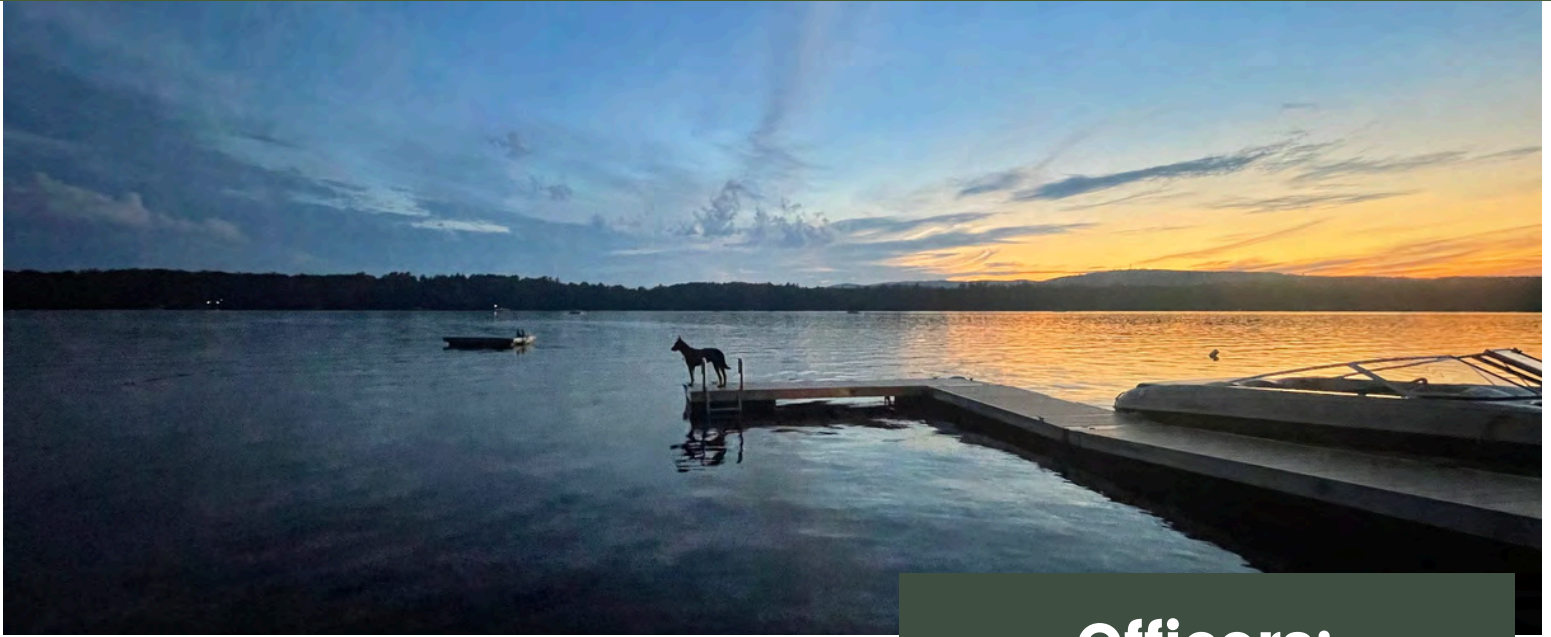


Newsletter

2025



Our website is getting a makeover!
Head over to www.McWainPond.org to
check it out.

We're working hard to make our past
newsletters and articles easier to read and
will be sharing info about some exciting
upcoming events.
Stay tuned!

We look forward to seeing you for the
annual MPA meeting on Saturday, July 12,
at 10:00 a.m. Join us at Birch Rock Camp,
off McWain Hill Road.

Officers:

President: Chris Tomaino
voiceovr1@aol.com

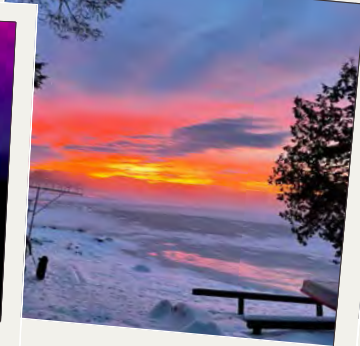
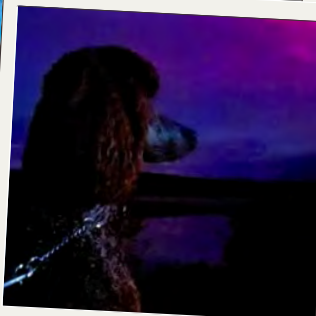
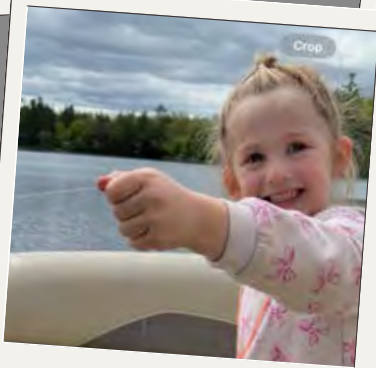
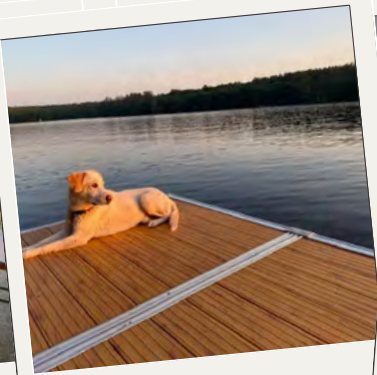
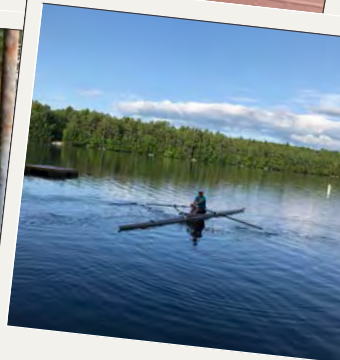
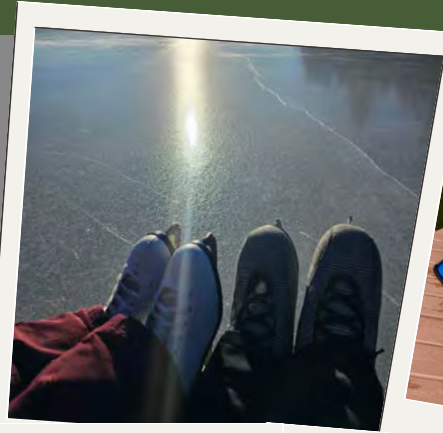
Vice President: Bill Cook
BillCook29@gmail.com

Secretary: Donna Butterall
DonnaButterall@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Thomas Tremblay
mcwainpondasso@gmail.com

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

Fun on McWain



PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

McWain Then and Now



Camp Waziyatah
Taken 80 years apart.



