

Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association

WWW.PLEASANTLAKEANDPARKERPOND.ORG

SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear members of the Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Association and others who enjoy our lakes:

A lot happens on our lakes almost every day. This newsletter hopes to catch you up on a few areas of interest. We want to thank many of you who have already become members of the Association this year. Your support is very important and of course those of you who contribute to our annual appeal really make a difference. We have been able to help the towns of Casco and Otisfield as they undertook during the past year the large project of rebuilding the dam (More about this below). And we have been busy in other lake related areas. We are dedicated to keeping our lakes as healthy as possible, and there are many ways of doing that.

ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Saturday, July 22, 2017 at 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Maggie Shannon of the LakeSmart Program

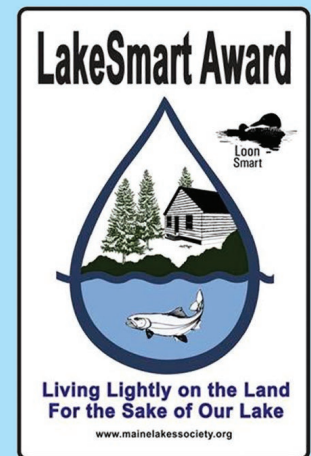
We are delighted that Maggie Shannon of the LakeSmart Program will be with us to explain the program and answer questions any of us have.

Margaret Stander Shannon

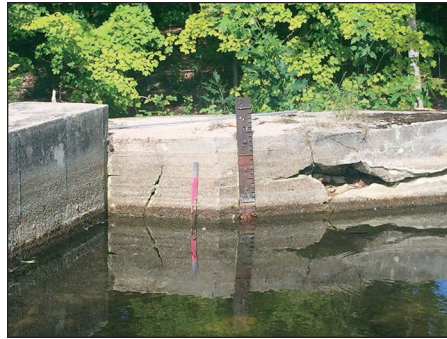
Maggie Shannon is the Executive Director of the Maine Lakes Society (MLS), a statewide nonprofit membership organization which counts 140 lake associations and hundreds of individuals as members. The Society, founded in 1970, is dedicated to preserving the ecological, recreational, aesthetic and social value and benefits of Maine Lakes through education, advocacy and action. A past school administrator and teacher, Maggie and her husband moved to Maine full time in 1998 to be close to the lake she'd summered on most of her life. She intended to spend lots of time with family and friends, write, and enjoy the way life should be. She did that, but also discovered her home lake was troubled. That led to a whole new passion and becoming president of her lake association. She still serves on that board as well as the board of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance where she chairs its Lake Trust. A graduate of Wellesley College, she recently received the People's Choice Award from the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Spirit of America Award from the Town of Belgrade, and is a Purpose Prize Finalist. Maggie has three adult children, and lives in a hand-built home on the shores of Great Pond in Rome.

LakeSmart Program

For several years our Board of PPLA has been interested in engaging the interest of people around the two lakes in the LakeSmart Program. Many people who have grown up in suburban areas are accustomed to lawns and open space. But suburban lawns with big driveways and wide paths are deadly for our lakes. LakeSmart landscaping provides a healthy alternative that mimics nature, looks great, enhances privacy and protects wildlife habitat, water quality and recreational opportunities. This program of the Maine Lakes Society is devoted to teaching property owners how to protect their lake. A member of the Lake Smart Program will come to your property and help you identify any problems, and if your property is in good condition you will be certified. The program sends two attractive signs which you can put up showing others that you care about our lake and encouraging them to join the Program. We are excited that Maggie Shannon, head of the Lake Smart Program, will be the featured speaker at our upcoming Annual Meeting. Please come to hear her. If you wish feel free to contact her at either (207) 495-2301 or msshannon@mainelakessociety.org.



The Dam is Done!



Our Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond dam has been totally rebuilt over the winter and is functioning flawlessly. With a spillway and a gate to control outflow, the historic lake water level will be easier to maintain for the next hundred years. An inch of lake water depth equals approximately 40 million gallons of water. The outflow capacity of the new structure is 3-4 times that of the old deteriorated spillway dam. With the wet winter/spring this was an important year to have had the new dam in operation.

Thanks to a coordinated effort of Casco and Otisfield, which jointly own the dam, the deficiencies were promptly analyzed, the requisite funds

approved and construction completed. Our lake association participated in some of the costs and will continue to be involved in the ongoing annual maintenance of this important improvement, thanks particularly to Lew Wetzel, our treasurer, who initiated the effort and to Peter Barber, who helped keep the project moving forward.

