

MCWAIN POND NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MCWAIN POND ASSOCIATION MAY 2014

MPA Annual Meeting

July 12, 2014

10:00AM

Birch Rock Camp

Guest Speaker:

Maggie Shannon, CEO

Maine Lake Society (Formerly COLA)

FAMILY FUN DAY AND POT LUCK

JULY 12, 2014

NOON/IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

ANNUAL MEETING

HOSTED BY MCWAIN POND

ASSOCIATION AT TREMBLAY'S CAMP

OFF RT. 37/FOSTER AVENUE

Family Fun Day

- Celebrate Friendship at McWain
- Come join your McWain friends at Tom and Gail Tremblay's camp.
- Mary Jewett from LEA will be conducting activities after the potluck lunch.
- Bring your kids, grandchildren, family and friends from McWain
- Get your kids involved by contacting Mary and volunteering to help with lake appreciation activities. leamaine.org
- Prepare a photo display or family display
- Show us activities you have done for loon and other animal protection
- Bring any information on invasive organism monitoring
- Display anything that represents fun lake and shore activities
- Show us your talent in art and music
- Learn more about preserving the watershed and lake environment

COME AND BRING A POT LUCK DISH TO SHARE

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT POTLUCK CONTACT:

Gail Tremblay (gigitrem@yahoo.com) 603 381 6621

FOR EVENT INFORMATION CONTACT:

Earl Morse (E_J_Morse@roadrunner.com)

207 583 6957

Summary of McWain Pond Association Annual Meeting Birch Rock Camp

July 13, 2013

The 42nd annual meeting was held at Birch Rock Camp. There were 43 members present.

Tony Butterall welcomed everyone and thanked Rich Deering for hosting the meeting. Tony reminded everyone of the importance of washing boats of all kinds to prevent milfoil from invading our pond.

The minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's report presented and accepted. Current balance of \$9,700.

Member Colin Holme from LEA reported on water testing for such things as clarity, algae, and phosphorus. This year they checked for a new algae called gloeotrichi as a baseline for the future. A print out was made available. Colin made himself available to discuss such problems as erosion. He and other LEA members would also be happy to identify plant samples collected. He concluded that our water quality is average, but may lower due to sediments washed into the pond by the rain. He was asked more about the new algae, but it is not certain what causes it and no set solution is yet available.

Colin introduced Katie Doyle who presented her project on the LEA.

Claire Sevcik gave a loon report written by Nancy Hanger.

Bart Hague spoke about conservation land easement and its benefit to our pond.

Earl Morse thanked those who signed up to help with plant identification project.

Officers and Trustees were re-elected.

Earl spoke about plans for a Family Fun Day after the 2014 meeting.

McWain Pond Association

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Vice President: Peter Sevcik

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Treasurer: Paul Krinsky

Trustees:

Bob Crocker

Rich Deering

Dave Hanson

Jim Kearney

Peter Leslie

Earl Morse

Peg Nation

Gary Smith

Annette Tomaino

Tom Tremblay

Bruce Whichard

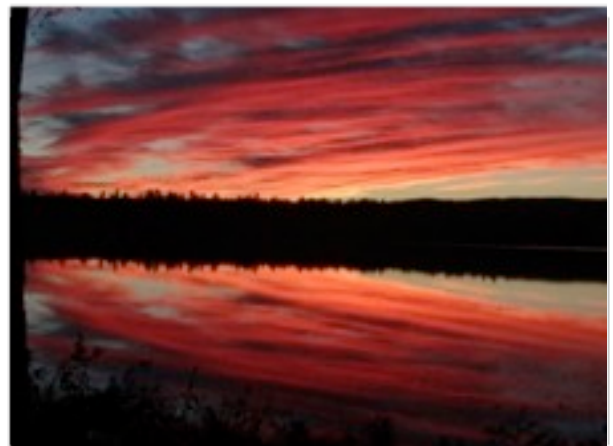


Photo by: Bill Hanger

Information
on cover page

MCWAIN POND BOAT PARADE

by Bruce Whichard

Way back, when I was a young boy spending my summers with my family and grandparents at Camp McWain, the "start" of the summer was the July 4th holiday. My brothers and I would be playing up on the hill in the morning, and we would hear a faint hum of an outboard boat motor, out on the lake. We also heard a bell ringing, muffled by the sound of the motor. Craig, Glenn and I would run down the trails through the woods, and each of us would get on a dock and wave to Bob and Ellen Hanger, as they circled Lake McWain in their boat. Ellen was perched on the bow seat, one hand on the gunwale, her other hand constantly ringing a bell. Bob was at the helm, one hand operating the motor, while his other hand supported a huge American flag as it blew in the breeze.

