

**TREE participants testing Bauneg Beg Lake's quality
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Editor's Note: Members of Waban's TREE (Therapeutic Recreation and Environmental Education) Program have been conducting water quality studies at Bauneg Beg Lake and will be reporting routinely on the results of their educational investigations. This is the first installment in a series of updates, sharing environmental information about the watershed.

SANFORD — During the past year in Waban's year-round TREE Program, fifth- and sixth-grade students from St. Thomas School, along with participants from Life Works' Adventure Program, have been exploring and learning about Bauneg Beg Lake and the Great Works River watershed. They have conducted tests on the water quality of the lake and have explored the microfauna it supports. This large watershed encompasses 84 square miles, and includes the towns of Sanford, North Berwick, Berwick, South Berwick, Wells, and York.

In a collaborative effort with Bauneg Beg Lake Association (BBLA), participants from Waban's Adventure Group, led by Environmental Educator Cynthia Peedin, collected water quality samples from various points around the 179-acre lake. Patrick Marass, a project scientist from FB Environmental Associates, demonstrated the sampling equipment and took direct recordings of dissolved oxygen, water clarity, temperature, and depth of the lake. Water samples were brought to a lab in Augusta for further analysis of levels of phosphorus, chlorophyll A, and alkaline materials in the lake.

The process of collection and results of the water quality testing assist the BBLA in monitoring the health of the lake and represent a continuation of the watershed education in which the Adventure Club and local schools have been immersed.