

Parker Pond Association Newsletter November 2022



[Barred Owl](#), Grants Point Road, October, 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Association Members, Friends and Neighbors,

As I write this, we are just passing the 1/3 point of the Fall calendar. If you live year-round on the lake or had an extended seasonal stay, I hope you agree the colors were amazing. The loons are highly active. The loon chick, well actually a young adult, born in July in the Dam cove is staying close to its parents and still being fed. It seems a little unusual. We are hoping to see flight lessons very soon. The weather is unseasonably mild. An eagle pair is a regular feature on the lake this fall. The last boat take out occurred two weeks ago and very few docks remain. Mine came out on October 28th.

One last wandering, as I walked the Ithiel Gordon Rd the hardwoods stand naked, sight lines penetrate deep into the forest and I have the same thoughts every year- how does it all happen all over again. With spring somehow, through the magic of nature we recover our northern jungle.

The Board will be meeting in November to discuss a work plan for the 2023 season.

On the list is a new management plan for the Headlands. A committee will be appointed to

work with the Kennebec Land Trust to develop this plan. This will be a joint effort with the Kennebec Land Trust. On the agenda is the possible participation/cost sharing in replacing a culvert on Tobacco Road. The Association holds an easement on the road for the purpose of accessing the spillway and Dam for repairs. The Dam registration will need to be renewed and possibly inspected, and perhaps an emergency management plan updated. The board will continue working closely with 30 Mile River on water quality priorities. At this meeting I anticipate filling the Dam Monitor position.

Good news for the lake, water level is up. On October 27th the State released data, that due to significant rainfall in October the State-wide drought has ended.

Journey well,

Dave

**RENEW YOUR PPA
MEMBERSHIP
FOR 2023 BY CLICKING
[HERE](#)**

Or go to parkerpond.org/join-or-donate

LAKE SMART

Our LakeSmart program for Parker and David ponds continues to help the lakes avoid phosphorus loading with evaluations of lakefront properties, education, and help with

See KLT Report on
local Amphibians on
back page

News Flash – Broadband Votes

Fayette	👍	
Mount Vernon	👍	
Vienna	👍	

Details inside

remediation of runoff if needed. The buffer on your shoreline, the tree and shrub cover, and leaving the duff layer is imperative to stopping the algae producing phosphorus from reaching the lake.

Don't rake, don't mow, just let it grow.

A winding and curving path to the lake less than six feet wide is also important. This past season we evaluated eight properties on Parker and two on David. Many of them were shorelines that were mostly preserved in the natural state, and others needed a little help.

All properties can get Smarter!

With all the threats to our lakes, let's do all we can. ***This program is nonregulatory, educational and free!*** Sign up now for an evaluation by the LakeSmart team and let us help you protect the lakes and your property values.

Please email (debbiecayer@gmail.com)

Deb Cayer, Gerry and Susan Tinguely, our current LakeSmart team.



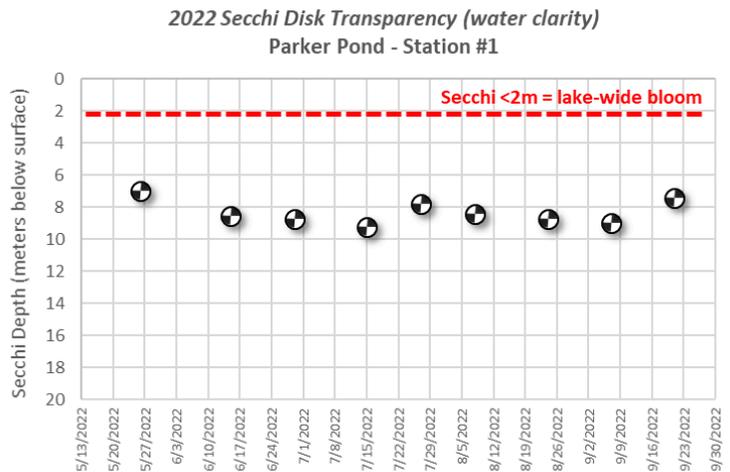
Lunar Eclipse Blood Moon 11/8/22 5:33 am
Photo by Pat Rosenberg



