

WORKING TO PROTECT
THE QUALITY OF OUR LAKES



ISLAND FALLS
LAKES ASSOCIATION



SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER



IFLA ESTABLISHES STEVE EDWARDS MEMORIAL FUND

Former IFLA President (2011-2017) and long time supporter, Steven Joseph Edwards, passed away on May 25, 2026. Steve was a lifelong resident of Island Falls, an educator, a coach, a businessman and part owner of Birchpoint campground. Steve's love and passion for his community is a model and inspiration for all of us.

We are pleased to establish a memorial fund in recognition of the contributions Steve Edwards made to the community and to the Island Falls Lakes Association.

The fund will allow us to continue the conservation work that was so important to Steve by boosting our efforts to address projects and improvements in the shoreland zone like run-off mitigation.

Contributions can be sent to the Island Falls Lakes Association, PO Box 63 Island Falls ME, 04747

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IFLA 2026 SUMMER EVENTS

BEGINS JULY 5 + ONGOING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We want to extend the good news and member benefits to as many property owners as possible. Your Trustees and volunteers will visit as many camps as possible to ask for your support. Your membership includes newsletters with the most up to date information on activities and property management best practices. Members get free plants and grants to control water run-off. Members can join us for monthly adventures like paddles on different lakes and hikes to local points of interest. Your support means you care and want to share our pristine lakes with future generations.

JULY 27 CANOE & KAYAK RACE

Our annual Canoe/Kayak race in support of the *Southern Aroostook Scholarship Program* is scheduled for this date, rain or shine. Test your paddle skills and stamina on this 1.4 mile paddle on Pleasant Pond.

The race is open to all age groups and all canoe, kayak and standup paddleboard classes. Canoes and kayaks will be available if needed.

ON-GOING! BUFFER PLANT PROJECT

We have given away a limited number of **FREE** plants that are suitable to enhance or create a shoreland buffer. Shoreland buffers are an effective means of controlling run-off from your property into the lake. The program will continue next year. Contact **Sue Burgos** at 802-249-5941 to reserve your plants now.

JULY 29 ANNUAL MEMBER DINNER & MEETING

Join the IFLA annual members meeting. Vote on budgets, Trustees and Officers and get the latest info on Shoreland Zoning best practices. Mingle with Trustees and fellow members over a beverage and enjoy a great meal at The Slice. Starts at 5 pm.

LAKE CLEAN-UP PROJECT “MY PROPERTY, OUR LAKE”

JOIN US! July 11 on Pleasant Pond and August 8 on Mattawamkeag for our first a lakewide clean-up event. Roll up your sleeves and harvest any trash you find along your shoreline and haul that old tire or rusty pipe out of the water. Submit your photos to the IFLA

[HERE](#); all participants will be recognized in the Winter Newsletter.

JULY 11: PLEASANT CLEAN-UP DAY

A morning clean up will focus of the “My Property” portion of the clean-up initiative. From 1PM join a convoy of boats (leaving from Birch Point) to head down to the foot of the lake for a clean-up of the windswept shores, the “Our Lake” part of the effort.

AUG. 8: MATTAWAMKEAG CLEAN-UP DAY

The morning effort takes place on your own property. The “My property” part. In the afternoon we need volunteers to work the boat launch area and Sand Cove. Due to the vastness of this lake our efforts will focus on these two areas this year. **To volunteer for either of these fun events, contact the IFLA.**

AUG. 22 SHELTERWOODS FIELD TRIP

Member and Forester David Irving will take a group to walk some of the land he owns and manages. The tour will highlight how good forestry management promotes growth, wildlife habitat and protects the environment. Depart 9AM from the Town Office parking lot.

AUG. 29 MATTAWAMKEAG PADDLE + BIBLE POINT HIKE

Our annual Mattawamkeag lake adventure will take off from Sand Cove, Paddle past Devil’s Wall and Norway Island to the foot of the lake for a pleasant walk through mature forests to Bible Point. Take a step back in time as you explore the area and read the tributes left by Theodore Roosevelt. Pre-trip meet at the golf course at 8:30AM. Bring a bag lunch!



