



# PARKER POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

June 2007

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, July 14, 2007

**New Location- Starling Hall, Fayette, Rte**

**17**

Potluck Supper-5:30 Meeting- 7:00pm

[Call Jean St.Clair for what to bring- 293-4767]

## **[VICE-]PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As most of you probably know, the current president of the Parker Pond Association, Inc. ("PPA") is Dean Wells. Under the Bylaws all of us as members approved in August, 2005, whenever our president is temporarily absent, the current vice-president (in other words, me) assumes his or her duties. This issue of our Newsletter had to be mailed before Dean's return, and so I'm writing in his stead.

At our 2006 Annual Meeting, the members voted to move 2007's edition UP to SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2007. A great idea in many ways, but, as a result, at least three members of the Board of Directors-including yours truly--can NOT attend due to long-standing commitments that create unavoidable scheduling conflicts.

The good news?: Thanks to those same By-laws of 2005, the Board has established committee chairs dealing with major issues facing the pond such as maintenance and improvement of the dam, invasive plants inspection and patrolling, land conservation, etc. The Board also has "deputized" very capable people to both run the July 14th meeting and present reports to the members in attendance. As you'll see when you read the rest of this newsletter, we've changed the Membership Form so that it more closely and clearly parallels the eligibility requirements in our new By-laws. As you'll also notice, in addition to your annual dues of \$20.00 for membership in PPA, the Board is asking that you make voluntary

[tax-deductible] contributions beyond that so the important new tasks the By-laws authorize can be properly funded and performed to benefit the pond and our mutual enjoyment of it. Truly, think how different--and not for the better--Parker would look WITHOUT the dam to maintain water levels, particularly in our shallower sections; WITH invasive, ruinous plants like EurAsian milfoil choking our shoreline (as is plaguing close neighbor Messalonskee now); and WITH new camps being constructed on individual lots all over the Headland.

The Board also asks that you strongly consider volunteering for one or more of the committees at the July 14th meeting. It is critical that we receive not just financial but also personal participation by other members so that more of us learn how to protect Parker Pond for the future. We have an administrative handbook, describing each committee's mission and functioning, to help you in helping PPA.

Finally, within the Annual Meeting agenda, you'll find the Nominating Committee's recommendations for next year's officers, including me for president. I hope you won't treat my own absence on July 14th as evidence that I would not serve PPA well, and I look forward to hearing from as many of you as would like to reply.

Best wishes for a happy summer-into-fall on the pond, -- Jeremiah ("Jerry" among friends) Healy-- jeremiahealy@earthlink.net [note: only one "h" in this address]

## **Dam Report July, 2007**

We had very high water during the April flood. The water level got to within two feet of the crest of the dam, but there was still plenty of spillway. In this post Katrina world, one must be cautious about making statements, but I think

it's fair and reasonable to say our dam performed well. Still, the dam needs some attention to keep it performing well. We have not been able to do the dam repair and maintenance we had planned. The lake has been much too high to allow the work. Had the lake been low, we would not have been able to do it because we have had to go through the full permitting process with the Maine DEP and are awaiting approval of the plan by the DEP and the Corps of Engineers. Our project is small, but the repair on the downstream side of the dam will increase the footprint of the dam by about 25 square feet in the opinion of a DEP field inspector. He also questioned the need for rip-rap the State Dam Inspector of MEMA urged us to install. It has not been easy dealing with two cross-threaded State of Maine bureaucracies. I struggled with the DEP application for months. The final document is 48 pages of pure tedium that a few people will peruse. We hope the permit will be granted by September.

Our dam impounds the top five or six feet of water in Parker Pond. Without the dam, the lake would return to its natural level. If you love the Lake as it is, you should love the dam. Times have changed greatly since our predecessors hired Wallace French to dig gravel out of a bank with his bulldozer and construct the earthen-dike dam we have today. They could go to the dam with their picks and shovels when repair was needed, work hard, eat a good supper and know they had accomplished something. I envy them. With all the time spent on the DEP application, I must report that not "a lick o' work" has been completed on the dam except for cutting a few bushes. Dam work also promises to be more costly than in the good old days. Contributions to help fund the repair would be greatly appreciated.

