



## PARKER POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



### Dates to Note

May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Boat Launches at Quimby Lane
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	From the Top Concert
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Membership Meeting (Vienna Grange Hall)

### Parker Pond Association Annual Meeting

We hope everyone has wintered well and is ready for another beautiful summer on Parker Pond! Please join us on **Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>** 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**. We look forward to seeing everyone!

### Bylaws - Proposed Changes to Membership Provisions

*(submitted by Waine Whittier – Bylaws Review Committee member)*

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.

Last year we investigated the possibility of opening up voting membership to anyone who paid dues. We received strong opposition to this wide-open membership for fear that a special interest group might take over the Association and force actions contrary to the desires of the traditional members. At the same time, we were given much feedback that voting membership was too restrictive to family members and back lot owners.

So, the officers are proposing a new membership article, that we believe is a good compromise. (see Proposed Bylaws insert)

The new bylaws would open up voting membership to family members of owners, would extend the ownership definition back 1000 feet from the shore and to all with rights-of-way, and would allow sponsored members to retain voting rights without the need for new sponsorship each year.

The "Service Member" category will be deleted because the broader sponsorship provision can accomplish the same thing. We think these proposed changes will encourage more people who use and love the pond to become members and help protect and preserve it.

If you would like to read the existing bylaws they are on our website: [Parkerpond.org](http://Parkerpond.org)

Current members may cast votes at the Annual Meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>, or with the enclosed ballot, or designate a proxy to vote for you.

## Treasurer’s Report – Calendar Year 2014

The Association’s finances in 2014 were similar to 2013 with a net gain of \$ 3,112 compared to \$ 4,368 in 2013. Major categories of revenues and expenses are shown below. It is encouraging that other contributions are exceeding revenues from dues. Considering that revenues have been strong for two years in succession, the Officers have decided to increase expenditures on invasive plant and water quality issues in 2015. 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](mailto:wpwhittier@aol.com). Thank you everyone for your support.

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Dues	\$2,980	Invasive Plants	\$1,500
Other	\$6,678	Water Quality	\$2,850
Contributions		Headland Addition	\$1,000
<u>Interest</u>	<u>\$130</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>\$1,326</u>
Total Revenues	\$9,788	Total Expenses	\$6,676

### Land Stewardship

*(Maggie Chadwick – Land Stewardship Committee Chair)*



*January view from Tower Rd. boat launch*

No snowshoes were required to hike to the bluff of the Parker Pond Headlands in early March. Two to three feet of crusted snow hard packed by previous snowshoe excursions provided good footing for my dogs and me as we trudged up the hill. But, going off the trail even a little, resulted in being over my knees in soft white snow: A winter adventure.

There were many signs of animals on the trail. Deeryards, scat from who knows which small animal, sawdust at the bottoms of trees. Most curious though were the large depressions in the snow leading into the woods from the trail. They were 8-10 inches deep, 20-30 inches wide and perhaps 24 inches apart separated by barely ruffled snow. There were no footprints visible in the snow, very curious.

In the fall, many of you received a fundraising letter from Kennebec Land Trust supported by a letter from PPA. And, you answered that letter. \$22,000 was pledged and over \$17,000 has already been received by KLT. What follows is an edited KLT description of the property your donations will help purchase.

The Andrews property is one of two key parcels needed to connect Parker Pond and David Pond with lands that KLT has already conserved. That 65-acre acquisition combined with previous acquisitions will create a nearly contiguous 280-acre Parker Pond-David Pond Outdoor Recreation and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. KLT is also in discussions with the landowner on a donation of the remaining 15-acre (Sylvester) parcel.

This conservation acquisition includes a variety of habitats, including hardwood and conifer forests, and a spruce flat wetland that is unusual for the area. In addition to the important habitat conserved, conservation of this land will help preserve the water quality of Parker Pond; most of the property drains directly into Parker Pond and some drains toward David Pond. Significant frontage along Sandy River Road will also help preserve the rural character of the area. Sometime in 2016 this additional parcel will be accessible via trail.

## Water Quality Report

Lidie, Bill and I testified before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENR) on lakes day at the state house. Three bills were being heard.