Clare Sevcik
Ages 2 and 17.
Today, Clare is an
environmental scientist!

Letter from the President

I am so happy and honored to represent the MPA as president, and I credit those before me who have made this such an enjoyable position. The trustees and officers are all hard-working people who only want the best for our little corner of the world. I have been lucky enough to call Waterford and McWain Pond my summer/winter getaway since 1965.

At the age of 5, my father, Bruno, was the program director at Camp Waganaki for many years, and I spent over 10 years as a camper, CIT, and junior counselor. By the time I was in High School, my father told me I needed to get a real summer job back home, so I showed him and became a lifeguard. My father spent his winters recruiting for Camp Waganaki in the northern NJ area, equipped with his slide projector and brochures. There were some years when Camp Waganaki was so full that all meals were split into two shifts, and multiple overnight camping trips were scheduled simultaneously to accommodate as many campers as possible. The 1960s and 1970s were, in my opinion, the busiest times on the lake, with four boys' and girls' camps occupying the shoreline: Camp Joseph, Camp Waganaki, Birch Rock Camp, and Camp Waziyatah. Camp McWain was busy hosting families, many stayed there while visiting their children at these four camps, and some kept coming after their children were out of camp and continued doing so for years. The grandchildren of some of these families continue the tradition today. We are lucky to call this place home in one way or another. This year has brought its share of problems again, with the heavy rains that caused some flooding on surrounding roads and kept the lake level high. We have lost several members of the Waterford/ McWain community and continue to welcome new families and honor those who have gone before us. I hope to continue our relationship with the Keoka Lake Association, which shares our goals and objectives regarding community, tradition, and lake stewardship. I welcome some of our newest members to the trustees' board, who have lifelong connections to McWain and have volunteered to continue their family's legacy.

Sincerely,
Chris Tomaino
President
McWain Pond Association

Protecting McWain Pond: Embracing Maine's LakeSmart Program

McWain Pond is a cherished natural treasure in Waterford, Maine, and the LakeSmart program offers a proactive way for residents to help preserve its pristine waters. LakeSmart, a free, voluntary, and non-regulatory initiative led by Maine Lakes, educates lakefront homeowners on best practices to minimize stormwater runoff and erosion—two major contributors to water pollution. Through personalized property evaluations, trained volunteers assess areas such as driveways, structures, lawns, and shoreline buffers, providing tailored recommendations to enhance lake-friendly landscaping.



Properties that meet LakeSmart standards are honored with the distinctive blue and white LakeSmart Award signs, proudly displayed at both the driveway and shoreline. These signs signify exemplary stewardship and serve as inspiration for neighbors to adopt similar practices. Even if a property doesn't initially qualify for the award, homeowners receive valuable guidance on improvements such as installing drip-line trenches, reducing lawn areas, or enhancing vegetative buffers to better protect the lake.

For McWain Pond residents interested in participating, the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) serves as the LakeSmart hub for the Waterford area. To schedule a free evaluation or learn more about the program, contact LEA Land Use Coordinator Emlyn at emlyn@mainelakes.org. By embracing LakeSmart practices, we can collectively ensure the long-term health and beauty of McWain Pond for generations to come.

NOTE: Emlyn will be at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 12th starting at 10:00 am at Birch Rock Camp to further explain the LakeSmart Program. Please consider joining Lakes Environmental Association. They help McWain Pond tremendously throughout the year.

Sign up at: <https://mainelakes.org/>

Pondering (On McWain Pond)

*Anonymous birds
chitter in the beeches;
chains knock as I sway,
teetering on the splintered swing.
The buzz of a motor slows to a hum, droning,
twittering insects and neighbor voices
skip like stones across the water.
Sunlight dances,
ripples shimmy in and out of shadows as
wavelets
lap and fold into the whispering stream.
An eagle flaps her mighty wings, disappears
into the cove, a kingfisher skims
the surface, dragonflies zigzag.
A loon sings
a solitary note;
a trill echoes in reply, rises
above the pond. Stillness
alights with a hush,
my soles firm on the sand.*

Do It Now

When I was 11 or 12 years old my older brother had a paper route at the Keene (NH) Evening Sentinel. I tagged along for company and to help. For helping I got to share in the Christmas time tips. My share, about \$3.00! My father worked at the Sentinel too as the advertising manager and artist.

One of the memorable stops along the paper route was a print shop. I don't remember much about it except the owner was a nice man. Among other things he produced some little booklets with thoughts for the day and he gave one to us. In it was this poem that I never forgot, especially the last line. I share this with you now so that you may share it with others and offer some words of praise to those you love... Do it Now!

Do It Now

By Berton Braley

If with pleasure you are viewing
any work a man is doing,
If you like him or you love him,
tell him now;

Don't withhold your approbation
till the parson makes oration
And he lies with snowy lilies on his brow;
No matter how you shout it
he won't really care about it;
He won't know how many teardrops you have shed;

If you think some praise is due him
now's the time to slip it to him,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

More than fame and more than money
is the comment kind and sunny
And the hearty, warm approval of a friend.

For it gives to life a savor,
and it makes you stronger, braver,
And it gives you heart and spirit to the end;

If he earns your praise – bestow it,
if you like him let him know it,
Let the words of true encouragement be said;

Do not wait till life is over
and he's underneath the clover,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

Maine Annual Loon Count

Maine's Common Loon population is thriving, according to scientists at Maine Audubon. Each year, on the third Saturday in July, dedicated volunteers rise early to survey lakes and ponds statewide. On July 20th, a record 1,624 volunteers (up from 1,503 last year) monitored 407 lakes (up from 374), collecting crucial data for population estimates and trend studies in southern Maine.



