



# NonPoint Source Times

Volume 18 , Issue 3 Summer 2009

## Pavement Sealcoat Contributes to Stormwater Pollution

**DURHAM, New Hampshire**, April 29, 2009 (ENS) - Driveways and parking lots may look blacker and shinier with a layer of sealcoating applied to the pavement, but the rainwater running off the surface into nearby streams will be carrying more than oxygen and hydrogen atoms.

New research conducted at the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center shows that sealcoating contributes to the amount of polyaromatic hydrocarbons entering waterways from stormwater runoff.

More commonly known as PAHs, polyaromatic hydrocarbons are found in diesel and crude oil. The Department of Health and Human Services has determined that some PAHs may reasonably be expected to be carcinogens.

Although small amounts of PAHs are typically found in the waters around the New Hampshire Seacoast, the sudden spike in the hydrocarbon concentrations in water draining from a university parking lot used for research caused Tom Ballestero, UNH associate professor of civil engineering, to be concerned about unknown impacts.

"Our society has been sealcoating pavement for decades and there are things we've never asked about," he says. "Now we're starting to probe and ask these questions."

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Although it is intended to remain on the pavement surface, much of the sealcoating eventually washes or scrapes off and ends up in nearby streams and rivers, says Alison Watts, affiliate faculty member at the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center.



Most PAHs do not dissolve easily in water but stick to solid particles and settle to the bottoms of lakes or rivers. Micro-organisms can break down PAHs in soil or water after a period of weeks to months, according to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances.

For the study, one-quarter acre of a parking lot located near the Stormwater Center was covered with coal tar-based sealcoat and one-third acre was covered with asphalt-based sealcoat. The remainder of the nine-acre lot was left unsealed.

On-site stormwater drains off the parking lot and into a nearby swale. The PAH concentration was measured in the water and sediments coming from the sealcoated and unsealed parking lot sections.

Both types of sealcoating led to a rapid increase in PAH concentrations in the initial runoff - up to 5,000 parts per billion, much higher than the 10 ppb levels released from the unsealed lot, although concentrations decreased after several rainstorms.

The PAH concentrations in the sediments mirrored these trends. The concentrations immediately downstream of the coal tar-sealed lot increased by nearly two orders of magnitude within the first year.

Unlike other compounds, PAHs do not break down easily and persist in the environment for decades. Even a small amount of PAHs coming off sealcoated parking lots may overwhelm an aquatic ecological system already stressed by other contaminants.

Increased PAH concentrations in waterways could be a human health issue if people are exposed to the substance regularly. In addition, dust particles coming from a sealcoated driveway could potentially be troublesome for children who play on the sealed surface.

Ballestero cautions that it should not be a major source of concern, but nevertheless he and Watts will be investigating PAH levels in dust from sealcoat later this year.

"You don't see people falling over from PAHs in sealcoat, it's not that big of a health issue," Ballestero says. "But it could be a cumulative exposure problem that gets uglier over time."

Ballestero says he has sensed an interest by the sealcoat industry in offering more less toxic alternatives in the future. He says there should be options that allow workers in the industry to continue to make a living, but without causing additional harm to the local ecosystems and human health.

"There are much bigger environmental problems out there than PAHs from sealcoats, but the bottom line is that it is easily preventable," Watts said. "All you have to do is not apply it to pavement."

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The UNH Stormwater Center works to protect water resources through effective stormwater management. The center receives funding from the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology at the University of New Hampshire and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The sealcoating research study was funded by New Hampshire Sea Grant.

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## EPA Releases "*Watershed Central*" Web Site and a "*Watershed Wiki*"

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EPA recently posted a new Web site called "**Watershed Central**" to help watershed organizations and others find key information they need to implement watershed approaches. The primary purpose of the new Watershed Central Web site is to make it easy for organizations find the information in a timely manner that they need to help protect and restore their water resources. Watershed Central helps users find environmental data, watershed models, nearby local organizations, and guidance documents -- and other information depending on the task at hand. Watershed Central also contains links to watershed technical resources and funding, mapping applications to help find information specific to named watersheds, and includes a "Watershed Wiki" that users may use to collaborate. We encourage all watershed practitioners to use this new Watershed Wiki to share tools, scientific findings, expertise, and local approaches to watershed management. Watershed Central not only links to EPA Web resources but also links to other valuable funding, guidance and tools on Web sites of state, tribal, and federal partners, universities, and nonprofit organizations. EPA's new site is located at: [www.epa.gov/watershedcentral](http://www.epa.gov/watershedcentral)

On April 15, 2009, EPA's Watershed Academy will present a Webcast entitled, "**Watershed Central: A New Gateway to Watershed Information.**" This Webcast will provide an opportunity to learn about the information and tools available on Watershed Central, including the new Watershed Central Wiki. Please visit our Web site at [www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts](http://www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts) to learn more about this Webcast; registration will open in early April. Also, at this URL you can find archives of 39 past Webcasts on a variety of watershed management topics.