News from the 30 Mile River Watershed Association

2022 Water Quality Update

In 2022, 30 Mile's water quality monitoring staff, with help from PPA volunteers, collected data on nine (9) dates between May and September. Parameters collected include Secchi disk transparency, dissolved oxygen



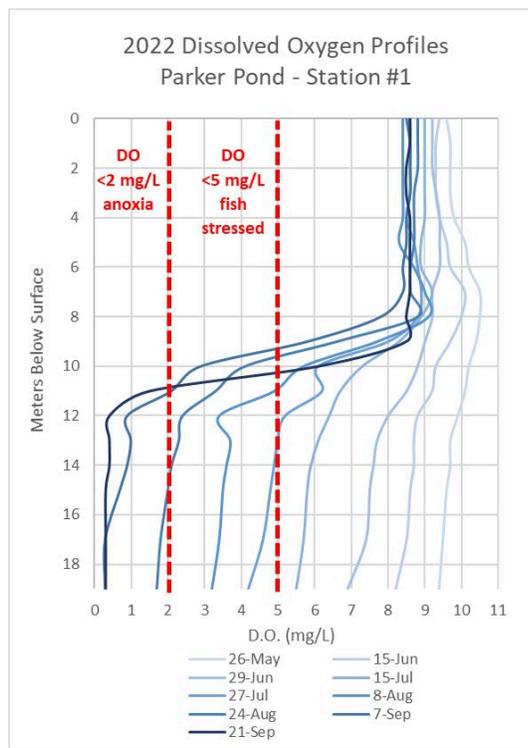
(DO), temperature, phosphorus, chlorophyll-A, and advanced chemistry parameters (pH, Alkalinity, Color, and Conductivity). Below is a summary of Secchi and DO data collected in 2022; we are still awaiting lab results for collected water samples.

A thorough interpretation of the complete dataset will be included in 30 Mile's annual water quality report expected in winter 2023.

Secchi disk transparency (SDT) is an indicator of water clarity. To measure water clarity, a black and white disk is lowered into the water and the reading is taken at the depth at which it is no longer visible. Factors that affect water clarity include algal growth, zooplankton densities, natural water color, and suspended silt or sediment particles. Daily average water clarity readings in 2022 ranged from 7.00

meters (May 26th) to 9.22 meters (July 15th) with an annual average of 8.32 meters.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) is a critical indicator of the health of the lake system. A good supply of oxygen is essential for fish and other aquatic species, with most fish species requiring a DO concentration of 5 mg/L or more. As lakes



become more biologically productive in the summer, oxygen can decline as decomposition occurs in deep areas of the lake. Loss of oxygen may indicate a stressed and changing ecosystem. Understanding the pattern and extent of oxygen loss in deep areas of Parker Pond is particularly important because the lake is more vulnerable for internal phosphorus loading due to its unique sediment chemistry*.

Nine (9) DO profiles were collected in 2022. Anoxia (DO < 2 mg/L) was first encountered in deep waters at a depth of 15 meters in late August and grew to include waters 11 meters and deeper by the end of September. Oxygen loss is typical in the summer months in the deepest areas of the lake, a typical pattern

seen throughout Parker Pond's historical monitoring period. The shallowest documented depth of anoxia in Parker Pond is 9 meters and was documented in September of 2009 and 2013.

Near real-time data for Parker Pond's clarity (Secchi depth), and dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles can be found online at <https://30mileriver.org/parker-pond/>, along with a link to the historical dataset, depth maps, and the 2021 annual water quality report.

**Parker Pond appears on Maine DEP's list of "Threatened Lakes" on the NPS Priority Watersheds List (https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/nps_priority_list/NPS%20Priority%20List%20-%20Lakes%20.pdf) due to its sediment chemistry - suggesting that the lake is more vulnerable to internal phosphorus loading, a phenomenon that can occur when deep waters become anoxic (DO loss < 2 mg/L) resulting in phosphorus release from the bottom sediments exposed to anoxic waters.*

Is Your View Hurting the Lake?