Steve Cowperthwaite, Chair

### **Water Quality Report**

The tiny plants (algae) and animals (zooplankton) that are suspended in lake water influence transparency and thus clarity of the lake. These organisms have growth cycles which are seasonal and annual.

Secchi transparency is often at a low point in early spring when the lakes turn over, causing nutrient and sediments from the lake bottom to

become suspended in the water for a period of time. Silica which is swept up from the lake bottom sediments stimulates growth of diatoms, a type of algae that experience peak growth in the spring and fall.

Transparency is influenced throughout the season by the concentration of phosphorus in the water (which stimulates the growth of algae), the shape and depth of the basin, the orientation of the basin to prevailing winds and the weather.

A number of Secchi disk transparency (SDT) readings are needed over a period of years to determine trends in water quality with confidence. **Parker has an average SDT of 7.1 meters.** The state average is 5-5.5 meters. This is good but it is not the whole story.

Ray Anderson has for many years, almost three decades, monitored our Secchi disk transparency. He moved off the lake this past year and we are sad to see him go. Many thanks Ray for your devotion to the lake. Bill Rogers, the chair of the stewardship committee, has volunteered to take over monitoring Secchi disk.

Another critical indicator of the health of a body of water is the concentration of oxygen which is dissolved (DO) in the water. An adequate supply of DO in lake water is essential to fish and other aquatic life. DO is a sensitive indicator of changes in water quality and its ability to support life. The gradual loss of DO in the deep areas of the lake may indicate that the ecosystem is out of balance and unstable. Over the past several years Parker has seen late season drops in dissolved oxygen moving up the water column from year to year. For example in **August of 2001 the DO at 9 meters was 8.3 in 2003 it was 6.7 and last season in August 2006 it was 2.9. The Temperature at this level was very much the same at 15 degrees Celsius which translates to 59 degrees Fahrenheit. The station that we test is 20-21 meters deep. So what accounts for this drop? The answer is mostly PHOSPHORUS.**

As a lake becomes more loaded with phosphorus it becomes more productive, usually in the form of algal blooms. More productive lakes produce more algae which when they die and settle out, support denser populations of bacteria, and hence consume more oxygen. If the lake then develops internal recycling, more algae leads to less dissolved oxygen in the

bottom waters due to decomposition by bacteria, which leads to more phosphorus exported from the sediments into the water, which leads to more algae. This is a vicious cycle and one we do not want to experience on Parker. Our average total phosphorus is 8 parts per billion. We cannot allow any more phosphorus loading into the lake. **This means no runoff from your drive or boat launch. No soap, no fertilizer, no neighbor breaking the shore land rules!** Talk to your neighbors; get them to join the association and report infractions to the code enforcement officer in your town. We cannot be complacent any longer. Becoming educated on the practices that cause phosphorus loading into our water bodies and being aware of the importance of shorefront buffers is everyone's responsibility. Together we can preserve the ponds we love for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Deb Cayer, Chair

[Ed.note-go to the website-parkerpond.org -and click on the DEP link in the heading for more about what you can do.]

### **The Lake Needs to Talk to The Roads**

Phosphorus, symbol "P", is a nonmetallic element. It is essential to both plant and animal life.

Found more commonly in nature as phosphate, it can be relatively abundant in gravel, soil and plants. Farmers and gardeners use phosphate as a component of fertilizer to enhance plant growth. Plants, while growing, take up phosphate as a nutrient and, when they die, return the compound to the soil in the decaying organic material.

A similar process occurs when rain washes this nutrient into a lake or stream. Water plants (algae is a plant) grow and multiply faster as a function of increased phosphate loading. When they (algae) die, the phosphate rich plant settles to the bottom of the lake ready to release its phosphorus for reuse by living plants. Thus begins a cycle of algal bloom, repeated yearly, making swimming and water use an unpleasant and, perhaps, unhealthy activity.

