



China Region Lakes Alliance

PO Box 178, South China, Maine 04358
Tel: (207) 923-3358

A Lake is the Product of its Watershed...And the People who Care for it

February 28, 2014

Ms. Mary S. Sabins
PO Box 129
N. Vassalboro, ME 04962
Re: Annual town report

Dear Ms. Sabins:

This letter contains the *China Region Lakes Alliance's* Annual Report summarizing the conservation and water quality protection activities undertaken in 2013. Since 1995, the CRLA has been working hard to protect our Lakes and waterways in Vassalboro and neighboring communities.

Among the highlights in 2013 was the improving trend in the water quality of Three Mile Pond which is a direct result of the habitat restoration project undertaken by CRLA at The Seaward Mill Stream, the outlet of Three Mile Pond (See Figure 1, attached). The work has enabled safe passageway for native sea-run alewife by restoring their natural habitat and spawning grounds. At the same time, the billions of juvenile fish build mass and are net exporters of internal phosphorus' from the Pond afterwards. Phosphorus over-enrichment is the chief cause of water quality degradation and this substantial water quality improvement corroborates the good water quality trend seen in Webber Pond over the past decade that coincide with re-introduction of this fishery there as well. Following these remarkable results, The Board of Directors of CRLA is working on plans restore the native fishery to China Lake via the Outlet Stream..

The *Courtesy Boat Inspection* program and the *Youth Conservation Corp* enjoyed another successful season with 18 area high school age students participating in providing services for ecological protection against invasive aquatic plants. The CBI provided staffing at all 4 public boat launches in the area and inspected hundreds of boats and trailers for invasive plants (i.e. milfoil) on weekends and holidays prior to their launching. Also, CRLA completed numerous conservation projects including the construction of trail bridges at the new Thurston Park in China (see Figure 2, attached) and installing and buffer strips to a Webber Pond camp to mitigate erosion on a steep banking (see Figure 3, attached). The informational kiosk was painted at the East Vassalboro Boat Launch and new maps and community materials were added.

These projects are making a positive difference to the community and ecology and CRLA wishes to extend its appreciation to the Town of Vassalboro for its foresight, fortitude, and support.

Sincerely,

Jim Hart, CRLA President

Figure 1 –Three Mile Pond - Overview of Seaward Mills Stream outlet at Route 3 and lake. In stream clearing work to removal invasive dogwood trees in the stream to help restore anadromous fish passage.

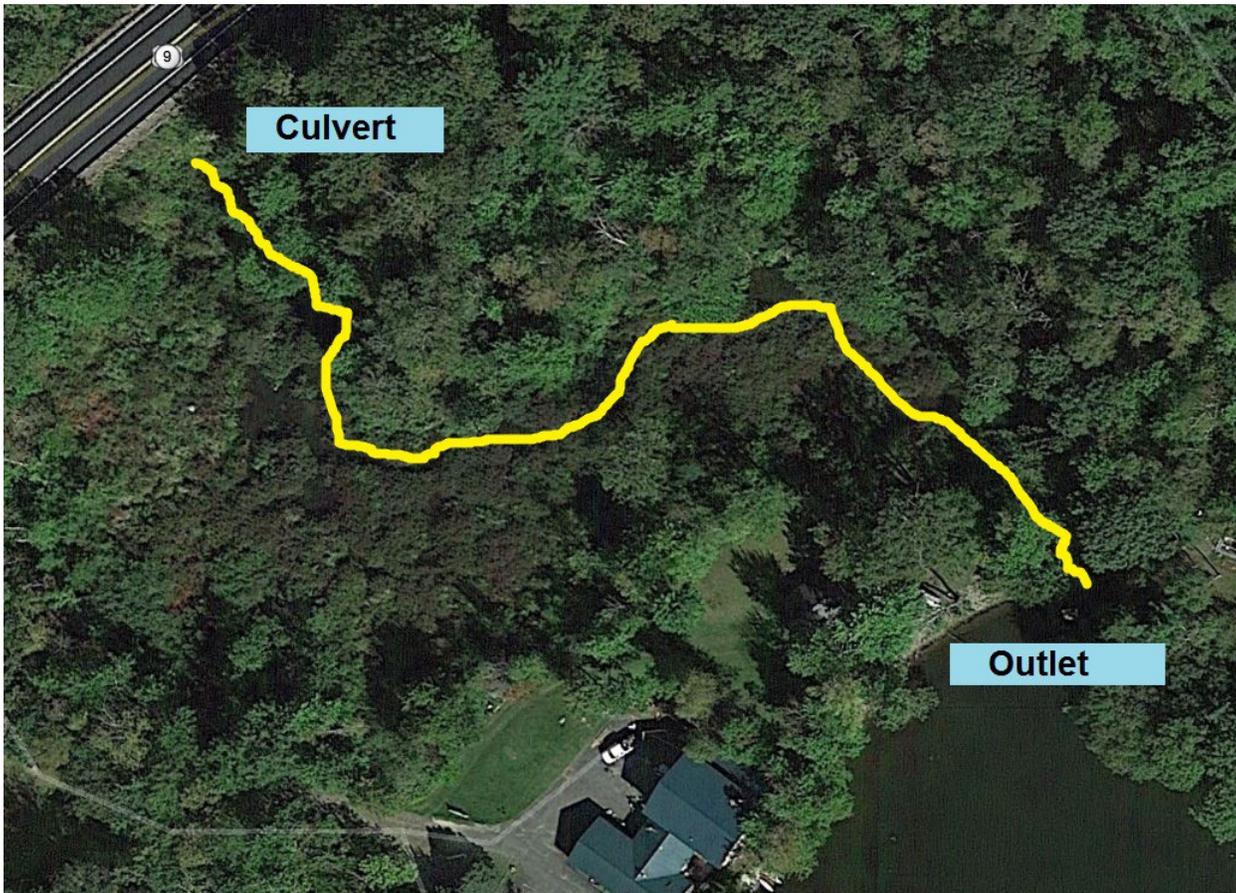


Figure 2 – Thurston Park trail bridges through bog in cooperation the Maine Conservation Corps.

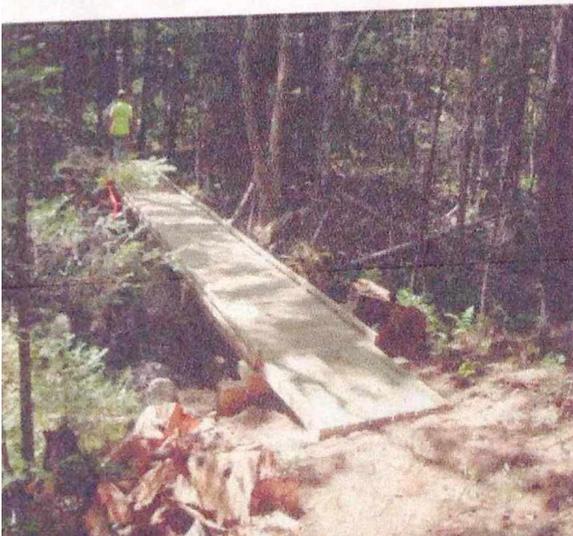


Figure 3 – 100 foot buffer strip on Webber Pond and removal of invasive woody plants.