**Logging On to the Watershed Central Wiki:** When clicking on the links to the wiki, you will be prompted for a user name and password. EPA staff can use their LAN name and password. Non-EPA users will create a name and password, fill out a short form and hit submit. The non-EPA user contact is Stuart Lehman, [lehman.stuart@epa.gov](mailto:lehman.stuart@epa.gov), (202) 566-1205. During working hours approval to use the wiki should come through in less than an hour. Otherwise, approval will arrive the next day.

**Watershed Central Wiki Articles:** The wiki can be edited by any user, so feel free to start using it, providing your own edits and articles, and commenting on watershed tools and resources.

**Comments on the Watershed Central Website:** Send your comments to mailbox [watershedcentral@epa.gov](mailto:watershedcentral@epa.gov).

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## Lake Camp Road Legislation Approved

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As reported in the last edition of the *NPS Times*, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection submitted a report to the Maine Legislature this past winter with recommendations for next steps to address run-off problems associated with lake camp roads, driveways and boat ramps. The report included several recommendations needing legislative approval to proceed.

With the help of several legislators, including Rep. Bob Duchesne, who co-chairs the Natural Resources Committee, and Sen. Richard Nass, who testified in support, three bills were introduced and passed during the current legislative session. The three bills, which all provide for revisions to the Private Ways Law (Title 23

§3101 *et. seq.*), are as follows:

- **LD 1307, An Act to Provide Limited Immunity for Road Association Directors, Commissioners and Volunteers.** This bill, which went to the Judiciary Committee, provides liability immunity for road association officials for the organizational activities that may be undertaken in order to authorize and fund road maintenance or repair work.
- **LD 1311, An to Enable Municipal Assistance for Purposes of Protecting or Restoring Public Waters.** This bill allows municipalities to authorize the use of public funds to repair or maintain a private road for the purpose of protecting or restoring lake water quality. To qualify, the road must be in the watershed of a lake that is listed as "most at risk" in DEP rules, is listed as having impaired water quality by DEP, or is identified as having threats to water quality through a watershed survey. Also to qualify for municipal funding support, the road must be found to be contributing to degradation of lake water quality based on an evaluation of the road using DEP accepted protocol. Repair work must comply with best management practices required by DEP and there must be a road association in place to maintain the road.
- **LD 1315, An Act to Amend the Private Way Laws with Regard to Road Associations.** This bill provides clarification on the on-going duration of a road association (until dissolved by a vote of its members); guidance on easements that a road association may enter into; and authorization for a municipality to use highway equipment for water quality protection purposes, consistent with LD 1311, above.

To help in the implementation of the new legislation, the DEP will be working to update the Guide to Forming Road Associations, and will be offering training on conducting road evaluations this field season. The training will be geared toward road association members and municipal officials.

For more information:

On the new legislation, contact: Don Witherill at 287-7725 ([donald.t.witherill@maine.gov](mailto:donald.t.witherill@maine.gov)) or Wendy Garland at 822-6320 ([wendy.garland@maine.gov](mailto:wendy.garland@maine.gov));

On the "Guide to Forming Road Associations, contact Kristin Feindel at 287-5586 ([kristin.feindel@maine.gov](mailto:kristin.feindel@maine.gov));

On upcoming training opportunities, contact Bill Laflamme at 287-7726 ([william.n.laflamme@maine.gov](mailto:william.n.laflamme@maine.gov)).

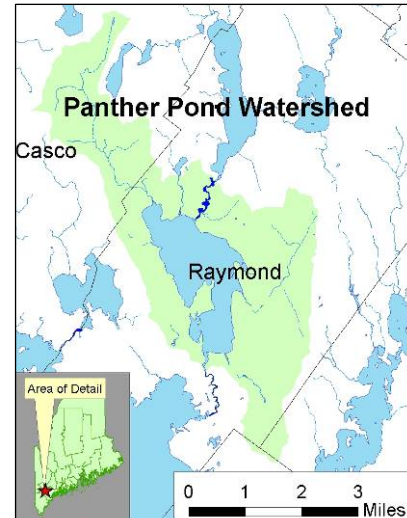
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# Panther Pond Conservation Project – Phase I

## #2005R-17

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Waterbody Name: Panther Pond  
Location: Raymond, Casco – Cumberland County  
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk  
Project Sponsor: Town of Raymond  
Project Duration: April 2005 – August 2008  
319 Grant Amount: \$43,945  
Local Match: \$144,699



### PROBLEM:

Panther Pond is a 1439-acre lake located in the Town of Raymond. Panther Pond's shoreline is developed with over 300 homes, four youth summer camps and an extensive network of unpaved camp roads. The direct watershed covers 12.3 square miles, and the larger watershed includes Crescent Lake, Raymond Pond and several smaller ponds. Panther Pond contributes about 18% of the flow into Sebago Lake, which serves as a drinking water supply for the Portland region.

