



# PARKER POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

Fall 2007

## SUCCESSFUL DAM REPAIRS MADE!

You can't imagine the pleasure and relief I feel to be able to tell you the dam repair has been completed.



About three years ago Margaret Barrow and I met with the State Dam Inspector, Tony Fletcher, and learned that our dam had some serious shortcomings.

Margaret updated the emergency plan. Two years ago we voted to make repairs. The weather had to be dry, and the lake had to be low. In late September the conditions were perfect for the first time in more than three years.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sid Smith, the contractor, said, "Let's start the dam work on Monday." Margaret and David Barrow finished cutting bushes. Sid picked up a 20' X 15" culvert on Sunday and had it in place by 9:30 Monday morning. We built the gravel ramp to enable the loaded trucks to get on the dam and had the first load of riprap in place by the end of that day. Sid scooped the materials out of the trucks and put it in place with his excavator. The job went perfectly. We made the critical repair on the downstream side where serious erosion and slumping had occurred by packing in nearly a whole load of gravel and a whole load of riprap. What had become the narrowest and most vulnerable part of the dam is now the widest and strong again. The entire lake side of the dam has been ripraped, the top, smoothed, loamed, seeded and mulched. The road stood up very well, and we left it smooth and mulched. The job took three days, required about 100 cubic yards of gravel, 100 cubic yards of riprap

and 12 cubic yards of loam. We paid the contractor \$8,500. We are especially grateful to members who gave additional gifts earmarked for dam repair. I



called Tony Fletcher as soon as the work was done. He came for a look and was very pleased and impressed. He thinks we

should have a gate and won't give our dam an A, but he knows it is much improved and stronger. He gave us an A for cooperation and effort.

If one were to compare the dam repair with home maintenance, I'd say we have replaced a rotten sill, rebuilt the wall above it and shingled the roof. The dam has been spruced up but not significantly altered or rebuilt. The job required permitting from the DEP and the Corps of Engineers. That process was very complicated, frustrating and stressful for me. We got the permits in early August. It would be nice if people needing to fix small dams like ours could talk with people who say, "Hey! So you want to fix your dam! Great! This is what we'll do..." instead of being given something that makes about as much sense and is as unwieldy as a hundred pound anvil. Working with Sid and getting the job done was pure joy. You can view some very nice pictures of the dam online at "ParkerPond.org". If you feel inclined to go have a look, please remember that the loons are courting in May and nesting in June. The dam will be there, but our loon families are hard pressed and stressed at nesting time. Please let them have the space.

Steve Cowperthwaite  
Chair of the Dam Committee  
steveatlake@gwi.net

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Although I was absent from our 2007 Annual Meeting of Saturday, July 14th, you were kind enough to elect me President of the Parker Pond Association, Inc. ("PPA"). Just a reminder to enter into your 2008 calendar our NEXT Annual Meeting: SATURDAY, JULY 26TH, at the MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY CENTER.

I hope all of you had a happy and healthy season, including a spectacular Indian Summer that extended multi-use of the Pond. The PPA Board of Directors had a busy summer-into-fall, and the various Committee Chairs will tell you in their reports about their efforts and results on each aspect.

As I emphasized in my [Vice-] President's Message in our last newsletter, serious attention had to be paid immediately to dam improvement and invasive aquatic plant control. Thanks to the incredible hours devoted by Steve Cowperthwaite and Lidie Whittier Robbins, respectively, tremendous progress was made on these two fronts. On July 14th, we also celebrated the fruition of the Headland Project, with a dedication ceremony described by Bill Rogers, Chair of our Stewardship Committee, in his report.

From my perspective as President:

1) Each Committee Chair has included at the end of his or her report an e-mail address. Please contact the chair(s) of the committee(s) in which you have interest, because they truly need new volunteers, both to help out immediately and to receive and preserve the accumulated wisdom of prior volunteers.

