



PARKER POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. IV

PARKER POND ASSOCIATION

October 1991

SPECIAL MEETING--ANNUAL MEETING 1991

A Special Meeting of the Parker Pond Association was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 13, 1991 by President, Martin Arnold.

After introducing himself, Martin explained that the By-Laws of the Association require that the Annual Meeting be held in August. A vote of the membership at the 1990 Annual Meeting had authorized the establishment of a committee to review the By-Laws and to recommend any changes at a Special Meeting to be held on July 13, 1991. Further discussion of the By-Laws and committee recommendations would follow the normal order of business.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The Treasurer's report indicated a total balance on hand, after annual expenditures, at \$5,426.34. This represents a net gain of \$16.34 over the balance on hand in August of 1990.

Discussion resumed concerning the Association By-Laws. Martin explained that there had been some concern expressed by some members at the last Annual Meeting who wanted to make sure the Parker Pond Association was sufficiently empowered to look out for the best interests of the Lake in the years ahead. There was concern that the By-Laws might require some revision since no changes had been made since 1961.

Martin explained that a committee of five officers and trustees had carefully read the By-Laws. The committee unanimously agreed that the Parker Pond Association had excellent By-Laws and recommended only that the Annual Meeting date be changed from August to July. This change would allow individuals to meet earlier in the summer while there was still time for the new committees formed last year to do their work. The recommendation was approved. And it was also voted at the meeting in session, a Special Meeting, would be considered the Annual Meeting for 1991.

The Meeting continued with committee reports:

Membership: Beverly Shaw reported that her committee had met several times this spring and had been very busy preparing a map of the lake to facilitate the canvassing of property owners around the lake seeking new members for the Parker Pond Association and distributing information about water quality and care of the watershed. This personal approach has proven effective but is time consuming and often frustrating because many people are not home. Members of this committee will also publish the Newsletter in the future.

Dam and Water Quality: Wayne Whittier reported that this committee has not met recently; however, he has talked with Scott Williams. Scott's May readings were very good. Wayne asked Scott about the usefulness of testing the lake for coliform bacteria and was advised that such tests were not useful unless there was a question about a particular area of the lake or a suspicion of a possible source. Scott also indicated that he has been awarded a grant to work with towns in a watershed to maintain water quality. Wayne has discussed the proposal with the Vienna Planning Board, and they are interested in participating. He will contact other towns around the lake. He and members of the committee will meet with Scott to find out just what can be done.

Fish, Wildlife and Boating: John Peterson outlined the process his committee has gone through to obtain a permit to shoot some gulls on the lake. We have the permit, and John and Ray Anderson have shot 14 to date as well as blasting a good number with cracker shells. As it is too early to tell if there has been any effect. All dead gulls must be retrieved and disposed of in a landfill. One number reported counting more than 550 gulls on two occasions.

John also reported that he and Steve Cowperthwaite built a loon nest. Ray Anderson towed it to a location in the north end of the lake, but it does not appear to have been used this year.

There are two active osprey nests on the lake this year.

John concluded his remarks by urging members to report boating violations and wildlife harassment to the authorities. He expresses great concern that many boaters don't seem to know what they are doing.

New Business: Martin has a new computer and plans to set up a format for the Newsletter instead of having one person working alone.

Some individuals forming a lake association wrote to ask if our association has any objection to the name, Pleasant Lake-Parker Pond Association, Inc. No objections from our membership were voiced; however, there was a suggestion that the organization call itself the Pleasant Lake Parker Pond Association of Casco.

Voted to pay the expenses of the President to attend the C.O.L.A. meeting at the YMCA camp in East Winthrop.

Two loon chicks were sighted in the north end of the lake. A pair nested a month late on the platform in the cove at the outlet.

The following officers were elected:
President--Martin Arnold
Vice President--Flora Arnold
Treasurer--Waine Whittier
Secretary--Steve Cowperthwaite
Asst. Secretary--Jeremiah Healy III
Trustee for three years--Ray Anderson

The meeting broke into committees for meetings and refreshments and adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Cowperthwaite
Secretary

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The main thrust of the membership committee is to engage as many landowners as possible to become members of the Parker Pond Association, to assure the cleanest pond we can attain for our recreation as well as future generations.

