

Parker Pond Association Newsletter May 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Parker Pond has been a respite during the pandemic. First swim of the year yesterday. A short one but felt great. Excited for more lengthy swims as we head towards summer. I think we are all looking forward to being with one another again as we come out on the other side of this pandemic.

Last year was a reality check for our 30 Mile River Watershed as we witnessed our first invasive plant arrival on Androscoggin Lake. That is the most distal lake in our chain of lakes. After the initial mediation efforts by 30 Mile River Watershed Association, DEP, ALIC, and Lake Stewards of Maine in the fall of 2020 we are now searching the contaminated area to see what remains and strategize a plan to eradicate invasive plants from Androscoggin Lake. Parker Pond Association was successful in raising \$18,000 this year to help support 30 MRWA in all its endeavors to keep our lakes and Parker Pond clean. This is a goal that we want to reach every year to support clean water in Parker Pond. Thank you for your generosity as we move forward.

There will be opportunities this year for PPA members to get their hands wet as we boost several programs vital to the health of Parker Pond. We need courtesy boat inspectors (CBI's) at the public launch in Vienna. Training will be provided by 30 MRWA. We also need more volunteers in the Invasive Plant Patrol Program, also. Training will be provided by 30 MRWA and is a great way to meet other association members! It was an invasive Plant Patroller who discovered the problem in Androscoggin this past fall.

PPA Annual Meeting

June 26 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm

United Methodist Church

Tower Rd., North Vienna

This meeting will be outdoors, so bring something to sit on!

Bathroom facilities are available. Rain date: June 27, same time, same place

The third program that is available is Lake Smart. We need evaluators and landowners who would like to have their home evaluated for the Lake Smart Award. The goal of the program is to reduce soil erosion around our properties. See articles by Lidie Robbins and Deb Cayer in this newsletter for more information on these programs. We can do this!

I want to thank the Board for their efforts and critical thinking over the years. We have a dedicated Board of Directors that truly makes Parker Pond a priority. I want to encourage members to consider serving on the Board. There will be

GOINGS ON AROUND THE POND

June 5 Starling Hall (Fayette) plant sale, with lunch and expert speakers from 9 am to 1 pm. at Starling Hall

June 26 Starling Hall (Fayette) The Silent Auction and Yard sale is June 26 at Starling Hall

July 3 Fireworks Display sundown, downtown Mt. Vernon to celebrate America's independence and the Bicentennial of Maine Statehood. **If you would like to make a donation**, checks should be written to "Mount Vernon Community Partnership Corporation" and mailed to Janet Roderick, Treasurer, MVCPC, 1027 Watson Pond Road, Rome, ME 04963. MVCPC is 501(c)(3).

July 17 Summer Arts & Crafts Fair on the Mount Vernon Town Beach - Saturday, July 17th. If you are an artisan, crafter or have something to sell so would like to participate, contact Leslie Grenier at lwg929@gmail.com.

July 17 Loon Count This year's loon count will be on Saturday, July 17 from 7:00 am to 7:30 am. If you are interested in participating, please contact Addie Michaud at amwmichaud@yahoo.com or 491-8814. Indicate what kind of boat you might be using.

July 31 The **2021 Paddle Trek** launching from the Mount Vernon Town Beach and going part or all of the way to Wayne and Tubby's Ice Cream - Details TBD, updated information to be posted at <http://30mileriver.org/news-events/annual-paddle-trek/>.

August 8. The **2021 5K Loon Lap** around beautiful Lake Minnehonk - It can be run/walked/rolled this year EITHER in person OR virtually, details TBD, look for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/mtvloonlap/>, business sponsors & supporters appreciated.

August 16-21The **Vienna Woods Players** perform "Play On!" By Rick Abbot the week of August 16 to 21 (specifics to be decided later). Practices Thursday evenings. Interested in joining the cast? or for more information contact Cheryl Herr-Reins herrrainc@gmail.com

openings in the future, and it is a great way to get to know your neighbors. We meet about 6-8 times a year and each person has a subject area that they focus on. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a board member.

