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For more information, contact Karen Young,
(207) 780-4820, kyoung@usm.maine.edu

Lakes Leader Receives Regional Recognition at the “State of the [Casco] Bay” Conference

The Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) honored Peter Lowell, Director and Founder of the Lakes Environmental Association, with a special award on Thursday, November 3 at its “State of the [Casco] Bay” conference. The Casco Bay Estuary Partnership Award is given every few years to a person who has made a significant contribution to the protection of Casco Bay and its watershed.

“Peter is a visionary who makes things happen. He starts the process and it grows to the point where people can’t believe that there was a time when the project he advocated didn’t exist” said Jacki Cohen, CBEP Chair. She continued by explaining that “Even though our name is the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, we don’t focus only on Casco Bay, we work throughout the watershed. It was Peter who put the word watershed on the map around these parts”.

Peter started Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), a non-profit organization that protects the lakes of Western Maine through water testing, fighting milfoil, education, and technical assistance to landowners, contractors and municipalities, 35 years ago out of his garage. Jacki Cohen recognized its accomplishments, “LEA is an organization that has made a significant difference in public awareness of the impact of human activity, especially development, on the health of lakes. Towns now see the value to them of maintaining a high level of water quality. We have seen a real shift in attitudes toward conservation of lakes and we attribute that directly to Peter’s work”.

Karen Young, Director of CBEP, presented Peter with a framed photo of a loon, taken by local photographer Randy Ury, with a plaque that reads ‘In recognition of his dedication and service to the protection and restoration of the Casco Bay Watershed’ (photo attached). Karen noted that “The loon, as you all know, lives on the lakes in the summer and on the ocean in the winter. It is, therefore, a fitting symbol of Peter’s support for the protection of the Casco Bay watershed and the influence that it has on Casco Bay”.

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