



Saturday Pond Watershed Newsletter

Spring 2012

www.saturdaypond.org

Issue 24

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 Watershed Assoc.
40 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield, Maine 04270

www.saturdaypond.org

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Despite the fact that this past winter was relatively warm and void of snow, the many signs of spring on our pond continue to bring me a wonderful feeling of euphoria. "Ice out" was on March 22nd - the earliest "ice out" date we've had since the association started recording this event. And, at the March 31st Board of Trustees Spring planning meeting, we noted the presence of an assortment of ducks on the pond - Ring-necked, Bufflehead and Common Mergansers as well as a pair of snow geese.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who work "behind the scenes" to help the watershed association carry forth its mission. I'd particularly like to recognize a number of people who have contributed in very unique ways over the years. One of these special people was Gordon Peaco - an incredible steward of our lake. We were deeply saddened to hear of Gordon's passing in November. Gordon was a faithful member of our Board of Trustees who not only brought constructive suggestions and resources to the association but also brought much humor to our meetings. He will greatly be missed!

We'd also like to thank Lew Wetzel for his many years of tireless service as a tester of our lake waters. Lew has devoted many hours of his personal time taking water samples, sending them out to get tested and relaying back our testing results. He has been pivotal in helping us monitor the water quality of our crystal clear lake. Finally, we'd like to thank Abby Marble for maintaining our mailing labels for many years. This task played a critical role in meeting one of the association's annual goals, which was to ensure that members of the watershed receive communication about its many facets on a regular basis.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you a happy, healthy and safe summer!

Sincerely,

Ellen Attaliades
President

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, JULY 14, 2012. @ 10:00 A.M. Pond View Beach 1 (West Shore Drive). In the event of inclement weather, we will meet at the Otisfield Town Office meeting room on Route 121

Preliminary Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Review Minutes from Spring BOT Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report for 2011
4. Association Annual Report for 2012
5. SPWA Goals Development for 2013
6. Board of Trustees Elections (one vacancy), if interested, please feel free to contact any of the officers.
7. Develop Plan for Clean Up Day on the Pond scheduled for Aug. 11, 10-12AM
8. Other Items

** Continental breakfast will be served starting at 9:30 AM – Join us

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held its spring meeting on March 31, 2012. After seeing a steady increase of phosphorus levels during the three previous years, Scott Williams, Aquatic Biologist, and Executive Director for the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP) was invited to address the issue of phosphorus levels in lakes and ponds. Below is a summary of his presentation.

Year-to-year variations in phosphorus level are a normal occurrence in all Maine lakes. Most of them mix (turn over) twice a year, spring and late fall. Because Saturday Pond has many shallow areas, more frequent mixing may occur due to the wind action of significant storms. In such a situation, the phosphorus, which has remained inactive, buried in the sandy bottom, will be disturbed. This will result in temporary higher phosphorus readings in these shallow regions.

It is important to monitor regularly the phosphorus levels in our pond since higher phosphorus level will promote algal and aquatic plant growth; it will affect the oxygen level, which in turn will have a negative effect on the fish population.

Many factors can influence the data collected. Because different methods used to gather water samples may yield different results, it is important to consistently use the same method. We use the "surface grab," a simple method described in our previous newsletter. Equally important is the location where the samples are collected. Since phosphorus level varies in depth, we need to always collect samples from the same, deepest point on the pond, as it offers the least variations in results. Since the average phosphorus concentration over time is the most valuable information, samples taken every month from early May through late September will produce data that are more reliable.

The phosphorus level, which is directly related to water clarity, is affected by the amount of wind and especially by precipitation which increases the phosphorus-containing run-off in the watershed, which finds its way into the pond. Storm water runoff from disturbed or developed areas of the pond can also carry high concentrations of phosphorus-laden particles and other pollutants. Therefore, it is important to preserve the berms and maintain well-functioning septic systems.

Even the early ice-out dates may lead to an increase in phosphorus because the increased amount of sunlight will promote earlier plant growth. Last year's higher readings may have been due to the large amount of runoff from snow and the heavy spring rains.

This year, our volunteers will be collecting phosphorus samples (5 times) during the summer and will continue the secchi disk readings every two weeks. Scott also recommended recording the water temperature at about 8" below the surface during that same time.

***Special thanks to Susan Haber and Pixie Williams for their detailed note taking.

Otisfield Combined Lake Associations

Pixie Williams attended the meeting and was on hand to answer questions. The minutes of the 2011 Combined Lake Associations Meeting are now available on our website. The next annual meeting will take place on Wed. Aug 8 at 4:00PM at the Otisfield Community Hall. The guest speaker will be Maggie Shannon (COLA) and the general topic will be Quality Living around our Lakes. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Treasurer's Report 2011

We started the year (Jan. 2011) with a balance of \$2,342.43. The income, \$505.00, came from dues (34 members) & contributions. The expenses (State Corporation, COLA dues, MVLMP training, water testing, Web Hosting 2yrs, two Information boxes, newsletters and breakfast) added up to \$835.61. At the end of our fiscal year,(Dec.2011) the balance was \$2,011.82.

