

Parker Pond Association Newsletter

May 2023



This Loon Nest was the 43rd launching by Sarah Cowperthwaite and her father. Willie is keeping a sharp eye out for the eagles

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Association members, friends, and neighbors,

As I write this greeting, there is a strong indication that Spring has finally arrived on the pond. As a non-meteorologist, I stick my neck out when I say it has been an unusual winter. It started out with some difficult weather, tapering over the ensuing months, to below normal snow amounts, more moderate temperatures followed by a late season snowy flourish. Ice fishing on my end of the lake was almost nonexistent, but for the intrepid Doug Boyink and friend.

As for spring, from my perspective, it was late incoming, unseasonably cool and wet, except for those all too familiar teaser days that raised hope for an early start, but rapidly diminished into weeks of cool, cloudy, and wet and damp weather. Ice went out the lake, and this varies depending on one's perspective and shore location, on April 14th as estimated by the "Maine Department of Agriculture,

Conservation and Forestry" on its website. For the record, the Department's website defines ice out as:

"...when you can navigate unimpeded from one end of a body of water to the other. There may still be ice in coves or along the shoreline in some areas, but when a person can traverse the entire body of water without being impeded by ice flows, we will consider the ice being out."



Ice going out April 13 & April 14
Drone photos by Josh Robbins

I believe our beloved Loons would beg to differ. They don't worry about full lake navigation, just some open water, now they're in the hunt for nesting areas. Speaking of Loons, we are indebted to Sarah Cowperthwaite for carrying on the tradition, started by her father Steve 43 years ago, of placing a floating Loon's nest in the "Dam Cove", (editorial note always sounds like I am swearing). Sarah diligently performed the task

under less-than-ideal weather conditions, high winds and driving rain.



Welcome home

As you return to your camps and homes, I hope your property has not been too ravaged by the high winds and eight inches of record rain fall that soaked Parker Pond in recent days. Before I leave my meteorological musings, this morning there is room for good optimism as this may truly be the first day of “real feel” spring weather. The temperature is expected to reach the seventies with clear skies. Oh, and yesterday (May 5th) I made an unofficial declaration, the black flies have arrived.

I take this opportunity to thank your board of directors for all the quiet and committed work they do behind the scenes as volunteers, to ensure we continue to have a clean and natural habitat for wildlife and all of us. This year, the Parker Pond Association with its partners, will continue active water monitoring as a number one priority, please check your watercraft if used off the pond for invasives.

Work is beginning on an updated management plan for the Headlands where an improved parking lot was constructed. Please be appreciative, courteous, respectful, and observant of Fellows Cove Road residents and the generous use of road access.

My hope is that you all had a safe and healthy winter. Thank you for being a member and supporting your Association’s efforts. If you are not a member, it is easy to join or donate.

Simply go to the Parker Pond Web Site:

www.parkerpond.org

Journey Well!

Dave

David Markovchick

**RENEW YOUR PPA
MEMBERSHIP
FOR 2023 BY CLICKING
[HERE](http://www.parkerpond.org/join-or-donate)**

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

Parker Lake Shores Recreation Association & PPA Spring 2023 Courtesy Launch Dates

Hello to all. Welcome back to the Pond!

If you want to take advantage of this service, please note the following important instructions:

- *Please thoroughly inspect your boat and trailer **before** you arrive.*
- *If a marina is helping with your launch, boat owners must be present.*
- *Launches are for boats only, no barges, docks, floats etc.*

Reminder: Please keep vehicles/people/pets etc. off abutters’ property. We are granted launch access as a courtesy. Immediately before the launch, on the right, there is room for a vehicle if you need to pull over for a few minutes.

The below are the (only) dates for supervised launches from this private site. PPA paid members are eligible. The launch fee is \$30.

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Check to "PPA". PPA \$30 annual membership fee is also due if you have not yet paid it. Checks can be made out to "PPA" or you can pay in cash (correct change only).

There are limited time slots. **To schedule, please e-mail or call Bob Weimont (bweimont@yahoo.com, 293 4344) ASAP.** Provide a two-hour window. We will do our best to accommodate everyone.

- Sat. May 13th (9 am - noon)
- Sat. May 27th (8:30 am-12:30)
- Sat. June 17th (8:30 - 12:30)

Once your launch time is established, it is important to be on time. Not late **OR** early.

If you happen to be a member of Parker Lake Shores Rec. Assoc. (PLSRA), the original lots developed in the 1960's on Fellows Cove Rd, Fellows Farm Rd, Quimby Lane and Rocky Lane on David Pond, you are not required to use these launch dates or pay a fee



30 Mile River Watershed Association

In November, thanks to a generous donor, 30 Mile purchased a building to become our first home in the watershed. In the heart of Mt. Vernon village in a highly visible, central location, the building will provide essential space to help the organization grow to better fulfill our mission. The building has great potential but needs major renovations. We have begun the process of transforming it to create a new, integrated facility to serve as a regional center for watershed education, research, protection, and community engagement.

This will be our third year managing the infestation of invasive milfoil discovered on Androscoggin Lake, working in partnership with Maine DEP and the lake association. Because invasive milfoil spreads rapidly and threatens all local lakes, we must continue working aggressively now to control it. May-October, our staff survey the infested area (and beyond), marking each milfoil plant to be removed by a trained diver. Although every plant found in 2022 was removed, we expect to find regrowth in May.