While the official Maine Audubon Annual Loon Count only runs from 7:00 to 7:30 AM, the effort behind it is substantial. Regional coordinators invest countless hours in assigning volunteers, conducting outreach, and meticulously compiling data across all 16 counties of Maine. In 2024, all key metrics—adult loons, chicks, lakes counted, and volunteer participation—showed an increase over 2023.

After years of dedicated service, Nancy Hanger retired from counting loons on McWain Pond. Last summer, my brother-in-law Anthony Mauriello and I stepped up to continue her work. As we circled the lake on count day, we managed to spot one loon.

Even with our single official count, we know the loon population on McWain is robust. For the rest of the summer, friends and family frequently shared photos of loons on our lake, like the one captured by Jared Whichard just days after the count.

As for 2025, in a text he sent, Bruce Whichard shared that the loons arrived on the lake the morning of April 11, 2025, after the ice went out the night before. He mentioned they were quite loud and seemed excited to be back.



Here are six things we can all do to be loon-friendly:

- Obey the no-wake law within 200 feet of shore, and 300 feet for wake boats, no less than 15 ft deep water.
- Use lead-free tackle (good alternatives are made of steel, tin, and bismuth).
- Dispose of fishing line so it does not get tangled up in a loon's feet or bill.
- Use phosphorus-free fertilizer and plant shrubs as a buffer along the shoreline to reduce run-off.
- If you see a loon on a nest, keep your distance and watch with binoculars.
- Keep garbage out of reach of loon egg predators, like skunks and raccoons.

Before closing I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Nancy Hanger for her years of dedication as McWain Pond's invaluable "loon lady."

Let us celebrate the loon, whose distinctive, echoing calls are a signature sound of life on the water.

Reflections from the Rock

In the early days of 2025, character takes center stage in America. Too often, we're confronted with harsh incivility in our society, in the workplace, in schools, and online. On the other hand, Jimmy Carter was lionized at his funeral in Washington for his exceptional character and humility. First responders risk their lives battling apocalyptic blazes in Los Angeles, and people launch massive humanitarian efforts in response to the tragedy.



Does character matter? Do we want our children to develop honor and integrity? Can a rustic summer camp help shape boys' character? The answer to these questions was a resounding YES for Chief and Onie Brewster, the founders of Birch Rock Camp nearly a century ago. And these questions make our old-fashioned, character-building camp profoundly relevant today.

Birch Rock Camp is a powerful antidote to societal pressures and negativity. Behavioral issues, loneliness, and over-reliance on digital devices continue to worry us long after the pandemic. But take heart, parents! You can count on camp to give your boys a healthy reset—no technology, no isolation, loads of fresh air and running around, and face-to-face contact! Boys often feel that camp is a haven, where they can be their authentic selves without the usual burden of social anxiety. Birch Rock is a rare non-competitive camp for boys; we believe that nurturing and teamwork help boys become their best selves.



Character formation is a slow process, involving home, school, and other positive influences. Here at Birch Rock, we have a century-old character-building mission that unfolds as your son returns summer after summer. Birch Rock's motto "Help the Other Fellow" pulls everyone together, from the youngest camper to the oldest staff member, in a cooperative community. Our rituals, traditions, and camp songs give every Birch Rocker a keen sense of belonging. And slowly but surely, an intrepid sense of self blossoms on the Hillside.

Reflections from the Rock CONT.

Character formation involves three types of strengths, according to University of Pennsylvania psychologist Angela Duckworth (who hosts the Freakonomics podcast “No Stupid Questions”): strengths of the HEART (compassion, generosity); strengths of the MIND (good judgment, curiosity); and strengths of the WILL (resilience, self-control, bravery). Birch Rock focuses on helping boys build up all three strengths.

Birch Rock starts with the most basic strengths for children. When young boys go to sleepaway camp and overcome homesickness, that is an early experience of mastery that is foundational. Cabin counselors are trained to help campers develop coping skills and emotional regulation at every age. Counselors are powerful role models—even superheroes—at Birch Rock, showing campers how to talk about feelings, work through conflicts, and live in cabins in harmony. Learning happens through discussion, shared experience, and strong leadership.

Campers experience Birch Rock as a perfect blend of structure and high expectations on the one hand, and freedom and complete relaxation on the other. Camp is exuberantly fun, and it is seriously demanding. Balance is key. Birch Rock’s small size ensures that progress for each child is individual and carefully monitored. Camp activities and badges help campers gain a sense of mastery and accomplishment. Boys grow in confidence and courage when they meet increasingly daunting challenges. And in order to flourish, campers need what Birch Rock embodies—a community where everyone is safe, respected, and cared for. Safety enables boys to try new things, step out of their comfort zones, and be daring.

As a Birch Rocker, your son may well climb to the summit of Katahdin, swim five miles around Lake McWain, earn his Silverbow Sharpshooter Archery Badge, and lead the entire community in a Sunday “TreeTalk” discussion about core values at Camp. But accomplishments like these, along with a lifelong passion and respect for the wilderness, are not the most significant. When “Help the Other Fellow” becomes a way of life—wherever he finds himself in the world—a young man has carefully learned what Birch Rock Camp strives to teach.

“Help the Other Fellow”

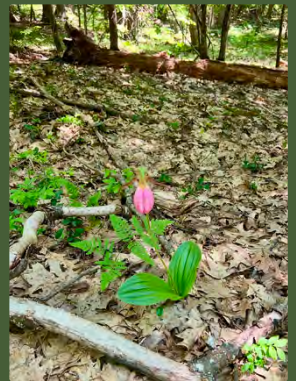


Musings from Fraley

After living in Maine for almost 20 years, my husband and I moved to Sedona, Arizona.

So, when we returned to visit my mother at the lake in June, the weather was not as sunny as we had hoped. Even on a cloudy day, we knew we had to do some paddleboarding because our visit was short and we didn't have many opportunities to get out on the lake. It's funny how when you live somewhere, you take for granted that you can get out on – or in! – our beautiful McWain Pond anytime you want, but when you are only back for a short visit, it becomes imperative to seize the moment to paddleboard and – gasp! – even swim in the lake.