Members for 2012: R.&P. Archackie - E. Attaliades & J.Ryan - F&P Bonney - R. Chagrasulis - Engel Family – B. Goss - N. Jackson- G. & C. Jones - J.& R. Kagan - B. Kane. - S. Klenzak - S.&D. Lafleur. - J.&B. Leblanc - A.& J. Marble (2014) - J.& S. Markarian (2016) - J.&T. Mulvey. - G. Peaco - M.J. Poole (2013) - R. Ruefer – A&J. Sirois - G. Spiller - A.&E. Williams - J.&J.Ywoskus(2013).

New member: D. Burak (2013)

Dam

During each spring, Dan Peaco, keeper of the dam, removes gathered debris from that area. A report on the dam will be available at the annual meeting.

Training for Volunteers

• Water Clarity and Phosphorus

Mid-May, MVLMP will be offering free training for water clarity and phosphorus testing. Steve M. and Carl A. have signed up for it. If you are interested in learning more about this, you can visit the following site: http://www.mainevlmp.org/wp/?page_id=48#NewWaterQuality

Ice-Out	
Year	Date
1998	April 8
1999	April 10
2000	March 31
2001	April 28
2002	April 10
2003	April 23
2004	April 19
2005	April 17
2006	March 30
2007	April 24
2008	April 24
2009	April 12
2010	March 25
2011	April 20
2012	March 22

• Native Aquatic Plant

We are grateful to Pixie Williams who hopes to offer a two-hour weekly training course on native aquatic plant identification this summer. The class is offered to individuals who intend to be invasive plant patrollers on our Otisfield lakes and ponds. Several people from Saturday Pond have signed up. We have already reached the quota for our pond. Thank you Saturday Pond for your enthusiasm and quick response!

Saturday Pond Clean Up

We love our pond! For the first time ever, the Saturday Pond Watershed Association is organizing a two-hour clean-up on August 11, 2012. Details will be worked out at our annual meeting on July 14, and posted on our website. The town officials have agreed to pick up and discard the refuse collected. Join us. We'll need volunteers.

Job descriptions

Last fall, the BOT started developing job descriptions for each officer. We hope that once this task is completed, it will inspire more volunteers to come forward.

Signs and Information Boxes

An invasive plant sign reminding people to check their boat / trailer before entering the pond, and a box containing safe boating informational brochures have been placed at the launch ramp in Pond View Estates and at Sam's Landing.

Next Fall Board of Trustees Meeting: Oct. 20, 2012 @ 9:00 AM at 107 Great Oaks Lane, Otisfield.

***Special thanks to our editorial assistant Jean Hankins.

IF YOU LOVE A LAKE, PROTECT IT!

By Maggie Shannon, MaineCOLA Executive Director

For countless people, Maine's tree-lined lakes are the home of their hearts, the place they yearn to return to. These high quality waters are a big economic boon for Maine, too, since lakes generate over \$3.5 billion in direct and indirect spending each year, provide employment for over 50,000 Mainers and fund municipal services for many towns.

But lakes are a fragile resource, and environmental pressures on them are growing. Almost three dozen lakes are already in trouble, 240 more are at risk of becoming impaired, and hundreds of others have subtly changed from their historic conditions. It is in everyone's interest to protect these sparkling gems, and lake associations are the vital key to this conservation work, since these groups know lakes and are organized to engage their home communities in stewardship.

Maine COLA's principal mission is to help lake associations accomplish this task by providing:

- Leadership, advice, visits, and materials to build lake association capacity
- New findings from lake science and practice, connections to stewardship resources, learning opportunities and materials through our website www.mainecola.org, our newsletter, and national toll-free Lake Line: 1-877-254-2511
- The MAINE LAKES CONFERENCE, the annual one day forum for lake leaders to learn from scientists, lake experts and each other
- In-school programs for elementary and middle school students
- Advocacy for Maine lakes in the legislature and with government agencies
- Timely notice of events and initiatives affecting Maine lakes
- Outreach tools such as *A Lakers Dozen* and *We all have a stake in Maine lakes*

DID YOU KNOW?

Maine has over 6,000 lakes —more than all other New England states combined. Lakes generate \$3.5 billion annually for Maine's economy.



Fireworks contain chemicals. **Don't shoot fireworks into the pond.**



Golf balls in the pond are trash and can harm fish and critters. **Don't drive golf balls into the pond.**



Tires are hazardous waste. **Don't use tires in the pond.**



Saturday Pond Watershed Association

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REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR BOAT

Joining the Saturday Pond Watershed Association (SPWA) is an investment in the future good health and beauty of Saturday Pond. We count on membership revenues to keep you informed and to cover other operational expenditures.

Membership Form for 2012. Cost: \$15.00

Name: _____
Address _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email (optional): _____
Check payable to: Saturday Pond Watershed Association or SPWA
Mail to : SPWA

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

Thank you



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