

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

January 2023 Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

- 2/15 Reading and Art: The Trout are Made from Trees
- 2/22 Winter Wildlife Walk
- 2/23 Balance of Nature: Predators



Lake Auburn, January 2023

Upcoming Events

Kids! Preschool Story Time - The Trout are Made From Trees

Wednesday, February 15th 10:30 AM

Auburn Public Library, Maggie Trafton Room

Join the Auburn Public Library and LAWPC for a reading of *Trout are Made of Trees* by April Pulley Sayre, followed by a craft session creating a Lake Mural. Best for children ages 2 – 5, siblings are welcome.

Winter Wildlife Walk with Ben Nugent Wildlife Biologist

Wednesday, February 22nd 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Summer Street Conservation Easement

Come join us for a Winter Wildlife Walk/Snowshoe. USDA Wildlife Biologist Ben Nugent will be leading the walk while teaching us about the basics of animal tracking and what Maine wildlife does during the cold winters! (Rain date set for March 1st).

Balance of Nature: Predators

Thursday, February 23rd 2:00 PM - 3:00PM

Lewiston Public Library, Callahan Hall

Join us for an in-person presentation on predators and their role in nature. This event will include live animals, activities, and discuss predators in the context of the food web, natural cycles, and habitat loss. This program will go over some of the animal processes that happen locally in the Lake Auburn Watershed. The live animals that will be presented are a turtle, snake, and an owl or opossum. This program is recommended for ages 8 and up, but is open to all.

Be on the lookout for our event collaborations with Auburn Community Gardens and the Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District! We have events focusing on fungi cultivation, composting, fertilizer alternatives, and ways gardens can impact the watershed.

2023 Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, all meeting are held at the office of Androscoggin Valley County Council of Governments (AVCOG), 125 Manley Road, Auburn at 3:30PM. If you have any questions please call our office at (207) 784-6469.

Meeting agendas, minutes, and recordings can be found on our website.

February 8th

April 12th

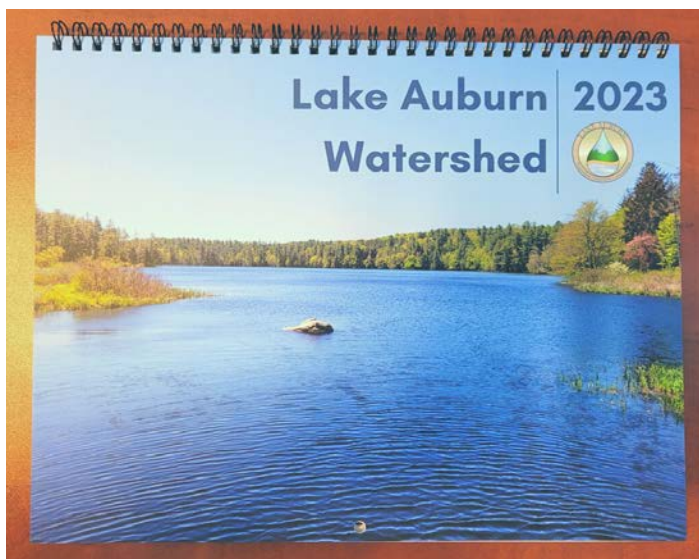
June 14th

September 13th

November 8th

2023 Lake Auburn Watershed Calendar

The first ever, annual Lake Auburn Watershed Calendar is out! This calendar features photos taken and submitted to us by the community. Each monthly feature is taken at one of the tributaries of Lake Auburn. The photos on the back highlight various events that were held by LAWPC in 2022.



Contestants whose photos were selected received a copy of the calendar, as well as the opportunity to tour the Lewiston-Auburn Ultraviolet Treatment Plant on Lake Auburn. Since this was the first year of the Lake Auburn Watershed Calendar, copies of the calendar are limited. You can pick up a copy from one of our upcoming free educational events. The photos selected are displayed on the next 2 pages.