Remittance envelopes will be sent out soon for membership dues and extra contributions. Your generosity is much appreciated.

The Board has decided to hold our Annual Meeting this year in person, outside on JUNE 26, 2021, SATURDAY, 4:30-6 PM at the United Methodist Church in North

Vienna. Bring a folding chair and feel free to bring a snack. There will be no potluck supper this year. I encourage all to get vaccinated.

Agenda for the meeting will be forthcoming. We hope to see you in person in June.

Sincerely,
Gerry Tinguely
President PPA

MESSAGE FROM LAKE USAGE CHAIR

We've added over 40 new family members over the last few years, so I thought it would be a good time to give an overview of what the Parker Pond Association is all about. The whole purpose of PPA is to protect our water quality, help guard against invasive plants and preserve the Pond for all residents. We work quite a bit with the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA) whose goal is to protect the entire watershed of which PP is a part. Their Executive Director is a long-standing member of the PPA board.

The board has about 10 members and we meet 7-8 times a year and have one "potluck" annual meeting in the summer. As of last year's Annual Meeting we had 143 individual dues paying members.

We help 30MRWA test water quality every two weeks, including water clarity, dissolved oxygen level from the surface to the bottom of our deepest spot, phosphorus levels, etc. I usually take testers out on my boat.

Several times a year, we divide up the entire shoreline and members do a careful search in their section for any invasive plants.

We conduct the annual loon count (done all over the state) and report our results to the dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W).

IF&W has identified us as the stewards of the PP islands and their (Maine's) 4 established campsites. I am currently the steward and I inspect the campsites every

week or two. I also greet visitors and remind them to abide by any rules. As needed, I pick up trash, collect and restock "comment" cards, repair and replace any needed signage, etc. If one of the pit toilets is full, we cover it and dig a new one. This past year we conducted a significant rebuild of the original 1920's cabin on Loon Island. Over 200 hours of volunteer work and most material were donated by PPA members.



Loon Island Closed to Camping 6/25-7/2

We own the dam at the end of the southeast corner of the Pond and have a Dam Committee that makes sure the dam is in good shape. We recently brought in several dump truck loads of rock to reinforce the spillway which had suffered some erosion. We also raised \$98,000 to purchase about 10 acres of land around the dam to protect it and improve our access for future repairs/maintenance.

We support (financially and otherwise) 30 Mile River Watershed Association, to help realize two major projects (mostly state and federal grants) to replace "under road" culverts on Sandy River Rd. to limit erosion and run off and to improve smelt runs. Cost for two approx. \$400,000. The town of Chesterville contributed \$100,000.

And last, but not least, we work with the Parker Lake Shores Road Association to enable PPA members to use its private boat launch. All who take advantage of PLSRA's neighborly gesture should remember that PPA members are guests and should follow recently updated usage procedures.

Bob Weimont, Lake Usage Chair



INVASIVE MILFOIL UPDATE

With the summer season almost here, we are ramping up to fight the new invasive milfoil infestation on Androscoggin Lake. If you missed it, here's a quick recap of what happened last fall.



Source: Dennis Roberge, VLMP © 2007

In September, a volunteer member of the invasive plant patrol team for Androscoggin's lake association (ALIC) found a suspicious plant in the Inner Cove at the northern end of the lake, near the public boat launch. DNA testing confirmed the plant was invasive variable water-milfoil. Water-milfoils are rooted, submersed aquatic plants that grow in lakes and streams. Five species are native to Maine; two invasive species threaten

Maine's waters. This is the first time an invasive aquatic plant had been found anywhere in the 30 Mile River watershed.

Because attacking an infestation early provides the best hope, 30 Mile and ALIC immediately went to work with the Maine DEP and Lake Stewards of Maine to implement a rapid response. After two long days of surveying and two days of removing plants, by mid-October we had done everything we could for the season, removing all the plants we had found.

