



Parker Pond Association Newsletter

Parker Pond Association Annual Meeting

Upcoming Dates

June 29th	2 nd Boat Launch at Quimby Lane
July 10th	Annual Parker Pond Association Meeting
July 5th	From the Top Concert
July 12th	Sailing Regatta (rain date: July 13)
TBA	Headlands Geology walk

We hope everyone has wintered well and is ready for another beautiful summer on Parker Pond! Please join us on Thursday, July 10th for the Parker Pond Association annual meeting at the Mount Vernon Community Center. We will begin with a **potluck dessert and coffee social at 6:30pm, followed by the association meeting at 7pm.** The meeting will open with board member and committee chair reports, followed by an opportunity for discussion regarding association membership. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Parker Pond Association has a new website. Check us out at: www.parkerpond.org

We are also on Facebook! Search for: **Parker Pond Association**

Land Stewardship

Parker Pond Headland The big news this year is that Parker Pond’s water quality has an additional level of protection. Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) now has a 60-acre easement with a trail through the woods to the edge of David Pond. Since David Pond water flows into Parker Pond, this is very good news for both bodies of water. One forest area actually flows to both ponds simultaneously. KLT is also negotiating the purchase of two additional properties situated between the ponds. When these purchases are complete Parker Pond Headlands will connect to the David Pond trails resulting in as much as 6 miles of continuous hiking in each direction and an uninterrupted corridor for animals, all held in perpetuity. The executive board recently approved a \$1,000 contribution to KLT to assist with the purchases.

Keep your eyes and ears open for an announcement of a trail walk this summer. We have asked a local geologist to hike with us to help us understand how the headlands formed and geologic points of interest.

Kelly Easement Parker Pond Association holds an easement on a beautiful wooded property on the east side of the pond. This generous gift by the Kelly family protects 34.26 acres. Among the stated purposes of the easement are to “protect and preserve in perpetuity the natural, scenic and wildlife resources . . .and the availability of a portion for low impact pedestrian outdoor recreation, nature observation and study.” In keeping with our responsibility for monitoring the property and enforcing its legal terms, a team inspected the property this May. Susan Onion, Bob Weimont, and Maggie Chadwick from PPA and Jim Connors, KLT, walked the easement property. We found, as marked on the map, a civil war era grave stone, viburnum in full bloom and many dainty red trillium. Spring is here. There is currently no trail in place for hiking.

Proposed Bylaws Changes Regarding Membership To Be Tabled

Background

Our current bylaws define two classes of members: voting and non-voting. Property owners on the pond, officers, sponsored, honorary, and service members may vote at meetings of the corporation. Others are considered friends of the pond and don't have a vote. An informal Internet survey conducted last year and a show of hands at last year's annual meeting indicated that many of the members, but not necessarily the 2/3 majority required for adopting an amendment, support changing the bylaws so that every member has a vote. Written messages have been received both supporting and opposing such a change.

Therefore, your Board has decided to defer proposing changes until more discussion can take place around the issue. Some options are to leave the bylaws as they are, ease the requirements for voting "sponsored" members, or wide-open membership.

Opportunity for Continued Discussion

Time will be set aside at the Annual Meeting on July 10 to discuss this further and a special forum dedicated to the topic will be conducted later in the summer. If you could, please bring your written comments to the meeting(s) so that the secretary won't have to worry about capturing all the salient points.

Please Consider Sponsoring New Members

Section 3.1.4 of the current bylaws defines Sponsored Member: *"An Owner Member may sponsor, as Voting Members, up to two persons that the Owner Member believes would be valuable members of the Corporation. Such sponsorship shall continue until revoked by the sponsoring Owner Member or by lapse of membership of the Owner Member. Therefore, if the sponsoring Owner Member sells the lot or fails to pay dues, the Sponsored Member also loses Voting Membership."*

As a group, we aren't using this provision very much now. If you have relatives or friends who use and love the lake and would like to see it protected, please talk to them and see if they would like to become sponsored members. With the increasing threat of infestation by invasive plants and pollution from nutrient rich run off within the watershed, it is more important than ever to get more people involved in protecting the pond.

