Parker Pond Association Newsletter May, 2018

April 24 – Ice Going

April 27 – …Gone

April 30 – They're back!

iPhotos by Patricia Rosenberg

President's Message

Spring has finally arrived here at Parker Pond with ice out April 27. The water looks beautiful. Your board members at Parker Pond Association (PPA) have been very active attending to matters concerning the water quality and the security and maintenance of the dam and spillway on Parker Pond. PPA was successful in purchasing land to secure the spillway on March 14, 2018. The total cost was about $98,000. We secured the loan for $45,000. We raised $33,000 with fundraising and used $20,000 from the general fund. The board is very grateful for the generosity extended by its members during Phase 1 of our fundraising effort. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by great stewards of Parker Pond. It is now time to enter Phase 2 of fundraising.

As an organization we need to lower our debt load ($45,000) so that we can position ourselves to support financially the activities dedicated to improving Parker Pond's water quality. The majority of our yearly expenses are dedicated to 30Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA) for the purposes of technical support and grant writing. (See articles by Deb Cayer, Lidie Robbins and Dan Onion in this newsletter). New scientific information reveals that Parker Pond's water quality is vulnerable. I am asking on behalf of the board for members to make a donation to lower the debt. Check off "Additional Contributions" section on the accompanying remittance form. We Can Do This! Thank You!

I also want to bring your attention to Steve Linder's report on the dam. We will be doing tours of the newly acquired land before the annual meeting. See newsletter for dates. We will have a discussion at the Annual Meeting on July 14 to explore what course of action to take with the newly acquired land that would be in Parker Pond's best interest. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting on July 14 Saturday at 5:30pm for pot luck supper followed by meeting at 6pm.The meeting will be at the same place as last year, the Vienna Grange. We are so fortunate to be stewards of Parker Pond. --*Gerry Tinguely*

Dam and Land Purchase Update

The dam at Parker Pond remains sound. During mid-January's snow-thaw-and rain event, which led to localized flooding in several nearby towns, I visited the dam to assess the flow of the spillway and the level of water at the dam. It was rewarding to find the spillway flowing freely and the water at the dam and at the mouth of the spillway at levels well within the norm. (see photos below)

The dam committee continues to address several outstanding areas identified by the state dam inspector during his last visit. This year we will backfill a small area of low ground on the crown of the dam, institute procedures to monitor several stone blocks that may be "toeing" on the reverse of the dam and continue to place rip-rap on the down-stream curve of the spillway. That said, the big news for the dam committee report centers on the outlet to Taylor Pond. The recent capital fund-raising effort exceeded thresholds established by the board, made the land acquisition feasible. (Continued on p. 3)

See back page for Remaining Boat Launch Dates and Dates for: Tour of Land Purchase & Dam, PPA Annual Meeting & Pot Luck, "From the Top," 30MRWA Paddle Trek

Wakeup Call on Water Quality!

In 2016, U-Maine, MDEP, and the VLMP conducted the "Lake Vulnerability Study" and one of the things they analyzed was lake sediment chemistry. Parker was one of about 170 lakes sampled and, as a result of the study, was "placed on the NPS Priority Threatened Watersheds List in 2018 because it was identified by MDEP as being sensitive due to sediment chemistry. Aluminum to iron and aluminum to phosphorus ratios within lake sediment can indicate whether or not a lake is more vulnerable to the release of sediment-bound phosphorus, which can lead to internal phosphorus recycling. This detrimental process releases phosphorus from sediments, fueling algae growth and creating a destructive positive feedback loop."[1] Parker has met one ratio and is close to meeting the other. Simply put, this means that Parker Pond is much more at risk of losing our good water quality then we had thought.

Although this is bad news for Parker, Lidie Robbins, Executive Director of the 30MRWA, and part of the PPA board, points out "Looking at the positives, this is valuable data to help us manage Parker Pond NOW, before it's too late, it means we are now eligible to receive "319" grant funding from the DEP."
This spring Lidie drafted and submitted a DEP and EPA-approved watershed management plan. This well drafted plan will now enable 30MRWA to apply for 319 grant monies (319 refers to section 319 of the Clean Water Act). Big thanks to Lidie and the team.