The Basin, Nancy Preble



Lake Auburn, Julie Breau



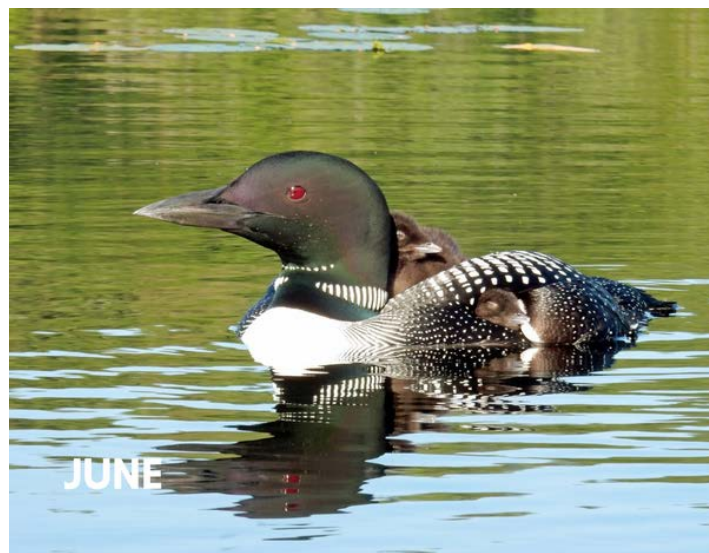
Little Wilson Pond, Schuyler Larrabee



Lake Auburn, Carl Sheline



Lake Auburn, Andrew Broadbent



The Basin, Unnamed



Lake Auburn, Susan Farrell



The Basin, Robert Crosby



Lake Auburn, Carolyn Houtz



Lake Auburn, Nancy Preble



Lake Auburn, Ilse Thompson



Lake Auburn, Christopher Curtis

2024 Calendar - Photo Requirements



2024 Calendar Photo Submissions Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission invites you to submit photos to be considered for our annual calendar in 2024.

Photo Submission Guidelines:

Deadline: September 13st, 2023.

Photos must be taken within the Lake Auburn Watershed and include Lake Auburn or one of its tributaries.

Photos must be digital, in high resolution (300 dpi minimum), in landscape/horizontal mode, and uncropped and unaltered (no adjustments, no enhancements, no filters, no watermarks).

How to Submit Photo Entries:

Please send all photo submissions by email to choutz@awsd.org

Please note that photo files may be too large to send more than 1 photo in an email.

By submitting photos you are agreeing for LAWPC to use and credit your photos in the calendar and for other materials.

Each photo submission must include the photographer's name, email address, location of photo, and time of year the photo was taken. Please save each photo with the following file name format: lastname_timeofyear_title

Examples:

lawpc_winter_icles

lawpc_july_sunnybasin1

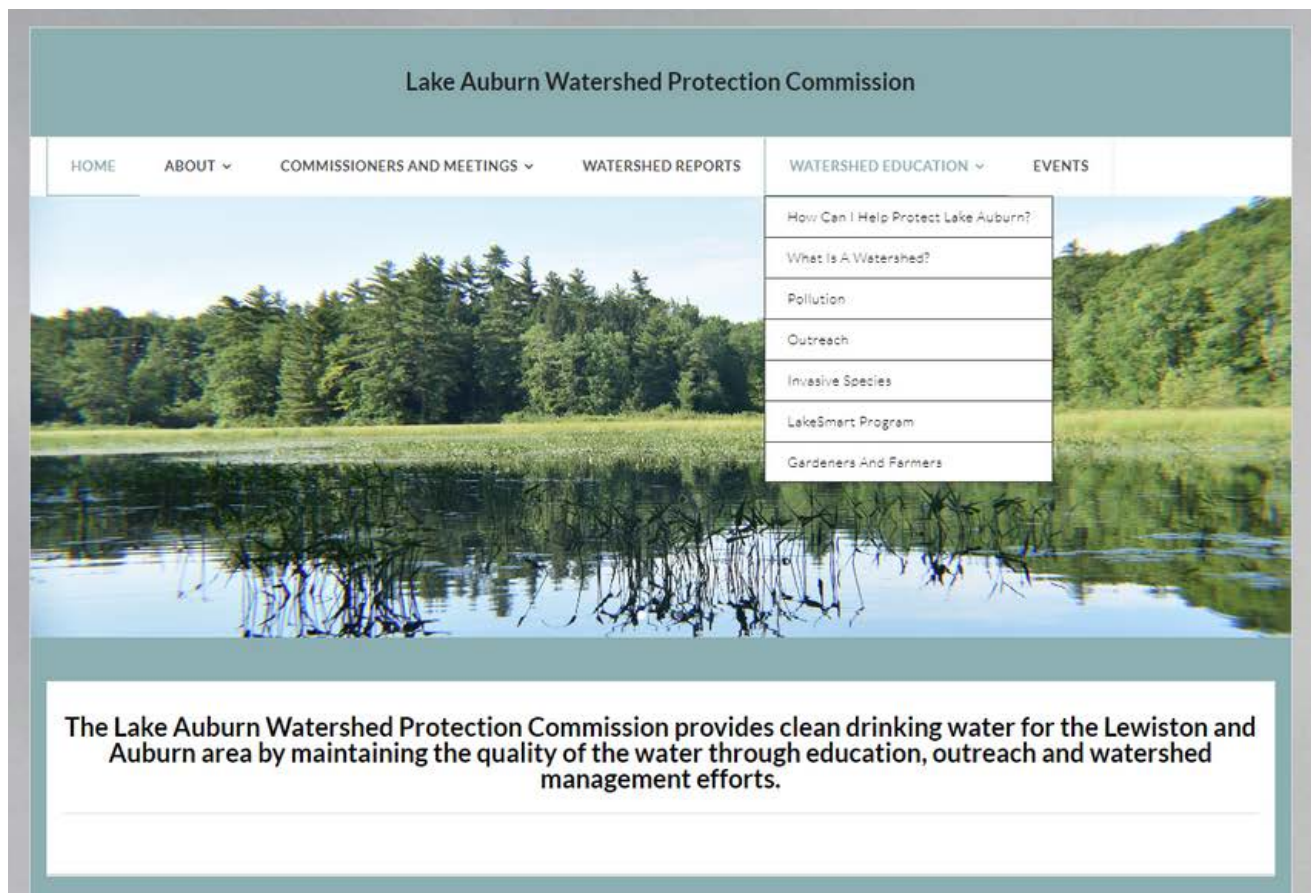
lawpc_july_sunnybasin2

If you have any questions please reach out to Carolyn at choutz@awsd.org

Please reach out to choutz@wsd.org if you have any questions. This document can be downloaded or printed on our website.

