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New website! www.plppa.org

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



PLEASANT | PARKER *Lake | Pond* ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

We are preparing now for a more active summer on both Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond. With the lifting of many COVID restrictions, people will have more freedom to move about again and enjoy our lakes. We anticipate more people coming to the lake and more use of the lakes for swimming, sailing, boating, and general recreation.

The Courtesy Boat Inspection program is in place, and our other committees who monitor the water quality and watch out for invasive plants are ready to go to work again. Our "lost" buoy was fortunately found and will be placed in Pleasant Lake as soon as possible so we can start gathering temperature data for this summer.

We hope you have all had a happy and healthy year, and look forward to seeing you in and around our beautiful lakes. Should you have any concerns regarding the lakes, please contact us.

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



OUR ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 9:30 am

WHERE: The field next to Casco Post Office.

We will be outside, under a tent. Social distancing will be observed. In order to protect each other, we ask that masks must be worn unless you have proof of vaccination.

TOPIC: History and Future of the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

FEATURED SPEAKER: Mary Jewett, Coordinator of Programs at Lake Environmental Association (LEA).

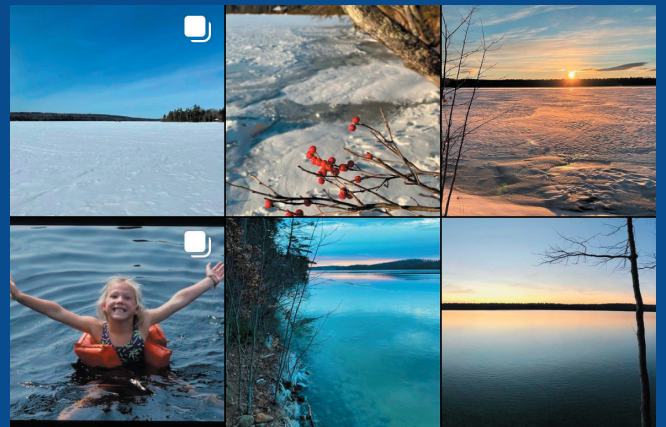
Mary has worked for LEA in Bridgton since 2010. She leads nature walks and gives presentations throughout the year. For the last several years, she has managed the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program for the Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Association.



We hope you can join us as this should be a very interesting topic!

KEEPING UP WITH PL/PPA YEAR ROUND

Stay connected with our community throughout the year via Instagram @pleasantlakeparkerpond or our website www.plppa.org. It's our goal to make it easier to share info and keep you informed!



HONORING PETER BARBER

Last month, one of PL/PPA's biggest champions, Peter Barber, passed away. Peter was Past President of PL/PPA, current Vice President, and an active board member. He worked tirelessly to preserve Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond for future generations.

Peter and his wife, Marygrace, built a home on Pleasant Lake in 2003 on a plot of land that was formerly part of Camp Truda. In the years that followed, both became very active lake stewards serving many formal and informal roles within PL/PPA. In recent years, Peter spearheaded the awareness of the aging "Mill Pond" Dam; the towns of Casco and Otisfield (dam co-owners) worked together to replace the old wood and stone structure that was part of the Hancock Lumber mill with the new engineered dam. Peter's early efforts on this project ensured a sustainable solution to maintain consistent lake water levels of both Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond.

Peter loved spending time on Pleasant Lake with his friends and family, including his two sons (Chris and Matt) and their families (four grandchildren). Last fall, Peter shared the following: "Our lake is so dear to so many, and I think education, vigilance, and involvement go a long way to preserving it."

We will be forever grateful that Peter and Marygrace found Pleasant Lake, and we will continue to do our part preserving the lake for future generations.



INVASIVE PLANT MONITORING

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



MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Please use the enclosed envelope to renew your membership or to join our organization. We need as many members and volunteers as possible to continue to monitor and preserve our lakes and to keep them clean and healthy.

Thanks go to each and every one of you for your interest and donation!



