



Buck takes a dip

# McWAIN POND NEWS

March 2008

## WE GOT THE GRANT!

### McWain Pond Association Awarded \$42,509 Erosion Control Grant

The McWain Pond Association (MPA) received a \$42,509 grant through the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to control erosion. Our association, the Town of Waterford, Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), the Portland Water District (PWD), our two summer camps and other interested parties will raise \$28,831 in cash, labor, supplies and use of equipment. Work on the two-year project begins in April 2008.

During 2007, MPA completed a survey of the 3.9-square mile McWain Pond watershed. A watershed is all that land that drains to a lake via brooks, groundwater, seeps and springs. Community volunteers, with guidance from technical experts, combed the watershed to document sources of erosion. The watershed survey disclosed 95 sites (town and camp roads, ditches, driveways, parking areas and residences) that erode into the pond or its tributaries.

“We’re very pleased to receive this grant,” said Tony Butterall, president of MPA. “With the help of the town and property owners we hope to fix all 95 sites.”

Soil erosion is the chief pollutant fouling Maine lakes. Soil particles that wash from the land carry phosphorus. If too much phosphorus enters a lake, the result can be an explosion of algae because phosphorus fertilizes algae growth. These “algae blooms” ruin swimming, fishing, boating and depress shoreline property values.

Rapid development in a lake watershed often leads to increased soil erosion. For this reason, the DEP placed McWain Pond on its list of endangered water bodies.

The project aims to reduce the amount of erosion that enters McWain Pond by 60 tons/year. That’s more than half the total amount of soil loss documented in the watershed survey ...and it’ll go a long way toward keeping McWain Pond healthy!

The grant allows MPA to share the cost of fixing erosion sites with the town, businesses and landowners. When needed, the grant will pay an engineer to design erosion control solutions for complex problems. MPA plans to target the priority erosion sites that were found in the watershed survey to significantly reduce soil runoff into McWain Pond. Additionally, MPA, through the grant, will provide technical assistance to homeowners who seek advice about how to reduce erosion from their property. Project partners include LEA, Town of Waterford, Camp Wazyatah, Birch Rock Camp, PWD and the DEP. Like the watershed survey that preceded it, this grant is a voluntary, cooperative effort. There is no regulation involved.

Thanks and congratulations to all the volunteers and professionals who supported our survey and compiled the



Birch Rock campers head toward the pond along the newly engineered path



Two chicks hatched from the Hanger's "Loon Island" and grew to adulthood successfully.

excellent report. Your efforts got us this grant. Now let's go out and make it work!

### Some Questions and Answers:

**Q: Why is this project important?**

**A: McWain Pond is at risk.** Water quality will decline if action is not taken. Reducing erosion will improve water quality, wildlife habitat and recreational enjoyment. A clean and healthy pond benefits landowners by supporting property values, too.

**Q: What will we try to do?**

- A:** 1. The project will **share the cost** of fixing at least **15** large erosion problems. The grant will split the cost to fix large erosion problems with property owners or, in the case of public roads, with the town. In addition, the grant provides funds to pay for an engineer to design erosion control plans for complicated sites.
- 2. **Technical assistance** will be provided to at least **25** owners to help them fix erosion problems.
- 3. **"Mini-grants"** will be awarded to assist **10** residential owners to reduce erosion around their homes.

**Here's how it works!**

Let's say there is a large, persistent erosion problem on McWain Hill Road. The grant pays for the engineering design to fix it. Then, if it costs \$4,000 to implement the design, the grant pays \$2,000 cash and the town contributes \$2,000 in *labor, supplies or equipment*.

**We've targeted fixing 7 road sites** (town and private), 4 sites at the summer camps, 2 driveways and 2 boat access sites through this program. These are priority sites, but this list isn't written in stone...it may change depending on field conditions, town funding and other variables.

**Technical assistance will be provided to at least 25 owners** to advise them on erosion control. The grant pays the cost for the MPA project coordinator to consult with interested parties – property owners, the town, and businesses – who want advice on how to control a vexing erosion problem. Owners will get a site visit followed by a written report summarizing the steps they could take to reduce erosion. It's a great service! Naturally, we hope recipients of technical assistance will implement the erosion control recommendations they receive! LEA and the PWD will help the MPA project coordinator to make technical assistance consultations.

**"Mini-grants" will be made to about 10 residential owners.** One thing we discovered doing the watershed survey was that there are a lot of residential properties that contribute erosion to McWain Pond. Most of these are small sites...but the cumulative impact of all of them together can be huge.