The Raymond Waterways Protective Association (RWPA) and Maine DEP have monitored water quality on Panther Pond since 1974. Data indicates that the lake experiences moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in late summer. In 2002 the Panther Pond Association (PPA) formed to promote conservation efforts in their watershed. In 2003, the PPA, RWPA, Cumberland County SWCD and Maine DEP conducted an independently-funded watershed survey and identified 84 erosion sites contributing an estimated 61 tons of sediment per year to the lake. Prior to the Phase I project, several of these sites were fixed by the Town, residents and the Maine DOT's Surface Water Quality Protection Program.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to significantly reduce erosion and export of phosphorus into Panther Pond. The project also aimed to raise awareness about watershed problems and foster long-term watershed stewardship. Conservation practices were installed on a total of 46 sites in the watershed, including 26 large-scale erosion sites and another 20 smaller sites through small matching grants. A shoreline survey was also completed in 2007 to document shoreline conditions. Digital photos were taken of each shoreline property, labeled according to tax map and lot number and provided to the Town Code Enforcement Office for enforcement and permitting purposes.

A project brochure was mailed to all watershed landowners at the start of the project and at the beginning of the second year. Four hands-on workshops were held in conjunction with project construction, and three tours (over 66 participants) were conducted to showcase completed project sites. Project updates were presented at RWPA and PPA's annual meetings, and project materials were included on the RWPA website (<http://www.raymondmaine.org/committees/waterways/>), RWPA newsletters and PPA mailings.



Volunteers build infiltration steps and spread mulch on an eroded path to the lake.

**PROJECT OUTCOMES:**

- The modestly-sized project successfully fixed erosion problems at 26 large-scale erosion sites (four more sites than originally planned). Small matching grants (\$100 each) were awarded for another 20 sites to install conservation practices such as buffers, rubber razor diverters, waterbars and infiltration steps.
- Pollutant loading to Panther Pond was reduced by an estimated 75.1 tons of sediment and 62.2 pounds of phosphorus per year (EPA Region 5 Method). This reduction amounts to 70% of the estimated pollutant load associated with sites identified during the 2003 watershed survey and one high impact site identified after the survey project.
- Local match contributed to the project totaled \$144,699, which far exceeded the original project goal of \$39,825. The Town of Raymond and local residents proved to be extremely involved throughout the project, which accounts for much of the match. Three of the seven sites in the Plummerville complex were also funded, in part, with a \$17,700 grant from the DEP's Stormwater Compensation Fund.
- The project built local momentum for continued work in the watershed. RWPA was awarded a 319 grant to begin the second and final phase of the project in April 2009.



Prior to construction, runoff raced down the paved boat launch and created large gullies in the beach. With project cost sharing, the landowner installed a rubber blade at the base of the pavement to divert water into a new rain garden. A sediment ring catches sediment before it reaches the garden.

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Panther Pond Association

Portland Water District

Raymond Waterways Protective Association

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Wendy Garland, DEP – (207) 822-6320, [wendy.garland@maine.gov](mailto:wendy.garland@maine.gov)

Noralee Raymond, Town of Raymond and RWPA – (207) 671-3329, [lakes@raymondmaine.org](mailto:lakes@raymondmaine.org)

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## Children's Dictionary Dump's 'Nature' Words

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To make way for modern tech terms such as BlackBerry, blog, voicemail and broadband, the latest edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary has opted to [drop terms pertaining to old nature](#). No longer can a child check this dictionary and learn more about the blackberry, dandelion, acorn, heron, otter, magpie, sycamore, or willow.

According to Vineeta Gupta, who heads children's dictionaries at Oxford University Press, changes in the world are responsible for changes in the book. "When you look back at older versions of dictionaries, there were lots of examples of flowers for instance," she said. "That was because many children lived in semi-rural environments and saw the seasons. Nowadays, the environment has changed."



The 10,000 words and phrases in the junior dictionary were selected using several criteria, including how often words would be used by young children.

### Words taken out:

Coronation, duchess, duke, emperor, empire, monarch, decade, carol, cracker, holly, ivy, mistletoe, dwarf, elf, goblin, abbey, aisle, altar, bishop, chapel, christen, disciple, minister, monastery, monk, nun, nunnery, parish, pew, psalm, pulpit, saint, sin, devil, vicar.

