

# THE MCWAIN NEWS

Summer 2003

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## Happy 30th Anniversary to the Lake Association!

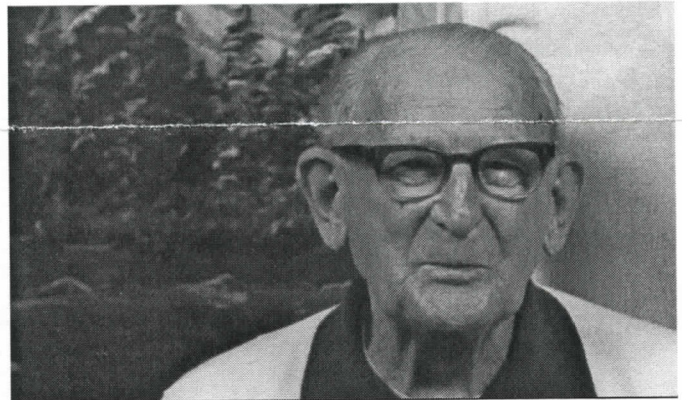
**By Bruce Whichard**

Almost 30 years ago, on Dec. 10, 1973, the Lake McWain Association was officially incorporated under the laws of the State of Maine.

Its formation actually began two years earlier, on Aug. 9, 1971, when a group of landowners met to discuss the idea of an organization of neighbors who took an interest in the well-being of Lake McWain.

The first meeting was chaired by Miller Bugliari of Camp Waganaki and included Frank Morse, Leslie Gammon, Dr. Abel Hanson, Leonard Katowitz, Lester Williams, and Emile Muzik.

Also at that first meeting, Bill Tracy, a guest advisor from the Keoka Lake Association was present. The group decided to draw up bylaws for the McWain



**Emile Muzik, one of the Lake McWain Association founders**

Association based on Keoka's. The early discussions centered on the association's purposes, such as oversight of the dam and water level control, water quality and pollution, lake safety and traffic, fish stocking, erosion control, and related issues.

The group determined that the association would "perform all acts appropriate to a non-profit, scientific, literary and educational corporation dedicated to the promotion and development of environmental quality standards; and to preserve, enhance, and protect the natural advantages on McWain Lake and its environs."

Two more organizational meetings were held that Au-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Heads Up! Annual Meeting is July 19 at Camp Birch Rock, 10 a.m.

IF YOU THOUGHT this winter was longer than most, you'll get no argument from the year-rounders at McWain Pond. Ice out was not until April 24 this year, 14 days later than 2002.

SPRINGER'S GENERAL STORE is expected to reopen July 1 under the ownership of Dave Springer, who is no relation to Wilma Springer, a former proprietor for whom the store was named. Dave and his sister, Joy Smith, and her husband Dan, together with Dave's father-in-law, Herb Bowers, all plan to work at the store. Dave and Joy are asking neighbors for suggestions about what the store should offer to patrons.

DIEHARD FANS OF TUTS should know that the store and restaurant is operating again under its previous owners, Paul, Kay, and Michelle Legare, but with a new name, Melby's Market and

Eatery. After repainting and renovating, the Legares look forward to welcoming summer friends.

THE MELVOIN FAMILY has begun the rebuilding of their McWain Pond home following last winter's devastating fire that destroyed 90% of the house.

REPLANTING HAS TAKEN PLACE on the lot that was clear-cut on McWain Shores after advice from the Lakes Environmental Association and a request from Selectmen.

LINDSAY LEE PATTON, third granddaughter of Nancy and Bill Hanger, made her debut March 29, 2003. She joins her two big sisters and parents Jill Hanger Patton and Bart Patton at their Ohio home.

*Thanks to Bill Hanger for the neighborhood news.*

## Report on the Milfoil Summit

By Peter Leslie

I attended the 4th annual Milfoil Summit in Augusta February 28, 2003. I have attended the previous three summits and can attest to a record turnout of people from all over the state, probably four times the number who participated in the first summit. This is a strong indicator of the magnitude of the problem. Already, there are 14 lakes and rivers in Maine fighting this plague. Results have been mixed and the efforts are not yet as aggressive as those launched in Vermont and New Hampshire.