Living with a waterfront view is just one way that lakefront residents feel close and connected to their lake. Although the view is meant to celebrate the magical place you call camp (or, for the lucky ones, home), what if you found out that your lake view was hurting the lake you most admire?

When maintaining your shorefront view, it's important to follow Maine's Shoreland Zoning rules to make sure you are protecting the lake and its surrounding shoreline habitat. The shoreline habitat surrounding our lakes and streams is critical to the health of the greater lake ecosystem. Functioning shoreline zones not only protect water quality, but also the wildlife that live in and around the lake. In fact, more animals can be found in shoreland habitats than in any other habitat type in Maine; hundreds of species depend on shoreland zones for survival. We humans are also attracted to the lakefront, but as

populations grow and development around the lake increases, natural shoreland habitat is decreasing.

The shoreline buffer is also the “last line of defense” in protecting the lake from polluted stormwater runoff. Buffers with many tiers of vegetation (ground covers, shrubs, trees) provide the most protection. Multiple tiers of vegetation intercept more rain, and the deep roots of native plants help absorb rainwater and extract phosphorus and other pollutants. Maine Lakes’ LakeSmart program recommends that all landowners maintain a shoreline buffer that:

1. slows and absorbs rain and stormwater from uphill areas,
2. has multiple layers of native vegetation, and
3. is at least 10’ deep across your entire developed shorefront

Remember that trees do not live forever. Are you nurturing the next generation of big trees on your shoreline? If not, make sure you are allowing the saplings in the understory of your shoreline buffer to grow and mature -- one day these will take the place of the large mature trees currently growing on your lakefront.

It is so important to preserve and maintain naturally vegetated shoreland areas around our lakes. [Maine’s Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act](#) requires municipalities to adopt land use regulations for all areas within the shoreland zone. Shoreland zoning ordinances include [limitations for the disturbance, cutting, or removal of vegetation](#) within 100 feet of a lake, and 75 feet of streams and wetlands. Here are some of the general guidelines for clearing vegetation in the shoreline buffer zone:

- Existing vegetation less than 3 feet in height (including ground cover, leaf litter,

and the natural forest duff layer) CANNOT be cut, covered, or removed, except to provide for a footpath.

- A winding footpath should be no more than 6 feet wide. The path should be meandering, so runoff is more likely to be trapped by vegetation and natural depressions within the buffer.
- No openings in the forest canopy may exceed 250 square feet.
- Openings in buffer vegetation that have naturalized with woody vegetation cannot be re-cleared.
- No structures are allowed within the shoreline buffer area. This includes storage buildings, boat houses, patios, decks, tents, and portions of dock extending above the normal high-water line
- Legally existing non-conforming cleared openings may be maintained but shall not be enlarged.
- Pruning the lower 1/3 of branches of a tree is allowed.



This LakeSmart property on Parker Pond has a healthy buffer that protects the lake by slowing and absorbing rain and stormwater from uphill areas; it has multiple layers of native vegetation and is at least 10’ deep across the entire shorefront.

Please note that some municipalities have established ordinances that are even more restrictive than the state requirements, so you should always consult with your local code enforcement officer (CEO) before you begin

any clearing or cutting of vegetation in the shoreland zone.

To learn more about how to establish or improve your vegetated shoreline buffer:

[Protect Your Pond \(Vegetated Buffer\)](#) – Maine Lakes

[The Buffer Handbook](#) – Maine DEP/US EPA
[Common Shrubs for Central Maine Shorelines](#) – Maine Lakes

[Lakes Like Less Lawn](#) – Portland Water District
[Landscaping at the Water's Edge](#) - NH Extension

Hosting your local LakeSmart team is a great way to learn more about how you can manage your property to protect the lake. For more information, or to request a visit by your LakeSmart team, visit 30 Mile's LakeSmart webpage: <https://30mileriver.org/lakesmart/>

Successful Season With No Invasive Plants found in Parker

Our critical first line of defense against harmful invasive species getting into the lake is a strong Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program. Memorial Day weekend through the end of September, 30



