

Saturday Pond Watershed Newsletter

Fall 2009

www.saturdaypond.org

Issue # 19

OUR MISSION

1. Perform all acts appropriate to a non-profit scientific, literary and educational corporation dedicated to the promotion and development of environmental quality standards;
2. Preserve, enhance and protect the advantages of Saturday Pond and its environs.

40 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield Maine 04270
www.saturdaypond.org

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Dear Members, Friends and Neighbors,

This summer, several people voiced their concerns regarding a “strange plant”, hoping it wasn't Milfoil. Our plant expert, Pixie Williams, clarifies the situation with her report on her plant survey for Saturday Pond. Read on.

The invasive plant survey of Saturday Pond took place on Aug 7 and Aug. 28. It is best to do it in two days. We start around eight o'clock in the morning, when the Pond is quiet with few ripples. There are not many boats out on the Pond at that hour, so there are few wakes with which to contend. Visibility or more precisely, the ability to look down into the water and see the aquatic plants clearly is at its best. Around 10:00 AM the breeze starts to pick up and visibility deteriorates. Remember, too, we had a lot of rain this year and the water was high. That was another challenge. But it is good news! No invasive plants!

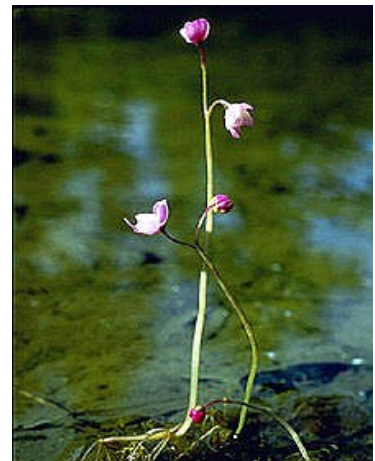
Every summer, the amounts and proportions of the native plants do vary. This has been the year of the Purple Bladderwort. There were great quantities found in Saturday Pond, which was also true of other local water bodies.

You can rest assured that it is an innocent native plant. There are two major differences between Milfoil and the Bladderworts you see locally. The Bladderworts have bladders. They look almost like tiny bubbles, are small, pin head size, or at most, an eighth of an inch in diameter and vary from a pale whitish green, almost translucent in color, to blackish.

The Bladderworts are carnivorous plants, and the interesting explanation of how they operate is a tale for another day. Secondly, the Bladderworts you will see around Saturday Pond have no roots!! They can lie at the bottom of the Pond, or float at the surface or at any depth in a tangled mass. Milfoils are rooted, although it is possible to pick up a fragment which has broken loose from the parent plant.

I hope you are lucky enough to discover the Purple Bladderwort in bloom. Occasionally it pokes a tiny orchid-like flower just above the surface of the lake. It is delicate pale lavender. Its common name should be Lavender Bladderwort, not Purple Bladderwort! Please do not hesitate to ask about or report a suspicious plant. Better to be safe than sorry!

Sincerely,
Pixie Williams
Biologist and a professional Certified Invasive Plant Patroller



William S. Justice @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Message from our President.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After all the rain and what felt like a very short summer, it's hard to believe that the fall is here and we are at peak or maybe even past peak foliage. There is much to report since our last newsletter.

The spring and early summer brought lots of excitement to Saturday Pond with the birth of a baby loon. Many thanks to Bill Bramswig who captured the baby with mom and dad on film. Our Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, July 11th and attended by some new members. One of the agenda items was to hold elections for the Board of Trustees. We are very pleased to welcome Steve Markarian to the Board as Vice President. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our ongoing Board members and supporters for their years of dedicated service to the Saturday Pond Watershed Association – Eric Williams, Jacinthe Sirois, Carl Anderson, Bruce Leblanc, Gordon Peaco and Abby Marble. These individuals comprise a committed core group of people who volunteer their time to conduct the work of the association and preserve Saturday Pond as one of Otisfield's treasures. We'd love to have others join this group. If you're interested, please feel free to contact any trustee listed on our web site or me to find out how you can participate.

