

Parker Pond Association Newsletter

November, 2020

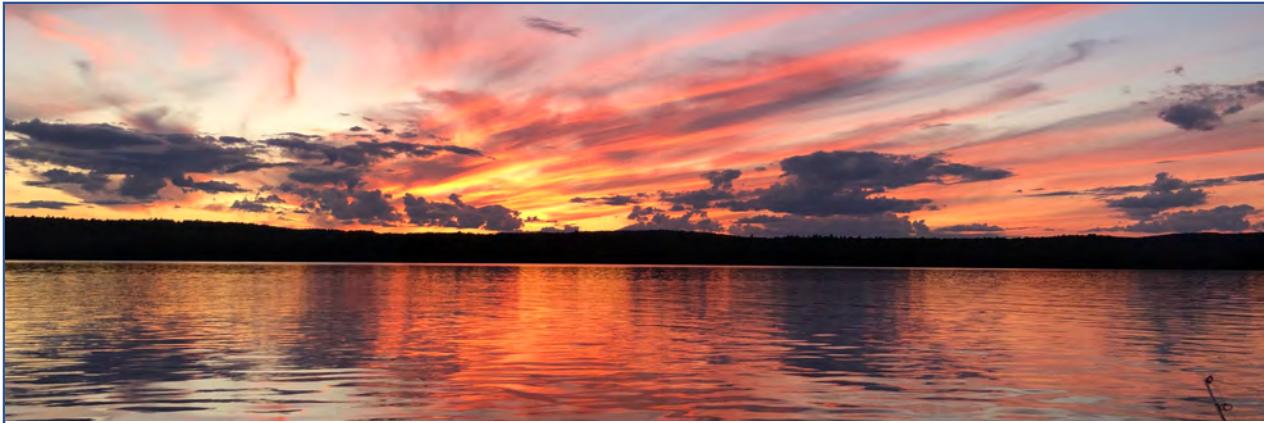


Photo by Sandy Beal

PPA President's Message

Hello from Beautiful Parker Pond.

I was hoping that this day would never come but at the end of September 30 Mile River Watershed Association was notified that Invasive Variable Milfoil was identified in our watershed in Androscoggin Lake. Mitigation has already begun with the help of 30MRWA, the State of Maine DEP and Lake Stewards of Maine as well as volunteers from different lake associations including Parker Pond Association. Hopefully you all have received the newsletter from 30 MRWA explaining in detail the situation on Androscoggin Lake.

Most likely the introduction of invasive plants into our watershed occurred from a boat that was carrying milfoil. Once invasive plants like Variable Milfoil take hold of a lake it can choke the life out of it. This is Parker Ponds' biggest threat. This stresses how important boat inspections are. Surveillance by plant patrollers is crucial at this stage of the process so we can identify and eradicate invasive plants. This also highlights the critical importance of Plant Patrollers and Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) who are trained by 30 MRWA staff. All the lakes in our watershed will need to step up their efforts on

inspections and surveillance of plants.

Dealing with the problem of Invasive Plants can be very costly for our lake community. To avoid this happening at Parker Pond will require a renewed dedication of volunteers and resources. (See Lidie's article on CBIs and Plant Patrol). To this end, the Board of PPA recommends that we invite volunteers to support these activities and to financially support 30MRWA in its effort to fight invasive plants in the watershed.

Our goal is to raise enough funds so that we can contribute \$18,000 yearly which would be dedicated to 30MRWA to preemptively protect our beloved lake. This would assist them as they steward the watershed through these critical events. We trust that the other lake associations will collaborate with 30 MRWA on their mission of working as a community for clean and healthy lakes, ponds and streams in our watershed. It is incumbent on us to maintain an emergency fund in our treasury as well in the event that we ever experience an invasive plant outbreak on Parker Pond.

We will be sending out remittance envelopes by mail, shortly, asking you to

support these efforts to tackle invasive plants. Prevention is the goal!

We also encourage members to check out the website for 30MRWA (30mileriver.org), where you can keep up to date with what is happening in the watershed.

We are all concerned about this recent event. Our members have always risen to the occasion when Parker Pond faces challenges. Right now is one of those times. Please speak with your neighbors on the lake to promote saturating awareness of this threat and to encourage those that are not members of PPA and 30MRWA to join and participate. Thank you for caring and for all your help and contributions.

The culvert on the Sandy River Road has been replaced with the help of 30MRWA who raised approximately \$200,000 through grants. **This has been the biggest polluter on Parker Pond and that project is ongoing.**

Be Well and Stay Safe.

