

McWain Pond Association Newsletter



**ANNUAL
4TH OF JULY
BOAT PARADE**

**MPA ANNUAL
MEETING
JULY 16, 2016
10:00AM
Birch Rock Camp**

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Be Sure to Visit: McWainPond.org

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

There were approximately 35 present at the annual meeting followed by a pot luck social hosted by Tom and Gail Tremblay.

Members were asked to fill out information forms to update our membership list. Tom showed our new business directory and it was made available to members and will be placed at different locations in Waterford. It was printed at no cost to us and can be updated as needed.

Paul Krinsky gave the financial report and informed members that we have a balance of \$10,011.13.

Changes in by laws were approved. The word "directors" is now "trustees" and increased to 15. The quorum increased to 8. The words "standing committees" was changed to "committees named as needed" and the word "dam" was changed to "sluice way".

Claire Sevcik and Amanda Pratt spoke to us about LEA water testing. They test the pond for such things as temperature, clarity, color, algae, and levels of phosphorous and chlorophyll. Overall, there are no major concerns. Data can be found on the web site. Informational sheets and the LEA newsletter were made available. We were also asked to avoid temperature sensors suspended in the Pond, especially when they are being read.

Earl Morse encouraged us to continue looking for invasive plants. He demonstrated a new viewing device that can be made and used without going in the water. Plants should not be pulled out. Samples should be brought to Earl or LEA. September is the best time to start viewing mature plants. We were warned to be very aware of plants when launching boats. Plant survey data was made available and is on the web site.

McWain Pond Association

Board of Trustees

President:	Tony Butterall tonybutterall@yahoo.com 207-583-2955
Vice President:	Tom Tremblay tom@Lwre.com 207-583-6232 603-745-3513
Treasurer:	Paul Krinsky plkrinsky@gmail.com 207-583-6307
Secretary:	Donna Butterall DonnaButterall@Yahoo.com 207-583-2955
<u>Trustees:</u>	
Bob Crocker	Rich Deering
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Bruce Whichard	
MPA Newsletter Editor: Gail Tremblay	

**Help make this your Newsletter by
sending in your information, stories, photos
and creative writing to:**

Gail Tremblay

PO Box 235

Lincoln NH 03251

gigitrem@yahoo.com

Visit

www.mcwainpond.org

MEMBERSHIP IN THE McWAIN POND ASSOCIATION

In a nut shell, the MPA is responsible for the maintenance of the all important "Sluice Way". If we were to have a failure of this structure it would be very expensive to fix. The Association monitors the condition of the Sluice Way and, with Mr. Gammon's help, maintains the lake level. Of equally paramount importance is the health of the lake.

It is once again time to pay your very affordable annual dues for the ensuing year. At just \$25 per year for a family, individual or business, it makes a good investment. The Board of Trustees is watching out for your interests and those of our entire McWain Pond community. Please be sure to mail your dues payment to Paul Krinsky at PO Box 138, Waterford, ME 04088.

McWAIN POND ASSOCIATION BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Last year we put together a McWain Pond Business Directory in an attempt to offer you a quick reference when you need help building, remodeling, repairing or simply improving your enjoying your life at camp all that much more. Getting rid of bugs, keeping mosquitoes at bay, painting a room, correcting an electrical issue, hooking up a generator, downing a dead tree. Whatever your need, you can find help in the Business Directory. You will find a directory included with the newsletter. Keep it handy. When you use one of the companies in the Directory, please be sure to tell them where you found their name. The companies with display advertising have paid to be in this book. They have done work for many of us in the Pond and are known to be good companies. We appreciate their support of our project, which kept our cost down, and hope you will consider them first when you need help. Suggestions for future Directories?

New Amendments to Shoreline Zoning Ordinances

March, 2016

**Learn about the changes before
you make decisions to make
changes to your property or
buildings by viewing ordinances on
line at:**

www.waterfordme.org

McWain Pond Business Directory

**Local help to increase your
enjoyment for a carefree
summer. Save your copy.**

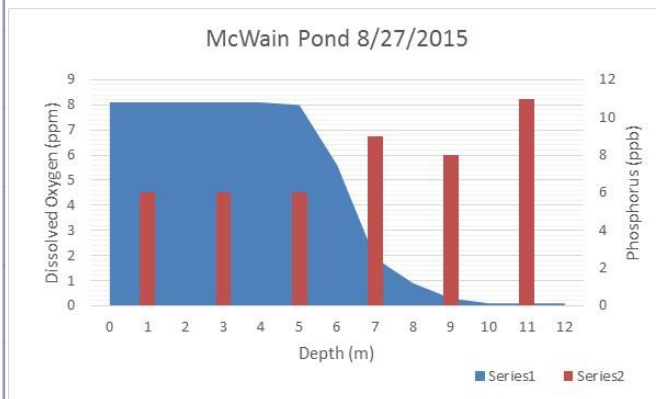
**If you want another one,
contact Tom@Lwre.com**