Adder, ass, beaver, boar, budgerigar, bullock, cheetah, colt, corgi, cygnet, doe, drake, ferret, gerbil, goldfish, guinea pig, hamster, heron, herring, kingfisher, lark, leopard, lobster, magpie, minnow, mussel, newt, otter, ox, oyster, panther, pelican, piglet, plaice, poodle, porcupine, porpoise, raven, spaniel, starling, stoat, stork, terrapin, thrush, weasel, wren.



Acorn, allotment, almond, apricot, ash, bacon, beech, beetroot, blackberry, blacksmith, bloom, bluebell, bramble, bran, bray, bridle, brook, buttercup, canary, canter, carnation, catkin, cauliflower, chestnut, clover, conker, county, cowslip, crocus, dandelion, diesel, fern, fungus, gooseberry, gorse, hazel, hazelnut, heather, holly, horse chestnut, ivy, lavender, leek, liquorice, manger, marzipan, melon, minnow, mint, nectar, nectarine, oats, pansy, parsnip, pasture, poppy, porridge, poultry, primrose, prune, radish, rhubarb, sheaf, spinach, sycamore, tulip, turnip, vine, violet, walnut, willow

### Words put in:

Blog, broadband, MP3 player, voicemail, attachment, database, export, chatroom, bullet point, cut and paste, analogue.

Celebrity, tolerant, vandalism, negotiate, interdependent, creep, citizenship, childhood, conflict, common sense, debate, EU, drought, brainy, boisterous, cautionary tale, bilingual, bungee jumping, committee, compulsory, cope, democratic, allergic, biodegradable, emotion, dyslexic, donate, endangered, Euro.

Apparatus, food chain, incisor, square number, trapezium, alliteration, colloquial, idiom, curriculum, classify, chronological, block graph.

From <http://www.nextnature.net/?p=3110>

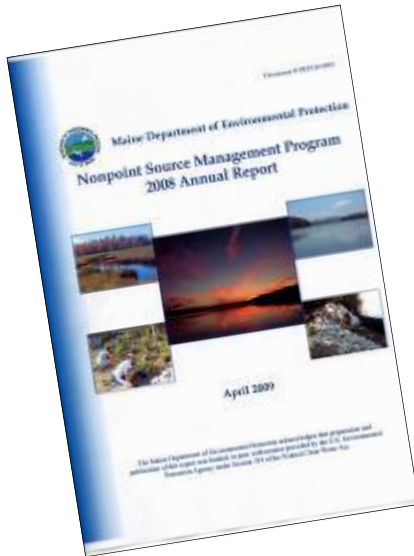
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## NPS Management Program—2008 Annual Report

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Maine DEP is very pleased to announce the release of Maine DEP's **Nonpoint Source Management Program - 2008 Annual Report**.

The report (74p, 5MB) is posted at DEP's NPS webpage: [http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docgrant/319\\_files/reports/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docgrant/319_files/reports/index.htm)



The report summarizes accomplishments of Maine DEP NPS Program activities funded, in part, under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act in partnership with EPA. DEP provides technical and financial help to watershed groups that assess water quality problems and take action to reduce nonpoint source pollution to help protect or improve Maine's CLEAN WATER.

Highlights include:

- 24 NPS projects completed in 2008. Please read our brief "outcome summaries" for more information.
- Pollutant reductions estimated at 763 pounds of phosphorus and 1,249 tons of sediment per year as a result of NPS project in 2008. This is roughly equivalent to 107 (8 yard) dump truck loads of sediment kept out of Maine's waters.
- The restoration of Madawaska Lake, a 1,600-acre lake in Aroostook County valued for boating, fishing and swimming, was highlighted on the EPA's "Nonpoint Source Program Success Stories" website.

Maine – we have so much beautiful clean water to protect!!

DEP thanks our many valued partners described in this report for their support, cooperation and leadership. Together we are proudly serving to protect Maine's clean waters for future generations.

We welcome your comments. For more information contact Norm Marcotte, Nonpoint Source Coordinator, [norm.g.marcotte@maine.gov](mailto:norm.g.marcotte@maine.gov) or (207) 287-7727.

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## Advancing the Science of Diadromous Species Restoration

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The Diadromous Species Restoration Research Network is a NSF funded network whose goal is to advance the science of diadromous fish restoration, promote state-of-the-art scientific approaches to multiple-species restoration on a watershed scale, and facilitate interactions among scientists, managers, and stakeholders.

DSRRN welcomes Barbara Arter as the network's Science Information Coordinator. If you have questions about DSRRN or would like to be added to the DSRRN mailing list, please contact Barbara at 207/581-3286 or [barbara.s.arter@umit.maine.edu](mailto:barbara.s.arter@umit.maine.edu).

