



Parker Pond Association Newsletter

June 2017

www.Parkerpond.org

PPA Annual Membership Meeting

We hope everyone has wintered well and is ready for another beautiful summer on Parker Pond! Please join us on **Saturday, July 1st** for the Parker Pond Association annual meeting at the Vienna Grange Hall. **We will begin with a potluck supper at 5:30pm, followed by the association meeting at 6pm.** Meeting minutes from the 2016 meeting are available on our website at: www.parkerpond.org.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

Lake Usage

Bob Weimont checked all 4 island campsites in early May. Overall the sites were in good condition, needing only a few minor repairs such as the clearing of a tree blown down across a path and the repair of a damaged survey box. The island log showed that someone stayed in the Loon Island cabin the weekend of May 5th and left it nice and clean. Dan Onion is visiting Loon island in the first week of June with representatives from the Department of Conservation to determine what repairs they can help us do on the cabin where the rotting deck was removed last year.

Ten boats have been launched from Quimby Lane so far this season. PPA members pay \$30 to launch/pull out at the Quimby Lane boat launch. Boat owners must reserve ahead of time and be PPA members. Every boat that is launched is checked for potential invasive plants. There will be one more launch date set for **July 2nd**. To make a reservation for a launch, contact Dan Onion at dkonion@gmail.com. Pull out dates will be offered during October this fall. Dates and times TBA.

Ice Fishing on Parker Pond

...



It was a good year for ice fishing on Parker Pond. Several 18+ inch salmon were caught through the ice this winter and in the first few weeks of ice out, including this huge salmon caught by Jason Wheeler near Bearnstow Camp.

President's Message

Hi everyone! I'm getting excited to move out to the Camp for the summer. Turned on the water yesterday and no leaks this year - I am batting 800 over the last 23 years! The lake looks beautiful. Too cold for a swim, but that day is approaching fast.

The Parker Pond Association board has been active over the winter and spring. We have incredibly smart, highly dedicated, thoughtful, insightful stewards of the lake on the board. As a board, we are charged with 2 principal objectives: 1) Secure the integrity and maintenance of the Dam 2) Strive to do all that is humanely possible to keep Parker Pond pristine.

We have dedicated significant discussion time to the dam this year. Steve's dam report will cover the details around the work to be done in the coming months. Dan and Bill are working collaboratively with the State to rejuvenate the Loon Island camp. Lidie, in her role with 30MRWA, is partnering with students and faculty at the University of Maine at Farmington to create an inventory of camp roads in the watershed. They will be looking at how much soil erosion from camp roads on Parker Pond and other lakes in the watershed is polluting our lakes and what we can do to reduce that erosion.

Another exciting project, co-sponsored by the Parker Pond Association and 30-Mile River Watershed Association, is the Vegetated Buffer program. With the labor of 30-Mile River Watershed Association's YCC team, property owners can plan and install a plant buffer to reduce harmful runoff into the lake. Participation in this program is on way shorefront owners can help protect our lake's water quality. I will be signing up for this program and I invite you all to join us in this great effort to reduce erosion from the shoreline. Please review the program information notice in this newsletter to learn more.



is

Safe travels to Parker Pond and I will see you at the annual meeting on July 1st at the Vienna Grange Hall!

- Gerry Tinguely, President

New Remittance Envelopes

You will notice there has been a change in the PPA membership form, from a slip of paper to a formal remittance envelope. This envelope may be used for both membership renewal and for additional contributions. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining us to help PPA continue the work of protecting beautiful Parker Pond. If you are already a member, you may wish to make an additional contribution to support lake stewardship. Return the enclosed Donation/Membership form with your membership renewal and/or donation today! THANKS!

We are also working on an on-line membership renewal form. More information to come!



News from the 30 Mile River Watershed Association

Youth Conservation Corps

Property evaluations for prospective Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) projects have begun, so get your site visit requests in fast! Our YCC provides erosion control landscaping for lakefront property owners. If your property has a sloped driveway, patches of bare soil, or an eroding pathway, then you likely qualify for a **reduced cost** project. Projects may include: shoreline plantings, rain gardens, infiltration dripline trenches, open-top culverts and more. All projects are designed in partnership between the landowner and experienced technical program staff. For more information on our erosion control YCC program, or to submit a site visit request, see our YCC page on the website. **Please see additional info inside this newsletter for special discounts on buffer projects.**

We are also **searching for a truck** to use this summer to transport YCC tools to work sites. If you have a working truck you would like to donate or lend for a week or two (M-W) this season, please contact programs@30mileriver.org.