The first LD-713 "Resolve to further protect lake water quality". This bill had two parts, first to make the setback 112ft instead of the 100ft in an effort to keep new development within the law which states no disturbance of the ground within 100ft. The second was to ask the commissioner of the DEP to set up a stakeholder group to investigate non-compliance with the Maine Shoreland Zoning Act and to report back in one year. After the committee work session one week later where the unanimous decision was to allow a stakeholder study group convened by the Maine Municipal association, with a report back next year. The group will "examine the frequency, trends, and patterns of noncompliance as well as its causes and report back to the ENR with recommendations and the authorization to introduce legislation", as clarified by Maggie Shannon, director of the Maine Lakes Society.

The second bill LD-40, "Prohibition on application of fertilizer near great ponds". This bill passed unanimously as well. The bill we supported was a 50ft ban but was amended at the last moment by Senator Saviello to reduce the ban to 25ft. Maggie Shannon, stated that 25ft is not enough and that it is not scientifically justified. Considering that Maine was the only New England state that did not have restrictions on fertilizer next to our waterways, it's a start.

The third bill LD-568 "Amendments to the Lakes Assessment and Protection Program, we did not hear about as yet. Several testimonies were given on Lakes day, with most in favor of some or all of the bills with the exception of four.

What became very clear is that code enforcement officers cannot do it all. With too few hours and many violations and fines which are too low, infractions continue to occur. The committee members commented several times, that enforcement should occur at the local level. The question is how can our towns and lake associations help.

We would love to hear your comments, on our web page, [parkerpond.org](http://parkerpond.org), to "more" and "contact us" or you can e-mail me Deborah Cayer, water quality officer, at ([debbiecayer@gmail.com](mailto:debbiecayer@gmail.com)). Thanks for your help. Deb



## PPA Lake Usage Committee

The PPA Lake Usage committee met in April. We discussed re-forming the island monitoring teams, checking the island signage including posting new fishing regs, changing the committee name to a more entertaining one, and planning some group activities for PPA members this summer, like kayaking, birding and/or blue berrying trips, maybe headlands hikes, and perhaps, another try at a sailing regatta.

We are now accepting signups for spring boat launches at Quimby Lane private launch, which allows us to rent it for three mornings in the spring and fall. This spring we will be able to launch PPA member boats 8am -12 noon on Sat., May 2; Sat., May 23; Sun., July 5.

Given the concerns expressed in last fall's survey, the committee and the PPA executive committee is considering signing up for game warden monitoring of boating law compliance. The 30 Mile River Watershed Association has contacted the warden service, which will supply wardens complete with their own boats, to patrol heavy use times and areas we may choose or for violations we are most concerned about for \$70/hr. Other ponds in the 30 MRWA may want to split days with us.

The warden service currently provides this service for BRCA, 100 hr/summer, particularly to keep boaters there out of the milfoil-infested stream. This system works better than volunteers because no one challenges the warden's authority and they are prepared to deal with confrontations should they arise.

The warden service would pay the warden and 30 Mile would be sent a bill for the summer in November and forward our portion on to PPA. The warden service would also give us a written accounting, as well as a presentation once or twice a year of what they did, if we would like.

30 Mile River Watershed Association thinks this solution is attractive for several reasons:

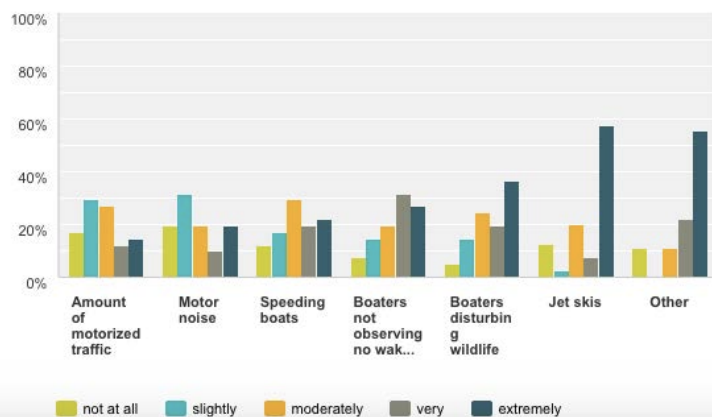
- It allows us to deal with scoff-law boaters without giving the Lake Association or 30 MRWA a bad name
- Each lake/pond could decide how much, if any, patrolling they'd like to commit to each year.
- It allows several lakes to share 4+ hour blocks; for instance, a warden could check Kimball from the shore and if no activity, go on to Parker, Minnehonk, Flying or any other pond in our watershed. Launching on 2 ponds in a 4 hr period may be practical.

