

November 2016



Parker Pond Association

President's Message

Hello from Parker Pond. I was out at the lake today closing up the camp. Absolutely beautiful! It's so easy to see the shrubs along the shoreline this time of year. It must be the blueberry bushes that are dark red now. If you look out on the islands the shrubs are everywhere, but if you look along the shore where there are camps, there is significantly less shrubbery. It has taken me 23 years of living on the lake to observe this. It reminds me of what Sherlock Holmes said to Watson, "You see, but do not observe". It is these shrubs and plants on the shore of Parker Pond that create the important buffer to filter out unwanted erosion and contaminants to the lake. The more shrubs, the more buffer, the more pristine our lake.

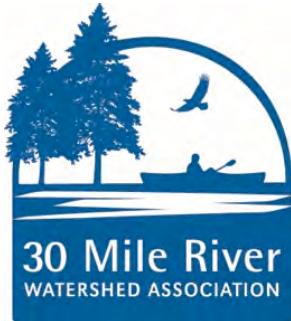
I had the opportunity to attend a lecture by Peter Tobiessen, author of the book, *The Secret Life of a Lake*. The bottom line take home message was that the key ingredient to lake pollution is phosphorus and it only takes a small amount to throw off a lake's healthy nutrient balance. Human activity and severe weather have contributed to increased runoff and phosphorous loading in our waterways. As a result, added phosphorus can stimulate unhealthy algae blooms. The moral of the story; more buffer plants and less runoff = cleaner water in Parker. Maybe we could ask 30 Mile River Watershed Association for a workshop on creating better shoreline buffers for a healthier lake.

The Board of officers has been engaged this fall on many issues related to Parker. Steve is working on soil erosion issue at the spillway of the Dam. Bill, Dan and Karen are working on what to do with Loon Island - please participate in the Loon Island survey, so we can hear your voice. Amanda is working on the Kelly easement and Susan, Waine and Lidie are looking into online option for paying dues. As more projects come to the table, we will keep you informed.

We are blessed to have a diligent, intelligent board dedicated to thoughtful stewardship of the lake. The passion for Parker Pond is easily felt. As I was swimming in Parker this summer I felt so many times as though I were swimming in silk. It felt that clean. I found myself saying, "Is this Heaven? No it's Parker Pond."

Have a good winter and be well.
Sincerely, Gerry Tinguely, President

FMI on phosphorus: <http://tinyurl.com/hyydul8>



News from the 30 Mile River Watershed Association

It was a summer full of activity in the 30 Mile River Watershed! Between our new water quality monitoring initiative and the old favorites like Courtesy Boat Inspections and the Youth Conservation Corps, there was never a dull moment. Here are some of the season's highlights:

Courtesy Boat Inspections

We met our 2016 goal of staffing the Parker Pond, Flying Pond, and Androscoggin Lake public boat launches for a total of **1,000 hours**. Fourteen volunteer inspectors contributed an additional 104 valuable hours at the launches as well. These efforts combined resulted in **1,879 inspections** with 85 plant fragments intercepted on boats; fortunately, none were invasive. Staff CBIs spent a total of 280 hours at the Parker Pond launch, and four volunteers staffed the launch for 15 hours, for a total of 495 inspections and 3 intercepted plant fragments. A big “thank you” to the volunteer and staff CBIs for all your hard work, and to all the boaters doing their part to keep invasive plants out of our lakes!



Water Quality Monitoring

With the help of numerous volunteers throughout the watershed, we were able to regularly monitor six lakes this season for a number of water quality indicators. These lakes included Basin Pond, David Pond, Parker Pond, Minnehonk Lake, Lovejoy Pond, and Pocasset Lake. After receiving training from the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) and the Department of Environment Protection (DEP), water quality intern Austin Schuver and Program Coordinator Katie Moran collected the following data: water clarity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorous, chlorophyll, and estimates quantifying the amount of *Gloeotrichia*, a type of cyanobacteria that is often described as looking like tapioca. The gathered data will help us better understand our lakes, what may be affecting them, and guide future decisions on their conservation. Check out this season's data on our website!



Fifteen volunteers helped make the first year of this program a success -- by taking 30MRWA staff out on the lakes and in many cases assisting with data collection. We recruited a new water quality monitor for Minnehonk Lake, along with an additional four volunteers who will likely become certified monitors next year. Many of the volunteers are already VLMP monitors who take water clarity readings, so thank you for all the time you put into conserving your lakes! A special thank you goes to Bob Weimont, Marty Arnold, Deb Cayer, and Sue Knorr for their help in monitoring Parker this season.

