



Dear Lake Association Trustees and Members,

Do you know that one or more trained LSM volunteers (Lake Stewards of Maine) are gathering scientifically-credible lake water quality information on the health of your lake, and/or are conducting screening surveys to protect your lake from invasive aquatic plants and animals? Their exceptional commitment is helping to ensure that all of the benefits that you derive from a healthy lake will be there for you, and for future generations.

The Lake Stewards of Maine (aka: Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program - VLMP) provides training and certification for individuals from lake communities who have an interest in learning to monitor lake water quality, conduct screening surveys for invasive aquatic species, and participate in citizen lake watershed surveys. *This training and certification, along with the basic equipment needed to collect lake data, is provided at no cost to the volunteers!* In addition, LSM provides certified volunteers with an annual report on the health of their lake, as well as for hundreds of additional lakes throughout Maine. LSM lake stewards receive **lifetime technical support** from experienced lake experts to help them with their valuable work! This includes educational updates, help with interpreting the scientific data that they gather, watershed stewardship initiative information, LSM's newsletter, free registration at our annual lake monitoring conference, and much more! LSM lake monitors, and the valuable information that they gather, are the cornerstone of state and local efforts to help keep your lake clean and clear.

Many lake associations throughout Maine support the efforts of their volunteer monitors through an annual contribution to LSM. If you are one of these organizations, please accept our sincere thanks for helping us to support the work of certified LSM lake monitors on your lake. We hope you will continue that support this year with an annual donation from your association. If your organization has not provided financial support in the past, please consider that an investment made in the *prevention* of problems on your lake by routinely monitoring its' overall health is only a fraction of the cost of addressing catastrophes like nuisance algae blooms, or an infestation by an invasive aquatic plant. *LSM lake stewards are Maine's best insurance against these destructive and difficult-to-address threats.*

Please consider making an annual contribution to support the work of LSM's Certified Lake Stewards on your lake. For nearly 50 years, our volunteers have been, and continue to be, a driving force in protecting Maine's lakes and ponds and their watersheds. By positioning local knowledgeable and active citizens on lakes throughout the state, LSM stewards are on the frontline of efforts to ensure that Maine will continue to have some of the cleanest lakes in the nation.

We hope you will consider making an annual gift today in the amount of \$100, \$250, \$500, or whatever amount you consider to be appropriate to support the continued costs of training and supporting the volunteer(s) on your lake. Please send your annual donation to: **Lake Stewards of Maine; 24 Maple Hill Road; Auburn, Maine, 04210.** Thank You!

Sincerely,

Scott Williams
LSM Executive Director

Barb Welch
LSM Board President