



Parker Pond Association Newsletter

Parker Pond Association Annual Meeting

Upcoming Dates

June 26th	Boat Launch at Quimby Lane
June 26th	Plant Paddle
July 6th	Annual Parker Pond Association Meeting
July 7th	Concert
July 20th (rain date: 21st)	Parker Pond Celebration Days

We hope that you will be able to join us for the PPA Annual Meeting. We'll get together with old friends and new at **5 pm for a potluck dinner. The meeting will begin at 5:30** with reports from your PPA board of Directors and committee chairs as to what we have been working on and what is in the works. Also on the agenda will be the elections of officers. This is your opportunity to share your thoughts regarding the stewardship of Parker Pond. Your input is important to us as we continue to strive to maintain the quality of the pond that we know and love, ensuring the opportunities for wonderful memories for future generations. After the more formal, structured portion of the meeting is concluded we will break out into smaller groups to offer the opportunity for more detailed discussions on the various committee topics, along with general socializing with your Parker Pond neighbors.

Please note that the **wonderful concert** offered by Jerry Slavic and his most remarkable teenage musicians, will be held on **Sunday, July 7th at 7pm** this year.

Sincerely,
Karen Swan, President

Membership News

Hey! We had a very good response to the earlier newsletter mailing. Our membership level is already above last year's final number. (I can only guess that it was a heck of a "cabin fever" winter, where prevailing logic was... "the sooner I pay my Parker Pond membership dues the sooner summer will come"..... *the key word being "sooner".*)

Total membership is the sum of member renewals (re-ups) + new members - lost members, and it means a great deal to us if we lose members for reasons other than relocation. We, all the volunteers, look for your input and approval. PPA is, after all, your organization and we want to steer it correctly.

Congratulations and thanks to those of you who have contributed to our various programs. These earmarked funds allow us to do a better job maintaining the dam, inspecting boats, training volunteers for invasive plant patrols, supporting environmental studies and organizations, testing our water, etc. We get a lot of bang from your bucks.

Parker Pond Association continuously strives to grow our membership base, so I encourage you to speak to friends and neighbors regarding joining us. For **only \$20**, each of us is investing in maintaining and restoring the health and beauty of Parker Pond. In a rather large way, **your dues and contributions help to insure your spiritual and economic long term investment.**

Marty Arnold, Membership Chair

Parker Pond Celebration Days!

Free T-Shirts! Fish! Bugs! Home Made Ice Cream! Bike Ride! Stories! History! Poems!

Individuals and families are invited to *Celebrate Our Pond*

July 20 (rain date July 21.)

All events are free and suitable for all ages. Children under 15 will need an accompanying adult.

9:00am -10:30am (meet at the Tower Rd. boat launch)

- Mountain bike ride or walk with your Parker Pond Neighbors on Ithiel Gordon Road - Deb Cayer

1:00pm-3:30pm on Loon Island (North End of Island)

- T-Shirt Painting (first 20 who sign up) – Judy Schneider
- Fishing with Little Ones – Karen Swan
- Bugs and Other Critters - surprise
- Watershed Experiment – Deb Dubord
- Stories, History & Poems -Steve Cowperthwaite

3:00pm-3:30pm Closing Event on Loon Island

- Homemade Ice Cream – Maggie Chadwick
- The Parker Pond POI Game – all of us together.

<p>If you plan to attend please email:</p> <p>parkerpondme@yahoo.com</p> <p>Name(s): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>email: _____</p> <p>() Bike Ride/Walk # adults # and ages of children</p> <p>() Loon Island # adults # and ages of children</p>
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Possible Future Change to Bylaws

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. The officers are considering proposing a change to the bylaws so that every member has a vote. The two classes would become regular members and honorary members.

The primary reason for offering open membership is to encourage those who use and love the pond, but don't own property on it, to become members and to help protect and preserve the pond. 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. In the past, concerns were expressed that open membership might lead to a special interest group taking over the Association and forcing it to take actions contrary to the desires of the traditional members. Your officers do not believe that this is a real threat and think that the benefits of increased membership far outweigh that risk.

We will discuss this at the annual meeting and welcome your input. If you cannot attend the annual meeting, please email your comments to Parkerpondme@yahoo.com.

Youth Conservation Corps Offers FREE Services for Parker Pond Landowners

To identify sources of erosion and runoff that are or could be threatening Parker Pond's water quality, the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA), with the support of its partners, conducted a watershed survey in 2011. To fix some of these 46 identified erosion sites, 30MRWA secured a grant of over \$62,000 to help fund the **Parker Pond Watershed Protection Project**. * Through the fall of 2014, 30MRWA will be working with landowners, towns, and road associations to decrease polluted runoff coming from roads, driveways, paths, and residential areas.

One of the services available to landowners is 30MRWA's **Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)**. YCC works with homeowners to decrease erosion and filter stormwater carrying phosphorous on their properties. Due to grant funding, town and lake association support, and donations from individuals, all technical assistance and project labor are **FREE** for landowners; the landowner pays only for materials.

YCC is looking for projects on Parker this summer, particularly those that were identified as erosion sites during the Watershed Survey. You may want to take advantage of the YCC if:



- Your yard is mostly grass or has areas of bare soil.
- Your shoreline is eroding (you notice loss of soil, undercutting, or exposed roots).
- Your driveway or path slopes toward the lake.
- You have soil displacement under roof driplines.
- You want to know what you can do to protect Parker Pond.

