

# Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Association

WWW.PLEASANTLAKEANDPARKERPOND.ORG

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Dear Members of the Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Association and others who enjoy our lakes:

For most of us our two lakes are special places and tend to be the center of our everyday lives. They provide us joy and recreation, animal life and natural beauty. We hope this newsletter will catch you up on some areas of interest which concern the lakes. As the year goes by we would be happy to receive any news you might have about the lakes. We will try to share it in the next newsletter. We are glad the new dam is in place and working well and also that the Fish Hatchery can once again fill its tanks with water from Pleasant Lake. For our help with those projects of last year, we have earned a seat on the committee which will monitor the dam. Thank you Peter Barber for the endless hours you spent getting this accomplished. We hope you will all join us in being as vigilant as possible to keep our lakes healthy.

## ANNUAL MEETING

*Do come and join us for what we believe is our **50th anniversary year** meeting!*

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 21, 2018 at 9:30 am

**WHERE:** 940 Meadow Road (next to the Post Office)

**Speaker:** Scott Williams, Executive Director of the Maine Volunteer Monitoring Program

We are very pleased to welcome Scott Williams again. It has been 25 years since Scott did his first assessment of the water quality of our lakes. We look forward with anticipation to learning about the changes which have occurred in those passing years.

Scott Williams is an Aquatic Biologist and Limnologist with more than three decades of experience working on the assessment and protection of hundreds of lakes and ponds throughout Maine.

Scott has been Executive Director of the Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program (MVLMP) since the program transitioned from the state government to an independent

nonprofit organization in the mid 1990's. The purpose of the program is to protect Maine lakes through research using scientific data. Lake water quality (transparency) is monitored and is an important and reliable indicator of the health of a lake. Scott is past president and Science Advisor of the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA) and former co-chair of the Maine Council on Environmental Species.

Under Scott's leadership the Maine VLMP has experienced substantial growth and has been recognized throughout the country for innovative approaches. The Maine VLMP has been repeatedly referenced as a national model for citizen monitoring by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

*Three Cheers  
for Lew!*

## Treasurer Lew Wetzel Retires

We are sad to announce the retirement of Lew Wetzel as Treasurer of our organization. Lew has spent many years "keeping our books" and handling our financial affairs as well as doing other multiple tasks. Our thanks go to you Lew for all the detailed work you did for us working with towns, organizations and the State of Maine. Your diligence has been remarkable.

## CONTACT and INFORMATION

Here are ways to reach the Pleasant Lake Parker Pond Association:

**Mail:** PO Box 419, Casco, ME 04015

**Phone:** Anne Fritts (207) 627-4605, summer and (973) 538-5409 winter

**Website:** [www.pleasantlakeandparkerpond.org](http://www.pleasantlakeandparkerpond.org)

# What a Dam Difference

The new Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond dam is now officially complete with the final engineering inspection and contractor payments made a few weeks ago. With minimal annual maintenance, we should be good for another 100+ years. The dam site had served as water power for Hancock Lumber since the 1800's and has been owned by the towns of Casco and Otisfield for decades. Back in 2014, Lew Wetzel, our recently retired PLPPA treasurer, alerted our organization to serious leaking and potential structural issues. Subsequent studies confirmed the need to essentially replace the existing structure and to provide much more control of the water level and release volume. We thank both towns for stepping up with the funds necessary for our beautiful new dam!



Before...



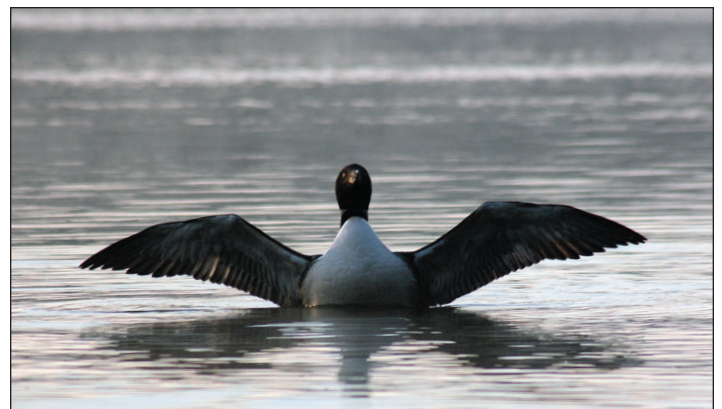
and after!

## Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI)

Our weekend monitoring of boats entering and exiting the 3 ramps on our lakes will not be staffed this year due to some retirement and relocation of personnel. This state program checks for invasive aquatic plant fragments hoping particularly to stop the spread of variable leaf milfoil. We have been a strong participant in the program for decades. We have been working with the LEA (Lake Environmental Association) to help staff this year's program but unfortunately timing was too tight. We are continuing all our other efforts to monitor and survey for any negative threats. Please let us know if you are aware of people who are interested in being trained to be inspectors.

## Loon Count

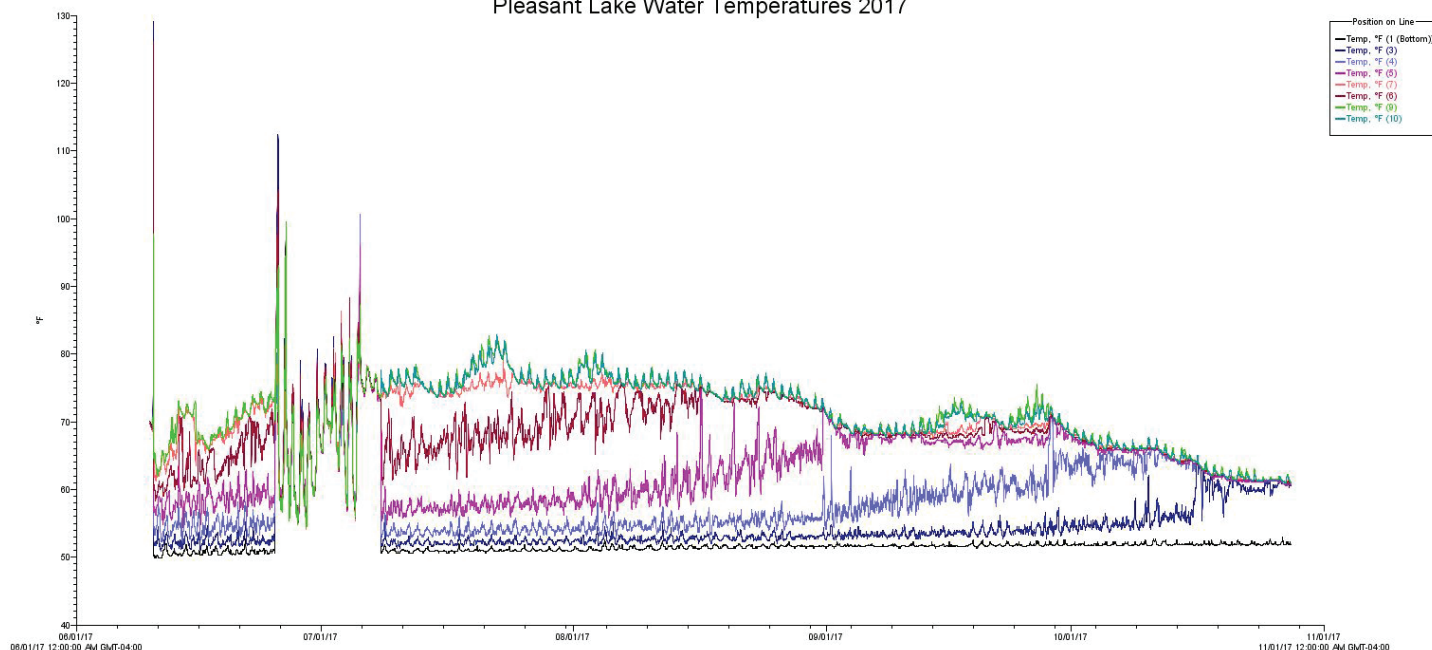
Do sign up to help with the annual loon count on our lakes through Maine Audubon. It usually takes place towards the end of July. Audubon then tallies all the reports from the State of Maine and we will get a report later in the year.