2) Please check to see if you have joined PPA for 2008. We run on a yearly calendar basis, not a seasonal (for example, July to July) basis. Accordingly, the sooner we receive your membership money, the sooner that can be put to work for the betterment of the Pond. And please remember that any additional moneys you contribute are tax deductible under our 501(c)(3) charitable corporation status.

3) Come spring, I intend to meet personally with the Code Enforcement Officer ("CEO") for each town bordering the Pond. My intention is to

establish communication channels regarding the monitoring of shoreland zoning concerns.

4) I also intend to meet with the Road Association ("RA") Presidents/Chairs toward improving our abilities to maintain our camp roads and private boat launches consistent with maintaining water quality and preventing plant (and destructive fish) invasions. With this in mind, I have contact information for the following RA's: Fellows Farm, Diller Line, Bacheller's Mill, Dolloff Woods, Fellows Cove, Foxfire Road, and Kirk Road. I do NOT have such for the RA's of Parker Shores, Quimby Lane or any OTHER RA. If ALL Presidents/Chairs of RA's could send me e-mail addresses, I would appreciate it.

Finally, any lake association is only as good as its members make it. We need your input on what concerns YOU have about Parker Pond so that we can explore and address them. Please contact Morg Henika, our Communications Chair, [Cawbidy@aol.com](mailto:Cawbidy@aol.com), and he will direct your inquiry to the proper Committee Chair.

To paraphrase Garrison Keillor: "Winter well, do good work, and keep in touch."

Jeremiah ("Jerry" among friends) Healy  
[jeremiahealy@earthlink.net](mailto:jeremiahealy@earthlink.net) [note: only one "h" in this address]

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

### *CONSIDER 'FRIENDS' as MEMBERS*

The 2007 association membership activity totaled just over 90 participants. These were not only people with lake property. Thankfully, we are supported by some folks who appreciate the association's existence and our mission to preserve the quality of Parker Pond. The FRIENDS of Parker membership is available for such a purpose. If you know of anyone who frequents the lake with a possible day trip of fishing or a few kayak treks around our islands, and now, hiking, please forward this newsletter and encouraged them to join us. Membership dues and extra contributions help to maintain the financial coverage for such things as boat inspection, dam repair, and communications (a few of our greatest expenses). This year also presented the association members with an opportunity to contribute additional moneys toward targeted maintenance accounts. I'm

pleased to share that about one third of our members also took advantage of our tax deductible status and donated above and beyond basic dues. Most went to General Purpose funds, second was Plant Inspection, and third was Dam Repair. Remember, any property owner can SPONSOR a non-property owner into membership. With more members we have a greater sense of shared ownership and a respectful attitude for keeping Parker Pond a place we all want to be around. Do you happen to know of a neighbor who chooses not to participate in our support? We'd like to know what reasons influence people to withdraw from joining. This information can be mailed to me or shared with any other association officer. How can we increase a shared commitment to this lake if we don't know what the obstacles are? Encourage neighbors to e-mail me at [ddubord@fairpoint.net](mailto:ddubord@fairpoint.net). Make copies of the last page and give them to your neighbors, encouraging them to join and support our efforts!

## WATER QUALITY SUMMARY 2007

Dissolved O<sub>2</sub> readings and H<sub>2</sub>O samples were taken in June and Sept. this season. Secchi readings (clarity) were taken 3 times, with an average reading of 7.32 meters. The 2006 average was 6.3. The Secchi readings need to be done more frequently throughout the early spring, summer and fall to get a true average. The enrichments of lakes with nutrients (phosphorus, sediment and pollutants) is referred to as "cultural eutrophication" (CE). Storm water runoff from disturbed or developed areas of the lake watershed can carry these nutrients considerable distances into the lake. One method of assessing the effects of CE in lakes is to measure the concentration of algae in the water. This is done with the Secchi disk attached to a calibrated line and viewed through a scope. Other ways to measure the phenomenon is to take water samples and measure O<sub>2</sub> loss.

