



PARKER POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The annual meeting of PPA

met at the Mount Vernon Community Center on July 7, 2012.

The following individuals were elected to serve as your officers on the PPA Board.

President – Karen Swan	V.President – Gerry Tinguely - (<i>New to board – Welcome Gerry!</i>)
Secretary – Libby Harville	Treasurer & Nominating Committee – Waine Whittier
Water Quality & Nominating Committee – Deb Cayer	Membership & Loon count – Marty Arnold
Dam- Steve Cowperthwaite	Invasive plants – Lidie Robbins
Lake Usage & 30 Mile River Rep – Dan Onion	Stewardship (Headlands) – Maggie Chadwick
Communication - [newsletter– Margaret Barrow]	Historian – Morgan Henika - (<i>This is a new office this year</i>)
Past President - Bill Rogers	

President's Message

In this summer of the Olympics I would like to Thank you for allowing me honor of carrying the torch as the newly elected President of Parker Pond Association for the coming year. Having moved to Parker Pond 4 years ago from Long Pond in Belgrade, my husband and I feel truly blessed to be living on such a quiet picturesque lake.

When people ask us where we moved to, it is with a sense of pride that we say “Parker Pond” and the response is always “Oh, that is such a beautiful lake!” Having been involved with the conservation efforts in the Belgrade area, we enthusiastically jumped into the efforts on Parker Pond. I must say, the dedicated team of executive officers are a delight to work with, and their passion to maintain the quality of Parker Pond is wonderfully contagious. These officers have tirelessly devoted many hours to serving the community as volunteers whenever and wherever they are needed. They are truly the lifeblood of the Association and all of them have agreed to continue on for the coming year.

I would like to extend my thank you to them.
You will see all of their reports throughout this newsletter.

They have been working hard!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members at large for your continued support through your renewed membership and contributions. It was nice to meet some of you at the annual meeting in July. Roughly 45 members joined us for the pot luck dinner and annual meeting and were treated again this year to a truly spectacular, standing room only, concert arranged by Jerry Slavet. One of our goals for next year is to meet more of our members, to hear your thoughts/concerns. We welcome any suggestions as to how to gather more members to the PPA annual meeting. Please share your thoughts with us. Let's spread the word! I encourage you to not take the beauty that surrounds us for granted. It is true... *many hands do make light work*, and there are many ways in which you, your family & friends may help. Whether volunteering for an hour, a day, or throughout the summer our committees all need support. Or maybe a charitable contribution towards one of our many initiatives would work better for you. Giving back feels good and it is fun.

Won't you consider lending a hand?

Karen Swan

The headland trail continues to be heavily used.

*Fall brings us mushroom pickers
and sometimes school groups.
In summer we have swimmers,
hikers and blueberries pickers.
Snowshoers and cross country skiers frequently use the trail
on winter days after a snow fall.
Ice fishing groups normally find easier ways onto the ice.*

In all it is fair to say the community has embraced the trail for year round enjoyment and recreation. From the comments left at the kiosk, it is clear that nearly everyone exclaims the trails virtues. Comments such as : "Amazing"; "Awesome!" "Perfect, thank you!" appear on page after page. One local commenter suggested mountain bikes would be nice. A couple spaces down a commenter from Pennsylvania said, "Lovely hike - sans mountain bikes."



In the period July 25 to August 13 we've had hikers from 7 states and Canada. Summer of 2011 we had hikers from Haiti who were very impressed with the vast quantity of trees. Lastly one person from California with rather juvenile appearing handwriting just wrote, " *Stupid!!!*" Not having a good day, I guess, sometimes Californians think trees ruin the view.

The trail itself has held up amazingly well. There is no problematic erosion and virtually no litter. PPA members can feel good about making this trail available.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Chadwick



Feet strapped, boat packed, in my kayak
Going to look for milfoil
Wide hat, paddle, lake all blue flat
Going to foil the milfoil.
Shore line dense with fallen branches
Trees submerged and brown.
Winds blow purple hyacinthus,
Far away from town.
There's a milfoil red and furry--seize it, take a look;
This one's native, eco-friendly, still I bag it up.
Sometimes people stare at me as if I'm quite insane
So I tell them what I'm doing, and they smile again.
Down below a world entire, trees and stars and feathers-
Changing even as I look, they wave and move together.
Sun fills water, blue sky foaming
Turn the kayak home.
Fish swim past, I paddle slowly,
In my wake, a poem.