30 Mile's CBI staff member, Moriah Reusch, at the Tower Rd. boat launch.

Mile's [Courtesy Boat Inspection](#) staff, along with Parker Pond volunteers, conducted 760 inspections at the public launch on Tower Road

in Vienna - 550 hours of inspections in all! Thanks to three dedicated volunteers - **Maggie Chadwick, Karen Nadeau, and Susan Tinguely** - we were able to add 57 hours of coverage to our paid staff time. Although it is rare for our inspectors to find an invasive species on a boat or trailer (none were found this season on any of our lakes), all it takes is one fragment to start an infestation that could ruin lake, and we never know when that will be - so every hour makes a difference!

The second key component of our fight against invasives of the **Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP)** program. As we have seen on several lakes in Maine, early detection is essential to successfully eradicating an invasive aquatic plant species. Thank you to this year's team of volunteers: Mark Brigham, Deb Cayer, Trisha Cheney, Sarah Cowperthwaite, John Lanoue, John Linton, Matt Palmariello, Lidie Robbins, Bill Rogers, Karen Rogers, Susan Tinguely, and Leonid Tsvetkov.

The Continued Fight Against Milfoil on Androscoggin Lake

This year, 30 Mile's staff worked hard during May-October to get rid of the invasive variable milfoil in [Androscoggin Lake](#). Our work in 2021, the first year, went well, but ended sooner than planned due to the algal bloom.



As a result, plants had more time to grow, and in May and June this year we found more milfoil than before, covering a larger area of the cove. (2022 plants are shown in yellow below).



During our second full season of this effort, our work entailed weekly surveys of the infested area (and beyond), marking each individual milfoil plant, and removing them by hand - working with a trained SCUBA diver.



Trained divers prepare to remove milfoil plants

Throughout the 2022 season, ending in October, we successfully removed all invasive milfoil plants found. Over the winter, we will be working with staff at the Maine DEP to evaluate our progress and make plans for next year's work.

Another critical part of this effort is surveying the rest of the lake for potential spread. Androscoggin Lake Association's volunteer team spent many hours surveying all summer.

No invasives were found in other parts of the lake.

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

Lidie Robbins, PPA Board member and Executive Director of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association lidie@30mileriver.org



Warm water, cold air, Oct. 1

BROADBAND UPDATES

MOUNT VERNON - \$3.1 MILLION FOR BROADBAND PROJECT THROUGH MATRIX DESIGN GROUP			
PRECINCTS REPORTING: 100%			
Candidate	Votes	Pct	
✓ No	507	50%	<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #FFD700;"></div>
Yes	502	50%	<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #333333;"></div>

A yes vote on **Mt. Vernon's** ballot would have enabled the town to apply for a substantial grant which, combined with the Matrix Design Group's \$2 million contribution, would have paid for over 75% of the cost of installing a fiber to the home (FTTH) broadband network to all of Mt. Vernon. The Broadband Committee has already commenced planning for another shot at project approval next spring or summer. Seasonal residents in Mt. Vernon who want to help the Committee's

efforts to this end should contact Bill Rosenberg at william.h.rosenberg@gmail.com.

Fayette passed Question 1 which asked if voters support town officials applying for federal, state or private funding sources to pay for the full cost of high-speed internet installation.

FAYETTE - APPLY FOR MONEY FOR BROADBAND INTERNET INSTALLATION			
PRECINCTS REPORTING: 100%			
Candidate	Votes	Pct	
✓ Yes	572	76%	<div style="width: 76%; background-color: #FFD700;"></div>
No	179	24%	<div style="width: 24%; background-color: #333;"></div>

At a special **Vienna** town meeting held Oct. 1, 80 plus people showed up and voted 83-0 to support a bond to authorize the Vienna Selectboard to contract with Axiom Technologies of Machias, Maine for the construction and operation of a municipally owned fiber to the home system that will be available to all Vienna residents. The Select Board remarked that this was at least 3 times the typical turnout to their regular town meetings. And the overwhelming support was an encouraging sign that the townspeople were fully engaged and informed. Vienna will be applying for a substantial grant from the Maine Connectivity Authority early in November and will only proceed with this project if the grant is approved. The remaining portion of costs for construction and operation will be paid for with subscription fees.



