

Parker Pond Association Newsletter November 2021



Photo by D Markovchik: Sept 12, 2021 Sunset

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Association Members, Friends and Neighbors,

I begin as your Association President, saying I have a tough act to follow. It is incumbent that we recognize the contributions of outgoing president Gerry Tinguely and thank him for his years of service and dedication to our lake community. Thank you for your leadership and for spear heading the acquisition of land bordering the outlet stream to ensure the long-term integrity of the dam and spillway. The board and I are fortunate that Gerry will remain on the board where we, (I) will lean heavily on his wisdom and guidance.

As we surround ourselves with color of fall, sound of chainsaws, smell of wood smoke, and the soon to go silent call of the loons the invisible work of the Association has continued, carried out by our visible board members and volunteers. Water quality continues to be a top priority and our affiliation with 30-mile river is of

June 2021 PPA Annual Meeting
Draft Minutes, See p. 7

paramount importance as being preemptive in the battle of invasives knocking at our lake's door.

I thank volunteer plant patrollers, our loon counters, nest protectors and our land steward, and boat launch coordinator. If I mentioned all the names, I know I would forget some dedicated folks. Also thank you Board members and valuable volunteers who have made time and material contributions to the renovation of the Loon Island cabin restoration and for the generous contribution and delivery of a safe and efficient stove. We are sourcing materials to complete the installation.



October 13 on the Headlands

As we approach winter, several members of the Board, have and have been working diligently through the summer and on into the fall with members of the Fellows Cove Road Association, Fellows Farm Road Association and Kennebec Land Trust to strike a balance on the usage impact of visitors (vehicles) to the Parker Pond Headland Preserve via the Fellow Cove Road.

All parties have one common goal to ensure that the Headlands are not "loved to death". This past year, perhaps, because of COVID induced interest in outdoor activities, vehicle traffic on the Fellows Cove Road increased substantially. To mitigate

this problem, alternative options for parking and trail access are being considered. As part of the process the groups mentioned will be meeting in the ensuing weeks to continue work on a plan of action taking into consideration impact on road owners and residents. I am hopeful I will be able to soon share with you a workable plan that the association can endorse.

Thank you all for your continued support of the PPA.

Wherever you are enjoying fall, continue to be safe and journey well!

Dave

Dave Markovchick



Photo by new member, Marc Guest: Eagles on Gooseneck watching Dave's sunset

LOON ISLAND GETS A NEW STOVE AND DOCK EXTENSION



New Stove (additional photos, p. 9)

Thanks to Kevin Hill for his donation of a gently used wood burning stove and Mike Wells, Leo Tzvetkov and Jim Moran for installing it, a durarock (concrete board) behind the stove and chimney and a dock extension on Loon Island. Thanks also to Sandy Beal for a safety consult.



New dock extension on Loon



30 Mile UPDATE

Parker Pond is beloved by all of us who know it, for its clean water, wildlife and spectacular beauty. It's a place where we make memories swimming, paddling, boating, fishing, skating and much more. We would like to believe that it will be that way forever. The truth is, Parker

Pond is fragile -- much more fragile than most realize.

Maine's lakes may look healthy from a distance, but many are approaching – or have already passed – a tipping point where they are no longer able to maintain the delicate balance. Over the past year, we have seen nearby Androscoggin Lake hit with a double threat: an infestation of invasive milfoil and an algal bloom that turned the lake green. Androscoggin Lake is the last lake in the 30 Mile River, just a few lakes down from Parker.



Algal bloom on Androscoggin

If you attended PPA's annual meeting in June or if you've been following the 30 Mile newsletter, you have heard about the effort there that has gone into locating and removing the invasive milfoil this summer. 30 Mile has worked closely with Androscoggin's lake association and with the Maine DEP to fight it as hard as we can. We made great progress throughout the summer with extensive surveys and removing every single plant we found, but in October these survey efforts came to a halt because we could no longer see the plants; the lake had turned green with an algal bloom.

The bloom began in late August, when the water clarity was reduced to just under 3 meters. Clarity continued to decline and by

mid-September, there were localized algal blooms in some areas of the lake. Clarity continued to decline to under 2 meters by the end of September. This met the threshold for being classified by the Maine DEP as a lake-wide nuisance algal bloom, the first in Androscoggin since 1999. The bloom continued to get worse into mid-October.

This bloom is very concerning, and 30 Mile has been working closely with the lake association and the Maine DEP since August to monitor it and identify next steps. Our current understanding is that the bloom was due to phosphorus loading from the watershed due to all this summer's rain.