Our committee is made up of a diversity of landowners: Jean and Brent St. Clair, and Beverly Shaw from the South End, Steve Cowperthwaite from the Dam Outlet, Flora Arnold, Betty Huetter and Dave Ford from the East Shore, Millie Whittier from the North End, Don Martin, Al and Betty Earle and Jean Wells from the West Side. In this way we have input from all around the pond.

Our pond needs care and loving stewardship, clean motors, attention to gas leaks, protection of our beautiful loon population and alertness to any practices around the shores that may be harmful to the pond in runoff. These things can best be served if we work together in educating landowners to the safe practices for the pond.

Moreover, it is the association's function to have a semi-yearly test by the DEP to monitor the clarity of the water, test locations if a pollution problem is evident and talk with the landowners to find a solution to the problems. This costs money and we need your support. Our annual dues are \$20. Please note Treasury Report for breakdown of where your dues go. Won't you join us in our pursuit of caring and helping it to be the best pond around!

We want to thank those who have shared our concern. The following page lists the paid members of the Parker Pond Association.

Due to the expense of mailing, in the future, the newsletter will only be sent to paid members.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Shaw
Membership Chairperson
Parker Pond Association

SHORELAND ORDINANCES

The four towns that surround Parker Pond will, by the end of 1991, have rewritten the Shoreland Ordinances to conform with the new state Shoreland Ordinances. Each town will have their own ordinances reviewed and accepted by the state at a special town meeting. These ordinances by the state are the minimum and each town's can be more restrictive.

Each town and each landowner within this beautiful watershed will be able to measure its enforcement by the quality of the water.

Two of the ordinances, among the many, which seem important are, one, the distance from the high-water mark a home can be and the increase in size a structure is allowed. The distance will change from the current 75ft to 100ft. This distance is not always measured by the lake's edge, but by a possible wetland edge determined by plants and soil. This may effect the actual allowable distance. The site evaluator is familiar with the town's ordinances.

The second change in the state's laws will allow someone who is in ownership of a home too close to the water, to expand the structure by no more than 30% (for the life of the home) and can still meet all other setbacks.

These laws are going to restrict all of us to some degree, but what would happen if we just "asked" everyone on Parker to be careful with motorboats; if we "asked" everyone not to keep the short fish; and if we "asked" everyone not to cut the forest for a Riviera? If we want to keep the quality of our lake up, we need the Ordinances and we need the enforcement.

Brent St. Clair

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Parker is really different. The mood of the lake is a reflection of wind and sky. The inhabitants, realizing they have nothing to say about the matter, make little effort to resist the prevailing character. They fish, boat, swim, sun and even hibernate. Mostly, they do their "thing" by themselves without enlisting their neighbors, be they distant or local.

Other lakes, however, have been conquered by its residents. There they boat, party, dine and drink as a social entity. The shores echo shrill voices, loud noises and louder music. These lakes are passive, but nobody there notices.

I appreciate the Parker mentality, with its independent way, and wouldn't change it if I could. But, it happens that we need to reach out every once-in-a-while and prod our fellows in other coves or on other shores. Sort of a "In Quest of Fire" gig.

In the spirit of this "quest", Dave Ford, (Boat Launch Cove), and I (Mid East Shore) visited Fellows Cove this past August. While we were on Association business (membership drive) we were also interested to touch base with folks around the lake and to pick up comments and opinions regarding the Association, the lake or other issues of interest. Most of the neighbors welcomed our dropping by just as we enjoyed the conversation. Many showed us their camps with obvious and deserving pride. They all remembered Bob Austin's yearly visits and miss his brand of soliciting for the Assoc. It's obvious we need more Bob Austins.

We came back with a few additions to the membership and a much better understanding of the need to make eye-ball contact with the people that share our lake. I would hope that next year we try more cross-the-lake visits with perhaps different road associations visiting each other as a means of spreading "how-to-do" knowledge around. Since so many of us are tied into a road association of sorts, we are attempting to put together a seminar, next year, on road construction and maintenance. Stay tuned and send me your comments.

Marty Arnold, President
16 Main Street
Winthrop, ME 04364

Fish, Wildlife & Boating Committee Progress Report:

Loons

The Parker Pond loon census was conducted on Saturday, July 20, 1991 from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. It was done in cooperation with the Maine Audubon Society's annual statewide census. Five volunteers covered specific areas of the entire pond by boat in 30 minutes following the same census techniques employed by Maine Audubon. Sixteen adult loons and two chicks were counted this year compared to 14 adults and one chick in 1990.

