



## The *LakeSmart* Program with Coastal Rivers



Any pond side homeowner can request a *LakeSmart* visit from Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust. The program is designed to educate, reward and recognize watershed property owners who adopt and maintain responsible property management. Studies have shown that as water quality declines, the value of shoreline property also decreases. Declining water quality also can affect the type and number of fish species and other wildlife that inhabit the lake and can hinder other recreational uses of the lake as well as the local economy.

Participating landowners receive a free assessment of their property from trained volunteer evaluators with a site visit. Prior to the visit the evaluator or coordinator will ask questions about your property. You will fill out the short pre-evaluation questionnaire and return it to Coastal Rivers *LakeSmart* Coordinator or the Coastal Rivers office at 3 Round Top Lane, Damariscotta, phone: 563-1393, or by email.

Next, with an appointment, the evaluators walk around the property and will review landscape and management practices in the four following categories:

- Road, Driveway, and Parking Areas
- Structures and Septic System
- Lawn, Recreation Areas, and Footpaths
- Shorefront and Beach

Points based on established criteria are given in each category. If the property owner scores high in the four categories, they will receive an award and sign(s) for their *LakeSmart* property. Award winners are published (with the permission of the owner) in newspapers, newsletters and on the Maine Lakes Society web page.

Lesser scores receive a Certificate of Commendation or a *LakeSmart Start* award with recommendations. Many *LakeSmart* fixes involve simple, non-technical improvements such as covering bare dirt with mulch, increased use of native plants making a bigger buffer, managing paths to prevent erosion, or minimizing the use of harmful chemicals. *LakeSmart* can be cost saving if a site visit identifies a problem that could become expensive if not addressed. The suggestions for improvements will help a property qualify for the *LakeSmart* Award and further protect water quality. If a property does not initially meet the standards, the landowner has the option to make modifications and be re-evaluated.

*LakeSmart* is a program of the [Maine Lakes Society](http://www.mainelakessociety.org) [www.mainelakessociety.org](http://www.mainelakessociety.org)  
partnering with [Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust](http://www.coastalrivers.org) [www.coastalrivers.org](http://www.coastalrivers.org)