What is at stake? Specifically, your enjoyment of McWain Pond and the economic value of your real estate investment. In addition, it has been estimated that about 50,000 jobs in Maine are dependent on the use of our lakes and rivers.

What can we do about it? In theory, the answer is simple, but putting it into practice is not. We have to make sure that no boats, trailers, fishing gear, or sporting equipment is permitted to carry even one fragment of an invasive plant into our pond. This is up to each one of us. We

have to make sure our own boats and gear are clean and we have to ensure the same from our visitors. We are fortunate that McWain Pond does not have a public boat launch site, which would increase the risk. But visiting boats do use the pond, and those owners need to know what is at stake.

At the summit, I learned that milfoil is no longer the greatest threat, although it is dangerous enough. A plant called Hydrilla has appeared in nearby Pickerel Pond. I have seen the damage wrought by this invader in Florida and it may be even worse than milfoil.

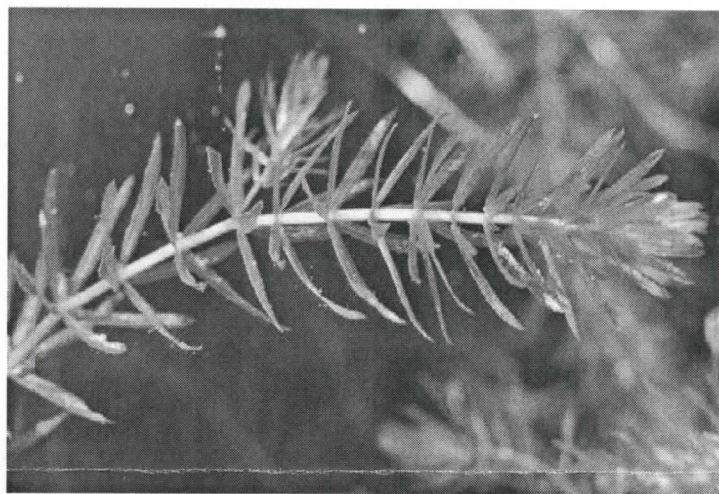
There is a good program to train individuals to recognize the invasive plants. The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) trains people to recognize dangerous plants so that they can be brought to the attention of authorities. If you are interested, you can contact VLMP at 207.225.2070 or visit the website at [www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org](http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org). There are several training sessions scheduled in our area for July and August. I plan to attend one of them and encourage others to participate so that we may have alert residents at various points along the shore.

There have not been many success stories in controlling these invasive plants, so the name of the game is prevention or, at least, early detection.

## Founder of Gulf of Maine Institute to Speak at Annual Meeting in July

John Terry, founder of the Gulf of Maine Institute, has agreed to speak at the McWain Pond Association annual meeting July 19 at Camp Birch Rock.

The Gulf of Maine Institute describes itself as, "an educational organization ... founded to develop future environmental leaders by providing extraordinary educational opportunities for students living in the Gulf of Maine watershed communities." Its mission is to encourage youth and adults from all backgrounds to "study, research, advocate, and steward environmental issues to ensure a sustainable future for the Gulf of Maine bioregion."



*Hydrilla verticillata*, courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

(Continued from page 1) **Happy Anniversary**

gust, and the first slate of trustees and committee chairmen were designated. The first trustees were: Leslie Gammon, Dr. Abel Hanson, Molly Bryant, Kathleen Leslie, John Jacobson, Robert Sanderson, John Tucker, Richard Broderson, Leonard Miskit, Frank Morse, Lester Williams, Leonard Katowitz, William Osborne, Miller Bugliari, and Emile Muzik. Frank Morse was elected as the first president of the association and Lester Williams became vice-president, with Kathleen Leslie serving as recording secretary and Leonard Miskit as corresponding secretary. Leonard Katowitz was elected treasurer.

A year later, on Aug. 12, 1972, the first annual meeting was held at the Wilkins Community House. The following year, the association invited John Craig of the Oxford Hills High School faculty to make a presentation on the results of his water testing at both Keoka and McWain. Thus began a 30-year history of tracking the health of McWain Pond as well as creating a social community of neighbors on the lake.