New: Proposed Bylaw Change Regarding Setting the Annual Meeting Date

Background

Our current bylaws require that the date of the next annual meeting be determined at the previous year's Annual Meeting. This has at times presented problems when trying to find an adequate location to hold the meeting. The proposed change would give the President more flexibility in setting the date for the Annual Meeting.

The Proposed Change

Shall Section 5.1 of the Parker Pond Association, Inc. bylaws and paragraph 5.f.i of the Restated Articles of Incorporation be changed to the following?

"There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Members, held at a date, time and place to be determined by the President. The Annual Meeting shall be held in one of the following four towns: Chesterville, Fayette, Mount Vernon, or Vienna. A written notice of the Annual Meeting as well as all Special Meetings shall be sent to the voting members at their last known address or e-mail address at least fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting. Supplemental notice of such meetings may be given as the President or Secretary shall deem desirable."

How to Vote

If you are a voting member of the Association, there are two ways that you can cast your ballot:

1. In person at the July 10, 2014 Annual Meeting of the Corporation.
2. By assigning your Proxy to a designated individual with the form enclosed with this newsletter.

The bylaws require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Voting Members present in person, by conference call, or by proxy at the Annual Meeting to effect a change. A conference call will not be established for this year's Annual Meeting.

30MRWA's Youth Conservation Corps Looking for Projects

This is the second year of the Parker Pond Watershed Protection Project. The goal of this two-year, grant-supported* project is to protect Parker's water quality by decreasing polluted runoff coming from roads, driveways, paths, and residential areas. Towards this, the 30 Mile River Watershed Association is working with landowners, towns and road associations.



As part of this project, one of the services available to landowners at no charge is 30MRWA's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). **YCC is looking for projects on Parker this summer.** YCC works with homeowners to decrease erosion and filter storm water carrying phosphorous on their properties. Due to this grant, the landowner pays only for materials. Projects include diverting storm water off driveways, planting vegetative buffers, stabilizing eroded pathways, installing roofline trenches, and building infiltration steps.

Don't miss out on this limited-time opportunity! To arrange a site visit, please submit an online project request form, found on the Youth Conservation Corps webpage at www.30mileriver.org, or call (207) 685-4956.

**Project funding was provided in part by the U.S. EPA under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and administered by the Maine DEP in partnership with EPA.*

PPA Boat Launch Opportunity at Quimby Lane

PPA has arranged again this year to launch boats at the Quimby Lane private launch at the southwest corner of the pond for association members with boats too big to comfortably launch at the public Vienna end launch. This opportunity also allows the PPA to inspect these boats to prevent milfoil and other invasive weeds from contaminating our lake, provides a member benefit for those who launch, and encourages boaters to join the PPA if they aren't already members. By participating in the inspections of their boats, members learn how to do it themselves to protect the lake as well.

Two launch dates are set for this spring: **Sunday May 25** and **Sunday June 29, 2014**. A fee of \$30 will be collected to support the Pond Lake Shore Development Organization to help maintain the launch and access road. Gary Dubord and Murray Campbell are assisting Dan Onion this year. Call/email Dan Onion if you would like to schedule a launch time and/or suggest fall dates. 293-2076 dkonion@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities: Become a Courtesy Boat Inspector or Invasive Plant Patroller



CBI

With invasive aquatic plants in the nearby Belgrade Lakes, and more people coming from other lakes to launch their boats in Parker, the threat from these invaders grows every year.

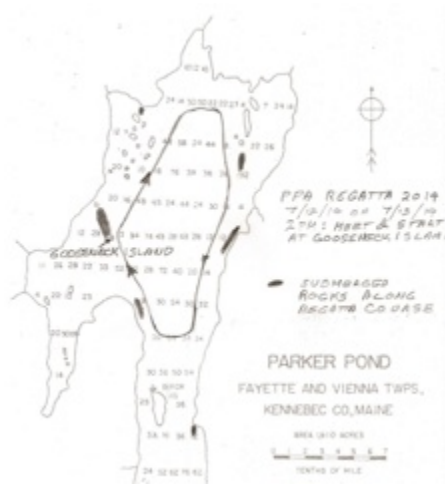
Memorial Day weekend kicks off the **courtesy boat inspection** season. Paid inspectors, provided by the 30 Mile River Watershed Association and supported by PPA, will be at the Tower Road launch on the weekends, checking for hitchhiking plants and educating boaters, but we need volunteers to supplement this coverage, especially from 7-9 and 9-11 AM on Saturday and Sunday mornings. If you can help for only one shift, or would consider becoming a regular volunteer, please contact us (see below).

