



Saturday Pond Watershed Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2011

www.saturdaypond.org

Issue 23

OUR MISSION

**Preserve – Enhance
Educate – Protect**



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ellen Attaliades, **President**
Carl Anderson, **Vice-President**
Bruce Leblanc, **Vice-President**
Steve Markarian, **Corresp. Sec.**
Susan Haber, **Recording Sec.**
Jacinthe Sirois, **Treasurer/Editor**



Saturday Pond Dam



Saturday Pond Watershed Assoc.
40 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield, Maine 04270
www.saturdaypond.org

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's hard to believe that those warm, lazy days of summer on the pond have already left us and been replaced by the crisp, cool days of autumn. As you will see on the following pages of this newsletter, there has been much activity in our watershed over the past few months - much of which was reviewed at

our SPWA Annual Meeting on July 16th. Prior to our meeting, thanks to the Markarian chefs (please see picture on right) and their helpers, an incredible breakfast feast was enjoyed by all on the shores of Pond View. Our election process for the 2011 – 2012 year consisted of some comings and goings. While Dave Steuer and Marilyn Freeman resigned from their positions on the Board, we are very pleased to welcome back



Bruce LeBlanc and welcome Susan Haber as a new trustee of the Board. The SPWA has been very fortunate to experience Bruce's sage and measured counsel in the past. Susan and Jerry Haber, while new to the lake and to the watershed association, have already contributed much to the association. Please read their story on the following pages where you can find more detailed information about the topics discussed at our Annual Meeting. We are also pleased to report that a record number of people have joined the watershed association. We welcome your involvement and attendance at meetings, so please feel free to join us. No formal introductions needed! The date of our spring planning meeting has not yet been decided but will be posted on our web site. For this information and more detailed information about the watershed association, please visit our web site at www.saturdaypond.org.

As I review this newsletter, I continue to be amazed at all the people that love Saturday Pond and devote their time and great efforts to monitor and preserve our treasure. Many, many thanks to Jacinthe Sirois, Steve and Jeri Markarian, Carl Anderson, Lew Wetzel, Pixie Williams, Abby Marble, Susan Haber, Jerry Haber, Dan Peaco, Bruce LeBlanc, Eric Williams and Ann Williams. As members of the watershed, we are indebted to your voluntary service!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you a healthy and happy holiday season,

Sincerely,

Ellen Attaliades
President

WATER CLARITY USING A SECCHI DISK



FIGURE 1

Figure 1 shows Carl at work conducting this test every two weeks during the summer. The findings are reported to the Maine Volunteers Monitoring Program (MVLMP) which in turn records the data for each lake on the following website: www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/

This year's result is an average of 6.14m (meters)

DIDYOUKNOW...Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi, an astrophysicist, was first to use the secchi disk in April of 1865 when he was asked to measure transparency in the Mediterranean Sea. The first secchi disks used were totally white. Since then various sizes of disks have been used, but the most frequently used disk is an 8 inch diameter metal disk painted in alternate black and white, probably more easily seen (Figure 2)



FIGURE 2

PHOSPHOROUS TESTING

Phosphorus is usually a main nutrient when looking at water quality. When there is an increase of phosphorous, there is an increase in the algae and with the increased algae the water clarity decreases. Since last year's result was higher than it had been in recent years, the SPWA has asked for two different samples to be taken during this year.



Figure 3

The method used on our pond is called the "Surface Grab". Using a special bottle, Lew Wetzel (Figure 3), our long time trained volunteer for this testing, collects one of two samples of water from just below the pond's surface. The sample is then immediately sent to a state certified lab, in this case, to the University of Maine. Our recent results were as follows: the first test 9ppb and the second 12ppb.

According to Lew, the 12 ppb reading taken at the north-west part of the pond result strongly indicate that we are at the critical point of losing control. The activity that is stirring up the phosphorus in the bottom of the lake in this shallower part of the pond must be controlled. Once the readings get into the teens it becomes difficult to reverse the process. Maybe going to a reduced boat speed limit for the western part of the pond would be in order. More information will be available in the spring.

INVASIVE PLANT SURVEY AND FUTURE TRAINING COURSE

By Pixie Williams

On two August summer mornings, I completed the invasive plant survey for our pond. Again, I report the good news: NO INVASIVE PLANTS!

