

SATURDAY POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

WWW.SATURDAYPOND.ORG

SPRING 2008

SPWA NEWSLETTER

Issue # 16

OUR MISSION

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

Board of Trustees

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Carl Anderson

canderson@saturdaypond.org

Bruce LeBlanc

bleblanc@saturdaypond.org

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Eric Williams

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Message from the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The snow is finally gone, the ice is out and the call of the loons can be heard across our beloved pond once again. . . It has been quite the winter in New England. I hope this newsletter finds you well as the daffodils of Spring will soon turn into those lazy days of summer . . .

This past year has been a very busy one for the Board of Trustees of the Saturday Pond Watershed Association (SPWA). We have devoted much time to investigating, planning for and ensuring that a survey of our watershed was conducted. A watershed is the land that drains to a lake by surface runoff, tributary streams, springs, and groundwater recharge. Saturday Pond's watershed covers 1.3 square miles in Otisfield. The water in the pond outlets into Sucker Brook which flows into Thompson Lake, then into the Androscoggin River, the Merrymeeting Bay and ultimately the Atlantic Ocean.

On April 26th, volunteers from the Saturday Pond Watershed Association and the Thompson Lake Environmental Association joined together to participate in a training conducted by Kristin Feindel and staff of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). After the training, the Saturday Pond volunteers were divided into teams led by a DEP professional. The job of each team was to survey the four sectors surrounding Saturday Pond to identify "nonpoint source" pollution sites (i.e. erosion and polluted runoff).

I am very happy to report that we were able to complete the survey of our watershed that day! The information that we collected in the survey will be compiled into a report that will be available to the public in the next few months. The report will summarize our findings and serve as the first step in a long-term plan to address erosion and polluted runoff problems in the Saturday Pond watershed.

Many thanks to those members of the SPWA that took the time out of their busy schedules to participate both directly and indirectly in our survey efforts. They include - Carl Anderson, Bruce LeBlanc, Eric Groves, Eric Arnold, Steve Markarian, Gregory Milos, Gordon Peaco, Jacinthe Sirois, Eric Williams, Ruth Wilson and Heather Germadnik from Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District.

A special thanks goes to Carl and Jacinthe in their special contact and coordinating roles. We would also like to thank Kristen Feindel and the rest of the DEP staff. Without their valuable knowledge and leadership, we could not have completed this task which is so critical to ensuring that we maintain our pond's high water quality.

Inside this issue, please see the results of our water quality testing, information on our loon count and a 2008 event calendar. Many thanks to Bruce LeBlanc, who has also provided a review of the basic points of the Maine boating laws. One of the most important points pertains to the "Water Safety Zone". Boaters staying 200 feet from the shoreline can go a long way towards preventing erosion and protecting Saturday Pond. Jacinthe, again, must be recognized for her creativity and persistence in her ongoing pursuit to develop the next best newsletter. And, Eric Williams for his overall commitment and guidance.



Finally, please join us as we plan for next year's association needs at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for **Saturday, July 12th from 9:00 – 11:00 AM** at the Pond View Beach. You can find our preliminary agenda on page 6.

Sincerely,
Ellen
Ellen Attaliades
President

Left to right: Eric Groves, Kristen Feindel and Eric Arnold during the Watershed survey.

MAINE HAS A NEW FERTILIZER LAW

In an attempt to protect our lakes and streams from over fertilization and too much pollution, the Maine legislature passed a law that took effect January 1, 2008, that discouraged the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorous.

Research has shown that Maine lakes in particular are suffering as a result of too much phosphorous being washed in when it rains or the snow melts. A significant source is lawn fertilizer. The irony, according to Roy Bouchard, a lake biologist with the Maine DEP, is that Maine soils are rich in phosphorous already, they don't need any more added to them to sustain lawns.

Rather than ban the sale of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorous as some other states have done, Maine has chosen to educate people by requiring stores to post signs explaining when it is appropriate to use fertilizers with phosphorous. More specifically the law states:

“A person may not sell fertilizer containing phosphorous at a retail store after January 1, 2008, unless the seller post a DEP approved sign that indicates the product is not appropriate for use on non-agricultural lawn or turf due to potential adverse effects on water quality – except when:

1. Soil test results from a laboratory indicate that additional phosphorous is needed for lawn or turf; or
2. The fertilizer will be used in establishing a new lawn or turf, including establishing turf at a sod form, or for re-seeding or over-seeding existing lawn or turf.”

For the sake of Maine's lakes and streams, the DEP requests that homeowners use only phosphorous free fertilizer for existing lawns, unless a soil test indicates a phosphorous deficiency. The amount of phosphorous in a product can be determined by looking at the three numbers on the package. The numbers indicate the % of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. Look for packages where the middle number is zero (0) for phosphorus free products.

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MAINE BOATING LAWS

At the dawn of another great summer season, we wish to remind everyone of some basic Maine boating laws that provide safety to all while preventing damage to the pond. We thank Bruce LeBlanc for outlining the following:

SPEED REGULATIONS

Watercraft may not be operated at a speed greater than headway speed while within the water safety zone (see definition below)

or within a marina or an approved anchorage in coastal or inland waters except while actively fishing.

