

# Parker Pond Association Newsletter May 2022

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Members, Neighbors and Friends,

Early Spring on Parker Pond is an exciting time full of relief and expectation. The Snow and Ice went fast, Mud season was relatively short. As always there is friendly banter among us year rounders about when the ice went out, there are no official rules for making the call. However, your vantage point tempered with where you live on the lake has some sway. We yield to Lidie Robbins, Board member and 30 Mile River Executive Director who makes a good call and ends the friendly debate. Lidie made it official April 6, 2022 is the date.

Depending what end of the lake and what shore you live on the expectation of hearing the first Loon call is the next unofficial Spring event. It appears a text from Nona Boyink on April 2nd announced the Loons arrival.



**Save the Date**  
**Parker Pond Association**  
**Potluck & Annual Meeting**  
**5:00 pm**  
**Saturday, June 25**  
**Mount Vernon Community Center**

While on the subject of Loons. Parker Pond residents are deeply indebted to the Cowperthwaite family who are the unsung heroes of Loon propagation. Started by Steve 42 years ago the tradition of placing a floating Loons nest in the dam cove continues to be carried out by daughter Sarah and family. By the time you read this letter Sarah will have the nest in place, once again, in time for mating season. Loons will be nesting in May through June, so please be mindful of the importance of distance and care when boating near the cove.

With the arrival of Spring, board members, and members of private road associations that abut the “Headlands” property closed out a very busy Fall and Winter. The Parker Pond Association holds a conservation easement from the Kennebec Land Trust, (KLT) on the Headlands property. Several meetings and negotiations took place with KLT to develop a compromise on KLT’s proposal for an expanded/redesigned parking lot on the end of the Fellows Cove Road and a new parking lot on the Fellows Farm Road.

Our collective representation was successful in temporarily reaching a compromise with the KLT to develop a new parking lot on property it owns on the Sandy River Road near the entrance of the Fellow Farm Road. Residential representation before the Town of Fayette seeking a denial of the KLT permit for the parking lot project at the end of the Fellows Cove Road was unsuccessful. The collective expectation was to at least have KLT temporarily withdraw its permit application to study the impact of the new Sandy River road parking lot along with signage that would encourage foot or cycling to trail heads on either access road vs traffic and parking pressure at the end of the Fellows Cove Road. The KLT is planning to proceed with plans to redevelop the parking lot at the end of the Fellows Cove Road with additional parking and a turn around this summer.

PPA Board, in a near unanimous vote, proposed to KLT a delay in redevelopment plans until a new management plan as provided in the Headlands Easement can be developed and until the impact of the new Sandy River Road Parking lot can be determined. I encourage members to use the new Sandy River Road lot, when built and enjoy the walk which may help demonstrate we are all sensitive to the potential increases of vehicular traffic and its potentially negative impact on our lake I close this letter with two points.

First, the Parker Pond Association's role in the negotiations was driven by the easement. (See: STEWARDSHIP REPORT for

HEADLANDS PARKING for details). Second, the Association is not taking a direct position in road association concerns. The Association's first and foremost concern is the Lake, its integrity and water quality. This makes us a partner with the road associations to ensure any development broadening increased public traffic and redesign of a parking lot be considered. With the New Sandy River Road parking lot there is no need to rush development plans without further study and development of an updated management plan.

Many thanks to Board members, association representatives that participated in meetings, discussions and the permit process. This newsletter will have additional details that bring us to this point.

My hope for all is a healthy and safe Spring and Summer on the Lake.

Respectfully,

David Markovchick,  
President



Fat Tire Biking on Parker photo by Deb Cayer

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT for HEADLANDS PARKING**

### PPA Mission

As stated on our website, the mission of the Parker Pond Association is:

1. To care for the natural resources and beauties of Parker Pond
2. To own, maintain and operate the dam at the Parker Pond outlet stream

From time to time, PPA members seek its assistance in matters related to mission #1 – see below for a recent example.