Water Quality Monitoring

We are back on the water! Monitoring season has already begun, and we will continue sampling into October. Tracking factors over time such as clarity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll (for algae) will help us better understand and manage our lakes. With the help of numerous dedicated trained volunteers – including Parker Pond’s Marty Arnold, Deb Cayer and Bob Weimont – we collectively sample twice a month on six lakes in the watershed. If you’re interested in learning more about our monitoring, check out our water quality page on the website, where you can view near real time data we’ve collected.

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Each summer, volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) and Invasive Plant Patrollers (IPPs), play critical roles in protecting our lakes. CBIs inspect boats at the public launch for invasive plant fragments and serve as friendly educators to the boating community, while IPPs survey lake sections for invasive plants. Training is provided for these positions. If you are interested in giving back to your lake in fun, flexible ways with little time commitment, contact kchurch@30mileriver.org or (207) 860-4043.

Paddle Trek 2017

Our 9th Annual Paddle Trek is coming up! The Trek will take place on **Saturday, July 29th**, with a rain date of Sunday the 30th. Participants are welcome to join for just a portion of the trip, or enjoy the whole 15-mile guided paddle. Beginning on Minnehonk Lake in Mt. Vernon and ending at Wayne Village, the Paddle Trek is something we look forward to every year. To register and learn more about this fun event, visit our website.

For more news from the 30 Mile River Watershed Association,
visit www.30mileriver.org.

**Sign up
today!**

Protect Parker Pond with a Vegetated Buffer



Vegetated buffers of trees, shrubs and groundcover help to slow runoff and keep pollutants from freely flowing into our lake.



Lawns with little or no buffer allow soil and nutrients to freely flow into the lake, potentially damaging water quality.

Youth Conservation Corps Projects for 2017

This summer, the Parker Pond Association and the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA) are sponsoring the planting of buffers around the lake to help protect water quality.

Here's how it works:

1. You request a free site visit by 30MRWA's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC).
2. YCC visits your property to determine if you need a small, medium or large buffer.
3. You confirm your project and choose from a selection of native plants.
4. YCC schedules your project for a day in July or early August.
5. YCC arrives with your plants and installs your buffer.

Sign up today and save!

- 10% discount on plants from Longfellow's Greenhouses
- YCC labor costs sponsored by 30MRWA and PPA. You pay only 25% for design and installation!
- **The first 10 confirmed projects will receive an additional \$50 discount**

For more information and to request a site visit, go to www.30mileriver.org.

Loon Island Cabin Survey Update

In the fall, the PPA board created a survey to assess interest in either repairing or razing the cabin on Loon Island. Thanks to 37 survey respondents, we have some good information about PPA members' and non-members' (20% of respondents) views about the future of the Loon Island cabin. Respondents said that the following Loon Island attributes were "somewhat or very important" to them:

Summer Camping	58%
Summer Picnic	66%
Ice Fishing Shelter	33%
Historic Value	88%

Given the importance of "Historic Value," it is not surprising that 78% of respondents preferred "replacing sills & gradually renovating the rest of the building," to razing and replacing it.



The PPA board is grateful to the 22 survey respondents who said they would assist in island stewardship and once support from the Dept. of Conservation is secured, will help repair the main cabin on Loon Island. If you did not have the opportunity to fill out the survey, but are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Karen Swan at swan_karen@hotmail.com.

From the Top 7th Annual Classical Meets Pop Concert and Fireworks Display



The 7th Annual Classical Meets Pop Concert and fireworks display will be held at the Mt. Vernon Community Center on July 2nd.

Hosted by Jerry Slavet and featuring talented musicians from NPR's *From the Top*, funds from this fabulous concert support lake conservation programs at both 30-Mile River Watershed Association and

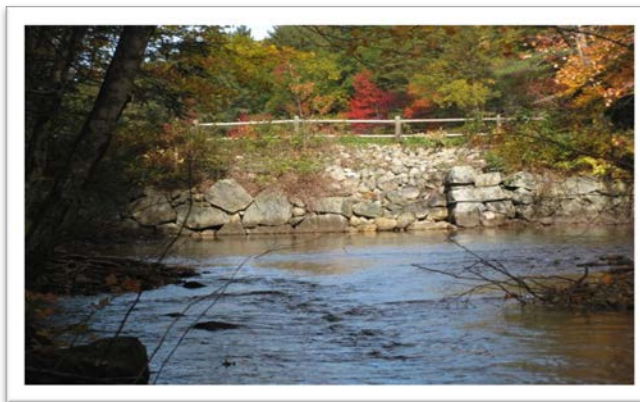
the Parker Pond Association. The concert will begin at 7:30pm, followed by fireworks at dusk.