Now, our summer could "officially" begin! This tradition went on for many years, even as Bob's own life changed, but some things remained the same... we all looked forward to seeing Commodore Hanger and his bride, circle the lake, ring in the birth of our Nation and the start of another wonderful summer.

As time went by, people and circumstances changed, and after many years Bob was no longer able to circle our Lake on the Fourth of July in his boat.

So, one July 4th morning, after having missed a number of years of navigating our lake, Commodore Bob Hanger asked my bride Arlene and I if we would possibly be able to

make that special journey around our lake that he and his bride so often had done. Bob wanted to see our boat out there, hear a bell ring, see an American flag reflect off the calm lake, and celebrate July 4th as he had originally initiated so many years ago. Our reply to Bob Hanger was, "Yes, we will be out there to get your tradition going again!" Bob was informed to be down on his dock around 4:00 pm and he would see a parade. Arlene and I made a few phone calls to friends who had boats on the lake, and those people made a few phone calls too. We also contacted non-boat owners and informed them of our plans, and requested that they join in our celebration onshore, cheering us on, waving flags and ringing bells.

Need I say more? Yes, I will!! By 4:00 pm, five hours after speaking with Bob, about 14 boats showed up filled with many happy folks ready to get the Commodore Bob Hanger July 4th boat parade underway, once again. There was such great support from our many neighbors ashore, cheering us along our course around the lake. I saw Bob standing on his dock, as we maneuvered past, he was giving us a great round of applause, with a huge smile upon his face and then he looked skyward. I returned with a salute and I gave a "thumbs up" to Commodore Bob Hanger. To this day, Arlene and I look forward to encouraging this tradition of circling the lake every July 4th. We welcome as many as possible to take part, whether on the shore or on the water.

Continued on next page.....

McWain Boat Parade Continued...

It is a privilege to foster this celebration of gathering community and neighbors from near and far; watching camps all along our shores, acknowledge and participate in our lakes' special celebration of freedom and new beginnings!

Now, as our family is onboard our boat, I see people gathering on the shorelines at docks and picnic areas, I look back at our own wake, I see a trail of other boats, I hear the ringing of bells, I look up to those American flags waving gently in the breeze ... I look up even higher into the bright blue Maine sky, and I give Commodore Bob Hanger another "thumbs up", as I thank him and his bride for starting such a special tradition. So please, put a note on your calendar once again, for July 4th. Join your neighbors, in tradition, for the annual boat parade at 4:00pm; either on land or lake, to celebrate the Birth of our Nation, to ring in the start of another great summer on Lake McWain, remember all the special people and events that have brought you here and help us keep a great tradition going!

Perhaps someday, someone will ask you:

"How did all of this get started?", and you will be able to share a piece our own Lake McWain history!!! **See you there!**



Photos by Bruce Whichard

July 4th Boat Parade

Participate in the Annual Commodore Bob Hanger boat parade!

Boats are welcome to assemble around 3:45pm, off The Point, at the "Cottages at McWain Point" on the eastern shore about 1/4 mile north of Birch Rock Camp.

Boats of all types, sizes and means of propulsion, are asked to join our slow parade around the pond.

Wave American flags, ring your bells, blow your horns and cheer while on board. Gather your family, friends and neighbors ashore, celebrating the birth of our nation.

Thomas-A Curious Fellow

By: Tom Tremblay

There are many rafts on McWain Pond. Rafts are a place of fun and games, a place for relaxing and catching a few rays. Rafts become the scene for imaginary battles fought with cannon balls, the biggest or highest splash contests, and games of tag or king of the raft. Many a teenage, summer romance have played out on these floating paradises.

In a child's imagination, rafts become the hidden, secret place where they live out their independence without feeling the watchful eyes of parents or grandparents, just a hundred feet away.

Last summer, life on our raft was as it should be until we were "flocked." To we humans, flocking is where someone covertly places pink, plastic flamingos all over our yard and in a day or two they are covertly removed to terrorize another family. Canadian geese know this game all too well.

Thus, we found our raft a victim of "flocking" by a gaggle of geese. In the human version of the game the perpetrators leave your yard the way they found it. Not so with geese. No! Piles of evidence adorned our raft.

After scooping and scrubbing all was restored. "I'm sure that will be it." I say with confidence. We watch all day until dark. No sign of geese.

Morning breaks and I head to the Pond to check. We were invaded again under the cover of dark! More scooping, more scrubbing. Now, however, it is time to fight back. Enough is enough.

I rummage through my workshop while our grand daughters, Alyvia, Shanna and Brynne, dive into the box of old dress up clothes. With sawdust flying and ensembles assembled, we soon have the making of an awesome scarecrow. Although it is really designed to scare geese, the term "scaregoose" just doesn't sound right. Our grand daughters quickly name him "Thomas."

Thomas, our scarecrow, stylishly dressed, tall, handsome and rugged, therefore resembling the writer, was ceremoniously attached to the raft with ribbons flowing and looking for a fight. Days went by. Not a goose in site. Success at last.

Then, quite unexpectedly, our scarecrow attracted a creature of another sort. People were slowing their motor boats down, to look, kayakers were veering off course to check out the new neighbor and canoeists were gliding by to cop a close up and personal of Thomas, our "curious fellow."

While the geese weren't too happy at the sight of our curious

fellow, some of you seemed to enjoy it. For us an unexpected pleasure.

We don't know what the summer of 2014 will bring. Rest assured, that Thomas is in storage and ready to go to work should we get flocked.





Loon News 2013

When the ice was out our McWain loons started looking for their nest and the Hangers again took their time and effort to move the platform and place it so that the Loons would feel welcomed and safe.

Fortunately, again they warded off the elements of weather, other loons, kayakers and whatever Mother Nature gave them and hatched out two new chicks.

Each year we stop, look and listen for the sightings and the sounds of the loons. Perhaps we are lucky enough to be sitting quietly on the beach, out on the pond floating around or just hearing the various sounds they make in the distance. Another wonderful reason to spend time on the Pond!

Let's all be mindful of the beloved loons and other wildlife we are so fortunate to have so close and give them the space they need to grow and thrive and to come back another year. We look forward to being able to welcome the McWain Loons back in 2014.



Photo by: Bill Hanger

Love Those Loons

Thanks to Bill and Nancy Hanger and the love they have for the loons.



Photo by Gail Tremblay

LEA Yearly Water Clarity and Quality Testing Results of McWain Pond

The 2013 Secchi disk average of 5.9 meters was slightly less deep than the long-term average of 6.0 meters for the pond. 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. Phosphorus concentrations in the surface waters averaged 6.4 ppb, which is less than the long term average of 7.3 ppb. Below the thermocline, phosphorus concentrations averaged 9.3 ppb. Alkalinity was 5 ppm, which is below the long term average of 6 ppm and pH was the same as the long term average of 6.7. Chlorophyll concentrations were moderate at 3.0 ppb, which is just below the long-term average of 3.1 ppb. Conductivity was 25 μ s, which is above the long term average of 24 μ s and color was 16 SPU, which is just below the long term average of 17 SPU. Because of dissolved oxygen depletion in the bottom waters, McWain Pond remains in the MODERATE/HIGH degree of concern category.

Glossary

Secchi Disk: A circular disk used to measure water transparency (clarity) in water bodies, when it is lowered slowly down in the water.

Thermocline: Thin but distinct layer in large body of water in which temperature changes more rapidly with depth than it does in the layers above or below.

LEA has more to offer:

Last summer I enjoyed the Fern Walk, Mushroom Walk and Stevens Brook Walk. All of which were very informative. Each gave the opportunity to snap some great pictures, get some exercise and meet new friends at Holt Pond and along the Stevens Brook in Bridgeton, as we visited the sites and learned some history of the old mills in the area. Check out the schedule of events for this year at leamaine.org.



For Charts and Graphs and more information: leamaine.org

McWain Pond Quick Studies

2013 Verses the Long Term Average:

Secchi: Worse

Chlorophyll: Better

Phosphorous: Better

Surface Area: 445 Acres

Maximum Depth: 42 Feet

Volume: 9,756 Acres/Feet

Waterford Area: 2,505 Acres

Flushing Rate: 0.5 Flushes/Year

Elevation: 533 Feet

Importance of Ice Out

In earlier newsletters, there were notices of ice out dates and I began to wonder if this was just a hobby for those who live on the lake or spend more time there in the winter months. Surely, this must be something to research! Yes, Ice Out Dates are very important according to Colin Home as he explained in the following:

After ice-out, the water begins to warm up quickly and the algae start to grow. Thus a longer time without ice is a longer growing season and often warmer lake water. Blue green algae (as well as harmful bacteria) grow best in warmer water so the longer the season, the more blue green algae. Blue greens are the ones that reduce clarity and sometimes cause health problems. More algae over the course of the growing season also leads to more extreme oxygen depletion in the deeper waters. During the summer, lakes stratify into three layers and the bottom layer has no interaction with the atmosphere until fall turnover so the oxygen it gets during spring turnover is all that it will have for the entire season. When algae die and sink to the bottom they are decomposed by bacteria which use up oxygen. So a longer growing season = less oxygen in the deep water. This is a problem

for cold water fish like trout and salmon and oxygen depletion can also lead to phosphorus recycling from the bottom sediments. This is because when there is no oxygen in the bottom waters, phosphorus that has previously settled out can come back into the water column through a complex chemical reaction. This reaction and the components that control it are what LEA studies with sediment cores. As we go deeper into McWain, oxygen levels quickly drop and phosphorus levels also increase. So, to summarize, the system is all tied together and ice out data is truly useful information. There have been some great studies by the USGS looking at ice out dates in Maine and while it varies across the state, on average I believe lakes are losing their ice two weeks earlier than they were at the beginning of the century.

Ice Outs from the North End of the Lake

From Nancy Hanger

April 08, 2000
 April 27, 2001
 April 10, 2002
 April 23, 2003
 April 19, 2004
 April 18, 2005
 April 06, 2006
 April 23, 2007
 April 27, 2008
 April 16, 2009
 March 21, 2010
 April 23, 2011
 March 23, 2012
 April 15, 2013
 April 24, 2014

For more past Ice Out Dates go to:
www.mcwain.org

April 27, 2008

For more information on the health of McWainPond go to:

leamaine.org

Being Lake Smart is the Place to Start!

Maggie Shannon, CEO
Maine Lake Society

The Guest Speaker at the Annual Meeting will be Maggie Shannon from the Maine Lake Society. Her topic will be "Being Lake Smart."

To learn more about Lake Smart and the Maine Lake Society go to: <http://mainelakesociety.org>

Mysterious Things Happen at McWain Pond

They were sitting in very special spots in a new little fairy town built with the creative hands of my granddaughters. These miniature woodland creatures made of resin have kept the children very busy over the years that they had been collected, just for their pleasure. After each day when the playing was over, the animals were counted, collected and placed in their special hibernation basket for the next day or the next visit. Occasionally, one or two would go missing and there would be scurrying around in the woods, sand, camp or hiding places where they might have been placed or dropped.

At the urging of my NH granddaughters, one day we decided that all of these little animals could stay in that specially created village so that the Maine grandchildren could see what had been accomplished with their little hands. I would keep watch until the following few days when the car would drive in and the doors would all pop open for the children to run excitedly to see any changes that might have occurred at the beach and in nature's fairyland. During the days that the little eagle, raccoons, bears, moose, hedgehog, deer and other indigenous animals were resting in this nature preserve, I had noticed that some of them seemed to have toppled over. I was curious about that and planned to go back and set them up before the grandchildren arrived, but I of course, I got busy and never made it back to do my job as overseer and to set the animals straight.

The grandchildren arrived and, as expected, raced to see the animals. **THE WERE ALL GONE!** We looked everywhere around the area with no luck. Everyone in the family joined in the search, inside and out to no avail. I was especially sad, because I had gotten such joy out of watching the creativity and fun that the children had with the animals during each one of their visits. We asked the neighbors if the visiting children might have seen them. No one had. So sadly, we now knew that we had a mysterious case of the missing animals on our hands.

Hearing the screech, screech chattering of little red squirrels, chasing each other around the trees and on the cabin rooftop had often broken the silence surrounding the peaceful setting at the pond. It is a known fact in and around camps and homes here in the country that these cute little creatures can be quite menacing! I was trying to capture a quick picture when



it suddenly occurred to me! Could these red squirrels take our precious little creatures?? As time passed, one day three of the grandchildren happened upon pieces of evidence. Near the woodpile a chewed little moose antler was found! On the nature path one half eaten hedgehog and nearby a raccoon with no legs and little tiny bite marks all over it.

If you find any more evidence, please let me know. We had 30 little animals!!

THANK YOU FOR PAYING YOUR ANNUAL DUES TO THE MCWAIN POND ASSOCIATION.

Message From the Editor

After volunteering to become the newest editor of the McWain Newsletter, I reviewed back copies of the newsletters and discovered that they were filled with grand explanations of the history of the Lake/Pond and the association. I discovered that throughout the newsletter there are many common threads and subjects that have been repeated year after year and noted the importance that they might hold for the continuing life of the pond and all those who love it so dearly. Because my husband and I both had memories full of wonderful family times and experiences on ponds and lakes in New Hampshire and Maine, in the fall of 2000, we were so very happy to find the spot we had wished for and dreamed about.

An ad in the local newspaper described the land as waterfront property on a “Pristine Pond” and we agreed at that very first moment as we walked to the waterfront. We have now built many memories and are passing on that love of living near the water to our grandchildren. It is my hope that I can bring to this newsletter, noteworthy information that might interest and inform the people that continue to keep the memories on this “pristine pond” alive.

You can help me by sending information, stories, photos and creative writing or poetry to make your newsletter interesting. Thank You, Gail Tremblay

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