In August, Pixie Williams conducted our annual invasive plant survey. It is wonderful to hear that another year has gone by without the presence of milfoil and any other invasive plants in our beloved pond. Many thanks to Pixie for her perseverance and commitment to monitoring our pond. In late August, we also presented the final report of the Saturday Pond Watershed Survey to the Board of Selectmen. This report summarizes our findings and serves as the first step in a long-term plan to address erosion and polluted runoff problems in our watershed. In preparation for our presentation to the Selectmen, I re-read this report. I would really encourage you (if you haven't already) to read this report by accessing it on our web site at www.saturdaypond.org. It is quite informative with respect to the water quality of Saturday Pond, why our water quality may be at risk, why runoff is a problem and how we can protect the pond from runoff.

Finally, I am continually amazed by this incredible newsletter that our editor, Jacinthe Sirois, develops and produces twice a year. If you would like to contribute, please feel free to contact Jacinthe to share your thoughts!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you a rejuvenating and peaceful fall and winter.

Sincerely,

Ellen Attaliades

Members for 2009

1. Attaliades, Ellen
2. Anderson, Carl & Kathy
3. Archancki, Paula & Ray
4. Bloom, Joel
5. Cali, Robert & Linda
6. Chagrasulis, Rebecca
7. Cuomo, David & Terri
8. Drysga, Jean
9. Engel, Lourdes & Thomas
10. Goss, Elizabeth
11. Groves, Eric & Maureen
12. Jones, Arthur & Constance
13. Jones, Cynthia & Georges
14. Kane, Barbara
15. Klenzak, Scott
16. Markarian, Steve & Jeri
17. Milos, Greg
18. Mulvey, Trudy & Jerry
19. Nureck-Bramswig, Robin
20. Peaco, Gordon
21. Poole, Mary Jane
22. Ruefer, Roger
23. Sirois, Al & Jacinthe,
24. Szala, Elizabeth & Michael
25. Washburn, Anita & Jim
26. Williams, Eric & Ann

Members for 2010

1. Attaliades, Ellen
2. Bernard, Ann
3. Engel, Tom & Lourdes
4. Freeman, Marilyn & William
5. Jackson, Nancy
6. Johnston, Cynthia
7. Jones, Art and Connie
8. Marble, Abby & Jeff (2010-14)
9. Markarian, Jeri & Steve (2010-11)
10. Spiller, Gertrude
11. Washburn, Anita & Jim
12. Williams , Ann & Eric

The SPWA thanks you for your generous, continued support for the Saturday Pond Watershed Association.

Please make note that dues received after July 1st will apply toward the membership of the following year.

Chinese Mystery Snail

The Chinese Mystery Snail is one of the most invasive aquatic species we have in Otisfield. It can be found in Saturday Pond, Thompson Lake and Pleasant Lake. Mud brown in color, it is much larger than any other of our native freshwater snails. Cornering the food supply it out-competes and is a threat to our native mollusks.

This species was first introduced from the Orient around the turn of the 19-20th century on the West Coast of the United States. It has slowly made its way across the country and now exists in Maine. The Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants is conducting a survey to see how widespread it is in our State.

This snail has some unusual characteristics. It is viviparous: it produces many tiny live snails which look like miniatures of the parents, rather than producing an intermediate larval type of life form. For many years, biologists did not understand its reproductive life cycle, hence the name Chinese Mystery Snail. It is also impervious to pesticides. If it comes in contact with any toxic contaminants, its shuts its operculum (trap door) down very tightly and survives within its shell until the toxic attack is over. At times, one finds this snail bobbing along on the surface of the lake, moving with the currents. It can be surmised that it takes in air, shuts its operculum and floats like a cork. If this is a form of transportation, it is very effective.

Eventually, we hope that the Maine DEP will tell us how to deal with this snail. It is easily transported from lake to lake. The tiny baby snails can hardly be noticed in a bait pail or in bilge water. Like other fresh water mollusks, this snail can carry parasites. We have not yet heard from the DEP as to what they intend to do with the snails, if anything at all.

We need to learn more about this species.

