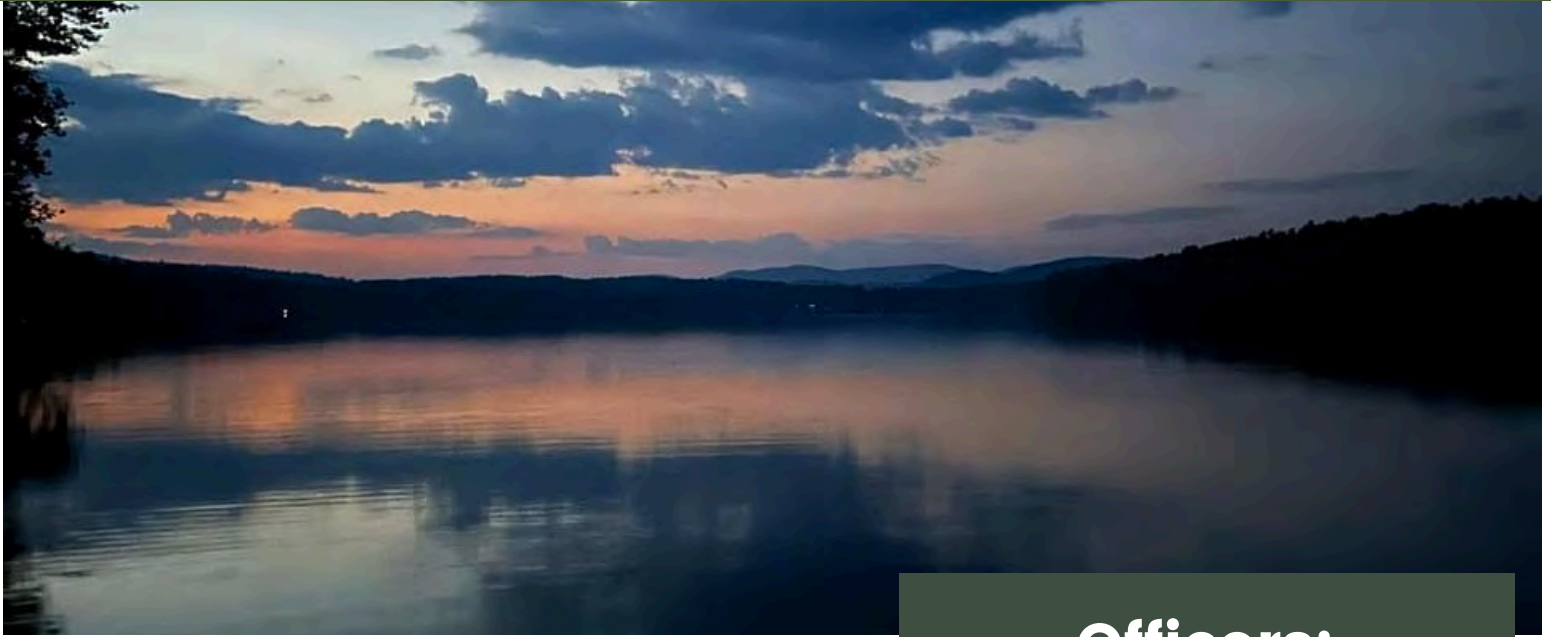


Newsletter

2024



2024 Annual July 4th Boat Parade

The boats start to line up in front of the Cottages at McWain Point. At 4:00 p.m., they head out for a slow circle of the lake.

2024 July 4th Fireworks

Jared and Matt G Pyrotechnics are planning another aerial fireworks display to celebrate the 4th of July. This celebration will start at 9:15 p.m. out over the lake.

