

PARKER POND ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2015



Annual Meeting

July 16, 2016
Vienna Grange Hall
Time: TBA

www.parkerpond.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your lake association officers and volunteers are a busy bunch. There is always something to check, measure, probe or fix...Or all of these.

Last month, a number of us, under the leadership of Maggie Chadwick, walked/climbed/stumbled (that was me) through old rough woods, to examine land for which we have stewardship responsibilities. After the hike, we had a better understanding of the nature of the terrain and are now better able to visualize plans for management.

A few weeks later, Steve Linder, Chairman of the Dam Committee, took a group of board members on a tour of our dam. Steve has a sobering responsibility. He is the "keeper of the water". Like our earlier trek, this tour allowed those present to better appreciate the job that Steve is doing and to better understand what support he may need.

But not every problem is solved directly. Some solutions sneak around corners. As an example, we were

delighted to hear that the town of Fayette has been awarded funding to replace a number of large culverts. The replacement of one in particular, a storm-damaged unit under Sandy River Road, should have positive results for our salmon fishery.

It's at that very southerly part of the pond near the Sandy River Road, that a lot of biology takes place. Here, smelt eggs hatched by the hundreds of thousands (perhaps millions) every year. This food supply gave us Land Locked Salmon (LLS) that were the envy of other Maine ponds. But as a result of storm damage to that old culvert, road silt has been able to get to, and smother, many of those egg masses. The effective loss of food has caused a reduction in Salmon population and size.

The new culvert should offer more protection to those egg masses and in a few years we may see a return to the trophy LLS of

years past.

So, we make good news when we can and we take it as a gift when it's given. We strive to keep Parker Pond clean and productive for fishing, boating, swimming, and sightseeing.

We want each of you, resident, non-resident, association member or non-member to be excited to be on the pond. We can't just hope for good luck to keep the pond healthy and productive. We need to work at it!

Be a Lake Guardian. Help Keep Parker Clean.

Sincerely,
Marty Arnold, President

PS: If anyone has taken a LLS (on Parker) fly-casting, I'd like to hear about it. Just email me at: martygarnold@gmail.com

Thank You Volunteers!

Good news! Our invasive plant patrol team found no invasive aquatic plants in Parker Pond for another year.

Thank you to all the volunteers who search the lake for infestations.

Catching an invasive early is our best chance at fighting, so these volunteers are critical to protecting the lake.

Thank you also to the volunteer courtesy boat inspectors who enable us to cover more hours at the boat launch than with paid staff alone. And last, but not least, thank you to everyone who inspects his/her own boats and keeps an eye out for changes in plant growth. Invasive aquatic plants are a huge threat and Parker Pond needs all of us to do our part.

Lidie Robbins
Executive Director of 30MRWA
www.30mileriver.org



Drew Parsons at the Tower Rd. launch.



DAM REPORT

The Parker Pond dam and spillway are located generally along the Fayette/Mt. Vernon town lines north of Route 41. The dam and spillway are both in very good condition. The dam itself was originally built in the very early 1800's and has been restored several times, most recently in 2007 under the auspices of the Parker Pond Association. The spillway was added several decades ago by the Parker Pond Association to provide an alternative to maintaining a culvert or flood/slucigates within the dam structure itself. The spillway channels water around the dam, on the Mt. Vernon side, and then joins the main stream connecting Parker Pond to Taylor Pond.

This year the Chairmanship of the Dam Committee passed from the long-time Chair, Mr. Stephen Cowperthwaite, to Steve Linder. The Board acknowledges the long and tireless efforts of Mr. Cowperthwaite in maintaining the dam, and in serving in many other capacities over the years. We also thank Mr. Cowperthwaite for his continued support for projects

involving the upkeep of the dam and promotion of the Pond Association mission.

Over the past year the Dam Committee has identified and begun to address an infestation of Japanese Knot Weed on the down-stream crown of the dam, just above the old sluicgate. Over the course of several visits this small stand of knotweed, which is quite pervasive and can quickly get out of control, has been reduced to several small stalks. These will be removed before winter and the committee will be on watch to address any re-emergence in the spring.

In the coming year the Association will undertake the emplacement of riprap along the Mt. Vernon side bank of the spillway. This project will address some bank erosion and will promote cleaner down-stream waters.