- ❖ As of early September 2007, we have had less, end of the season, O<sub>2</sub> loss, and as of June 2007, less phosphorus in the water column.
- ❖ Last year in early August we had significant O<sub>2</sub> losses in the water column starting at 8 meters. Station 2 was a little better
- ❖ This year in early September the significant O<sub>2</sub> loss started at 10 meters but held up with a 2 reading down to 17 meters,

however anything below 5 will stress cold water fish.

- ❖ Although we do have significant late season oxygen loss, this year was better than the preceding 4 years. We would have to see a trend to be optimistic about this news.

The problem with the dissolved oxygen loss is that it promotes internal phosphorus recycling, which is the migration of the phosphorus from the bottom sediments where it becomes available to algae, and a lake could then have a bloom.

The Gleotrichia (yellow dots in the water) is a phenomenon that is under study by the DEP. There are records from the 1980's of these algae in over 70 Maine lakes. It does not necessarily indicate poor water quality. Roy Bouchard from the DEP is the expert to ask and I will do that this winter. Deb Cayer, Chair [debbiecayer@fairpoint.net](mailto:debbiecayer@fairpoint.net)

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

This year has been busy at the Parker Pond Headland Preserve. A crew from Kents Hill School helped clear brush and blaze the trail in May. Landworks Excavation then built the parking area, moving sixty odd boulders in the process. You can



see them lining the parking area. Kennebec Land Trust formally dedicated the Headland on July 14. Seventy-five people attended the formal dedication and

guided walk around the trail. The trail has been well utilized with over 100 entries in the log and several also coming by kayak. I am pleased to see that all visitors are conscientious stewards with almost no litter or damage occurring on the trail.



With completion of the parking area, the majority of the management plan is complete. We welcome all to come and hike

this pearl on our pond.

Stewardship chair - Bill Rogers [wdrogers@pol.net](mailto:wdrogers@pol.net)

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 30 MILE RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Over the past year, numerous town officials and lake association members in the "30-mile river watershed", from Kimball pond down to the Androscoggin Deadwater, have been working on forming a non-profit corporation to protect the watershed. Vienna's 7-8 year lake warden program was the local model, but the group has sought out other similar organizations in Maine as it has put together its plans. It now has draft bylaws and articles of incorporation and is on target to become incorporated by the first of 2008 and to expand previous years' Vienna lake warden program to other waters in the watershed by next summer. An outline of its overall strategy is below. [Anyone interested in helping or knowing more, can contact Dan Onion, Vienna, 293-2076, email: [dko@dartmouth.edu](mailto:dko@dartmouth.edu)]

#### PURPOSE

To preserve, improve, and protect the land and water quality in the 30 mile river watershed\*.

#### GOALS

- 1) Invasive plant education, interception and detection
- 2) Water quality/safety monitoring
  - a) Point and non-point pollution education, detection and prevention
  - b) Watershed/wetland education and protection
  - c) Shore land zoning education and compliance
- 3) Boat law education and compliance

#### WHAT IT WILL BE

Form a non-profit corporation this fall with elected officers, bylaws, and a board of directors from watershed lake associations, towns and land trusts. Application for 501c3 status would follow incorporation under Maine laws; this would also allow tax-deductible contributions for non-qualified lake associations as well as the possibility of shared services (e.g. newsletters)

#### HOW IT WILL BE FUNDED

By expanding lake association, town, and public commitments, participation, and financial support, as well as grants from government (DEP milfoil, 319 [non-point pollution]), and foundations.

#### NEXT STEPS:

1. Become an incorporated non-profit corporation this fall.
2. Create a seasonal director position to implement the goals of the association; staff with seasonal, towns-appointed lake warden (s) (under state inland harbormaster laws) as well as part-time and volunteer positions.
3. Apply for 501c3 status.

\*The 30 Mile River Watershed includes the towns of Vienna, New Sharon, Mt. Vernon, Fayette, Chesterville, Leeds, Wayne, and Readfield; extant lake associations are: Kimball Pd, Flying Pd, Parker Pd, Echo Lake, Lovejoy Pd, David/Basin/Tilton Pds, Pocasset Lake, and Androscoggin Lake; extant land trusts: Kennebec, Androsoggin and the Kennebec Highlands of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance.