2024 Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 13, 10:00 a.m. to noon
Birch Rock Camp, off McWain Hill Road

Officers:

President: Chris Tomaino
voiceovr1@aol.com

Vice President: Bill Cook
BillCook29@gmail.com

Secretary: Donna Butterall
DonnaButterall@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Thomas Tremblay
ttremblay189@gmail.com

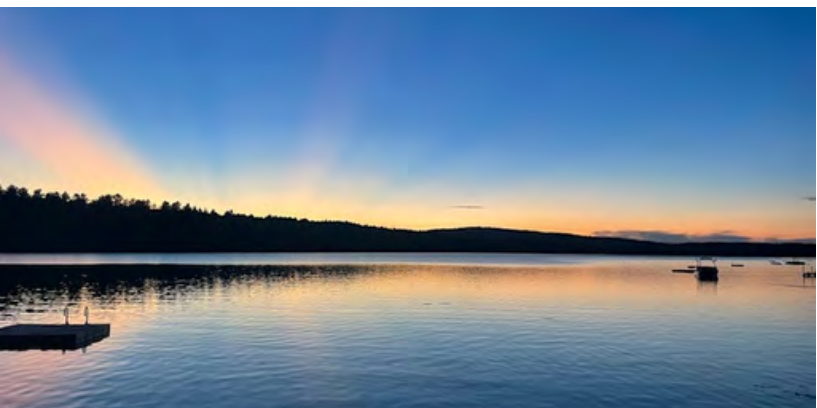
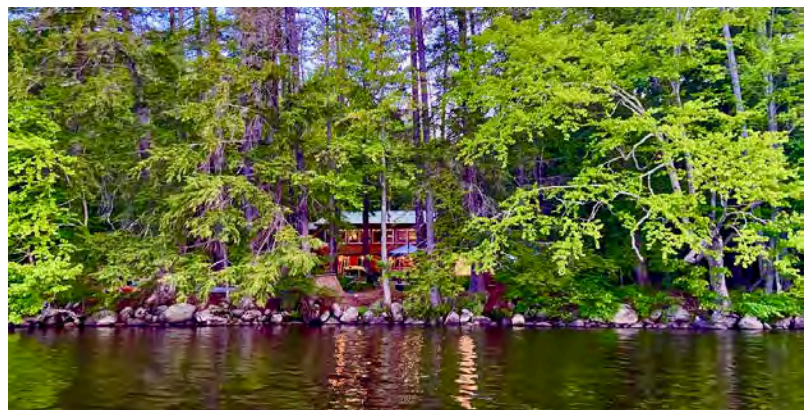
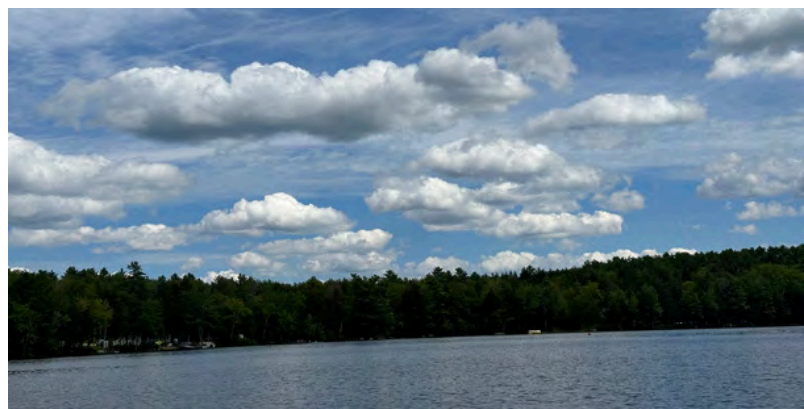
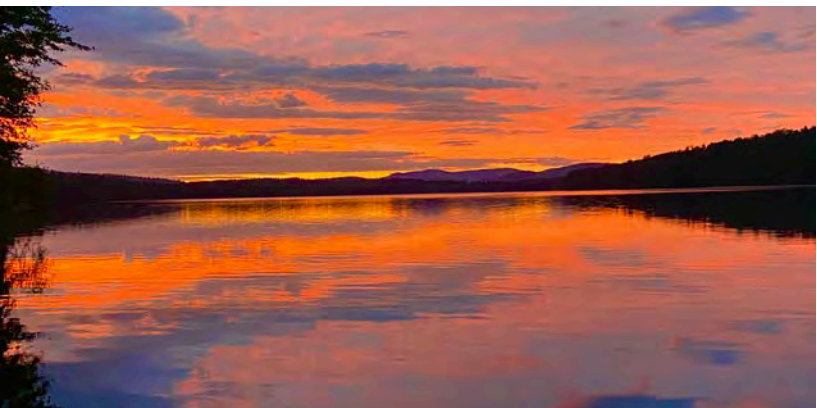
Newsletter Editor: Bailie Mauriello
bay.mauriello@gmail.com