At the time of the survey, the disturbance of the benthos (pond bottom) was not as serious as it had been the year previous. We should express our appreciation to the Saturday Pond dwellers who worked hard, and with little thanks, to alert us that there was a situation of concern. Keep up the good work in future years!

Someone reported a fair amount of floating and beached uprooted vegetation in the shallow northwest cove directly after hurricane Irene. This was most likely a natural disturbance, one we should anticipate after strong storm winds. They will create wave action and turbulence which will affect the benthos in shallow areas.

The action of high-powered motorboats mimics this natural phenomenon. So, Saturday Pond, largely a shallow water body, needs special love and attention. Fierce storms stir up plenty of phosphorus and we are powerless to control this natural effect but, what we can do is keep damage from human activity to a minimum.



Figure 4

Abby Marble, Jerry and Susan Haber from Saturday Pond, also Marygrace Barber from Pleasant Lake accompanied me on one or both days of the survey to learn their native plants. Being 86 years old, it is time for someone else in our area to take over this volunteer activity to monitor each lake or pond. If I am still physically and mentally fit, I intend to run a hands-on, out in the lake, training course next summer.

To become a certified invasive plant patroller, one must attend a day's training course next summer with MCIAP-VLMP, Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants, part of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. This course teaches the students how to identify invasive aquatic plants. Then I will run a "hands-on, out in the lake" course to teach future plant patrollers how to identify native aquatic plants. The class will be held one day a week, in the early morning throughout July and August. If you are interested in lake biota, the course is informative and fun.

If interested, please contact Pixie (Figure 4) at [pixiegemw \(at\) myfairpoint.net](mailto:pixiegemw@myfairpoint.net) or contact Jacinthe at [jsirois \(at\) satursdaypond.org](mailto:jsirois@satursdaypond.org) next Spring. There will be no charge for the course, but you must have a kayak or canoe, take the one day course with MCIAP, and be willing to purchase a few inexpensive supplies so you can create your own native plant reference collection.

SUMMARY FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Clarity	6.64 m.	5.99 m.	6.12 m.	6.21 m.	6.14m.
Phosphorus	7 ppb	No test	7ppb	10 ppb	9ppb & 12ppb
Invasive Plants	None	None	None	None	None
Ice Out	Apr.24	Apr. 24	Apr.12	Mar.25	Apr.20

REPORT ON THE DAM

According to Dan Peaco not much has changed since last year. Four logs/trees were removed from the dam/sluceway an annual occurrence. Some of the small trees that were starting to grow on the dam itself were also removed. The Town asked to have one plank removed just a couple of days before Hurricane Irene as a preventive measure. The plank was reinserted two days later. The measuring gauge is still unreadable and needs replacing. Either side of dam is holding as well as last year.



REPORT ON LOON



This year the loon count took place on Saturday, July 16th, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. on lakes and ponds all across the state. Our official volunteer loon counter, Carl Anderson, reported the sighting of one loon, and no chick. Even though many of you have observed two loons spending the summer on the Pond, Carl could only report the sighting of loons during the given time.

This was the 28th year for the Loon Count. According to the Maine Audubon Society, Maine has a strong and apparently healthy population. Last year, in 2010, the population of chicks (283) was about average.

More News from the Board of Trustees

The Saturday Pond Watershed Association met for its annual meeting on July 16th 2011. Some of the items on the agenda were:

- Treasurer's report for the year 2010.

The total income (Dues, contributions and \$0.96 interest) came up to \$695.96.

The expense came to \$668.90.

The SPWA started the year 2011 with a total of \$2,342.43

In 2010, the SPWA had 31 members. In 2011, we had 34 members.

- Newsletter

The SPWA newsletter continues to be published twice a year, each fall and spring. Its main purpose is to keep you informed of any testing or actions taken and to continue our mission to **Preserve – Enhance - Educate – Protect** our Pond. The newsletter is sent to all our members and to people living in the watershed. We mail about 180 each time. Abby Marble asked if it could be sent by email. Eric explained that the newsletters were always posted on our web www.saturdaypond.org. One purpose for the mailing is to “push” the information and get it out to people in a form that gets their attention, while trying to reach as many people as possible. We will try an email delivery service to those that want their newsletter by email.

