

McWain Pond News



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MPA ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 15, 2017

10:00AM

Birch Rock Camp

*****Trustee Meeting
BEFORE ANNUAL MEETING
8:00AM**

Be Sure to Visit: www.McWainPond.org

SUMMARY OF DONNA BUTTERALL'S MCWAIN POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES:

Birch Rock Camp 7-16-16

President Tony Butterall called the 45th Meeting to order at 10:10a.m. There were 43 members present. This is the Birch Rock's 90th year.

Earl Morse discussed the first Annual McWain Pond Plant Survey Day set for the third Saturday in August. Paul Krinsky reported that the balance in the treasury is \$11,454.53. Tom Tremblay showed the service directory and asked for input on advertisers. Nancy Hanger gave a loon report. No babies were born. Five adult loons have been seen on the pond.

Roy Lambert from LEA reviewed water conditions. Clarity and aluminum ratio was good, but Chlorophyll levels were worse. Oxygen depletion and Gloeotrichia levels could be better. Maine Life Science Center is available for research for better water life. Roy told us there are many activities including milfoil inspections and youth education taking place for our Lakes. LEA membership was encouraged.

Bruce Whichard gave a short history of the association. It was formed 45 years ago.

We have worked with the Gammons to maintain the dam and joined opposition to the building of condos at Camp Waziyatah. In the 80's the MPA worked with the state to ban public access to the pond. We also had a successful watershed survey. The annual 4th of July boat parade has become a popular and well supported event.

Arlene Whichard thanked Birch Rock for its community activities. Approval was given to continue with yearly donations. Trustees Rich Deering and Earl Morse were reelected.

McWain Pond Association

Board of Trustees

President: Tony Butterall

tonybutterall@yahoo.com

207-583-2955

Vice President: Bill Cook

BillCook1949@comcast.net

207-583-6585

Secretary: Donna Butterall

DonnaButterall@Yahoo.com

Treasurer: Tom Tremblay

tom@lwre.com

603-381-3621

Trustees:

Bob Crocker

Rich Deering

James Kearney

Paul Krinsky

Peter Leslie

Earl Morse

Peg Nation

Peter Sevcik

Gary Smith

Annette Tomaino

Bruce Whichard

**Join
in the Annual
Boat Parade at 4:00
July 4th.**

McWain Pond

McWain Pond Quick Statistics 2016 Average Versus the Long-term Average:

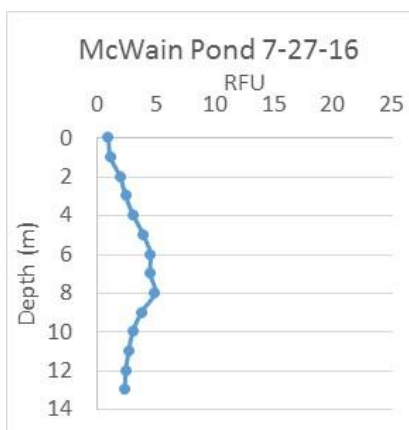
Clarity: Better at 6.6 meters
Chlorophyll: Better at 2.2 ppb
Phosphorus: Better at 5.9 ppb

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

Water Quality Summary:

Clarity, surface water phosphorus and chlorophyll averages for 2016 are all in the moderate range and are an improvement over long-term averages. Long-term trends indicate stable clarity and improving surface water phosphorus and chlorophyll, which is positive news. However, McWain Pond does suffer from oxygen depletion and high deep water phosphorus levels in late summer. *Gloeotrichia* algae concentrations have also been relatively high in McWain Pond (see summary below). These three issues mean that McWain Pond has been moved into the MODERATE/HIGH degree of concern category.

Chlorophyll-a Profile:



The graph to the left shows the results of a chlorophyll-a profile on McWain Pond. The purpose of the profile is to show areas of high algae productivity. Relative abundance of chlorophyll increases gradually to around 8 meters deep and then declines. This suggests low algae productivity, as there are no spikes in chlorophyll levels with depth. Most algae growth occurs in the upper, sunlit water, so the decline after 8 meters is expected.