Fun on McWain



PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Fun on McWain: Shots on the Lake



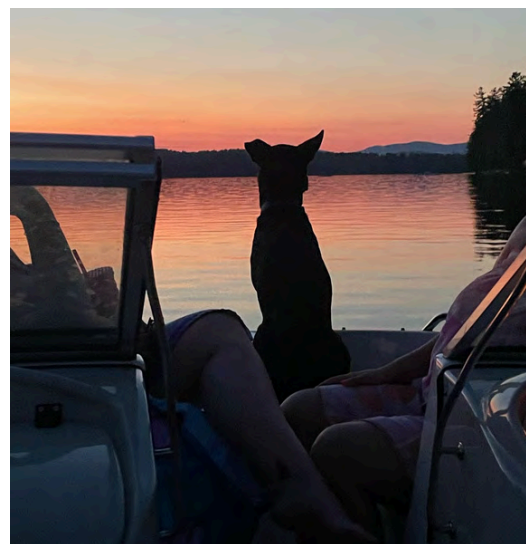
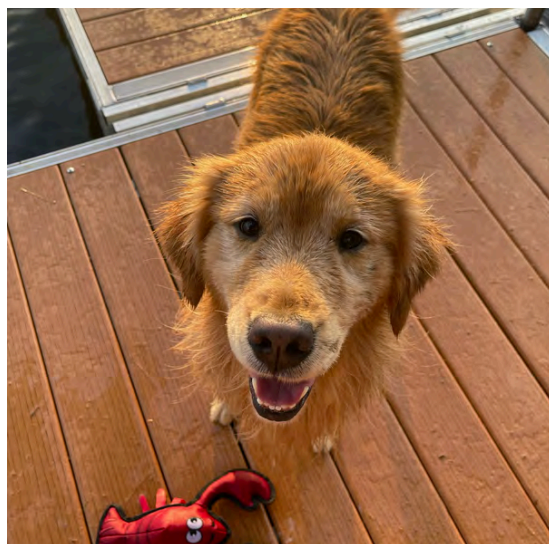
PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Fun on McWain: Winter Wonderland



PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Fun on McWain: Furry Friends



PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Fun on McWain: Birdwatcher's Unite



PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Sightings from the Loon Nest



PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
LEAH ROBERTS

Ice Out

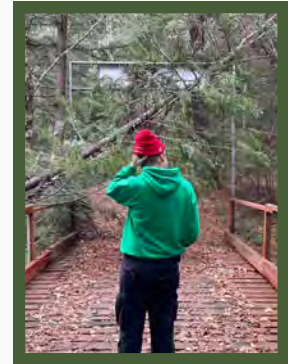
McWain's ice out occurred on April 1st, earlier than usual, but just days before the April 4th Snowstorm.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
DEVIN MAURIELLO

It is Almost That Time of the Year again!

Well, Mother Nature threw us a few curve balls this past winter. There was not too much snow (until the two snowstorms very late in the season). But we did have some major storms, with extended power outages and a lot of downed trees due to rain, wind, and wet, heavy snow.



Luckily, that is all behind us now, and mud season has come and gone. As I write this, we are in the middle of black fly season, which means that the pollen will start to fall soon.

Enough of that, let the summer begin! It will not be long until we start to see docks appear on the shoreline, boats out on our lake, and the joyous sound of laughter and excitement as our neighbors and campers return to Waterford and appear back on Lake McWain.



July 4th is usually the welcoming of another summer season. Plus, July 4th is a fun-filled day overflowing with activities for all to enjoy. Starting in Waterford, everyone likes to get reacquainted with our community neighbors by attending the Breakfast at the Wilkins House—a great time to catch up with friends who have “been away” since last fall. After a nice hearty breakfast, take a short stroll down to the Flat, and you can witness one of the best “small” town parades, which start at 11:00 am. There is always room for more folks to join the march from the Waterford Elementary School to the beach. Or, if it is a nice sunny day, maybe hop a ride on a fire truck or in an antique car in the parade.