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.*

Smelt Habitat Improvement

Many have volunteered to help the Dept. of Inland Fish and Wildlife improve Parker's smelt population and thereby its ability to support the landlocked salmon fishery. Two department biologists spoke to the PPA executive and lake usage committees earlier this month about the project. They are making plans to enhance King (or Cranberry) brook at the south end of the lake and reported an especially good spawning run this year. They anticipate temporarily decreasing the minimum length on salmon and perhaps increasing traps/fisherman allowed for ice fishing in order to decrease the number of fish, therefore allowing the survivors to grow bigger. They may also go to alternate year salmon stocking and/or decrease the stocking rate to also decrease the number of fish feeding on the smelt. These changes occurred inadvertently in 2005 and resulted in a dramatic increase in size of salmon caught from 14.5 in to 18 in over two years. The department will return to our committee with a plan in June that involves our help.

Please Join Us!

If you are not already a member, please consider becoming a member of the Parker Pond Association and supporting the many programs that protect the water quality and integrity of our beautiful lake. We need your financial support to continue the work. Return the enclosed Donation/Membership form with your donation today!

Thank you again to the many people who volunteer time in support of the Parker Pond Association. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



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

Help Us Communicate!

Share Your Email Address

To help us better communicate with you about all of the wonderful activities, events and resources we have to offer on Parker Pond, we are asking people to please share their **email addresses** with us. 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!

Help Protect Parker Pond from Invasive Plants

With invasive aquatic plants infesting more and more waters in the Belgrade Lakes, and more people coming from other lakes to launch their boats in Parker, the threat from these invaders grows every year. To keep Parker free of invasives like Variable Milfoil and Hydrilla so that we can continue to swim, fish, boat and protect the natural ecosystem, we need more people to join the fight. There are several ways you can get involved:

(1) **Learn to recognize what belongs** here and what doesn't. You're invited to come get your fingers wet at a **"Plant Paddle"** on **June 26**, from 9:00-12:00 at Camp Bearnstow on Parker Pond, off the Ithiel Gordon Road. The workshop will consist of two parts: a land-based introduction to aquatic plants, both native and invasive, and an on-the-water paddle to examine what's growing in the lake. The free workshop will be led by Lidie Robbins, Parker Pond Board member and Executive Director of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association.

(2) **Become a courtesy boat inspector.** Volunteer a few hours of your time to check boats for hitchhiking plants and educate boaters about how they can take responsibility for protecting the lake.

(3) **Join our invasive plant patrol team** to survey the lake for invaders. We have trained volunteers to help you, so no experience is necessary.

(4) **Make an additional contribution today** to support this program, enabling us to hire more courtesy boat inspectors.



To volunteer or to learn more about training opportunities, please contact Lidie Robbins at 685-4956, lidie@30mileriver.org, or visit www.30mileriver.org.

Boat Launch Opportunity at Quimby Lane Saturday, June 29

The PPA has arranged again this year to launch boats at the Quimby Lane private launch at the southwest corner of the pond for members with boats too big to comfortably launch at the public Vienna end launch. The Parker Lake Shores development permits this up to 6 times a year; the \$30 fee goes mostly to that organization to help them maintain the launch and access road. This allows us to inspect these boats to prevent invasive plants 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. Saturday, June 29 will be the next launch date set for this spring. We could do another if there is demand. Fall dates will depend on what people want. Gary Dubord and Murray Campbell are assisting Dan Onion this year. Contact Dan Onion 293-2076 or dkonion@gmail.com FMI.

Dam Report

Although the State Dam Inspector is pleased with the repairs and improvements we have made to our dam, Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) classifies it as a "Significant Hazard." The classification is not a reflection of the condition of the dam, and there is no improvement or design change that we could make to change the label. Those with expertise in the behavior of dams and floodwaters imagined the impact of a hypothetical breach of any dam located where our dam happens to be and were convinced there would be damage downstream. Hence - "Significant Hazard."

In the event of a storm like Katrina or Sandy, our dam could be breached. The Route 41 bridge across the outlet stream could be damaged or destroyed along with several buildings including homes. Lives would be endangered. Consequently, we must have an Emergency Action Plan. It must be updated every two years or each time ownership of property, residents or telephone numbers change. I thank Margaret Barrow for her help with updating the EAP and for keeping an eye on the dam. I thank Rob Juris for mowing the dam last summer. For most conditions short of the hypothetical Katrina or Sandy the dam stands rock ribbed.

Steve Cowperthwait

Island Stewardship

The Island Stewardship Project has been initiated to help the Department of Conservation and the PPA better maintain and manage the designated camping sites on Parker Pond. Four island teams have volunteered to monitor the use of the sites on Spruce, Loon, Birch and Bill's islands. Each team, wearing Department of Conservation t-shirts, will plan to visit its perspective island every week or two to welcome visitors, educate them about appropriate use and encourage them to fill out evaluation forms. Volunteer teams will also be responsible for cleaning up as needed, and for keeping the sites inviting. In addition to supervision, islands will be posted with usage instructions as well as the most important fishing regs for Parker. If you are interested in helping with the Island Stewardship Project, contact Dan Onion at 293-2076 or dkonion@gmail.com



