

Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association

Summer is Here

Dear Members of the Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association (and interested citizens): thanks to those who have already renewed your membership for 2016, or given a portion of your valuable time this year to volunteer. Your support is vital to our mission to maintain and vigilantly monitor the health of the lakes — our precious resources! In addition to joining our membership, please also consider contributing whatever you can as a part of our annual appeal to help the towns of Casco and Otisfield offset even a small portion of the cost of this important dam project (see details below).

What's the Dam Update?

Much progress has been made over the past year on plans to renovate the Pleasant Lake dam in Casco. This 175 year-old structure has been repaired over the years, but is now in need of a total rebuild. The towns of Casco and Otisfield own the dam equally and are responsible for maintaining the water level of the lake and the dam itself. The collaboration between the selectboards' committee has been exemplary, the design for the new dam is complete, the contractors have submitted bids, and permitting has begun. Both towns will vote to approve the shared budget at their respective annual town meetings this June. If all continues as planned, construction will commence this coming fall. Our lake association has had active involvement, will continue to participate as the project moves forward, and will be assisting by contributing a portion of our donations to the project. Hopefully by next summer a new, secure, and functioning dam will be in place, ready to serve Pleasant Lake for another 100+ years.



The existing dam structure



Ice In & Ice Out

Both Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond froze on January 2; ice out was March 16 for Parker Pond & March 17 for Pleasant Lake – this 76 day period of frozen water is the shortest for which we have records, dating back to 1908.

Join Us!

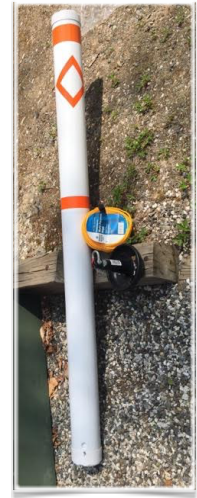
We are eager to add members and volunteers to our association and hope you will consider joining us in both capacities. Visit and contact us at www.pleasantlakeandparkerpond.org.

Donate

Please support us by returning the enclosed envelope (or donate online – just follow the simple instructions on our website!).

Temperature Buoy

Inspired by our relationship with this year's speaker and the benefits of new technology, our association has decided to install a water temperature monitoring buoy at the deepest point on our lake. The HOBO Data Logger is set at two-meter increments in the water column, measuring the water temperature every 15 minutes for the entire season. Currently, due to Lew Wentzel's years of effort, we have measured the temperature and dissolved oxygen levels every two weeks with probes. Now, this continuous monitoring will help us to better understand the changes in our lake, and compare the data with other lakes in the region. Look for the new orange and white buoy in the middle of the lake (at its deepest point) and know that it is helping ensure we have the data we need to make the best decisions for the health of our lake today and in years to come.



The buoy

Fishing at Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond enjoys an outstanding year



Although as an organization we focus on maintaining the quality of our lakes' water, it should be noted that both lakes are highly prized by fisherman from near and far. This spring has been a "banner year" with reports of an abundance of salmon since ice out, some in the 7-8 pound range. Almost all boat ramp activity at our lakes is fishing boats, and family fishing for our small mouth bass has been very popular. The fish like it here too! If you're interested, please visit the state fish hatchery in Casco to see what these beautiful salmon look like up close (others too)!

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Saturday July 23, 2016 at 9:30 AM

Casco Community Center – 940 Meadow Road (next to Post Office)



*Featured Speaker
Dan Buckley, PhD*

Dan Buckley earned his Ph.D. in biology at Syracuse University and has taught at the University of Maine at Farmington for 29 years. Dan has worked with many lake associations and water utilities helping them increase their knowledge of lake ecology. Dan is a certified plant patroller and VLMP volunteer monitor and he served on the board of the Congress of Lake Associations for 13 years including six years as president, and is their representative to the state task force on invasive aquatic plants. Currently he is monitoring water temperatures in 30 Maine lakes to look at seasonal temperature variation and the dynamics of short term temperature fluctuations in addition to the impact of climate change on these water bodies.

OUR CAMPS

Summer “overnight” camps have long been a particular use of Pleasant Lake, and Otisfield Historical Society has plentiful information on their history. There were as many as 9 boys’ and girls’ camps operating concurrently back in the 1960s. Many current owners of lakefront property are former campers, and their experiences have made them excellent stewards and advocates of our lakes.

ARCADIA’S CENTENNIAL

This past year Camp Arcadia on Pleasant’s western shore in Otisfield celebrating their 100th year of continuous operation by the Henderson family. What a reunion it was with over 400 former campers coming from as far away as Australia and Brazil. The girls from Arcadia participated in both the 4th of July parade in Otisfield and the Casco Days parade, together with campers from Seeds of Peace (formerly Camp Powhaten). Here’s hoping for another hundred years!



Updates of our lake association efforts

Invasive Plants

Our constant surveying over the course of the summer has again helped us to “nip in the bud” a small infestation of variable leaf milfoil. At the site of a previous infestation of this invasive plant, an inspection by a state official determined we still had a problem. Our team installed benthic barriers last fall, which will stay in place until this fall in hopes of eradicating the plant. Needless to say we will be out in force this summer with our plant surveying team to identify any other problem areas.

Water Quality Surveys

Our certified water quality monitoring members will continue to volunteer to test the clarity of both water bodies, and will add to the important historical database maintained by Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (www.mainevlmp.org). Check out their website for detailed information on Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond and lakes throughout Maine.

Courtesy Boat Inspections

All three boat access ramps will continue to be monitored during weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, inspecting all boats for fragments of invasive aquatic plants. This extremely important service, offered throughout the state by local lake associations, requires dedication and cooperation. Don't forget, your Maine State Boat Registration fees help pay for this, so get your boat registered!



LakeSmart Program Update

When the PLPPA board met last fall, we reaffirmed our interest in launching the educational certification program known as LakeSmart. Three members of the board have already completed the "visit" evaluation and found the process to be helpful. Low cost modifications to your property can be extremely helpful in limiting negative impacts and preventing detrimental stormwater runoff (one of the largest contributors to lake pollution). We will have information available at our annual meeting and hope our association can implement this comprehensive and rapidly growing initiative that is coordinated by the Maine Lakes Society. Please inform yourself and learn about other ways to keep our lake clean by visiting their website (www.mainerlakessociety.org).



Association News

With esteemed board member Pixie Williams having moved away, our nominating committee has been hard at work and we will be announcing three to five new board members and new officers. More will be discussed at our annual meeting on July 23rd.

Hope to see you on July 23 at our Annual Meeting!

*"There is a lake in your future,
and a lake in your past.
This is the lake you have now,
you'd better make it last."*

- Joel Bloom

*Longtime Owner & Director of Camp Powhatan and
former President of PLPPA*