MCWAIN POND HEALTH REPORT FROM LEA 2015:

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

McWain Pond

The 2015 Secchi disk average of 6.6 meters was deeper than the long-term average of 6.0 meters. Dissolved oxygen depletion was first observed near the bottom of the pond in July. As oxygen continued to be used up, the area affected increased until almost half of the water column was oxygen starved by September. Phosphorus concentrations in the surface waters averaged 5.8 ppb, which is less than the long-term average of 7.2 ppb. Below the thermocline, phosphorus concentrations averaged 9.3 ppb. Alkalinity was the same as the long-term average of 6 ppm and pH was 6.8, which is higher than the long-term average of 6.7. Chlorophyll concentrations were 3.3 ppb on average, higher than the long-term average of 3.1 ppb. Conductivity was 28 μ S, which is above the long-term average of 25 μ S and color was 28 SPU. The Al:Fe ratio of McWain Pond sediments is 4.2:1, indicating a low potential for internal phosphorus release. Because of dissolved oxygen depletion in the bottom waters and relatively high *Gloeotrichia* algae populations, McWain Pond is in the MODERATE degree of concern category.



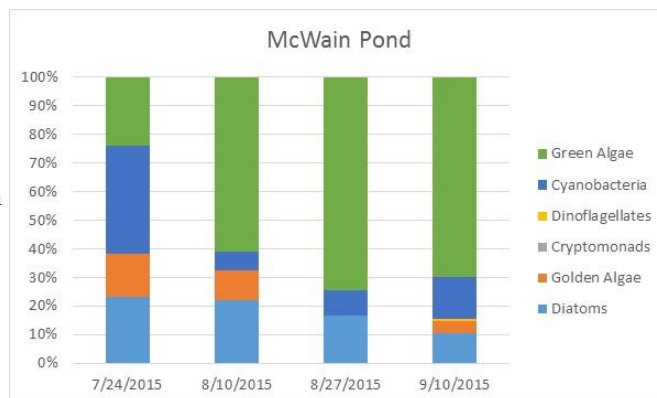
McWain Pond Quick Statistics 2015 Average Versus the Long-term Average:

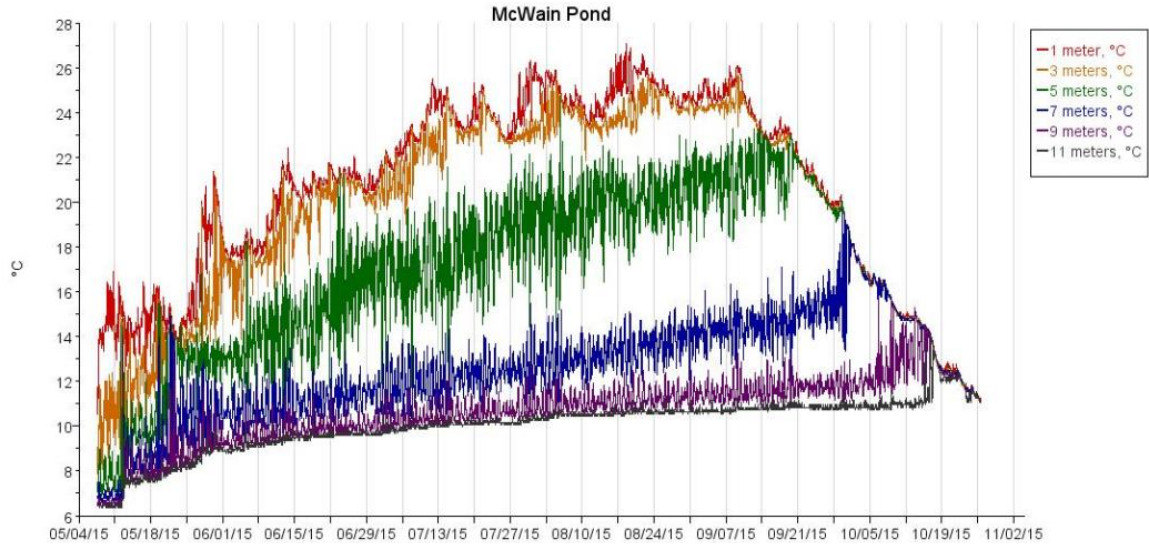
Secchi : Better
Chlorophyll: Worse
Phosphorus: Better