It is Almost That Time of the Year again! CONT.

If one parade is good, then two parades must be better! So, plan on joining us at 4:00 pm for the annual Commodore Bob Hanger Boat Parade. As usual, the boats assemble at 3:45 off the Point at the Cottages at McWain Point. Then we embark on a slow circle of McWain, American flags flying and bells ringing as we greet our neighbors on the shoreline, cheering us along. It is great to see the Birch Rock Camp docks and the Wazyatah Camp docks full of excited campers preparing to spend the summer with us enjoying our lake.

As we come to a close on July 4th, there will once again be an aerial display of beautiful fireworks starting at 9:15. What a special way to end a very busy day, what a special way to start another summer on the lake, and what a great way to Honor our Veterans! As in the past, these fireworks are for all to enjoy; they were donated by Matt G. Pyrotechnics. The show is put on by Jared and Matt, with assistance from others, with both the setup and the clean-up.

As people wake up on July 5th, we can all hope for a dryer summer than 2023 and let the fun times on Lake McWain begin!



Celestial Splendor

My favorite place to relax and watch the sunset and stars come out is at the fireplace beside the lake. There are too many reasons to list, but I cannot imagine a place as peaceful as looking across McWain. This spring, we enjoyed two spectacular events in the sky. On April 8th, we saw more than 98% coverage with the eclipse, and on May 10th, the Aurora Borealis gave us a magnificent light show! Looking forward to more starry nights and celestial wonders by the lake!



While the possibility of viewing complete totality lay less than an hour away, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to watch NEARLY a complete eclipse happen right in our backyard. After making a 6-inch-tall snowman with the last remnants of snow, we donned welding helmets and launched a canoe. The spectacle of watching me navigate the waves with a welding helmet would have probably made for more entertaining pictures than those I took from the rocking boat. Still, the experience will be difficult to surpass. I'm sure most readers have heard or possibly even seen the effects of the eclipse, but I'll reiterate. It got dark! From afternoon sun to dusk, light with cooler air and crickets start to chirp.

The second light show was even more magnificent than the last for me. I started to prepare a campfire early, planning to come back out late to hopefully look for hints of the vivid colors I heard might be visible past 11 pm. As soon as the sun began to set over Rice Hill, shapes could be seen moving around the sky. With some good company gathered around the fire, we debated which direction in the sky looked better, snapping pictures of the vibrant greens, blues, and pinks painted in the sky. Looking forward to more starry nights and celestial wonders by the lake!



A History of The Plate Farm

Sponsored by the Waterford Historical Society
Friday, July 12, 2024, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.,
327 McWain Hill Road

The Plate Farm on McWain Hill has been in the Plate family for 84 years, and a Waterford landmark for much longer. (Much to our own surprise, we've even been featured in a couple Down East calendars, and on the Town of Waterford website!).



As part of the Waterford Historical Society's monthly programs, I will be sharing a history of "The Farm". I'll start with what we know about the property dating back to David McWain's days, followed by its use as an active farm in the early 1900s, what life was like in the 1940s when my Dad and his parents were first settling in, and perhaps a brief "fast-forward" across the succeeding decades and 5 generations of Plates who have lived and/or vacationed here on McWain Pond since then. The presentation will take place in the Plate barn at 327 McWain Hill Road, followed by a brief tour of the barn and refreshments provided by the Waterford Historical Society. We hope to see you there!

What a fireworks display!