Starting at the end of May, staff from 30 Mile will be back out on the cove, looking for new plant growth and plants we missed last fall. Maine DEP divers will survey the deeper areas of the cove. As invasive plants are found, DEP staff will remove them. This intensive effort will continue throughout the summer and into the fall.

We also must confirm, through a full lake survey, that the milfoil isn't growing anywhere else in the lake. Androscoggin is a big lake and there are many places where variable milfoil could be. This



Photo: Lakes Environmental Association

effort will be ongoing throughout the summer and will depend upon the support of MANY volunteers.

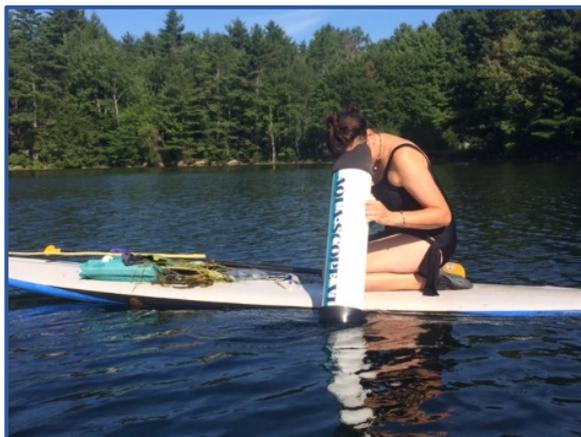
Why is milfoil a threat?

Invasive species outcompete the natives. In an organism's native habitat, its growth is balanced by other organisms that have evolved to compete with or eat it. Invasive plants like variable water-milfoil are free from their natural competitors and can outcompete native plants for space and sunlight, growing and spreading rapidly, unchecked.

Native plants provide both a food source and habitat. When those are altered, invasive plants can drastically alter delicate relationships in the food web.

The dense growth and rapid spread of milfoil also dramatically impede swimming and fishing, greatly hurting property values and tourism.

Variable water-milfoil is an extremely hardy perennial. Because it can reproduce by fragmentation, when a disturbance like a motorboat or fishing lure passes through a colony of plants, the chopped-up pieces are each capable of forming a new plant. Milfoil can spread throughout a lake or move from lake to



lake on a propeller, trailer, fishing gear or anchor.

Finding the invasives - Volunteers needed

To protect our beloved Parker Pond, we must keep a watchful eye for invasives, and for that we need more volunteers. If you are eager to help, we will be offering several trainings throughout the season - no experience necessary. What's involved in volunteering? You will spend time on the water, on your own schedule, looking for plants that don't belong. Many different species of native (good) plants grow in the lake, and several are look-alikes for the invasives, so basic knowledge of plant identification is important. Most surveying is conducted from the surface, with the naked eye when conditions allow, or with a scope, as shown here. ANY time you can spend looking for invasives while you are out enjoying the lake is helpful. The more eyes the better! If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Lidie at lidie@30mileriver.org.

For more information from 30MRWA visit their website by clicking [here](#).

CALLING ALL SHOREFRONT OWNERS: PARKER POND NEEDS YOUR HELP!

As the threats to our pond become more challenging with invasive plants, warming water and stormwater runoff, you may ask "What can I do to help?"

Sign up for a LakeSmart visit!

LakeSmart is an educational and reward program that helps lakefront owners manage their properties in ways that protect water quality and property values. Trained volunteers will evaluate your property and provide individualized suggestions for keeping stormwater runoff out of the lake. These improvements can go a long way towards diminishing algae growth and keeping the water clean and swimmable.

We can do an evaluation in about an hour, outside, with safety precautions. The evaluation is free and nonregulatory. Improvements often can be done yourself, or if needed with the help of the Youth Conservation Corps of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association.

Please help our lake and take advantage of this tried-and-true program for the sake of our lake by signing up for a free visit today!