*Nobody's pointing fingers ...it's simply a matter of being aware of problems and fixing them when they arise!*

That's why we developed the "mini-grant" program. The grant pays up to \$300 to property owners who are willing to match that amount with their own \$300 contribution – in cash, volunteer labor, donated supplies and/or equipment.



Wild Iris



(Grant, cont'd)

We figure \$600 ought to be enough to fix small residential erosion problems.

**But wait...there's more!**

You're probably wondering: Who decides which sites will be picked for cost-sharing, technical assistance and mini-grants?

- The McWain Pond Watershed Improvement Project will be guided by a steering committee — just like the watershed survey was — that will decide where grant funds are spent. The steering committee consists of representatives from the MPA, LEA, PWD, Camp Waziyatah and Birch Rock Camp. It will meet quarterly (8 times) throughout the 2-year life of the grant. Meetings are open to the public!
- Availability of cost-sharing, technical assistance and mini-grants will be advertised in press releases, the MPA and LEA newsletters, and promoted at the MPA annual meeting. These services will be provided on a first come - first served basis dependent on how well allocation

of grant funds fits into the overall goal of the project.

Please contact MPA officers listed on page 4 with questions.



Photo by Nancy Hanger

Let's be "wise as an owl" and protect our pond!

**Self Starters!**

During the Watershed Survey we talked with several owners about erosion discovered by the survey and these owners voluntarily remedied the situations on their own:

Rich Deering of Birch Rock Camp reports, "Extensive work was completed from the mid-section of the campus all the way down to our fish hatchery in terms of installation of appropriate drainage, sleeving, rip-rap, biodegradable, environmental mulching, and holding pool. This was done in response to the watershed survey in consultation and cooperation with the LEA and DEP. The cost of this upgrade was approximately \$8500. As stewards of the earth, our trustees felt this was an important capital upgrade that

needed to be addressed as we have continued to do so these past 10 years."

Bill Gotha reported at the Annual Meeting that the Camp Joseph Road Association either had or was about to fix the sites surveyed.

Earl Morse of the McWain Shores Association reported that the situation at the South Beach was fixed before the snow fell. Volunteers on this project were Earl Morse, John Tucker, Heidi Linscott, Peter Leslie, Colin Holme, Peg Nation and Jim Kearney.

Bravo to those who lead the way! Let's follow their good example!



South Beach before



South Beach after

## New Legislation Protecting Maine Lakes

The State of Maine passed bill LD #587 An Act to Protect and Improve Lake Water Quality. It took effect on January 1, 2008 and bans cleaning agents and lawn and turf fertilizer containing phosphate.

This bill amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 419, which bans cleaning agents containing phosphates and adds a prohibition against the sale of fertilizer containing phosphorus at retail stores after January 1, 2008. Exceptions are made when a soil test indicates that additional phosphate is needed or when establishing a new lawn. The seller of fertilizer containing phosphorus shall identify such fertilizer by a sign approved by the DEP indicating the product use limitations.

There are several phosphate-free cleaning agents on the market. Some of these are: Joy for dishes, Seventh Generation for dishwashers and Sears Ultra Plus for washing machines.

Another bill was passed to require that trees and vegetation illegally cut within the Shoreland Zone must be replaced with plants and trees of similar species and size.



Ice Out - April 23, 2007

## Water Quality – How are we doing?

According to the LEA we remain in the moderate to high level of concern.

The principal measurements are:

	2007	2006
Visibility (Secchi)	6.1	5.7
Phosphorus	6.4	7.5
Chlorophyll	2.6	2.6
pH	6.75	6.7
Alkalinity	5.1	5.0
Color	16	18
Conductivity	26	28

Some improvement is seen in the 2007 numbers, but McWain remains a concern because of dissolved oxygen depletion in the last five meters of the water column.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2008 Annual Meeting**  
**July 12 • Birch Rock Camp • 10 am**  
**Watershed Discussion**  
**Bring Friends and Family**  
**Refreshments!**

## 2007 Annual Meeting

The meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of log time members June Sawicki and Betty Dabczynski.

Peter Leslie, president of the association for the last five years, thanked all who had worked for the benefit of the lake during his term, welcomed the new president, Tony Butterall, and thanked him for his leadership role during the watershed survey.

## Camp Waziyatah Sold

MPA welcomes brothers Mitch & Greg Parker, new owners, who intend to continue running the camp. We bid fond farewell to Penny Kearns and family, our loyal members and supporters for many years.

### McWAIN POND ASSOCIATION

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