated for winter, and clubmosses, an evergreen plant adapted for winter. The program will include a short indoor presentation, as well as an hour-long outdoor exploration. Please come dressed for the weather.	Wednesday November 23	9 a.m.	Mary Jewett and Sarah Morrison
<b>Exploring Seasons in Maine – December: A Month of Hibernation.</b> * Although many creatures have huddled up for the winter, this is the best time to observe those that remain active. Learn about the winter activities of Maine's mammals as well as the dormancy of native plants and insects. The program will include a short indoor presentation, as well as an hour long outdoor exploration at Holt Pond. Please come dressed for the weather.	Saturday December 10	9 a.m.	Mary Jewett and Sarah Morrison
<b>A Christmas Carol Benefit for LEA.</b> Bring your family to Stevens Brook Elementary School for the festive telling of the Charles Dickens' classic. Come dressed in your pajamas and enjoy milk and cookies as renowned actor and director Will Rhys brings Ebenezer Scrooge to life! Donations of \$5 per adult and \$1 per child are appreciated.	Friday December 23	7 p.m.	Will Rhys
<b>An Introduction to Animal Tracking for Families.</b> * A refresher for experienced trackers and an introduction to those who are new to reading tracks and sign. The program includes a one-hour interactive introduction followed by a two-hour field trip into the woods of Bald Pate. Dress appropriately for an extended trip in the cold, including wool or synthetic layers, warm winter boots, snow or wool pants, a hat and gloves or mittens. Cotton clothing and socks are strongly discouraged. Participants may bring their own snowshoes or borrow from LEA.	Friday January 6	9 a.m.	Mary Jewett and Sarah Morrison
<b>Exploring Seasons in Maine – January: A Month of Snowy Tracks.</b> * As you explore the snowy landscape, you may find the tracks of a fox, coyote, or bobcat. But most often you find the tracks of LBTs, otherwise known as little brown things (mice, voles, lemmings, moles and shrews). Let's explore the tracks and habits of these small rodents along with dormant insect capsules, and the resilient wildflower plants. The program will include a short indoor presentation, as well as an hour-long outdoor exploration at Holt Pond. Please come dressed for the weather.	Saturday January 14	9 a.m.	Mary Jewett and Sarah Morrison
<b>Bridgton Mushers Bowl – Family Snowshoe Trip Through Pondicherry Park.</b> Enjoy a great time with friends and family members as we explore clues left behind by long-tailed weasels, minks, American river otters, Eastern chipmunks, and red squirrels. Learn the tricks to becoming a winter tracking detective as we snowshoe on the beautiful trails at Pondicherry. Wear warm clothing and bring a camera. Participants may borrow LEA's snowshoes.	Saturday January 21	10 a.m.	Mary Jewett
<b>The 8th Annual Deep Freeze Bluegrass Music Festival.</b> Come to the Bridgton Town Hall, Route 302, and dance away the winter blues, enjoy great music and help our lakes. Proceeds benefit LEA. Adults \$15; Couples \$25; Families \$30. Tickets will be available at LEA.	Saturday January 28	7 p.m.	LEA Staff
<b>Learn about the Water Quality of Your Lake.</b> * From year to year, LEA is tracking the water quality of 37 lakes. Would you like to know what LEA has learned about your lake? Find out if phosphorus levels, water clarity and dissolved oxygen levels have improved or declined. Most importantly, learn about the ways that you can improve the quality of your lake. Please call 647-8580 or email sarah@leamaine.org to register so we know which lakes will be represented at this presentation.	Wednesday February 8	7 p.m.	Colin Holme
<b>Exploring Seasons in Maine – February: A Month of Survival.</b> * As the sunlight grows stronger, and the days get longer, many of Maine's organisms continue struggling to survive and to reproduce. Learn about the creatures procreating despite the fierce weather, and explore the birds, mammals and plants persisting through the winter months. The program will include a short indoor presentation, as well as an hour-long outdoor exploration at Holt Pond. Please come dressed for the weather.	Thursday February 23	9 a.m.	Mary Jewett and Sarah Morrison
<b>The 8th Annual Four Square World Championship.</b> More than 100 competitors from across New England and beyond meet at Bridgton Academy for an evening of competition. The championships are open to anyone who wants to compete or watch. LEA collects a \$10 registration fee from participants to support lake protection.	Saturday February 25	5 p.m.	Peter Lowell
<b>The 13th Annual Maine Milfoil Summit.</b> Sponsored by LEA, the summit brings together people from across the state who are working to prevent and control invasive aquatic plants. It's held at the Lewiston-Auburn campus of the University of Southern Maine, 51 Westminster Street, Lewiston. The summit is free and open to the public	Friday March 2	8:30 a.m.	LEA Staff
<b>Full Moon and Head Lamp Walk.</b> * The large open fields of the Bridgton Highland Country Club are the perfect place for night-time snowshoe under the full moon. Join us as we crunch through the snow looking and listening for Maine's nocturnal creatures. The walk will last approximately 1 hour. Participants can borrow flashlights and snowshoes for this exciting trek.	Thursday March 8	7 p.m.	Mary Jewett and Sarah Morrison
<b>Big Night Crossing Guard Training.</b> * Get ready for this spring's amphibian migration by attending an interactive presentation on our Big Night migrants. By the first warm rain in April, LEA would like as many helpers as possible to assist thousands of amphibians crossing local roads to their wetland homes. Come learn about vernal pool species and sign up for the Big Night email list. Big Night Road Watch, TBA, April 1 - April 30.	Thursday March 29	7 p.m.	Mary Jewett and Sarah Morrison