### Headlands History

During 2003-2004, Parker Pond Association (PPA), Land for Maine's Future, and Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) raised money to purchase the initial 100-acre property on the western central shore of Parker Pond. A four-car parking lot at the end of Fellows Cove Road was approved for vehicle access. A conservation easement was made October 6, 2004 between the grantor, KLT and the grantee, PPA. Then, in November of 2009, the Hodgkins family donated an additional 40 acres of land adjacent to the Headlands and another easement was signed between KLT and PPA. Funds from Land for Maine's Future were not used in this acquisition. A few years later, KLT acquired a 64-acre parcel, Parker Pond Headland Andrews, on the Sandy River Rd. close to the newly extended Headlands property.

### Parker Pond Association Role and Responsibilities

Based on the applicable easements and consistent with its mission, the PPA's purpose of holding the Headlands Conservation Easement to preserve and conserve the natural areas in the Parker Pond watershed for water quality, aesthetics, scientific, charitable and educational purposes. In order to fulfill this purpose, the easement provides that grantor and grantee shall mutually and cooperatively develop a management plan and establish rules regarding public use of the conservation property. The easement further provides that such rules may include limitations on public use (but only upon agreement of grantor and grantee) and to reasonably protect the quiet enjoyment of the property of abutters.

More information about the Parker Pond Headland Preserve can be found on KLT's website by clicking [here](#).

### Current Discussions Regarding Public Use of the Preserve

In 2020, a PPA member requested the PPA help reduce the volume of traffic accessing the Preserve. A committee was formed with PPA officers, the member and KLT, with a goal of looking at alternatives. The first meeting was held with only PPA officers to see if a recommendation could be proposed to KLT. The following is a general summary of what I recall has

[continued next page]

## GOINGS ON AROUND THE POND

May 28 (Saturday) 9am-1pm: Annual Plant Sale fundraiser, Starling Hall, Fayette (Route 17), perennials/veggies, vendors, free outdoor composters

May 28 (Saturday), 9am to 11am: Breakfast, Mount Vernon Community Center, proceeds to benefit 30 Mile River Watershed Association

June 28 (Tuesday), 5:30pm: Kennebec Land Trust program at Bearnstow - Lyceum Workshop: Plant Identification (preregistration required). For more details about this and other KLT and Bearnstow Programs see:

Kennebec Land Trust's calendar here: <https://www.tkl.org/upcomingevents>

Bearnstow's calendar here: <https://www.bearnstow.org/2022-calendar/>

July 2 (Saturday), 9am to 11am: Breakfast, Mount Vernon Community Center, proceeds to benefit 30 Mile River Watershed Association

July 9 (Saturday), 9am to 2pm: Strawberry Festival in Wayne Village

July 14-16 (Thursday-Saturday): The Vienna Woods Players will be performing 4 one act plays at the Vienna Union Hall. Performance times to be announced.

July 30 (Saturday): 30 Mile River Paddle Trek (more details at: <https://30mileriver.org/>)

August 6, (Saturday), 9am to 11am: Breakfast, Mount Vernon Community Center, proceeds to benefit Neighbors Driving Neighbors

Interested in Broadband? Stay up to date by visiting websites at [Vienna](#), [Mt. Vernon](#), and [Fayette](#).

[STEWARDSHIP REPORT continued from p. 3]

transpired and have been involved in between KLT and PPA.

In Summer, 2021, KLT met with Fellows Farm Road Association officers and the PPA committee, also in regard to the volume of traffic accessing the Preserve. It presented an intern's study to demonstrate high usage of the parking lot on Cove Road and expressed the view that

Fellows Cove Rd. in particular was "overburdened with traffic. It proposed two plans to alleviate that volume: 1) an additional parking lot on Fellows Farm Rd. where the additional 40 acres on Hodgkin property is located; and 2) expansion of the parking lot at the end of Fellows Cove Road.

[continued next page]

[STEWARDSHIP REPORT continued from p. 4]

In response to those KLT proposals, the road associations of the Cove and Farm Roads, both private roads, conducted surveys of their members. The road association officers presented the results of those surveys to demonstrate opposition to both of KLT's proposals to increase parking at the preserve. Both road associations questioned (and continue to question) how KLT could expand the use of the two private roads for public traffic without approval of the road owners.

The PPA committee suggested that KLT consider placing a public parking lot on its property on Sandy River Rd., a public road, which is adjacent to the Fellows Farm Rd. and close to Fellows Cove Rd. This would be within walking distance to the Preserve's trails and it would reduce the amount of traffic on the Cove and Farm dirt roads.

