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New website! www.plppa.org

 [pleasantlakeparkerpond](https://www.instagram.com/pleasantlakeparkerpond)



PLEASANT | PARKER *Lake | Pond* ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members of the Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Association (PL/PPA) and others who enjoy our lakes:

We had an excellent turnout for our Annual Meeting last July when we learned about watersheds, their importance to each lake and to our general, larger watershed of the Sebago Lake Region. The water from our dam at the southern end of Pleasant Lake flows into the Crooked River which feeds into Sebago Lake. Sebago is one of the largest and cleanest water sources in New England serving thousands of people in southern Maine.

We are continuing to actively monitor our two lakes this summer to be sure they stay healthy. We know you will enjoy reading this newsletter and learning about our committees and what they are continuing to do. The Plant Survey Committee has already been out checking for any invasive plants, the Courtesy Boat Inspection has started and we are hoping to see baby loon chicks on the lake. Please read about the new Marketing Committee which has produced our wonderful new logo and is working on many forms of communication with our community.

Pleasant Lake will be quieter this summer for this is the first summer in 105 years that no camps will be opening on the lake in an effort to protect both the children and our communities from the current coronavirus. The following poem, written long ago by a boy at Camp Powhatan, gives us all cause to pause and think:

**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.**

And that is what all your Board Members are trying to do! Please contact us if you have any concerns about our lakes.

Anne Fritts, *President*
Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Association

ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED

We are disappointed to announce that we will not be holding our Annual Meeting this summer due to the COVID 19 situation all around us. We are fortunate, however, that our speaker from the Lakes Environmental Association will be able to accommodate us and speak at our Annual Meeting in 2021. Please visit our website (www.plppa.com) throughout the year for additional information and resources about our lakes.



OUR NEW LOOK!

Last summer, we rolled out our new logo! Incorporating our clear water and the majestic loon, we wanted a symbol that embodied our mission to preserve, enhance, and protect Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond.

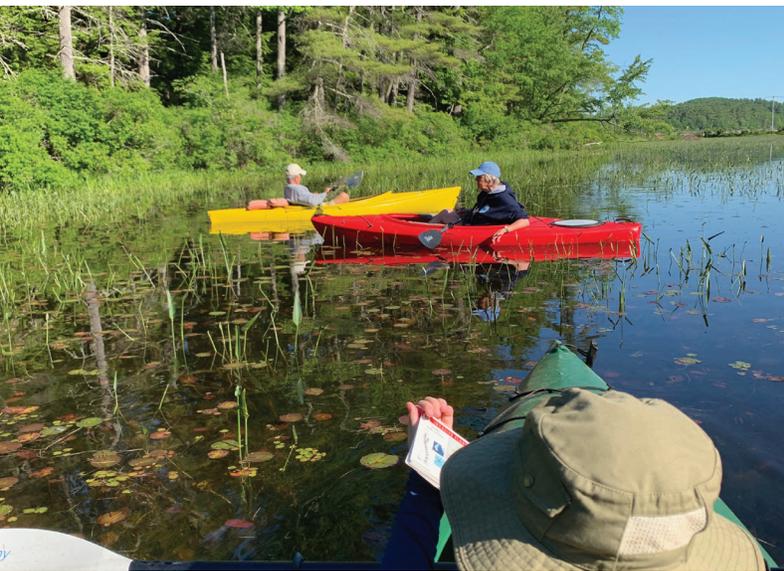


We also joined Instagram as way to stay connected with our community throughout the year. Please follow us on Instagram at [pleasantlakeparkerpond](https://www.instagram.com/pleasantlakeparkerpond). In late 2019, we upgraded our website with the goal of making it easier to share information and keep you informed; special thanks to David Randall for his work behind the scenes to make this happen. Visit our new website at www.plppa.org

Thanks to the members of the newly formed Marketing Committee: David Randall, Deborah Shapiro, Marygrace Barber, Holly LeBlanc, Marlene Weinstein and Meredith Sasser.

And we still have visors and youth hats with our new logo available; contact us if you are interested in purchasing some. All proceeds benefit PL/PPA.





INVASIVE PLANT MONITORING

Invasive plant patrollers monitor both Parker Pond and Pleasant Lake for any invasive invaders which could be threatening our water bodies. PL/PPA has seven certified members to carry out the task. We divide the lakes into sections and report to Lake Stewards of Maine with our data at the end of the summer.

On Thursday, June 18, 2020, five invasive plant monitors from PL/PPA surveyed Lily Brook on this beautiful summer morning. Those present; Jim Arsham, Marygrace Barber, Holly LeBlanc, Susan Kaagan, Connie Sasser and her granddaughter Annabel. As it has been three years without any signs of milfoil, Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond are now officially off Maine's 'milfoil' list of lakes!