Let us all think about donating to a GREAT cause! Our Lake McWain fireworks display on the evening of July 4th not only welcomes another fantastic summer on our lake, but 100% of the donations collected go directly to a great cause. When Jared Whichard teamed up with Matt G Pyrotechnics about seven years ago to do the first “public” display on our lake, a few people donated money for the fireworks. Jared accepted these donations but did NOT want to put this money towards the fireworks. Seven years ago, Arlene, Bruce, and Jared Whichard were “Honor Flight Maine” board members. For those of you who do not know what Honor Flight Maine is, it is an organization that primarily flies WWII Veterans down to Washington DC, so our Maine Veterans can experience THEIR memorials. Honor Flight Maine now flies Korean and Vietnam Veterans down to Washington DC, so all of our Veterans have the fantastic opportunity to experience their memorials. In the first few years of the McWain fireworks display, 100% of the donations went to Honor Flight Maine, and we are very proud and happy to say that the people of Lake McWain “paid” to fly 6 Maine Veterans down to Washington, DC! What a great way to say THANK YOU! to our Veterans.

About three years ago, we, Jared, Arlene, Bruce, and Matt G. Pyrotechnics, discussed, and we felt it was time to keep these “fireworks donations” closer to home. We contacted the Waterford Congregational Church and asked if there was a special need in the Waterford Church community so we could donate some money. The church was very happy to hear from us, and we were told about the “Waterford Friends in Need.” This is a program that the Waterford church funds, but it also works directly with the town of Waterford. For the last three years now, 100% of the donations collected have been turned over to the Waterford Friends in Need fund. This goes to assist our neighbors needing some extra heating oil or those needing a Thanksgiving meal, a Christmas meal, or something that the Church and Town see appropriate—just another GREAT cause to donate to.



What a Fireworks Display! CONT.

So, this coming July 4th, when you and your neighbors are out in your boats or at the lake edge watching another spectacular fireworks display, please help us welcome in the summer of 2024, but please think about donating to a great cause!

100% of your donations go directly to the "Friends in Need" fund.

Matt G. Pyrotechnics donates 100% of the cost of the fireworks. Therefore, a huge THANK YOU goes out to Matt G.

Jared, Matt and a few others donate their time and talent for all to enjoy one of the top four fireworks displays in the state of Maine!

Please make your fireworks donation check out to:

Arlene Whichard

PO Box 13

Waterford ME 04088

Memo line: fireworks donation- friends in need

Or you can hand deliver your donation to Arlene at the annual lake association meeting being held at Birch Rock Camp on Saturday, July 13, at 10:00 am. Please do not think you are ever too late to donate; the Church is always willing to accept our donations for their Friends in Need fund!



My Time at Camp

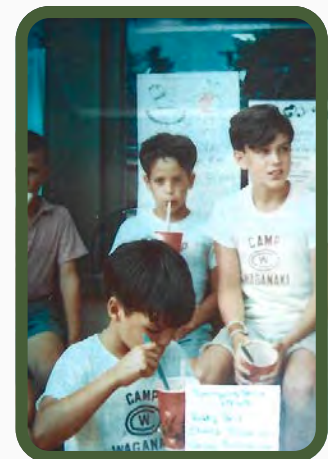


In 1965, my father, Bruno Tomaino, took the job as Program Director at Camp Waganaki and was hired by camp owner Miller Bugliari. Camp Waganaki was founded in 1919 and was not located on McWain at first but moved to its present location soon after. Miller and my father were teachers in the northern NJ area and, like most summer camps, were filled with teachers and coaches who had their summers off. Ed Muzik from Camp McWain was the Waterfront Director, and his whistle and voice could be heard throughout camp calling for "SWIMMMMM!"

Ed's father, Emile, was once the shop counselor and most of the Whichard boys also worked at camp. David Muzik and I were campers together for many years and shared summer birthdays. Having a birthday was a big deal at camp, first by getting thrown in the lake first thing in the morning and then served a birthday cake by Chef Larry Caret. Larry was a celebrity in his own right, often being brought out to the dining room from his back kitchen to a standing ovation and chant of:

"Larry Larry, you're a wonder
And when you old and grey
All the girls will say by thunder
You were something in your day."

We arrived at camp at least a week before campers and stayed a week after to help close up. Having the camp to yourselves was fun, but even better was when the buses arrived from NJ with most campers, old friends from past summers, and new friends to be made. I was the oldest of the Tomaino boys and started living "down the hill" when I was eight years old.