After several meetings between KLT and PPA committee, KLT agreed to make a public parking lot on the Sandy River Rd property, to put a hold on their idea of a public parking lot on the Fellows Farm Rd. and to pursue negotiations with a property owner for an access path from the Sandy River Rd parking lot through to the Headlands property trail. KLT also applied for a permit to expand the existing parking lot at the end of the Cove Rd. and the Town of Fayette CEO and planning board approved it in March 2022. This approval is being appealed by a resident of Fellows Cove Road.

When KLT completes its new public parking lot on the Sandy River Rd., it will be asking visitors to consider biking or walking from that new location to the Headlands trailheads on Fellows Farm or

Cove Road. They are hoping that this option will limit the volume of parking in the Fellows Cove Rd. lot on busy weekends.

As you can see from this ongoing saga, a lot of thought and effort goes into stewardship of Parker Pond. In this case, the four stakeholders – two road associations, KLT and PPA – shared a common goal – providing a welcome to all Mainers who want to enjoy our lake (as is provided by law) and differing views of how to achieve that goal. PPA recently sent a letter to KLT to underscore its role, consistent with the easement, by saying:

*The PPA board requests that KLT and PPA collaboratively update and develop a management Plan as provided in section 6. , Public Uses in the Headlands Conservation Easement and that changes to the configuration of the property, including parking lots, be deferred until such plan is in place.*

Respectively Submitted,  
Gary Dubord



Loon Is. From Ithiel Gordon Rd. Jan. 22, 2022



## **30 Mile River Watershed Association – Kicking off a busy field season**

**Water Quality Monitoring** – Parker is one of eight lakes that 30 Mile monitors, with the support of volunteers, biweekly May-October. We collect extensive data on dissolved oxygen, temperature, clarity, phosphorus, chlorophyll and more to track the health the lake, and then analyze the data to look for trends in declining water quality. For our 2021 Water Quality Report and to see near real-time data, visit <https://30mileriver.org/parker-pond/>. To assist with data collection or on-water transportation and see first-hand what it's all about, contact [whitney@30mileriver.org](mailto:whitney@30mileriver.org).

**Youth Conservation Corps** – After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, 30 Mile's YCC crew will be back in action this season completing erosion control projects to protect water quality. We provide lake-friendly landscaping at a reduced cost on properties that impact the lake. By installing erosion control measures along the shorefront – such as buffer plantings, infiltration steps, stable pathways, and water diverters – we reduce the polluted runoff going into the lake. Our experienced staff designs the projects and provides permitting assistance. We are still accepting requests for the 2022 season. To learn more, visit <https://30mileriver.org/youth-conservation-corps/>.

**Courtesy Boat Inspections** – Memorial Day Weekend through September, our paid and volunteer inspectors will be at the Tower Road launch checking boats and gear for

hitchhiking invasive species. With many different invasive species now found on lakes less than 20 miles away, it's more important than ever to stay vigilant. Last summer, four Parker Pond volunteers made a big difference to our inspection coverage – generously volunteering 117 hours and helping us conduct 868 inspections. A big THANK YOU to Karen Nadeau, Kate Schulze, Tucker Schulze and Susan Tinguely. Without their efforts, many boats would have entered unchecked! To volunteer even a few hours, contact [frank@30mileriver.org](mailto:frank@30mileriver.org).

**Invasive Milfoil Removal on Androscoggin Lake** – Starting in May, we will resume our work fighting the invasive variable watermilfoil in Androscoggin Lake discovered in September 2020. We will be intensively surveying the infested area, four days a week, searching for individual milfoil plants and marking them for removal by trained SCUBA divers. We will also be partnering with the lake association to survey the rest of the lake for potential spread.

**Invasive Plant Patrol** – The invasive milfoil in Androscoggin was found early thanks to a volunteer member of their lake association's plant patrol team. Every summer, volunteers on Parker survey much of lake for invasive aquatic plants, but we aren't covering the whole lake. Please join us! It's a fun way to learn more about all the valuable native plants growing in the lake, while making a real difference safeguarding Parker Pond. Contact [lidie@30mileriver.org](mailto:lidie@30mileriver.org).