First Science Meeting to Identify Big Questions. Restoration of Diadromous Fishes and Their Ecosystems: Confluence of Science and Restoration. 22-24 July 2009 University of Maine, Orono, Maine

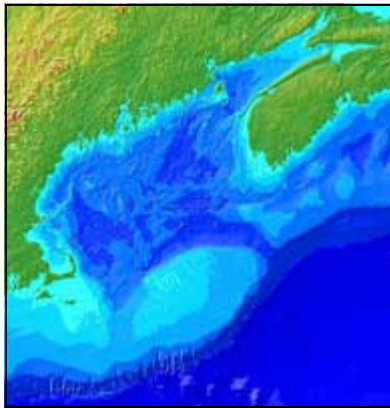
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- 1) Help shape substantial dialog about the future of diadromous species restoration and research by identifying major scientific questions and promising research and management strategies;
- 2) Join a growing network of researchers and managers focused on the restoration of diadromous fish, other species, and their habitats in the north Atlantic region, including an ambitious dam removal project in the Penobscot River watershed;
- 3) Contribute to the planning of future DSRRN-sponsored workshops focusing on top priority questions and strategies.

Nationally renowned plenary speakers include:

- Margaret Palmer, University of Maryland Researches restoration ecology and how land use, hydrology and geomorphology influence the health of running-water ecosystems.
- David Montgomery, University of Washington Studies evolution of topography and the influence of geomorphological processes on ecological systems and human societies.



Gulf of Maine

- Gérald Chaput, Fisheries and Oceans, NB, Canada Specializes in growth, istribution, and abundance of diadromous fish in eastern Canada and specifically the Miramichi River Watershed in New Brunswick.
- George Pess, Northwest Fisheries Science Center Research includes ecosystem response to the removal of the Elwha River dams and differences in salmonid recolonization associated with population and aquatic habitat dynamics.

For more information please visit the DSRRN Web site at <http://www.umaine.edu/searunfish/> or contact Barbara at [barbara.s.arter@umit.maine.edu](mailto:barbara.s.arter@umit.maine.edu)).

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## Maine Coastal Waters Conference 2009

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28, 2009, Point Lookout Resort & Conference Center, Northport, Maine. Please visit the conference website often for more information: [www.coastalwaters2009.com](http://www.coastalwaters2009.com)

### OVERVIEW

Join us in fall 2009 for an exciting event – the second “Maine Coastal Waters Conference”. This all-day event will feature informative talks about issues of concern to those who manage, study and love the Maine coast. A morning plenary session will introduce attendees to the major conference themes, while afternoon breakout sessions will allow participants to delve into topics of interest in greater detail. Lunch, a poster session and a post-conference reception will allow for important networking time.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- Angus S. King, Jr., Former Maine Governor
- Dr. Susi Moser, Climate Researcher

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### PLENARY SESSION THEMES

- Climate Change
- Alternative Ocean-related Energy
- Community Based Natural Resource Management

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- State, federal and municipal coastal managers and others who use scientific information for coastal decision-making
- Scientists
- Students
- Non-governmental organizations such as land trusts, coastal watershed groups

### CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Coastal Enterprises Inc., Friends of Casco Bay, Island Institute, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Sea Grant College Program, Maine State Planning Office/Maine Coastal Program, The Nature Conservancy, Town of Brunswick, US Fish & Wildlife Service/Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, US Geological Survey-Eastern Region, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve.

For more information [www.coastalwaters2009.com](http://www.coastalwaters2009.com)

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## Barriers to LID

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Don Waye, U.S. EPA, is pleased to announce that thanks to the help of folks around the country, as well as NEMO's list, he has identified 20+ key studies. Most of these are less than 2 years old, and a few are hot off the press or will be released soon. To share the wealth, he has created a special temporary repository of as many of these studies as possible using drop.io, a file sharing site. Here's the link: [http://drop.io/lid\\_barriers](http://drop.io/lid_barriers)

Special thanks to EPA intern Jenny Biddle for sifting through these materials and developing an annotated bibliography, which is provided on drop.io and pasted below my signature block.

For more information contact Don Waye, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Nonpoint Source Control Branch (OWOW/AWPD) at (202) 566-1170 or [waye.don@epa.gov](mailto:waye.don@epa.gov)

Looking for books for children on lakes and fresh water habitats?