**Dates and times are subject to change. Email [sarah@leamaine.org](mailto:sarah@leamaine.org) or call 207-647-8580, ext. 12 to register for events.**

\* Events in The Caplan Family Environmental Education Series at LEA, which is made possible through the generous support of Hu and Ray Caplan and their family. Dr. and Mrs. Caplan have been members and directors of LEA since the mid 1970s. Dr. Caplan was the vice president of LEA's Board of Directors from 1978-1980 and president from 1982-1990. Mrs. Caplan was the secretary from 1992-2006. The Caplans recognize the vital importance of education in all aspects of LEA's work in protecting the Lake Region's most important resource and asset: its bodies of water and watersheds.

# LEA and Bates researchers working together to study gloeotrichia on Long Lake

This past summer LEA partnered with researchers at Bates College to study gloeotrichia populations on Long Lake. Pronounced glee-o-trick-e-a, these tiny planktonic specs in the water column are visible to the naked eye and are thought to play a key roll in nutrient cycling and the “greening” of our lakes.



Colin Holme  
Assistant Director

Different from LEA’s regular water-testing routine at the deepest part of the lake, gloeotrichia sampling takes place in the coves and shallows around the edge. These areas typically have more nutrients, productivity and variability compared to the center, but it is also the water that most people see and come in contact with on a regular basis.

To ascertain gloeotrichia populations, finely sieved conical nets were pulled up through the water column to catch and concentrate these organisms into small vials for later analysis. In August, small battery powered temperature and light meters were also deployed at two of the sites to better assess conditions.

Laurie Griesinger, a research assistant from Bates helped train LEA staff and pick the sites for sampling. Sites at the north and south end, Cape Monday and one on the western shore were eventually chosen to give a wide spectrum of conditions in Long Lake.

Not true algae, gloeotrichia are essentially bacteria that derive energy from the sun. They belong to a group of organisms called cyanobacteria, which were long considered blue-green algae because of their photosynthetic properties. Cyanobacteria are one of the most studied “algae” because they are often responsible for the rapid and overwhelming blooms that turn some lakes



Hobo temperature and light logger after several months in the water.



Laurie Griesinger from Bates College pulls up a zooplankton net.

into a seemingly impenetrable, deep green mat from August to November.

Gloeotrichia are particularly interesting because they are thought to pull the nutrient phosphorus from the bottom sediments and then float up to the surface waters to grow and reproduce via photosynthesis. This cyclic pattern gives them an advantage over other algae and may bring usable phosphorus into the water column that was previously unavailable.

When found in large enough quantities, gloeotrichia can be dangerous as it causes digestive problems, skin irritations and is toxic to the liver. Griesinger, who has sampled all over this region, said that preliminary results from the study indicated that gloeotrichia populations in Long Lake appear to be average. In some of the waterbodies just a few miles south of Long Lake, high populations were found and Laurie experienced first hand some of the rashes and skin irritation that locals were reporting all summer.

In conjunction with Bates College, LEA is likely to continue studying gloeotrichia populations on Long Lake next year. However, because of common reports of increased algae growth along shoreline rocks and boat hulls, LEA may also be looking into studying gloeotrichia on some of our other water bodies.