Our financial contribution was possible due to our fund raising event last August with Ron Byrd's Swim-a-thon, a non-stop 4+ mile swim from Otisfield beach to Casco beach. We expect to repeat this event this summer with board member Connie Sasser lined up to swim the same route but in her own style.



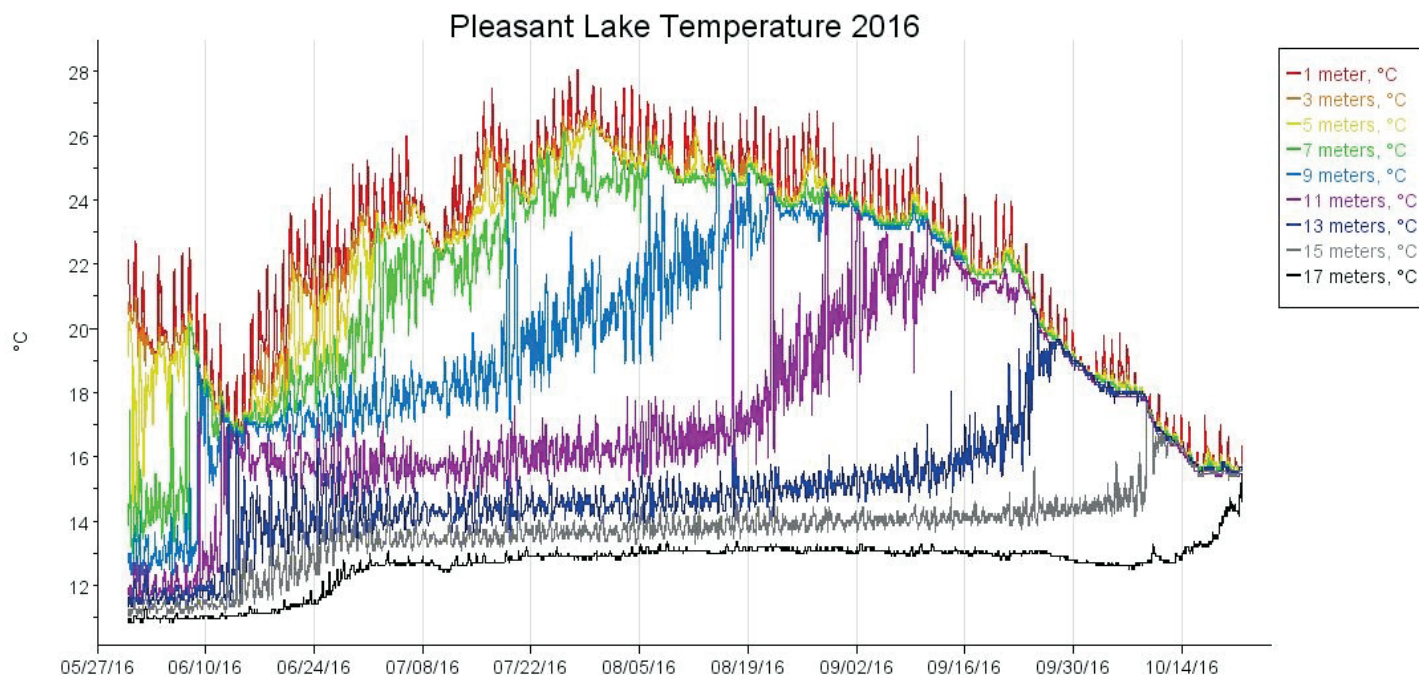
Fish benefit too!

The Casco Fish Hatchery, one of the largest of the Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife in the state, has taken advantage of the dam construction schedule to concurrently rebuild the intake pipes that cross through the dam and provide the water for its facility.

In operation since 1954, the hatchery will also undertake a major upgrade by installing a ultraviolet treatment system. The exceptional water quality of Pleasant Lake also

sparked the installation of two new intake pipelines—a shallow warm water line and a deep cold water intake line 3200 feet north of the Rt 121 bridge. These large plastic pipes will be assembled in 50 foot sections, to be floated on the water's surface during July and August and sunk when completed. Look for notices this summer and boater safety information. A public meeting will be held if warranted.

