



PARKER POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, July 11th

Supper at 5:30pm

Meeting at 6:00pm

Location: TBA

President's Message - Can we hear you now?

A few weeks ago, as I was sitting by the waters edge listening to the juvenile loons call, I began wondering..."what are they saying?"..."who are they talking to?" Are they wondering where everybody went? Or why it is getting cold? This led me to wonder..."who" else is "speaking" and are we "listening"?

I recently learned that other lakes in the area have scientific data collection buoys placed by a professor of chemistry and his students. These buoys are helping the lakes to "speak" and the Professor and his students to "listen". Helping to make others aware of changes, and affect action. I also know that the IF&W fisheries biologists are "listening" to the fish. Is there too much food...not enough...or maybe not the right kind? Is the water too warm? They are also helping to make others aware of changes and affect action.

I often find myself wondering if the members of PPA at large are speaking and are we the executive committee listening? Your 12 member executive committee is a passionate group of individuals that is working hard "to care for the natural resources and beauties of Parker Pond." as is our mission. Over the past year, we have found ourselves focused on "maintaining the pristine quality of the lake and keeping invasive plants out. Which brought us to discussing new/different ways that this might be accomplished. Like.....Should we be looking at decreasing heavy boat traffic & high speed motors on the pond? Should we consider looking into & funding a Lake Steward/Harbor Master position?

As we have these discussions we often find ourselves wondering what you (the 100+) members of PPA are thinking, and that we would really like to hear from you. It is much easier to listen to those who can "speak", vs. trying to interpret what the loons/lake or fish might be saying. It is important to us to know that we are listening to the members and taking your input into account as we venture forward. We encourage you to share you thoughts, ideas, and concerns with us. The [contact us](#) tab on our website parkerpond.org is an easy way to get in touch with any one of the executive committee members. We have also created a survey for you to share your thoughts/concerns anonymously if you choose.

I am sure that within the 100+ members there are some wonderful ideas. Help us become a stronger organization by speaking up. Don't make us wonder what you are thinking. You have a "voice"...we are listening.

- Respectfully, Karen Swan President

Let us know what you think, please take a moment to fill out the lake usage survey.

Click [here](#) or go to Parkerpond.org and find the link on the home page.

Thanks!

Invasive Plant Report

With nearby Annabessacook Lake in Winthrop now added to the list of lakes with invasive milfoil, the threat continues to grow. Maintaining a strong invasive plant prevention program is more important than ever. It takes constant vigilance to both prevent them from being introduced in the first place and to keep a close watch for any infestations.

Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends our **Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs)** at Parker conducted 603 inspections (171 motorized, 432 non-motorized). Thank you to the seven volunteers who donated 42 hours of time to join our paid staff in helping prevent the spread of invasive plants into our lakes: Murray Campbell, Maggie Chadwick, Gary Dubord,

Sue Knorr, John Linton, Sam Onion, Susan Onion and Bob Weimont. In total, paid and volunteer CBIs worked 312 hours conducting inspections on Parker, the most ever! We continue to rely on financial contributions from PPA members to make this possible.

Luckily, we made it through another boating season without finding any invasive aquatic plants (e.g. variable leaf milfoil, hydrilla and Eurasian water milfoil) growing in Parker Pond.

Thank you to the 12 **invasive plant patrollers (IPPs)** who supported the effort to protect our lake by volunteering a total of 46 hours to survey the lake for infestations: Deb Cayer, Murray Campbell, Steve and Sarah Cowperthwaite, Ted Elliott,

Vicki Kozak, Susan and Zoe Onion, Lidie Robbins, Karen Rogers, and Alecia and Mark Tenney.

- Lidie Robbins, Invasive Plant Committee Chair



Photo: CBI Ted Elliott conducts at inspection at the Tower Rd. launch

30MRWA's Watershed Protection Project and YCC



Photo: The newly rebuilt Quimby Lane boat launch was designed to protect the lake from polluted runoff.

**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.*

This summer the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association was kept busy completing erosion control projects designed to protect and improve water quality. Out of 26 projects, our YCC completed half of them were on Parker Pond.* Projects included building infiltration steps, planting vegetative buffers, and lining ditches with riprap. Although the 2014 YCC season is over, we are now accepting requests for next year. Interested landowners should go to our website: www.30mileriver.org and fill out a "Project Request Form" located in the YCC Program webpage.

As part of the *Parker Pond Watershed Protection Project*, two major construction projects were completed this season with the help of matching grant funds* and technical assistance provided by the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Maine DEP, and 30 Mile River Watershed Association.