Note: Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) will offer virtual training this summer for invasive plant monitoring and water quality monitoring (which includes Secchi disk training). In addition, LSM is hosting weekly webinars on Fridays at 4pm titled "Fridays at 4 for Lakes." For more information, please visit the LSM website. www.lakestewardsofmaine.org

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Enclosed is an envelope to join our organization by becoming a member or to renew your membership. We have added PayPal to make donations; visit <https://plppa.org/contribute/> and click on the yellow Donate button. This gives you a fast, secure way to make your annual donation.



Support by those who care about our lakes is important! Your support makes it possible for us to continue to do everything we can to keep our lakes healthy and clean for all to enjoy. Thank you in advance for your interest and donation!

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Our certified water quality monitors check lake water clarity and dissolved oxygen every two weeks on Pleasant Lake. Lake water clarity is measured by conducting a Secchi disk transparency reading.

What is a Secchi disk? Secchi disk readings are performed by lowering a contrasting black and white disk into the water until it can no longer be seen by the observer; this depth is marked in meters. This simple measurement of water clarity varies over the months (and from year to year!) and is highly correlated with lake water quality and thus the health of the lake. Fortunately, our lakes have shown high water clarity over time!



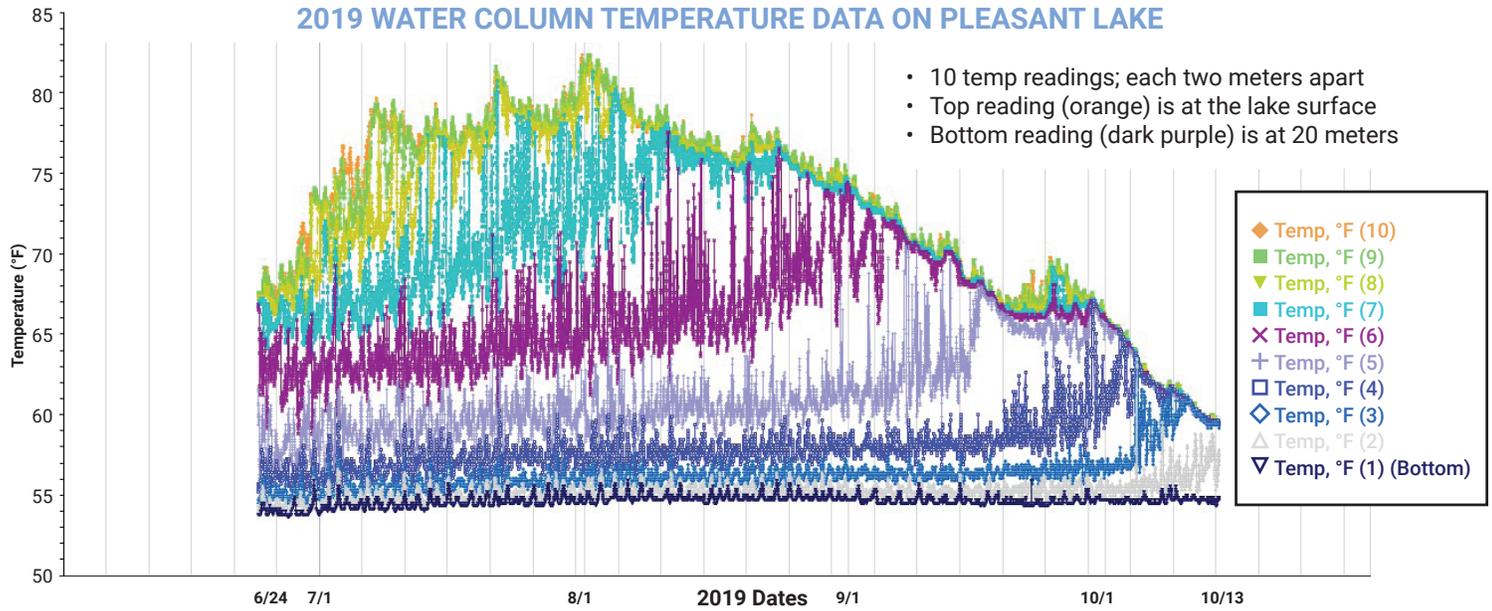
SECCHI DISK IN ACTION!

Our annually certified water quality volunteers also collect dissolved oxygen readings at Pleasant lake's deepest point (62 ft). This measurement varies over the months showing the level of stratification and reduction of oxygen in deeper water. Loss of too much dissolved oxygen impacts chemical nutrient balances and can seriously effect fish life. We submit Secchi disk, dissolved oxygen, and other data to the statewide organization, Lake Stewards of Maine (formerly known as VLMP) which aggregates this Citizen Scientist information from lakes across the state



Our water quality efforts include annually installing a buoy which has temperature sensors every 2 meters through the water column from the water surface to the deepest point. Our thanks go to Peter Barber, Art LeBlanc, and David Randall for setting this buoy each year and removing it late fall. Once installed, temperature data is collected daily. This information is provided to the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) to analyze and compare our lake with others in the region and measure their health. You can learn more from LEA's website. www.mainelakes.org

The graph shows 2019 data (June 23 – October 13) from our temperature buoy. We monitor Pleasant Lake water column temperatures to be sure that warm and cold waters mix, keeping it healthy for wildlife which live in the lake. 2019 marked our 4th year collecting this critical data, illustrating trends and alerting us to potential problems in our lake. Thanks to Art LeBlanc for gathering, processing, and reporting the water temp data.