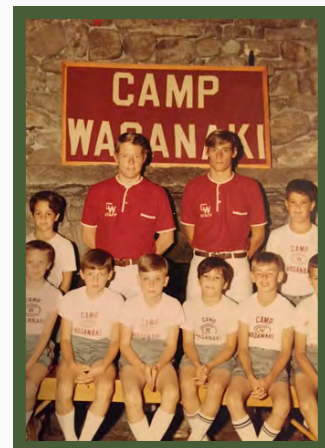
My Time at Camp CONT.

Bill and Woody Hanger were my camp counselors at different points in my camping life. The summers at camp were packed with activities throughout the day, from riflery to archery and swimming to wood shop. If you were lucky, you would get to walk to Springers General Store with your cabin mates and blow .50c on a huge bag of penny candy. The new campers in your group were often pranked into touching the electrified cow fence at Springer's Farm.



Luckier still was when parents' weekend came, and you were invited out with friends to dinner at The Country Way Restaurant in Norway for their Smorgasbord. Camp trips to hike the White Mountains and canoeing the Saco and Androscoggin rivers were the summer highlights. By the time I was old enough, I had become a CIT and a Jr. Counselor and had been assigned to assist with a cabin during the day and every other night.

Having every other night off was something new; trips to Bridgton and Norway to explore different settings and food choices or trying to sneak bear into the CIT cabin without getting caught by my father was no easy task. Camp years and life on McWain at Camp Waganaki were formative years and something I have always cherished and still enjoy to this day. Life lessons and friendships that continue to this day are something not to take for granted.



In Memoriam:

Bart Hague

Arthur Bartlett (Bart) Hague Jr., our esteemed neighbor on McWain Hill Road, died in December at the age of 96. Bart devoted his long life to environmental protection and conservation. His keen interest began right here on McWain Hill when as a boy in the 1930s he visited his Aunt Mary (in a house he later inherited at the age of 16).



Bart's public service career spanned more than four decades, including twenty years as a charter member in the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He served on water quality teams cleaning up the Potomac River, Boston Harbor, and Maine's Androscoggin River. He also helped create the National Trails System within the National Parks Service.

After retiring from the EPA in 1996, Bart was named President Emeritus of Maine Lakes. He pushed for a regional effort to conserve the Crooked River and Sebago Lake watershed, which became the Sebago Clean Waters collaborative. In 2022 Bart was honored with a Natural Resources Council of Maine Clean Water Heroes Award.

Bart and Mary Ann, his wife of 61 years, placed 475 acres under conservation easement, including on McWain Hill, the former Camp Waganaki, a cove on McWain Pond, and a mile on both banks of the Crooked River.

In Memoriam: Carolyn Osgood

Born in Waterford, May 24, 1937, to Marjorie and Hugh Foster. Carolyn attended Waterford schools and graduated from Norway High School. After graduation she went to Long Island, N.Y., where she worked and went to Hairdressing School. On returning to Maine, she worked in Bethel for many years, and married Chet Osgood in 1972. She later opened her own Beauty Shop in her home in Waterford and ran it for more than 40 years.



She was predeceased by her husband Chet in 2015, her parents Marjorie and Hugh Foster, and sisters Geneva Springer and Frances Bell. She leaves a stepdaughter Robin Downing and two granddaughters, Casey Pike and Samantha Downing Jones and husband Kyle, great grandsons, Luca Ross and coming soon Cameron Russell. Many nieces and nephews.

In Memoriam: Dave Sanderson

David Sanderson, Birch Rock's next-door neighbor, died last November in an accident while taking down a dead tree. David had been living full-time at the family farm since his retirement in the early 2000s. His grandfather, Burton Sanderson, sold the parcel that would become Birch Rock Camp to Chief and Onie Brewster back in 1926. The Sanderson family continues to graciously lease their expansive pasture to Birch Rock as our western playing field.

