

Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association

Summer 2013 Newsletter

Dear members of Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association and interested citizens,

Here's hoping you had an excellent winter and with Memorial Day now in the past that warm weather is close at hand. We are growing as an organization in membership and hope to reach more summer and year-round residents with news and useful information to help all enjoy our lakes. Many more links are included in this newsletter to increase awareness. Hope that you find it useful.

CHECK OUT OUR REVISED UPDATED WEB SITE!

In an effort to communicate more effectively (and economically), we are revamping www.pleasantlakeandparkerpond.org. Please take a look and give us some feedback. If you are a member, or plan to join by returning the enclosed envelope, you can help by providing your email address so we can send more frequent and timely information to you. You can also just go to the "contact" tab on the website and enter your email address.



ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday July 13, 2013 at 9:30 am
Casco Community Center
940 Meadow Road (next to the Post Office)



Featured Speaker: **SUSAN GALLO**, Maine Audubon

Susan is a wildlife biologist and the Director of the Maine Audubon's "Protect the Loon Project" and the annual Maine lake loon count. She will update us on our beloved loons and inform us about other citizen science projects and initiatives concerning our lake health. We will also have some fun learning about our frogs and their croaking! Join us for coffee and donuts and hear how you can help maintain healthy lakes for all to enjoy! **WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**

NEWS AND UPDATES

- **ICE IN** this winter was December 14, 2012 on Parker Pond and not until January 2, 2013 on Pleasant Lake. **ICE OUT** occurred April 8 and April 14 respectively (about 3 weeks later than last year).
- **Lake Auburn Fish Kill:** Last year's early warm weather appears to be a mayor contributor to the worrisome September fish kill in Lake Auburn. The addition algae growth helped deplete the oxygen levels. see more at; <http://www.wcsh6.com/news/article/231917/2/Report-phosphorus-killing-Lake-Auburn-fish>
- **Erosion and Algae:** Last year's major rainstorms contributed to significant gravel road washouts and renewed focus on ways to better maintain driveways and prevent the nonpoint source pollution (of primarily phosphorus) into the water. Excessive algae is the result and a serious

threat to water quality in our lakes. Here is a link provided by Maine DEP. There is much helpful information including a manual on best methods of repairing and maintaining your gravel road. http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/camp/road/gravel_road_manual.pdf

Below are links to broader issues regarding our lakes that you may want to learn about:

- **Loons and Lead:** Lead sinkers and jigs cause fatal lead poisoning in loons and other waterfowl. Lead ingestion is the #1 killer of loons in Maine, but any waterbird can die from swallowing just one lead sinker or jig. The legislation proposing the expanded ban is referred to as L.D. 730, An Act to Protect Maine's Loon by Banning Lead Sinkers and Jigs. It is currently in committee. This would ban sinkers weighing as much as an ounce or as long as 2.5 inches. <https://maineaudubon.org/blog/2013/03/action-needed-loons-and-lead-ld-730/>
- **Tar Sands:** Many towns in Maine, including Casco and Otisfield, are addressing the potential impacts to their watersheds of current oil pipelines being used to transport tar sands, "dilbit", from Canada through to Portland. Current information and news accounts are available at www.nrcm.org
- **LakeSmart Program:** Starting this year the Maine DEP program, that educates lake owners on "best practices" for minimizing negative impacts on lake quality, will be administered by COLA - the Maine Congress of Lake Associations. Visit their website to learn more about participating. www.mainecola.org

BOATING TIPS AND REGULATIONS

If you own motorized watercraft please be sure to purchase your annual Maine boat sticker for 2013. \$10.00 of your fee goes to help pay for boat ramp monitoring for invasive aquatic plants. Milfoil is a big threat to the health of our lakes and ponds.



- Do you know? State law requires all motorized watercraft to observe the "NO WAKE ZONE" within 200 feet of any shore. Not only is this a safety issue, but a major source of shore erosion and release of phosphorus into the water.
- New Motor? If you are in the market for a new outboard please check out the much cleaner four stroke engines. They are quieter, too! More information at: www.mainecola.org
- Need gas? When refueling, please fill any portable tanks well away from the boat or dock. If your tank is built in, the use of a siphon is much less likely to result in spillage. Two of PLPPA our board members plan to distribute "best practices" instructions by boat on July 4th weekend. Hope you will be on your dock!

Become a Plant Patroller!!!

2013 Invasive Plant Patrol Workshops; Date, Time, location

Every year VLMP (Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Association) sponsors free workshops for people interested in learning about invasive aquatic plants. The workshops are full of good information and you will emerge enthused and ready to apply your new found knowledge. Both of our lakes

are in need of additional monitors and we would welcome you enthusiastically. Below are the dates for 2013 workshops that are closest to Otisfield or Casco.

Thursday, June 20, 2PM – 8PM – Cumberland County, Public Safety Building, Raymond

Thursday, July 11, TBD – York/Oxford County, Limerick/Porter

Monday, July 15, TBD – Oxford County, Canton.

READY TO SIGN UP?

E-mail your Name, Phone Number, Lake Name
and Workshop Choice to vlmp@mainevlmp.org



We are also happy to have anyone join current patrollers when we are surveying this summer to see how easy and enjoyable this contribution is. Just send an email.

Have an enjoyable summer! Know that your financial support will help us maintain our Boat Monitoring and Invasive Plant Patrol efforts! If you have some time to give as well, we would be happy for that support too!

SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

July 13, 2013

9:30 AM

Casco Community Center

Free Coffee and Donuts, Bring a Friend