#### Treasurer's report as of October 27, 2007. Parker Pond Association, Inc.

Please think about the Association when you make your year-end contributions. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

We have had major, but anticipated, expenses recently. The dam repair, including permit fee, totals \$8,747 so far and will probably cost a few hundred dollars more. The milfoil program had expenses of \$620 this year. A transfer of \$10,000 was made from the Headland account to the Kennebec Land Trust to help fund the purchase of the property. Thank you to all whom helped make these projects successful.

Account balances as of October 27, 2007:

General account	\$13,851
Headland account	12,039
Invasive plant account	330
<u>Kelly Easement account</u>	<u>1,430</u>
Total	\$27,650

Thank you to all whom made extra contributions to help with special projects, or the general fund. If you would like to designate a

special donation just let us know on your membership form.

Thanks to everyone who helps the Association maintain a strong fiscal position through volunteer services, dues, or special donations.

Waine Whittier, Treasurer [wpwhittier@aol.com](mailto:wpwhittier@aol.com)

### **Invasive Plants Report -10-07**

Thank you to all of this past summer's volunteers who helped to keep Parker Pond free of invasive plants. Twelve volunteer courtesy boat inspectors, stationed at Tower Road's boat launch, looked for plant fragments on boats and trailers and educated the public about the threat of invasive plants. This year's volunteers logged 135 hours, nearly tripling last year's inspection time! Including inspections done by three paid staff, 384 boats were inspected during 234 hours of inspections, primarily during summer weekends. A few plant fragments were found, but none that were invasive types.

Training courses will be posted on the website once they are scheduled. To learn more or to sign up to be a Courtesy Inspector contact Lidie Robbins at [lidierobbins@yahoo.com](mailto:lidierobbins@yahoo.com) or 207-293-2181.

### **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - Saturday, July 14, 2007 , Starling Hall, Fayette, Maine**

The Meeting was called to order by Waine Whittier, Treasurer at 7 PM. Association officers absent from the meeting were president, Dean Wells; vice president, Jeremiah Healy; water quality chair, Deb Cayer; and secretary, Cyndy Hoeh. About 45 people were present. After introductions of all present the meeting continued with votes in favor of accepting the secretary's and treasurer's reports as printed in the recent newsletter.

### **Committee chairs' reports**

Morg Henika – chair of Communications Committee, pointed out that sending the newsletter via e-

mail would save a good deal in printing and mailing costs. He encouraged all those present to submit e-mail addresses. Parker Pond now has a website managed by a volunteer web master. Water quality is a common theme on the website which can be found at "ParkerPond.org". Morg reported that the state has recently passed legislation to eliminate phosphorous from fertilizer and detergents in the interest of reducing damage to the state's water bodies.

Steve Cowperthwaite – chair of the Dam Committee, is waiting for a response from the DEP after his lengthy and involved application was submitted to maintain the dam. The dam suffered no erosion in the April storms and is essentially strong.

Marty Arnold – chair of the Lake Usage Committee asked for suggestions from the membership to help shape the duties of his committee. Originally it was thought this committee would offer short workshops on fly fishing or boating, but to date there has been no interest shown. His committee does manage the Audubon loon count on Parker which will be held July 21. Camp Bearstow is offering a breakfast after the loon count. Marty brought up the need for the road associations to talk to each other and to the PPA as we all have common interests in water quality and other topics such as invasive plants that might enter the lake through private boat launches.

Deborah Dubord – chair of Membership Committee reports that we currently have 73 paid memberships, 25 of whom have made contributions greater than the \$20 annual dues. On average we have 130 active members annually. She expects the other members will contact her by the end of the year. Memberships are on a calendar year basis and must be paid before the member can vote.