Pixie Williams
Otisfield Conservation Committee

Water Quality Monitoring Results for 2009

Submitted by Carl Anderson

The following is my complete list of secchi disk readings for 2009. Some of the days, I took two readings separated by at least 20 minutes to be sure I was not getting too much variation.

5/21	6.59	6/03	6.11	6/03	5.33	6/17	6.51
6/17	6.49	7/09	5.64	7/09	5.69	7/15	6.27
8/04	5.24	8/04	5.40	8/19	5.59	8/19	5.44
9/01	6.71	9/01	6.80	9/16	7.10	9/29	7.05

Thus far the average is 6.12 meters .The average in 2008 was 6.64 meters. The average for Maine lakes is 4.9 m.

The Forest is the Key to the Future

There is concern about watersheds, not only locally, but globally. We live in a huge watershed, made up of many smaller watersheds which drain the White Mountains, and eventually flow into the Gulf of Maine. Our lakes are an integral part of this. The Crooked River and its watershed is particularly important. **Come listen to a fascinating lecture on this subject.**

Paul Thomas Hunt, the Environmental Manager for the Portland Water District, will be a guest speaker at the Lake Association meeting on **Wed., Oct. 14, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Otisfield town office. Paul will share recent water quality data from the Crooked River and Sebago Lake, and will also describe the results of a recent aerial photo analysis of land uses in the watershed. Though these are very different types of information collected in different ways, they are related and reveal a great deal about the current health of the river and lake. Paul will describe the relationship between land use and water quality which is relevant for any size lake.

Paul has been with the PWD since 1999. Before that he was the Source Water Protection Coordinator for the Maine Drinking Water Program. He has a BA in geology and chemistry from the University of Maine at Farmington and an MS in geology from the University of Oregon.

Pixie Williams

Invasive Aquatics – A Constant Concern

A few weeks ago, WCSH6 briefly reported on a very invasive plant now found in Maine. You've guessed it, we are talking about hydrilla. The following article from Roberta Hill sheds more light on the subject.

I am writing to inform you of Maine's latest confirmed invasive aquatic plant infestation. Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) has now been confirmed in Damariscotta Lake. Hydrilla, often referred to as the "worst of the worst" invasive aquatic plant threatening aquatic ecosystems worldwide, was discovered in a small cove along the western shore of Damariscotta Lake, by Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association (DLWA) member and VLMP Invasive Plant Patroller, Dick Butterfield. There is no way of knowing at present, how widespread this plant may be in the lake, but a preliminary survey of nearby coves uncovered no additional invasive plants, providing hope that Mr. Butterfield may have detected the pioneer colony.



This is the kind of discovery that all Plant Patrollers train and practice for, but dread the thought of ever actually making. On the good side, this discovery provides clear and concrete evidence of the effectiveness and value of citizen based lake monitoring. Maine's early detection system, largely powered by trained and dedicated volunteers, is saving Maine lakes. Here is a brief summary of how things have unfolded to date:

September 20 – Dick Butterfield gathered his gear, slipped into his kayak and began the task of surveying the shoreline to the north and south of his property on the west side of the lake. At one point, he paddled into a small (0.3 acre) shallow cove, and was instantly alerted to something that "was not right." A dense carpet of plants filled the cove. According to Dick, the growth was so dense it looked "solid enough to walk on." Using the identification keys he received with his Invasive Plant Patrol

training, Dick soon came to the realization that he may have come upon one of the invasive plants of concern. He carefully bagged a sample and sent it to the VLMP for confirmation.

September 22 - Dick's plant specimen is received by the VLMP, and its identification is tentatively confirmed.

September 23 - Maine Department of Environmental (DEP) and VLMP staff meet on site with Dick and partners from Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association to conduct a preliminary assessment of the infestation and to collect more samples for a confirmed identification.

September 24 - DEP divers install containment screens across the mouth of the infested cove to prevent hydrilla fragments from migrating into greater Damariscotta Lake. VLMP and DLWA begin to mobilize trained Invasive Plant Patrollers from Damariscotta Lake and elsewhere in the state to begin monitoring nearby coves to determine the scope of hydrilla in the lake.