Check out [http://www.lcbp.org/Factsht/Children\\_Books.pdf](http://www.lcbp.org/Factsht/Children_Books.pdf)



# 39th Annual Maine Lakes Conference

## *Nurturing Living Lakes: The Actions **You** Can Take*

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. St. Joseph's College, Standish, ME

- 9:00 - 9:50 am** Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 - 10:15 am** Welcome, Opening Remarks, Bart Hague, President of COLA
- 10:15 - 11:00 am** KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *Every Picture Tells a Story*, Gerry Monkman
- 11:00 - 11:30 am** COLA Annual Meeting
- 11:30 - 11:45 am** Morning Refreshment Break

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS	SPEAKERS
Noon to 1 pm	
Photography Workshop	Gerry Monkman
Misconceptions about Septic System Standards and the Implications for Maine Lakes	Jim Hart and Peter Kallin
Changing Ownership and Land Use Patterns in Maine's North Woods	Sally Stockwell, Maine Audubon <del>Gordon Stuart</del>
Lessening the Effects of Unplanned Development on Maine's Water Resources	

**1:00 - 2:00 pm LUNCH – Buffet or Box Lunch**

**2:00 - 5:00 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS - Afternoon Refreshments Available**

TIME	Exploring your Lake With Children	Helping your Lake Association Grow	Actions You Can Take to Nurture Your Lake <u>or</u> Implementing BMP's
1:00 to 4:00 pm	<p><b>Fun, 3-hour, Hands-on workshop</b> Instructions, materials, and resources provided Examples: Who's crawling on the bottom? (Discovering diversity through bottom crawlies) What's in our watershed? Plumbing the depths (Exploring the lake top to bottom) It's Just Passing Through, Water Cycle discovery activities. Developing a lake exploration mythology</p> <p><b>All who sign up for this Workshop will automatically receive a Box Lunch</b></p>	<p><b>Social Marketing Programs to Encourage Lake Protection</b> Dr. Steve Kahl, Environmental Geochemist, UNH</p> <p><b>Building Membership:</b> A Lake Association Panel Shares What Has Worked on their Lakes for Adding Members, Communication, Newsletters, Database Development</p> <p><b>Raising Money:</b> Lake Association Leaders Share Fundraising Projects that Work Raffles, Races, Cookbooks, Tournaments, and More</p> <p><b>Outreach Activities:</b> How to Set-up and Run Lake Days Hands-on T-shirt Painting! (Kits available)</p> <p><b>Box Lunch or Buffet Available</b></p>	<p><b>How to do a Watershed Survey</b> Wendy Garland, Maine DEP</p> <p><b>Getting a Clean Water Act Grant</b> Norm Marcotte, Maine DEP</p> <p><b>Keeping Your Lake Blue</b> Practical BMP's for your Watershed Adam Shoukimas</p> <p><b>How to Assess your Gravel Road For Problems</b> Bill LaFlamme, NPS Training and Education Center, DEP</p> <p><b>New Resources for Road Associations.</b> Betsy Bowen, MARA, Kristin Feindel, Maine DEP</p> <p><b>Box Lunch or Buffet Available</b></p>
4-5pm	OPTIONAL BOAT TOUR ON THE MELINDA ANN FLOATING CLASSROOM – Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute Demonstration		

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## News from the VLMP

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Here are a few updates from the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program as we get ready for field season.

**Workshop Training Schedule is Available Online:** Invasive Plant Patrol & Water Quality Monitor workshops are posted online at [www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/workshops](http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/workshops)

**VLMP Conference *Save the Date*:** VLMP's Annual Volunteer Monitoring Conference will be **July 11** at the Great Outdoors on Pleasant Pond in Turner, Maine. Jessica Leahy & Kathleen Bell from the University of Maine will give the keynote presentation titled Extending the Frontiers of Citizen Science: New Applications to Lake Development, Recreation & Associations, based on their findings of the survey volunteers responded to early in the year.

**Milfoil Mat Video:** As many of you know, benthic (or bottom) barriers provide a cost-effective method for controlling dense patches of invasive plants. This excellent video by Maine's own Jim Chandler provides clear, step-by-step instructions on how to construct a reusable 10' X 40' benthic barrier in 36 minutes. Cost per barrier (2007 prices): 10 cents per square foot, or \$40. Jim has generously given us his permission to post his video on the VLMP website. To check it out, please go to <http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/videos/> and then click on the Milfoil Mat video.