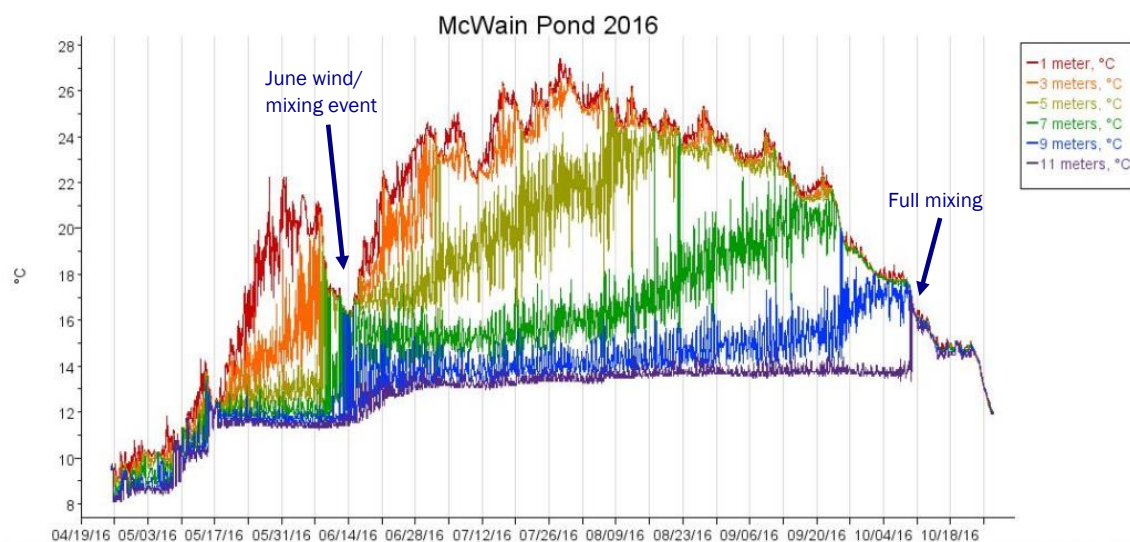
Gloeotrichia echinulata:

Four samples were collected at a site on the western shore of McWain Pond between July 27 and August 18. *Gloeotrichia* levels were unusually low in 2016, peaking at only

4.1 col/L on July 27 and virtually disappearing from the water column in subsequent samples.

High Resolution Temperature Monitoring:

The graph on the following page shows temperature patterns at 2 meter depth intervals from April 25th to October 27th on McWain Pond. The pond had not yet started to stratify when a wind event occurred around May 16th that completely mixed the pond. Stratification began to form quickly after that, but the pond was mixed again on June 15th due to high winds. Each of these wind events raised the temperature of the deeper water, which ended up being around 13.5 °C near the bottom for the rest of the stratified period. Stratification began to weaken near the end of August and continued as air temperatures cooled throughout the fall. Complete mixing occurred over a week earlier than in the previous two years, likely due to the warmer bottom temperatures. The maximum temperature reached at a depth of 1 meter was 27.4 °C (81.3 °F) on July 28th.



Date of Fall Turnover (Complete Mixing)			
	2014	2015	2016
McWain Pond	10/19	10/18	10/10

Algae Monitoring:

Four algae samples were collected from McWain Pond between August and September. Algae abundance was high in these samples relative to other lakes sampled. Flagellated algae were common, including *Rhodomonas* and *Chrysochromulina*. *Sphaerocystis* was the most common green algae while *Urosolenia* and *Stephanodiscus* were common diatoms. The cyanobacteria *Pseudanabaena* was noted in all four samples but was rare to find in any of the other lakes. This population should be monitored closely in 2017. The algae assemblage in McWain Pond indicates moderate productivity (mesotrophic).



LakeSmart and the Lakes Environmental Association

Did you know that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has identified many of Maine's lakes and ponds as "Threatened" or "Impaired?" Or that LEA has concern for McWain Pond's water quality? These classifications reflect loss of clarity, low oxygen levels in the deep waters, more nutrients or growth of problem algae.

