



# Maine Lakes Monthly



“Not all news is Secchi!”\*

-for students

## Your Lake's Getting Ready for Winter, Are You?



*Autumn foliage along Eagle Lake at Acadia N.P. (Rex Turner photo)*

Do you have your sweaters ready? How about your hats and mittens - do you know where they are? You'd better find them soon, because winter is knocking on the door.

Stop by any local lake and you can observe the change in season simply by dipping your hand in the water. As cold weather lifts all the warmth from the water's surface, that top layer of water gets colder and colder. Check the surface temperature with a thermometer. When the surface water reaches 39 degrees (F), it is its most dense and will sink like a stone. This sinking water mixes up all the layers of water in the lake, creating what is known as “turnover”. Oxygen and nutrients are mixed all throughout the lake. Late this fall, lakes all across Maine will take a deep breath (turnover) before ice seals their depths.

### SO WHERE DO THOSE LOONS GO, ANYHOW?

If you're a bird that floats on the water waiting to plunge down and swim after tasty little fishes (tasty to a loon at least), then a frigid lake covered by three feet of blue ice isn't your idea of a dreamy place to spend the winter. Before you picture loons passing the winter months by lounging in the tropics with our summer song birds, you might want to think about a closer-by resource full of water and fish. The same loons you might see on the open waters of Moosehead, Sebago, Eagle, or any other lake are likely to be found



right along the coast of Maine this winter. Each winter, loons, symbols of the lakes, change their plumage (feathers) and take up residence alongside bell buoys and lobster boats!

**What is the Students Portal and how does it give you a chance to have your voice heard?**

The Students' Portal is an online link connecting your learning with your community and the world. Did you research a way to make your lake healthier or observe something cool while out on the Melinda Ann (our floating classroom pontoon boat)? Talk to your teacher about posting images, writing, or other digital information on your school's portion of the Students' Portal. Are you curious about what other kids around the state have learned or think about their lakes? Check out other schools' postings to see what they've been up to.



<http://www.mlci.org/Students/default.aspx>

**GET TO KNOW YOUR NEWSLETTER**

Each month, your teacher will be receiving an electronic newsletter sharing updates about the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute, its partner schools, and what's happening in and around Maine's lakes.

Keep an eye out for regular features such as lake identification challenges and lake related jokes (not guaranteed to be funny!) Each month will also include short special features.



**Can you identify this lake?**

Hints:

- It's along the border of Franklin & Somerset County.
- It is not a natural lake - it was formed by the creation of Long Falls Dam.
- Benedict Arnold led American Revolutionary Soldiers up the Dead River that ran through where this lake now sits.
- Much of it's shore is protected as part of the Bigelow Public Reserve Land Unit.
- A former town lays under the lake's waters.
- It is just north of Sugarloaf USA.

**Something Smells Punny:**

**What did the duck say when she bought lipstick?**

**Put it on my bill!**

**PEARL DATA -from the unidentified lake:**

FISH SPECIES IN \_\_\_\_\_ LAKE  
(FROM:MAINE INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE DEPT.)

- brown bullhead, white sucker, slimy sculpin, lake chub, chain pickerel, common shiner, golden shiner, rainbow smelt, yellow perch, northern redbelly dace, finescale dace, blacknose dace, landlocked salmon, brook trout, creek chub, fallfish



**\* Did you notice the Secchi disk beneath the newsletter title?**

Secchi (pronounced se-key) disks are used to measure water clarity, a very important indicator of lake health.

**Created by Rex Turner, Lakes Science Educator**  
[rturner@mlci.org](mailto:rturner@mlci.org) 207-563-5253