



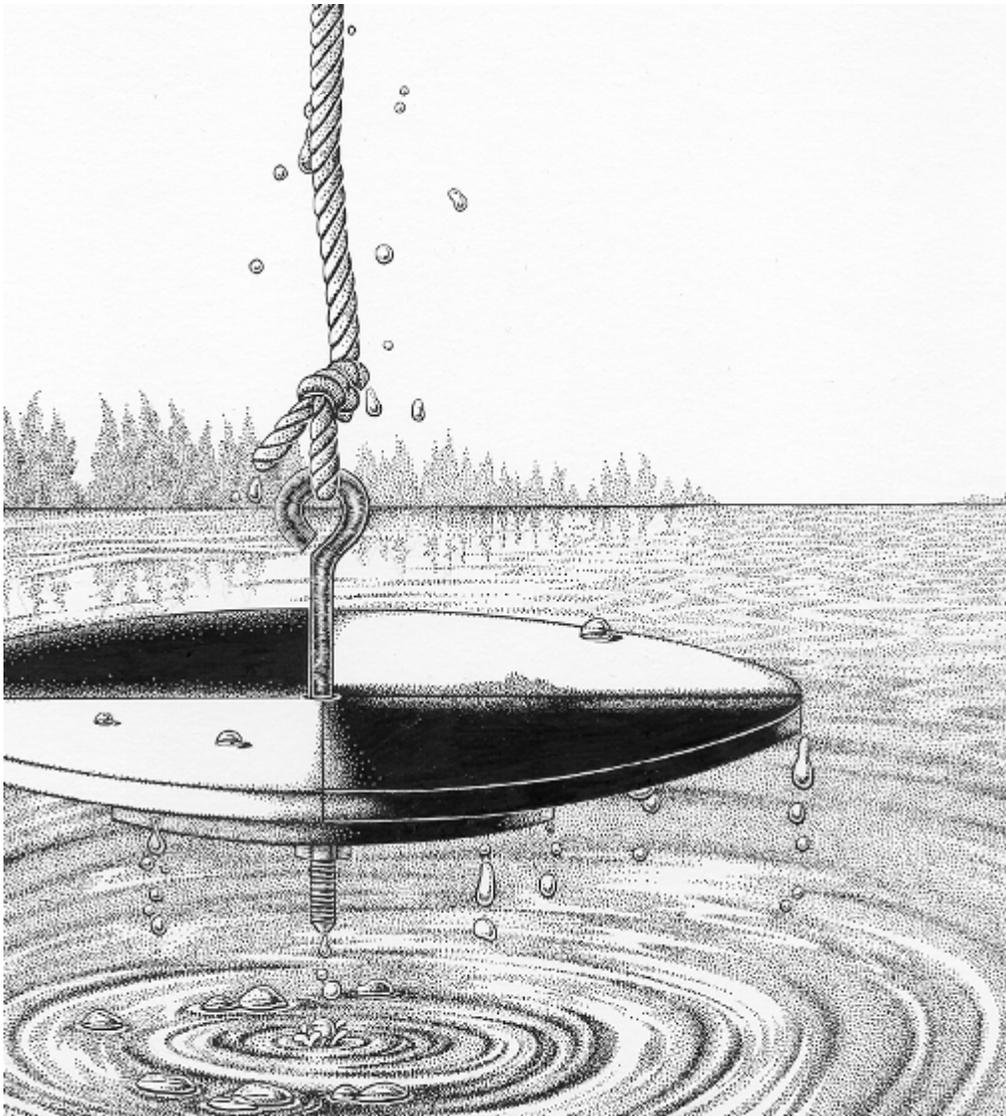
Success Stories: NE Long-term Lake Monitoring Programs

Linda Green
URI Cooperative Extension
URI Watershed Watch
NWQMC 2010

175 Years of Volunteer Monitoring

- 💧 1971 Maine
- 💧 1979 Vermont
- 💧 1979 New Hampshire (UNH)
- 💧 1985 New York
- 💧 1985 New Hampshire (State)
- 💧 1987 Rhode Island

NE Secchi's: Black & White and...