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plant growth that occurs naturally in soil and organic material. Too much phosphorus causes excess algae growth. The areas of most concern are along the Dead River, which this summer flowed into the lake instead of into the Androscoggin River due to several unusual factors. The solution is watershed work – addressing the runoff throughout the watershed and especially from high-export areas.

Both an algal bloom and an infestation of invasive plants could threaten Parker Pond if we are not careful. We cannot be complacent. We must continue with boat inspections – not only at the public launch, but every time a boat or equipment that has been in another lake enters Parker's waters. In addition to our annual volunteer aquatic plant survey, we must all keep a close watch on plants growing in the lake. Androscoggin may be milfoil-free again someday, but only because we discovered it early and took immediate action.

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Parker Pond Watershed Protection Project

FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

for landowners and road associations in the Parker Pond Watershed

- Site visits and recommendations by technical staff
- A complimentary site design plan, if requested
- DEP permitting assistance

THIS OFFER IS AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2021*. PLEASE DON'T DELAY!

For more information or to schedule a site visit please contact:

30 Mile River Watershed Association
Whitney Baker, Program Manager
Phone: (207) 860-4043
Email: whitney@30mileriver.org



FREE WORKSHOP FOR PARKER POND LANDOWNERS

Monday, November 1, 2021 6:30-7:30 PM via Zoom

How can you help prevent a harmful algal bloom in Parker Pond? Get tips and tricks for making small changes that have a big impact on water quality. Topics will include:

- Parker Pond's water quality
- Septic system maintenance
- Erosion control
- Shoreline buffers and other conservation practices
- Stormwater runoff management
- Gravel driveway and road maintenance

Presented by the 30 Mile River Watershed Association. **To register**, go to:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEudO-hpj4vHdbNrtK5r-nO0cS98INlhOSZ>

Questions? Contact Lidie Robbins at lidie@30mileriver.org

**Technical assistance is provided as part of the Parker Pond Watershed Protection Grant Project, which will end in December 2021. Funding for this project was provided in part 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. 30 Mile also offers technical assistance to landowners in the 30 Mile River watershed through YCC and LakeSmart Programming. For more information, visit www.30mileriver.org.*

COVID – 19 UPDATE from Dan Onion

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID19 BOOSTERS, ALMOST!

Here we are almost 10 months into 2021, our Covid immunization year, and we are hearing and talking about booster shots! Why? It is because research is showing that all 3 available vaccines suffer an attenuation, a decrease in effectiveness, over time. The single Johnson and Johnson (J+J) shot efficacy, as measured by the ability to prevent symptomatic disease, has been found to decrease the most over time, perhaps because it was initially thought to only require only a single shot. But the two messenger-RNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) appear to do so to a lesser extent as well, Pfizer a little more than Moderna. Some think that difference may be due to the required 4 weeks between 1st and 2nd shots with Moderna, compared to only 3 weeks with Pfizer, may be at least a partial explanation of that difference.

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UPDATE FROM DAM CHAIR

The dam was weed wracked at the end of September. Gerry Tinguely and I inspected it in the spring and Rich and I inspect it when we weed trim it. Otherwise, all is good with the dam.

Amanda Smith

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS

Membership

As shown in the chart below, the number of PPA families with one or more individual members has grown from 60 in 2018 to 106 in 2021, an increase of 77%. The number of

individual members grew by 64% during the same period.



Communications

Since our last newsletter, PPA has distributed 8 newsletters with topics ranging from Covid immunization clinics to local fundraisers, to lost (and ultimately found) kayaks to rentals wanted and items for sale.

Contact william.h.rosenberg@gmail.com if you want to get the word out for these or similar items.

Bill Rosenberg

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year-to-date finances are strong. As of the end of September we had total revenues of \$20,749 and total expenses of \$18,357 for a net gain of \$2,392. That puts our cash balance at \$38,190. Our total revenues last year were \$24,607. We have a few year-end expenses remaining, the largest being insurance on our property at the dam. We should end the year with a small gain. If we can sustain this level of support from you then we will be able to continue our strong water quality and invasive plant programs. If you would like more details about the finances, send a message to me at wpwhittier@aol.com. We need and appreciate your continued support.