Thank you to Jerry for bringing this wonderful cultural opportunity to Mt. Vernon for yet another year! Tickets will be available in advance at \$12 for adult and \$6 for children under 18. FMI about ticket sales, go to: 30mileriver.org/

Dam Update

The Parker Pond dam has stood another year in good condition. Last year's drought has ended and waters are once again restored to more normal levels. The dam spillway is running at slightly above normal levels, flowing smoothly into the watershed below.

This spring the State Dam Inspector visited and assessed the dam. He has found that the dam is generally in good condition and has endorsed our plan to place additional rip-rap along the bank of the spillway where some undercutting of the bank has been identified. The inspection also identified minor work to the crown of the dam where some top soil settling has occurred, the Dam committee will fill and seed the area before the end of the summer. The dam inspector further identified a couple of large blocks, positioned when the original dam was built, that he has asked the Association to monitor to ensure that they are not shifting over time. A variety of additional recommendations are being addressed. Overall the



dam is in good condition and being well cared for.

One of the State requirements, mandated by the State Dam Safety Administrator and endorsed by the Dam Inspector, is that the dam owner (Parker Pond Association represented by the Dam Committee Chairman) exercise the dam Emergency Action Plan with State and local first-responders, law enforcement, emergency management personnel, and State Department of Transportation representatives. This exercise, which will be in the form of a table top exercise, is presently scheduled for June 26 at the Mt. Vernon Fire Station, and will include a site visit to the dam. The aim of the table top exercise is to ensure that the Dam Emergency Action Plan

properly addresses notifications and responsibilities for managing the failure of the dam and preventing unnecessary loss.

The Parker Pond Association, in conjunction with the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, will execute the project in August (mentioned above) to add rip-rap in the spillway bank which joins the natural stream linking Parker Pond to Taylor Pond. This project will stabilize the spillway bank as well as help to prevent "silting" in the spillway and stream. The project will be undertaken with Youth Conservation Corps labor and will provide a win-win result for both the Pond Association and downstream waters.

Steve Linder, Dam Committee Chair

Water Quality

Testing has begun this season with the new 30 Mile Watershed Association program coordinator, Sebastien Dumont accompanied by Bob Weimont, who has been doing Secchi disk readings for a couple of years now. We hope to test twice monthly into October. The first Secchi readings this year were the best ever despite the rains. May 4th (10.4 meters), May 17th (10.5 meters).

We consistently have a late season dissolved oxygen (DO) drop which is not unusual as the water warms, as cold water holds more oxygen. This drop if low enough will stress the fishery as well as all forms of life in the pond, and also lead to internal phosphorus recycling. Phosphorus recycling is the migration of phosphorus from bottom sediments to the overlying water where it becomes available to algae and therefore algae growth.

We do these readings to evaluate the health of the water and the ecosystem over time. So, what you as shorefront owners can do is keep the phosphorus out of the pond. The Parker Pond Association supports the 30 Mile River Watershed Association with funding and they in turn have programs available to help with any issues on your property. Let's all continue to work together to keep our pond as healthy as possible.



Deb Cayer, Water Quality Chair

Treasurer's Report – Calendar Year 2016

The Association's finances in 2016 were strong, continuing the trend of the last four years with revenues from extra contributions exceeding those from dues. Average revenues for the four-year period 2013-2016 were \$9,350. Expenses were a little lower than in 2015 so we had a net gain of \$2,507.

The Board has committed to expenses of \$8,500 in 2017 with increases for water quality and erosion control programs. It is likely that we will see unbudgeted expenses for the dam related to maintenance items requested by the state dam inspector. This could quickly eat into our reserves. Major categories of revenues and expenses are shown below. Our total balance at the end of 2016 was \$42,850 with about \$11,000 set aside for stewardship activities. Please continue your generosity so that we can do even more. If you would like more details about the finances, send me a message at wpwhittier@aol.com.

Thank you everyone for your support. - Waine Whittier, Treasurer

Dues	\$ 3,240	Invasive Plants	\$ 2,000
Other Contributions	\$6,110	Water Quality	3,825
Interest	\$119	Other	1,137
Total Revenues	\$ 9,469	Total Expenses	\$ 6,962

Dates to Note

July 1st Parker Pond Association Annual Meeting

July 2nd 7th Annual Classical Meets Pop Concert and Fireworks Display

July 2nd Boat Launch Opportunity at Quimby Lane

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the volunteers who donate time sitting as courtesy boat inspectors, maintaining island campsites and structures, collecting water samples, planting buffer zones, counting loons, protecting our dam, and surveying the waters for invasive plants!

And thank you to our members who have provided financial support for all these valuable programs that help keep Parker Pond beautiful and pristine!



Parker Pond Association, INC.

321 Tower Road

Vienna, ME 04360