## DEP begins comprehensive review of phosphorous control

As part of the governor’s effort to streamline state review of development projects, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has just begun a comprehensive review of its phosphorus control methodology as outlined in the DEP’s Stormwater Best Management Practices.

Phosphorus is the nutrient that controls algae populations and thus water clarity in our lakes and ponds and these regulations, which were first implemented back in the late 1980s have been one of the foundation blocks for protecting water quality across the state.

The phosphorus control methodology, which has been through several revisions including a major overhaul in 2006, is based on a common and widely used lake model as well as data collected in Maine by DEP biologist Jeff Dennis. Recent studies by University of Maine graduate students have showed that the original model fits well for our state.

The review group is composed of engineering firms who frequently use the methodology, developers who are held to the standards, lake groups, private consultants and representatives from the Maine DEP.

The consistency of the regulatory review process, the science behind the regulations, the fee compensation program and exemptions for individually constructed homes were brought up as some of the most pressing issues for the committee to review.

Many local regulations refer to this methodology to quantify whether a new development is meeting existing water quality standards outlined in town sub-division and site plan review ordinances. The overlap and differences between town and DEP review projects was a separate concern that was raised during the meetings.

Proper installation and maintenance of phosphorus control practices after projects are approved is also one of the big issues facing the committee. From LEA’s standpoint, this is the most important aspect of these regulations and it is currently only addressed nominally.

LEA is looking forward to continuing to work with the review committee to improve and streamline these regulations while helping to ensure that they are both effective and fair for all parties.

# Chase cited for illegal patio/deck on Long Lake's shore

In August, LEA received calls about a new patio-deck built on the water's edge of the John Chase property on Long Lake in Naples.

This is the same property that was clear-cut to the lake in the spring of 2010 and then bulldozed smooth in preparation for a new waterfront home. After many months of negotiation, Chase settled the case through mediation. According to Naples Town Manager Derik Goodine, Chase paid \$65,000 for penalties and legal fees and agreed to substantial planting of trees and shrubs within the first 100 feet of the water in an attempt to re-vegetate the area. There's also an encumbrance on the deed for the next 10 years, so the property can't be sold (although the title can be conveyed to an immediate family member). If it is sold, a further penalty of \$175,000 would be paid to the Town of Naples.

After confirming the new deck was in place, LEA reported the violation to the town and state. In addition to being a new illegal structure within the 100-foot setback, this new patio covered over some of the vestiges of the natural vegetation that survived the clear-cutting.

According to Boni Rickett, Naples code enforcement officer, the new patio was removed after a notice of violation was sent out to Mr. Chase. Although there was a question about damage to some of the low-growing vegetation in the area, no further action has been taken at this point. LEA will review the site in the spring to assess damage and may pursue this latest violation if warranted.



The Chase property on Long Lake before the illegal patio/deck was removed.

## LEA expands local resources for officials

By Peter Lowell  
LEA Executive Director

LEA received funding from the "Mystery Foundation" and Maine Department of Environmental Protection to develop a capacity building program for local land use officials. The project targets code enforcement officers and planning board members but is open to anyone interested.

Presentations are made at regular planning board meetings to explain how boards can act to protect various natural resources using existing standards or modified standards. The economic value of these resources is also discussed and technical assistance options are explored.

As part of this project, LEA is developing an inventory and tracking system for lake protection elements required by the boards for each development. Vegetated buffers, treatment ponds and rain gardens are a part of almost every project.



LEA found cases where rain gardens weren't installed and a house (above) was built inside a buffer.

Developers present designs for these measures, called best management practices (BMPs), but follow-up is spotty at best.

The LEA project will follow development activities to see if these components were instituted. The project began last spring in three pilot towns: Bridgton, Harrison and Naples. We have already discovered cases where rain gardens were never installed and where a house was built in the middle of a forested buffer.

BMPs are crucial elements in the fight to keep our lakes clean.

Local governments and even the DEP lack a system to assure that BMPs are built according to approved design, that they are built in the right location or that they are even built at all.

Long-term maintenance of these elements is another problem. LEA will document BMPs and will field check them with state and local assistance and will provide CEO's with a tracking database.



Helen Roberts records oxygen data last summer on Bear Pond.

## Storms affected 2011 water quality

Continued from Page 1

as the one at the end of July where almost 3 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period and of course hurricane Irene in August. Heavy rains often scour out ditches and culverts, quickly washing large amounts of material downstream.

In fact, for weeks after Irene, ponds associated with Saco River flows continued to remain turbid and murky.