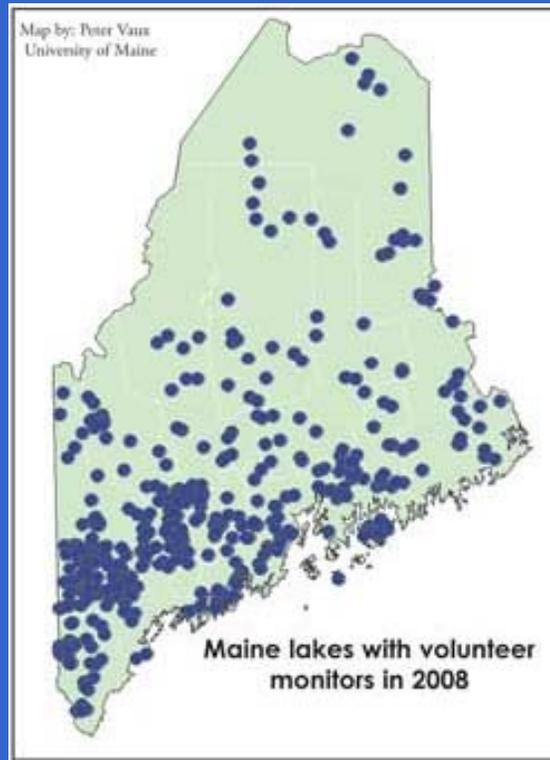
- Maine: 86,800
- NH LLMP: 34,000
- NH DES: 21,000
- URI WW: 52,000
- VT LMP: 38,000

231,800

175 Years of Volunteer Monitoring

- 🔥 **1971 Maine- NGO**
- 💧 1979 Vermont
- 💧 1979 New Hampshire (UNH)
- 💧 1985 New York
- 🔥 **1985 New Hampshire (State)**
- 🔥 **1987 Rhode Island (Univ/CE)**

Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program



1971 – 3 lakes

2009 – 356 lakes



Evolution of the Maine VLMP

- Initially hosted by the **University of Maine**
- Administered and funded by **Maine DEP through 1996**
- State funding shortfalls
- VLMP **transition to freestanding nonprofit organization in 1996**
- Program **maintains a strong partnership with Maine DEP**



Collaborative Responsibilities



VLMP

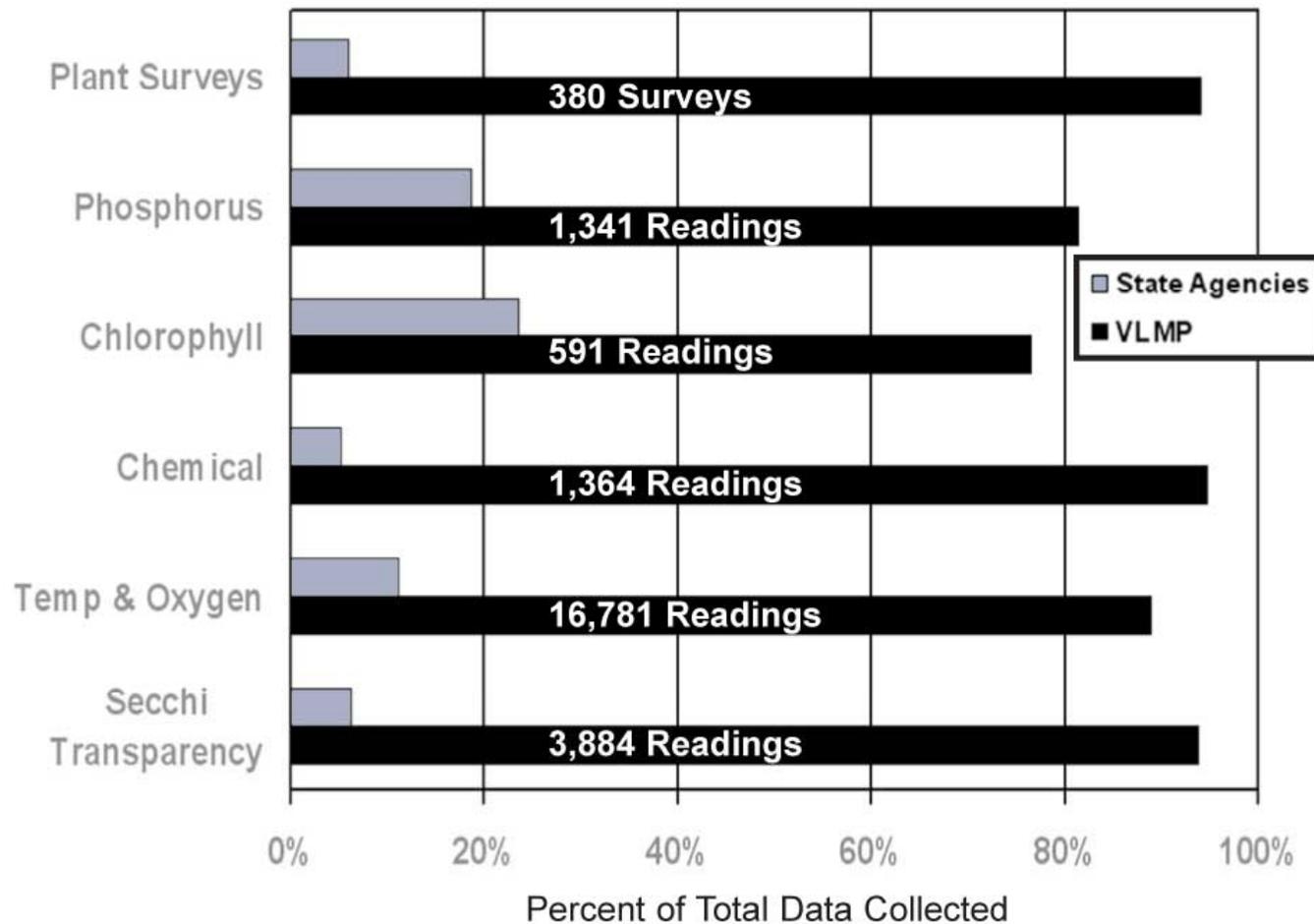
- Recruit, train, support volunteers
- Expand the scope of monitoring, outreach and special projects
- Program administration, management and development