The primary cause of water quality decline is well known: continuation or increase in stormwater runoff into the pond, carrying phosphorus which feeds algae. Reversing the water quality trend for Maine lakes isn't rocket science. It requires each shorefront landowner to individually adopt practices which reduce erosion and runoff that is impacting the lake. Lake-friendly practices include:

- **Maintain or plant vegetation along the lakeshore at least 10 feet in width (and wider is better). This naturalized area should include a variety of native plants of all sizes, including ground cover, shrubs and trees.**
- **Stop raking the fallen pine needles and leaves. Removing pine needles and light leaf cover eliminates the spongy mat that absorbs rain and allows stormwater to quickly run into the lake.**
- **Contour your driveway or install water diverters so that stormwater flows off the road and into an adjacent vegetated area. This is especially needed where your driveway shows signs of gouging after a rain.**
- **Maintain your septic system. Pump it regularly, avoid woody vegetation on or near its leach field, and avoid using bleach or harsh chemicals that compromise its natural processes.**
- **Limit foot traffic to narrow, winding paths. Uncontrolled foot traffic prevents natural regeneration of vegetation.**
- **Minimize lawn and play areas and assure that rain flows into adjacent vegetation.**
- **Mulch yard and buffer areas where erosion is evident. Use pine needles, leaf mulch or erosion control mulch (ECM) to cover bare spots.**

What else can I do? You can call Colin Holme at LEA (207-647-8580) to ask for a Clean Lake Checkup or a LakeSmart screening. You'll end up with a written report suggesting lake-friendly actions you can use on your property. To learn more, to volunteer or become "Lake Smart" certified, please call Roy Lambert at LEA. Submitted by Roy Lambert

Celebrating 90 Years on Mcwain Pond: Birch Rock Camp for Boys

After six years of teaching and coaching at the Country Day School in Newton, MA with summers working at Camp Chewonki on the coast of Maine, William “Chief” Brewster and his wife Onie decided in the summer of 1925 to start a boys’ camp in the foothills of Oxford County. Their objective was to locate their camp on the eastern shore of a clean, fresh-water lake so that their campers could appreciate healthy aquatic activities, physical fitness and the natural beauty of Maine sunsets. Moreover, the Brewsters were determined to create a community built on tradition and human values as they articulated in their original camp diaries:

“A boy cannot grow solely on food, sleep and safe living and playing conditions. He also needs the challenge of something new to learn and explore, the close contact with nature, and many kinds of challenges to meet and master other than those he can find in his home or his school.”

With the help of the Morton Family of Paris Manufacturing Company and neighboring Camp McWain for girls, the Brewsters and their partner, Bartlett Boyden, found just the location they were looking for in Burton Sanderson’s western pasture and maple grove on the side of McWain Hill. Near the shore land, they found a graceful white birch tree growing on top of a boulder, from which the camp took its name. Birch Rock started its first season on July 1, 1926 with 13 campers and the main lodge, five cabins and a washhouse. Camp enrollment doubled to 26 in 1927 and tripled to 39 in 1928. The Brewsters remained active in running the camp until their deaths in 1972 and 1982, respectively. The camp continued to operate with the leadership and support of the Brewster Family’s second and third generation with other seasonal camp directors for the next twenty-three years.

In the summer of 1996 Rich Deering returned to Birch Rock to serve as its first full-time Director after having been a camper and counselor in the 1970s and 80s. Mike Mattson joined him 1998 after his own long camper-counselor tenure at Birch Rock and they have jointly led the camp community through a renewal of growth and development. Under their tenure with generous cooperative support of the community, Birch Rock has regenerated a spiritual center of alumni outreach, program enhancements, monumental capital improvements, strategic planning and commitment to the valued principles of its founders.

