Parker Pond Association Newsletter November, 2018

From the North End, Fall, 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a great summer for swimming. Water looked good. Very little Gloeotrichia this season. My last swim in Parker Pond was October 10. Water temperature was 64 degrees.

There is a lot happening on Parker Pond and your Board wants you to be informed. First, I want to update you on last March's purchase of land that abuts the spillway and outlet stream. (For more details on the land purchase see Spring 2018 PPA Newsletter at www.parkerpond.org)

That land affords PPA much improved right of way access to these areas and greatly advances PPA's ability to undertake necessary maintenance and improvements. Dam Committee Chairman, Steve Linder, reports that the Parker Pond dam, spillway, and outlet stream are sound and recent inspections indicate that we are well prepared for another winter and the following spring runoff.

The land acquisition was a major topic at last July's Annual Meeting at the Vienna Grange. The full house unanimously voted to fund raise to retire the outstanding debt incurred with that purchase. Your Board is very grateful for the $37,000 PPA members and friends gave last year and we hope that you can help again to raise $61,000 over the next two years so that we can pay off $41,000 outstanding on the loan and replenish the $20,000 of PPA general funds used to limit our indebtedness.

We're asking you now for a 2-year pledge, half to be given now and the balance next year. This will help us plan and budget for ongoing, essential programs. Please use the enclosed remittance envelope to make your 2-year gift and pledge.

Your gifts will significantly reduce the stress on PPA's budget for funding essential programs, e.g., Invasive Plant Patrol, Water Quality, Courtesy Boat Inspection, 30 Mile River Watershed Association, Youth Conservation Corps, and more. These programs help ensure the excellent water quality at Parker Pond. By paying off our loan now we reduce the expense of debt service and position the Association to be more flexible to responding to pollution threats to the Pond.

Preparing for potential pollution threats is no less important than dam maintenance. Preventing a major problem, e.g., algae blooms, is ecologically smart and significantly less expensive than remediation. Last August, Smithfield's East Pond, just east of Parker Pond was blooming green due to algae. Residents had to raise $600, 000 (plus $500,000 grants) to pay for an Alum treatment to address the algae in their lake.

To help us avoid this, I am pleased to report that 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWa), with the guidance of Lidie Robbins as Executive Director, was awarded just shy of $100,000 in a 2-year Clean Water Act grants to address water threats specifically to Parker Pond. Please read more about this below in the 30MRWA Update.

Our relationship and support of 30 MRWA is crucial to the health of our Pond. We are fortunate to be part of MRWA and owe kudos to Lidie and her team. They provide leadership, grant income, technical assistance, best practices and much more to directly benefit Parker Pond.

Along with treasuring the jewel that Parker Pond is there is the responsibility for stewardship of our lake. The Board and I Thank You for taking on this responsibility. Together we can meet the current and future challenges that Parker Pond will encounter.

Gratefully,

Gerry Tinguely, President

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

Following up on Gerry's comments, 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30 MRWA) and volunteers have continued to monitor water quality in Parker Pond. They monitor twice monthly from mid-May through mid-October to collect transparency and dissolved oxygen readings, as well as various lake water chemistries. In 2018, 30MRWA monitored Parker 11 times. Historically, the average Secchi disk reading, which measures lake clarity, has been 6.9 meters (22.6ft); however, in 2018, the average was a favorable 8.3 meters (27.2 feet). Many variables impact water clarity, from storm water runoff to algal growth.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) readings correlated with water temperatures steadily declined with late summer readings down to a level of 0.1 ppm in the very bottom waters. As the water warms and the lake becomes stratified, the lower water column becomes anoxic (DO less than 1 ppm), which can lead to the release of phosphorus from bottom sediments and ultimately contribute to algal growth. Additionally, cold water fish avoid DO less than 5 ppm.

[Name] taking a Secchi reading

Many of you may have noticed how warm our water remained late into the season. Although this warm water was super for swimming, this trend is a concerning stressor for all lakes. Therefore, anything we can do to keep runoff from entering our lake becomes even more critical. 30MRWA, in concert with the Parker Pond Association, continues to help landowners with shoreline modifications through its Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program, as well as working on our roads with camp road associations and our towns to stop or minimize non-point source pollution into our lakes.