Waine Whittier

30 Mile Update [continued from p.3]

To prevent an algal bloom, we must greatly reduce the phosphorus flowing into the lake. Septic systems must be functioning properly and pumped regularly. Polluted stormwater runoff needs to be prevented, by every landowner doing their part to be sure that soil is not eroding off their property – from roads, driveways, paths, lawns, and more. We need to keep as many trees and shrubs, and as little lawn, growing around the lake as possible.

Please do your part to keep Parker’s waters clean and healthy. See page 4 of this newsletter for opportunities to learn more and to receive free technical assistance this fall.

To learn more about the crises on Androscoggin Lake, Parker Pond’s water quality, invasive plants, LakeSmart, and much more, **visit 30 Mile’s new website:** <http://30mileriver.org>.

Lidie Robbins, PPA Board member and Executive Director of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association

COVID19 BOOSTERS [continued from p. 5]

As a result, the Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued an advisory¹ about who, of those already immunized, should get another booster shot to rejuvenate an individual’s immunity. For those who got the messenger RNA shots, they recommend that the following groups, with links to their definitions, get a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

Maine CDC is pushing hard to help Maine residents and others who are in Maine now to get these free boosters. There are a few wrinkles you should know about.

First, these same rules have been in place for over a month now for Pfizer, so all vaccination sites have current policies on how to give those. Fortunately, the previous requirements for deep freeze storage have been found to be unnecessary; they can be kept safely for a couple weeks just in a household/office refrigerator, which makes their availability greater. However, most vaccination, sites like clinics, pharmacies and medical offices, have not yet had time to put in place their policies for Moderna and J+J, as I know from asking around this last week in October.

Second, it appears from experience so far that it is not crucial that the booster be the same type as the original, so even if you got Moderna for your first two shots, this booster could be Pfizer, or perhaps J+J, a solution for those who got Moderna first time around and want the booster ASAP.

The dosing of boosters is a little different. Moderna boost doses will be half-strength compared to the original series because they have been to be sufficiently strong at that dose with fewer local and body-wide shot side-effects, like body aches, fever, and local tenderness. The other two vaccine will be given full strength.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1021-covid-booster.html>

Another recommendation is that one of the m-RNA vaccines should be used to boost previous J+J recipients, since they are likely to work from 2 different strategies and thus be better. Also, in pre-menopausal women, boosting with J+J carries a very small but real risk of a serious clotting disorder when used; switching to an m-RNA booster avoids that risk in those people.

Lastly, there is quite a demand for these boosters already. Over half of the 4000 immunizations given daily in Maine recently are boosters. The state CDC is working to make getting one as simple as possible including taking applicant's word for how they qualify and so not recording a medical clinician's referral, maintaining a website with contact information², and making them all free.

Over November, we are going to also see children 5-18 being urged to get Pfizer vaccinations and probably Moderna eventually as an alternative. That will help schools keep open without all this sudden class quarantining necessity and be more like the good old days.

We also are likely to see booster shots recommended for all previous recipients by the end of November, when enough vaccine becomes available.

Studies in other countries like Israel have shown a real benefit from such boosters. So, get one soon if you are eligible. It is very likely that boosters will be part of an annual recommendation for all of us, like flu shots, which, by the way, you could and should get at the same time you get a Covid booster this month.

We are still in a serious case- and severe illness-surge. Despite Maine having one of the

best vaccination rates in the country, the rates by county are quite variable, some, like Somerset, are less than 50% while Cumberland is close to 90%. And county case numbers correlate closely with those vaccination rates. The Covid surge is mostly in the unvaccinated. Maine currently has half (7%) the national average of the population that has had the disease (14%), but is catching up, unfortunately, as the virus finds new pockets to infect. Please do yourself, your family, and our communities good by getting vaccinated and boosted; until all do, life here will still be disrupted by this virus.

Dan Onion, MD, MPH
Mt. Vernon/Vienna Health Officer
293-2076; dkonion@gmail.com

**Draft Minutes
Parker Pond Association
Annual Meeting
June 21, 2021**

The PPA Annual Meeting was held on June 21, 2021. Due to the pandemic, the meeting was held outdoors at the North Vienna Methodist Church. Outdoor conditions were less than warm and a light drizzle anointed those in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm by President, Gerry Tinguely who made a brief speech of welcome and thanks to all those who attended as the weather was not at its finest for an outdoor meeting.

Old Business

The minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were asked for approval. So approved.

New Business

² Find available booster shot sites and contact information:
<https://vaccinateme.maine.gov/>

Loon Island

Special thanks were expressed toward Dan Onion for spearheading the renovations done on the Loon Island cabin. Mike Wells was the general contractor, and together they gathered over thirty volunteers to accomplish the cabin renovation.