Today, Birch Rock is now a Maine nonprofit corporation that has a 30 member Board of Trustees . The camp corporation operates under a 100-year lease from the Brewster family. Thanks to the strong will and spirited dedication of Birch Rock’s alumni, parents and friends, the camp has grown from serving 26 campers per season to approximately 145 campers with a seasonal staff of 44. The camp now offers 12 days of introductory Cubs Camp (ages 7 -10), 3.5 and 7 week sessions for boys ages 7-15. Additionally, a 24 day Wilderness Adventure Trip offering and Family Camp programs compliment the overall community schedule. Birch Rock has initiated an endowment fund in its ongoing development efforts – A Call of Character: The Campaign for Birch Rock. The camp is an accredited member of American Camping and active in the Maine Youth Camp Associations.

Birch Rock, like other summer camps, is one unique community, whose fundamental purpose is to bring children together in a safe, nurturing environment and provide an opportunity to learn without the pressures and distractions that pursue them the rest of the year. It is a free and spirited oasis of lifelong learning that encourages cooperation, confidence and a willingness to try new things. We challenge campers to take responsibility for their own lives and help them to appreciate the needs of others in emphasizing our camp motto: HELP THE OTHER FELLOW.

Reflections from the Rock

Community & Alumni Director Rich Deering '73 Happy 90th

BIRCH ROCK CAMP! What a spectacular season we had re-energizing, re-igniting and re-uniting on our Hillside campus. On July 30th campers and staff welcomed past, present and prospective Birch Rockers with handshakes, hugs, and chivalrous spirit as we celebrated our Diamond Anniversary. Our birthday unfolded in great style: We applauded two epic Whale swims. We shared tales of BRC yesteryears. We gathered at the flagpole to remember those who had recently passed away. We bonded in fellowship, hearing about olden times with old and new friends. We feasted with glee on an old-fashioned Downeast Maine Lobster Bake with campers, families, neighbors and veteran Birch Rockers. Finally, we capped off the day with a blockbuster All-Star Campfire performance, complemented by a majestic sunset and rousing Birch Rock sing-a-long. It was the classic Birch Rock Camp end-of-day where “...a good time was had by all.”

Thanks to all of you who joined us, and to those who called, wrote, texted, and visited throughout the season to share your stories of BRC. Your responses to our anniversary celebration were extraordinary! We had alums from as far as Hong Kong, the U.K., and Australia — plus a few families with three generations of Birch Rock history to boot! The spirit of the Rock is powerful, and our camp’s vibrancy is a tribute to your enduring commitment.

In this edition of *The Birch Bark*, we continue to celebrate our 90th season by highlighting the history of our loyal neighbors and hillside friends at C.A.M.P. — a.k.a. The Cottages at McWain Point. The Muzik and Whichard families have a long and devoted history to Waterford, McWain Pond and Birch Rock Camp.

As ever, we ask that you please join us in giving boys opportunities for exceptional experiences that build character, confidence and civility. Your leads for prospective campers and donations to our Birch Rock Fund fuel our cherished mission — HELP THE OTHER FELLOW.



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

Gail Tremblay
PO Box 235
Lincoln, NH 03251
GiGiTrem@Yahoo.com

Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue of the Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE MCWAIN POND ASSOCIATION

In a nut shell, the MPA is responsible for the maintenance of the all important dam. If we were to have a failure of this structure it would be very expensive to fix. The Association monitors the condition of the dam 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's easy to be a part of the community that supports McWain Pond and helps maintain your property value. The Trustees are watching out for your interests and those of our entire McWain Pond community. Please be sure to mail your dues payment to McWain Pond Association at PO Box 271, Waterford, ME 04088.

McWain Pond Business Directory

Local help to increase your enjoyment for a carefree summer.

If you didn't save your copy, we still have a few copies of the directory available.

Contact: Tom@Lwre.com



What to do in the Village of Waterford Maine on July Fourth?**By Bruce Whichard**

I can remember as a child, summering with my grandparents, Ruth and Emile Muzik, at Camp McWain; along with my family and cousins. Our family would stay in one of the old rustic cabins on the shore of Lake McWain. On the eve of July Fourth, my brothers Craig & Glenn, and I, were always very excited and could not wait until the next morning, knowing all the great activities that were going to happen throughout the day.