These pics are of my mother, Nancy Hanger, who lives full-time in Waterford, and my husband, Scott Fraley (and myself!) enjoying the lake. And, of course, I had to snap a pic of a precious and infrequently seen pink Lady Slipper growing in the woods by my mother's house.



McWain Scholarship

The McWain Pond Association is thrilled to announce that Mackenzie Truman, the recipient of our first scholarship, has graduated from the University of Tampa.



The commencement ceremony, held on Friday, Dec. 15, included 1,015 undergraduate and graduate candidates.

The scholarship was awarded to a resident of Waterford who planned on majoring in the environmental field. Mackenzie received a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health.

The scholarship was established in memory of Chuck Whichard and Annette Tomaino, two lifelong educators whose passion for education and McWain Pond will be truly remembered.

Multi-Generational Mainers



I've been spending a few weeks out of the year at the North end of McWain Pond for my entire life. I've grown with it and it's seen me become the person I am today. I felt incredibly honored when asked to write a little bit about what McWain Pond has meant to me, and am thrilled to share about our little slice of heaven.

When my sisters and I were younger, we would swim out to our blue-barrelled float and jump off. We would tube and wakeboard on the water and constantly be reminded by our grandparents that the sounds of our screams and songs would travel the length of the lake. In the winter, we'd skate and snowshoe and tube down the rolling hills. Every season of our lives, marked by an activity to do at Nana and Grandfather's house.



We became obsessed with the wildlife that lives in our lake. We'd snatch frogs off rocks, catch fish only to release them and catch them again just moments later, and we'd keep an eye out for the mythical 50 foot eels waiting in the deep water to eat our toes.

Multi-Generational Mainers

CONT.

Then, when we were a bit older, we'd kayak and paddleboard across the lake, finally realizing that we were gifted a little taste of paradise in this body of water and the homes and families surrounding it. Anyone lucky enough to dip their toe in our lake knows that it is full of love, light, and magic.



Our blissful spot off of Pride Avenue has been a constant safe place and important character in the lives of my sisters and me. It's seen us at our best and been there for us at our worst. Driving from Ohio to Maine, though an impossibly long drive, has been a staple in our lives and is a tradition that we will surely share with any and all future Hanger descendants.



And while I've been incredibly fortunate to spend the past 23 summers, and a few winters, on McWain Pond, the greatest gift has been being one of three granddaughters to Nancy and the late Bill Hanger.



Have you ever heard McWain Pond “talk” to you in the frozen winter?

How many of you have been out on our frozen McWain Pond, and heard the ice talk or sing to you? The cracking sounds and groaning of the frozen lake may take many people by surprise, but 99% of the time the ice is talking to you in a good way. As the ice grows, during a long cold dark night, the water below the ice continues to freeze, expanding the ice and cracking it as it grows. Most of the sounds can be heard in the evening, or early morning as the sun is setting, or the sun is rising. Anytime there is a “quick” temperature change, the ice either expands or contracts, grows or shrinks, resulting in “singing” or groaning. The more research I did on this “singing ice” the more interesting and complex it got. Basically, the ice acts like the skin of a drum, the water under the ice is the air inside the drum. The ice and water are of different densities, so the sound will travel at different speeds through the water and ice. As the sound is produced, it will travel away from the origin in every direction through the water. As the sound travels through the ice, it will go away from the origin until the sound waves hit a crack in the ice. The sound will then be redirected in the opposite direction, until it hits another crack, bouncing back and forth through the ice, deflecting off the cracks.

I always knew that hearing the ice groan and sing as I walked upon it on a very cold day was a reassuring sound, knowing that the ice was growing and getting thicker. But now I know there is much more to that sound. I highly recommend checking the thickness of the ice for safety and strength any time you venture out onto the frozen lake! If you go out on the ice when it is too thin, you may get very cold and wet when you hear the ice crack!



WRITTEN BY:
BRUCE WHICHARD

Do you know about the Waterford Memorial Tree Fund?

Do you know about the Waterford Memorial Tree Fund? Here is a bit of information I can share with you...



The Waterford Memorial Tree Fund was established in the summer of 1970 as a memorial to Susan Stockwell Swonger. For more than half a century, the trees on the Common at the Flat continue to be cared for through an ad-hoc committee of the Waterford Historical Society, as various individuals within the community maintain the trees and grounds. These efforts have been financially supported through donations, matching funds and grants. The Commons endures as a place where community gathers and history is remembered. As many years have passed since its beginning, the Waterford Memorial Tree Fund continues to serve as a place where trees can be planted and tended in memory of the people who have provided a legacy of serving and appreciating this community.

Perhaps you have spent time at the Flat, taken part in a gathering, relaxed on a bench at the Common and reflected on the beauty of what it is to be a part of Waterford. At the summer 2024 general meeting of the McWain Pond Association, membership approved to donate to the Waterford Memorial Tree Fund, in memory of members of the McWain Pond Association who have shown engagement in their love of the ponds, lakes and areas within our community. I hope you take some time to remember, reflect, and appreciate the beauty all around us, as you visit the Flat.

McWain Pond History in Pictures



Those who know me also know of my passion for all things history, including the Plate family's history on McWain Pond. With input from my Dad (Henry Plate) and many friends and family members who have spent time with us on McWain, I've put together 3 family history books on the Plate Farm, and some of you may have even endured my "History of the Plate Farm" presentation and barn tour as part of last summer's Waterford Historical Society summer program schedule.

It would be fascinating to learn and share more about history from all around McWain Pond. If you've got old photos (and stories to share around them), I'd be happy to aggregate those for next year's newsletter (or, if we get enough input, to perhaps share them in an additional newsletter focused on our favorite pond's past). Please reach out to me at bobplate1@yahoo.com or 203-885-8231 with your ideas, pictures, and stories, and I will work with the McWain Pond Association Board and our favorite newsletter editor, Bailie Mauriello, on how best to share.



What a Strong Showing for Our Waterford Community!

July 4th is such a busy day here in Waterford, and on McWain Pond. Starting out in Waterford bright and early, at the Wilkins Community Center, “the Friends of the Wilkins House” host their first community breakfast of the season. Breakfast will also be offered on July 16th, July 30th, and a final breakfast on August 13th. What a great way to get reunited with your neighbors!

