

SATURDAY POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

www.saturdaypond.org

NEWSLETTER Fall 2006

OUR MISSION

We are committed to preserving, enhancing and protecting the advantages of Saturday Pond and its environs.

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Over the past few years, the Saturday Pond Watershed Association (SPWA) has quietly undergone a transformation. Each year, the Board of Trustees has met and identified a number of things that we want to accomplish for the year. These activities have been grouped under the following goal areas: monitoring pond water conditions, monitoring pond wildlife, increasing watershed communication and education and investigating resources that would be helpful to our association. Some of the activities which we have accomplished include: continuing to conduct pond water tests on an annual basis, monitoring our beloved loons and other wildlife, building and installing a loon's nest, reinstating an annual newsletter, increasing our membership and developing a website (*With great appreciation to Eric Williams, our "web master".*)

In keeping with our communication goal, and with many thanks to Jacinthe Sirois, I am pleased to introduce you to the first edition of our newly revised newsletter. We hope you find that this newsletter covers many topics of interest to you and is enjoyable to read. Look for a special 'Kids Section' in our 2007 spring issue!

As part of last year's education goal, we disseminated a number of informational material packets to the Watershed. This spring, we hope to send our members packets, which will include the new version of The Lake Book complete with CD, a special brochure on the Common Loon and more. We'd love for you to receive these member benefits. If you haven't yet joined the SPWA, you'll find a membership application on page 7.

Consistent with our education goal, we are planning to offer a number of informational presentations to the Watershed in 2007. Some of our preliminary plans include a presentation on loons and what you can do as a homeowner to prevent soil erosion. At our July 14th, 2007 Annual Meeting, we will have a guest speaker from the Congress of Lakes. You will find more detailed information on the presentation in our Spring newsletter.

As President, I have been continually amazed at the many people who eagerly participate in the work of this association. You will see some of their names appear in this newsletter. Many others work behind the scenes. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously over the years!

Saturday Pond is a sanctuary for us all. Please join us to work together to preserve the pristine nature of one of Otisfield's most valued treasures . . .

Sincerely,

Ellen Attaliades, President

Water Testing

Three types of testing take place on Saturday Pond. Outlined below please find a description of each type of these tests and our most recent test results.

Aquatic Plant Survey

Since 2003, the entire shoreline and littoral zone of Saturday Pond have been screened for invasive aquatic plants. In 2003 and 2004, **Pixie Williams**, a biologist and a professional Certified Invasive Plant Patroller along with **Ruth Wilson**, a volunteer, did the screening on Saturday Pond. In 2005, Ruth Wilson completed the survey. No invasive plants were found. We are most appreciative of the many hours Pixie and Ruth have spent making sure our pond is free of invasive plants.

Unfortunately, Pixie will no longer be able to continue her valuable work with us. **Fred Cummings** has agreed to become our new expert. We thank Pixie for the countless hours she has spent surveying the plants on Saturday Pond. We will miss her expertise and dedication.

For more information on plant survey visit: <http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/mciap/IAPsurveys2002-2005>

For a complete list of plants found in Saturday Pond, visit our website: www.saturdaypond.org
Also visit: www.waterontheweb.org

Water Testing for Phosphorus

Lew Wetzel from Casco volunteers his time every August to conduct our phosphorus testing. He sends the samples to the University of Maine lab for analysis. SPWA pays for the lab fees.

Results from August 14, 2005:

Phosphorus:

- 6 parts per billion in the northwest cove ("A" on map page 3).
- 6 parts per billion in the deepest part (basin "B" on map page 3).

These are good results since levels between 5 and 12 ppb are desirable.

Secchi reading at deepest part = 6.40 meters

Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen Profiles

DEPTH Meters	Deg C	ppm
0.0	26.4	8.0
1.0	26.4	7.9
2.0	26.3	7.9
3.0	26.0	7.8
4.0	25.5	7.5
5.0	20.6	5.7
6.0	15.7	2.6
7.0	14.1	1.5