In 2022, 30 Mile staff, alongside 32 volunteers, monitored water quality in Parker and 10 other lakes and ponds, completing 80+ sampling events and expanding to Echo Lake. We collect and analyze this data to inform our lake protection strategies, identifying trends in declining water quality before it's too late.

May-October, we conduct courtesy boat inspections on Parker and three other lakes. In 2022, our paid staff and 10 volunteers conducted 2,584 inspections (762 on Parker). Although we rarely find an invasive species on a boat or trailer, it takes only one fragment to start an infestation and ruin a lake.

30 Mile is a regional LakeSmart "HUB" support center, helping Parker and other member lake association volunteer teams deliver LakeSmart education

property-by-property and shore-by-shore to create a conservation ethic across the lake community. In 2022, these teams and 30 Mile staff completed evaluations for 30 participating landowners.

Our **Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)** resumed in 2022 after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Our crew installed 33 best management practices at nine project sites on five lakes, including Parker. 30 Mile also supports volunteer invasive plant surveys, provide technical assistance on roads, and conduct watershed surveys for erosion threats.

PPA's support is critical to protect the watershed and vital to 30 Mile's success leveraging grants and other contributions. Thank you PPA and to those who contribute individually to support our mission *to work as a community for clean and healthy lakes, ponds and streams in our watershed.*

To volunteer, to learn more, or to sign up for 30 Mile's e-news, visit www.30mileriver.org

Lidie Robbins, 30 Mile Executive Director and PPA Board member

GOINGS ON AROUND THE POND

New Bridge to Castle Island!



Before

After

Information from Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

The May Fishing Report and Stocking Reports can be found at:

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/index.html>

Events Notifications From Dr. Shaw Memorial Library, Mt. Vernon

Alice sends out an email periodically, listing various community happenings in Mt. Vernon, Vienna, Fayette, and other close communities. It is a helpful way to stay tuned in to what is going on in our towns! Please email : librarian@drshawlibrary.org with your name and email address and use the word "events" in the subject line to sign up to start receiving this update.

Vienna Union Hall Summer 2023 Line-up.

The Vienna Union Hall Association is pleased to announce our line-up for this coming year. For more information or to order tickets, please visit us on our website; viennaunionhall.org. Please also visit and "friend" us on Face Book: Vienna Union Hall. Thank you for your support of our efforts to offer quality entertainment in our communities.

- May 13th, 7 PM The Katahdin Valley Boys
- June 9th, 7 PM Greg Boardman, Elsie Gawler, and Steve Muise
- July 1st, 7 PM The Oshima Brothers
- July 20-22 (4 shows). The Vienna Historical Society - 2 plays by Beverly Smith
- August 4th, 7 PM Kyle Knuppel and Matt Davis
- August 10-12 The Vienna Woods Players - "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward
- August 25, 7 PM Porch Party Mama's
- August 26, 7 PM Bearnstow Dancers (for info and tickets go to bearnstow.org)
- September 16th, 4 PM The Pihcintu Multinational

Click here for Bearnstow's Summer:
<https://www.bearnstow.org/2023-calendar/>

BROADBAND UPDATES

Exciting News for Mt Vernon

Broadband Projects for Fayette and Mt. Vernon have received funding from the Maine Connectivity Authority. Matrix Design Group will be building out a Fiber to the Home (FTTH) broadband network to all of Fayette, while Charter Communications (Spectrum) will extend its current network with FTTH to all parts of Mt. Vernon currently unserved by its cable network. Completion planned by end of 2024 (stay tuned for details). Vienna is in the process of implementing a FTTH network with Axiom.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Calendar Year 2022

Income		Expenses	
Dues	\$5,576	Invasive	\$18,300
Contributions	14,015	Plants & Water Quality	
Interest	37	Other	1,324
Total Income	\$19,628	Total Expenses	\$19,624
Net Gain	\$4		

Although revenues were almost six thousand dollars less than in 2021, we still raised as much as we spent, so thank you for your continued support. We really need those extra donations that you make to keep up our water quality program. Our year-end balance was \$41,367. 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. If you would like more details about the finances, send a message to me at wpwhittier@aol.com.

PPA CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale

Ideal for your camp excellent condition bedroom furniture: bureau, double lower bunk, single on top or can be used separately as well, and nightstand. All handcrafted in Colorado with rustic western lodge pole with deer antler pulls. For pictures or more information please get in touch with Kathryn Markovchick at k4markovchick@gmail.com or text or call 207=446-2150

For Sale Best Offer

Interesting opportunity to refit a 13' O'Day sailboat, hardware (mast, sails, and rudder in excellent condition), Mast needs a replacement footing to be fibreglassed in the bottom of the hull. For more information, please get in touch with Kathryn Markovchick k4markovchick@gmail.com or text or call 207=446-2150

How to Place an Ad

Do you have something you want to rent or buy, or rent out or sell? Have you found something floating on the pond and want to find the owner? Or a message to our membership? Provide the copy you want so I can copy and paste and I'll try to get it out within a reasonable amount of time.

Bill Rosenberg
William.h.rosenberg@gmail.com