Surface Area:	445 acres
Maximum Depth:	42 feet
Mean Depth:	23 feet
Volume:	9,756 acres/feet
Watershed Area:	2,505 acres
Flushing Rate:	0.5 flushes per year
Elevation:	533 feet

Gloeotrichia: Four samples were collected at a site on the western shore of McWain Pond between July 24 and August 14. The highest level of *Gloeotrichia* recorded was 12.8 col/L. The average level was 9.2 col/L. In 2013, the high was 9.4 col/L and in 2014 it was 26.3 col/L.

Algae: Four algae samples were collected from McWain Pond between July and September. Green algae were the most counted category of algae with an average of 57% in each sample. On average, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) made up 17% of the cells in each sample. Eighteen percent of cells counted, on average, were diatoms and golden algae made up an average of 7.5%. In all four samples, the most common genus was *Tabellaria*, a large diatom.





HOBO Digital Temperature: Temperature sensors were deployed in McWain Pond from early May through late October. The pond had already begun to stratify (layer) when the sensors were deployed, but two mixing events are evident in May. The top layer of the pond was between 0-5 meters in depth for most of the season, with the middle layer around 5 meters and the bottom layer encompassing all the water deeper than that. The pond began to mix in mid-September as air temperatures cooled and the layers broke down. Complete mixing occurred in mid-October. The maximum temperature reached at a depth of 1 meter was 27.1 °C (80.8 °F) on August 19th.

Date of Fall Turnover (Complete Mixing)		
	2014	2015
McWain Pond	10/19	10/18





The Tradition Continues! By: Bruce Whichard

Big ones, little ones, fast ones, slow ones, even self-propelled ones! The tradition continues! The Commodore Bob Hanger 2015 McWain Pond Boat Parade was another huge success! Last year even Mother Nature was on our side, providing us with a beautiful July 4th, to circumnavigate our lake. We had a great turnout, with over 15 boats taking part in this parade which honors the Independence of our Nation, as it also rings in the start of another fun summer on Lake McWain! As all parades go, it signifies success when there are a lot of participants in the parade, but what makes our parade

so special is the success we see each year as more people join in, whether in watercraft or along the shore line! Each year, we boaters, are seeing more and more neighbors taking part shore side. We are seeing docks full of happy cheering people, we see waterfronts with campfires and people waving flags, we see campers running down their paths to get to the shore to cheer and celebrate together in this community event. We have even seen neighbors preparing for another careful and strategically planned spectacular aerial display of pyrotechnic delight, which starts after sunset, calling all to come together again and celebrate this glorious day.

This is what makes Our Pond - Lake, whatever you prefer to call it, **special**. We are one big community working together and playing together. We work to maintain our pristine pond and protect the watershed in which we live and vacation. McWain Pond means so much to all of us!

Once again, this **July 4th, 2016, at 4:00pm**, if you have a boat, of any type, please plan on joining us for our Commodore Bob Hanger Boat Parade, which starts to line up shortly **before 4:00 pm, at The Point at The Cottages At McWain Point**. Or, perhaps you will choose to be on the shoreline, celebrating, cheering, and acknowledging this gathering of Our Nation's Freedom! If you do not have a boat, we are always thrilled to have you choose to take part in the celebration! Please gather at your shore line with flags, bells, and cheering hands to welcome us as we pass by you, sharing our greetings and appreciation for the freedom we enjoy. What a fantastic way to celebrate July 4th, the lives of those who have worked and sacrificed in the name of freedom, and a way to welcome in the start of the summer of 2016 on McWain Pond with our neighbors! Looking forward to seeing you take part!

Let's hope for calm skies so that we may all enjoy another fabulous fireworks display provided by Matt G.



Pyrotechnics and his crew. As we parade around our lake, I will look up at all those red, white, and blue American Flags, waving in the breeze; I will look further up into the deep bright blue skies of Maine, and once again thank Bob Hanger for starting such a great tradition many, many years ago. I will also thank those people that mean so much to all of us that can no longer be with us on our lake to enjoy such a meaningful time. Traditions bring us together and strengthen our ties... to the past, the present, the future and each other. In advance, on behalf of my family and I, Happy Fourth of July! We will be looking for YOU... on land or navigating with us on the water!!



Annual 4th of July Boat Parade

Photos by: B. Whichard



Magical Happenings on the lake....