**VLMP's Roberta Hill in the News:** Roberta was recently featured in the Lewiston Sun Journal: [http://www.sunjournal.com/story/314393-3/bsection/Face\\_Time\\_Roberta\\_Hill/](http://www.sunjournal.com/story/314393-3/bsection/Face_Time_Roberta_Hill/)

**Didymo Update:** This recent didymo announcement comes from New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/53996.html>. The notice serves as a timely reminder of the importance of cleaning and drying all gear that goes into, and comes out of, any water resource . . . This includes hip waders! Didymo is not known to occur in Maine. With a bit of effort on everyone's part, we can help keep it that way. For more information on didymo, including how to make sure you are not inadvertently spreading this invasive organism, please click on the following link. <http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/mciap/otherinvaders/#Didymo>

**2008 Secchi and Plant Survey data is Online:** Find the data for your lake on the VLMP Lake Pages at [www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/lakes](http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/lakes)

From the VLMP crew Scott, Roberta, Jim, Jackey & Christine

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## 2009 Wetland Delineation & ID plus Soil Workshop

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Wednesday, September 9, 2009

The 2009 MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE/MFS Wetland Delineation and Identification Workshop will be held at Reid State Park in Georgetown, Maine on September 9, 2009 from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm.

The cost of the workshop is \$25.00 for MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE/MFS members or associate members and \$40.00 for all others. For planning purposes, we ask that you register by September 1. Check [www.mapss.org](http://www.mapss.org) for background information and updates.

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## An Environmentalist's Thesaurus

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*(Editors note: The content of this article does not necessarily reflect the views of Maine DEP nor it's staff but rather the views of the author. It is presented here as food for thought.)*

An Environmentalist's Thesaurus - 'Global warming' is so passé.

By [JOE QUEENAN](#)

Some experts think the environmentalist movement has an image problem. According to them, greens are losing the battle against primeval despoilers of Nature's awesome bounty because they continue to use antiquated, in-your-face terms like "global warming," "cap and trade," and yes even "the environment." So says a new report by ecoAmerica, a cutting-edge, Washington-based nonprofit that specializes in environmental marketing and messaging, as reported in the New York Times (henceforth known as the Green Lady).

According to ecoAmerica, which has conducted rigorous, focus-group research in this area, environmentalists are taking it on the chin because politically charged terms like "global warming" conjure up images of hirsute, confrontational '60s types. "When you say 'global warming,'" Robert M. Perkowitz, ecoAmerica's president and founder, told the Times, "a certain group of Americans think that's a code word for progressive liberals, gay marriage and other such issues."

Sadly, Mr. Perkowitz never explained how this "certain group" manages to draw a connection between global warming and gay marriage. And it must be said, I'd love to see his raw data on the subject.

In any event, to right the listing ship of sustainable biodiversity, ecoAmerica recommends that environmentalists mothball the textured scientific lingo and get right down to the nitty-gritty. That means ditching excessively technical terms like "carbon dioxide" and substituting catchy phrases like "moving away from the dirty fuels of the past."

EcoAmerica also recommends jettisoning the cumbersome term "the environment" and replacing it with the infinitely more felicitous "the air we breathe, the water our children drink." The organization probably got paid tons of money for this high-level research, so its advice should not go unheeded.

Clearly, ecoAmerica is on to something with this bold initiative. But perhaps the subtle neologisms it's proposed don't go far enough. No one pays any attention to bloodless expressions like "depletion of the ozone layer" anymore. Moreover, "depletion" is a stupid word, since what it's supposed to decry is "catastrophic destruction" of the ozone layer, not its mere shrinkage.

What is needed here is more graphic language that the man on the street can understand. Thus, instead of saying something like "If mankind continues to deplete the ozone layer, we will cause irreparable damage to the environment," activists should say: "If we keep

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using the dirty fuels of the past to mess up that awesome thing in the sky that prevents our butts from like totally frying at the beach, then we might as well just spew filth into the air we breathe and the water our children drink and all curl up and die right now. Am I right, or what?"

Anyone can see how more colorful, less partisan, less politically rancorous language would enable environmentalists to seize the higher ground. Now it no longer sounds like some prissy elitist's butt that's going to fry. It could be somebody in a trailer park. Maybe even Dick Cheney.

There are many other environmentalist catchphrases that could use fine-tuning. "No carbon footprint" is a term so trendy, so precious, that it cannot help but reinforce the image of environmentalists as condescending do-gooders. Surely something less deviously euphemistic would work better.

Instead of hanging a sign in the window reading, "As of midnight Tuesday, this dining establishment will no longer leave a carbon footprint," restaurant owners could hang a placard reading: "Starting Tuesday, we will no longer allow disgusting fumes to belch all over the food your kids are eating and stinking up the air you breathe. We already warned the cook."

Similarly, instead of talking about "the melting of the polar ice cap," a phrase too apocalyptically antediluvian to scare anyone anymore, environmentalists should start referring to "dead polar bears in your driveway." "Degradation of habitat" could be replaced by a more evocative phrase like "torching Bambi's crib."

The one term environmentalists should probably deep-six, though, is "biological diversity." The ding-dongs who confuse "global warming" with gay marriage might think that biological diversity refers to features of the environment that only ethnic minorities care about. At this rate, we'll never get the planet back in working order.