FMI: contact Dan Onion, Lake Usage Committee Chair [dkonion@gmail.com](mailto:dkonion@gmail.com), 293-2076

### Lake Usage Survey Results (11/15/14 – 12/1/14)

How concerned are you about each of the following?

(41 people responded)



	not at all	slightly	moderately	very	extremely	Total
Amount of motorized traffic	17.07% 7	29.27% 12	26.83% 11	12.20% 5	14.63% 6	41
Motor noise	19.51% 8	31.71% 13	19.51% 8	9.76% 4	19.51% 8	41
Speeding boats	12.20% 5	17.07% 7	29.27% 12	19.51% 8	21.95% 9	41
Boaters not observing no wake zone	7.32% 3	14.63% 6	19.51% 8	31.71% 13	26.83% 11	41
Boaters disturbing wildlife	4.88% 2	14.63% 6	24.39% 10	19.51% 8	36.59% 15	41
Jet skis	12.50% 5	2.50% 1	20.00% 8	7.50% 3	57.50% 23	40
Other	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	55.56% 5	9





## Some of the projects the 30 Mile River Watershed worked on last year to protect Parker Pond:

### Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

For its fourth year, YCC performed erosion control projects to reduce polluted runoff, protect water quality, build awareness of lake stewardship, and provide hands-on stewardship experience for youth. Thanks to support from grants, towns, lake associations and individuals, we provided technical assistance and project labor at minimal cost to landowners. In 2014 YCC designed and installed 27 Best Management Practices at 14 project locations throughout the watershed, 5 of which were on Parker. ***Sign up now to request your project for 2015!***

### Courtesy Boat Inspections: *Prevention*

Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) are the “first line of defense” against invasive aquatic plants. In 2014, paid and volunteer CBIs staffed three public boat launches for 922 hours (Parker: 305), a 16% increase from 2013. During that time, they performed a total of 1,606 inspections (Parker: 589), a 15% increase, and removed eleven plant fragments from boats and trailers.

### Invasive Plant Patrol: *Early Detection*

Teams of trained volunteers survey the lakes for invasive aquatic plant infestations to detect invasions early. As regional coordinator, 30MRWA supports and trains volunteers throughout the watershed. In 2014, 57 volunteers and staff conducted surveys of eight lakes and ponds, including Parker, contributing over 350 hours of their time. No invasive plants were found.

### Parker Pond Watershed Protection Project

This three-year grant-supported\* project protects Parker’s water quality by decreasing polluted runoff coming from roads, driveways, paths, and residential areas. Towards this, we are working with landowners, towns and road associations. In 2014 (year 2), we provided technical assistance and funding to rebuild both the Quimby Lane boat launch and Fellows Cove Road, greatly reducing polluted runoff. Additionally, our YCC installed 13 Best Management Practices at 5 project sites. *\*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.*

For more information, visit [www.30mileriver.org](http://www.30mileriver.org).



*Road association volunteers last July working to rebuild the Quimby Lane boat launch to protect the lake from polluted runoff. This was one of the highest impact erosion sites identified during 30MRWA's watershed survey of Parker Pond in 2011*

## Membership Report

I am walking the banks of a small trout stream near a town in PA. The sun is shining, the temp is 41 and there is still a bite in the air. Nothing is rising. But I'm thinking about a fly rod I just won in a raffle at the Clay Creek Fly Fishing Club's Annual Banquet. When will I be casting it for brookies on Parker? Or for small mouth bass or large mouth bass or even troll for land locked salmon? Not that this 4 wt will be used for other than the brookies. But there are the pan fish also.

How great can it be to have a body of water, like Parker Pond...waiting for you? There are good fishing spots around our country and Parker is one of them (don't spread the word).

Well, your PPA works to ensure not only good fishing, but boating, swimming, hiking, nature studies and walks. We support organizations and agencies dedicated to clean water and our members work to keep our "pond" free of invasive plants and pollution. And, your dues and contributions allow us to do our work. So, it's membership sign up time. Just remember that the money you send to us does not sit around...it works, and so do we! To those of you who have sent your dues in already, thanks we're working on spending it.



Marty Arnold - Membership Chair



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PARKER POND ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Vienna, ME 04360

(If your membership is current as of March 2015, there will be a red \* next to your address.)