You don't have to travel off to far away locations, like Disney, to enjoy the magic and be entertained! If it isn't an incredible fiery sunset or sunrise, the cry of the loon, phenomenal fireworks displays or the calm soothing waters, it might even be an encounter with our own "Pirates of McWain"!

Not sure how many of you folks living around the lake noticed this unusual happening one night last summer, but a lowly, scurvy pirate, yes you read it right, a PIRATE, appeared to try to homestead on the float at the Cottages at McWain Point, along with his motley crew! Not having enough man power to fight off all those lowly pirates... Jack, James and Jonathan Slade from California, visiting their great grandparents, Bobbi and Chuck Whichard, asked their older cousin Jared what they should do to rid their float of those swashbuckling pirates. Quick thinking Jared jumped into action, and before long a whole armada of Birch Rock Campers came down the lake in every type of vessel imaginable. The BRC fleet surrounded the pirates' new raft and a minor skirmish ensued, with the lead pirate doing a great job holding his ground fighting off the merry men. We are happy to announce that there was no blood shed during this particular encounter! With some diplomatic negotiations, and the right amount of candy, the BRC chivalrous legion was able to diffuse a very trying situation with the leader of the pirates, who was eventually tossed into the lake!

Jack, James and Jonathan were so happy to get their raft back that they rewarded each of the Birch Rock fleet members with ice pops. In the spirit of kindness, the pirates also enjoyed ice pops! This summer the three J's will have their other cousin Mikala, also from the left coast, to join in for more fun and excitement on McWain Pond... and perhaps offer more support, if that "dirty, no good pirate and his men" come back and try to take over their float again! Now, the three J's know they would also have the great support of the BRC armada of pirate hunters from down the lake! By:

[Arlene Whichard](#)

**Be on the lookout
Mateys!! ARRGH!**



Duck Loon, Seal and Whale

Have you ever wondered what those little white boats are doing so early in the morning as they are rowed around the perimeter of our lake? One person rowing,



one person with his eyes fixed on the lake behind; both of them yelling and cheering. Most likely it is the lifeguard support boat for a Birch Rock **W H A L E !**

Birch Rock Camp is known for many great camping experiences and activities, one of their biggest focuses is the Instructional Swim Program. Birch Rock's Instructional Swim Program is based on American Red Cross standards, and the camp always has at least one Water Safety Instructor on campus to help teach and promote the appropriate swimming strokes. For some campers the focus is solely about getting them comfortable in the water, for others it is learning the basic skills, and still others it is more about improving strokes and working on endurance. All summer long, the Waterfront Director and other swimming instructors watch as campers improve their swimming techniques, and when the Waterfront director feels the time is right, he asks if that camper would like to try to accomplish a Long Distance Swim.

There are four different levels of Long Distance Swims at Birch Rock; which are usually spread throughout the camper's summers at The Rock. The first swim is called the **Duck**; which consists of a half mile swim across the lake from the Birch Rock docks, to the west shore of the lake. Once completed, the swimmer gets a boat ride back to camp, as someone else swims behind; striving to complete their **Duck** as well. Next is the **Loon**, and just like the **Duck**, an eager camper gets a count down from the Birch Rock waterfront before diving into the water and swimming about a mile across the lake and back. The **Seal** is awarded for swimming the length of the lake, either starting from the large rock at the North end of the lake, known at Birch Rock as "Seal Rock", to the opposite end near Waziyatah, or the reverse

direction - depending on the wind. The **Seal** really begins to show just how dedicated a camper is to his Long Distance swims. For completing their **Seal**, the swimmer not only receives a badge rewarding the swim, just as with the **Duck** and **Loon**, but they also get their name added to the plaques surrounding the walls of the Birch Rock Lodge, recording who completed a Long Distance Swim during that particular season. It is tradition to have all the campers names etched into plaques in The Lodge, so this additional carving is an additional honor for the camper!

The final swim is what some of us get to see, particularly in the early morning toward the end of the camp season; as a camper takes on the last Long Distance Swim. The **Whale** is one of the most celebrated goals at The Rock. Campers who take on the challenge of swimming the **Whale** usually have been at camp building their endurance at Instructional Swim for at least four weeks. They're surprised early in the morning when they are woken up by the counselors that will be rowing in front of them, almost an hour before the bell is rung, to wake up the rest of camp. At this time, the swimmer slips into the water for about a five mile swim around the pond, which has been known to be for 2 to 5 hours! To get to this point, campers have usually been looking for this day to come for years; striving to reach their goal of the **Whale**. As they swim through the hoped for mirror like smooth lake, one of the highlights is to get the support from the neighbors around the shore, waving with their morning coffee in hand. When the swimmer is approximately fifteen minutes away from camp, the support boat radios ahead, letting camp know of the swimmer's progress. A special "**Whale Bell**" is rung, and the entire camp stops what they're doing to rush to the dock to cheer on the incoming swimmer. Chants ring out, pressing the swimmer to push just a bit farther to touch the dock again, and when he does, I imagine you can hear the roar of excitement echoing all around the lake.