MDEP

- Funding for core activities
- Technical oversight, data management, quality assurance
- Collaboration in the development of special projects

Percentage of Lake Data Readings Collected by VLMP and State Agencies in 2009



Future Challenges: it's all about funding

- Flat/declining budget = belt tightening (painful)
- Economic downturn (no decline in volunteer interest)
- Importance of fundraising
- Primary challenge: Keep the Program free to Volunteers! (But don't assume that volunteers will not offer to provide financial support)



The NHDES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program

A cooperative program between volunteer monitors, lake associations, and NHDES

Spectacle Pond, Enfield



Why was VLAP established?

Established in 1985, in response to the desires of lake associations to become involved in lake protection and watershed management.

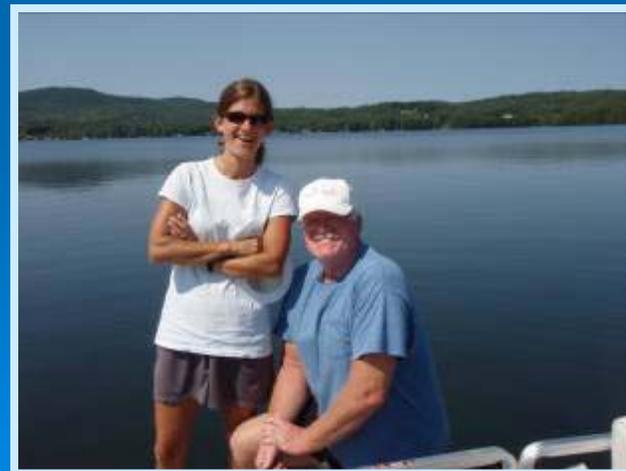
Program Growth

- 1990 = 50 lakes
- 2000 = 131 lakes
- 2010 = 180 lakes

- 1985 = 2 volunteers
- 2010 = 500 volunteers



Herb Lippold, Drennan Lowell (volunteers) ,
Kristin Duclos (Lakes Intern)
Big Island Pond, Derry



Shelley Pellegrini and
Brian Campbell, Webster Lake, Franklin

The Role of the Volunteer Monitor...

- **Contact DES to schedule annual visit**
- **Collect water samples at least once per month during the summer**
- **Raise funds to pay for analyses**
- **Report potential water quality violations to DES**
- **Pass on water quality information to associations, community & town officials**



**Terri Bingham and Nancy Stetson,
Messer Pond, New London**

The Role of DES Biologist...