Youth Conservation Corps



Our Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) had a successful 6th season. The crew completed 14 projects throughout the watershed: 10 for private landowners and 4 for towns. Five of these projects were on Parker Pond, as were two additional site visits. Examples of projects included infiltration trenches, native plant buffers, and **repairing the Parker Pond public boat launch**.

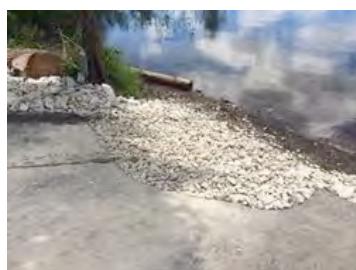
Although the crew is finished for the 2016 season, you can still submit a **Site Visit Request** on our website and get your property on the schedule for next summer!

For more news and information, or to make a donation, please visit our website at
www.30mileriver.org

YCC Boat Launch Project



Before



After



Sixth Annual Classic Meets Pop Concert



Mount Vernon celebrated the 4th of July with the 6th annual Classic Meets Pop concert and fireworks display. Thank you to Jerry Slavet for hosting the talented NPR *From the Top* alumni musicians and bringing this wonderful cultural opportunity to Mt. Vernon for yet another year! Funds from this concert support lake conservation programs at both 30Mile River Watershed Association and the Parker Pond Association.



Thanks to Leonid Tsvetkov for these Parker Pond photos

We are always looking for pictures to post in our newsletter and on the Parker Pond Association website. If you have photos that you have taken and would like to share with us, please send us a note at: <http://www.parkerpond.org/contact-us.html> Thanks!

Parker Pond Association Annual Meeting Minutes 7/16/16 6:00 pm

Attended by 42 adults and 2 kids

President Marty Arnold called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. This meeting may be Marty's last after 37 years, as he will be living full time in Pennsylvania.

30 Mile Watershed—Lidie Robbins The boat launch on Tower Road, owned by the Town of Vienna, was in very rough shape after the winter. 30 Mile planned a fix and it was completed by the Youth Conservation Corps. The annual paddle trek will be happening in a few weeks. 30 Mile has been participating in watershed water quality interviews, in collaboration with University of Maine, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and others.

Water Quality—Deb Cayer Temperature and dissolved oxygen in Parker Pond have been sampled periodically over the years. The secchi depth (a measure of water clarity) in June was 9 meters, which is very good. Data from Parker Pond is available on the websites of 30 Mile Watershed and the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program.

Comments from Gerry on the green “dots” in the lake: they are a natural cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that secrete a toxin that some people are sensitive to.

Lake Usage—Dan Onion Planned improvements to the King Brook culvert on Sandy River Road may help with smelt habitat. There have been boat launches at Quimby Lane the last 5-6 years; PPA membership is required and boats are inspected for invasive plants.

Island Stewardship: the State appreciates the PPA stewardship of the State-owned islands in Parker Pond. Several islands have tent sites. The State is OK with keeping the cabin on Loon Island if it is maintained. Volunteers are needed.

Stewardship—Maggie Chadwick Amanda Smith will be taking over stewardship. A trail is planned on the PPA Kelly conservation easement.

Membership—Marty Arnold Currently there are 124 members. Marty will be leading a new focus on recruiting more members. One idea that came up was having membership available through the website. There was a suggestion to list members on the website. The board will discuss this. Another option is to make a list available to road association officers.

The subject of salmon fishing was raised. There was a discussion of management goals: trophy fish vs. catching smaller fish regularly. Young people should be encouraged to take up fishing and courses for this purpose may be desirable.

Treasurers report—Waine Whittier

A full treasurers report was in the last newsletter. Last year income was \$8500 and expenses were \$7600.

Invasives—Lidie Robbins There are 21 volunteers for plant patrol. More are needed to cover more of the lake. Also, more volunteer boat inspectors are needed.

Dam—Steve Linder The dam is in good shape and terrestrial invasives are being monitored and taken care of.

Communications—Susan Onion Please be sure to notify Susan of any email changes. The PPA website has good information and links.