So now you know! When you see the BRC support boat, you will most likely see a head bobbing in the lake trailing along behind. Please give the swimmer plenty of distance. (one swimmer per boat). But most of all, please feel free to cheer that camper along, as he is attempting to achieve a special goal that the Birch Rock Long Distance Swim program provides. Respectfully submitted, [Jared Whichard Swimmer of Duck, Loon, Seal and Whale.](#)

Ice Out and Welcome to the Loons of 2016:

Bill and Nancy Hanger report that this year the ice went out around **March 30/31st** and that soon they saw Mergansers, Buffleheads and Mallards.

The Loons returned on April 7th and on April 17th Bill and Nancy's daughter, Lisa and her husband Scott put the nesting platform in the lake. They believe the male loon returned first and the female showed up soon after the nest was placed and one was spotted on the nest while the other was swimming around. Bill thought they seemed a bit surprised that the platform was in closer to shore and closer to the beach as well. After 10 years of observation, the Hangers have come to realize that loons are far more astute than we might believe. If the blackflies are not terrible this year it is possible that the pair will mate earlier than normal. But if the flies are bad, it is likely to be late June before the loons are sitting on the nest.

"Spring has finally arrived some of the daffodils may be in bloom today." April 19th.



And then it Snowed!!
April 26th.

Support the LEA
Lakes Environmental Association
207-647-8580
colin@leamaine.org
mary@leamaine.org |
mainelakes.org
230 Main Street

Life

By: Shanna Drapeau

**Feel the water around my ankles,
Hear the loons calling me,
Taste the fresh air,
Smell the beautiful nature
See the lake around me,
This is life.**



Shanna the Poet is Tom & Gail Tremblay's Granddaughter

Musings from the Editor:

I Think I'm a Seal !

One of the biggest reason that my husband and I purchased our land on McWain Pond was because I love to swim and to be in or on the water for hours. To me, my most peaceful times are stroking through the water. After 15 years watching and hearing the Birch Rock Campers do their swims and secretly having



the desire to swim its length, my daughter, Cara, convinced me that this was the time and in the early morning on that mirror like lake, I slowly slipped into the water and began my swim from one end of McWain to the other. Cara followed along with her encouraging words and kept watch over me from her perch on her kayak. Perfect day for a swim! Water was warm and Loons were meeting up with each other along the way until their were nine together quietly

motivating me through my venture. As everyone who spends any time on any lake knows, it is not always smooth sailing and could change without notice. This being the case, just beyond the Birch Rock Camp docks, the mirror like effect was no longer holding true and my middle of the lake easy swim was now a very wavy swim. I never felt afraid as I kept my course, but Cara did have trouble finding me at times in the undulating waters. I knew that I had the strength and endurance and only encountered a few toe cramps, so I forged ahead without fear.

All along I was certain that by the time I had finished there would be at least one more family member coming to my rescue! Cara kept watch and even though she was struggling a bit to keep her course and fighting with the waves and worrying about me, she still shouted words of encouragement. Almost to the Waziyatah Camp beach, the rescue boat with my husband and Cara's husband arrived in time to see me finish, give me praise and give me that much earned restful ride home to our end of the lake!!

Soo.. after hitching the kayak to the boat, the four of us got in for our trip back to our end of the lake. Here is where the

adventure begins... The lake was extremely choppy. Our family fleet of boats consists of kayaks, paddle boards, canoes, one row boat and a 12 ft Jon Boat with a 5 HP. The latter was our rescue boat. The waves were so high that the water was rapidly coming over the back of the boat and Justin (the Navy Chief) handed us the water bottles and said, "bail". Laughing and giggling was very soon stopped when we realized that this was now seriously not a funny situation! Having swum the entire lake, was I now going to drown being rescued? We had not gone very far when Justin steered us towards the West end of the shore line and we bailed out the water. Tom got into the kayak while we motored up the shoreline with him in tow until the waters flattened out and we were safely back on shore. The



rest of the family, awaiting our safe arrival, gave me their **SEAL** of approval. *Gail Tremblay*