The annual Waterford July 4th parade starts at 11:00 a.m., followed closely by the Waterford Library book sale and the Waterford Duck race. It is a very active day for a small community.



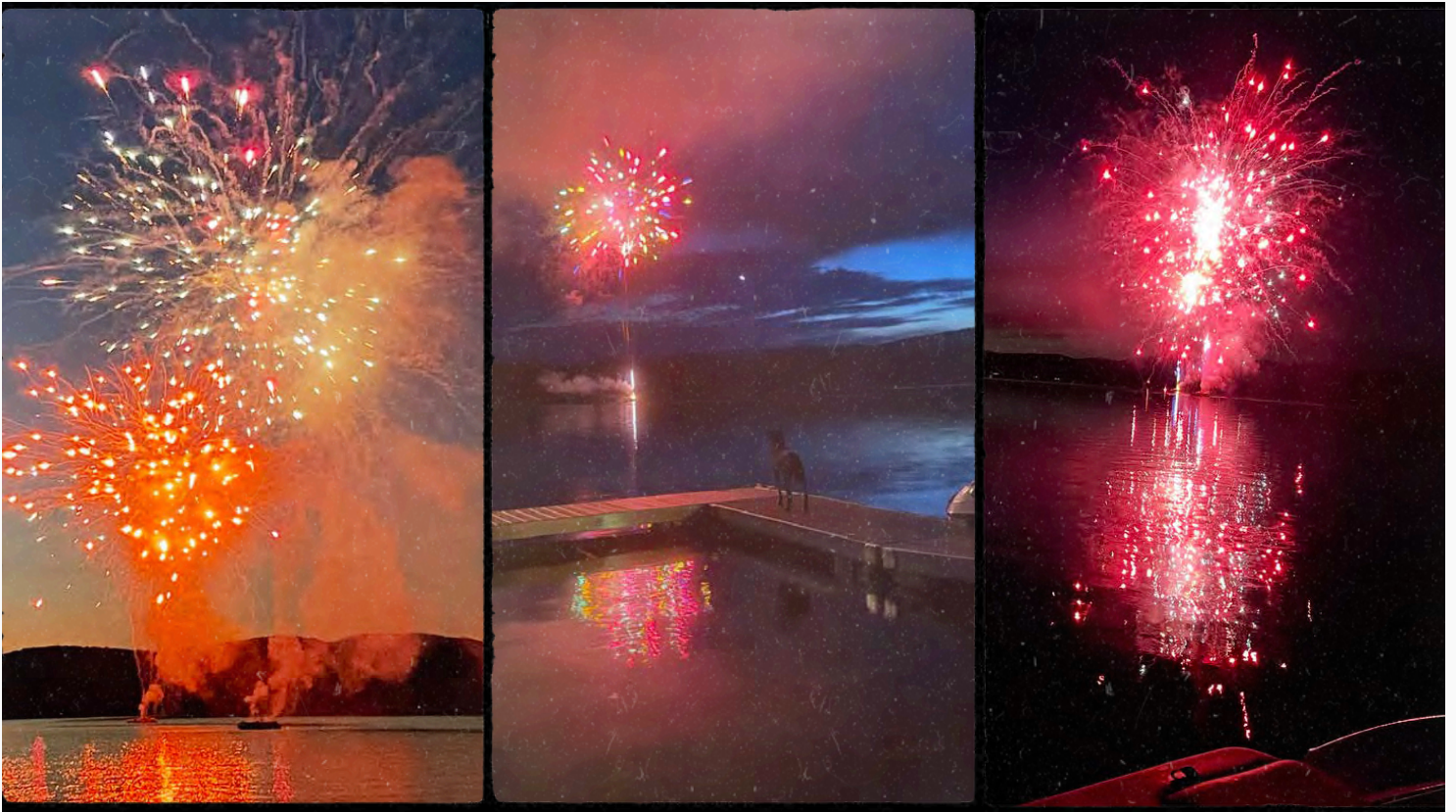
Our July 4th celebration continues back on McWain Pond with our Commodore Bob Hanger boat parade. Mr. Bob Hanger had asked Arlene and I, many many years ago, if we could circle the lake, as he and his wife Ellen used to do, in our boat, ringing in July 4th and the start of a new summer? Our McWain Pond boat parade is a tradition that began over 50 years ago and remains strong to this day—boats meeting off the Cottages at McWain Point at 3:45, starting our parade at 4:00 pm. We had told Commodore Bob Hanger that no matter what the weather might be, rain or shine, wind or calm, that we would have at least one boat circle the lake every July 4th, to honor the birth of our nation, to honor our Veterans and to ring in a new summer on the lake! Last summer, we had nearly 20 boats participate in our parade.

We will conclude our July 4th celebration with another aerial delight: a fireworks display over the lake, starting at 9:00 pm. What a fabulous way to say “Happy Birthday USA!”, and to pay tribute to our forefathers who put their lives on the line to gain our independence and freedom. As a very special THANK-YOU, we collect donations from anyone who appreciates these fireworks. 100% of these donations go directly to the Waterford Congregational Church for their Friends in Need fund. Hopefully, we can collect enough donations this summer, which should put us over the \$20,000 mark total, since we have been producing these firework displays! We (you all) started by sponsoring six Veterans who went down to Washington, DC with Honor Flight Maine. These six Heroes got to visit their memorials, free of charge, along with other comrades from Maine who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam alongside them. For the past few years, 100% of the donations collected have been used to provide heating oil assistance, food, and meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas to those in need in our community. There was a house fire in North Waterford, and the Friends in Need Fund was on hand to provide clothes for the children, as well as jackets and blankets to keep them warm. A great program administered by the Waterford Congregational Church, in conjunction with the Town of Waterford, which appreciates the firework donations provided by our lake community!

What a Strong Showing for Our Waterford Community! CONT.

Let us all plan on another very busy July 4th. During the fireworks display, think of ALL those Veterans that were in harm's way fighting for our freedom, think of those six Veterans that we all helped sponsor to join in on an Honor Flight Maine trip to Washington, DC. Think of those in our community who are in need and benefit every year from OUR generous donations. Yes, we all enjoy the fireworks here on the lake, but the donations collected touch the lives and hearts of those living out in our community.