Conditions: Air Temp = 75 F,
Time = 10:40 hrs,
Wind = 02, direction = 2

Water Testing for Clarity

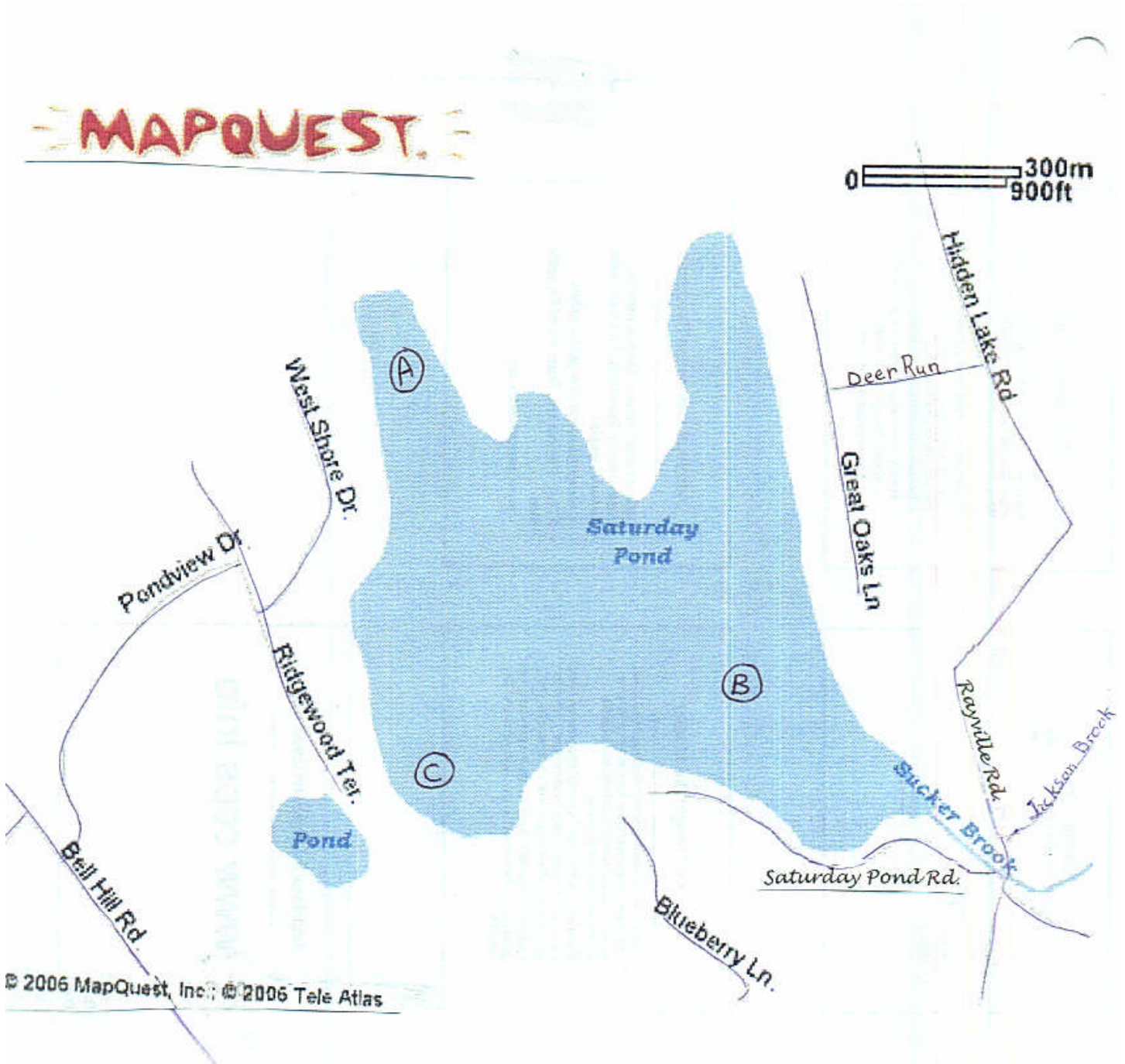
Lake water clarity (also referred to as “transparency”) is an important indicator of water quality. It is the distance that one can see down into the water column with a Secchi disk, a simple device that is used by volunteers and professionals to estimate algae growth in lakes and ponds.

The water clarity testing for Saturday Pond is now done by **Ruth Wilson** who is our Certified Water Quality Monitor registered with the MVLMP (Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program). The results from the Secchi disk readings so far this year are:

- May 29, 2006 5.65 and 5.60 meters
- June 17, 2006 6.89 and 6.95
- June 25, 2006 6.65 and 6.70

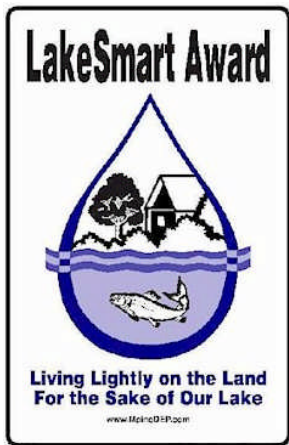
Learn more about water testing by visiting: http://www.mainecola.org/vlmp_lake_data.htm

MAP OF SATURDAY POND



LakeSmart Seminar

On July 22nd, **Constance and Arthur Jones** along with **Jacinthe Sirois** attended a 5-hour seminar at the Seeds of Peace Camp in Otisfield. The seminar was sponsored by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP), Pleasant Lake & Parker Pond Association (PLPPA) and the Casco Conservation Committee. It is one of many workshops offered to the public free of charge including the publications and prepared materials that were disseminated at the event.



