



# McWAIN POND NEWS

[www.mcwainpond.org](http://www.mcwainpond.org)

March 2010



Fall 2009 Reflections

Photo by Susan Leslie



Summer 2009 Reflections

This photo & the Lady Slippers by Andrew Dabczynski

## McWain Pond Project Cuts Erosion by 60 Tons in 2009

The *McWain Pond Watershed Improvement Project* reduced soil erosion that was polluting McWain Pond by 60 tons. Coupled with a 22 ton reduction in 2008, that raises the **total** amount of soil loss eliminated to a whopping 82 tons per year.

The *McWain Pond Watershed Improvement Project* was coordinated by the McWain Pond Association (MPA). Partners include Lakes Environmental Association, Town of Waterford, Portland Water District, Birch Rock Camp, Camp Wazyiyatah, watershed landowners and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP). In April 2008, MPA received a \$42,000 grant of federal money that was passed through the Maine DEP. The project, which is voluntary and does not involve any regulation or enforcement, aims to curb erosion that runs into McWain Pond. Studies show eroding soil that washes from surrounding land is the chief threat to water quality in Maine lakes and ponds. Phosphorus, a plant nutrient common on land but naturally limited in lakes, attaches to soil particles.

When excess phosphorus enters a lake it upsets the natural balance and serves as “junk food” for algae. The algae blooms in uncontrolled masses and can turn a formerly clear lake into a slimy green mess. Algae blooms ruin fishing, swimming and boating and have been shown to reduce lakeshore property values, which causes a negative ripple effect throughout a town’s tax base and economy. Long-term water testing by Lakes Environmental Association and MPA indicates McWain Pond is vulnerable to an algae bloom. For this reason, the State of Maine included McWain Pond on its list of Priority Watersheds for protection. In 2006, MPA volunteers, guided by a technical team, surveyed the watershed and found 95 problem areas. For example, Mill Hill Road is a town road on the south side of the pond. For years erosion occurred in the 300 foot-long road ditch and flowed downhill directly into a brook that is a major tributary to McWain Pond. MPA partnered with the Town of Waterford to reshape the ditch and line it with geo-textile fabric and angular stone. A sediment pool was built at the lower end of the ditch to capture and settle out soil and debris before it enters the brook. The town road crew conducted the work. The Town of Waterford contributed \$1,815 which was matched by \$1,815 in grant funds.

**SAVE THE DATE - July 24, 2010**  
**Annual Meeting - Birch Rock Camp**  
**10 am • Bring Friends and Family • Refreshments**

Similar cooperative erosion control cost-sharing work was completed at additional town road sites on McWain Hill and  
*(continued on page 2)*

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Another summer season will be upon us soon and hopefully it will be a bit drier than last summer. For those who live here year-round this winter has been a mixed bag, for the snow lovers it has been disappointing, to say the least. It snowed early but hardly a flake since early January. I believe the DC/Maryland area has had more snow than Waterford.

2009 has been a productive year for the Watershed Improvement Project. We have completed major projects at Birch Rock Camp, the Plate farm, the Hanger/Urell brook, the Joslin home and town road sites at Temple Hill, Mill Hill and McWain Hill roads. We also completed work on Whiting Ave. and several mini-grants.

We did request and receive a 6 month extension for the watershed project which will end on September 30, 2010. The project still has money for mini-grants of up to \$300. each, so if you or someone you know would like help with an erosion control project, contact Jeff Stern at 583-2723 or me at 583-2955.

Have a great summer,  
*Tony Butterall*, President, McWain Pond Association

## *(McWain Pond Project, continued)*

Temple Hill Roads, the watershed's two summer youth camps, and at other priority sites.

The spring, summer and fall of 2010 will be the final field seasons for the project. MPA plans a public education workshop to demonstrate how to plant a vegetative buffer to control erosion.




## Mountain Lions....by Peter Leslie

A couple of years ago Kay and I spotted really big cat tracks on the Hawk Mountain trail. The tracks came out of the woods, crossed the trail and continued into the woods. We took this photo. At the same time there were several sightings in the area of an animal that looked like a mountain lion and residents took similar photos of large tracks. This winter I took a tracking class at Lakes Environmental Association and heard the instructor say that scat had been found that was from a big cat and DNA analysis showed it to be a South American species similar to our mountain lion. A theory is that animals had been released into the wild by owners who did not want to keep them any more. We were also told that 15 people have licenses to own pet mountain lions in Maine. If you run into one in the wild be prepared to speak Spanish!

## Milfoil - The Threat

This photo was taken within 20 miles of McWain Pond. Milfoil can get into a pond on a boat or boat trailer, also from fishing gear. Please check your equipment, boats and trailers carefully before using them in our pond. Remind your guests of this threat. Thanks.





**Richard B. Deering**  
**Michael A. Mattson**  
*Directors*

**Birch Rock Camp**  
P.O. Box 148  
Waterford, ME 04088

Summer: (207) 583-4478  
Winter: (207) 741-2930  
email: birchrock@aol.com  
www.birchrock.org

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## Protect Our Pond for Future Generations



Introducing grandchildren to fishing

Photo by Rob Smith, Charlotte, NC

## Water Quality Report

Dissolved oxygen depletion was first observed in the bottom waters in early July. Depletion continued and expanded up the water column for the rest of the summer. Below the thermocline, phosphorus concentrations were moderate at 6.8 ppb. Because of dissolved oxygen depletion in the bottom waters, McWain Pond remains in the MODERATE/HIGH degree of concern category.