Let us all help make the summer of 2025's fireworks display break the \$20,000 goal in total since we have been producing these fireworks shows. Remember, Matt G. Pyrotechnics donates 100% of the fireworks. One hundred percent of the donations collected go directly to the Friends in Need Fund. We take nothing for our time or effort, except to share a great cause with everyone. We thank you all for your continued support!



Just a Friendly Reminder

From the Lake McWain water quality committee:

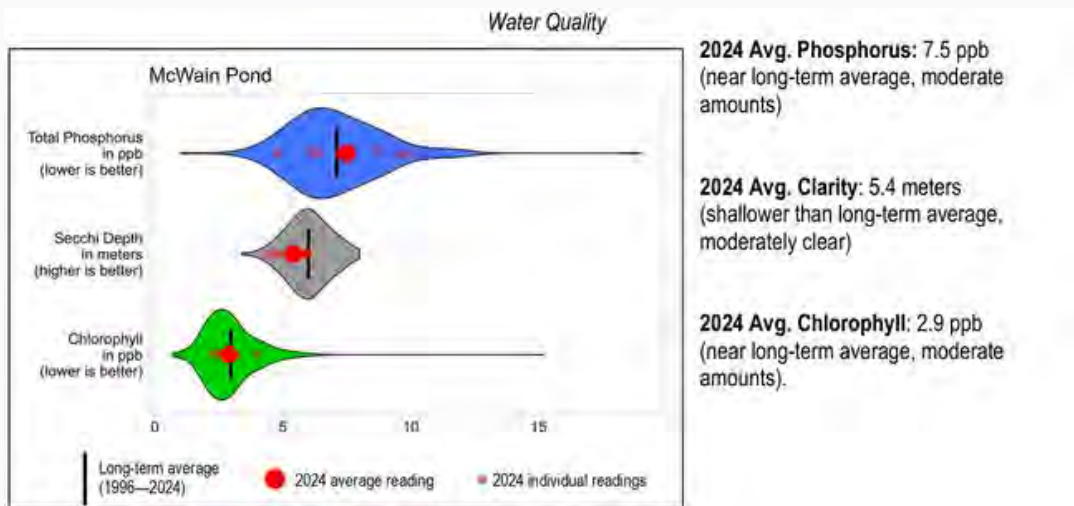
Please remember to inspect your boat, boat trailer, and kayaks, canoes, fishing equipment – anything that may transport any type of unwanted plant or animal life into our lake! Before “anything” goes into our lake, it should be thoroughly inspected for plant fragments and snails, then pressure-washed and cleaned. If you will be having any friends or guests joining you this summer that will be bringing their own boat, or if you plan to bring your boat to another lake and then back on McWain, please make sure the boat and trailer are cleaned prior to putting it back on our lake.

For those of you who use an “outside” company to install your docks, please ask them what their protocol is with their equipment (boats, barges, lifting devices, etc.) prior to them going into McWain? These dock companies are a great source for transporting unwanted items into our lake. They go from lake to lake, they spend time in the shallow parts of the lakes, which are most susceptible to getting and transferring unwanted plant fragments.

It is much easier to clean your boats and prevent the spread of invasive species into our lake than it is to try to remove the invasive species once they get into our lake!

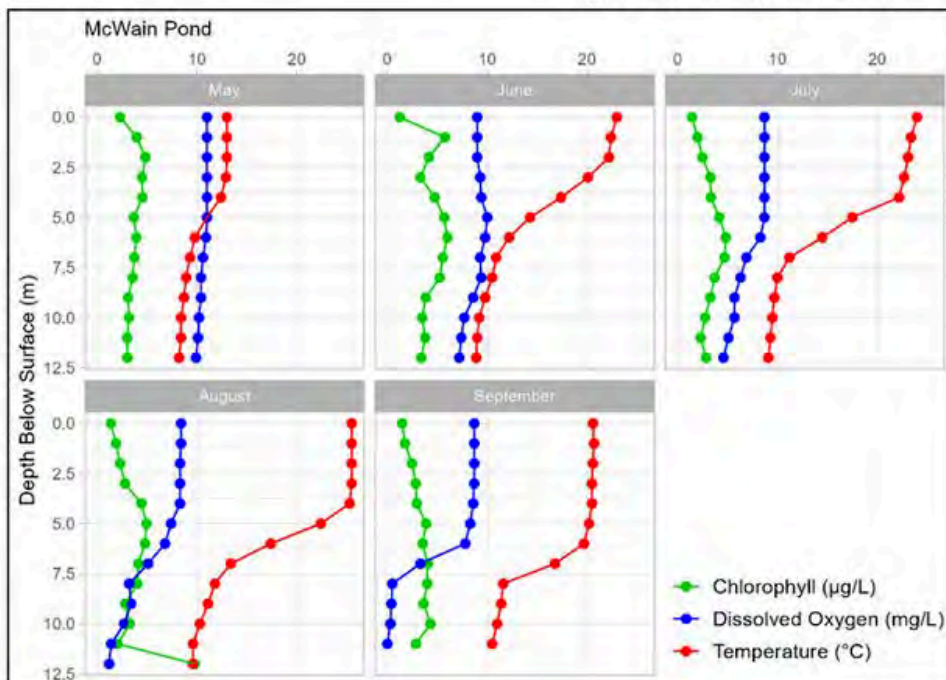
McWain Pond Water Testing Summary

2024 Data Summaries for McWain Pond



LEA visits McWain Pond twice a month in May through September. This year, the average total phosphorus concentration and the average chlorophyll concentration were near their long-term averages, while the average clarity reading was more shallow than the long-term average. The average deep-water phosphorus value was less than 10 ppb above surface water phosphorus values, which suggests phosphorus recycling was not problematic. Long-term trend analysis indicates chlorophyll-a concentrations and total phosphorus concentrations are decreasing, while clarity readings are stable. This year's average surface water temperature was higher than last year's average surface water temperature. Oxygen depletion was observed at the deepest parts of the pond beginning in early August. Low amounts of *Gloeotrichia echenulata* colonies, less than 1 on the Gloeo density scale, were observed in late August this year.