“The primary focus of the LakeSmart Program is to keep our lake water clean by stabilizing eroding areas, reducing the use of chemicals, diverting rainwater into vegetated areas, and minimizing lawns and other impervious areas. Landscaping and managing your property in an environmentally friendly manner

through LakeSmart is one way to do your part in protecting your lake’s water quality” (Maine DEP).

Three presenters conducted the seminar. **Bill Laflamme**, from the DEP, is the director of the LakeSmart Program. He explained the main purpose of this program and the LakeSmart Award program for shorefront properties. A visit to “The Cape” in Otisfield was part of the seminar.

The agenda also included slide show presentations on water quality problems in lakes by **Scott Williams** and buffer design (vegetation that filters polluted stormwater) by **Roberta Hill**. Time was set aside for people who had brought a sketch of their yard to apply the new knowledge acquired at the seminar. A delicious meal was provided. More information about LakeSmart will be available in our spring newsletter. You can also visit their website at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/doclake/lakesmart/index.htm>

Wildlife Report

Which states have the most Common Loons?

The three states in the continental U.S. with the most Common Loons are Minnesota (more than 10,000 adults), Alaska (between 8,000 & 13,000) and Maine (over 4,000 adults).



Loon on Saturday Pond by **Marie Reese 2006**

The Maine Audubon Society is celebrating its 23rd Annual Loon Count. This year their loon count took place on Saturday, July 15th, between 7:00 - 7:30 AM. **Al Sirois** counted one pair of loons on Saturday Pond with no chick(s).

In 2005, **Martin Watts** constructed the loon nest and deployed it in the northeast cove. He reported that the loon nest was inhabited by turtles that used it for sunning, but no loons. Next spring it will be anchored near the inlet (“C” on the map page 3) and be replenished with a new bale of straw. Martin and **Carl Anderson** will take care of getting it moved.

Learn more about loons:

<http://www.minaudubon.org>

Loon Signs

After being researched by Jacinthe, SPWA has purchased two loon signs that will be strategically placed to warn lakeusers to consider that a loon platform is nearby.



Steve Markarian has constructed a device to float the signs. Look for it next spring. We are most grateful for his work. Thanks, Steve!

Watershed Informative Packets

Last July, more than one hundred informative packets were distributed to the shore front homes, homes in Pond View and a few others close by. Jacinthe



pulled together the information and assembled the packets. They contained:

- Cover letter and a copy of our 2006 newsletter
- State of Maine 2006 Boating Rules
- Portland Water District "Brown Water, Green Weeds"
- Maine's Invasive Aquatic Plants – April 2006 Infestations listing
- Maine's Clean Your Boat pamphlet – Boat sticker program
- Be Aware of Aquatic Invaders pamphlet
- Protecting Main Lakes – An Overview – from the Maine DEP
- Septic Systems – How They Work pamphlet
- Vegetated Phosphorus Buffer Strips pamphlet
- Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification Quick Key

Ruth Wilson, Martin Watts and Eric Williams distributed the packets.

If you are a member of SPWA and you have not received your informative packet, please contact Jacinthe Sirois at 290 Rayville RD., Otisfield Maine 04270.

Thank you everyone for your hard work!

Sam's Landing

During December 2005, a private developer began construction of a boat ramp at the town owned Sam's Landing. The site was previously a rough access, suitable mostly for carry-in boats and swimming.

Watershed members informally raised concerns about the permission and permitting process for construction at the site. Abutters were also not contacted prior to the work and may have incurred damage to their properties.

On February 27, 2006, the Watershed Association sent a formal letter to the town, requesting information from the town on the situation. The town formed an ad-hoc committee, chaired by the Planning Board Chair, Rick Micklon. Bruce LeBlanc, George Lobb and Albert Sirois from Saturday Pond also served on the committee. Rick Micklon came to the SPWA April Board of Trustees' meeting to give an update on Sam's Landing.