This is a condition your lake association is trying to avoid. So, we support a Water Quality Committee to monitor various parameters, checking to see if too much phosphorus is

getting into the pond. Of course, the problem is, once we have too much we may not be able to get rid of it. Hence, keep it out of the pond in the first place!

A major vehicle for introducing phosphorus into the lake is water runoff along camp roads. To help us get a handle on this problem, the Parker Pond Association is looking to meet with representatives of our many road associations. Once we have a listing of the organizations and their representative(s) we will attempt to exchange information regarding road construction, waterfront planting, runoff, etc. Another use of such meetings could help us identify the location of private boat launches and to understand what, if any, controls are applied to prevent the infestation of invasive plants by boats and trailers entering Parker Pond from these sites. Currently, the PPA provides for some "Courtesy Boat Inspections" at the public launch and, when unattended, has posted information on offending plants for all boaters to read. Jeremiah Healy, Vice President of the PPA, requests that road association representatives contact him at [jeremiahealy@earthlink.net](mailto:jeremiahealy@earthlink.net), or at camp (Foxfire Road Association): 207-293-2660. Marty Arnold

### **From the Stewardship Chair-**

The management plan for the Parker Pond Headland continues to move slowly toward completion. The trail was completed in October 2006. Ten students from Kents Hill School again came out for their spring community day and helped blaze the trail with white blazes and cleaned out the brush in the parking area in anticipation of its construction this summer. I am still awaiting bids for the construction but hope to finalize this soon. Kennebec Land Trust is finalizing the brochure for the property, which will be in the sign-in box on site. I am hoping to have the kiosk constructed this fall to complete the management plan. I welcome all to come out and hike the trail – it is currently marked by white blazes on the trees as well as the remnants of the orange surveyor's tape.

Kennebec Land Trust is planning a formal dedication of the Parker Pond Headland on Saturday July 14 at 10 AM with a hike to follow. All are invited to attend the dedication and guided hike that follows.

Tom Mikewich from Kennebec Land Trust has been doing a birding survey of Parker Pond Headland this spring. I have listed his sightings from three visits here:

Osprey	Scarlet Tanager
Hairy Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler
Mourning Dove	Great-crested Woodpecker
American Goldfinch	BlueJay
Pileated Woodpecker	Wild Turkey
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Hermit Thrush
Black and White Warbler	Turkey Vulture
American Crow	Black throated Green Warbler
Veery	Red-eyed Vireo
Pine Warbler	Wood Thrush
Philadelphia Vireo	Chesnut-sided Warbler
Wood Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Winter Wren
Black-capped Chickadee	Ovenbird
Common Loon	American Robin
Blackburnian Warbler	Song Sparrow
Tree Swallow	White-breasted Nuthatch
Tufted Titmouse	Herring Gull
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Northern Flicker	

To that list, one can add Bald Eagle and Baltimore Oriole from local residents near the headland.

So come hike the trail and keep an eye out for a warbler or two!

Bill Rogers

### **Help Keep Parker Pond Free of Invasive Plants**

One of the biggest threats to Parker Pond continues to be the introduction of invasive plants, and we need your help. As of May 2007, 29 Maine water bodies are known to have invasive aquatic plants. Most of those infestations are Variable-Leaf Water Milfoil, but Maine also has Hydrilla, Curly-Leaved Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil. In 2006, six water bodies were added to that list. The good news is that Parker Pond is not on the list. The bad news is that nearby Messalonskee Lake has a severe infestation of milfoil. All it takes is one small plant fragment to start an invasion and Parker Pond would make the list.

What could the invasion of one of these species mean for Parker Pond? Blanketed and choked surface waters, difficult or impossible swimming and boating, harm to native plant and animal species, and lowered property values. Once these plants are well established, they are virtually impossible to remove.