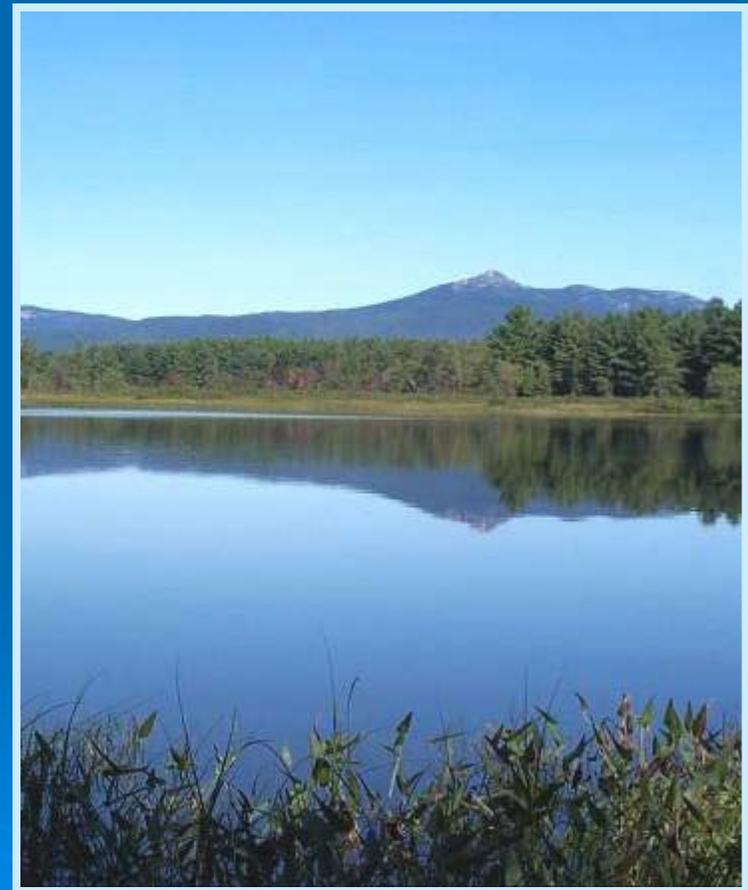


Sara Steiner
VLAP Coordinator
Bolster Pond, Sullivan

- ✓ Teach principles of lake ecology and sampling techniques
- ✓ Conduct annual training visit and audit
- ✓ Analyze samples in laboratory
- ✓ Investigate and assist with water quality complaints
- ✓ Incorporate volunteer data into state water quality assessment reports
- ✓ **DES funds coordinator**
- ✓ **Equipment, supplies from general lake monitoring fund**

Challenges

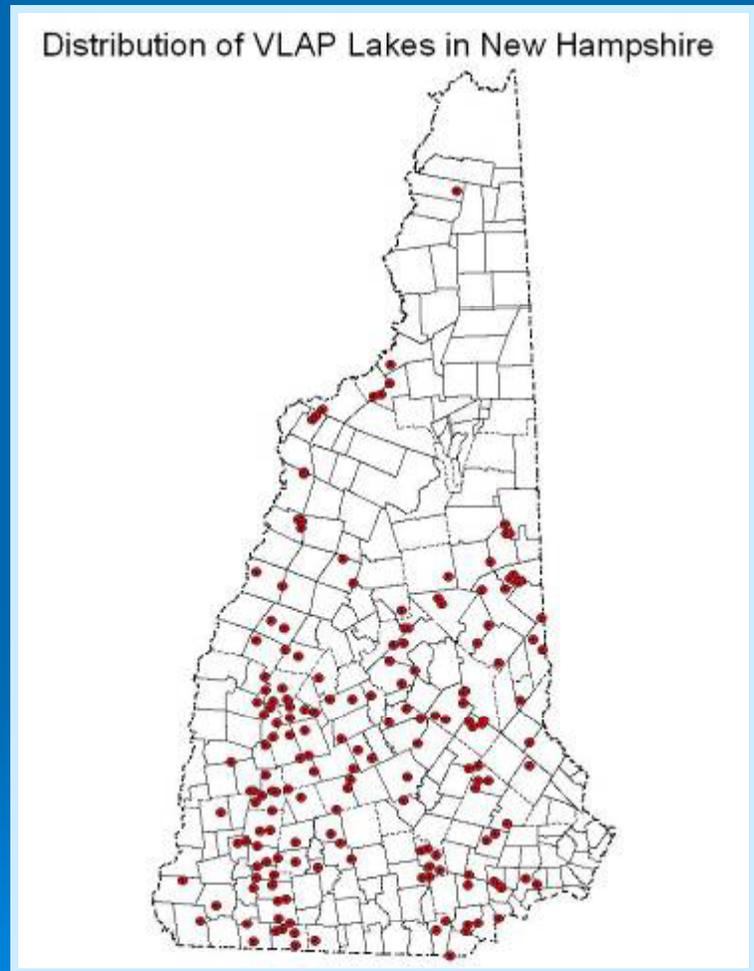
- Funding
- Limited Staff
- Resources
- Program growth
- Volunteer retention