Pat Onion, August 2012

PPA Lake Usage Committee

Dan Onion, chair



Our committee has two on-going projects and planning two more.

1. Parker Islands stewardship for the Maine Department of Conservation

Over the past two years, the PPA and our committee have been serving as stewards for now 4 of the islands in Parker Pond: Spruce, Birch, Loon and Bill's. We did this as a community service and because some of the islands were getting a little raunchy from toilet and other refuse, and we worried about fire risks. Each island has been equipped with a primitive toilet, a fire pit, a picnic table, and a camp site, all with signage directing visitors to the sites. An informational sign board on each island explains the project. Last summer, several work crews of visitors and PPA members cleaned up the old Diller cabin on Loon island. Committee members monitor the islands use and welcome visitors. Camping is allowed for the standard maximum of 2 weeks, first come first served, per Dept. of Conservation policy. This year we installed survey boxes as well. We have experienced fires on Spruce and Birch when fires were kindled in unsanctioned spots. Please help us encourage all to use the designed fire pits and investigate smoke. Fire gets into the subsurface duff and can smolder for days. The Mt. Vernon fire department will respond. We could use some more volunteers to monitor and clean up the islands; contact Dan Onion.

2. The committee has negotiated with the Parker Lake Shores development for permission to run up to 6 boat launches for PPA members at the Quimby Ln launch site on the southwest end of the pond again this year and continuing into the future. Three occurred in May and June. Fall pull out dates are 8/25, 9/3 (perhaps 9/22), and 10/13. Contact Dan Onion (dkonion@gmail.com, 293-2076) for times. Our goal is to allow PPA members to use this easy launch in spring and fall and to provide courtesy boat inspections for invasive plants at the same time. We are grateful to Parker Lake Shores for sharing their launch. Current PPA membership is required along with a \$30 launch fee to help improve and maintain that launch site.

3. Vienna boat launch improvement: The town of Vienna directed its 2012 boat registration fees (about \$800) for modest improvements to the north end of the lake launch. They asked Waine Whittier, representing the PPA, and Lidie Robbins, representing the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA) to plan improvements for the launch to better allow small fishing and pleasure boat launch/pull out without encouraging monster boat access. They have done that with help from 30 MRWA volunteer road engineer, Clyde Walton. And Waine has prepared a DEP permit application for that work.

The plans are:

- Repair the sharp drop off at the road lip by filling with 4-6 inch angled stone within 3-4 inches of the top and cap it with 3-4 inches of cold patch (or hot top if possible).
- Fill the lower areas with 4-6 inch angled stone to make a taper about to the current water's edge.
Cap this with 1/2 inch stone.
- Place a large boulder on the south edge of the launch ramp to protect the elm tree there.
- Place 1/2 inch stone on the shoulder for about 100 feet to the south side of the launch.

4. Marty Arnold and Bill Swan are exploring ways our committee might organize volunteers to work with Maine regional fisheries biologist Scott Davis to improve smelt habitat in the lake, thereby supporting improved salmon and trout survival.

Parker Pond Watershed Survey Results Now Available

In 2011, a watershed survey of Parker, David and Tilton Ponds was conducted by the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, in partnership with the Basin, David and Tilton Ponds Association; the Parker Pond Association; the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District; the Maine Department of Environmental Protection; the towns of Chesterville, Fayette, Mount Vernon and Vienna; and many trained volunteers. The purpose of this survey was to identify areas of erosion that deliver sediment into these lakes through stormwater runoff. Sediment carries nutrients that degrade water quality and this polluted runoff is one of the biggest threats to our lakes.



Survey teams visited all developed properties and roads of participating landowners within these three ponds' watersheds, collecting data on the type of land use, a description of the problem, and the level of impact. Thank you to all Parker Pond landowners who participated.

In total, teams identified 83 sites that are impacting or have the potential to impact water quality, and made specific recommendations for how each site could be mitigated. More than half of the sites were found in residential areas, and the majority of those could be fixed easily at low cost. Twenty-three sites were associated with private roads, and these sites tended to be larger erosion problems with greater impacts on water quality. The complete survey results (containing no information to identify landowners), including recommendations for next steps, are available at www.30mileriver.org.

Fixing the erosion sites identified in this survey will require efforts by individuals, road associations, municipal officials, lake associations and the 30 Mile River Watershed Association.