	2009	Long Term Average
Secchi Disk - Visibility	5.8M	6.0M
Phosphorus - Surface	7.4 ppb	7.6 ppb
Alkalinity	7.0 ppb	6.0 ppb
pH	6.6 ppb	6.7 ppb
Chlorophyll	2.7 ppb	3.2 ppb
Conductivity	23 o/s	29 o/s
Color	20 SPU	17 SPU



Jim Aberle and nephew Donald would like to remind everyone to be especially careful when driving the beautiful area roads since many people in our association and town enjoy recreational cycling.



Water Erosion Before Control



Erosion Under Control

## MPA Annual Meeting 2009 (Abbreviated minutes)

President Tony Butterall called the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to order and 47 members present introduced themselves and indicated how many years they have been on the Pond.

Rich Deering, Director of Birch Rock, welcomed us and gave a brief update of camp activities, including the annual long distance whale swim. The members thanked Rich for his hospitality.

There was a moment of silence in memory of Betty and Jim Richardson, long time residents of McWain Shores.

Paul Krinsky gave the treasurer's report. Among the year's expenditures were gifts of \$200 to LEA and \$100 each to COLA, Stoneham Rescue, and the Waterford Fire Department.

Jared Whichard gave a report on water quality testing. He learned the procedures at the annual meeting of COLA. He showed his plant collecting system and thermocline experiments. He thanked Earl Morse for being his mentor.

Jeff Stern reported on projects completed under the grant received for The McWain Watershed Project. We are in the second year of the grant; he estimates that we have already prevented 39 tons of phosphorous sediment from entering the Pond. The long term goal is a reduction of 60 tons per year. Jeff thanked Tony Butterall for his leadership, planning and execution of the projects.

Nancy Hanger reported that the loon pair returned, but that their hatch was not successful. A nesting platform based on the McWain model on Keoka has attracted a loon pair and at least one baby hatched successfully.

Earl Morse proposed that we sponsor a Kids' Lake Day and asked for volunteers to work with him on planning the hoped for annual event.

Clare Sevcik, our webmaster, continues to work for our website: [www.mcwainpond.org](http://www.mcwainpond.org). We may send her photos and articles for posting in care of [peter@netforecast.com](mailto:peter@netforecast.com).

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 • **Ice Out 2010 was a very early March 21** •  
 •••••

## Camp Road Workshop Report


The McWain Pond Association held a camp road maintenance workshop on July 25, 2009, at the Waterford Town Office. This workshop was open to the public and attracted about 20 people, mostly from adjoining ponds and lakes who wanted to see first hand the successful efforts McWain Pond has made in controlling erosion.

There are more than 12,000 miles of private camp roads in watersheds of Maine's Great Ponds. Many of these roads are poorly maintained and erode into our ponds and lakes, which creates conditions that lead to detrimental algae blooms.

Wendy Garland from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection provided an overview of recent measures and techniques designed to help citizens and road associations protect water quality.

The group then visited Whiting Avenue where innovative erosion control improvements were put in place last summer.

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**McWAIN POND ASSOCIATION**  
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Bob Crocker	Earl Morse	Tom Tremblay
Nancy Hanger	Peg Nation	Annette Tomaino
Dave Hanson	Henry Plate	Bruce Whichard
Peter Leslie	Gary Smith	

## Pond and Local Events

### • July 4th - Commodore Bob Hanger boat parade

Departure will be about 4PM, and boats of all types can gather off the Point at the "Cottage at McWain Point" shortly before then. This years parade will be in memory of Commodore Bob Hanger's grandson Eliot, who passed away this past fall. Questions? Call Bill Hanger (583-6341)



• **July 25 - Music Sunday** at the Waterford Congregational Church and other arts activities in Waterford Village: Historical Society Photo Art Exhibit at the Old Town House, Open House at the Rice Museum and at the Library. Interested singers may contact Meg Wheeler (583-2509) or Kay Leslie (583-1012) to join the 35 to 40-voice choir.

### • Historical Society Summer Events

Jun 10 - Annual Meeting at the Old Town House.

Program will feature speakers on the history of summer youth camps in Waterford.

Jun 19 - Fund Raiser Dinner at Birch Rock Camp

Jul 8 - Meeting at the North Waterford Church as part of the church's 100th anniversary celebration.

Aug 12 - Meeting at the Wilkins House. Topic: Barns

Aug 14 - Tour of Waterford Barns. 11am-4pm

Sep 9 - Topic: Food, Sustainability, Grow and Eat Locally

*For details check local newspapers, post office, or library.*

• **Breakfasts at the Wilkins House** Dates will be announced in May. Interested breakfast volunteers may contact Ginny Raymond (583-2729)

*For details check local newspapers, post office, or library.*

• **Waterford Library Hours:** Mon. 2pm-6pm, Wed. 3pm-8pm, Fri. 10am-12pm, Sat. 10am-2pm, Sun. 10am-12pm (summer only). The library has a computer where one can access email and the internet.