*Mr. Queenan, a satirist and writer, is the author of numerous books. His memoir, "Closing Time," has just been published by Viking.*

### NASA Scientist: Turf Top U.S. Irrigated Crop



Cristina Milesi, a remote-sensing scientist at California State University -Monterey Bay and at NASA/Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California, after witnessing how much water is wasted on landscapes in the U.S., used census data, satellite images, and aerial photographs to estimate how much turf grass was in the 48 contiguous states. Then, she applied a computer simulation that revealed the environmental impact based on care of the grass.

Her results found that turf grass is the single largest irrigated crop in the United States, three-times more than corn. (Source: Science Daily).

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## Mistaken Identity—Invasive Plants & Their Native Look Alikes

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*(Editors note: There is a new publication by the NY Botanical Garden available to help people distinguish between native and invasive species that may be helpful with buffer planting. It is available for free at [http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken\\_Identity\\_Final.pdf](http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf) )*

**Purpose:**

While some invasive plants are distinctive and easily recognized, many others are difficult to distinguish from one or more species of native flora. For landowners, managers, and the general public, identifying confusing invasive plants can be extremely difficult. While many existing publications include identification tips, none present a complete side-by-side, illustrated comparison of the key characters needed to confirm identification. This guide fills a need for regional photographic guide to a broad selection of invasive plants that are often confused with similar native look-alikes.

**Scope:**

This guide covers the Mid-Atlantic region, defined here as Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The species included represent some of the most significant invasive plant identification challenges in the region, as well as the corresponding native species with which they are most likely to be confused. Many invasive plant species are not included, either because their identification is considered relatively straightforward, or because their impacts or distributions are somewhat limited. Invasive plant species included in this publication are those that (1) are generally widespread throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, or are currently expanding their ranges, and (2) are known to invade undisturbed natural habitats.

While detailed control recommendations for each plant species are beyond the scope of this publication, a general discussion of control methods, and a brief summary of methods for each species is included. More detailed control prescriptions are readily available from many published and online resources, the best of which are included in the Resources section of this guide.

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## Upcoming Events

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June 20, 2009. COLA Annual Lake Meeting, St. Joseph's College.

July 10, 2009. Maine Beaches Conference. Southern Maine Community College.

July 11, 2009. VLMP Annual Meeting, The Great Outdoors on Pleasant Pond, Turner.

July 22-24, 2009. Diadromous Species Conference, University of Maine, Orono.

October 28, 2009. Maine Coastal Waters Conference, Point Lookout Resort & Conference Center, Northport.

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## DEP Awards Grants for Water Quality Planning American Recovery & Investment Act of 2009

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With passage of ARRA, DEP received \$306,400 dollars under Section 604(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act for water quality management planning. DEP is using 100% of these Section 604(b) funds to provide financial assistance to help do water quality management planning.

On March 31, 2009, DEP issued an RFP seeking proposals for water quality management planning projects. The focus of these grants are watershed-based water quality management planning and/or assessment needed to plan for restoring urban impaired streams designated under Chapter 502 of the Maine Stormwater Management Rules. There are 31 streams in Maine that do not attain state water quality classification standards due to pollution from urban areas. This RFP offered funds for planning and assessment projects, such as: comprehensive watershed management plans; stormwater utility district feasibility studies; restoration planning and projects development; green infrastructure projects development; and assessment and monitoring activities to support plan development.

On April 23, 2009, DEP received 10 proposals requesting \$650,056. DEP issued the Award Decision on May 11. DEP will award funds to conduct 4 projects (listed below) totaling \$306,400. Grants awards will be issued to enable start-up of projects by about July 2009.

Projects to be Funded	Grantees	Grant Amount	Nonfederal
<b>Bangor Stormwater Utility Planning</b>	<b>Bangor, City of</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>107,001</b>
<b>Long Creek Restoration: From Planning to Implementation</b>	<b>Cumberland County Soil &amp; Water Conservation Dis-</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>46,083</b>
<b>Red Brook Watershed Based Management Plan</b>	<b>Scarborough, Town of</b>	<b>48,605</b>	<b>37,727</b>
<b>Capisic Brook Restoration Plan</b>	<b>Portland, City of</b>	<b>97,795</b>	<b>67,128</b>
<b>totals</b>		<b>306,400</b>	<b>257,939</b>

604(b) Funds. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency awards funds to States under Section 604(b) to carry out water quality management planning under Sections 205(j) and 303(e) of the Federal Clean Water Act. Grant funds may be used to determine the nature and extent of point and nonpoint source pollution and to develop management plans to control water pollution. Section 205(j)(3) requires States allocate at least 40 percent of 604(b) funds for pass-thru grants to eligible organizations for water quality management planning.

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**Clean water starts with you!**



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