

Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association

Summer 2014 Newsletter

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

We are pleased to report another active and successful year in our mission to monitor and maintain the health of our lakes in Otisfield and Casco. With the continued support of both towns and the increasing list of dues paying memberships, and the help of many volunteers, we are able to continue our protection measures and provide vigilance of this important resource. We all rely on the health of our lakes in many different ways.

This newsletter is sent to 300 families with approximately 130 dues paying members. We welcome all to help support our efforts at whatever amount you can. Please also share this publication with friends who do not yet receive it and ask them to join as well. More information is available on our website- pleasantlakeandparkerpond.org

We have been fortunate to have terrific speakers at our Annual Meeting the last 4 years and this year is no exception.

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 19th 2014, at 9:30 AM
Casco Community Center
940 Meadow Road (next to Post Office)

Featured Speaker: **HOLLY EWING**, Bates College

Holly Ewing, PhD in Ecology, is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Environmental Studies program at Bates College in Lewiston. At the forefront of aquatic research, she has been studying the presence of certain algae in Maine lakes in collaboration with Dartmouth College. We are fortunate that Pleasant Lake is one of a handful of lakes that her students have been monitoring for the last few years. Every Wednesday throughout the summer the students sample 3 locations on the lake, specifically measuring the blue-green algae *Gloeotrichia*, and taking other related data. Dr. Ewing will report on their findings and her important research on lake quality in the region. She will also discuss causes and implications of increasing concentrations of various forms of algae growth in New England lakes. Come prepared with your questions!

ICE IN at Parker Pond was on December 24th, and on Pleasant Lake on January 2.

ICE OUT occurred April 18 and April 23, respectively.

In both cases this is 10 days later than last year and almost a month later than 2012.

Loon Chick on Pleasant Lake

Although discussed at the Annual meeting last July and reported in the Bridgton News, many of you may not know that for the first time in memory (and at least 35 years) a loon chick was raised on Pleasant Lake. There is often a pair with a chick on Parker Pond, but most shoreline on Pleasant is not conducive to raising a family. Hopefully the parents will try again this year. Unfortunately, the loon chick was not seen after mid July, probably having fallen victim to one of a possible 3 or 4 predators.



(A bald eagle was seen this Memorial Day attacking Canada Goose goslings on Pleasant Lake. The attack was thwarted by the parent geese)

History of Summer Camps on Pleasant Lake Presentation - JUNE 19, 2014

The Otisfield Historical Society will hold its June 19 meeting at the Old Town House at 57 Bell Hill Road. The evening's program will be a power point presentation on the history of summer camps on Pleasant Lake in Otisfield from their start in the early twentieth century until the present. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

Members of the historical society spent the winter months interviewing Otisfield residents who once worked in these summer camps, located at five areas of the lake shore. They also talked to several individuals who attended them or served as counselors, often for several years, and to family members of the camps' founders. They have also done extensive deed research, pored over town assessment records, and studied written accounts of the youth camping movement in the U.S. Along the way they have collected a large number of photos which show vividly what the camping experience—an American innovation--was all about.



According to Ethel Turner and Jean Hankins, who will present the program, the first organized camp on Pleasant Lake was Kamp Kiwassa, founded about 1906 by Anton Schatzel, who was at one time director of the Portland YMCA. Kiwassa was designed not for children but for “Business and Professional Men, Their Wives and Families.” This camp lasted only a few years. It was situated on land later occupied by Camp Powhatan and, at present, by Seeds of Peace.

Courtesy Boat Inspections

We monitor 3 locations on our lakes every weekend of the summer in an effort to detect invasive aquatic plants and will continue this effort. According to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, we are one of 52 organizations state wide conducting CBI's and a total of over 80,000 boats were inspected in 2012. 280 invasive plant fragments were found according to John McPhedran of ME-DEP, who heads the state Invasive Aquatic Plant program. Funding for the ME-DEP has been preserved, aided by allocating a larger portion of the annual boat registration fee to this effort. When you register your boat the year, ask for the new leaflet produced by ME-DEP with helpful information.



Our Lakes' Health

We are fortunate that the health of Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond has been monitored in many ways. We have a long history of data on water clarity, dissolved oxygen levels, and phosphorus. Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME-DEP) and Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) have collaborated since 1977 and using these measures, we happily maintain an above average rating for overall quality.

However, our two infestations of variable leaf milfoil puts us on the State's watch list. We are hopeful that if surveys this summer detect no reoccurrence, we will be delisted.

We also now monitor lake water temperature at a few locations throughout the summer in conjunction with UMaine Farmington and have been studying the presence of algae blooms through the efforts of Bates and Dartmouth Colleges

(learn more at our annual meeting!).

The vigilant volunteer work of many is much appreciated and we are most thankful to Invasive Plant Patrollers Pixie Williams, Bev Smith, Fred Cummings, and Marygrace Barber, for their many years of annual surveys on not just our 2 lakes, but also 6-8 other lakes nearby.

Lakes Are Big Winners in Augusta (provided by Maine Lake Society)

During the 126th Legislature, Maine Lakes Society, our non-profit partners, legislators and our members pushed Maine lakes to the forefront by passing three lake protection bills – a first as far as we know:

LD 1626 created a funding mechanism to provide more money to ME-DEP to control invasive aquatic plants.

LD 1455, Maine's Clean Water Bond, also received the nod from legislators, providing \$10 million dollars for infrastructure improvements and land conservation to protect inland waters. Voters will be given the chance to approve this in November.

Finally, Maine Lakes Society will receive \$46,500 annually in ongoing funding to operate LakeSmart and the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program will receive \$10,000 to analyze water quality data. These funds were secured as the result of tireless support from members, legislators, and friends in the environmental community.



Websites to know and go to for more Lake information

Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program - mainevlmp.org

Maine Lakes Society - mainelakesociety.org (formerly Congress of Lake Associations)

Maine Department of Environmental Protection. www.maine.gov/dep/

Lakes Environmental Association mainelakes.org

This winter will certainly go down as a “good old fashioned Maine winter” not only in Maine but throughout the Northeast. But soon it will be summertime and we'll all enjoy the change of season!

We are eager to add members and volunteers to our association and hope you will consider joining us in both capacities. Please be in touch to learn more, and we hope you can support us by returning the enclosed envelope.

We welcome you to visit our website pleasantlakeandparkerpondassociation.org

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 19

Please join us for coffee and donuts and increase your understanding of issues surrounding our lakes.