

Pam Wilkinson
Little Sebago Lake Assoc.
LD 171

Our names are Pam Wilkinson and Tim Greer. We are representing Little Sebago Lake Association of 1200 members and all the couple of thousand people who utilize our State-owned boat ramp each year for the enjoyment of our lake. I am past president for 17 years, currently on the board of directors and am co-coordinator with Tim Greer of milfoil program for the hybrid variable leaf invasive milfoil we have had for the past 25 years. We have spent over 1 million dollars removing 133 ton of invasive milfoil. Our membership has been generous assisting with the costs, and we have received funding from the State and local towns to offset the burden. While the invasive milfoil is in management mode, it is apparent that it will never go away. Supporting funds are needed on a yearly basis to maintain the program to continue removal to avoid overgrowth which will cause decrease in water quality, limit usage and cause negative economic impacts to the area and reducing town property taxes. We are the lucky ones. We only have 1 invasive plant while others have several.

It is important to continue and increase protection measures to avoid the spread of invasive aquatic species. More funds are needed to inspect boat entry and exit of Maine's lakes, provide further education and programs to promote the awareness of the invasive aquatic species.

This is where funding really works to prevent the spread of invasives in Maine's 6000 lakes. Thousands of people volunteer thousands of hours making sure Maine's lakes are useable. Reducing the time to fund raise would be helped by expanding funding by the State of Maine through LD 171. Your consideration and time is appreciated.
Regards Pam and Tim