Special thanks were also expressed to the Pleasant River Lumber Company for donating wood for the project.

Drawings were presented to Dan Onion, Mike Wells, and Rich & Amanda Smith in recognition and gratitude for their efforts and vision.

Invasive Plants

Buddy Cummings from the Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation and board member of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association gave a presentation on invasive plants. He said Parker Pond is fortunate to have a small public boat launch as on Androscoggin the infestation detected this past year most likely came from an infected boat coming in at the public launch.

They are continuing surveys to find invasive plants. They are also trying to keep people from boating in the infested areas as this could track the plants to other parts of the lake.

The first line defense from invasive plants is keeping them out of the lake to begin with. The best way to do this is with courtesy boat inspections. At Androscoggin they are also inspecting boats coming out of the lake to keep it from going to other lakes. Lidie Robbins is now working with teams of divers who go into the lake to physically remove the plants.

The second line of defense is early detection. Buddy brought a video entitled, *The Hunt for Aquatic Invaders*. It was available for viewing inside the church social hall at the meeting, but it is also available on You Tube. Viewing this video inspired people to sign up for plant inspection. With education and training inspectors can differentiate native plants from invasive.

The state Department of Environmental Protection only pays for "rapid response" divers - which means about one year, but not long term. After the first year, should the infestation go on, it is up to the residents of the lake to pay for divers to remove invasive plants.

Lidie has applied for a "Surface Use Restriction" which would hopefully keep all boats out of the infested area, but the problem is enforcement. State wardens who have authority are busy elsewhere with more serious matters. Local volunteers try to keep people out, but they have no legal authority and are sometimes ignored.

30 Mile River Watershed Association has been great in helping with this problem. A short break was called for people to see the video and milfoil sample.

Lake Smart

Recognition was given to those who have got the Lake Smart Award. Joan and Sandy Beal as well as Jane and Klavs Salgals received their Lake Smart Awards.

Lake Usage

Bob Weimont gave a report on Water Quality. In conjunction with 30 Mile, the water is checked every two weeks. The clarity is over 9 meters. The dissolved oxygen and phosphorus levels are taken every few weeks.

He also reported on the Quimby Lane launch on Fellows Cove that is controlled by the Parker Lakeshores Recreational Association. The Parker Pond Association has an arrangement with the Lakeshores Association to use this launch three days in the Spring for launch and three days in the fall for take-out of boats. This is used for the launching and withdrawal of pontoon boats. We launched 17 boats in the spring of 2021. There are boat inspections and talks about water quality with the boat owners.

A question was raised from the floor proposing that the public boat launch be improved for those who cannot use the Quimby Lane launch during the

prescribed dates. Bob said he would again talk with the PLRA about future dates and rates.

A discussion was taken up over possible improvement of the public launch. Dave Markovchick explained that the public launch was owned by the Town of Vienna. The town has no interest in improving the launch. The State has no interest in improving the public launch because of the parking issue, safety, and money.

Membership

Bill Rosenberg reported that there are 146 individual members and 96 family memberships. Email newsletters have cut the mail costs to \$0.

Treasurer's Report

Waine Whittier reported. The balance is about \$27,000. The loan for the dam property is fully paid off. This year we collected around \$10,000 in dues and other contributions, but annual spending was around \$18,000. We will be ok if the second half of the year goes like last year when income went up. For more details and exact figures, contact Waine Whittier.

Land Use

Gary Dubord reported that the usage of the headlands trails has become an issue for those living on the Fellows Cove Road. An intern from the University of Maine will take a survey about parking in and about the area of the headlands trailhead.

The headlands trail will be closed during mud season. The Kelley property trail has not yet been marked off, but it will be. This will be an out and back trail, not a loop trail.

30 Mile River Watershed Association

Please sign up for plant patrol, boat inspection, and Lake Smart. The Paddle Trek is scheduled for July 31st. Kayak or canoe from Minnehonk to Wayne. Sign up is online at 30mileriver.org

Dam Report

Amanda inspected the dam, and all looks good. The dam will be weed wacked to remove unwanted growth. As well several patches of Japanese knot weed will be removed.

Officers

Dave Markovchick was nominated to become president. Gerry Tinguely will step down to a vice president position. The rest of the board remains the same as last year. This was seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.



Mike Wells and a Load of Iron



Home Sweet Home on Loon