Our **Invasive Plant Patrol** team is always looking for new volunteers to help with our annual lake survey. Trained members of our team will work with you, so no experience is necessary, only a few hours of your time to paddle with us.

For more information or to sign-up, please contact Lidie Robbins at lidie@30mileriver.org 685-4956 or visit www.30mileriver.org.

Sailing Regatta

Join us for a fun community sail around Parker Pond on Saturday, July 12, 2014 starting at 2pm at Gooseneck Island. Let's see how many sails we can get out on the lake at once. Boats and boards welcome. Rain date: July 13. Call "Commodore" Murray Campbell 293-2921 for more info.



- Sailing Route

Island Stewardship News

On June 3rd, Pete Smith, regional director of the DOC will be visiting the rope swing on Spruce Island to assess whether the state is willing to allow us to continued use or whether the safety risk is becoming too great. He will also look at the cabin on Loon Island to decide if he agrees to allow and pay for materials for the repairs to the sills the committee has proposed.

Dan Onion, Lake Usage Committee Chair

From the Top Concert at the Mt. Vernon Community Center

Join us for the fourth annual "Classic Meets Pop" concert at the Mt. Vernon Community Center and on the beach of Minnehonk Lake. On Saturday, July 5 at 7:00pm some of America's most exciting up-and-coming musicians will perform a free concert in the Mount Vernon Community Center. Performers are musicians who have been featured on From the Top, the most popular weekly classical radio show on NPR. Seating in the hall is on a first come, first serve basis. Guests are also encouraged to bring a blanket and sit outside on the lawn.

Thank you to Gerry Slavet for supporting the PPA and for bringing us this wonderful cultural opportunity for another year. Donations will be accepted at the door in support of the 30-Mile River Watershed Association and the Parker Pond Association.



Treasurer's Report – Calendar Year 2013

The Association's finances in 2013 showed a big improvement with a net gain of \$ 4,368 after posting an \$ 814 loss in 2012. Major categories of revenues and expenses are shown below. It is encouraging that other contributions are exceeding revenues from dues. The revenue figures could be a little misleading because year-end dues and contributions totaling \$ 2,180 might have been paid in 2014 if we had not sent out a newsletter late in the year. Nevertheless, this increase in revenues will allow us to do more to protect Parker Pond. Please continue your generosity. If you would like more details about the finances, send me a message at wphittier@aol.com. Thank you everyone for your support.

Treasurer: Wayne Whittier

Dues	\$ 3,600	Invasive Plants	\$ 2,140
Other Contributions	\$ 6,281	Water Quality	\$ 2,060
Interest	\$ 145	Other	\$ 1,458
<hr/> Total Revenues	<hr/> \$ 10,026	<hr/> Total Expenses	<hr/> \$ 5,658

It's Time for Annual Membership Renewal!

If you are currently a member, this is a reminder that it is time to renew your annual membership. Please consider renewing your membership to continue support for the many programs that protect the water quality and integrity of our beautiful lake. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining. We need your financial support to continue the work. Return the enclosed Donation/Membership form with your donation today!

(To avoid double renewals, look for a * by your name on the mailed print newsletter to note that you are up to date on membership.)

Help Us Communicate!

Do you have friends or family members who would be interested in receiving an emailed copy of our newsletter? Include their email addresses along with your own when renewing your membership and we will add them to our list. Electronic communication is cheaper, quicker and more efficient than mailings. Please note that addresses will be used only for the purpose of sharing information with you and will not be distributed to any sources outside the PPA Communication and Membership committees. Thank You!



Parker Pond Association, Inc.
321 Tower Road
Vienna, ME 04360