Website Updates

We are working to update our website with more information and resources about the Lake Auburn Watershed and drinking water. Please let us know if there is information or resources that you would like to see or be more accessible.



Some of the updates have been including our trails and public use maps, more information on watersheds and surface runoff, drinking water FAQ's, additional resources, and ways to take individual action. View the next page for a flyer on how you can help protect the water quality of Lake Auburn. The flyer can be downloaded or printed from our website.



HOW CAN I PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY OF LAKE AUBURN?

Individuals - in and out of the watershed

- Attend LAWPC meetings
- Attend our free educational and outdoor events
- Become a watershed steward - volunteer with us
- Follow and share our social media
- Plant something!
- Pick up trash and pet waste

Watershed homeowners

- Become LakeSmart certified
- Increase vegetation around your property
- Keep up with septic maintenance
- Discontinue the use of fertilizers and pesticides

Large landowners

- Maintain high levels of vegetation
- Follow forestry and agriculture BMP's
- Keep an eye out for anything of concern in our watershed!
- Learn about life estates and conservation easements with LAWPC



(207) 333-6665
www.lakeauburnwater.org

Changing Winters and Lake Auburn

Maine's lakes are being affected by changes in Maine's winters. Climate change is causing warmer air and water temperatures on average, longer growing seasons, and shorter winter periods.

The local effects we see on Lake Auburn is a decreased Ice-On period. Ice on the lake and frozen grounds on the watershed gives Lake Auburn a break from surface runoff and excess nutrient and pollution deposits during the winter. With the changing climate, that break is shortened and there is a longer window for surface runoff deposits. Maine has also been seeing more patterns of intense snow storms, followed by warm weather that melts the snowpack. This sequence causes large volumes of surface runoff and lots of erosion, leading to an end result of high phosphorus inputs into Lake Auburn.

While we can't change the weather or climate locally, what we do have control over is land management and conservation. With proper watershed care like conserving large properties, maximizing vegetation on lawns and developed areas, and eliminating the use of fertilizers, we can mitigate surface runoff and pollution that has been increasing with changing winters.



2022 Recap

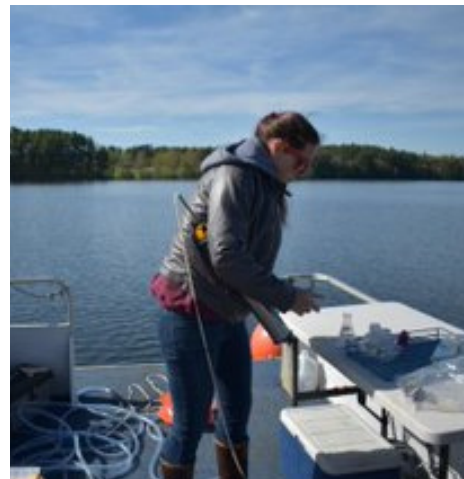
Workshops + Presentations



Boat Inspections



Water Quality Testing



Conservation Easement Monitoring

2022 Recap

Art!



Volunteer Days



Environmental Holidys



Trout release



2022 Recap

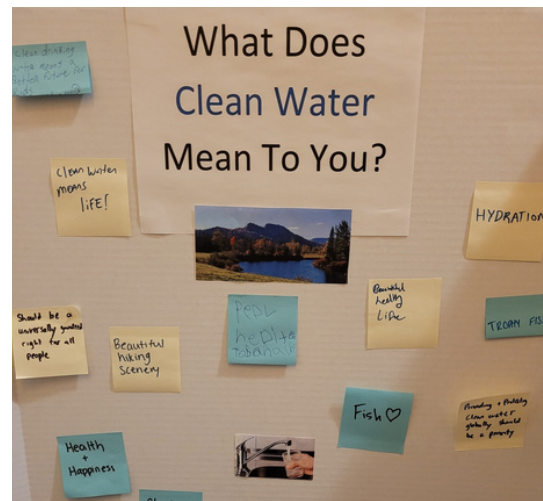
Field Trips



Nature Walks



Community Fun



Lake Auburn Watershed Protection

Commission 268 Court Street

Auburn, ME 04210



@LAKEAUBURN



@LAKEAUBURNWATER

Check us out at <https://lakeauburnwater.org/>

Switching to an electronic newsletter will help us save paper! You can subscribe by emailing choutz@awsd.org