This is where you come in . . . WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP!! There are not many days left in the season to conduct surveys. Please call VLMP at 783-7733 or Alice Phillips at DLWA (549-3836) *today* to learn how you can get involved.

Only one other water body in the state, Pickerel Pond in Limerick, is infested with hydrilla. In total, 31 out of Maine's 5,700 ponds and lakes are known to contain an invasive aquatic plant species.

Since the first Invasive Plant Patrol workshop was offered by the VLMP in 2001, Over 2000 individuals have been trained through the program. Trained IPP volunteers are responsible for the majority of all invasive aquatic plant screening surveys being conducted in the State of Maine. The VLMP's Invasive Plant Patrol program is funded by boater participation in Maine's Lake and River Protection sticker program and private donations.

Roberta Hill Program Director,
24 Maple Hill Rd, Auburn, ME 04210
www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org
207-783-7733

Links to news articles: <http://www.wcsh6.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=109461&catid=2>

<http://www.mpbn.net/News/MaineNews/tabid/181/ctl/ViewItem/mid/3483/ItemId/9121/Default.aspx>

<http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Portal+News&id=79803&v=article-2008>

Loon Count by Carl Anderson

This year, the loon count for the Audubon Society took place on July 18th, between 7:00 -7:30 am. Carl reported seeing a pair of loons. The young chick was nowhere to be seen during that time. Thanks to Bill Bramswig, we can all enjoy a photo of it. Carl mentioned the presence of four mature loons on the Pond during most of August.



Source: BramswigPhotography.com. Don't miss Bill's magnificent full moon on Saturday Pond by visiting www.saturdaypond.org or his website.



Source: USDA

U.S. range map of hydrilla

JOIN SPWA for 2010

Name: _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Membership \$15.00

State _____ Zip code _____

Email (optional): _____

I prefer to read the newsletter via the web

via regular mail

Make check payable to: **Saturday Pond Watershed Association** and mail to:

Saturday Pond Watershed Association

Jacinthe Sirois Treasurer

P.O. Box 919

Oxford, ME 04270

I am interested in helping with the following:

Water Testing Program Board of Trustees Communication/Newsletter others

Suggestions - Comments - Questions:



Elections of Officers

Ellen Attaliades will continue serving as our President, while Jacinthe Sirois will carry on as our Treasurer. Meet our new board member and vice-president Steve Markarian

My name is Steve Markarian. My wife Jeri and I have one daughter Julie, a senior at the University Of Rhode Island. We purchased a lot at Great Oaks Shores in the spring of 1988. With the help of family and friends we started building our camp the following summer. We love the peace and tranquility of Saturday Pond and want to help preserve it for the future of all our neighbors and friends on the pond.

Welcome aboard Steve!



Many Thanks To Our Contributors



- Pixie Williams
- Roberta Hill, MVLMP
- Steve Markarian
- Carl Anderson – Water testing & Loon count
- Bill Bramswig - Bramswig Photography
- Nancy Jackson - Publisher
- Abby Marble - Labels
- Al Sirois - photo on header: Fall on Saturday Pond

Special Recognition Goes To ...

Bruce Leblanc for his many years of dedication and leadership as a member of the Board of Trustees. We appreciate the time and effort he committed to the SPWA during his tenure.

Abby Marble has been maintaining our mailing lists and printing our labels at her own expense for several years. We are grateful for her help.

THANK YOU



Saturday Pond Watershed Association
40 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield, ME 04270

SPWA 2009 Calendar of Events.

Oct. 14, 7:00 p.m. Otisfield Town Office
The Importance of Watersheds with Paul hunt

Nov. 14, 9:00 a.m. Board of Trustees meeting

2010

July 17, 9:00 a.m. 2010 Annual SPWA meeting at Pond View Beach

We hope you've enjoyed reading our newsletter. Rather than throwing it away, why not pass it along to a friend or neighbor!

We invite you to learn something new about our pond- plants, wildlife, history, photo... and share it with us by contacting:

jsirois@saturdaypond.org or
ewilliams@saturdaypond.org

We might just include it in our next newsletter. ☺