



The mission of Pemaquid Watershed Association is to conserve the natural resources of the Pemaquid peninsula region through water stewardship and education. Established in 1966.

Pemaquid Watershed Association (PWA) Programs:

- **Land Preservation:** PWA stewards over 950-acres of preserved land in the Pemaquid River watershed that provides wildlife and water quality protection, as well as direct community benefits. There are 12 nature preserves open to the public for low impact recreation plus 2 conservation areas and 14 private properties with protective conservation easements.
- **Beachcombers' Rest Nature Center (BRNC):** PWA conducts educational events at Pemaquid Beach during the summer including *Touch Tank Tuesdays*, in partnership with UME Darling Marine Center, and other weekly events that teach about the marine environment and enjoyment of nature.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** Trained volunteers test for E.coli contamination at Pemaquid Beach, the Bristol Mills swimming hole and at Biscay Beach.
- **Litter Prevention initiative:** The Tarnation/Trash Chicks, a group through PWA which conducts education, public awareness, and clean-up events to promote a clean, litter-free Pemaquid peninsula region.
- **LakeSmart:** PWA conducts the *LakeSmart* Program in cooperation with Maine Lakes Society. Residents learn how to “live lightly” on watershed ponds with property evaluations incorporating *LakeSmart* Best Management Practices. Property owners receive tips on how to protect the ponds of the watershed.
- **Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI):** During the summer months, volunteers are stationed at two area boat launches to educate boaters and fishermen about the risks of invasive aquatic plants. No invasive aquatic plants are found in our watershed ponds here but other parts of Maine have not been so lucky. (Invasive hydrilla is in Damariscotta Lake and there are 23 other sites of infested water systems.) As an educational program, CBI highlights the ecological benefits of protecting native plant species, water quality, fish habitat, and the economic benefit of preventing the loss in waterfront property values occurring when unpleasant mats of invasive aquatic plants choke connected waterways.
- **Lead Tackle Exchange Program:** Lead poisoning is the #1 cause of death of adult loons. PWA provides loon protection information and tips and will exchange and properly dispose of lead for comparable non-lead tackle.
- **PWA Paddlers:** PWA volunteer paddlers lead weekly kayak trips on both saltwater and freshwater throughout the Pemaquid region and Midcoast areas. Saltwater paddles on Saturdays and freshwater paddles on Wednesdays offer opportunities to explore new areas with the security of being with a group and with experienced leaders.