When a boat leaves the water, plant parts easily cling to motors, trailers, anchors, bait and tackle gear, ladders, and other parts where they may go unnoticed and then be deposited at the next boat ramp. Even dry parts of some plants have been known to re-hydrate and infect a lake. One way to keep plants from spreading is to inspect boats and trailers before they enter and after they exit the water. Here on Parker Pond we participate in Maine's Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) Program. A small crew of paid and volunteer inspectors staff the Tower Road boat launch, talking with boaters and getting their permission to inspect their boats and trailers for aquatic plants. Through education, we hope that one day everyone will be aware of these threats and will routinely inspect their own boats to catch hitchhiking plants.

This year we have expanded our coverage at the boat launch, but it is more limited than it needs to be. Join this summer's volunteer force to help protect our lake. Volunteers attend a one-hour training, then volunteer as much as they are able. We will schedule a July training session as volunteers sign up. If you cannot volunteer your time, we would appreciate a donation to help increase our paid staff time.

Additionally, if you are interested in plant identification or participating in the patrolling program that focuses on early detection of invasives, you can attend the Introductory Invasive Plant Patrol workshop, July 3rd at the Fayette Central School.

To volunteer or for more information about workshops, please contact Lidie Robbins at lidiew@hotmail.com or 293-2181. To make a donation, see the membership form in this newsletter. To learn more about Maine's Courtesy Boat Inspector program, visit [www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org](http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org). Lidie Robbins, Chair of Invasive Plant Committee

**Parker Pond Association, Inc.**

Treasurer’s report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006.

We have added a fourth account, the Invasive Plant Account, to our list of a general account, the Headland account, and the Kelly Easement account.

The general account revenues totaled \$3,158 with \$2,060 from dues, \$425 from general contributions, and \$673 from interest. Expenses were \$2,418 with \$42 for water quality, \$837 for insurance, \$540 for the dam, and \$999 for general operations. The general account year-end balance was \$19,285. As discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, work on the dam will probably consume \$7,000 to \$10,000 of this balance.

The Headland account received \$10,918 in donations and had donor recognition expenses of \$352 leaving us with a year end balance of \$19,764. By the time you read this, we should have transferred \$10,000 of this to the Kennebec Land Trust as another installment on our pledge to help with the purchase of the property. We plan to maintain a balance of about \$9 to \$10 thousand for stewardship.

The Kelly Easement account had legal and administrative fees of \$1,529 leaving a year-end balance of \$1,471. This will be used for stewardship.

The new Invasive Plant Account received donations of \$1,000 and provided \$600 of support to the Vienna Lake Warden, leaving a balance of \$400.

If you would like to designate a special donation to one of these accounts, or the dam, there is a space on this year’s membership form for you to so specify. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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

Waine Whittier, Treasurer

PARKER POND ASSOCIATION  
2006 ANNUAL MEETING  
MINUTES

August 4, 2006

Mount Vernon Community Center  
Meeting Convened 7:05 p.m. Approximately 45 in attendance. President Dean Wells made welcoming remarks.

OLD BUSINESS

Secretary's Report - Cyndy Hoeh

Cyndy summarized the minutes from last year’s annual meeting. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report - Waine Whittier

Waine did not review the 2005 report, but noted that revenues exceed expenses by \$300 or so, and that overall we are \$2,900 ahead of year-end position. Year-to-date 81 members are counted, with 10 or 12 sponsored members, a category new to this year. Membership is ahead of previous years.

It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report - Dean Wells

Dean reported that the Board held 6 meetings in the past year, which exceeds previous years. The new By-Laws are working well, and job descriptions are being compiled. The Kelly easement donation was recognized, with the Kellys also expressing their satisfaction with the results. so far. Steve Cowperthwaite's assiduous and dogged efforts to address dam repairs and the attendant bureaucratic entanglements were recognized; Bill Rogers was recognized for his stewardship-related work on the Kelly easement; Keith McKinley was lauded for his web-site design and patience; Morg Henika was also noted for his work on the website effort.

