



They're back!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ice out was April 24. That's late for Parker. In a way wishing for a more prolonged period of ice cover. I think it would help slow down the rate of eutrophication¹ that Parker is undergoing. Global warming doesn't make our job of keeping Parker Pond pristine any easier.

We have recently been made aware that Parker Pond has been placed on a vulnerability list of lakes at risk. See Deb Cayer's Water Quality update note and contact her at debbiecayer@gmail.com if you want to do something about it. She can share information with how to get involved with the Lake Smart Program. Several people from Parker Pond are going to Belgrade for training on Lake Smart in May.

Recently the Department of Conservation put restrictions on boating use on Great Pond and Annabessacook Lake because of problems with Variable Milfoil, an invasive aquatic plant. This is just one watershed away from Parker Pond.. We need to be vigilant and support the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program. They are looking for

¹ excessive richness of nutrients in a lake or other body of water, frequently due to runoff from the land, which causes a dense growth of plant life and death of animal life from lack of oxygen.

volunteers and will train you. Contact Lidie Robbins at lidie@30mileriver.org.

The Board has been very busy this year. They are a dedicated group of people, passionate about the stewardship of Parker Pond. We are fortunate for their services and commitment to the lake.

We are in our final stage of fundraising for the newly acquired Dam Spillway land. We have continued the loan for another year with the same terms. The board is extremely grateful for your generosity. We need now to encourage members to donate so that we can retire the loan. See Waine's note, below. We cannot let this loan burden us so that it hampers our financial commitments to other vital programs related to water quality. Our treasurer, Wayne Whittier, will be available at the Annual Meeting on Saturday June 29 at the Vienna Grange Hall to accept annual dues and any additional contributions for the land project. Potluck Supper is at 5:30 pm. Meeting at 6:00 pm. We will also send you remittance envelopes by US mail within the next week. Your generosity is much appreciated. See you next month.

Gerry Tinguely, President

RETIRE OUR DEBT!

In March 2018 we borrowed \$45,000 to help cover the purchase and closing costs of \$98,000 for the land next to the dam. Your generous donations since then have reduced that loan balance to \$18,330. So, even if you have already paid your 2019 dues, please consider a gift to help retire the remaining debt.

Send contributions to Parker Pond Association, c/o Waine Whittier, 321 Tower Rd, Vienna, ME 04360.

--Waine Whittier, Treasurer



Spring Visitor, 2017, Mt. Vernon, M

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Annual Meeting – Saturday, June 29. at Grange Hall in Vienna; Pot Luck Supper at 5:30 pm; Meeting at 6
- 9th Annual Classical Meets Pop Concert – Friday July 5 in the Mt. Vernon Community Center. Tickets on sale June 1st at www.30mileriver.org. **THIS SELLS OUT EVERY YEAR – SO GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY!**
- 11th Annual 30MRWA Paddle Trek from Minnehonk to Androscoggin Lake in Wayne – Sat July 27. To register go to 30mileriver.org.
- Final Boat Launch Date – Sunday, June 23. To schedule, contact Bob Weimont, bweimont@yahoo.com, 293 4344.

DAM SPILLWAY UPDATE

The Parker Pond Dam and its spillway remain in good condition. On May 11, 2019, some members of the Board joined me to walk the rights of way to the dam and spillway, look at some of the boundary marks on the dam and our new land acquisition, and conducted a seasonal inspection of the dam, consistent with the Dam's Operations and Maintenance guidelines. This site visit identified areas of interest on the rights of way that will be monitored for potential actions in the future. The fund-raising efforts to retire the remainder of the loan used to purchase the land bordering the spillway is

proceeding and members of the board look forward to eliminating this debt in the coming year or two.

--Steve Linder

BYLAWS CHANGE NOTICE

Our current bylaws limit the President's term to three years. Gerry Tinguely has served three years and has done a great job. The Board would like to have him serve at least another year and he is willing. So, we propose to add the following sentence at the end of Section 6.1.1 of the bylaws. "This term limitation may be overridden by an affirmative vote of at least 75% of all the voting members present in person, by conference call, or by proxy at any election."



Float, East Shore Parker Pond, May 19, 2019

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

From invasive species to nutrient enrichment to harmful algal blooms, as well as the gradual loss of cold-water fisheries, we face unprecedented threats and challenges to the preservation of the water quality of our lakes, and they are all exacerbated by the warming waters. Some of these threats we can do something about and others are harder and more global. "As

lake water warms the conditions for algal growth are generally enhanced.”

Here on Parker, we monitor for invasive species with a pond survey conducted by volunteers, as well as with the courtesy boat inspection program run by the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA) team and volunteer help. We test for water clarity, dissolved oxygen and lake chemistries. The data gathering has been ongoing for several years; however, since 30MRWA took this over in 2016, the testing has been more consistent throughout the season with a much broader data base. This data will give us the information needed to determine the status of our lake water. Remember as reported last season, Parker is on the list for vulnerable lakes due to certain ratios of elements in our water. We also observe for algal blooms and report in to the Lake Stewards of Maine (VLMP), and the DEP.

In short, we do what we can. However, everyone needs to do their part. Survey your lakefront property or your camp road during a good rain. Do you have runoff into the lake? Do you need more buffer and less lawn? If you don't know where to start, let us help with a free Lake Smart survey and or help with camp road improvement planning.

We all need to help pay for these much-needed programs, please be as generous as you can. If you would like to become more involved, you may consider becoming part of the citizen lake science movement as a volunteer. Participating can be great fun. As you become more educated about the threats to our pond, you can help protect it. Contact Deb Cayer (debbiecayer@gmail.com) or the 30 Mile (lidie@30mileriver.org)

--Deb Cayer

NEW SEPTIC INSPECTION LAW

AUGUSTA — Beginning next year, septic inspections will be required prior to the sale of lakefront homes and camps throughout Maine under a bill signed into law this week.