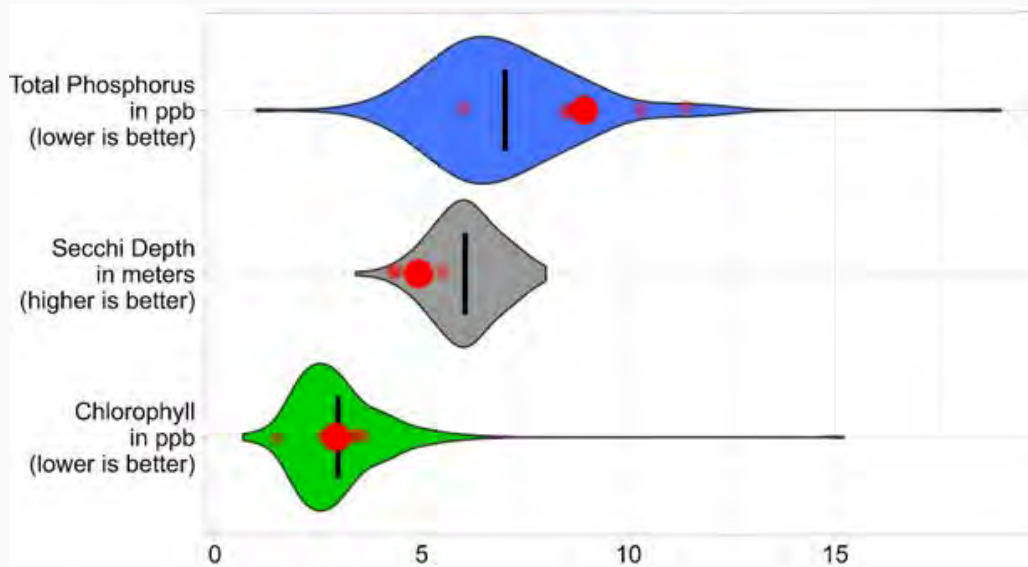


David was a proud New Englander with Swedish ancestry and a keen interest in local Maine history. Raised in Rhode Island, he and Cathy, his now deceased wife, met at Indiana University and moved back east to Newburyport, MA where they raised their son Stephen (Steve and his wife Betsy founded RiverWalk Brewery in his hometown). David enjoyed a varied working life, including jobs in marketing, lobbying for the recreational vehicle industry, and managing the New England Trail Riders Association. He co-founded an early software startup and finally worked as an Oracle database developer.

David was an avid musician and amateur musicologist, and played the guitar, banjo and fiddle. His lifelong passion was for preserving the house and barn that his ancestors built in the 1860s.

Birch Rock Board of Trustees Chair Seth Brewster offered this statement: "The relationship between David's family and Camp started almost a century ago, between Chief and Onie Brewster and David's grandfather. David was a loyal neighbor and former member of our Board of Trustees. We are tremendously grateful for his contributions to Camp."

McWain Pond Water Testing Summary



McWain Pond's surface water chlorophyll (ppb), phosphorus (ppb), and Secchi depth (meters) data comparison. Colored areas represent the long-term range of values, from minimum to maximum. Area thickness indicates frequency of measurements at that value. Area thickness increases as more measurements are reported at that value. The vertical black line represents the long-term average value. The large red dot represents 2023's average value. The small red dots represent individual readings taken in 2023.

2023 Water Quality Highlights

The average Secchi disk reading for 2023 was 4.9 meters, which falls into the moderate clarity range. The average total phosphorus reading of 8.9 ppb falls into the moderate range. The average deep water phosphorus value was less than 10 ppb above average surface water phosphorus values, which suggests phosphorus recycling is not problematic. The chlorophyll-a average of 2.9 ppb falls into the moderate range. Long-term trend analysis indicates chlorophyll-a concentrations in McWain Pond are decreasing, total phosphorus concentrations are stable, and clarity readings are stable. McWain Pond's *Gloeotrichia echenulata* density ranged from 0 through 1 with the highest density occurring in mid-August.

McWain Pond's 2023 Quick Stats				
	Average Deep-Water Phosphorus (ppb)	Clarity Trend	Phosphorus Trend	Chlorophyll-a Trend
Analysis Result	8.5	Stable	Stable	Decreasing
Interpretation	Within acceptable range	Neither deeper nor shallower clarity readings over time	Neither more nor less phosphorus over time	Less chlorophyll over time