Based on the committee's recommendations, the Otisfield Selectmen voted to restrict Sam's Landing to a swimming and picnic area. Only hand-carried boats can be launched. Access is restricted to Otisfield residents and taxpayers. Repairs were started to replace the rip-rap stones installed by the developer with bark mulch. During July, the Selectmen released plans that include:

- 20' wide X 50' long bark mulch ramp to the water to allow launching of hand carried boats.
- 4' X 16' floating dock placed parallel to the shore to assist in boat launching.
- Picnic area with picnic tables.
- Small car parking area, 50' from the water with large stones preventing closer access.

Thank you to all the people in the Watershed that helped during this event for their diligence in protecting the pond!

SATURDAY POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER (Fall 2006)

Elections

Each year, we elect 3 Trustees for a 2-year term.

The new Board of Trustees:

Ellen Attaliades – President – expires 2007
Carl Anderson – Vice President – expires 2008
Eric Williams – Vice President – expires 2008
Gordon Peaco – Corresponding Secretary – expires 2007
Ruth Wilson – Recording Secretary – expires 2008
Jacinthe Sirois – Treasurer – expires 2007

Bruce LeBlanc also serves as our Clerk for the State Corporation filings.

Ellen Attaliades is our newsletter publisher.

Abby Marble manages the mailing lists.

Eric Williams serves as webmaster and archivist.

Many thanks to Bruce LeBlanc and Marty Watts for their past years of service as Trustees.

Other Business

- Gordon reported that the spring 2006 ice-out was on March 30th.
- Bruce LeBlanc reminded the group that the boat ramp at Pond View is a private ramp.
- There is a concern about the increased presence of large boats on the pond. Gordon asked if we should pursue a horsepower restriction for the pond.
- Dan Peaco has been appointed by the Town of Otisfield as the new Saturday Pond Keeper of the Dam. He has kept the debris clear from the dam. The SPWA thanks Gordon for his services as the first Keeper of the Dam.

Recruit a New Member

With the arrival of fall comes the time of year to renew your membership in the SPWA. Your present status is indicated by the number located next to your name. The number "07" means you've renewed your membership for the upcoming year.

Each year, we try to expand our membership by attracting new members to the organization. So far we have 22 members. We are asking for your assistance. If you know someone who is not a member of the SPWA, please recruit them!

Encourage your friends and neighbors to join! Share with them a copy of our newsletter. Please let us know if you'd prefer us to do the recruiting. Thank you in advance for helping to spread the SPWA word!

SPWA Events - Spring & Summer 2007

- April 28, 2007 - Board of Trustees Spring meeting
- Spring 2007 Newsletter
- Spring 2007 - Informational packets distributed to SPWA members
- Spring Loon Presentation
- July 14, 2007- Annual Meeting @ 9AM with guest speaker.

Membership and Renewal Application

SPWA is dedicated to preserving, enhancing and protecting the advantages of Saturday Pond and its environs. We need your support. If you are not already a member of the SPWA for 2007, please join us.

Membership \$15.00

Donation \$_____

Make your check payable to the **Saturday Pond Watershed Association** and mail to:

**Saturday Pond Watershed Association
c/o Jacinthe Sirois, Treasurer
290 Rayville Rd, Otisfield, ME 04270**

Thank you for your support

✂ -----

Membership 2007

Name: _____

Address (winter) _____

City/Town _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Email: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Membership \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$_____

Address (summer) _____

City/Town _____

State _____ Zip code _____

I am interested in helping with the following:

- Water Testing Program
- Board of Trustees
- Communication/Newsletter
- Others

Suggestions - Comments - Questions:

Indian Summer

Written by John E. Hankins.

*Now seems it good to catch a few brief days
Of summer sunshine and of summer cheer
Before some cool and frosty morn betrays
The wintry time of year.*

*The forest blazes forth in yellow and red;
Its leaves begin to flutter one by one
Unto the earth. The golden fields lie spread
Beneath the autumn sun.*

*A hushed, expectant stillness fills the air,
No sound disturbs the calm, of wind no breath,
Sweet Summer, all the world has paused to share
The splendor of your death.*

Mr. Hankins married Nellie Pottle of Otisfield in 1930. He was an English professor, first at the University of Kansas, and then, from 1956 to 1970, was chairman of the Univ. of Maine (Orono) English department. He wrote two or three little books of poems, including "Maine Album," which is poems just about Maine. He died in 1996 at the age of 91.

**Visit our website at:
<http://www.saturdaypond.org>**

**Saturday Pond Watershed Association
40 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield, Maine 04270**

Address