CBI UPDATES + A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Last summer's plant survey did not reveal any invasive aquatic species in our lakes, but we cannot let our guard down. With more and more lakes in Maine and New Hampshire reporting the discovery of invasive species we need to be extra vigilant to protect our lakes.

The Lakes Association will again offer Courtesy Boat Inspections at our approved boat landings on weekends and holidays. Openings are available for Courtesy Boat Inspectors so we can expand the service to Mattawamkeag Lake.

If interested please send a message to info@islandfallslakesassociation.com or call 207-852-2125. Please help us keep invasive species out of our lakes!

*Gentle waters gleam,
Reflecting the summer sky,
Soft ripples fade out.*

- anonymous



THE KAYAK, CANOE, & S.U.P. RACE ON PLEASANT POND RETURNS!

The Island Falls Lakes Association will host it's annual Canoe, Kayak, and S.U.P race on **Sunday, July 27th**. This is a family fun event for paddlers of all ages. There is a short course available for children and juniors and a 1.5 mile course for adults. Paddlers can team up in canoes or tandem kayaks or paddle solo. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded! Grilled hot dogs, beverages, and other treats will be served following the races.

The race will be held at Birch Point, Pleasant Lake. Registration begins at 12PM. The participation fee is

\$15.00 and includes a T-shirt. The fee supports the Southern Aroostook Scholarship Fund. Additional donations are welcome.

Canoes and kayaks are available for those wishing to participate who may not otherwise have access to one. So come and have fun at this relaxed family friendly event. This is a great event to spectate so bring your lawn chair and enjoy the fun!

If you would like to volunteer please contact Tom Burgos at tburgos5060@gmail.com.

JOIN THE IFLA ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING & DINNER

WED. JULY 29, 2026, 5-8PM, THE SLICE

We invite you bring your family, friends and neighbors so that they can learn about the mission and efforts of the IFLA and enjoy an evening of good food and community.

Chris Beyer, the Island Falls Code Enforcement Officer will speak about the Town's new Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. You don't want to miss it!

The Slice will be serving appetizers, a buffet dinner, and soft drinks. A cash bar will be available. Desserts will be provided courtesy of Trustees and Members. Kindly make reservations via islandfallslakesassociation.com or [RSVP HERE](#). Sign-up also at The Slice

Tickets are \$30 per person.

EVENING PROGRAM

5:00-5:30pm SOCIALIZING

5:30-6:00pm IFLA BUSINESS & PROGRAM

6:00-8:00pm DINNER & DESSERTS



BUFFER PLANT GIVE-AWAY

A big “Thank You” to trustee Sue Burgos as well as the Lakes Association members who took advantage our first ever **Buffer Plant Give-Away**. What a success! We hope you are having fun planting them on your shorelines. Buffer plants not only provide beauty to your shoreline but help to stabilize soil and mitigate runoff.

The Island Fall Lakes Association Board of Trustees is interested to hear from you! We’d like to know if there is further interest this program where we offer native plants specifically chosen to buffer your shoreline. Join us at the IFLA Annual Dinner and give us your thoughts!

GET INVOLVED!!

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF ANY ORGANIZATION

Share your time and talent to help the IFLA thrive in these challenging times. Give our Trustees a break—when you volunteer for a one time activity you are actually saying THANK YOU to Trustee who works so hard to bring these programs to you.

Volunteering is also a great way to stay connected to lake neighbors and to learn new skills. **We need you!**

Contact the [IFLA](#) to learn more.



REAL IMPACT: RAIN DIVERTER & GRANT PROGRAM

Are you losing gravel and seeing new erosion in your driveway every time it rains? Are you noticing increased sediment on the bottom of the lake in front of your camp? If so, consider a driveway diverter. The IFLA will provide a driveway diverter free-of-charge. You may also receive a \$500 grant to help pay for installation.

Runoff is the primary cause of high phosphorus levels which in turn leads to algae growth. So, save your driveway and promote our lakes health and consider a driveway diverter! Contact the IFLA for yours!

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UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF A SHORELINE BUFFER

Sue Burgos, Trustee

A vegetated shoreline is the last line of defense against run off and pollution reaching our lakes.

