

SPIA e-News

January 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing holiday season and is looking forward to another year at Square Pond.

While you check out these articles, remember that even though these winter days feel long, the day with the shortest amount of daylight is already behind us. Each day since December 21st brings a little more daylight, which means summer will be here before we know it!



Photo courtesy of Lawrence Mason Jr

New Tool Summarizing Lake Data

It is always helpful to look at lake data in different ways to guide SPIA's areas of focus. A new interactive tool from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) brings together data from several sources (including SPIA!) to summarize lake health across four key areas: water quality trends, invasive plants, shoreland & habitat, and lake vulnerability. The tool currently shows data through 2024 and the data will be refreshed annually. The categories are color-coded: **blue** = good, **yellow** = fair, **red** = poor/ at risk, and **grey** indicating that there is not enough information. There are many ways to interpret the data, but Square Pond appears healthy today and also highly vulnerable. We will need to continue the work we are doing and consider efforts such as increasing native vegetation to preserve Square Pond's health and recreational value. Use the link below to explore Square Pond's data as well as recommendations on potential actions.

🔗 www.lakesofmaine.org (for questions, email mainedeplakescorecard@maine.gov)

Safety on the Ice

Need a refresher on ice safety? Here are some links that give guidance on how thick the ice needs to be for different activities and a video showing how to self-rescue if you fall through the ice. Have fun and be safe out there!

🔗 www.maine.gov
🔗 www.dnr.state.mn.us

Trail Resources

Heading out on your snowmobile? Before you do, check that the trails are open and take a moment to review trail markers. It's always good to remember that many of Maine's trails are on private property so please stay on marked trails and properly dispose of all waste.

🔗 [Mousam Valley Trail Riders \(FB\)](#)
🔗 www.mainesnowmobileassociation.com
🔗 www.maine.gov

Cribbage anyone?

There's plenty of time to learn before the next Cribbage Tournament! Like to learn on your own? Try the links below. Prefer learning with others? If enough folks are interested, we can set up a winter meet-up with lessons for new players (email contact@squarepond.org).

🔗 www.bicyclecards.com
🔗 www.wikihow.com
🔗 www.YouTube.com

Reminders

- The fallen tree that blocked the culvert is now cleared however the beaver dam is still present. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is working to resolve.
- The 16th MCCP (Maine Children's Cancer Program) Square Pond Fishing Derby is scheduled for Feb 15, 2026. For more information, follow this [link](#) to the event poster.
- SPIA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization powered by volunteers and community support. All donations- of time or funds- are truly appreciated.



SQUARE POND
Improvement Association

🔗 www.squarepond.org

✉ contact@squarepond.org