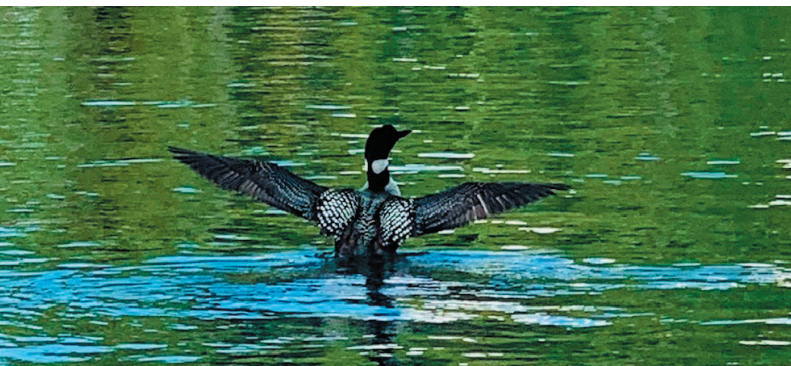


2020 LOON COUNT

On July 18, 2020, the 37th Maine Audubon Loon Count took place on our two lakes, Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond. This was the first, and we hope only, loon count to take place during a Pandemic. The count takes place on the third Saturday of July every year from 7:00 am to 7:30 am all over Maine. In 2020, many lakes – including ours! – were rather fogged in. We were lucky, and the bank of clouds cleared out and we were able to complete our surveys. Susan Kaagan, Joyce Burd, and Deborah Shapiro ventured out on Parker Pond and came up with a count of 3 adult loons. On Pleasant Lake, Steve Turner, Cindy Begin and Marygrace and Peter Barber covered the south and north ends respectively. At the end of the half hour, we counted 10 adults and two chicks on Pleasant Lake. A very exciting morning for our counters!

A big change in 2020 was the use of an online portal for the input of data; apparently, all went pretty well! (The ability to send in data forms and maps by mail still remains.) All over Maine, people in motorboats, kayaks, and canoes went out looking for loons. When the data was tabulated, Maine Audubon estimated a population of 2,974 adult Common Loons and 414 chicks for the area of Maine south of the 45th parallel. The information gathered helps track loon population trends over time. This article provides more info on the 2020 Maine Audubon 2020 Loon Count: <https://maineaudubon.org/news/volunteers-get-creative-during-2020-annual-loon-count/>.

The 2021 Loon Count is set for July 17 at 7:00 am.



ICE IN AND ICE OUT

Ice In - Does anyone have information on when the ice came in on both Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond? Please do let us know.

Ice Out 2021: Parker Pond March 31, 2021
Pleasant Lake April 4, 2021

We are looking for a volunteer who will record Ice In and Ice Out for us every year. Please contact Anne Fritts (Anne.Fritts@camparcadia.com or 207-627-4605) if you would like to take on this fun job!



THANK YOU LEW

Lew Wetzel, past President and Treasurer of PL/PPA passed away in September 2020 at the age of 95. A long time resident of Casco, Lew was an active volunteer of the Lake Stewards of Maine and spent many hours preserving the wonderful beauty of our waterways. Thank you Lew for all you did for Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond!



DID YOU KNOW?

Pleasant Lake provides the water for the one of the fish hatcheries in the state of Maine. Every year, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW)'s eight hatcheries produce more than 1 million fish to distribute throughout the state. The Casco State Fish Hatchery was established in 1945 and water for the facility is supplied by Pleasant Lake from a single intake and is gravity-fed to the facility.

Species reared at the Casco Hatchery include brown trout, rainbow trout, landlocked salmon, and brook trout (seasonally). The hatchery in Casco is the sole supplier of rainbow trout and the Sebago strain of landlocked salmon for statewide stocking programs. The facility's annual production is 85,000 catchable fish. (Info from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.)

CASCO FISH HATCHERY

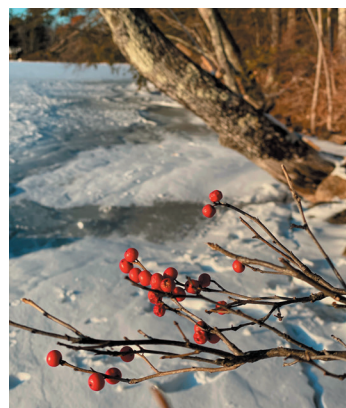


PLEASANT LAKE SWIMS for PL/PPA

We are proud of our new tradition of swimming Pleasant Lake (4+ miles long) to bring attention to the importance of preserving our lakes now and for the future. Do you know of anyone who is planning to swim Pleasant Lake this summer? If so, please let us know so we can help support this wonderful effort.



ENJOY EVERY SEASON AT THE LAKE!



SEE YOU AT THE
Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 24!