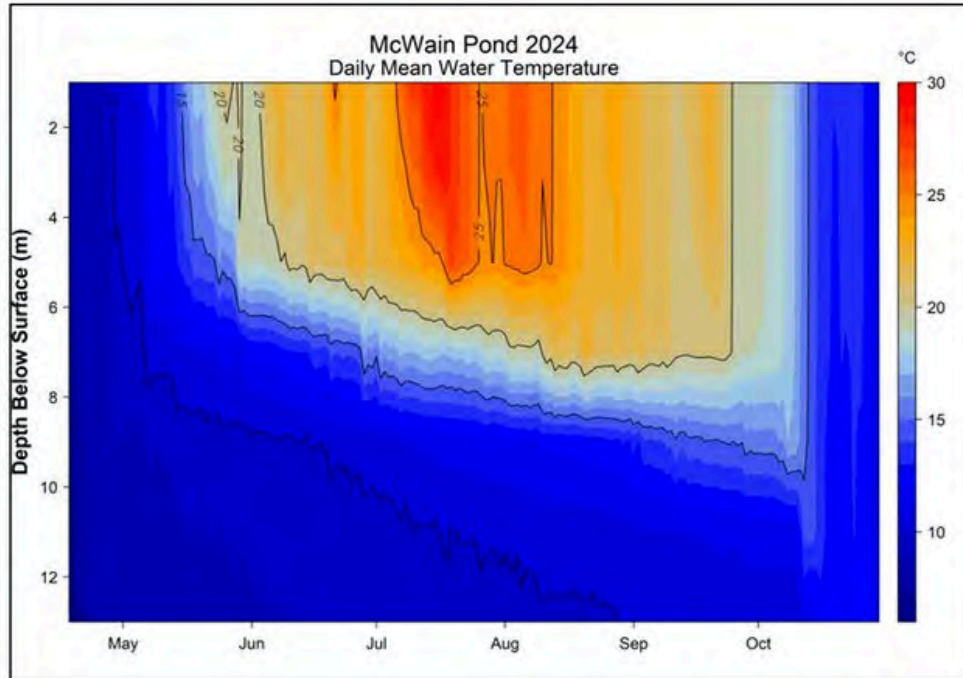
Algae Monitoring via Fluorometry



Throughout the season, algae concentrations tended to be lowest at the surface. Each month saw a fluorescence increase which typically occurred between 1 meter and 6 meters. Elevated readings tended to be near the thermocline meaning that these readings are represented in the chlorophyll samples analyzed in the Water Quality figure above. August's high reading near the bottom was likely caused by sediment interference.

McWain Pond Water Testing Summary

High-Resolution Temperature Monitoring



The water column of McWain Pond was weakly stratified when sensors were deployed. Surface water temperatures increased gradually until reaching peak temperature of 29.7 °C (85.5 °F) in mid July. Surface water cooled slightly in late July and warmed again in early August before beginning a gradual decline that persisted for the remainder of the season. Shallow waters began to cool and mix with waters from the middle depths in mid August. Temperatures throughout the water column were becoming more uniform by late September with full mixing occurring in late October just before sensors were retrieved.

Deployment Date	Peak Temperature (°C/ °F)	Date of Peak Temperature	Full Mixing	Retrieval Date
April 18 2024	29.7/ 85.5	July 16 2024	October 26 2024	October 30 2024

In Memoriam: Leslie R. Gammon

Leslie Raymond Gammon; devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away on November 19, 2024, at the age of 90. Born on May 28, 1934, in Waterford, Maine, to Raymond and Marguerite (Kenney) Gammon, he was a lifelong resident of East Waterford.

**“Life runs out of time,
No matter how old you get.
It’s too short.”
– L. Gammon**

Attending Waterford Grammar Schools and Norway High School, majoring in Agriculture, Leslie was a 4- year member and chapter president of the Future Farmers of America. Leslie took immense pride in working with his father’s poultry business. He built a three-story hen house and enjoyed all aspects of the business, from caring for the chickens to managing the farms operations.

After graduating from high school in 1953, he attended two summer school classes at the University of Maine at Orono, attaining a hatchery license. This expanded the family business to include hatching eggs and day-old chicks. In 1964, Leslie assumed leadership of the farm, leading it until 1974. From youth to adulthood, his 26-year tenure was an act of dedication to the family farm’s operations.

After the hatchery closed, Leslie had a diverse career, working at Goodwin’s Dairy, Peterson Sheet Metal, and carpentry with Lloyd Grover, Daniel Construction, Cianbro, and Seward Construction until 1984. He then became a US Postal Service contractor, transporting mail and doing roadside deliveries in Norway and Waterford for 16 years before retiring in 2000. He enjoyed delivering mail to his friends and neighbors from Norway to Stoneham and Waterford post offices, as well as roadside deliveries to mailboxes in Norway and Waterford.

Active in his community he participated in community service for many years. This started in the 1950’s as Civil Defense director of Waterford. While in that position he trained with the Oxford County Sheriff’s Department and became a special deputy for 15 years, working as a part time officer for the Sheriff. He enjoyed police work immensely and often said how much easier it was back then, compared to now. He cherished his time in law enforcement and community service.

In Memoriam:

Leslie R. Gammon CONT.

Leslie devoted over 40 years to serving the town of Waterford, leaving an indelible mark on the community. His commitment extended far beyond his police work. He was on the comprehensive planning committee for 7 years, the planning board, spent two terms as a selectman and assessor, and performed duties for the budget committee. Through these roles, Leslie demonstrated his passion for making Waterford a better place for future generations. His legacy is a testament to the impact one person can have through dedication and community involvement.



Leslie married Shirley Abbot in 1956, having three daughters. They later divorced in 1971. He met Marianne Campbell in 1979, marrying her in 1983. Their marriage was filled with an abundance of love and adventure. They cherished their time together, which often included exploring the outdoors. They enjoyed hiking, snowmobiling, camping, traveling, spending time with family, and supporting their grandchildren and great-grandchildren in various sporting events.

