

# Panther Pond Association

## Spring 2026 Update

*Protecting and preserving Panther Pond for future generations*

Greetings from Panther Pond!

Spring is in full swing as flowers begin to bloom, trees are budding, and turkeys announce each morning with enthusiasm. It feels like everything around the pond is waking up once again.

Over the winter, the pond recovered nicely from the unusually low water levels experienced last fall. As of April 29, 2026, the water level measured 181.5 feet — approximately 12 inches above the target level of 180.5 feet. Water will continue flowing over the dam until the pond gradually returns to its normal target elevation.

We are pleased to report that the Panther Pond Association Watershed Protection Plan has now been approved by both the EPA and Maine DEP. In late spring and early summer, property owners identified in the watershed survey will receive information and recommendations regarding stormwater runoff improvements.

Thank you for your continued support of the Panther Pond Association and your commitment to protecting the health and beauty of Panther Pond.

### Annual Meeting

The Panther Pond Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at Camp Hinds.

### Water Quality Monitoring

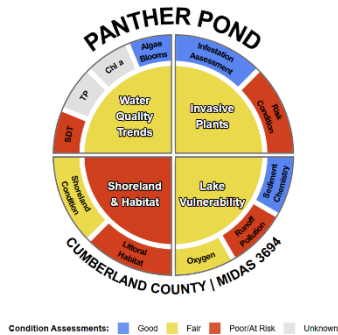
The PPA Water Quality Monitoring Team is preparing for another season of biweekly testing from May through September.

Monitoring includes:

- Water clarity testing
- Dissolved oxygen monitoring
- Monthly phosphorus sampling

The Maine DEP currently rates Panther Pond as a high-risk lake due to increasing shoreline

development and runoff impacts. Residents are encouraged to minimize fertilizer use, stabilize runoff areas, and maintain shoreline vegetation buffers.



Maine DEP Lake Scorecard for Panther (right) rates Panther Pond as high risk, showing several areas of concern arising from shoreland development and runoff. To maintain high water quality for swimming and fishing, it is vital for shoreline residents and their neighbors to minimize contamination of the pond by limiting fertilizer use and controlling runoff. If you have questions about your property’s impact on the pond’s water quality, consider requesting a Lake Smart evaluation. To view the full DEP report, please visit [https://www.lakesofmaine.org/data/2025-scorecards/html/SC\\_3694.html](https://www.lakesofmaine.org/data/2025-scorecards/html/SC_3694.html).

To learn more or participate in a monitoring run, contact Scott Patch at [environmental.officer@pantherpondassociation.org](mailto:environmental.officer@pantherpondassociation.org).

## Dam & Water Level

The watershed has filled the lake nicely this spring, and water continues to flow safely over the dam sluiceways as designed. The Association remains hopeful for a stable water season without drought conditions this summer.

## Watershed Protection Plan

The Panther Pond Watershed Survey and Protection Plan has received EPA approval, allowing future grant applications to support implementation projects.

Although EPA grant applications are temporarily paused for 2026, the Association plans to submit proposals as soon as programs reopen.

If your property was identified, in the Survey, as likely to benefit from stormwater mitigation improvement you will be notified in late spring / early summer and provided suggestions for property improvements.

## Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

The Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program, managed by Raymond Waterways (RWPA), remains one of the most important protections against invasive aquatic species. The program, with financial support from PPA, other Raymond based lake associations, RWPA, the State of Maine and various grants, provides boat inspections at the Mill Street launch site, as well as applicable public boat ramps at Crescent Lake, Thomas Pond and Sebago

Expanded coverage is planned for 2026, including Fridays, weekends, and holidays at the Mill Street launch.

RWPA is committed to improving the program after experiencing considerable staffing problems last summer and is offering PPA extended coverage this summer, which will include Fridays from 9-5 and Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from 7-3. The CBI inspectors include both paid and volunteer positions. PPA is considering a supplemental coverage program involving Association members/families (in collaboration with RWPA) at the Mill Street launch only, with the goal of providing voluntary on call coverage in the event the scheduled inspector is unable to cover his/her shift. The Association is also exploring a volunteer backup coverage program for members interested in helping support inspections.

### Lake Smart

Working with RWPA, our Association has taken full advantage of LakeSmart, a unique statewide, education and outreach program created by Maine Lakes (<https://www.lakes.me/lakesmart>).

The program provides recommendations from local volunteer evaluators to lakeside property owners about how to reduce erosion and protect the lake. The program is free, non-reporting and voluntary. The LakeSmart evaluation takes about one hour and RWPA offers a 50% match (up to \$200) to assist with remedial expenditures, as well as wholesale plant pricing with Pierson Nurseries in Dayton.

Since its inception in the Summer of 2024, there have been 12 completed evaluations on Panther Pond. We are looking to increase the number of volunteer evaluators. For more information regarding both the CBI and LakeSmart programs, please contact Steve Rand at 207-653-6092.

### Invasive Plant Patrol

PPIPPERS (Panther Pond Invasive Plant Patrollers) are preparing for another active season monitoring aquatic invasive plants.

Volunteers are always welcome. Training opportunities and workshops are available through Lake Stewards of Maine.