Another Way You Can Help

LakeSmart is one of the most effective ways to protect our lakes, by promoting lake-friendly landscapes and a conservation ethic. By partnering with your lake association and becoming a trained LakeSmart evaluator you can provide education and techniques to keep runoff out of our lakes. Online zoom training is available through the first two weeks of June with many dates available to participate. You will then have one on one training with the program director of Maine Lakes. Go to (lakes.me/LakeSmart) to learn more. Contact LakeSmart coordinator, Deb Cayer at debbiecayer@gmail.com or 207-320-0379

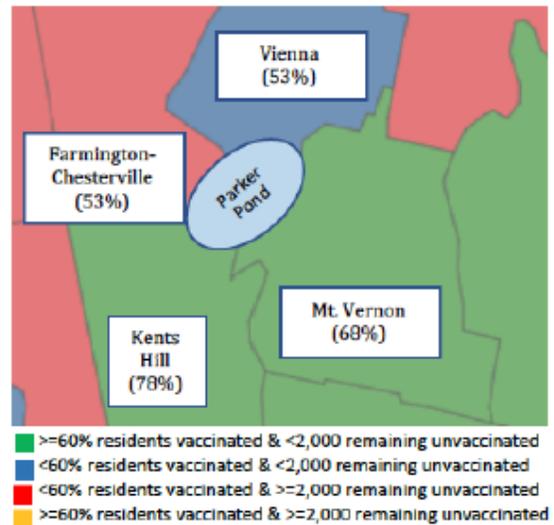
COVID - 19 UPDATE

As of May 1, 2021, Maine moved to an "all states exempt unless specified" model. This means that travelers coming to or returning to Maine are not required to quarantine or show proof of a negative test unless coming from a non-exempt state. We would urge all those 12 and over to get vaccinated here or elsewhere before or as you come.

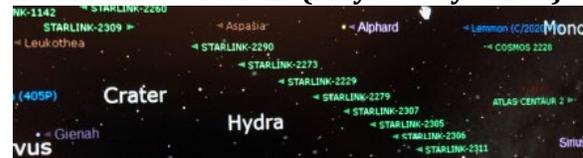
When you Arrive

Residents from other states are now eligible to get vaccinations in Maine. If you're looking for a vaccination, you can find a convenient location to get one by clicking on this [link](#). For the most current Covid information, click on the [Maine CDC site](#)

Vaccination Rates by ZIP Code (as of May 17)



Broadband Solution? (Maybe-stay tuned)



Starlink Satellites in the North Sky

Photo by Scott Herrick

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As reported at last June's Annual Meeting, our membership had grown from 60 families in 2018 to 92 in 2020, an increase in 53%. Since last year's annual meeting, we've welcomed 9 new families to our membership, but we won't have a good count until this year's meeting on June 26.

Bill Rosenberg

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Our periodic e-mails about lost & found items, items for sale and alerts appear to have been well received. All those on the e-mail list can unsubscribe at any time, but very few have. Please let me know at william.h.rosenberg@gmail.com if you:

- Find someone else's property or have lost something
- Want to buy or sell lake-related equipment or items
- Notice a new hazard PPA members should know about
- Become aware of a new event in the area that members might want to attend.

Generally, I'll limit e-mails to one per month – other than matters that require a timelier distribution such as found items, hazards, etc.

Bill Rosenberg

TREASURER'S REPORT

Calendar Year 2020 Revenues and Expenses	
Income	
Dues	\$6,215
Contributions	18,370
Interest	22
Total Income	\$24,607
Expenses	
Invasive Plants	\$3,750
Water Quality	5,250
Other	1,811
Total Expenses	\$10,811
Net Gain	\$13,796

Congratulations! We had another successful year financially and our year-end balance was \$35,797. This is not as high as the \$42,945 balance at the end of 2016, but it is strong enough that we have increased our efforts this year to protect water quality and keep invasive plants out of Parker Pond. Our plan is to increase our donation to 30 Mile River Watershed Association to \$18,000. This will allow them to increase boat inspections, lake surveys and erosion control projects on our lake.

If you would like more details about the finances, send a message to me at wpwhittier@aol.com. We appreciate your continued support.

Waine Whittier, Treasurer