We would wake up early to the cry of the loons. Knowing that the loons were out fishing for their breakfast, my brothers and I would also give fishing a try. We would climb into one of our grandfather's little fishing boats, as the sun was just peaking over Sanderson's farm. We would don our life jackets- Craig at the helm, Glenn at the bow, and me, midship, juggling fishing poles and a can full of wiggly night crawlers we had just captured the night before. I hope the loons had better luck than we did, but it was sure fun to be out on our Lake McWain once again, after spending a long Fall, Winter, and Spring down in New Jersey.

As the sun rose higher in the Eastern sky, we would slowly troll back to the dock, knowing that my parents soon would be awake and ready to head into Waterford to enjoy breakfast at the Wilkins House. I think it was more of a social gathering than a breakfast, but those homemade muffins sure tasted good. It was fun to say hello to so many friends and catch up on missed activities over the last ten months; plus, the smell of the bacon frying in the big cast iron pan also made a lasting impression!

Shortly after breakfast, most of the folks would stroll on down to the Flat to get their front row seats, as others of us would head up to the Waterford School to take part in the July 4th Parade. It was, and still is, a fun parade to march in, to help celebrate July 4th; and while marching in the parade you get to see even more of your summertime friends that you have missed over the long winter months!

After the Waterford parade, Craig, Glenn and I would head back to Camp McWain to enjoy the afternoon down at the Point, swimming and playing in the cool refreshing water. We three would eagerly await the faint ringing of a bell, and the quiet hum of an outboard motor. We would then each head out to the end of one of our docks, looking for that boat..... knowing that there would be a huge American Flag waving gently in the breeze, as Commodore Bob Hanger and his lovely bride circled the lake. It is a memory that my brothers and I will never forget, the start of another summer on Lake McWain.

As time continues, some things change, and luckily some things remain the same. We still awaken to the cry of the loons, but today maybe another hour or two of sleep feels better than hopping into that tippy little fishing boat. We still enjoy the Community breakfast at the Wilkins House, but now we enjoy watching the Waterford Parade. Commodore Bob Hanger and his bride no longer circle the lake in their boat, but he did pass that responsibility onto my wife Arlene and I, years back. He requested that we never let that tradition end. We have kept our word to Commodore Hanger, and as he had instructed us, either rain or shine, there will be at least one boat circle the lake every July Fourth to celebrate our Independence, and to welcome in another summer on the lake. We are very pleased and thankful for how our little boat parade has now grown to close to 20 boats taking part, plus more and more lakefront owners are joining in our celebration from their docks to greet the boaters, as we slowly circumnavigate our lake.

We once again, plan to culminate our Fourth of July celebration with another "out of this world" aerial display provided by Matt G. Pyrotechnics and his assistant. As many of you know, last year the visual delight of pride for our Nation's Independence was moved to a barge out in the middle of the lake, so all had a great view. Rumor has it, that this year's pyrotechnic display will be even bigger and better than last year's. Numerous hours of safety, planning and preparation go into each of Matt G. displays. If you plan to join us in your boat, out on the lake for even a closer viewing, please respectfully watch from a safe distance. If anyone would like to donate towards this aerial display, a portion of your donation would go towards the display, and a portion will be given to a local nonprofit, supporting our Veterans.

So there you have it, what will you do on July 4th in Waterford, Maine?



Annual 4th of July Boat Parade

Photos by: B. Whichard and C. Tremblay





Barred Owl Waits and Watches

Our grandchildren were out walking around our woods and looked up to see this friendly forager. This Barred owl has been keeping us company for many years now. This day it sat up in the tree watching carefully and giving all of us the opportunity to capture many pictures and enjoy watching it move its head and eyes as it was examining us with much curiosity. We often hear the different calls it makes and have watched it quietly swoop from tree to tree at different times of the day. So nice to be close to nature at McWain Pond. *By: Gail Tremblay*



Welcome Back to the Loons!