Vice President's Report - Jerry Healy

Jerry noted that it is the V.P.'s responsibility to come up with a 1-year plan for the PPA. He is working now on the administrative handbook.

Membership - Chair not present.

In lieu of a report the President asked all new people present to stand and introduce themselves, which several people did.

### Communications - Morg Henika

Morg described the contents, purpose, and potential of the website, soliciting any relevant material that members would like to contribute. He reported that the newsletter was mailed to 290 households.

### Dam Committee - Steve Cowperthwaite

Steve briefly described his interaction with various inspectors and bureaucrats from a number of agencies, the scope of the likely necessary repairs, as well as some of the problematic issues. He reported that it appeared there might be up to \$7,000 of necessary repairs this year.

### Invasive Plants - Jerry Hartz

Inspection of the lake for invasive plants is slated for completion by August 18. In 2005, nothing was found in the lake or in nearby lakes. Jerry noted that we get funding from the sticker program. Margaret Barrow reported that the invasive plant identification training is much better now than it was when she first took it, and she urged others to give it a try.

### Lake Usage - Marty Arnold

Marty explained that Lake Usage is a new committee intended to address issues of resource utilization, which is not defined yet. Examples of activities potentially addressed by the committee might be fly fishing lessons, boating lessons, a fishery advisory committee, birding, wildlife, loon count. He noted uncertainty about the demand for such a committee and urged participation. The loon count this year was undertaken from 7 to 7:30 on July 7 and counted 24 adults and 2 chicks. A dead chick was reported to Marty and he urged anyone who finds a dead bird to get the remains to him so he can turn them in to the state lab for cause of death determination.

### Stewardship Committee - Bill Rogers

Bill gave a power point presentation identifying the 8,000 feet of shorefront and 150 acres of land currently protected from development through conservation easements. The Headland management plan has been approved by the Land For Maine's Future Board and by Kennebec Land Trust. The trail has been laid out and is 1 1/2 miles long. Parking lot has 4 spaces.

Volunteers will be needed in October for trail construction to shorten the work of Maine Conservation Corps. This will probably take place Columbus Day weekend.

### Water Quality - Deb Cayer

Deb reported that it has been a hard season to get out for one reason and another. She identified the tapioca-like algae as cleotriccia and noted that it is harmless and not a water quality indicator. A member noted having seen a long article about the organism in the Belgrade Lakes newspaper.

### Lake Warden - Matt Moore

Matt first pointed out that people should be very careful about concluding that loon eggs have been abandoned, as there is great danger of actually stealing a live and thriving egg which has only temporarily been left by the parent. He then said he had not been able to spend as much time on Parker Pond as he wanted but expects to next year. He has had trouble finding courtesy boat inspectors. Only 4 have volunteered. He has an assistant and his wife helping. This year on Parker he has inspected 17 motorized boats, 135 non-motorized boats in 74.5 hours. Of those hours, 45.5 are paid and 29 volunteer. There were 21 inspection days.

### LAKE-SMART PROGRAM - Presentation by Christine Smith

A guest presentation was made by Christine Smith of the DEP. She explained that the purpose of this educational program is to change the social norms surrounding lakeside property to support environmentally sound development and maintenance practices, and elevate the value of environmental sensitivity and responsibility. The program awards property owners who "do the right thing" with recognition. For details on the program, contact [mainedep.com](http://mainedep.com).

### New Business

Issues from the Floor - There was a question as to whether we need a 2/3 majority to vote at the meeting. Jerry Healy delivered the "no" verdict.

Honorary Membership Nominations- Under the terms of the new By-Laws, individuals may be granted honorary membership, whereby they are given voting privileges without having to pay

dues. Anthony Diller and Erica Karp, Josh Karp and Evan Karp were all nominated in light of the Headland property deal. It was voted unanimously to grant these memberships, whereupon plaques and artwork were presented to Erica.