Water Column Temperature Buoy



The scale shown above is the first annual results of our buoy monitoring of the water temperature at incremental depths at Pleasant Lake's deepest point (+/- 60 ft.). With sensitive data loggers spaced every two meters on a anchor line, we are able to graph over time the changes in temperature and show the

stratification that occurs each year.

We hope to establish a historical record of this annual cycle and be able to see trends that alert us to problems. Other lakes are installing the same equipment and comparing the resulting data is expected to further enhance our knowledge. You can see on the graph how much colder the water remains at 50+ feet, enabling our diverse fish species.

Also note how much water temperature mixing occurred during the strong mid June winds. And that the water stratification begins to break down in early September and by mid October reverts to the same temperature at all levels. Please contact us if you'd like to learn more or help with this new effort.

ICE IN AND ICE OUT WINTER OF 2016-2017

	PARKER POND	PLEASANT LAKE
Ice In	December 12, 2016	December 18, 2016
Ice Out	April 17, 2017	April 20, 2017
Total Ice Days	125 days	122 days

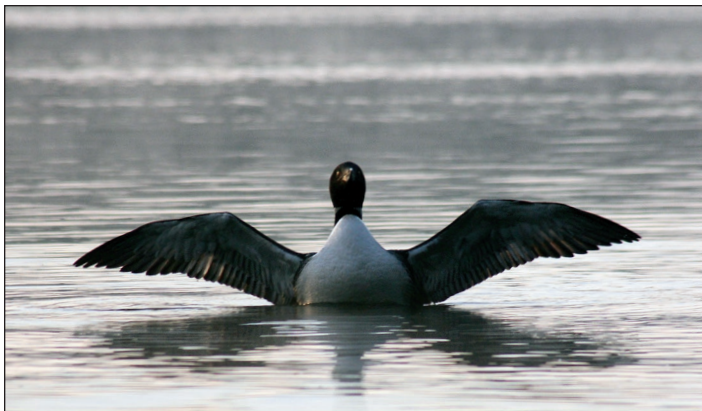
Keeping track of the days the ice is in our lakes is one way to track global warming.



Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

Our lakes are under constant pressure of being invaded by invasive plants from other lakes in Maine and other states. While we do have boat inspectors who check for these invaders over the summer months there is always an opportunity for plant fragments to find their way into our precious bodies of water. We do have a small, dedicated group of friends of the lakes who volunteered to monitor for non-native plants. It would be wonderful to expand this group so we could have a larger group of monitors for both our lakes. Right now Parker Pond could use summer or year round residents on the lake who find that they are often out on the lake in canoes or kayaks. Pleasant Lake residents have monitored Parker Pond along with the larger Pleasant Lake for many summers.

What is involved is attendance at a workshop this summer sponsored and run by the Lake Volunteer Monitoring Program. Here is the link for these free workshops, run in both Cumberland and Oxford counties. They are generally 6 hours in one day, and you learn a lot from great teachers and you become qualified Lake Monitors.



Members of the PLPPA help with the annual loon count on the lakes. Last summer 6 loons were spotted. We must all try to protect them. One of the ways we can ensure future loons on our lakes is to not make a lot of waves with our boats. The loons build their nests right down near the lake and waves can easily flood their nests.

www.mainevlmp.org/invasive-plant-patrol-workshops

July 18 | Moose Pond in Bridgton

August 1 | Walchic Lake in Standish

August 5 | Lake Anasgunticook, Canton

We love our lakes and we need your help. So please seriously consider volunteering your time in this way. Join our group of monitors!

For more information please contact Marygrace Barber, head of our Volunteer Monitoring Committee at (617) 817-5417 or peterandgracebarber@comcast.net

BOAT MONITORING COMMITTEE

Fred Cummings who is in charge of the Boat Monitoring Committee has already been at work and has people lined up to work for this extremely important committee which is active from Memorial Day to Labor Day, every Saturday and Sunday for 8 hours a day. They inspect the boats from other areas who want to come onto our lakes at three monitored boat sites: Otisfield, Casco and Parker Pond. Thank you Fred.

2017 BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

The Androscoggin Bass Masters Lake Association held a fishing tournament on Sunday, May 21, 2017. The tournament itself was from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm, but anglers came as early as 6:30 am. There will be a second Pleasant Lake fishing tournament on June 24 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm with anglers arriving as early as 6:45 am.

We are pleased that with all the lakes to choose from in our area, the Association selected Pleasant Lake for their tournaments. Pleasant Lake is healthy! Let's keep it that way!