Kickoff Meeting:

Thursday, July 2, 2026 – 4:30 p.m.

172 Ai Road

PPippers (Panther Pond Invasive Plant Patrollers) are coming out of their dormant state as are aquatic plants. Come join in the fun while getting good work done.

Lake Stewards of Maine is offering an updated course that is a good introduction and review.

Lake Stewards of Maine: Invasive Plant Patrol Webinar - **Thurs., May 14, 2026 - 9 a.m.**

- Invasive Plant Patrol Webinar - IPP 101

- In this 3-hour online class, participants will explore the background of Aquatic Invasive Plants in Maine
- Learn key identification features for the 15 Invaders on Maine's watch list, and find out how to get involved in early detection efforts.

Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SeLXd9UnRba9qRpcgun-xw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SeLXd9UnRba9qRpcgun-xw)

"Kickoff" meeting at the home of Bunny Wescott, 172 Ai Road. - **Thurs., July 2, 2026 - 4:30 p.m.** –

Annual check-in to discuss this season's monitoring plans, schedules, procedures and introduce any new interested volunteers to others. Anyone interested in joining or learning about the group should call Bunny Wescott at 978-462-3084.

Upcoming Workshops & Plant Paddles - Will be posted soon on the Lake Stewards of Maine website: [lakestewardsofmaine.org](http://lakestewardsofmaine.org) Go to: "Workshops & Events", then to "Aquatic Invasive Species Workshops".

Bunny & Sibyl - Co-captains.

## **David Plummer Road Boat Launch**

### **David Plummer Road Boat Launch Schedule, Rules, & Rates**

*\$30 per boat (launch & take out included) for one of the scheduled launch dates*

*\$50 per boat for special appointments on other dates*

**Open to Panther Pond Association Members Only**

**Friday May 15 \$30**

**Friday May 22 \$30**

**Friday May 29 \$30**

Launching from noon to 6:00 p.m. any of those days. E-mail for a launch & inspection appointment: [pslovens@bowdoin.edu](mailto:pslovens@bowdoin.edu)

We might re-schedule a launch day if the ground is too wet.

**Be sure your boat is clean, drained, and dry for inspection & launching.**

**\$30 per boat gets you the initial launch in the spring, and includes the take out at the end of the summer.**

**\$50 individual appointments available for appointments on other days.**

**E-mail: [pslovens@bowdoin.edu](mailto:pslovens@bowdoin.edu)**

4-Wheel Drive required. Sand bottom beach launch.

*The launch is somewhat narrow, so scout it out if you have a big boat.*

Boat withdrawals.... September 11, 18 & by appointment (Not before or during Labor Day Weekend)

Cash accepted or Checks made to: Hawthorne Cottages

If you are not a member of the Panther Pond Association, contact Patricia Palmer for membership steps:

[secretary@pantherpondassociation.org](mailto:secretary@pantherpondassociation.org)

207-725-8049

Call if you have questions.....

## Fiber Internet

Sebago Fiber and Fidium continue installing fiber optic infrastructure around the Panther Pond watershed. Many properties may have access to high-speed internet service this summer.

## Raymond Community Updates

The Town of Raymond will vote on the proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance on June 9th, 2026. The ordinance can be found at: [https://towncloud-core-prod.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/uploads/raymond-meetings/item\\_attachment/attachment/302/12204\\_STR\\_Ordinance\\_-\\_DRAFT\\_2026.03.24.pdf](https://towncloud-core-prod.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/uploads/raymond-meetings/item_attachment/attachment/302/12204_STR_Ordinance_-_DRAFT_2026.03.24.pdf)

The Town is also conducting a full property revaluation project, with updated valuations expected in July 2026.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Panther Pond Association is seeking volunteers to assist with:

- Courtesy Boat Inspection backup coverage
- Invasive Plant Patrol and Water Quality monitoring
- LakeSmart evaluations
- Watershed outreach initiatives

Even a few hours of volunteer time can make a meaningful difference. To learn more about these opportunities and contacts, please click [here](#) or view the PPA Volunteers webpage.

**SUPPORT PANTHER POND** 

Annual dues are \$20 per household.

Membership dues account for only about 30% of the Association's annual operating budget. The remaining **70% relies on generous donations** from members like you. We ask you to please consider a donation (beyond your dues) this year to help assure our ability to continue our mission. Your financial support is greatly appreciated. Every gift makes a meaningful impact.

Your contribution helps fund:

- Water quality monitoring
- Courtesy Boat Inspection programs
- Invasive plant prevention
- Watershed protection initiatives
- Educational outreach

Payment Options:

Zelle: [treasurer@pantherpondassociation.org](mailto:treasurer@pantherpondassociation.org)

PayPal: [treasurer@pantherpondassociation.org](mailto:treasurer@pantherpondassociation.org)

Checks payable to:

Panther Pond Association

c/o Nancy S. Follett, Treasurer

36 Ramapoo Rd

Ridgefield, CT 06877

*[www.pantherpondassociation.org](http://www.pantherpondassociation.org)*  
*[secretary@pantherpondassociation.org](mailto:secretary@pantherpondassociation.org)*

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