Unidentified floating objects?
New members Marc and Pam Guest are asking.

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS

As shown below, membership continues to grow. Over the last four years the number of member families has grown by 87% and individuals by 73%.



One of the benefits of membership is free placement of “classifieds” in our periodic email updates. Examples of ads that have been successful in attracting a response are:

- Camp available or wanted to rent
- Found items (e.g., kayaks, floats)
- Items for sale or free
- Looking for a Scrabble partner

If you would like to place an ad, contact me with the specific text. I’ll try to adhere to the following schedule:

E-mail Schedule	Deadline for Submission
Winter E-mail	January 15
Early Spring E-mail	March 15
With Spring (May) Newsletter	April 30
Monthly E-mail (additional distributions as needed)	15 th of June 15 th of July 15 th of August

Bill Rosenberg
william.h.rosenberg@gmail.com

TREASURER’S REPORT

as of October 31, 2022

Year-to-date finances are moderate. As of the end of October we had total revenues of \$15,902 and total expenses of \$19,159 for a net loss of \$3,257. That puts our balance at \$38,106. Our total revenues last year were \$25,254. We have relatively few year-end expenses remaining. With strong year-end

contributions we should break even for the year. This would allow us 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

Draft minutes
**2022 Annual Meeting
Of the Parker Pond Association
June 25, 2022**

Welcome

The meeting was called into order at 5:05 by President Marcovchick.

Old Business Request for approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting – So moved, seconded, and passed.

The Volunteers Whose work is seen but whose workers are often invisible. Applause ensued.

Treasurer 's Report for CY2021 Waine Whittier

Rounded to thousands:
Cash balance: \$41,000
Revenues: Dues \$7,000; Donations \$18,000;
Total \$25,000
Expenses \$20,000
Net Gain \$5,000

To date at the time of the annual meeting for 2022: Revenues \$8,000; Expenses \$9,000

Desk Audit Report Dave Markovchick reported that we have decided to do a desk audit of the PPA books. Waine keeps meticulous books. There are no problems or questions of the books. Thanks to Waine.

Communications and Membership Bill Rosenberg reported that membership is

99 families and 159 individual members. Newsletters are by email. There is also a service for requests such as found boats or lost boats.

Lake Usage Bob Weimont reported that there are 4 islands w/ campsites. PPA has put a lot of work on these islands, especially Loon Island which has a renovated cabin. The State regulation is that you can stay for two weeks. Most folks don't stay that long. We are looking for volunteers to cut up fallen trees on Spruce Island.

We have an agreement with Parker Lakeshores in Fellows Cove where there is a boat launch. Three dates are available to launch boats in the spring and three to take boats out in the fall. The second cabin on Gooseneck Island is owned by the state, but it is not in such good repair.

30 Mile River Susan Tinguely reported that 30 Mile River does so much work to protect our lake.

Boat inspection -
Youth Conservation Corps -
Lake Smart- Deb Cayer heads up this program
Invasive Plant Program – Lidie Robbins will give her report

Invasive Plants Lidie Robbins reported that last year Androscoggin Lake had milfoil at the time of our meeting. She handed out pictures of what has been going on there. Androscoggin suffered an algae bloom turning the lake green. This stopped the 30 Mile River attempts to get rid of the milfoil. This spring they are back at it. Also, if not for a trained volunteer, the milfoil infection in Androscoggin would not have been discovered.

If anyone would like to volunteer to serve as a plant inspector either on the lake or at the boat launch, they can always use more volunteers.

30 Mile is working closely with lake associations to keep our lakes clean.

A statement was made from the floor that with the milfoil infection being so widespread (Androscoggin – Cobbossecontee) that 30 mile should seek help from the state as far as suggesting legislation against the problem. Lidie said that 30 mile has indeed followed this course of action and some legislation has been achieved, but others have not. Another comment was made suggesting that the approach to the legislators should be along economic lines as well as ecological lines.

Additional signage delineating the dangers of milfoil might also help in the problem.