Paying attention to run-off problems and identifying sites in need of work should be continual activities of those interested in protecting these lakes. This survey provided a snapshot of the situation of the surveyed areas at a particular time; new erosion sites develop, especially after heavy rain or snowmelt.

Part of the mission at the 30 Mile River Watershed Association is to provide support to landowners in addressing erosion problems that are having an impact on water quality. One service we offer is our Youth Conservation Corps, which provides free site evaluations to all those who are interested and free labor to landowners to reduce erosion and runoff. We are now accepting project requests for our 2013 season.

We also offer free camp road maintenance workshops and planning assistance to road associations and other private road owners.

For more information about all of these programs, please visit our website www.30mileriver.org or contact us at info@30mileriver.org or 670-7298.

Funding for the watershed survey of Parker, David and Tilton Ponds was provided in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and was administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA.

Deb Cayer reporting, Water Quality Officer



Maine's lakes and ponds were greatly threatened this past spring when a wave of bills aimed at weakening resource protections appeared on the Maine state legislative calendar.

A number of curtailments to Maine's 40 year old Shoreland Zoning Ordinance were defeated. The Maine public were astounded and jumped into action, rallying for continued protection of our most valuable resources. "Fortunately, lawmakers made a series of good bipartisan decisions to reject most of these proposals, which would have threatened clean air, clean water, and the health of Maine people and our environment."

Another outcome of this session was that the Department of Environmental Protection was charged with simplifying the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to make it easier for the public to interpret. This sounds like a good thing, and may well be as these laws will be more understandable. However there is the continued threat that these laws may be weakened, when really they could use strengthening. Please stay tuned to this very important issue.

In spite of the major changes in bills related to weakening Maine's resource protection, how did Parker Pond do this year??

Our dissolved oxygen readings continue to show late season oxygen depletion which contributes to phosphorus leaving the bottom sediments and becoming available to algae in the water column. Persistent loss of oxygen may also eliminate or reduce habitat for sensitive cold water fish.

Total phosphorus core samples were consistent with past data with an average of 8 ppb. The grab sample again showed late season increase in phosphorus which has been released from the bottom sediments due to oxygen depletion.

The water clarity, measured by Secchi disk readings, was also lower or less clear this season with our past average reading being 7.1 meters or 23.3 ft. This season the average reading was 6.5 meters or 21.3 feet.

Clarity is most significantly impacted by phosphorus washing into ponds through gravel runoff from shore land lots, driveways, camp roads and surrounding town roads. The heavy spring rains certainly had some impact. One area of note where significant phosphorus wash did take place, was where David flows into Parker. A culvert was replaced and the heavy rains on three different downpours washed the gravel fill into the brook. Unfortunately no effort had been made to control that erosion until town officials and the DEP were made aware, whereupon, excellent remediation was carried out within 24 hours.

"The nonprofit, Lakes Environmental Association, (LEA) has received funding from the "Mystery Foundation" and Maine

DEP to develop a capacity building program for local land use officials. The project targets code enforcement officers and planning board members, but is open to anyone interested.

The Parker Pond association and individuals in each town, of the 4 towns which border Parker, should strongly encourage our code enforcement officers and town planning board officials to be part of this very important education. This is my opinion, what do you think and each of us should ask, how can we help?? Information on this program can be found on the LEA website. (www.leamaine.org)

The last topic for this water quality report is Gleotrichia. Pronounced glee-o-trick-e-a, Gleotrichia are those tiny planktonic specs in the water column that look like tapioca. LEA is working together with Bates College to study these little "Algae." Not a true algae, gleotrichia are essentially bacteria that derive energy from the sun. gleotrichia are thought to pull nutrient phosphorus from the bottom sediments to float to the surface and continue to grow. This process can cause "rapid and overwhelming blooms that turn some lakes into a seemingly impenetrable deep green mat from August to November.

I know that this report is full of concerning news, but we can all work together to assure that those areas of washing into the lake are looked at and dealt with in the proper manner. Our watershed survey that was done by the 30 Mile River Watershed Association this past spring, will also work to do remediation where it is most needed to help prevent further degradation of our water quality.

Dam Committee Report - August 2012

With the exception of several large storms, snowfall was light last winter. We had few very cold days.

Ice-out occurred about the 21st of March, much earlier than usual. The test of our dam came in late spring when we had days of heavy rain and very high water. It performed well. The spillway had lots of capacity to spare. I went behind the dam to check for leaking and found none. I'll be bold again this year and report that our dam is in good shape.