Secondly, July was hot and recorded as

the warmest month ever at the Portland Jetport. Warm conditions are conducive to algae growth and go hand-in-hand with ample sunlight which also allows algae populations to flourish.

Unfortunately, warmer and wetter conditions are what the best climate models are predicting for our region so the negative trend this past summer could soon become the norm unless different policies are adopted to reduce carbon emissions.

# Lake Tahoe trip sharpens LEA's '2020 Vision'

First, I would like to thank Anne Wold for serving as our past Board president and giving me a much needed road map as I begin my term as LEA president. Anne remains a part of LEA's board and created a board structure and governance model that work well.



Sean Dundon  
LEA Board President

I knew I would look forward to working with Peter Lowell more closely, but having had a chance to spend a week together studying lake science and lake protection in the Tahoe Basin in late October, I truly appreciate Peter's vision for LEA going forward. Our "2020 Vision" is to put LEA's vast amount of water quality data to work and form partnerships for lake research as alluded to at our annual meeting in August at Camp Winona.

To that end, Peter and I spent the last week of October in Lake Tahoe, which is on the California-Nevada line. We wanted to see how the Tahoe Environmental Research Center and Tahoe Science Consortium were built and funded as well as what elements of their educational and research programs we could emulate at LEA.

While Lake Tahoe is very different from the lakes in our watershed in terms of size, depth and access, they are dealing with invasive species and issues around clarity and runoff from development like we are in the Lakes Region.

The trip not only allowed Peter and I to spend time together discussing what LEA can learn from these well-funded organizations, but it also gave us a sense of what works well and what may not be fruitful in terms of best management practices (BMPs) for development, research studies, partnerships, and structure.

As LEA approaches its 50th Anniversary in 2020, we as an organization will continue our programs that our members expect and put our lake data to work by sharing ideas and resources with other organizations in Maine and beyond. LEA has wonderful resources within its membership, and the organizations we visited were simply amazed what we are able to provide with only five full-time staff in terms of educational programs, boat inspections, invasive species, lake checkups, municipal code official capacity building, GIS, our camps, and our Caplan Series program. LEA members can be proud of what we have built and we will benefit and grow through continued interaction with oth-

er lake science and education organizations.

On behalf of the LEA Board of Directors, I would like to thank Cindy Choate for her years of service to LEA and we know that Cindy will continue to support LEA's mission.

I would also like to welcome two new Board Members, Nancy Kluck of Bridgton and Bridie McGreavy. Bridie will serve as LEA's link to the research community with her position as a Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Maine Sustainability Solutions Initiative program. Nancy has a keen interest in research as well and would like LEA to establish partnerships with other similar organizations to grow our research capacity and enhance our understanding of our lakes and watershed.

LEA's continued success will depend on the participation of our members in our educational programs, development initiatives, research activities, and our overall mission of preserving and restoring our lakes.

In the coming year, I encourage you to visit our website often or stop by the office to see how you can become involved in a committee, as a speaker, as a participant, or by encouraging your neighbors to join LEA. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Board president

## Lessons from Lake Tahoe

*Continued from Page 1*

Sierra Nevada College Lake Tahoe Environmental Research Center. The knowledge and contacts gained from the Center staff as well as the Tahoe Science Consortium will be extraordinarily valuable in defining LEA's plans to expand lake studies here.

Lake Tahoe is an extraordinary example of a watershed that has benefitted from every possible resource and initiative from federal, state, county and municipal governments as well as the business sector and environmentalists. President Clinton spearheaded federal legislation that pumped 300 million dollars into Tahoe's protection efforts over ten years. The primary goal was to restore the lake's clarity to historic levels after it had been degraded by urbanization.

The lake research was fascinating, but so were our meetings with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and job sites in the basin. The issues and science were familiar to us, but the counter measures undertaken were utterly comprehensive and almost astonishing. The level of commitment to restoring the lake meant that all bases must be covered.

Regulatory standards are consistent throughout the two states, five counties and numerous towns in the Tahoe basin. Every boat entering the lake must be inspected for invasives and up to 60 percent require aggressive decontamination through power washing. All surface water runoff must be intercepted to prevent flows into the lake. A typical residential construction project involves infiltration drains with crushed rock and percolation piping along all drip edges, open top culverts with metal grates at the bottom of driveways to capture runoff and channel it to dry wells, and mandatory Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent runoff and erosion during construction.