Gerry Tinguely, President of PPA

Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 cases in Maine still low relative to US, but surging – for the latest information see:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/index.shtml#situation>



**Updates from
30 Mile River
Watershed
Association**

Invasive Milfoil in the Watershed – *Parker Pond now at greater risk*

In September, invasive variable water-milfoil was found in Androscoggin Lake by a volunteer “plant patroller.” This is the first time an invasive aquatic plant has been found anywhere in the 30 Mile River Watershed.

Invasive milfoil can devastate a lake.

Once it takes hold, it can strangle portions of that lake, pushing out native plants and other organisms, changing natural habitat, and making it difficult or impossible in many places for swimming, boating, fishing, and other recreational activities. This typically results in a drop in property values around that lake, which has a ripple effect on the economies and businesses of surrounding towns.



Because invasive milfoil grows and spreads rapidly, identifying infested areas early and implementing aggressive, immediate control efforts are critical and provide our best hope. Upon learning the DNA results, both the 30 Mile River Watershed Association and the lake association for Androscoggin Lake (ALIC), immediately went to work with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Lake Stewards of Maine to organize a rapid response. Throughout October, our early response team worked hard to conduct multiple surveys to look for the invasive species and removed all the milfoil that was found.



Our hope is that the infestation is confined to just this small area. Our fear is that there could be other patches in the lake that we haven't found yet. Beginning in the spring of 2021, both the Androscoggin Lake plant patrol team and 30 Mile will collaborate to conduct repeated surveys of both the cove where the invasives were found and all other littoral zones of the lake. As patches are identified, divers will be deployed to pull invasive plants and attempt to eradicate the infestation.

With invasive plants now just a few lakes downstream of Parker Pond, Parker is at more risk than ever before. **The time to act is now.** Prevention efforts are critical, through boat inspections and plant surveys. This past summer, 30 Mile increased the number of hours of boat inspections by 27%, to 354 hours of inspections. We should increase that even further, and can with the help of volunteers and with increased funding. Parker's volunteer plant patrol team conducted surveys of priority areas in the lake again this summer, as we do every year, and found no invasives. However, that team is only 12 people – not large enough to carefully cover the whole lake. **We must have more eyes on the water.** As with Androscoggin Lake, catching an infestation early is vital.

Next summer PPA will be working with 30 Mile to train volunteers in looking for invasives. Trainings will be held online and in-person, with opportunities to get involved at varying levels of commitment. **To join this effort in protecting Parker Pond**, contact Lidie Robbins at lidie@30mileriver.org.

Fixing a Big Problem in a Small Town: Culvert Project Complete on the Sandy River Road

After years of planning, the culvert replacement project on the Sandy River Rd at the outlet of David Pond has been completed. This stream crossing had been a chronic problem for many years and was identified in 2011 during the 30 Mile River Watershed Association's Watershed Survey as being one of the biggest erosion threats



to Parker Pond's water quality. The road sat atop the 200+ year-old remains of the saw and grist mill, with a 3-foot culvert embedded in it.

There were many concerns about this site including 1) water quality impacts due to the eroding banks and crumbling roadway; 2) barrier for fish passage 3) insufficient culvert size to handle high flows, making a washout or total failure likely, and 4) public safety.

Through two DEP grant programs¹, 30 Mile was awarded \$175K to support the \$329K project. The Town of Chesterville funded the remaining cost. The new open bottom aluminum culvert spans 22 feet, is 38 feet long and will handle 100-year peak flows. It will benefit Parker Pond's water quality, improve habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, ensure public safety and provide a much-improved road for the town. Connected to this project, a second project on the Sandy River Road was completed this fall with support of additional grant funding awarded to 30 Mile from the DEP.



The road on both sides of the culvert now has new ditches, rock check dams, rip-rapped plunge pools and a new crowned road surface, all best practices to help manage the high levels of water flowing down both hills to the stream. By getting the water off the road and allowing it to infiltrate, the pollution flowing into Parker Pond has been greatly reduced to protect water quality.

— Lidie Robbins

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dam

Here's a picture of Rich Smith weed whacking dam growth. I followed up with cutting any woody growth out. We will do it once a year in August, after the loons are done nesting. Dam looks very good.

— Amanda Smith

¹ \$95,000 grant provided by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for Stream Crossing Public Infrastructure Improvements Projects
\$80,000 grant provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean

Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA



Stewardship

I'll be meeting with James Kelly to mark out the trail on the Kelly Easement in November.

– Gary Dubord

Treasurer's Report – 2020 Through October

Major categories of revenues and expenses are shown below. Our total savings balance at the end of October was \$25,636 compared to \$22,001 at the end of last year. Our major expense is to support the 30 Mile River Watershed Association in its water quality and invasive plant prevention, and now eradication (Lake Androscoggin), efforts. Please do everything you can to help so that we can maintain and increase our stewardship efforts. If you would like more details about the finances, send me a message at wpwhittier@aol.com. Thank you everyone for your support.