In spite of the repairs and improvements we made in 2007, our dam is categorized as "Significant Hazard" by the Maine Emergency Management Agency. The label is not an evaluation of the condition of our dam. Instead, it is the opinion of the State Dam Inspector that the unlikely but conceivable failure of our dam would cause considerable damage and endanger the public. The worst scenario is for its failure to cause the destruction of the highway bridge across the outlet stream on Route 41 with possible loss of life.

We are required to have an Emergency Action Plan and update it every two years. Margaret Barrow created the first plan and has kept it up to date faithfully. This year we have been given a new "template" and are required to make major revisions and additions to our plan for what hopefully will never happen but can be imagined. Alas! More dam nightmares.

I am grateful to Margaret for keeping an eye on the dam and for her help. I wish to thank David Barrow for mowing the dam in the fall and Rob Juris for mowing it this summer.

Steve Cowperthwaite
Chair, Dam Committee



The Dam holds... and the outlet stream flows with the output Parker brings. Sometimes a full stream, sometimes quite low. Always responding with a bubbly spirit. It waters the earth, waters the animals in winter and serves as a birthing source for fish, mink and wild creatures.

Why do we join the Parker Pond Association?

1. To support the work done by your volunteer officers and workers
 - invasive plant patrols,
 - water quality testing,
 - dam maintenance, etc.
2. Using our dues and contributions to show that we're part of the effort to keep our water clean and free of pollution.
3. To retain, for those wintery days and nights, the image of this unusual "golden" jewel here in Kennebec County, which we are privileged to be part.

When you send your dues, you also tell us, the officers of Parker Pond, "Thanks for your volunteered time. You're doing a good job."

Last year we had 116 members. To date, a number of you have not registered. It may be that we're not reaching out to you sufficiently, not enough newsletters or direct contact.

Whatever the reason, if you've forgotten us, please use the included membership form and sign-up.

Also, use the form to let me know what your thoughts are regarding this or any other Parker Pond issue (continue on the back of the form if you need extra space).

Have a great September,

Marty Arnold



One of the Headlands trails.

Boat Launch Improvements

The Vienna Select Board included an article in this year's town warrant to begin building a fund to make significant improvements to the Tower Road boat launch.

The 30-Mile River Watershed Association together with representatives of the Parker Pond Association successfully persuaded the voters to instead direct the funds to 30-Mile River's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program and a less ambitious project.

That project occurred in August.

Crushed stones were used to fill the large holes and the town, while paving the section of the Tower Road beside the boat launch, paved most of the landing. Obviously, access for launching boats has improved. That was the town's objective.

However, the ramp is still very steep and launching with a two wheel drive vehicle is not recommended. Hopefully, these improvements will be enough to convince state officials that they do not need to build a new, big boat launch somewhere else on the lake.

Importantly, the project should also reduce soil erosion at the site.

Waine Whittier

PARKER POND ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please join the effort to maintain and protect the excellence of Parker Pond

2012 Membership and Contributions Form

* Note, we are a 501.c(3) corporation. All dues and contributions are deductible under federal (and most states) tax laws.

1) Your Name _____

Reg. Mailing Address _____

Summer Address _____

Reg. Tele _____ Summer Tele _____

E-mail Address _____

2) **Membership**

2.1 Voting Membership: Basic Dues, for a calendar year, are \$20.

Please select: _____ Waterfront Land Owner _____ Current Officer _____ Service Member
_____ Honorary (no dues necessary)
_____ Sponsored Member. Name of Sponsor _____

2.2 Non-Voting: Basic Dues are \$20.

_____ "Friends of the Pond": For all lovers and users of Parker Pond wishing to help with our conservation and environmental programs.

3) **Contributions** toward a favorite program: We are engaged in a number of activities designed to monitor and protect the quality of the water and integrity of the waterfront that constitutes Parker Pond. Please make a tax- deductible contribution to help us carry out these plans.

Select all you would like to support and enter an amount for each:

_____ General Purpose (for PPA's general treasury) \$ _____
_____ Dam Maintenance and Improvement \$ _____
_____ Invasive Plants Inspection and Patrolling \$ _____
_____ Land Conservation (Waterfront Conservation) \$ _____
_____ Water Quality Monitoring \$ _____

Total Amount of Dues and Contributions \$ _____

4) **Opinions** *use back if necessary*

Please Send to:
Marty Arnold, Membership Chair
c/o Waine Whittier
321 Tower Rd,
Vienna, ME 04360

Rev .08.26.12