One house expansion job we visited with the contractor needed to remove a portion of the paved driveway to stay within the highly prescriptive impervious surface limitations. Streets and driveways are swept to capture dust and sediment and almost all bare ground must be stabilized with mulch or vegetation. Every property in the watershed (over 44,000 parcels) was subject to these rules.

While it is unlikely that we would have the political will and the resources to replicate the Tahoe approach, it was instructive to see what full-on lake protection looks like. It was clear that there was a lot more that we need to



**LEA President Sean Dundon at Lake Tahoe, which is located along the border between California and Nevada, west of Carson City. Lake Tahoe is the largest alpine lake in North America.**

consider in terms of prevention, measurement, and monitoring within our watershed. Based on Tahoe's experience, it is clear that upgrading Maine's lake protection could only happen if there was broad-based support.

Tahoe's system worked in part because a special management unit was established by the federal legislation and their enormous funding meant that a lot of work could be done without the need to build a support constituency. In fact, I was asked to speak at an international conference at Tahoe this spring on the topic of constituency building.

As Tahoe funding is diminishing, they are looking to the model we have created to help sustain their work. We have a chance to return the favor the many groups we visited gave us through their hospitality and information sharing. The conference can also open up unknown opportunities for advancing LEA's goal of significant research on Maine lakes and development of the best possible outreach and education programs.

Although Sean and I visited Tahoe at the end of October, we made a point to swim in the Caribbean-colored waters on the west side of the lake. The temperature was far from tropical, but the effort was needed in order to complete our own research.



## Songo plants persist until Lock closes

LEA courtesy boat inspectors, such as Molly Keane at left, were removing plants from boats traveling through the Songo Lock right up to the last day the lock was operating.

This highlights the need to keep a strong inspection program in place at the lock.

Although the safety zone created by LEA's milfoil harvesting team seems to have reduced the amount of plants carried by boats, the threat remains.

Boat inspector funds come from the Town of Naples and the Maine DEP. Two inspectors are on duty during busy times.

At slow times, the Department of Conservation park staff alternate with a single LEA inspector.

*Photo by Portland Press Herald/ Maine Sunday Telegram Staff Photographer John Patriquin, accompanying article "Aliens among us." Maine Sunday Telegram, July 3, 2011.*

# Songo shows problems facing lakes communities

The Songo River in Naples is probably the state's busiest waterway. It has also been the focus of significant controversy because of its extensive milfoil infestation. The events of the past two years that involve this waterway are illustrative of the complex problems facing Maine's lake communities.



**Peter Lowell**  
*LEA Executive Director*

In early 2011, a bill was submitted to close the Songo Lock to

boat traffic and the fireworks started. It was all about restricting access on the corridor that connected Long Lake and Brandy Pond to Sebago Lake. Marina owners were the main adversaries and two chambers of commerce were drawn into what turned out to be a heated confrontation.

Concern over economic impact squared off against the fear of spreading plants to upstream lakes. Public access is a sacred cow in Maine, but clean lakes are as well. Both have significant economic implications.

Following the initial legislative uproar and the scuttling of the bill, it was decided to formulate a plan that would attempt to deal productively with all of the issues. The energy, time and resources that would be consumed by fighting needed to be diverted to creating solutions. Here is the sequence of events that ensued:

- A committee was formed to generate a plan for funding expanded harvesting with the goal of clearing 800 feet of river downstream from the lock. This work was to be conducted by LEA staff in addition to their work upriver and in Brandy Pond. It would provide a plant-free safety zone for boats traveling upstream into the lock.
- The Portland Water District and the Town of Naples offered additional funding and the Lake Region 4H Club received a grant to construct bottom barriers to augment suction harvester work.
- LEA designed a new barrier made with rebar and the shrink-wrap used for boat winterization. Naples Marina donated 300 feet of wrap and the club helped assemble the barriers.

- Since boat inspections at the lock exceeded 4,000 a year, it was essential to have a strong CBI program there. DEP agreed to continue the increased funding it had provided in 2010 when the call for closing the lock was first made by LEA with support from the selectboards in Bridgton and Harrison.
- Michael Donoghue at Causeway Landing made prime space available for an outreach office for the Naples and Bridgton chambers of commerce and LEA. This created a spirit of cooperation to protect the region's economic and ecological health.
- Naples Marina and Causeway Marina sponsored a benefit cruise with the Songo River Queen that raised about \$2,300 for LEA's milfoil control efforts.

By the time the LEA crew disbanded in August, the 800-foot safety zone had been cleared as had the upper river and Brandy Pond along with the lower Crooked River. This was made possible because of the great work the LEA Milfoil Team had done over the past five years.