– Waine Whittier

Revenues

Dues	\$ 3,960
Other Contributions	9,635
Interest	35
Total Revenues	\$ 13,630

Expenses

Invasive Plants	\$ 3,750
Water Quality	5,250
Other	995
Total Expenses	\$ 9,995

Communications

This year we expanded our e-mailings to update the PPA membership on Covid, to seek volunteers for the Loon Island renovation, to reschedule a meeting on invasive plants and, last but not least, lost & found, including one boat & motor & fishing equipment, three swim floats, one air mattress and one very large, blue inner tube. In consideration of the favorable reaction to those emails, the PPA Board has decided to expand PPA's e-mail communications to include the following "classified" services *on a trial basis*:

- PPA members or their friends looking for rentals on the lake
- PPA members offering to rent their property on the lake
- PPA members or their friends with boats, fishing or other recreational equipment for sale
- PPA members wanting to purchase boats, fishing or other recreational equipment

To place a classified ad that will be distributed shortly after New Year's, please send an e-mail to

william.h.rosenberg@gmail.com with text of your ad (25 words or less + contact information) by December 31, 2020. There is no cost for the ad and if you would like to "unsubscribe" from the e-mails please let me know.

– Bill Rosenberg

Thank You Loon Island Volunteers!

Kevin Blake
Don Boutin
Doug Boyink
Murray Campbell
Deb Cayer
Cheryl Cayer
Amanda Dow-Smith
Charles Field
Deb Hamilton
Libby Harville
Patrick Kaltner
Jennifer Knust
Leander Knust
Steve Linder
John Linton
Ron Milliken
Jim Moran

In the Fall of 2016 2/3 of PPA Member responding to a survey on the future of the Loon Island Cabin said they preferred to restore it (as opposed to tearing it down and replacing it with a State lean to). Well, thanks to the volunteers listed (and, with apologies to those whom we missed), we did it!

Congratulations Parker Pond Association!

Photos by Irene Goff, Steve Linder, Bill Rosenberg, Mike Wells

Dan Onion
Tom Piccirillo
Bill Rosenberg
Latre Sibi Lawson-Owanda
Rich Smith
Paul Stancioff
Andrea Thon
Greg Thon
Gerry Tinguely
Leo Tsevtkov
Bob Weimont
Dean Wells
Jeanine Wells
Mike Wells
Mary Wells
Rick Wells



New Porch & Sill on the Way



New Siding



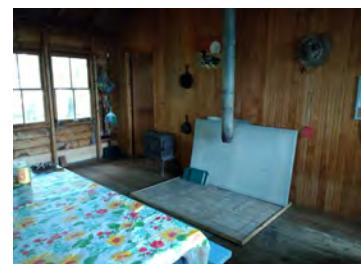
Takin out the trash



Taking a Well-deserved Break



& New Paint on the South Side



Metalbestos Chimney on Order



Good as New



No Place Like Home



Campers Arrive (Sept. '20)



Loon Count

The 37th annual loon count was on July 18, 2020 from 7:00-7:30am. Nine groups/people went out on Parker Pond on a beautiful sunny morning with smooth water conditions. 17 adult loons were spotted. Unfortunately, no chicks were seen. This is down from last year. It was reported that two loon chicks were seen earlier in July but not during the count. –Addie Michaud

	Adults	Chicks
2016	20	2
2017	21	2
2018	16	1
2019	22	2
2020	17	0

– Addie Michaud

Parker Pond Memories: Snappers

Last issue we invited our readers to share some memories of Parker Pond, “your first visit, an unusual experience or just about anything connected to the Pond.” We had one response, reported below (with an update). Since we’ll all be spending more than usual time indoors this winter, how about some more? Send to william.h.rosenberg@gmail.com.

Watch Your Step

Fifteen years ago, we bought our home on Parker Pond. We were excited to find a place where our children could “be kids”, swimming, fishing and exploring the shores of our beautiful lake.

We often anchored our boat, swam to shore and walked in the shallow water, hoping to find frogs or crayfish. On one such occasion, I took the lead when I felt something beneath me shift. This was not the normal tilt of an uneven rock... I found myself stepping on a huge snapping turtle submerged in the mud!

Seeing this as a teachable moment, I tried to calmly explain that a large snapper had become my stepping stone, but I would not suggest they do the same! I had visions of this turtle having my keens for lunch. Fortunately, she was not interested in me or dessert, and as I lifted my foot, she burrowed further into the mud to resume her nap!

