



# Saturday Pond Watershed Newsletter

Spring 2016

[www.saturdaypond.org](http://www.saturdaypond.org)

Issue 28

## OUR MISSION

Preserve – Enhance  
Educate – Protect

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Steve Markarian, Vice-  
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## Appointments:

Bruce LeBlanc - Clerk  
Eric Williams - Archives,  
Website  
Steve Markarian - Water  
Monitor  
Dan Peaco - Dam Keeper  
Susan Haber - Newsletter

Saturday Pond  
Watershed Association  
40 Ridgewood Terrace  
Otisfield, Maine 04270  
[www.saturdaypond.org](http://www.saturdaypond.org)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is that time of year when summer is back on Saturday Pond - the waves gently lap against the shores of our beautiful and tranquil pond, the cry of the loons echo across the lake, the night skies are filled with bright twinkling stars and we spend peaceful and quality time with our family and friends.

One of the primary goals of our watershed association is to monitor the conditions of the pond including shoreline erosion. As I reviewed in last year's newsletter, in the Fall of 2013, Dr. Dan Buckley from the University of Maine at Farmington gave a presentation to the Saturday Pond Watershed Association Board of Trustees entitled: "Lake Water Quality, Concerns and Dam Issues". Dr. Buckley is an ecologist whose research is centered on freshwater ecosystems. His current research focuses on long-term temperature monitoring at 25 lakes in Maine and the effect of changing temperatures on lake water quality. One of the key points of his presentation was the fact that lowering the pond by one foot in the fall would help accommodate rainfall and snow melt and thereby prevent excessive shoreline erosion and decrease aquatic vegetation by exposing more of the plants during harsher conditions. The Trustees discussed the feasibility of removing two boards (one foot) from the dam located off Saturday Pond Road in the fall and replacing the boards after ice out in the spring. We subsequently contacted Dan Peaco, the Town Dam Keeper, and sent a letter to the Otisfield Board of Selectmen about our interest in further exploring this course of action. And, at last year's Annual Meeting, we gathered the thoughts from those who attended about pursuing this course of action. As a result, the Board of Trustees determined that more education was needed to make a decision about taking this course of action. It is clear that we all value Otisfield's treasure, Saturday Pond, and we need to make certain that any action we take, will contribute to the health of our lake in the long run.

To that end, we have been in contact with Dr. Buckley who has offered to attend a community forum to present his perspective on the impact of adjusting lake water levels. At the same time, we have been working with the Board of Selectmen to use the regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen's meeting as that forum. Unless something unforeseen occurs, ***Dr. Buckley is scheduled to make a presentation at the Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> Selectmen meeting.*** We encourage those of you that are interested in this topic and potential course of action, to please attend this meeting.

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

Sincerely,

Ellen Attaliades, President



## Volunteer Monitoring Programs—Results In!

### WATER CLARITY USING A SECCHI DISK - PHOSPHOROUS TESTING – INVASIVE PLANTS – ICE OUT

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Clarity	6.51 m.	6.59 m.	6.12 m.	6.14m.	—	6.21	6.20-8/18
Phosphorus	7 PPB	10 ppb	9 (12) ppb	6 ppb	4 ppb	3 ppb	5 ug/L*
Invasive Plants	None	None	None	None	None	none	none
Ice Out	Apr. 12	March 25	April 20	March 22	April 8	April 22	Apr.19

**\*Please Note:** Phosphorous sampling data from August 2015. The State of Maine has switched its measurement of phosphorus from ppb to ug/L (micrograms per Liter). Phosphorus is the nutrient that best indicates the growth of algae in a lake.

Secchi disk readings are in meters. It is an indirect water quality indicator because water clarity is affected by the presence/absence of algal growth.

Carl Anderson and Steve Markarian conducted the Phosphorous tests and Secchi disk readings. Susan LaFleur conducted an aquatic Plant Survey.

Steve Markarian will test for Phosphorus on June 15, July 15, and August 15, 2016.

Robin Nureck will replace Carl Anderson as the “Official” Loon counter on Saturday Pond. Results are filed with Maine Audubon.

