

Youth Conservation Corps

Final Report 2025



Thompson Lake Environmental Association
Prepared by: Sarah Ferry, TLEA Administrator

2025 Staff/Board Member

Crew:

Mason Bourget
Noah Marston

YCC Project Co-Coordinator:

Josh Wright

TLEA YCC Director and YCC Project Co-Coordinator

Jim Skinner

Biographies:

Mason Bourget: currently a 19 year old from Norway. Mason graduated from Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School in 2025. He studied 2 years of Auto Collision Repair and is currently interested in a career at Poland Spring.

Noah Marston: currently a 20 year old from Buckfield. Noah is a recent graduate of Buckfield High School and now works for the same school as an Education Tech. Noah is enrolled in online college courses and aspires to be a school principal.

Josh Wright is the new YCC Project Coordinator and has been a gardener and landscape contractor in Maine and previously in Texas. He lives with his family in Otisfield.

Board Member Jim Skinner is the YCC Director. In addition to his volunteer efforts throughout the year he has shared work responsibilities as a Co-Project Coordinator working directly on the labor and management of jobs this year with Josh Wright.

Both Josh and Jim have covered this position for two days each in this four day weekly schedule in June through August. Josh will be working next summer for the four day work-week schedule in our eight week long 2026 session.

This was our first season of YCC efforts within the presently begun Federal 319 Non Point Source (NPS) Grant we were awarded this year, after our Watershed Survey conducted in 2023

Watershed Information

Thompson Lake is one of the most pristine waterbodies in Southwestern Maine. The water and its surrounding riparian area provide extensive fish and wildlife habitat, outstanding swimming opportunities, boating, fishing and aesthetic character that is highly valued by the public. The lake also provides economic benefits for landowners, businesses, and the towns in the watershed.

The lake has a surface area of 4225 acres. It is situated in portions of three counties (Androscoggin, Cumberland, and Oxford) and four towns (Casco, Poland, Otisfield, and Oxford). The land area that drains directly into Thompson, referred to as a direct

watershed, encompasses an area of 35 square miles. Portions of the direct watershed include lands in the towns of Norway and Raymond as well as the four towns listed above.

Compared to other Maine lakes, the water quality of Thompson is substantially above average. Water clarity or transparency (the distance one can see down into the water, an important overall indicator of the health of the lake) is very good. Transparency readings often exceed 35ft. The average transparency for other Maine lakes is approx. 17ft. The water in Thompson Lake is clear because the growth of algae is in balance with the lake ecosystem. Because the growth of algae is in natural balance in the lake, moderately high levels of dissolved oxygen are maintained in the water throughout the year. This allows the lake to support a healthy cold-water fishery that includes trout and salmon. Thompson Lake is one of the relatively few lakes in the area that supports both cold and warm water fisheries.

As many of our of our Board Members will remember, Thompson Lake has been rated “Most at Risk for Development” by the Maine DEP (Department of Environmental Protection). This classification is based on the watershed’s high sensitivity to small increases in phosphorus and also to rapid property development and associated erosive activities. We were able to apply for the 319 Grant due to this risk profile and are pleased to have begun this NPS work this summer of 2025.

Our TLEA YCC, having been re-constituted three summers ago after a four year hiatus; this year began our first season of YCC efforts within the presently begun Federal 319 Non Point Source (NPS) Grant that we were awarded this year. It was truly a learning process to understand the ins and outs of the administrative collaboration with the Androscoggin County Soil and Water District and also the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District. By the YCC summer sessions end we were able to understand better how the grant works with the help of Emma Lorusso (ACSWCD), and Michele Windsor (OCSWCD). Next summers planning and execution will be most efficiently orchestrated after this initial learning effort.

This is a summary of all projects worked on this year:

Casco - 0

Otisfield – 3

Oxford – 3

Poland - 3

Job Listings

Robert and Kim Kelley

87 Black Island Rd
Oxford ME 04270

Scope of work: install open box culvert, roof drip-line trenches at garage, 3/4" crushed stone by parking areas, Erosion control mulch below box culvert.

Materials:

Wood	\$73.68
Crushed Stone	\$142.50
Mulch	\$408.80
Hardware	\$25.00
Total	\$649.98

Before Photos:





After Photos:





Gerald Chase

180 Pine Point Road
Oxford ME, 04270

Scope of Work: Roof drip-line, Build Better Buffers Planting

Materials:

¾ crushed stone	\$65.00
Erosion Control Mulch	\$242.65
Geotextile Fabric	\$20.00
Buffer Plantings	\$174.18
Total	\$501.83

Before Photos:



After Photos:



Candace Nelson

73 Island Cove Road
Poland ME 04274

Scope of work: 2 infiltration trenches and one dry well

Materials:

Geotextile Fabric:	\$113.40
Crushed stone:	\$356.59
Round Stone:	\$274.83

Total **\$744.82**

Before Photos:



After Photos:



Pam Skalski

404 Forest Edwards Road
Otisfield, ME 04270

Scope of work: 2 open box culverts, 2 catch basins

Materials:

Rip Rap	\$70.00
Crushed Stone	\$50.00
Hardware	\$20.00
Disposal Fees	\$18.00
Total	\$158.00

Before Photos:



After Photos:



Greg and Marie Jones

68 Ohuivo Road

Otisfield, ME 04270

Scope of work: 3 rubber razor bars, infiltration trenches, erosion control mulch pathway and beach area.

Materials:

Rubber Razor Bars:	\$475.00
Erosion Control Mulch	\$434.66
Rip Rap	\$60.00
Crushed Stone	\$30.00
Hardware	\$50.00
Total	\$1,049.66

Before Photos:



After Photos:



Greg and Peter Belson

7 Milky Way

Otisfield, ME 04270

Scope of work: Dripline trench

Materials:

Erosion Control Mulch \$474.75

Geotextile Fabric \$7.20

¾' Crushed Stone \$18.00

Rip Rap \$18.00

Lumber Materials \$66.78

Total **\$584.73**

Before Photos:



After Photos:



Continuing Jobs

Barry Kurland

53 Rockwood Lane
Poland, ME 04274

Scope of work: Apply erosion control mulch on pathway to dock and beach access area. Establish a vegetative buffer.

Materials:

Erosion control mulch	\$424.11
Rip Rap Stone	\$20.00
Disposal Fee	\$41.00

Total **\$485.11**

Before Photos:





After Photos:



Dan Cadotte

121 Heath Road

Poland ME, 04274

Scope of work: Drywell and a 700 sq ft vegetative buffer comprised of plants recommended in a Build Better Buffers evaluation.

Materials:

Erosion control mulch	\$125.00
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Rip Rap Stone	\$15.00
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McLaughlin Gardens Plants	\$844.85
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Total	\$984.85
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Before Photos:

After Photos:



Elaine Leary

103 Beechwoods Rd

Oxford, ME 04270

Scope of work: Erosion Control Mulched pathway to dock. Establish vegetative berms and other plantings around yard, Conduct build better buffers evaluation

Materials:

Erosion Control Mulch N/A

Before Photos:



After Photos:

