

# McWain Pond News



**ANNUAL  
4TH OF JULY  
BOAT PARADE  
4:00 PM**

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Editor: Gail Tremblay

**MPA ANNUAL  
MEETING  
JULY 18, 2015  
10:00AM**

**TOM & GAIL TREMBLAY'S CAMP  
8 FOSTER AVENUE/OFF RT.37  
FAMILY FUN DAY AND POTLUCK  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AT  
THE TREMBLAY CAMP  
CALL TOM OR GAIL  
FOR INFORMATION  
207-583-6232 OR  
603-381-3621 (TOM)  
603-381-6621 (GAIL)**

Be Sure to Visit: [www.McWainPond.org](http://www.McWainPond.org)

### Summary of Donna Butterall's McWain Pond Association Annual Meeting Minutes:

July 12, 2014 Birch Rock Camp, the 43rd annual meeting. 51 members present.

Tony thanked Rich Deering and Birch Rock Camp for hosting the meeting. Rich welcomed us to the 88<sup>th</sup> season of the camp and reminded us that camp swims around the pond would begin the following week.

Tom Tremblay invited everyone to his home for our first Family Fun Day.

Claire Sevcik brought water insects to display at the meeting and later at Fun Day.

Colin Holme presented the water quality report. He explained the testing process and passed out informational packets. The association paid for buoys with temperature sensors that will be used each year until they no longer function. A cool spring and late ice out slowed the biological process. Not all data is available yet, but should be soon. We were reminded that controlling erosion from our own property is key to water quality. He offered to visit and give suggestions. In answer to a question he confirmed the presence of white pine blight in Maine.

Bart Hague introduced speaker Maggie Shannon from Maine Lakes Society and the Lake Smart Program. She also told us how "lakes decline as a result of small insults." Maggie reiterated Colin's warning that we each need to start on our own property. Lake Smart provides signs for properties that have been visited and approved for their efforts. The signs raise awareness. Education is also available. Informational packets were provided.

Nancy Hanger gave our annual loon report. Two loons appeared after a late ice out. The platform went out in late April and mating began in early May. Black flies and geese droppings presented a problem. We have no chicks, but a new nest was seen near Camp Waziyatah. It is the first nonplatform nest in several years. We are not sure if these are new loons that may return. We hope the new nest will result in chicks.

Earl Morse talked about plant monitoring efforts. He still needs trained volunteers to help. Birch Rock Camp has offered to be a monitoring center for a one day survey. Information will be made available for, hopefully, this year. If not, definitely for next year. There will be training soon at Kezar Lake. Anyone interested may contact Earl.

Trustees were elected, including new trustee Bob Cook.

### McWain Pond Association

#### Board of Trustees

President:	Tony Butterall <a href="mailto:tonybutterall@yahoo.com">tonybutterall@yahoo.com</a> 207-583-2955
Vice President:	Peter Sevcik <a href="mailto:Peter@netforecast.com">Peter@netforecast.com</a> 207-583-2039 434-249-1310
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Annette Tomaino	Tom Tremblay



## July Fourth Boat Parade

by: Bruce Whichard

July 4th 2014, we all awoke to an overcast rainy day on Lake McWain, here in Waterford, Maine. Hoping that the sun would appear, many folks ventured out to the Wilkins House for the famous July Fourth breakfast, which could not be rained out! There were a few hardy souls that lined the Waterford Flat, to cheer on a limited Waterford marching parade through the center of town.

Participants included the "Spirit of '76"– the bugle, fife and drum, followed by Erik Van der leeuw playing patriotic songs on his bag pipes, which echoed through the hills of Waterford. The sun kept trying to appear all afternoon, but only shined for brief moments. When 4:00 pm



rolled around, Arlene and I, knowing what Commodore Bob Hanger had asked of us many years ago, took to the water! We were joined by Don Wirt of McWain Shores in his boat. Don stated, "Today is July Fourth, rain or shine so, we must celebrate the independence of our great nation!" At that time only two boats circled rainy Lake McWain, ringing bells and waving flags, but noted acknowledgement from the shoreline.

Traditional July Fourth cookouts were all moved indoors or delayed by one day, hoping for better weather on July 5. The rain finally slowed enough, on the 4<sup>th</sup>, around sunset, so those lucky folks on the western shores of the lake could witness another great fireworks display up over McWain Hill, provided by Birch Rock Camp. Not to be



outdone, Camp Buck and Matt G. Pyrotechnics rallied back with a barrage of fireworks launched down near the lake; each firework higher, louder and more colorful than the previous one. Cheers and clapping of approval were heard coming from all around the shore, and from onboard, as a handful of boats out on the lake enjoyed the magnificent July Fourth visual celebration!

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, we did have a couple of boats show up for a sunny boat parade. Apparently those who enjoy the "spirit of traditions" have taken to enjoying the now "traditional boat parade" which takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> at 4pm even if weather interferes, some are willing to brave the storm, and others hope there can be another opportunity at the first fair weather day. Either way, whether on the water or on the shore, it is always wonderful to see the community come together to celebrate our nation's independence and our sense of community.

Commodore Bob Hanger would be happy and proud to see how this tradition has grown and continues!

So once again, for this year's **July 4th, 2015**, let us all plan to celebrate the birth of our Nation with our Annual Commodore Bob Hanger Boat Parade. The boats will gather off the Point at the Cottages at McWain Point, about 3:45, ready to circumnavigate our Great Lake at **4:00pm**. As always, boats of all sizes and means of propulsion are encouraged to participate. It would be great to see the shore lined with as many people as possible cheering and waving back to those boats parading around the lake. We are hoping for a sunny day this year, so we can all enjoy swimming, celebrating and cookouts along the shore, hopefully we can enjoy another great fireworks display in the evening sky!!!



**Meet on the Pond for  
this year's 4th of July  
Celebration at 4:00**



**2014 Lake Appreciation, Family Fun Day –  
by: Earl Morse**

**Most of us spend our summers relaxing, hosting family, guests and visitors from our distant past who happen by to enjoy a slice of delicious Maine summer. Our beautiful lake provides for our private recreational needs: swimming, boating, fishing, and the serious business of napping in chairs down by the water. Our greatest concern seems to be dealing with the nearly exponential change in our food and drink bills.**

We tend to focus on our households and seldom seriously interact with other than our nearest neighbors and oldest lake friends except to exchange quick pleasantries at 04088 and those few minutes before and after the annual meeting. That's why the MPLA Board decided to sponsor a lake-wide get together the afternoon of our annual 2014 meeting. It was felt that we needed more time together to socialize and enjoy our lake. Tom and Gail Tremblay graciously agreed to host the activity at their beautiful camp on the northwest lakeside. LEA's teacher/Naturalist Mary Jewett volunteered to lead kids and adults in various environmental water-based learning activities and Clare Sevcik, a young lakeside summer resident known to us all as having a lifelong great interest in lake science, shared her understanding of those beautiful lake and stream bottom crawlies who remind us of the purity and

fragility of our pond. Thank you all for your generosity!

Of course, since the MPLA provided the imprimatur, nature complied by providing perfect weather. The result couldn't have been more delightful and about 40 people showed up, quite a few having provided munchies to supplement those already there. All in all, there was widespread agreement that the event was a terrific success and a wonderful opportunity to share news and discuss lake issues.

It is hoped that we'll have an opportunity to repeat an event similar to this more frequently in the future, thereby expanding our social and environmental interaction with ourselves and the LEA. When that happens we hope that you, your family, and your guests can join in.



**COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING,  
POTLUCK PICNIC AND FAMILY FUN  
DAY STARTING AT 10AM AT THE  
TREMBLAY CAMP ON  
FOSTER AVENUE  
July 18, 2015**

## McWain Pond Family Fun Day

by: Mary Jewett, LEA

This summer (2014) I was lucky enough to meet and educate a fun group of kids and adults at McWain Pond's Family Fun Day. Being an educator at LEA brings me into contact with several different age groups and settings but I've never had the opportunity to teach in such a beautiful setting. I was able to set up my watershed model right on the beach.

Understanding what a watershed is helps everyone take better care of our water resources. The young children who saw my demonstration identified the watershed boundaries and saw how pollution and erosion can cause problems downstream. This activity helps to illustrate not only a scientific principle but also how we can take better care of our resources.

Helping me with my activity were two young people very familiar with McWain Pond, Katie Doyle and Clare Sevcik. Katie has helped me with LEA programs in the past and her enthusiasm and willingness to help is invaluable to me. I hope we can continue to work together in the future. Clare has worked as a volunteer and then intern the past two summers at LEA. Her studies at the University of Delaware have increased her knowledge of water quality issues and how to measure them. In her own activity Clare used a method of sampling and identifying aquatic insects which I was not familiar with. So not only did I get to teach that day but I also learned a new scientific method.

In addition to teaching I was also given an opportunity to meet and enjoy a meal with several LEA members who live on McWain Pond. It is always nice to be able to get to know the people who support LEA and our efforts to protect water quality. And with the addition of red hot dogs and gluten free cupcakes the day could not have been better.



### The Importance of Time

(Some Important Dates for McWain Pond)

**1971** Landowners met to discuss an organization to protect the pond.

**1973** The McWain Pond Association was incorporated.

**1993** Maine became tenth state to Ban Phosphates

**2006** McWain Pond Association and LEA awarded grant for survey of watershed.

**2008-10** The McWain Pond Watershed Improvement Project conducted.



**EDITOR'S MUSINGS:****BY: GAIL TREMBLAY**

We all have our very special reasons for loving McWain Pond and sometimes may want to be able to aptly describe exactly what we see. Perhaps it is the quiet we find away from the everyday activities and the time we take to just sit and enjoy that serene feeling while watching the activities of nature. Sometimes I just want to watch the ripples on the water, or a leaf sailing by.

Sometimes while sitting at the campfire and listening to the happy conversations, I just say, "everyone stop! listen!" After a few moments of silence, someone will ask why I stopped the chatter and "I say listen to the silence". Sometimes the night is totally silent. No sounds, just pure quietness! It is a glorious sound!!

Then there are the sounds I love to hear besides the laughter and giggling and playing of the friends and children that have gathered. It is the sounds of various animals around. Perhaps you hear them too! The hoots of the barred owl or the distant cries of the loon are my favorites.

Recently, I took the opportunity to read "Walden" and discovered that Henry David Thoreau was so descriptive in his observations of nature that surrounded him in his home on the Walden Pond. Perhaps when you see the loons gliding on McWain you might have some of these same thoughts or experiences:

..."having looked in vain over the pond for a loon, suddenly one, sailing out from the shore toward the middle a few rods in front of me, set up his wild laugh and betrayed himself. I pursued with a paddle and he dived, but when he came up I was nearer than before. He dived again, but I miscalculated the direction he would take, and we were fifty rods apart when he came to the surface this time, for I had helped to widen the interval; and again he laughed long and loud, and with more reason than before. He maneuvered so cunningly that I could not get within half a dozen rods of him. Each time, when he came to the surface, turning his head this way and that, he coolly surveyed the water and the land, and apparently chose his course so that he might come up where there was the widest expanse of water and at the greatest distance from the boat. It was surprising how quickly he made up his mind



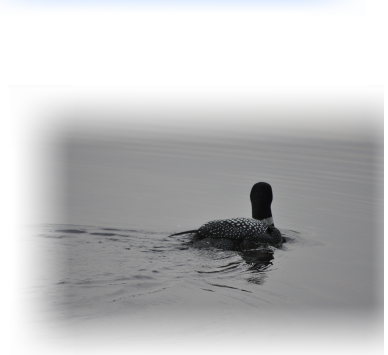
and put his resolve into execution.

He led me at once to the widest part of the pond, and could not be driven from it. While he was thinking one thing in his brain, I was endeavoring to divine his thought in mine. It was a pretty game, played on the smooth surface of the pond, a man against a loon".

"Sometimes he would come up unexpectedly on the opposite side of me, having apparently passed directly under the boat. So long-winded was he and so unwearable, that when he had swum farthest he would immediately plunge again..."

Excerpts taken from: Walden  
by Henry David Thoreau

(1942 p260-61.)



## MCWAIN POND HEALTH REPORT FROM LEA 2014:

Thanks so much to Peter Lowell, Colin Holme and the LEA staff for the work they conduct to keep us informed on the health of McWain Pond:

### Water quality: Moderate/high concern

Phosphorus and chlorophyll concentrations in the surface waters are moderate in McWain Pond. Consistently low dissolved oxygen levels in the deeper water continues to be a problem. In the late summer, the bottom 4 meters of the water column usually have little or no oxygen. These deep waters also have slightly higher phosphorus concentrations than the surface waters. Phosphorus recycling, which is a detrimental process that allows nutrients trapped in the sediment to be re-released into the water column, does not appear to be a major problem, although it may be occurring in small amounts. Because of dissolved oxygen depletion in the bottom waters, LEA rates McWain Pond in the **MODERATE/ HIGH** degree of concern category.

### Why be a Member?

By: Tom Tremblay – Membership Chairman

You certainly should have received a membership renewal form in the mail during April. I planned it for tax time so you would have plenty of money from the big tax refund I hope you all received. You may recall that we changed the dues structure slightly so that all members, family, individual or business, pay the same, just \$25 for the year. We encourage you to invite your independent family members to also join the McWain Pond Association. Simply send in \$25 with all the contact information to Paul Krinsky at PO Box 138, Waterford, ME 04088. You can reach me at [Tom@Lwre.com](mailto:Tom@Lwre.com). Thank you.

Your membership support is important to the health of the lake and the strength of our McWain Pond Community. The funds from membership and donations help us invest in our beloved Pond. We watch the water quality, initiate studies, support likeminded organizations, like the Lakes Environmental Association, and others and, we need funds to maintain drainage areas in our watershed.

Membership is also a way to bring us together toward a common goal. For all of us, it is protecting the values of camp life, family, friends, recreation, relaxation and lifelong memories. Then, there is pride of ownership, keeping the grounds neat, maintaining the camp, planting new flowers, shrubs, trees and, of course, the precious water.

The by-product of all this love, our membership, our commitment to McWain is . . . protecting our financial investment. While few of us ever think of selling, we all have an asset well worth protecting for ourselves now, for our children and grandchildren in the future. Best wishes for a fantastic Summer 2015.

**2014** started with a later ice-out than observed in recent years and a cool and windy early season. These cooler conditions can slow down the onset and reduce the duration of problematic mid-summer algae blooms. While there were several heavy downpours during the summer months, in the past few years, these deluge events have been even more common. It is likely that these conditions all helped to make 2014 a fairly good year for the lakes of this region. 2014 McWain Ice Out recorded as April 22, 2014.

**Nancy Hanger reports Ice Out for 2015 was April 23.**

## **HISTORY, FACTS AND SCIENCE OF MCWAIN POND: Excerpted from the LEA NEWS**

McWain Pond, originally known as Long Pond, was renamed after Waterford's first settler, David McWain, who came to the area in 1775. David was said to have helped later settlers during hard winters by selling off his surplus corn at a low price. He was also rumored to have hid silver in pine trees to protect it from being stolen.

### **Fishing**

McWain Pond is principally managed for smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, and rainbow smelt. Yellow perch, golden shiners, and rainbow smelt all provide forage for the bass. Crayfish were introduced in 1959 by Inland Fish and Wildlife as an additional food source for the bass. Smelts are commercially taken from the pond by local bait dealers and recreational dipping is allowed in the pond and its tributaries. McWain also supports populations of fallfish, white sucker, hornpout, pumpkinseed sunfish.

### **2014 water-testing summary**

The 2014 Secchi disk average of 6.2 meters was deeper 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 6.9 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 relatively low at 2.7 ppb, and lower than the long-term average of 3.1 ppb. Conductivity was 27  $\mu$ S, which is above the long term average of 24  $\mu$ S and color was 33 SPU.

### **McWain Pond Project**

After a very successful volunteer-based survey of erosion sources within the Watershed, an implementation plan aimed at correcting the identified problems began. The project worked on numerous residential sites within the watershed and larger-scale conservation practices were also installed on Whiting Avenue, Camp McWain and Mill Hill Road.

drained sands, loam, and gravels. When vegetation is removed and the soil is exposed they can be susceptible to erosion. Because they are often coarse with ample pore space, there is low runoff potential and water will not usually pool on them. These soils can be good places to site leach fields or infiltrate storm water from a home or residence.

3 percent of soils in the watershed are type B soils. B soils have moderate infiltration rates and fine to moderate texture and soil size. They are usually made up silts and loam. Although not as well drained as A soils, they can also be good places to site leach fields and infiltrate storm water.

71 percent of soils in the watershed are type C soils. C soils have low infiltration rates and typically have a layer that impedes the movement of water. These soils are made of sands, clays, and loam and are one of the most common soil types in western Maine.

2 percent of soils in the watershed are type D soils. D soils have a high runoff potential and very low infiltration rates. Soils with a high water table, clay or other impervious layer near the surface are typically D soils. These soils are often associated with wetlands.

8 percent of soils in the watershed are type C/D soils. C/D soils are a mix of these two soil types. They have fairly high runoff potential and low infiltration rates and often pool water.

The remaining 15 percent of the watershed is taken up by the pond.



**Did you see anything interesting on  
or near our Pond in 2014?**



Mallards by: G. Tremblay



Bald Eagle by: G. Tremblay

Mergansers by: Bill Hanger



Send in your information, stories  
photos and creative writing to:

Gail Tremblay  
PO Box 235  
Lincoln NH 03251  
[gigitrem@yahoo.com](mailto:gigitrem@yahoo.com)

**Interesting Facts from Bill  
Hanger:**

2014 was the warmest year for earth  
since records have been kept.  
February in Waterford averaged 13.1  
degrees for the month, the coldest  
month ever for as long as records



Muskrat by: Bill Hanger



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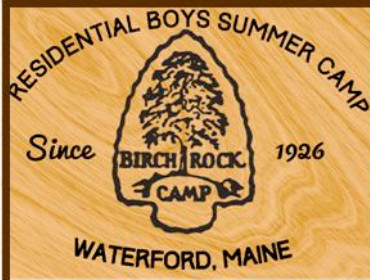
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Richard Deering & Michael Mattson, Directors

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Pond*



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## McWain Pond Association

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