COURTESY BOAT INSPECTION (CBI)

In 2019, we resumed the Courtesy Boat Inspection program (CBI) at the Pleasant Lake Casco boat ramp and the Parker Pond boat ramp. This program provides weekend monitoring of boats entering and exiting the ramps, checking for invasive aquatic plant fragments in hopes of stopping the spread of invasive plants – particularly variable leaf milfoil.

What do courtesy boat inspectors do?

- Discuss with boaters how invasive aquatic plants spread
- Show boaters how to inspect boats and equipment for plant fragments
- Urge boaters to inspect before and after every launch
- Distribute information about invasive plants
- Articulate Maine law regarding the transport of these plants.

PL/PPA has participated in the Courtesy Boat Inspection program since the early 2000s. We work closely with the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) to staff this program and we are continuing CBI in 2020!



OUR "MILL POND" DAM

This year marks the third anniversary of the completion of the new dam in Casco that controls the water level of both Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond. We are all extremely thankful that Otisfield and Casco, as co-owners of the dam property, were able to cooperate and swiftly construct this improvement. This engineered dam replaced the old wood and stone structure that was part of the Hancock Lumber mill. With its mechanical gate, we can effectively maintain a more consistent lake water level without concern for overtopping. The ongoing lake management committee, of which PL/PPA is a member, meets during the year to review practices and make necessary improvements.

ICE IN AND ICE OUT (2016 - 2020)

	ICE IN	ICE OUT	TOTAL ICE DAYS
2019-2020			
Parker Pond	Dec. 27, 2019	March 29, 2020	94
Pleasant Lake	Dec. 27, 2019	April 3, 2020	99
2018-2019			
Parker Pond	Nov. 29, 2018	April 20, 2019	143
Pleasant Lake	Dec. 12, 2018	April 22, 2019	131
2017-2018			
Parker Pond	Dec. 14, 2017	April 22, 2018	130
Pleasant Lake	Dec. 16, 2017	April 22, 2018	128
2016-2017			
Parker Pond	Dec. 12, 2016	April 17, 2017	125
Pleasant Lake	Dec. 18, 2016	April 20, 2017	122



2019 LOON COUNT

The official loon count last year occurred on July 20, 2019 and our volunteers saw 10 loons on Pleasant Lake. This included two chicks and one adolescent (loon teenager). Thanks to PL/PPA Board members Peter Barber, Marygrace Barber, Cynthia Begin and Steve Turner for being our Loon Citizen Scientists! Following the 2019 count, Maine Audubon estimated a population of 3,219 adult common loons and 372 chicks for the southern half of Maine!

2020 marks the 37th Loon count and this year it happens to fall on the 200th day of the 200th year that Maine has been a state. Over 1,000 volunteers on over 500 lakes will count all the loons they see in the 30 minutes from 7:00 to 7:30am on Saturday, July 18, 2020. Members of our association are scheduled to count loons on Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond in this year's effort. For more information on the loon count, please visit Maine Audubon. www.maineaudubon.org/projects/loons

And remember: If you come across loon chicks, please give them some space!

2019 LAKE SWIMS

Swimming the full length of Pleasant Lake (4+ miles!) is a way to bring awareness of the importance of preserving Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond for future generations. If you would like to swim Pleasant Lake this summer and have people contribute to PL/PPA, please let us know. This is a wonderful tradition. Let's keep it going!



On July 5, 2019, Brittany Butcher swam the length of Pleasant Lake and the conditions were perfect! Brittany, 33 years old, got encouragement along the way from the loon community. "I was so fortunate to grow up spending time on Pleasant Lake. Now with children of my own, I swim to support the preservation of our beautiful lake for generations to come."

While everyone else was running the road race on July 27, 2019, Mallory Adamo decided to swim Pleasant Lake. At 12 years old, Mallory had spent every summer at the lake. She had seen her Grammy and Aunt swim the lake and wanted to take on the challenge. "I loved swimming the lake because it was so calm and quiet, and I got to swim with the loons."



On August 20, 2019, Barbara Danieley also swam the length of Pleasant Lake. Barbara shared: "Pleasant Lake has been my summer home for 47 years and for the past 12 years, also my fall home. It is a beautiful place. And probably the most important factor in its beauty is its water quality. I've loved water sports my whole life and to be able to swim, canoe, kayak and sail on the waters of such a clean, crystal lake is just precious. I feel truly blessed to be able to enjoy this absolute treasure."