Since 2007, homebuyers have been required to obtain septic system inspections prior to purchasing properties located within the “coastal shoreland zone,” which extends 250 feet from the normal high-water line. A bill passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Janet Mills on Monday would expand that septic inspection requirement to home sales within any shoreland zone – including lakes, great ponds and rivers.

Posted on April 24 in the Portland Herald



LOON ISLAND CABIN UPDATE

Thank you to the many of you who volunteered to help with the Loon Island Cabin repair project in response to my May 7 email. We have a crew lined up for the end of May, first week of June to move some timbers out to the island, stack the lumber now in the cabin outside under tarps, and then plan to jack up the cabin and replace the rotted sills in early

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June. We will send an email to let you know and also to advise when the Island will be off limits due to other repairs and painting.

--Dan Onion



Dan checking out building materials



WRITE A DIFFERENT STORY FOR PARKER POND

Lidie Robbins, Executive Director of the 30
Mile River Watershed Association

A Maine summer. Is there anything sweeter? Summers for many Mainers and visitors to our beautiful state are spent taking in the natural beauty and abundance of our beloved local lakes, ponds and rivers. In Maine, we're fortunate to have close to 6,000 lakes and ponds that offer seasonal pleasures such as swimming, boating, fishing, wildlife watching and more. That's where we, the people of Maine and visitors to Maine, need to act and take simple measures to ensure that the health of our lakes and ponds is secured well into the future.

Soil erosion is one of the biggest enemies to our waters. Soil that is picked up by runoff and transported to our waterbodies contains phosphorus, a nutrient that feeds algae. When phosphorus levels are high enough, this leads to algal blooms, which not only spoil recreation but also deplete available oxygen in the water, resulting in decreased populations of aquatic organisms.

East Pond in Smithfield, Maine had suffered from algal blooms for decades. In 2018, East Pond received an in-lake alum treatment to prevent these blooms. At a cost of \$1.5 million raised by the local lake and watershed associations, this treatment involved spreading 360,000 gallons of an alum mixture into the deepest parts of the lake. The alum falls to the lake bottom where it binds with phosphorus and prevents it from rising up into the water and feeding algae.

These efforts bought an estimated 20 years of clear water; around the year 2038, residents of East Pond and supporters will likely have to raise another \$1.5 million+ for a second treatment.

The story of East Pond does not have to be the story of Parker Pond IF we work together to address the threats before it's too late.

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SAFETY FIRST

In case you're wondering ...

The swing tree on Spruce Island has been removed with the State's permission – permission that is required prior to replacing it on Spruce or any other island on the Pond.

Last fall, the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA) was awarded a \$98K grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the US Environmental Protection Agency to support a two-year project to greatly reduce the soil and phosphorus getting into the lake. This year and next, 30MRWA will be working with PPA, the towns of Chesterville and Vienna, road associations, and hopefully many of you, to ramp up our efforts to protect the lake through road and erosion control projects, education, and more.

You can address soil erosion issues that occur on your property, often with simple do-it-yourself solutions. A first step is to request a LakeSmart visit. This free, voluntary program is designed to evaluate waterfront properties, assess the amount of erosion occurring, and provide clear, low-cost solutions that reduce polluted runoff and protect the lake. A free site visit from trained PPA volunteers will help you understand what is working well and what could be improved. Qualifying properties receive the LakeSmart Award.

To request a free LakeSmart visit, contact PPA's LakeSmart Coordinator Deb Cayer at debbiecayer@gmail.com.



If you do have erosion on your property and would like assistance addressing the issues, 30MRW's Youth

Conservation Corps (YCC) is here to help. YCC provides low-cost, lake-friendly

landscaping for watershed landowners, thanks in part to the support of PPA and many of you. When erosion is threatening water quality, YCC will install conservation practices to mitigate the problem. These practices include vegetated buffers, rain gardens, infiltration steps (shown here), mulched pathways, dripline trenches, driveway diverters, and more. All work is strictly cooperative with the landowners and provided at a much-reduced cost. To learn more about 30MRWA's YCC program and to request a YCC project, visit www.30mileriver.org.

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY RUTH!



Congratulations to Ruth Grauert, Founder and Director of Bearnstow on Parker Pond, who celebrated her 100th birthday last March 24. Check out Bearnstow's Natural History Week - June 16-21 and July 1 at

<https://bearstow.org/nathist2019.htm> and be sure to give your best wishes to Ruth when you're there.



Summer Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in giving back and spending some quality time outdoors this summer?

We are looking for volunteers interested in **Courtesy Boat Inspections, water quality monitoring, and invasive plant surveys** (or all three!). Trainings for these rewarding and fun opportunities are available. Email Lidie at lidie@30mileriver.org.

PPA INTERNET SURVEY – TOP LINE RESULTS

Thank you to the 31 of you who responded to the April 26 survey! Key findings from the survey were:

- 26 (83%) of respondent homeowners on Parker Pond have internet access
- 87% of respondents said having good internet access was somewhat (13%) or very (74%) important
- Of the those *with* internet access, 65% were somewhat (23%) or very (41% dissatisfied) with their current internet connection. Three (11%) were very satisfied.

More detailed results of this survey are available on PPA's website, www.parkerpond.org

The Western Kennebec Lakes Community Broadband Association (WKLCA) is applying for a planning grant from ConnectME to improve internet service in the region. For more information about the WKLCA contact Chuck Wright at scwright@fairpoint.net and also see: <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants/planning-grants>.

--Bill Rosenberg



Wish you were here?