Leslie's love for Marianne knew no bounds. He would often say their time together was "a road too short," for time flew by too fast. Yet, his commitment to her remained eternal, a lasting testament to their profound connection.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Marianne Gammon, three daughters, Joan Hafner (Charles), Patti Toothaker (David), and Linda Lenberg. Two bonus daughters and a son; Dianne Slicer (Shane), Darlene Lavoie (Joe), and Bruce Campbell (Tara). 13 Grandchildren: Kristen Ross (Daniel), Melissa Flagg, Christopher Henderson (Crystal), Mark Henderson (Brooke), Brian Lenberg (Meryl), Katherine Garrett (Lucas), Justin Toothaker (Chelsea), Lindsay Toothaker (Brandon), Blake Slicer (Jayda), Cameron Slicer (Lauren), Allison Slicer, Brandon Campbell (Taylor), and Katelyn Campbell. He also leaves behind 14 great-grandchildren he will forever cherish; and his sisters Virginia Knight and Mary DeLorenzo of Waterford and Priscilla Stinson of Wiscasset.

In Memoriam:

Richard E. Herrick Jr.

Richard E. Herrick Jr., 95, of Windham, CT passed away surrounded by family on the 16th of September 2024. Born August 31, 1929, in Willimantic, Dick is survived by his beloved wife of 73 years, Jeannette T. Herrick.

Dick was a lifelong resident of Windham. After graduating from Windham High School, Dick enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in Fort Drum and then Fort Meade with the 3rd Armored Calvary.



After discharge, he remained in the Army Reserves, joined the Fletcher Raiders Drum Corps, and returned home to marry Jeannette on May 5, 1951 – famously showing up late for the wedding due to the late-night bachelor party beforehand where he somehow ended up with one of his groomsmen's pants, which did not fit.

After marrying, Dick worked briefly for The American Thread Company before joining the Connecticut Light and Power Company in Willimantic as a meter-reader in 1955. As a meter-reader, he discovered an old house on Plains Road in Windham Center that appeared to be abandoned yet had a functional meter. He and Jeannette ultimately purchased that house and began building a life in the country. He remained there for the rest of his life. Dick and Jeannette spent many summer vacations at various rental homes in Maine. They ultimately ended up purchasing their own property on a quiet lake in Maine (McWain Pond) in 1983, a home they spent many summers enjoying, especially after Dick's retirement in 1990.

Shortly after moving to Windham Center, Dick was convinced by a neighbor to join the local volunteer fire department.

As a member of the Windham Center Fire Department, Dick soon found a whole crew of what became lifelong friends and mentors. He rose through the ranks over the years to eventually serve as Chief of the department from 1976 – 1984. As a leader in the WCFD he was a driver of many modern changes that remain (in place) to this day. A major part of his leadership of the department over the course of his 50+ active years was his steadfast focus on doing the best job possible while respecting others' opinions and finding compromise.

The impact of his mentorship on many young members in the department cannot be overstated.

A huge sports fan, Dick loved the New York Giants and the UConn Women's Huskies. He was a standout player of baseball, football, and basketball at Windham High School. Dick was an avid snow skier and water skier, and he passed his love of snow and water sports on to his children and grandchildren. This summer, he watched his great-granddaughter learn to water ski.

Dick was a scholar of the Civil War and a historian of American history. His knowledge of American history was incredible, and his personal library on these topics is expansive and comprehensive. His ability to tell the story of American history in context gave many of his listeners an appreciation of the past that often gets missed when learning history via textbook.

Dick will be missed by all who knew him. As we mourn his loss, we celebrate the joy he brought and the difference he made in all our lives. Most of all he lived a life full of love because he knew the only thing we leave this earth with is the love of others and the love we give to them. He treasured this ideal and showed it to us daily. Paraphrased from Legacy Remembers on Sep. 24, 2024.

A short history of Dick Herrick and his connection to McWain Pond

Dick and Jeannette began vacationing on Maine lakes with their young family of four children in summer of 1968. They rented seasonal homes on several different lakes but ultimately fell in love with the Salmon Point community on Long Lake where they spent many summers and made life-long friends. As did their children.

Shortly after that first summer vacation, they decided that someday they would purchase their own home on a nice little lake in Maine. By the early 1980s, they were ready for this adventure and viewed several homes they liked and made offers on. Sadly, none of those ever came to anything.

In the Fall of 1982, they told their (now adult) children that they were heading to Maine for the weekend and “We are not coming home until we own a house on a lake in Maine!” This determination set them on a path to finally secure the home of their dreams.



While they had never heard of McWain Pond, they certainly were impressed when their realtor brought them out to the cottage. As they drove down the winding road through the woods to get to the house, the lake came into view, and they found the house to be just about perfect for them. When Dick walked around outside to see the land and lakefront, he heard the loons calling and noticed how perfect the pond was for water-skiing. They loved the peace and quiet of the woods around them and made an offer just a few thousand dollars below the asking price and left.



A short history of Dick Herrick and his connection to McWain Pond CONT.

But they only drove a few hundred yards down the road before they said to each other, “What are we doing? We are going to let this beautiful place slip through our fingers for a few thousand dollars that we didn’t plan to spend?” They turned around and went back to the house to make an offer at the asking price, and by January, “The Cottage” was theirs. They had finally secured a place of their own that the entire family could enjoy.

And enjoy it they did! Over the ensuing years, the entire extended family, and many friends, came to The Cottage for all the winter and summer sports – especially snow and water skiing. As the family grew, so did The Cottage. An addition to the house in the early 2000s expanded the available bunk space, and that came in very handy as great-grandchildren began to make their arrivals.

Since Dick’s retirement in 1990, they lived full time at The Cottage from at least late May through late October every year. They both loved watching the seasons come and go on the lake, and they spent many happy hours sitting by the water reading and enjoying the fresh air. And one of their favorite pastimes was watching the various campers learning to waterski and captain sailboats. Dick always liked to share a quick conversation with canoers and kayakers passing by their dock. Dick and Jeannette especially loved to watch their children and grandchildren waterski while they supervised from the dock. On a summer evening, after burgers on the grill, they often enjoyed wandering down to South Paris for ice cream or to Bridgton to poke around Reny’s. For Dick, sharing time at The Cottage with his family was the best way to spend time.