We are in the fortunate position of having a good dam and spillway on Parker Pond. Thanks to the association and its supporters.

-Stephen Linder, Dam Committee

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR MANAGING CAMP ROADS

Poorly maintained camp roads are one of the biggest threats to Parker Pond. These roads are a major source of soil erosion and often result in large volumes of water – polluted with sediment and phosphorus – running into the lake. This degrades water quality and can lead to algal blooms.

Many camp roads date back to the early 1900s and are plagued by chronic erosion problems due to their lack of planning and poor design. Historically, camp roads provided seasonal access to a few cottages and their “designers” often did not take into consideration land drainage and topography. Road construction involved little more than cutting a swath of trees and laying down a carpet of gravel. Most were very narrow with sharp curves and steep hills to travel on.

Today, the majority of these cottages have been converted to year-round use, many additional shore lots have been developed, and traffic demand has increased exponentially. Back lot development is also growing rapidly. This changing land use pattern places more demand on road drainage and lake water quality.

Over the past three years, the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA) has worked with Parker Pond residents to address threats from camp roads. With the support of a grant from the Maine DEP and the US EPA*, 30MRWA provided technical assistance and matching funds to road associations to improve their roads and protect water quality. In 2014, projects were completed on Fellows Cove Road and Quimby Lane. This fall, projects were completed on Bearnstow/Grants Point Roads and Fellows Farm Road.

The highest priority project on Bearnstow and adjoining Grants Point Road, as with many camp roads, was addressing drainage issues. In late October, five new cross culverts were installed to redistribute water. Ditches were then established in preparation for future road surface rebuilding and crowning. In order to accomplish this work and provide a means of managing their roads in the future, the group formed a statutory road association. This formal organization will provide many benefits to landowners, including (1) improving road safety and drivability, (2) reducing maintenance costs over time, (3) providing liability protections for members, (4) protecting water quality, and (5) protecting property values, among others.

Though this was the final year of the grant, 30MRWA staff and partners are still available to provide technical assistance to address your camp road issues, from evaluating the condition of the road to helping to form a road association to developing a road management plan. Contact Lidie Robbins at lidie@30mileriver.org and 860-4043 for more information.



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.

**Clyde Walton, technical advisor for 30MRWA, at culvert inlet on Bearnstow Rd. Ditch bottom and emergency spillway armored with rip-rap*

BOAT LAUNCHES/PULL-OUTS AT QUIMBY LANE

For the past 3 years, the PPA has gratefully contracted with the Parker Lake Shores Recreation Association to allow PPA members from elsewhere on the pond to launch or pull out boats at the private Quimby Lane launch in the spring or fall on 6 mornings a year, 3 in the spring and 3 in the fall. This year we processed 16 boats all together, providing safer management of larger boats and

allowing us to inspect them for invasive plants and recruit a couple new PPA members. Launch fees of \$480 go predominantly to the PLSRA (\$450) for launch maintenance and the remainder to PPA. The launch was dramatically improved last year by the PLSRA with help from a Dept. of Environmental Protection 319 grant and the 30 Mile River Watershed Association youth

conservation corps. We are working to renew our launch agreement for another 3 years.



Work at Quimby Lane boat launch

Water Quality Report

All and all it has been a good year for water quality on Parker. Perhaps it was due to less rain this season, or to all the good work of YCC with the ongoing projects around the lake reducing runoff into the lake.

The dissolved oxygen (DO) readings spring and late summer were consistent with last season's readings. However, the water was warmer this season in late August, 2014=11.5C or 52.7F and 2015=12.7C or 54.8F at a depth of 12 M or 39 ft.

The clarity readings were also better this year than last, and are being done by a year round shore landowner.

The late August core sample, which is taken down to 1 meter below the depth of the epi/metalimnion (where the water stratifies) was 0.007mg/L verses 0.01 taken last season at the same time.

The grab sample, taken in the hypolimnion (lower layer) was the same as last year, .009mg/L. Hypolimnetic values that are greater than those observed in the epilimnion (upper level) particularly when D.O. levels are low, can indicate that phosphorus is being released from the sediments and internal recycling of phosphorus may be occurring. This was just one sample, and may need to be duplicated to be of concern for internal recycling.

One thing is for sure, and that is, where there are increased levels of phosphorus, there are increased levels of algae. We in the association and all of those around the pond need to be hyper-vigilant about any runoff into the lake and do even better than the shore land zoning laws.