One loon egg was laid late in the season in the nest on the artificial nesting platform located in the cove by the dam. It was incubated for a short time and then abandoned. Although two loon chicks were observed during the census, they have not been observed since. The nesting platform that was constructed early this year was not used. Plans are to renovate this nesting platform so it will be more attractive to loons next nesting season. Consideration will be given to relocating it.

Loon chick production is frighteningly low and we are concerned whether the population will be able to sustain itself over time even though loons may live up to 20 years or more. The chairman of the Fish, Wildlife and Boating Committee will explore loon nesting and chick production and survival to find out what is normal and what can be done to assist them. Comparison will also be made with loon numbers and chick production on other lakes in central Maine.

High speed boats have been observed pursuing loons on Parker Pond. It is obviously illegal and practiced by only a few cruel adults or careless children. Such incidents should be reported immediately to the Maine Warden Service by calling 1-800-253-7887. A description and number of the boat would aid in their apprehension.

Gulls

Efforts to control gulls on Parker Pond using cracker shells in combination with live ammunition began in May and will continue throughout the 1991 season. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit was finally approved. The justification for controlling the gulls is to maintain the water quality of the pond and to protect the loon chicks from predation by Herring and Greater Black-backed gulls. It is known that gulls travel back and forth from the lake to the dumps and create unsanitary conditions as well as a potential disease

hazard. They have also been observed harassing and diving at loon chicks.

The objective is not to totally eliminate gulls from Parker Pond but to reduce their numbers to a tolerable level. It is already apparent that control efforts have been effective in substantially reducing the gull population on Parker Pond.

Ospreys

Ospreys successfully nested on two islands in Parker Pond. Two young were known to have fledged from one nest. The ospreys that nested on the island in Fellows Cove seemed to tolerate a considerable amount of human activity with no apparent adverse effects.

Boating

Some individuals operate boats negligently and recklessly either through ignorance or because they have no consideration for their own or anyone else's safety. The boating regulation concerning head speed, i.e., minimum forward motion with the boat under control within 200 feet of the shoreline, is not being observed. Perhaps it is time to report chronic offenders to the Warden service. This should become a joint responsibility of all Parker Pond property owners and those who use the lake and care about safety.

John Peterson

Water Quality Monitoring Results for 1991

Aquatic Biologist Scott William monitored our lake again this summer and his test results are shown below:

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>5/11</u>	<u>7/12</u>	<u>9/16</u>
Clarity (Mtrs.)	6.6	8.0	7.2
pH (Acidity)	6.7	7.1	6.9
Phosphorus (ppb)	7	5	At Lab
Oxygen below 12m	Satur.	Dep.	Gone

Water clarity (as measured with Secchi Disk) is slightly better than the past few years, perhaps due to the dry summer. The acidity of the lake is near neutral (pH of 7) and consistent with recent years. Phosphorus concentrations in parts per billion remain low, but the September sample has not yet been analyzed. Last September's reading showed a marked rise. Oxygen levels remain a concern, showing that despite the other good indicators, we have a fragile lake. Scott will be providing us an analysis of this data and trends later this year.

Waine Whittier

Association's Financial Condition:

To show you what your membership fee is used for, below is a condensed statement of income and expenses for August 24, 1991 to July 13, 1991.

Income

Dues from 70 members	\$1400.00
Interest Earnings	<u>431.41</u>
Total Income	\$1831.41

Expenses

Water Quality Monitoring	700.00
Meeting & Newsletter Expenses	392.92
Insurance and Taxes	558.21
Congress of Lakes Assoc. Membership	75.00
Application to Control Seagulls	25.00
Loon Nest Platform	23.94
Dam Registration Fee	20.00
Safe Deposit Box	<u>20.00</u>
	\$815.07

As you can see, our income just barely exceeded our expenses. Our balance on hand at the end of the period was \$5,426.34.

Waine Whittier

PHONE NUMBERS

The following phone numbers are listed for your convenience:

President

Martin Arnold 293-2549 or 377-6688

Vice President

Fiora Anderson 293-2549

Treasurer and Dam and Water Quality

Waine Whittier 293-2072

Secretary

Steve Cowperthwaite 293-2809 or 685-3604

Fish, Wildlife and Boating

John Peterson 293-2680 or 549-7225

Membership and Newsletter

Beverly Shaw 293-2058

Inland Fishing and Wildlife 289-2535