The first survey of Brandy Pond and the upper Songo in June 2011 revealed only a few dozen plants. When the team started its work years earlier, there were 3 acres of plants. They did not achieve total eradication, as some plants will re-generate, but we expect the task will be significantly easier next summer.

Although the partnership approach did not work flawlessly, converting everyone's energy to addressing the problem allowed better than expected success. Diverse agendas were served as were the dual needs for harvesting and prevention.

We are still in the red by about \$5,000 for the project and hope support from landowners on Brandy Pond and the Songo will make up the deficit.

The state did not respond to the request by numerous Naples municipal officials and businesses to raise the fee at the lock by \$4 to fund plant control.

LEA is optimistic that we can build on the cooperation and progress that characterized 2011 on the river.

# Let's hope upcoming legislative session isn't as scary

By Peter Lowell  
LEA Executive Director

The second regular session of the 125th Legislature convenes on January 4, 2012, and we can only hope that lake protection isn't threatened as seriously as it was last session.

The winter of 2011 was a scary time for those who care about Maine's natural resources. Virtually every environmental law was being challenged by the LePage administration as the new governor mounted a broad assault in the legislature.

LEA Board member Jean Preis, Assistant Director Colin Holme and Roberta Scruggs, membership/outreach director, traveled with me to Augusta to testify at hearings. I also was invited to participate in a work session of the Joint Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources.

The public outcry was substantial and, after hearing a variety of excellent testimony from experts and landowners, the committee turned back most of the proposals.

LEA's specific suggestions on upgrades to the "tree-



Jean Preis, an LEA Board member and former LEA president, testifies before the Joint Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources last winter.

cutting law" were welcomed and were written into law. This statute deals with requirements for replanting after a violation has occurred. It was used effectively in the Chase case on Long Lake.

The committee also established task forces to study shoreland zoning and the phosphorus control standards used by towns and the DEP in reviewing development proposals. I was appointed to the shoreland zoning group and Colin has been

participating in the phosphorus group. The emphasis with both groups seems to be to make the rules more workable and easier to understand.

There seems to be broad support for protecting Maine's natural resources. A lobbyist for Maine realtors said her members are solidly in support of lake protection measures.

Both groups will report their conclusions and recommendations to the legislature in January.



Squash and Gourds heat up a winter night at last year's bluegrass benefit for LEA.

## Don't miss the 8th Deep Freeze Mostly Bluegrass Music Festival

Get ready for some toe-tapping tunes on Saturday, January 28, as LEA celebrates its 8th Annual Deep Freeze Mostly Bluegrass Music Festival at 7 p.m., at the Town Hall on Route 302 in Bridgton.

In the middle of Maine's coldest season the best thing to do is to warm up with friends and family as we sing and dance to the sounds of Maine's best bluegrass bands. Stop by and enjoy the lively music, warm food, and company of close friends.

Tickets are available at the LEA office, 230 Main Street, Bridgton, and at the door. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$25 for couples, and \$30 for families. For more information contact LEA at 207-647-8580 or [lakes@leamaine.org](mailto:lakes@leamaine.org).

## Come see LEA's Aquarium Garden

Thanks to a grant from the Ram Island Foundation that we received through the Maine Community Foundation, LEA has created a new aquarium garden in the lakes center. Several invasive aquatic plants have been successfully cultivated in three custom aquariums that are housed in our front windows. We have also been growing Chinese Mystery Snails and several types of algae. The display allows visitors to see actual plants growing at close-up range.

The Ram Island Foundation grant also provided funds for plant identification classes which were developed by LEA educator, Mary Jewett. Two sessions were conducted last summer.

The irony is that some invasive plants are difficult to grow in "captivity." We have had to adjust lighting and bottom sediment in an attempt to keep some



Invasive plants from fanwort to milfoil are taking root in three aquariums.

plants alive. The aquarium garden is fascinating – the snails often free-fall from top to bottom – to observe and we encourage you to visit our center to see it. Thanks to the Ram Island Foundation for making this possible.

## Are you an LEA member? Please help us protect our lakes

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Winter address \_\_\_\_\_

Summer address \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed.  Charge my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Gift Levels:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Family
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Individual
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> Any other amount
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Lake Steward	\$ _____

You can join LEA with a contribution of any amount. Just mail this form and a donation to LEA, 230 Main Street, Bridgton ME 04009.

You can also join or renew at:

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