

In Memory

Cathance Lake lost some legends recently and we would like to remember them here. We hold their families in our hearts and know that their contributions to this community and the lake will resonate forever.

Bill Geis loved the lake, and his family has been coming to their places on Provost Point for many years. He was on the CLA Board for many years, and it was always wonderful to join him on his boat as he had a wealth of knowledge; he knew where every rock was and never needed the buoys that were placed a few years ago. His wife Ann also loved the Lake and also always supported the CLA any way she could.



Leeland Bass owned land near the Mill Pond and the Mill Stream and understood how this location was important for the entire Cathance Lake water system. He donated to the CLA every year to honor his family and because he thought the CLA was important to protect the Lake.

Denny Lyon was a "true Mainer" in every sense of the word: crusty and opinionated...yet caring and knowledgeable. He visited his camp on West Shore his whole life, made tables, lighthouses, and birdhouses for friends, and repaired his neighbors' furniture and made it like new. If you were on his good side, he would give you the shirt off his back. Whenever the shop door was open he didn't mind chatting, the conversation was always pleasant and fun.

About the CLA

Cathance Lake Association exists as a group of stewards of this beautiful place. Our aim is to promote the health of the lake, its surrounding resources, and its communities through careful action. By partnering with all those who love Cathance Lake we will ensure this invaluable resource continues to provide enrichment for body and soul, for generations to come.

Actions of the CLA: Lake health monitoring, running the boat inspection program, invasive species education and prevention, lake stewardship, loon counts, and community building.

2022 Loon Count (2023 fogged out):
15 Adults & 2 Chicks
2024 Loon Count Sat., July 20th



Contact Us

Phone: Spencer Mawhar @ (808)343-5676

Email: cathancelakeassociation@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.coopermaine.com/cathance-lake-assoc.html>



Cathance Lake Association

Spring Newsletter 2024

What's Happening CLA?

In addition to our annual meeting, we're bringing some social events back to the schedule. This summer you'll have opportunities to meet new neighbors, attend informational sessions, do some exploring, and of course celebrate summer at the annual cookout:

June:

- **Saturday, June 29th – Meet and Greet**
 - 9-11am @ Meddybemps Community Center
 - Come meet new CLA members
 - **Member's Pancake Breakfast!!**

July:

- **Saturday, July 20th – Loon Count**
 - 7am @ Cathance Lake
- **Sunday, July 21st – Annual Meeting**
 - 2pm @ Meddybemps Community Center
- **Tuesday, July 23rd – Live Plant ID Course**
 - 1-4pm @ Meddybemps Boat Launch
 - A joint workshop with Lake Stewards of Maine and Lake Meddybemps Association.
- **Wednesday, July 24th – Plant Paddle**
 - 9-12pm @ Big Lake
 - Learn more about our aquatic plants & enjoy a calm paddle around beautiful Big Lake.

August:

- **Sunday, August 11th – Annual Cookout**
 - 1pm @ Meddybemps Community Center
 - Enjoy good food, games for the kids, a raffle, and connect with your neighbors.

Live Plant ID Course & Plant Paddle July 23rd & July 24th

A plant ID course hosted by Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) on the 23rd will be a Live Plant ID and will give you a good understanding of all the aquatic plants that live in our lakes, and the confidence to better identify them in the wild.

It is important for all lake users to be informed to help prevent an aquatic plant invasion in our water bodies!

As part of their visit, the LSM will also have Plant Paddle on Wednesday, July 24th at Big Lake from 9am-12 pm. Attendance is free and attendees will receive a Tier 1 IPP Invasive Plant Certification.

Contact for Signup: Karen Holmes
Email: mrsnoah63@gmail.com

You are the first line
of defense against
invasive plants!

Cathance Dam

As some of you may have heard already, the manager of our dam, the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), is considering future possibilities for the Cathance Lake dam. A future replacement dam is exciting news and could mean a healthier lake ecosystem and happier people.

As of now there is no work planned outside of collecting lake stage data, and an initial site survey has been performed. Even though a new dam is just an idea at this point, CLA and the Town of Cooper are being proactive and will be working jointly to keep you informed, as well as collect input from the community on what is important to you. If grant funds are allocated in the future, DMR and their partners will also be scheduling community sessions to hear your voice prior to any project. The CLA is committed to ensuring the interests of Cathance Lake and all members of the community are well represented, and you will be hearing soon on ways to provide input.

More to come; please direct any questions to:

Spencer Mawhar, CLA Co-Chair: (808)343-5676
Email: Spencer.Mawhar@gmail.com

Water Quality Testing

As members of CLA, you care deeply about Cathance Lake's beauty, the health of its plants and animals, and the recreational opportunities it provides. As stewards of the lake, the CLA (supported by your dues) continuously monitors Phosphorus and Chlorophyll by taking samples several times a year at 1' deep at the inlet, outlet, and deep hole. This testing could give a quick indication if algae blooms are going to occur, which would cause oxygen levels to go down and aquatic life to be impacted.

For the last three years, Cathance Lake's average Phosphorous, Chlorophyll, and overall clarity have been solidly in the "Excellent" range, and its oxygen and temperature are highly suitable to support salmon and other cold-water species. Water chemistry shows Cathance to be naturally soft water, and several years ago it was recognized as one of the top 15 cleanest lakes in Maine! We have been blessed with a wonderful lake with excellent water quality, thank you for all you do to help keep it that way!

Boat Inspection Program

An invasive plant called variable milfoil has made its way into Maine, including nearby Big Lake, and once even a small part of this plant makes it into a body of water it multiplies quickly. Within a short time, pristine waterways become choked with gross green aquatic plants, ruining the environment and opportunities for recreation.

To prevent this at Cathance, CLA pays boat inspectors to be at the boat landing with your dues and a \$1,850 annual grant from the state, but most of all we rely on volunteers like you. **Volunteer to inspect today!** The training is easy, you can fish or read a book while you work, people are nice, and you will be giving back to all future generations that enjoy Cathance Lake.

You can also do your part by carefully looking over trailers, watercraft, fishing gear, and the bilges as these are the four primary areas the plants have been found. Also **clean, drain, and dry** boats and personal watercraft before leaving the launch area, but not back into the lake. Keep Cathance pristine!