Mt. Chocorua and
Moores Pond, Tamworth

What's next?

- **Secure additional funding**
 - VLAP Sponsorship Program
- **Expand to North Country**
 - Grants
 - Education/Outreach
- **Celebrate 25 Years!**

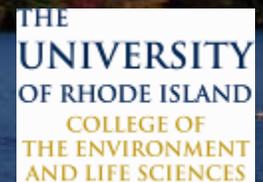


2008 Distribution of VLAP Lakes
in New Hampshire

URI Watershed Watch

College of Environment and Life Sciences

- Cornerstone of URI Cooperative Extension Water Quality Program
 - 2 fulltime staff
 - 4-5 students



Many Program Sponsors (40)

Base Funding:

URI Cooperative Extension

Program Specific Annual Grant:

RI DEM

Local Sponsorship (per site per year)

Watershed & Environmental Organizations

Municipal Conservation Commissions

Lake associations

Businesses/Industry

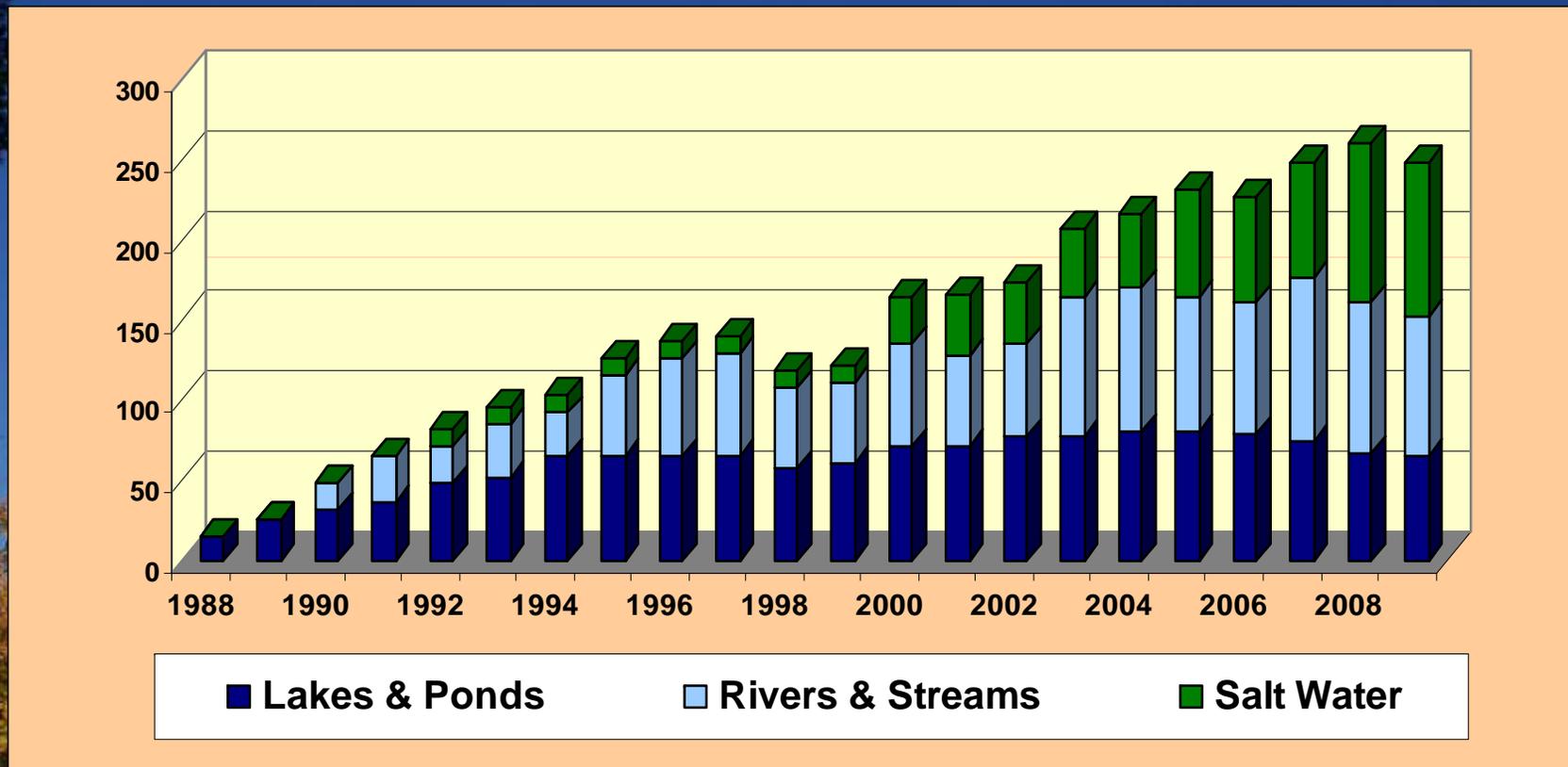
Narragansett Indian Tribe

A photograph showing a large number of volunteers in small, dark-colored boats on a body of water. The volunteers are wearing various clothing, including hats and jackets, suggesting a cool environment. The boats are scattered across the water, and the overall scene depicts a busy monitoring or data collection activity.

**400+ active volunteer monitors
>250 monitoring sites**

**More monitors per square mile than
any other state!**

Lake, river, salt water locations





URIWW provides all equipment & supplies



URIWW performs all lab analyses in-house





**Volunteer Water
Quality Monitoring**
National Facilitation Project
*A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& the Land Grant System*



www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer

Volunteer Monitoring National Facilitation Project

[Project Description](#) (382 K pdf file)

[Outreach Materials and Activities](#)

[Nationwide Inquiry](#)