PPA and 30MRWA are working hard to preserve our water quality, and hope that you will do your part as well. There is lots you can do to avert polluted runoff into the lake and we are here to help with not only shorefront lands but camp roads and town road issues. Please refer to the Best Management Practices article in this newsletter, if you have issues on your property or camp road we can help! For Parker Pond water quality data 2017, please go to (30mileriver.org) and click on programs and then, water quality monitoring. –*Deb Cayer*

[1]Source: Parker Pond Watershed-based Protection Plan, 30MRWA, April, 2018

What <u>YOU</u> can do to Maintain & Improve Parker Pond's Water Quality

Have you ever noticed exposed roots, gullies, undercut banks, or accumulated sediment on your property or camp road? These are all common signs of erosion, which is defined as the gradual removal and transportation of rocks or soil in a particular area. Erosion poses a significant risk to water quality because it has the potential to pollute storm water runoff. Polluted storm water runoff is one of the largest threats to the water quality of our lakes, ponds, and streams.

As storm water flows, it can erode away bare ground, picking up pollutants along the way, such as fertilizers, bacteria, grease, and soil. This polluted runoff adds phosphorus, a nutrient that feeds algae, to our lakes. Therefore, as phosphorus increases, the likelihood of harmful algal blooms also increases. These algal blooms cause a decline in water quality and hurt property values, recreation, and aquatic organisms. (continued on p. 5)

NEWS from 30 Mile River Watershed Association

There is much good news from the 30MRWA for Parker Pond this spring. Thanks are due to Lidie Robbins, 30 MRWA executive director and chair of the PPA Invasive Aquatic Plant Committee. She astutely discovered that the Maine Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) had recently increased their risk estimates of internal phosphorous recycling and consequent algal blooms in Parker, based on sediment ratios of iron, aluminum and phosphates. That prompted her to quickly submit a new **Watershed-based Protection Plan for Parker Pond,** which lays out the strategy and schedule for 30MRWA and PPA Nonpoint Source (NPS) mitigation and water quality protection efforts on the Parker Pond watershed over the next ten years (2018 to 2028). That plan was approved by the Maine and Federal DEPs last month. Now we are applying for multi-year funds from them to do this remediation and prevention work (a 2-3 yr. grant, due in June; total award amount probably in the $50-$80K range). (continued on p. 4)

In Memoriam - Sally Kelly

On a dreary day in February, I learned that Sally Kelly had passed away. Sally was the matriarch of a great family that has been here on the Lake about 60 years. A fountain of wisdom, love and kindness, she passed away at home on February 8th surrounded by her loving family while they sang songs and told stories. She was 97.

Sally was born in Baltimore, graduated from Syracuse in '42 with a major in theatre, performed summer stock, served in the Women's Army Corps in Cairo during World War II and was an active member of Veterans for Peace. She founded two clown ministries. "Sally loved her family, lived her faith, strove to bring love and laughter to all she met and often broke out with a song or a story."

I thought of Sally often that day. Many times, while rowing, Sally or one of the family waved me in to share a cup of coffee, a treat, talk about the Lake, hear a story or poem or just visit. I could hear her gentle voice, see her lovely smile. She was a beautiful person. Thinking of Sally brightened that day the way knowing her has brightened my life. She was a pre-deceased by Kingsley, her husband and the patriarch of the family. I feel blessed to have known both. --*Steve Cowperthwaite*

Dam and Land Purchase Update (continued)

Ownership of this property by the PPA provides security in support of our stewardship responsibilities for the pond and the dam that simply would not exist should this property have continued in private ownership. This acquisition restores pond frontage on the spillway side of the dam that was lost when the dam's center-sluiceway was filled in and the spillway was installed to provide outlet for the waters of Parker Pond. The ownership of the pond- frontage gives the association security of owning both shoulders of the dam site and offers flexibility in addressing issues that might arise along the mouth of the spillway. Ownership also provides the association with real-property rights for addressing hazards to the spillway, such as removing trees that threaten the bank of the spillway or other potential hazards or obstructions to the spillway or natural stream. Further, such rights provide the association with staging area for materials needed to address any maintenance or repair of the spillway and dam. Finally, ownership of the property conveys improved right-of-way to the spillway for any work required, and for normal maintenance, at both the spillway and the dam.