The vegetation in a buffer zone (lake shoreline) helps to intercept rain, absorb ground water, and secure fragile soil. In short, buffering your shoreline reduces nutrient rich runoff from reaching our lakes by reducing the flow of stormwater. Reduction in runoff is the most important action we can take to prevent accumulated sediment on the lake bottom and prevent plant growth and algae.

The best shoreline buffers have layers of vegetation ranging from tall trees to shrubs to ground cover and “duff.” Duff consists of dead leaves, pine needles, and twigs. Though tempting to rake up is best left at the shoreline to absorb rain water and prevent runoff. Another temptation is to limb trees at the shoreline to improve lake views but try to consider removing less thereby improving your buffer zone. Remember, each intercepted rain drop means less runoff.

In addition to reducing runoff shoreline buffers also provide habitat for birds and small mammals and overhanging branches provide safe hiding places for fish.

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EASY TIPS FOR HEALTHIER SHORELINES

- Limit limbing shoreline trees.
- Let leaf litter (duff) accumulate.
- Add native plants to improve your shoreline buffer.
- Limit use of pesticides or fertilizers (not allowed within 25 feet of shoreline)
- Minimize the size of your lawn (lawns act like impervious surfaces doing little to absorb rain).
- Maintain a vegetated buffer between the lawn and the lake.



EFFECTIVE SHORELINE BUFFERS SHOULD INCLUDE FOUR TIERS

- 1. A top tier (canopy) of trees.**
Examples: Northern Red Oak, Red Maple, Yellow Birch, Balsam Fir
- 2. A lower tier of shrubs**
Examples: Shadbush, Striped Maple, Pussy Willow, Common Witch-Hazel, Northern Bayberry, Highbush Blueberry, Redosier Dogwood, Common Winterberry, Juniper
- 3. A perennial plant and ground cover layer.**
Examples: Bunchberry, Ferns, Lowbush Blueberry, Bearberry
- 4. A layer of decaying leaves, twigs, and small limbs (duff).**

Further information about shoreline buffers and resources are available in *The Lake Book* and www.lakes.me/protect

ANNUAL DINNER PRESENTER, CHRIS BEYER

We are pleased to welcome Chris Beyer to give a presentation at the Annual Member Meeting on July 29. He is a graduate of the SUNY and the University of Maine. He dedicated nearly 30 years to the State of Maine as a Maine Forest Ranger before continuing his public

service as a Permitting Specialist with the Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC). Chris has also served as a Code Enforcement Officer for several municipalities, including Millinocket and Island Falls, and provides private permitting consultation for LUPC and municipal projects. A Registered Maine Guide, he brings decades of expertise in forestry, land use, permitting, and code enforcement, along with a lifelong commitment to Maine's natural resources and communities.

ARTIST FEATURE JIM TROWELL

"I always treasure my time on Mattawamkeag Lake. So many memories of bonfires, kayaking, and bathing off the dock. And especially mornings.

One early Autumn morning, I awoke to a great roiling fog that was starting to break apart. The view of Bug Island across the lake was especially beautiful this morning. I took several photos that always have me considering that view.

I did many drawings and paintings of that foggy view. This one particular painting I kept especially simple and minimal."

Jim Trowell is an artist and retired art director who lives in New York City. Follow Jim on Instagram [@trowell_art](https://www.instagram.com/trowell_art)



PRESERVE THE DARK SKIES

Candace Dudmen, Trustee

I remember when I would sit out on the rock at our family camp and just gaze at the dark sky, overwhelmed, getting lost in the beauty of the Milky Way. Or on moonlit nights when the most beautiful thing in the night sky was the moon, bright against the dark sky.

We need to preserve that sense of wonder. We need to preserve our dark skies.

Dark skies are considered as a scenic resource valued by amateur astronomers as well as casual star gazers.

The question arises, how can we preserve that resource: a dark skies ordinance.

The core principle is to light only what's needed, where it's needed and when it's needed. Be mindful of light pollution.

Additionally, use timers. Light where needed with shields, and direct down lighting. Choose warm-white or amber, avoid blue-white bulbs. Use energy efficient bulbs.

Be conscious of how much light you are using and be mindful of your neighbors. Do not allow outside lighting to create a nuisance.