– Andrea Thon

Postscript: Dave Markovchick writes:

We had a nest of 20 baby snappers hatch on 9/28 in our door yard. We saw the mother laying about 90 days earlier.



Mama in June



Baby in September



Come to Mama!

Draft Minutes of PPA Annual Meeting -- June 27, 2020

The PPA Annual Meeting was held on June 27, 2020. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was held over ZOOM. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President, Gerry Tinguely who made two quick announcements:

Gerry reported that the loan for the purchase of the "Spillway Property" which started out at \$45,000, has been retired, thanks to the generous donations of the PPA members.

Gerry also announced that the town of Chesterville has approved monies for the culvert project on Sandy River Road, thus helping to control run-off water entering the pond.

Dave Markovchick made a motion, to approve the minutes of last year's Annual Meeting. It was seconded by Murray Campbell. The motion passed.

Gerry then acknowledged the passing of two people long associated with Parker Pond and the association: Ruth Grauert – one of the founding members of the PPA and owner/operator of Bearnstow Arts Camp; and Beverly Shaw, past president of the PPA.

New Business

Membership Dues

The board has unanimously voted to raise the annual membership dues from \$20 to \$30 per voting member.

A motion was made by Bill Rogers and seconded by Waine Whittier to raise the funds. After discussion as to the reason for this move, the motion passed.

Special Recognition

Waine Whittier reported that the board moved to present Dan Onion with honorary Lifetime membership to the PPA due to his outstanding record of selfless service to the lake and the association. The motion was seconded and passed. (see certificate, following minutes)

Treasury Report

Waine Whittier reported that the treasury balance is \$21,832. For a detailed listing of income and expenditures, Waine suggested contacting him by email and he would be glad to copy that information forward.

Gerry added that our major expenditure of \$9,000 is to the 30 Mile River Association because they pursue science-based monitoring and analysis of water quality, invasive plants, erosion and run-off studies and successfully have been awarded grants that have raised over \$200,000 to help mitigate soil erosion issues

around Parker Pond. He proposed that the PPA raise that annual contribution to \$15,000 and said that this would be discussed at the board level in the coming months.

Lake Usage

Bob Weimont reported that the Island sites are in good shape. Trees blown down on Loon Island must be cut up.

There were three launch dates at the Quimby Lane boat launch in the spring.

Dan Onion reported on the progress of campsite care on Loon Island. Maine Department of Conservation contributed \$1000 toward the renovation of the cabin. He recognized all the people who worked on the project.

Several questions arose as to signage on the island campsites. Dan assured that the campsites are furnished with signs stating the Conservation Department rules as to camping duration, fire usage, etc.

Membership

Bill Rosenberg reported that the number of families with one or more members has grown over 53% since 2018 to 92 and the number of individual members, 34% to 143.

All but 4 member families have email connectivity to the PPA saving printing and postage costs on periodic newsletters. As well this aids in the quick dissemination of information when boats, kayaks, or rafts get away and need their homes identified.

Water Quality

Deb Cayer reported that the 30 Mile River Association has been doing the testing for the last four years.

Water Clarity – 8.02 meters (2019)
Approximately five years ago the clarity depth

was 8.5 or better. The decrease is due to algae growth. Dissolved Oxygen – Late season readings show lower oxygen levels. This is a concern as lower oxygen levels lead to the release of phosphorus into the water endangering the health of the lake.

Stronger storms cause more significant run-off adding to pollution. Overall, our water quality is above average, but all of these factors put it at risk.

Deb added that the cost of testing for these factors is about \$3,500 per season and is vital to the health of the lake.

The Lake Smart Program presented four properties with the Lake Smart Award: Vicky and Joe Kozak on the Fellows Farm Road; Jennie Knust and Leonid on the Grants Point Road; Pam and Scott Harvey on the Diller Line Road; and Susan and Jerry Tinguely on the Beal Road.

Invasive Plants

Lidie reported the inspections began Memorial Day weekend. Boat launches have been busy this season. Boat inspections are very important in keeping invasive plants out of the lake. She called for volunteers for boat inspectors or invasive plant surveys. Training will be available. Contact: lidie@30mileriver.org

A meeting was scheduled at Dubord's camp on Fellows Farm Road for July 14 to discuss invasive plant control.

Land Stewardship

Gary Dubord reported that the various trails are in good condition.

The State has put up signs concerning dog waste, so anyone taking their pets with them on a hike are encouraged to clean up after them.

– Dan Huettner,
Secretary

Lifetime Honorary Membership
awarded to
Dr. Dan Onion
with appreciation
for significant & selfless
long term service & contributions
to the
Parker Pond Association,
awarded this
27th day of June, 2020.

Harry Tinguely

Gerry Tinguely,
president