As to what we do to protect our water quality? Keep polluted runoff from getting into the lake by preventing erosion from camp roads, driveways, paths, yards, driplines, and more. Please be vigilant, and if you would like an evaluation of your property or camp road, let us help.

--Deb Cayer

LOON ISLAND CABIN UPDATE

The State Dept of Conservation has agreed to help us repair rotten sills, siding, and porch next summer. We plan to bring materials over this winter with skidoos on the ice. May need volunteers to help with that, as well as next summer with construction and debris removal to dump in Mt. Vernon. Please let Dan Onion know if you might help with any of that.

--Dan Onion

LOON COUNT

	2016	2017	2018
Adults	20	21	16
Chicks	2	2	1

The loon count was July 21st starting at 7:00am and ending at 7:30 am. Nine different groups/people went out on Parker with mostly smooth water conditions on a sunny day to count loons. After looking at the data that was collected it was determined that 16 adult loons were seen and one chick. This is down from past years by a few. It has been reported that there might have been other chicks but only one was seen on this particular morning. Some have also seen close to 20 adults together at one time.

--Addie Michaud

30MRWA UPDATE

$98K Grant Awarded to Protect Parker

We are excited to announce that the 30 Mile River Watershed Association has been awarded a $98,132 grant for Phase II of the Parker Pond Watershed Protection Project. This grant is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA.

This two-year grant will allow us to address water quality threats to Parker Pond, with a major focus on town road projects in Vienna and Chesterville that will vastly improve storm water drainage issues and reduce polluted runoff. Other components of the project include technical assistance to landowners and road associations, YCC projects, and education and outreach programs. The project will begin in January.

Threat of Invasive Plants Grows

This past summer, two invasive aquatic plants – European frogbit and Eurasian water milfoil – were found in Cobbosseecontee Lake, located a very short distance from Parker Pond. As the threat of invasive plants grows, so does the need for our programs that protect our lake. This season, 3OMRWA staff and volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) conducted 429 inspections over 291 hours. Thankfully, no invasive plants were found. This big effort wouldn't be possible without PPA supporting the program with member contributions - $2,500 in 2018. Thank you! And thank you to the volunteers who inspected boats. We are ALWAYS in need of volunteers to help expand our coverage.

Over the summer, 19 Invasive Plant Patrol volunteers (the most ever!) completed surveys of designated areas of the lake, looking for invasive plants. Again, we were fortunate that nothing suspicious was found. This fall, five new volunteers participated in invasive plant patrol training led by Lidie Robbins, 30MRWA Executive Director and PPA board member. Welcome to those volunteers: Alice Adams, Jenny Knust, Steve Linder, Susan Tinguely, and Leo Tsvetkov. If you are interested in volunteering as a courtesy boat inspector or plant patroller next season, please contact Lidie at Lidie@30mileriver.org.

New Invasive Plant Patrol volunteers Susan Tinguely and Steve Linder

Please remember, we always we encourage all boaters to take the time to inspect their boats prior to entering or after leaving a body of water and practice the "clean, drain, dry" method to stop the spread of invasive plants and animals. If you have a rental property and guests will be launching their boats, especially when no boat inspector is there, please inform them of the risks associated with invasive plants and measures they **must** take to protect our lake. If you would like any brochures or signage to post at your camp, please contact Lidie (above).

It's up to ALL of us to work together to protect our lakes and ponds.

--Lidie Robbins

30 Mile River Watershed Association (30mileriver.org) Tele#=207-860-4043

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Current PPA membership comprises 187 individuals in 114 families. Over the last year we attempted to collect valid summer and winter addresses and phone numbers and e-mail addresses for as many members as possible. This information is a good way to "get the word out" quickly. For example, over the summer, emails to our members helped two families on the pond recover boats that had floated away and also enabled us to let you know about upcoming events, such as the From the Top concert and Annual Meeting. Please continue to update your contact information and, if you wish to limit our contacting you for any reason, please let us know and we'll note your preferences. Also, please remember to remit your dues for CY 2019 dues in the enclosed envelope. Thanks!

--Bill Rosenberg

PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO:

- Make your 2018 gift(s)
- Make your 2019 pledge
- Pay your 2019 dues

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