Bill Rogers – chair of Stewardship Committee reports that the tasks set out in the management plan for the Parker Pond Headland Preserve are nearly all complete. The parking lot is finished. Approximately 75 people came to the dedication of the trail this morning. Interestingly, the Land for Maine's Future Director was there and he said it was among the few times he has been to a dedication of one of the properties his organization sponsors. The trail was completed in October and is in use. Kents Hill students worked on their community day to blaze the trail with white paint.

Currently the trail is hard to find from the water access point, there is a plan to make it more visible.

Lidie Robbins – chair of Invasive Plant Committee showed two slides of invasive milfoil. There currently is not a known infestation in Parker Pond. Nearby Messalonskee Lake has a serious infestation and one of their boat launches will be closed shortly. Catching fragments or infestations early can result in successfully keeping Parker safe. More boat launch volunteer inspectors are needed. So far there have been 104 hours of inspections. Fifty three motorized boats and 95 non-motorized boats have been inspected. Any questionable fragments are sent for DNA analysis. There was a long discussion of the need to inspect fishing boats early in the season and early in the a. m. Matt Moore, Lake Warden reports seeing a lot of out of state boats. He inspected several kayaks brought by a camp in Scarborough. One boat had a plant fragment that he sent for analysis, though he does not believe it is milfoil.

### **Honorary Memberships**

The Board of Directors nominated Sarah (Sally) Kelly and Kingsley Kelly for honorary memberships in the Association. Each had ownership rights on Parker's eastern shore. Each also sacrificed the fair-market value of those rights by granting a conservation easement to the Parker Pond Association in 2005 protecting a significant portion of that property as undeveloped wilderness in perpetuity. The motion passed unanimously. Sarah and Kingsley gratefully accepted a plaque and stated how much the lake means to them.

### **New business**

Dan Onion presented his concept of the 30 Mile Watershed Association. His idea is that the new association would be a resource for area lake associations and towns of Vienna, New Sharon, Mt. Vernon, Fayette, Chesterville, Leeds, Wayne and Readfield. The focus would be on water quality in the whole watershed and provide a coordinating function among the stakeholders. Two towns have already made substantial allocations of money. Dan and his group are working on 501c3 application. The membership, with a non-binding show of hands, supports the board in having further discussion of cooperation with the watershed group.

### **Election of new officers**

Marty presented the slate of officers candidates for 2007-2008

President – Jeremiah Healy

VP – Dan Onion

Treasurer - Waine Whittier

Secretary – Cyndy Hoeh

Lake Usage – Marty Arnold

Communications – Morg Henika

Membership – Deborah Dubord

Dam – Steve Cowperthwaite

Invasive Plants – Lidie Robbins

Stewardship – Bill Rogers

Water Quality – Deb Cayer

The slate was unanimously approved by the membership in a voice vote.

The 2008 annual meeting will be held on July 26.

Those present indicated a preference for locating it in Mt Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Chadwick, Acting Secretary

**Happy Holidays!**

Parker Pond Association, Inc.

Membership Form

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

\*Note, because of our 501.c(3) tax status, all dues and contributions are deductible under federal (and most states) tax laws.

A) Voting Membership: Basic Dues are \$20. (Dues are for a calendar year.) Please enter year:

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

B) Non-Voting: Basic Dues are \$20.
"Friends of the Pond": For all other lovers and users of Parker Pond wishing to help with our conservation and environmental programs.

C) 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.

General Purpose (for PPA's general treasury)
Dam Maintenance and Improvement
Invasive Plants Inspection and Patrolling
Land Conservation (Waterfront Conservation)

D) Total Amount (Dues plus Contribution)

E) Name:

Reg. Mailing Address:

Summer Address:

Reg Tele: Summer Tele:

E-Mail Address:

F) Proxy for Annual Meeting given to:

G) Instructions and opinions:

Please mail this form prior, or bring, to the Annual Meeting, with check for Total Amount, payable to "Parker Pond Association, Inc.". Send to:

Deborah Dubord, Membership Chair
2 Fellows Farm Rd.
Fayette, ME 04349



## **Parker Pond Association**

**#2 Fellows Farm Road**

**Fayette, ME 04349**