Sincerely,
Deb Cayer, Water Quality Chair

***REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP TODAY!***

Parker Pond Association Stewardship

On a beautiful fall afternoon, nine PPA members walked the Kelly conservation easement on the east side of the pond. While there is not a trail at this time, we looked at possible sites and found many of the surveyor's markers indicating the northern boundary. This beautiful property has been saved via a conservation easement with PPA for over 10 years. In the northern part of the forest we observed a variety of mosses, ferns and a large hop-horn beam with its shaggy bark and saw tooth leaves.

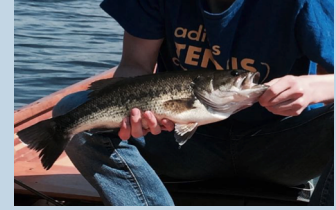
On PP Headlands trail, two mushroom walks revealed very few mushrooms in this dry year, especially on the second walk in early September. Cynthia Stancioff was interesting and little fungi evident, we contented ourselves with illustrated books. It is possible that only mushroom hunters and gardeners want rain in the summer.

In June, Glenn Hodgkins once again lead a bird walk with about 12 people attending. Sightings of seven kinds of warblers, scarlet tanagers, veerys, red eyed vireos and yellow-bellied sapsuckers, among others had us all pointing and staring through our binoculars. We were fortunate to have people on the walk with in-depth knowledge of the Maine woods and animals. Their answers to our questions made the walk even more fun. Next year we may go to the newly acquired Andrews property, which has wetland where we can expect to see varieties not seen on the headlands.

Most of the headlands trails continue to be in good condition. During this year's assessment we discussed having next year's interns move the trailhead. The current trailhead is often missed by hikers who are new to the trail. We've had reports of frightened people going around the trail twice or even three times looking for access to the parking lot. As a temporary fix, there are a couple magic marked boards nailed to trees pointing toward the parking lot. Once again, we ask that hikers and walkers use the Fellows Cove Road parking lot. Fellows Farm Road does not have an official parking area.



– Maggie Chadwick, Stewardship Chair



Fishing

Tom Spears, our new newsletter fishing column author, had shoulder surgery this spring that severely limited his fishing and hence his reports. We hope the shoulder and his pen are working again next spring. Our smelt habitat rehabilitation project has been waiting for the Inland Fish and Wildlife staff to begin; they, in turn, have been waiting for 2 new fishway culverts to be installed on the Sandy River Road by Fayette, which now has received grant money to do so. Thus there is hope we can begin work on King Brook next spring.

Bylaws Amendment

New Membership Options: New bylaws were adopted at this year's annual meeting. Family members of property owners within 1000 feet of the shore can now join as voting members too. Owners can also sponsor up to two other persons per year as voting members. Please see Article 3 of the bylaws, posted on our website at parkerpond.org for more details.

5th Annual Classic Meets Pops Concert and July 4th Fireworks Display

Thank you to Jerry Slavet for bringing us this wonderful cultural opportunity for another year! Donations collected at the concert supported the 30Mile River Watershed Association and the Parker Pond Association.

ISLAND STEWARDSHIP

A dozen volunteers cleaned up, monitored and tallied visitor comments on the 4 island public campgrounds on Parker's islands this summer. Loon, Spruce, Birch and Bill's islands, like all the islands in Parker Pond, are owned by the State of Maine, having been donated to the State by Central Maine Power in the 1950s when CMP decided not to generate hydroelectricity from the lake. Volunteers cleaned up the campsites in the spring, replaced the aging picnic table on Bill's, repaired the toilet seat on Spruce's wilderness "wet willie", and replaced missing signage and 5 gallon buckets kept on each island for fire prevention. It has been 4 years since we've had a serious fire on any of the islands. The green cabin on Loon continues to be the most popular site with visitors nearly every weekend. Pete Smith of the Farmington Dept. of Conservation Office visits the islands and assigns a ranger to the lake for summer visits each year; Parker Pond Association members Murray Campbell, Bob Weimont and Marty Arnold put in the most time this year; thank them when you see them. 17 groups of visitors registered their appreciation and suggestions.

— Dan Onion, Lake Usage Chair



Cabin on Loon Island



PARKER POND ASSOCIATION, INC.

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