- Safe Boating

Earlier this spring, Jerry Haber developed a Safe Boating information sheet that was approved at the May Board of Trustees' Meeting. This was included in our spring newsletter and is posted on our website. Jacinthe created a tri-fold color version of the pamphlet that is easy to hand out and will be placed in information boxes purchased by Steve Markarian. He offered to install one at the Pond View ramp and the other one, with the town permission, at Sam's landing. They should be in place next spring.

- Forum of Pond Groups

During a previous meeting, there was interest in getting a forum together of the land associations, the Watershed Association, and interested parties to work out some of the issues in the pond that are beyond the scope of the Watershed Association. One example was enforcement of boating safety. Ellen spoke to Rick Micklon who is on the Otisfield Board of Selectmen. Rick indicated that he would be able to facilitate the meeting. Carl Anderson will bring the invitation to Great Oaks and Bob Cali will bring it to Pond View.

- Elections

Two of the trustees elected last year (David Steuer and Marilyn Freeman) stepped down after 1 year. So, as a result, the election was for 3 trustees for a 2 year term and 2 trustees for a 1 year term. Carl Anderson is already in the first year of his 2 year term so there was no action for his position. The Trustees developed a nomination slate for the 5 po

sitions. The membership at the meeting elected the slate. Officers were selected. As a result, our Trustees/Officers are:

	Office	Term Expires
Ellen Attaliades	President	2013
Jacinthe Sirois	Treasurer	2013
Steve Markarian	Corresponding Secretary	2013
Susan Haber	Recording Secretary	2012
Bruce LeBlanc	Vice President	2012
Carl Anderson	Vice President	2012

Otisfield Lake Association

The annual meeting for the Otisfield Lake Association will be held on Nov. 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Otisfield Town Office.

Video on Climate Change by George Jacobson.

All are Welcome.

• Other Business

There is a dock section that has drifted into the shallow water and is stuck in the mud. We are hoping the owner will take responsibility and remove it. Anyone knowing who the owner is please let the SPWA know. We all need to do our part in keeping the Pond free of debris.

Regarding the unmarked moorings, the State rules consider moorings to be hazards to navigation if they are beyond the 200 ft. Water safety Zone. The Watershed Association is not an enforcement organization and the issue should be directed to the State.

The next annual meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2012.

OUR NEWSLETTERS



It was brought to our attention that some newsletters had been received in poor conditions, some totally ripped. In an effort to remedy the problem, we've added "mailing seals". We would appreciate hearing from you if the problem still persists. Thank you.



Marie. Reese

MEET SUSAN HABER

My husband Jerry, our children and I have spent the past 36 summers on Kezar Lake canoeing, swimming and waterskiing. We were fortunate to find a house for sale on Saturday Pond Road in 2009 with frontage on Saturday Pond. We were so excited by the rural surroundings and beauty of the Pond!

I am a land use planner by training and have worked with citizen groups, land trusts and lake associations. My first job in the mid-seventies was under EPA contract as a water quality planner developing strategies to address non-point sources of pollution on rivers, lakes and streams in 18 cities and towns. As a town planner, I've spent considerable time reviewing and writing storm water by-laws for a small town. I'm most interested in the way in which land use activities can impact water quality.

As we began to explore Otisfield, I learned about the SPWA, joined the group, and hope to contribute whatever time and expertise that might be useful. This summer, my husband and I took a beginning course on identification of invasive plants. We hope to continue our education next summer with additional courses and field identification.



Saturday Pond Watershed Association

40 Ridgewood Terrace

Otisfield, ME 04270

We are on the web:

www.saturdaypond.org

Give A Gift Of SPWA Membership

This year again we would like to invite you to give a gift of SPWA Membership in memory of a loved one or to your friends / relatives. It is very simple. Just fill out the form below. Include a check and mail everything to the address listed. We' ll send you a special Gift Membership Card(s) as soon as we receive your request. Voila! It's quick and easy! You will be helping the pond while shortening your to-do-list for the holiday season. Thank you.

Joining the Saturday Pond Watershed Association (SPWA) is an investment in the future good health and beauty of Saturday Pond. **Below is the membership Form for 2012. Cost: \$15.00**

Name: _____ or gift membership to _____

Address _____

Name

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (optional): _____

Thank you

→ Checks made payable to: Saturday Pond Watershed Association or SPWA

Mail to: SPWA

J. Sirois Treasurer P.O. Box 919, Oxford, ME 04270

** Please note that "12" next to your name on the label indicates membership paid for 2012.