

Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association

Summer 2015 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, 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 benefit from the health of our lakes in many different ways.

This year, in addition to our association's mailing list, this newsletter has been sent to the waterfront property owners, thanks to labels provided by the towns of Casco and Otisfield. The purpose of this expanded mailing is to provide information on the Pleasant Lake Dam and progress of work by both the towns and the association.

A two page summary is enclosed. We hope you find the newsletter and dam report informative. Please excuse us if you get two mailings, and just pass one on to a friend.

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday July 18, 2015 at 9:30 AM

Casco Community Center

940 Meadow Road (next to Post Office)

Featured Speaker: Steve Tremblay

Manager of Casco Fish Hatchery

Steve has been managing the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Regional Fish Hatchery for many years and has agreed to inform us on all the important work that he and his staff do. Many of you may have stopped by to feed the trout or see the "albino salmon" over the years, but you will be totally surprised at all the sophisticated tasks and research that goes on in Casco and in Raymond. Pleasant Lake is the water source for the hatchery and its health is critical to help provide excellent fishing stock for many of the region's lakes. An avid fisherman himself, Steve is happy to tell us all about the fish that inhabit our lakes and how they have changed or fared over the years. The Q & A session should be fun, so bring your questions!

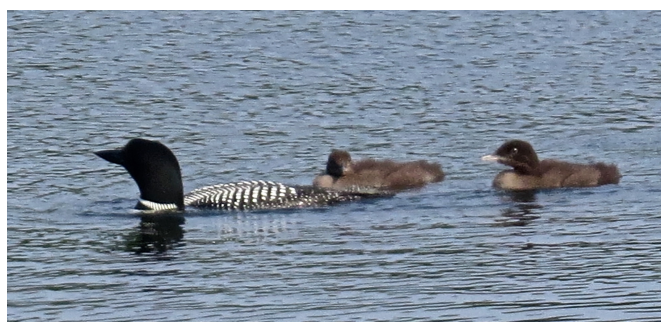
ICE IN - Parker Pond froze over December 24th, and Pleasant Lake on January 1.

ICE OUT- Parker Pond-April 18 and Pleasant Lake-April 23.

In both lakes, these dates are within 1-2 days of last year's, despite the cold harsh winter.

Loon Family returns to Pleasant Lake

Although in 2013, we apparently lost the first loon chick we'd had in decades, two chicks were successfully raised to adulthood this last summer in Casco. Hopefully a pattern is beginning! Many of you got nice pictures, while still maintaining a non-threatening distance away. Thanks!



Courtesy Boat Inspections

The DEP reports that now over one million dollars is contributed towards early detection or the prevention of the spread of invasive plants by the annual sale of Maine Boat Registration stickers. Please be sure you purchase this year's and help "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers- Preserve Maine Waters".

In 2014, 116 lakes had "CBI" programs in operation and over 80,000 boats were inspected with upwards of 100 invasive plants found on boats entering or exiting lakes.

We continue to monitor 3 locations on our lakes every weekend of the summer in an effort to detect invasive aquatic plants. We will augment our educational leaflet distribution to arriving boaters (and, we are hopeful, with volunteer help, to those with docks on the lake) so that all are aware of ways to minimize erosion along the shore and encourage safe boating practices.



LakeSmart is Back!

"LakeSmart lets you have your lake..... and keep it too!"

An excellent and comprehensive evaluation and certification program for waterfront property owners began nearly 10 years ago, but until recently it had not been adequately funded to make an impact. That now seems to have changed, and with renewed funding and non-profit administration of this effort, significant expansion of this program is getting traction. Properties that meet the standards of a four part evaluation are awarded a certification, and those requiring modifications are provided with detailed (often low cost) ways to lessen negative impacts on their lakes. Focus is on preventing excess stormwater runoff- the single most detrimental result of lakefront development. Research has shown that LakeSmart certified properties are similar to undeveloped land and protect benefits like clean, clear water, abundant wildlife, and recreational opportunities. If you want to help safeguard the lake for generations to come, please contact the MaineLakeSociety.org or our website. Much information on Better Management Practices is available online and we are happy to direct you to it.

Join us

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. Hope you can support us by returning the enclosed envelope. If you give your email address, we can also communicate by email.

This year for the first time, we also provide you with the opportunity to join our organization or pay dues ELECTRONICALLY! Please go to publicgood.com , click on organizations, type "Pleasant" and follow the simple DONATE instructions.

Please also visit our website: pleasantlakeandparkerpond.org

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 18