Land Stewardship Thank you to Gary Dubord for being steward chairman. He has retired from the board. Gary introduced the issue of the Headlands Trail parking lot. Kennebec Land Trust is putting a new parking lot on the Sandy River Road in order to reduce traffic on the original Fellows Cove Road.

It has been a long winter with many meetings tossing this issue back and forth. The hope is to keep runoff out of the lake.

Dam Report Amanda Smith reported that the dam and spillway are both in good shape. The banks are stable from work done in the past.

She is stepping down from the Dam chairman and invites anyone interested to throw their name in the ring.

Water Quality and Lake Smart Awards

Deborah Cayer said that 30 Mile River is doing a marvelous job of monitoring not only Parker, but also many other lakes in the watershed. A visit to 30 Mile River's website (info@30mileriver.org)

Water clarity is [listen]

Dissolved Oxygen – O₂ loss progresses as the water warms in the summer.

Parker is on the list of threatened lakes for phosphorous. They take samples from the deepest part of the lake.

2021 dp 5 hist 7 lake 12 (parts per billion)

2021 was the third largest phosphorous increase in the historical record.

Phosphorous laden runoff is a big cause for higher levels.

Gerry Tinguely reported that he attended a meeting in Belgrade where the speaker said that just a little phosphorous runoff can tip the scales and make a drastic difference. Sign up for Lake Smart. It is the best way to control runoff problems.

Gerry Slavet and also Doug & Norma Boyink were awarded with the Lake Smart awards.

Web Site Enhancements Dave Markovchick reported that we are trying to enhance our web presence. Thanks to Susan Onion for her efforts. Dues and donations can now be done online by credit card or PayPal.

We are also moving to a platform of Googledox so that all of our records can be digital.

Loon Count- Waine Whittier reported that the loon count will be on July 16th. If you would like to participate, contact Waine's daughter at mwmichaud@yahoo.com

Introduction of nominee for Land Stewardship

Gerry Tinguely introduced Matt and Trish Cheney. Trish has a background in marine biology and has worked with lake associations in Belgrade.

Current Officers:

President- David Markovchick

Vice President- Gerry Tinguely

Secretary- Daniel Huettner

Treasurer- Waine Whittier

Communication & Membership- Bill Rosenberg

Water Quality & LakeSmart Coordinator-

Deborah Cayer

Invasive Plants- Lidie Robbins

Lake Usage- Bob Weimert
30 Mile River Watershed Rep- Susan Tinguely
Stewardship- Trish Cheney
Dam- Vacant

Nominating Committee Report- Deborah Cayer, Susan Tinguely The committee report is that Trish was contacted and agreed to be considered for Stewardship. Amanda Smith is stepping down as Dam chairman.

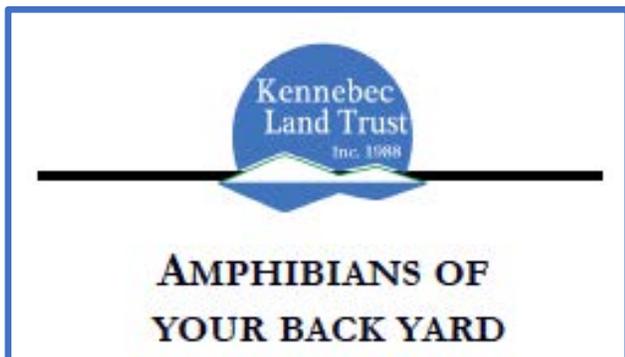
The slate was put forth by motion, seconded and voted yea as shown above.

Special Thanks Dave Markovchick gave special thanks to Gerry Tinguely, Amanda Smith and Gary Dubord for their years of service.

New Business/Open Floor- Association Members. A mention was made to recognize Copperthwaite for his years of tending to the dam and also providing nesting for loons. Lidie said that fireworks are not good for loons and other wildlife. A question from the floor asking about whether or not the Town of Mount Vernon could make an edict banning jet skis on Parker. Discussion ensued as to whether the town or the state has jurisdiction

Adjourn Meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Click on this image to read a cool report



(permission obtained from KLT)