Ice Declared Out April 25, 2017



*McWain Musings by Gail Tremblay***The Big Red Ball And The Big Rock**

The first time we saw that big red ball, Tom and I needed to paddle out to see why it was there. We were in awe when we saw the size of that monstrous rock. We knew right away why the ball had been anchored there, but we wondered about its history. We thought it had been put there after numerous boat rides had ended with broken props. We later learned that the rock was first marked sometime in the 60's after a power boat went out on the pond and accidentally discovered it!

In the 17 years we have been swimming to and from, floating over, attempting to stand upright on, and fish around this slimy grand boulder, it has provided fond memories for our family. As our grandchildren grow and learn how to swim, it has become the mission of all to be able to swim all the way from our shoreline to the Big Rock and back, all 314 yards. They work hard to build the skill and endurance to accomplish this "must do" swim each summer.

A couple of years ago Bill Hanger, after 25 years of protecting against mishaps, gave my husband the task of placing the floating ball marker next to the rock. Peter Leslie loaded us up with several variations on the ball so Tom would be ready to fulfill his new duties in the Spring. When the time seemed right, Tom loaded the ball in the canoe and dropped a n c h o r p r o u d l y accomplishing his new job as marker of the Big Rock.



The next year my brother-in-law, Brian, and some friends were at the camp so we asked him to put the ball out as we were on an extended

vacation. He had seen the ball many times, knew the size of the rock and assured Tom that he remembered the exact location. Apparently, it was quite an adventure that Brian had with friends as they paddled around in the choppy waters before laying eyes on the Big Rock.

Upon our return, we had a great laugh. They had, indeed, marked a big rock but not the "Big Rock". The lesson learned was that it is much easier to find things when you search in flat smooth water. And yes, "You can lose a Big Rock in the water!"

The third year Tom was in charge of the placement of that big red ball, we realized that we didn't have the timing right because someone else beat us to it and had placed their own marking ball. (Thank you to whoever you are.) Perhaps we'll get it right this year!



We've seen many people enjoying the Big Rock and we are sure that many residents and visitors have fond memories of this magical spot.

Perhaps you hit it with your own prop, found the biggest fish, used it as your starting or finishing point for your swim to achieve one of those Whale, Loon, Duck or Seal Awards, or just enjoyed standing on it and admiring the "BIG ROCK" in awe!

In Memoriam

The McWain Pond Association family will miss these friends and past members.

Bruce F. Bell 1952-2016

Bruce lived on Pride Ave. He was a great neighbor and friend. He and his wife Debbie were married for 30 wonderful years. Bruce worked for Central Maine Power Company for 37 years. "Boo Boo" will be remembered for always making others laugh and was known for his willingness to always lend a hand to help someone.

Edgar W. Damon 1935-2016

Ed lived in Norway and was the Norway Barber "forever". He summered on McWain Pond at his camp on Pride Ave. Ed and his wife Beverly could be seen out on the Pond enjoying their power boat with their friends on his day off every Wednesday. Ed was one of the founding fathers of the McWain Pond Association.

John S. Eaton 1926- 2016

John was a Birch Rock Camper for 4 years in the 30's. He believe that being a camper shaped his life. After retiring from many years in food service in Andover and Winchester, MA, he moved with his wife Martha Proctor Stockwell to Waterford in 1988 and ran the Rounds General Store in Waterford Flats and was very active in the community.

Donald Munn 1935-2016

Don was a long time caretaker of Birch Rock Camp after his retirement from farming on a dairy farm on McIntire Rd. in Waterford. He owned and operated the Springer's General Store from 1980-84.

Emile E. Muzik, Jr. 1931-2017

Eddie was a teacher in New Jersey and started summering in Maine in the 1930's. He helped build Camp Waganaki and worked up the ranks from counselor to Camp Director. He owned Camp McWain with his wife June Muzik and sister and her husband Bobbi and Chuck Whichard. He was Bruce Whichard's uncle. Eddie served on the McWain Pond Association's nominating committee for many years.



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