First, in July the Quimby Lane boat launch was rebuilt to protect the lake from polluted runoff. In the past, this runoff had been contributing high levels of sediment and phosphorous into the lake. Now the water coming down the ramp is diverted, slowed down and filtered with a combination of rock-lined ditches, plunge pools, open-top culverts, a vegetative buffer, new crushed rock surfaces and more. Second, this fall the Fellows Cove Road was rebuilt, greatly reducing polluted runoff AND providing a better road through improved drainage and a better road surface.

Lidie Robbins, Executive Director of 30 Mile River Watershed Association

Land Stewardship

We all value our beautiful lake. We are fortunate to have land on our shores that will forever be wild, protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and our enjoyment. The Parker Pond Headland is a jewel, enjoyed from the lake and while walking its trails. We now have another opportunity to conserve additional land. The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) has signed a purchase agreement on 65 acres containing beautiful woods and wetlands between Parker and David Ponds with frontage on Sandy River Road. It is known as the Andrews Property. Most of the proposed acquisition drains toward Parker Pond and will help maintain our excellent water quality.



Once protected from development, there will be almost 6 miles of contiguous trails on David Pond and Parker Pond Headland. I personally have been ever more grateful to have conserved land accessible nearby. My husband, Bob, and I enjoy hearing warblers and other sounds of the forest on the Headland. We often stop by the point in summer to swim. When we walk there, I am grateful for the people who had the vision to set aside this forest on the edge of our lake. It is important for the health of the lake and also the health of our spirits.

The Kennebec Land Trust is beginning a campaign to raise \$60,000 for this new property. Won't you join me in supporting this important conservation effort? Please consider sending a donation to Kennebec Land Trust P.O. Box 261, Winthrop Maine 04364 marking it for the Andrews property. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you. I will also take this opportunity to say thanks to Glenn and Sarah Hodgkins for the 40-acre easement they have given KLT. That easement extends the original Headlands trail by over a mile and is part of the land that will connect the headlands trail to the David Pond trails.

by Maggie Chadwick - Land Stewardship Chair

PPA Member Boat Launches/Pull Outs at Quimby Lane

Eleven PPA member launched in and/or pulled their boats out of Parker Pond this summer by using the PPA time slots at the Quimby Lane launch in Fellows Cove, two mornings in the spring and three in the fall. A total of 15 boats were done this year, up from 12 last year. The majority are party boats, hard to launch at the north end. The launch itself was repaired substantially during the summer, partly with funds our launches provided the Parker Lake Shores Association (PLSA), which owns the launch, along with monies from that organization and substantial help from a Department of Environmental Protection 319 grant, obtained by 30 Mile River Watershed Association. The repaired launch now has much better run-off protection.

We owe thanks to Murray Campbell and Gary Dubord for helping me with these launches, as well as to PLSA and its president, Joe Kosak for allowing our members to launch and for inspections of those boats for invasive plants going in and out. We currently have an agreement with PLSA through December 2015.

We can do up to 3 half days spring and fall. A current Parker Pond Association membership is required (\$20) along with a \$30 launch/pull out fee. The funds go mostly to the PLSA to cover launch maintenance and repair; \$10 goes to the PPA for each launch after the first 3. PLSA members, of course can use the launch anytime by virtue of their membership in that association.

Dates for summer 2015 will be posted in the PPA spring newsletter. See you then!
Dan Onion: 293-2076 dkonion@gmail.com

Membership Update

It's almost the end of 2014 so I'm compiling numbers. How are we doing?

Well, paid membership for 2014 is currently at 122 (still two months to go). Voting members are 116 with "Friends of the Pond" making up the difference, 6. Numbers from 2013 were quite similar at 123 total and 115 voting. Contributions to the various activities (Dam oversight, Water Quality, Invasive Plants, Conservation, etc) continue at a good pace providing funding for boat inspections, water quality testing and conservation projects.

Next summer I will try to enlist new members from those families or individuals who have access to the pond but otherwise do not own waterfront property. Would YOU be interested in boating around the pond with me to meet and talk to these perspective members? I'd be interested in your comments on this.....

One of my other volunteer jobs is as a team member to keep Loon Island clean and accessible. We do this so that boaters, campers, fishermen, whoever - can enjoy some solitude and quiet while visiting or vacationing. However, I received a note from a family that have been camping on Loon for over 25 years. They praised the work we've done and how they love the quiet and beauty of the pond.

Unfortunately, this year they were trapped on the island by two jet-skiers who continuously circled the island, making life unbearable for them. An attempt at relief, asking the skiers to go somewhere else, failed and though this was supposed to be a family vacation, they left the island and are not sure they will ever return. The jet-skiers were obviously in violation of the 200 feet "make-no-wake" rule and showed no concern that their noise was upsetting the peace and tranquility the campers came to Parker to enjoy.

If you wonder why just mentioning jet skis raises the emotions of most people, well this is just one example!