Winter Thaw at Spillway and Dam, January 18, 2018
--photos by intrepid Steve Linder

Over the next 24 months the PPA board will continue to assess the options available for our mission requirements as it relates to this property. Options include retaining the full property or identifying that portion of property not essential to the association's mission for re-sale in order to pay-off outstanding balance of the loan. The board will be updating the association membership on its findings and proposals for the next phase of this land acquisition. We are offering any interested members an "on the ground" tour of the property before the annual meeting (**see the back page for dates and how to join a tour)**. This tour will provide interested persons the opportunity to see the area and ask questions about the benefits of our ownership of the land. --*Steve Linder*

Treasurer's Report – Calendar Year 2017

Major categories of revenues and expenses are shown below. Our total balance at the end of 2017 was $67,347 including $25,180 raised for the purchase of land adjacent to the dam. Excluding the land campaign, revenues were $7,661. This was $779 short of our expenses. Perhaps some donors shifted their normal general-purpose donations to the land campaign. The land purchase occurred in March at a total cost of $98,349 including closing costs. Sources of funds were $32,820 from the land campaign, $20,529 from our general fund and $45,000 from a loan. So, 2018 expenses will include about $2,000 extra for interest on the loan. Other expenses will be a bit higher than in 2017 because of increased efforts on water quality. In short, as Gerry Tinguely said in his President's Message, we need your continued strong support in order to maintain our stewardship efforts. If you would like more details about the finances, send me a message at wpwhittier@aol.com. Thank you everyone for your support. --*Waine Whittier*

Dues	$ 3,400	Invasive Plants	$ 2,000
Other Contributions	4,227	Water Quality	4,300
Land Campaign	25,180	Dam	558
Interest	34	Other	1,582
Total Revenues	$ 32,841	Total Expenses	$ 8,440

NEWS from 30 Mile River Watershed Association (continued)

The overall goal is to maintain or improve water in Parker Pond by reducing current and preventing new sources of phosphorus loading to the lake, building local stewardship through a LakeSmart team, and tracking lake water for clarity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll (for algae) all of which will help us better understand our lake and adjust management accordingly.

It's also looking like 30MRWA is going to have the most experienced and largest staff yet this coming season. Katie Church will be starting her second year with 30 Mile River; she will coordinate the Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) program again. We have at least three returning CBI staff (all retirees). Marissa Rossi, the Maine Conservation Corps/Americorps Environmental Steward, started last month. She will run the Water Quality monitoring program and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). An intern will be working with her on the monitoring, as well as completing the camp road survey.

The 30MRWA YCC and CBI teams are being hired at the new State minimum wage rates. The YCC will begin tackling a list of projects in late June, several on Parker. For the price of the materials, camp owners can get inexpensive labor help doing projects to reduce phosphate run off from their land into the lake. Once again Parker Pond will get some paid CBIs at peak times in return for cost reimbursement by us, and several volunteers (we'd welcome your help) will continue inspecting boats at the several Parker boat launches. The goal is to prevent the spread of invasive plants by working with boaters to inspect their watercraft before entering and leaving the water. If you come to the Parker boat launch while they are there, say hello and talk to them about how boat inspections help prevent invasive species from entering our lakes and ponds. We've intercepted several scary clumps of invasive plants on launching boats over recent years. Checkout the 30 MRWA website (http://30mileriver.org/) to learn more about our CBI and YCC programs.