Nominating committee—Waine Whittier

Nominations for next year are: Gerry Tinguely, President Bill Rosenberg, Vice President Glenn Hodgkins, Secretary Waine Whittier, Treasurer Susan Onion, Communications Deb Cayer, Water Quality

Lidie Robbins, Invasive Aquatic Plants Amanda Smith, Stewardship Steve Linder, Dam Dan Onion, Lake Usage, Fish and Wildlife (also 30-Mile rep) Marty Arnold, Membership and Immediate Past President

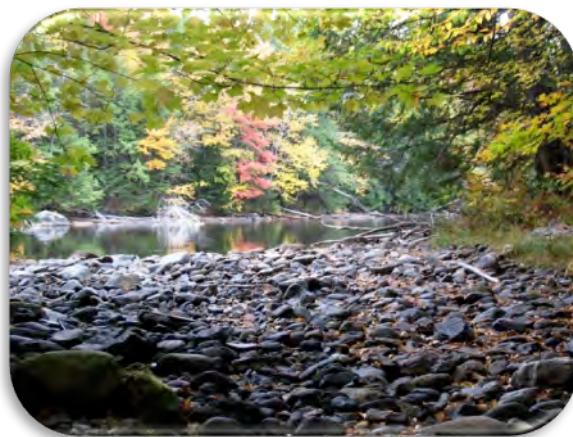
A motion was made (Waine) and seconded (Marty) to approve nominations for 2016; motion passed unanimously.

Hearty thanks were expressed to Marty and Fiora for all their work over the years!

**The dam news for this fall...
water levels way down due to drought.**



Dam Spillway October 2015



Dam Spillway October 2016

Is Parker Pond Your Shangri-La?

In the mid 1930's a movie, based on the book "Lost Horizon" by James Hilton, opened across the country. The movie was also titled "Lost Horizon" and starred Ronald Colman.

The story is essentially this: An airplane crashes in the mysterious and unknown portion of the Himalayan Mountains. The survivors are taken to a hidden city, **Shangri-La**, where all is beautiful and serene, and the inhabitants are happy and live very long lives. While there is some intrigue and some violence my prevailing memory of the story is much more about the mystery of the place: **Shangri-La**.

I remember seeing the movie sometime in the 1940's, probably with my mother who loved fantastic stories and I, being a child, also thought it was a wonderful story, a fairytale of sorts.

Most of us have our own "Shangri-La". It's located in that part of the brain where we store feelings associated with peace, joy and profound satisfaction. It's a place waiting for you to visit. Some meditation and/or feel-good activities like boating /hiking/ running/swimming can also take you there.

And then, there are physical things like pictures and locations that also bring-on some of these same results: a sense of well being. Parker Pond does it for me: Sitting in my boat/resting on my dock/

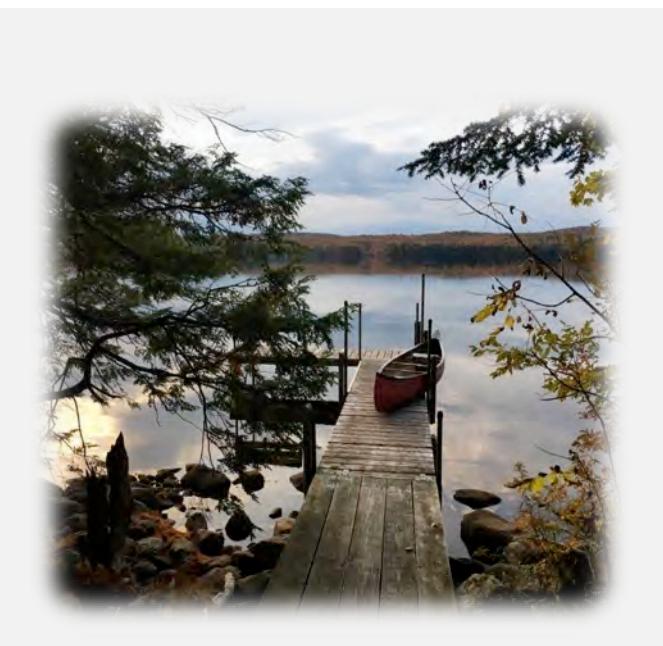
looking out my window, I lose pounds of concern and tons of worry: So, I sing the song: "how happy I am to be here".

The PPA, your association, works to keep the pond just that inviting and stimulating. But, there are many tasks and projects with so few volunteers to do the work. If this is your "Shangri-La" and you enjoy, no, love the "pond", give us a hand. Add your name to the list of those who can be called upon to do "cheerful service".

I've reviewed this year's data and I'm happy to say that we now have 135 members.

Interestingly, because of the recent By-Laws change, 12 families now have two or more voting members. Good for them!

- Marty Arnold
(Membership Committee Chair)



It's Time to Renew Your Membership for 2017!

If you are currently a member, this is a reminder that it is time to renew your annual membership for 2017. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining us to help PPA continue the work of protecting beautiful Parker Pond.

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



Mile River Watershed Assoc.
YCC Crew 2016

*At our 2016 annual membership meeting, some members asked if we could look into providing an online option for renewing membership. We are currently working on this and will likely be offering this option in the spring. Watch for our spring newsletter for more information!



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