[Online Databases](#)

Extension Volunteer Monitoring Programs

[Program Listings](#)

[Programs' Achievements](#)

[Current Highlight: Great Bay](#) **NEW!**
[Coast Watch](#)

[Highlighted Program Archives](#)

[Job postings](#)

Related Research and Educational Efforts

[Researching Volunteer Monitoring](#)

[Select Archives of Volunteer
Monitoring Listserv Discussions](#)

[Publications](#)

Training Modules

[Other National
Facilitation Projects](#) →

NEMO



World Water Day

Guide for Growing Programs

[Getting Started](#) (914 K pdf)

[Why Monitoring
Makes Sense](#) (582 K pdf)

[Designing Your
Monitoring Strategy](#) (1.6 M pdf)

[Monitoring Matrix](#) (80 K pdf)

[Effective Training](#) (986 K pdf)

[Monitoring
Equipment Suppliers](#) (437 KB pdf)

[Direct Links to Monitoring
Programs' Manuals](#) (online)

[Building Credibility](#) (1.5 M pdf)

[Sharing Information Through
Internet Exchanges](#) (1 M pdf)

[Volunteer Management](#) (7 M pdf)

[Planning Your Program's Data
Management System](#) (6 M pdf)

[Outreach Tools](#)

[Locating Support and Funding](#)

Special Topics

[Secchi Dip-In](#)

[World Water Monitoring Day](#)

[Volunteer E. Coli Monitoring Project](#)

[National Water Quality
Monitoring Conference](#)

Volunteer Monitoring Provides....

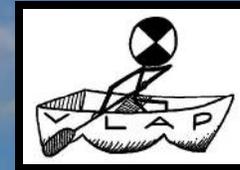
- 💧 Long-term, credible data sets
- 💧 A variety of public outreach opportunities
- 💧 Advocacy for innovative water policies
- 💧 Partnerships for implementing watershed management plans
- 💧 First step into environmental stewardship

Thanks to...

**Scott Williams,
Maine Volunteer Lake
Monitoring Program**



**Sara Steiner,
NH Volunteer Lake
Assessment Program**



**Elizabeth Herron & Art Gold,
URI Watershed Watch**