Finally, 30 MRWA is doing a big push this year to survey and help road associations reduce runoff to the lake; they are one of the biggest contributors to non-point phosphate loading. The website has a self-survey, which starts the process. Then road owners/associations can get further help creating road management plans from workshops on forming and managing a road association, managing and maintaining camp roads, technical assistance, matching funds and online resources. --*Dan Onion*

What <u>YOU</u> can do to Maintain & Improve Parker Pond's Water Quality (continued)

The good news is that there are often simple, low cost fixes you can implement on your own property to help mitigate erosion and capture polluted storm water runoff on land BEFORE it reaches the lake. Through stabilization, infiltration and diversion, these fixes, or Best Management Practices (BMPs), help prevent excess phosphorus from getting into our lakes and streams.

Infiltration steps installed by 30MRWA's YCC allow storm water to soak in, filtering it and reducing erosion.

Stabilization BMPs hold the soil in place, preventing it from rushing down into the lake. Plantings, erosion control mix, and crushed rock can all hold the soil in place. Riprap can also be used to stabilize the shoreline.

Riprap installed by 30MRWA's YCC stabilizes the soil and prevents it from washing into the stream.

Infiltration BMPs capture runoff and allow it to soak into the ground, filtering out pollutants before the water enters the lake. Infiltration steps, roof dripline trenches, and rain gardens all capture storm water runoff and allow this to happen.

Diversion BMPs direct the flow of storm water runoff to a vegetated area, allowing the runoff to infiltrate the soil, where it is subsequently filtered. Rubber razors, open-top culverts, and crowned surfaces (driveways and roads) all help divert storm water runoff.

If you do have erosion on your property and would like to install any of these BMPs, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) of the 30MRWA is here to help. Back for its 8th season, our YCC crew works throughout the 30 Mile River Watershed to install the BMPs discussed here, with the ultimate goal of protecting water quality. All work is strictly cooperative with landowners and provided at a much-reduced cost. To learn more or to submit a project request, visit www.30mileriver.org/programs/youth-conservation-corps/, email steward@30mileriver.org or call us at 207-860-4043. *–Lidie Robbins, Executive Director, 30MRWA*

Membership Report

As PPA President Gerry Tinguely reported, PPA members turned out in record numbers to support the land purchase and to enable continued stewardship of the Dam. As of this writing, there are 157 voting members in 100 families in PPA. **If you haven't renewed your membership for 2018 or would like to make an additional contribution, please use the contribution form included with this newsletter.**

Remaining Boat Launch Dates: Saturday, May 26 and Saturday, June 23**.** Contact Bob Weimont for reservations/more info: bweimont@yahoo.com. As normal, Parker Lake Shores members (original 1960s lots in Fellows Cove, on Fellows Farm Rd and Rocky Lane) can launch whenever they wish.

Tour the Dam and Property Purchase Before the PPA Annual Meeting – Two Dates. 10am, Saturday, June 23 or 30. Contact Steve Linder at Stephen.J.Linder@gmail.com to sign up for your visit.

PPA Annual Meeting and Pot Luck. Saturday, July 14th at Vienna Grange Hall - Supper at 5:30pm Followed by Meeting at 6pm**.** Meeting minutes from the 2017 meeting are available on our website at: www.parkerpond.org.

8TH Annual Classical Meets Pop "From the Top" Concert and Fireworks. 7 pm, Sunday, July 1 at the Mt. Vernon Community Center. Information and the link to purchase tickets will be available on the 30MRWA website (http://30mileriver.org/) beginning June 1st. Proceeds 50-50 to PPA and 30 MRWA.

`

The 8th annual 30MRWA PaddleTrek from Minnehonk to Androscoggin Lake in Wayne will happen Saturday, July 28 this year, starting early AM in Mt. Vernon. Over 50 people participated last year. Sign up at the 30MRWA website (http://30mileriver.org/)

Parker Pond Association, INC.
321 Tower Road
Vienna, ME 04360