Marty Arnold martygarnold@gmail.com
Membership Committee Chair

Island Stewardship

The Island stewardship project maintains and manages the designated camping sites on 4 Parker Pond islands with The Department of Conservation's Bureau of Parks and Lands. State members of that organization, Pete Smith of Farmington and the summer ranger, Mike MacDonald, supply us with materials to repair the cabin on loon and the fire pits, primitive toilets and picnic tables on each island. Mike helped us dig a new latrine this summer on Loon, where we also did considerable repairs on the sills.

Marty Arnold and Murray Campbell primarily watch over that island. Birch suffered some more vandalism to trees and signs this summer despite Bob Weimont's efforts to visit frequently. Bill's is used frequently and has suffered no apparent abuse; Wayne Whittier and Lidie and Josh Robbins watch over it. Spruce island is used nearly as much as Loon and is watched over by Bill Dunham, Deb Cayer, Bill and Karen Swan, and Tom Spears; the state has not yet made any move to remove the rope swing on Spruce, but may this winter. Tom S also redid our fishing regulation summary posted at the north boat launch and the loon cabin. Maggie Chadwick records user comment from the cards users fill out on each island.



Smelt Habitat Project

No progress made on this project this summer. Inland Fish and Wildlife staff know we are willing to help restore inlet brook habitats but are not yet ready to begin.

- Daniel Onion – Lake Usage Committee Chair

Water Quality Update

Clarity and dissolved oxygen (DO) readings along with one sampling were taken on Parker this season. The Secchi disk is used for transparency readings and is a measurement of how deep in a lake the sunlight can penetrate. Factors that influence the clarity readings are algae, zooplankton, water color and silt.

DO on Parker is measured in milligrams per liter with the use of a meter. Our dissolved oxygen on Parker continues to have significant late season depletion. This is important why? Because very low concentrations of oxygen in lake water can promote migration of phosphorus from the bottom sediments to the overlying water where it becomes available to algae. Loss of oxygen also stresses the fishery and other aquatic life.

Our sampling of the water column in a late season measurement showed no increase in concentration of phosphorus in either the full water column or the grab sample. This is the good news but we cannot become complacent. Even a small amount of phosphorus loading can cause an algae bloom.

According to the National Climate data center, the number of storms that drop over one inch of rain per day has dramatically increased over the past 10 years. Warmer air holds more water, thus more intense storms. More intense storms mean more runoff into our lakes.

It is extremely important to manage your property to reduce and stop any runoff into the lake as much as possible, as well as any other source of phosphorus.

Fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, eroded soil, and animal waste are all sources of nutrients, including

phosphorus. Phosphorus is the main nutrient that drives eutrophication (greening of the lake).

Lake studies have demonstrated that a well -vegetated buffer strips are essential to water quality. One study showed that poor biological health is three times more likely in lakes with poor lakeside habitat.

We are seeing more severe signs of increased algae in Parker and we need to act now and continue to be diligent of new issues when they arise. The Parker Pond Association along with the 30 Mile River Association continues to be proactive in this arena and we need you as a shorefront owner to also be proactive, to protect your investment and the extreme beauty of our pond. If you have a guest ion or concern or you need help with an issue on your property, we can help. Give us a call or send us an e-mail.

Deb C , Water Quality Officer PPA.
207-293-2782 or (debbiecayer@gmail.com)

2014 vs 2013 Secchi Water Clarity Readings

With the exception of early July, our reading were a little worse than 2013. Hopefully not a trend.

	2014	2013
7/8	8.10 meters	6.8 meters
7/24	7.00 meters	7.6 meters
8/9	7.60 meters	7.4 meters
8/27	6.80 meters	7.9 meters
9/15	6.20 meters	6.9 meters

Summer/Fall Activities 2014

4th Annual Classics Meets Pops Concert - in support of 30-Mile River Watershed Association and the Parker Pond Association – thanks to Jerry Slavet for bringing us this wonderful cultural opportunity for another year! Next year’s concert is scheduled for July 4th. Save the date!

Sailing Regatta - five sailing crafts participated in a fun afternoon of sailing on Parker Pond. Thanks to Murray Campbell for organizing!

Bird Walk - on the Headland, lead by Glenn Hodgkins. Thanks Glenn!

Mushroom Walks - on the Headland, lead by Jeannie Scudder and Cyndy Hoeh Stancioff. Thanks to Jeannie and Cyndy!



It's Time for Annual Membership Renewal!

If you are currently a member, this is a reminder that it is time to renew your annual membership. Please consider renewing so we can continue support for the many programs that protect the water quality and integrity of our beautiful lake. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining.

Return the enclosed Donation/Membership form with your donation today! THANKS!



PARKER POND ASSOCIATION, INC.

321 Tower Road
Vienna, ME 04360