[continued next page]

**Paddle Trek** – This year’s 13th Annual Paddle Trek will be held on Saturday, July 30th. Join us for all or just a part of this 15-mile guided paddle from Mt. Vernon Village to Wayne Village, traveling along many of the lakes and streams that form the 30 Mile River. Registration will begin in June.

To stay updated on all that’s going on at 30 Mile, sign up for our newsletter and check out our new website at [30mileriver.org](http://30mileriver.org).

Lidie Robbins, PPA Board Member and 30 Mile Executive Director

## PPA WATER QUALITY REPORT

The 30 Mile River team, ([30mileriver.org](http://30mileriver.org)) was hard at work this winter compiling water quality data gathered last season. See 30 Mile’s article for more information. They have done a fantastic job on reporting this data in laymen terms, with graphs and trends. You can see the Water Quality Report [here](#).

[continued next page]

### Wondering about Ice-out?

Thanks to Karen Rogers for pulling these ice-out dates from the PPA website:

2015	April 24
2016	March 29
2017	
2018	April 27
2019	April 24
2020	April 10
2021	April 6

And for 2022, Lidie reported:

"Ice out is defined by the state as when you can navigate unimpeded from one end of the water body to the other. The ice out date I reported was April 6th. There was still some ice remaining in Porter's Cove at the north end, but using a drone to view the entire lake, it was clearly navigable from one end to the other."

Photos support Lidie’s conclusion – from first open water of Tremolo Point to wide-open from the North End.



March 31 Tremolo Point  
Photo by Kathryn. Markovchick



April 3 looking at Headlands  
Photo by Bill Rosenberg



April 6 from North End  
Photo by Bill Rosenberg

The Lake Smart program has continued during Covid at a slightly slower pace. This is an educational program designed by the Maine Lakes Society to help property owners keep our lakes clean by preventing runoff from reaching the lake. This season we would like to ramp up the number of shorefront owners we see. Please let me know if you would like an evaluation, which is free of charge.

Have a wonderful summer and hope to meet more of you soon.

Deb Cayer, LakeSmart coordinator Parker and David Ponds. ([Debbiecayer@gmail.com](mailto:Debbiecayer@gmail.com)) 207-320-0379

**COVID – 19 UPDATE**

"I don't mean to be alarming," said Dan Onion, MD, PPA Member and local Health Officer, "but the Omicron Covid surge is persisting and THE OLDER THEY ARE THE MORE people need to pay attention." He went on to list some specific steps you can take when you return to our beloved pond:

1. Know if you are at higher risk for severe Covid-19 and have a plan of action before you test positive and/or experience symptoms. You are at higher risk if you are older and/or have an underlying medical condition (click [here](#) for a list of relevant underlying medical conditions)
2. Find out [here](#) if you are up-to-date with your vaccinations and/or boosters and, if you are not, get up-to-date at a location near Parker Pond that you can find [here](#).
3. If you are going to be in close contact with others:

- a. Get tested in advance (and ask your visitors to test as well)
  - b. Mask & distance (in particular if you don't know the others' status)
4. If you experience symptoms or test positive you can find out about treatment options and locations [here](#).

For the most current Covid information, click on the [Maine CDC site](#) and/or sign up for a weekly update from the CDC [here](#).

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Congratulations! We had another successful year financially. Revenues were slightly higher than in 2020 but expenses were significantly higher with an increased contribution to the 30-Mile River Watershed Association. Our year-end balance was \$41,363. I believe that this is a strong enough balance that we can keep up our increased efforts to protect water quality and keep invasive plants out of Parker Pond. Your Board has authorized a continued annual contribution of \$18,000 to the 30-Mile River Watershed Association.

Calendar Year 2021 Revenues and Expense

Income (\$)		Expenses (\$)	
Dues	6,740	Invasive Plants & Water Quality	18,000
Contributions	18,482	Other	1,688
Interest	32	Total Expenses	19,688
Total Income	25,254		
Net Gain	5,566		

They manage boat inspections, lake surveys, water quality monitoring 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](mailto:wpwhittier@aol.com). We appreciate your continued support.

Waine Whittier, Treasurer