### **Winter 2015-2016 - Shortest Period of Ice on Record**

Ice-out was called on March 18, 2016 by Carl Anderson. This was the earliest on record which was preceded by the earliest ice-in (January 6, 2016) on record. As a result, this was the shortest period of ice on the Pond on record!

### **Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program**

The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program protects Maine lakes and ponds through educational workshops and a robust citizen participation program whereby volunteers monitor various water quality indicators, assess watershed health, and screen the lakes and ponds for invasive aquatic vegetation and animals.

***This year, the following Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop 101 is offered by VLMP:***

Thursday, July 8, Kennebec County 30 Mile River Watershed Region

Tuesday, July 19, Hancock County Craig Brook Fish Hatchery

Saturday, August 6, Androscoggin County, New Gloucester Congregational Church

***The Following Water Quality Monitoring Workshop for Certification for Secchi Disk:***

***Friday, July 15, 9 AM, VLMP Center, Auburn.*** Pre-registration is required.

Contact VLMP Office at 207-782-7733 or [vlmp@mainevlmp.org](mailto:vlmp@mainevlmp.org).

On ***Saturday, July 30, the Annual VLMP conference*** will be held at  
the Lodge of the Great Outdoors in Turner, Maine.

**Saturday Pond Watershed Association Annual Meeting**

The SPWA Annual Meeting will be held on ***Saturday, July 16, 2016 at 10 AM at the Pond View Beach, on West Shore Drive.*** We encourage everyone to attend. Come, re-connect with your neighbors, and discuss the status of Saturday Pond. If you haven't already joined, please send in your membership dues for SPWA 2016. A form is attached to this Newsletter. We have requested that you provide your e-mail address on this form. We will only use your e mail for news blasts, reminders of upcoming meetings, and the Annual Newsletter. We have also provided a separate box to check off if you'd like to donate an annual membership as a holiday gift, a "welcome to the Pond" gift for a new neighbor, or to honor an individual!



**What do you Get for Your Membership in SPWA?**

At the last Board of Trustees Meeting, we considered increasing the annual membership dues, which have stayed at \$15.00 for many years. Before initiating this increase, however, we wanted to describe what you are receiving as a Member. The SPWA is committed to protecting the water quality in the Pond. Volunteers test the waters annually for Phosphorus levels (an indicator of nutrients in a water body, which can lead to algal growth), water clarity and turbidity and the presence of invasive aquatic plants. We provide educational programs, typically at the Annual Meeting, an annual Newsletter, and bring up items of interest and concern to Town Boards and Committees.

The purpose of the Association, as expressed in its Mission Statement is:

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

Our goal this year is to provide more outreach and encourage greater participation in the SPWA. Please tell your friends and neighbors about the SPWA and encourage them to join, attend a meeting, and participate!

### **Boat Registration and Lake and River Protection Sticker**

According to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, all motorized watercraft (including canoes with electric motors and jet skis) must display the "milfoil sticker" on inland waters. The sticker reads "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers-Preserve Maine Waters".

For owners of Maine-registered boats, this sticker is automatically combined with your watercraft registration fee. Owners of non-Maine registered boats must purchase and affix a separate non-resident sticker. The lake and river protection sticker must be purchased annually. They can be purchased at the Visitor Information Center on Route I-95 in Kittery or at other venues around the State. Check with IF&W for exact locations.

### **Chinese Mystery Snails**

Chinese mystery snails, *Cipangopaludina chinensis malleatus*, were brought from Southeast Asia to the United States as a food source for Asian markets. The prevailing theory is that they were deliberately released in order to reproduce for harvesting. They have migrated to lakes, drainage ditches, streams and ponds across the United States, and now occupy a number of Maine waterbodies. The Annual Invasive Aquatic Plant Survey indicated an increase in the number of Chinese Mystery snails in Saturday Pond.

They are primarily found buried under the sediment of a waterbody but can also seal up and float along the surface of the water. When they die, they wash up on shore and emit a nasty odor. They can be transported in a bait bucket or in water holding areas in boats. They may serve as a vector for parasites and diseases. The snails feed on organic and inorganic bottom material and on benthic algae. Males live up to 3 years and females up to 5. A female can produce up to 169 young over its lifespan.

They have no known natural predator and there is no direct method to eliminate them other than through hand collection and burial underground.