Service Membership Nominations - Under the terms of the new By-Laws, individuals may be granted service membership, in which they have voting rights but do pay dues. William Dunham for his stellar contributions to the Headland fundraising campaign as well as other service, and Cynthia Hoeh for her years of involvement with the Board were nominated for this membership. The motion to grant these memberships passed unanimously.

New Issue - A member suggested that people with rental properties please inform their renters not to bathe in the lake, as this activity has been observed recently and frequently by some.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS –

The slate of officers offered by the nominating committee was accepted in a unanimous vote, as follows: President, Dean Wells; Vice President, Jeremiah Healy; Secretary, Cynthia Hoeh; Treasurer, Wayne Whittier; Chair of Lake Usage, Marty Arnold; Communications Chair, Morg Henika; Dam Chair, Steve Cowperthwaite; Invasive Plants Chair, Jerry Hartz; Membership Chair, Deborah Dubord; Stewardship Chair, Bill Rogers; Water Quality Chair, Deb Cayer.

#### NEXT YEAR'S MEETING –

The subject of selecting an earlier date for next year's meeting was discussed at length. A motion was made to hold it July 14, and in discussion an amendment was proposed to make it June 30, but the motion failed on a 14 to 17 vote. A survey revealed 24 favored June 30, 32 favored July 14, and 18 favored July 7. The motion to hold the 2007 annual meeting of Parker Pond Association on Saturday July 14 ultimately passed 30 to 4. The meeting adjourned at ???Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Hoeh, Sept. 1, 2006.

#### **Slate of Officers to be elected @ the 2007 Annual Meeting :**

President - Jeremiah Healy  
Vice President – open  
Treasurer – Wayne Whittier

Secretary - Cyndy Hoeh Stancioff  
Lake Usage Chair - Marty Arnold  
Communications Chair - Morg Henika  
Membership Chair - Deborah Dubord  
Dam Chair - Steve Cowperthwaite  
Invasive Plants Chair - Lidie Whittier Robbins  
Stewardship Chair - Bill Rogers  
Water Quality Chair - Deb Cayer  
Recommendations for Vice President will be presented by the nominating committee at the Annual meeting. Nominations for any of these positions will also be taken from the floor.

Editors' Note: This year the board has had a few discussions about membership in PPA for interested parties in our "watershed". There were as many opinions about the limits of our watershed as Board members. I believe the intent was that it is the area surrounding Parker Pond which drains directly into Parker Pond. Here is an historical rendition of a more general description:

**Thirty Mile River** - Watersheds meet, join and become part of a larger watershed. Parker Pond is one of a chain of lakes and streams making up a watershed that is part of the Androscoggin River watershed. The Winthrop Lakes, Belgrade Lakes, Norcross Stream and tributaries of the Sandy, are part of the Kennebec River watershed. The Kennebec and Androscoggin join at Merry-meeting Bay. Today the outlet of Merry-meeting Bay is called the Kennebec, but native people, explorers and early settlers called it the Sagadahoc. (The Popham Colony was on the Sagadahoc, and that is why the ship they built during their stay and launched in 1607 was named *Virginia of Sagadahoc*.) We could argue with historical accuracy that we were part of the Sagadahoc watershed. The traditional name for our smaller watershed and the chain of lakes beginning near Kimball Pond and ending with the Dead River flowing into the Androscoggin is Thirty Mile River. There is a story behind the name "Thirty Mile River" It goes back to the time when a crew came looking at the timber (probably mast trees) ...possibly as early as the 1760's, well

before the Revolution. There are different versions of the story. One is that the distance from just above Kimball Pond to the Androscoggin is about 30 miles. Another, that at some point the timber cruisers estimated they were 30 miles from the Great Falls of the Androscoggin (Lewiston). The leader of the crew was named Bowen. He climbed a hill to have a better look at the forest and land around him. You can see that hill if you look upstream over Taylor Pond at the Chimney in West Mt. Vernon. It has been called Bowen Hill to this day.

Some of Helen Cushman's best stories were about the ghosts that haunted Thirty Mile River. She called herself the Green Witch. She was not green.

Steve Cowperthwaite