# Water Column Temperature Buoy

Pleasant Lake Water Temperatures 2017



## Second Year Readings from the Water Column Temperature Buoy

Thanks once again to Peter Barber and Art LeBlanc for setting up the temperature monitoring buoy last June so that it could do its work all summer long. Here is the graph that Art LeBlanc made from the temperature readings. We hope to track the temperature of the lake yearly so we can see trends appearing which will alert us to any problems which may be arising. The temperature buoy has loggers every 2 meters and receives temperature readings

every day. You can see on this year's graph where, early in the summer, the line of our buoy was caught in a fishing line and dragged along until we discovered this mishap and reset the buoy.

We would love to have additional volunteers for this committee. Help to put the buoy in as early as possible and to take it out as late as possible would be appreciated.



## ICE IN AND ICE OUT WINTER OF 2017-2018

	PARKER POND	PLEASANT LAKE
Ice In	December 14, 2017	December 16, 2017
Ice Out	April 22, 2018	April 22, 2018
Total Ice Days	130 days	128 days

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

## Invasive Aquatic Plant Patrolling on Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond

*Volunteers always wanted and needed.*

You may have been out on your dock or out in a boat when you noticed one or two people in kayaks snooping around your water front. What are they doing you may have wondered. The answer is that volunteers who live on or near our lakes monitor the waters for plants that are non native and could turn into major problems for the kind of recreation we all enjoy. This surveying is a job that does not require a lot of time but it does require some training or partnering with an experienced plant patroller. Currently we have six volunteers who either take a section of the lake that is near their home (or sometime a larger section over the course of the summer) and monitor it for unwanted plants. You do not have to live on either lake to be one of these important volunteers. All you need is an interest in the lakes, including Lily Brook in between Parker and Pleasant, and a desire to learn about the invasive exotic plants that threaten our enjoyment. We have been very successful in past years at controlling a plant called variable leaf milfoil by careful vigilance and wonderful volunteers. We are still awaiting DEP clearance for a small outbreak we recently had at the north end of Pleasant Lake near Seeds of Peace Camp. The benefits of being a plant patroller include meeting new kayaking or canoeing friends, a new knowledge of our native aquatic plants along with the “bad guys”, and the good feeling that comes from protecting our lakes for our future generations to



fish, swim, paddle board, waterski or simply gaze at the scenery from a porch with a good book in hand knowing that all is well.

Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) runs courses all over the state. Local offerings below. You can call Marygrace Barber at 617 817-5417. She can help you navigate the website and get you on the road to join us for a plant paddle and then certification by the VLMP. Here is this summer's 2018 local workshop for certification:

- Thur. August 2, TBA – Cumberland County, Lake Sci. Center in Bridgton  
[www.mainevlmp.org/invasive-plant-patrol-workshops/](http://www.mainevlmp.org/invasive-plant-patrol-workshops/)

***Please consider volunteering your time and helping to keep our lakes free of invasive plants.***

### Third Annual Pleasant Lake Swim to Take Place this Summer

Three years ago Ron Burd swam Pleasant Lake and raised funds to help with the new dam. Last summer Connie Sasser was successful in her swim. She loves to swim in our spring fed lake. This summer Deborah Shapiro will be swimming the lake in honor of her 70th birthday. Keep tuned for the day and time and good luck to Deb.

### Membership And Donations

Enclosed is an envelope to renew your membership or to become a member for the first time. We do want to thank those of you who have given to our important organization through donations. Support by people who care about our lakes is very important and it does make a difference as we continue to do everything we can to keep our lakes healthy and clean for all to enjoy. Thank you in advance for your donation.