“**Headway speed**” means the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage and control of the watercraft while the watercraft is moving. The operator of any watercraft must operate at a reasonable and prudent speed for existing conditions and regulate the speed of a watercraft so as to avoid danger, injury or unnecessary inconvenience in any manner to other watercraft and their occupants, whether anchored or under way. The operator

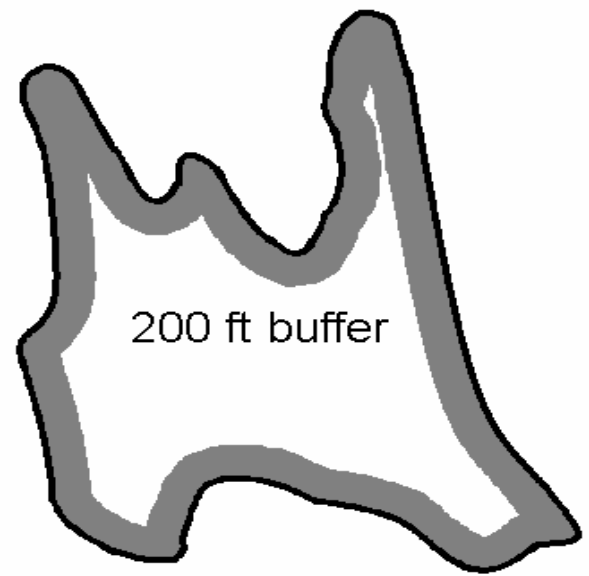
must consider the effect of the wash or wave created by their watercraft to waterfront piers, floats or other property or shorelines.

WATERSKIING

Watercraft towing a person or persons on water-skis, surfboards, aquaplanes or similar devices shall not operate within the water safety zone as defined above. A person may not manipulate any watercraft, tow rope or other device in a way that will cause the device, or any person on the device, to enter the water safety zone.

WATER SAFETY ZONE

“Water Safety Zone” means the area of water within 200 feet of any shoreline, whether the shoreline of the mainland or of an island. The map, on the right provided by Jennie Williams (Eric’s daughter), shows the 200 foot buffer where boats must only do “headway speed”.



REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR BOAT

All motor boats must show registration by applying a sticker on the boat(s).

All must display the Lake and River Protection Sticker ("Preserve Maine Waters"). Watercraft registered in Maine shall place the registration/lake and river protection sticker approximately 3 inches after the Maine registration number as shown below. You can register:

- At the Otisfield Town Office: Monday, Thursday & Friday: 9:00 AM– 5:00PM
- Registrations may also be obtained from licensing agents or by mail. For applications and agent information, please call (207) 287-8000.

More about 2008 Maine Boating Laws and Rules at www.maine.gov/ifw or by picking up a booklet at the Otisfield Town Office.

LOON COUNT ON OUR POND

No chicks were spotted on Saturday Pond during the loon count in 2007.

In the spring 2005, **For the Sake of Maine Lakes** published an interesting article titled: **New England Loons are Threatened by Rebecca Kurtz and Roger Shannon. Here is an excerpt:**

The article reports on a wildlife biologist David Evers, a nationally recognized loon expert, who has been catching loons from Nova

Scotia to Alaska since 1991. His concern stems from a newly published, extensive study released by Maine’s BioDiversity Research Institute that shows mercury contamination to be more far reaching and severe than anyone imagined previously.

The findings from a four-year study which Evers directed, make four important points:



Two Loons and a Fish by Marie Reese 2007.

1. “A comprehensive analysis of air, water and fish data show that mercury levels are high and pervasive in northeastern North America.”
2. “New research shows that many animals, even forest songbirds, have elevated mercury burdens.”
3. “Biological hotspots that pose an ecological risk are identified and mapped for the first time in northeastern North America.”
4. “Environmental monitoring programs must be expanded in order to fully document the extent and impact of mercury pollution in North America.” Read more by visiting: www.mainecola.org/newsletters/Spring2005.pdf

SPWA CALENDAR 2008

- ▶ March 15th, Board of Trustees spring meeting
- ▶ April 26th, Watershed Survey, including Training
- ▶ May 26th, Spring Newsletter
- ▶ June 21st VLMP spring conference at Colby College “**Who Really Owns the Water?**”. For more information visit: www.mainecola.org
- ▶ **July 12, Annual meeting @ 9AM at Pond View beach. If raining, meeting will be at the East Otisfield Free Baptist Church on the Rayville Rd. Mark your calendar and join us.**
- ▶ September, Fall Board of Trustees meeting (date TBA)
- ▶ Oct. 15th, Fall Newsletter.

SPWA Members for 2008

Anderson, Carl & Kathy
Archacki, Paula & Ray
Attaliades, Ellen & Ryan, J
Bloom, Joel
Cali, Robert & Linda
Cuomo, David
Glassock, Judith
Goss, Elisabeth
Groves, Eric & Maureen

Jones, Arthur & Constance
Jones, Cynthia & George
LeBlanc, Janet & Bruce
Marble, Abby & Jeff
Milos, Gregoroy
Mulvey, Jerry & Trudy
Nureck-Bramswig, Robin
Peaco, Gordon
Poole, Mary Jane

Ruefer, Roger
Sickmon, Charles
Sirois, Al & Jacinthe
Steuer, David
Washburn, Anita & Jim
Wantz, Betty
Williams, Eric & Ann
Wilson, Ruth
Ywoskus, Julie & John

THANK YOU

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

The Board of Trustees officers are elected for a two-year term. This year, the underlined Board of Trustees positions are up for election:

Ellen Attaliades President 2009

Bruce LeBlanc Vice President 2009

Carl Anderson Vice President 2008

Eric Williams Corresponding Secretary 2008

Ruth Wilson Recording Secretary 2008

Jacinthe Sirois Treasurer 2009

ANNUAL MEETING JULY 12TH, 2008

AGENDA (draft)

1. Review of Minutes of the July 14, 2007 Annual Meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Elections of Officers
4. Watershed Survey results
5. Other Business



The SPWA Newsletter is available online. If you'd prefer to receive an email notifying you when it's posted rather than receiving a mailed copy, please let us know by contacting jsirois@saturdaypond.org

2007 SATURDAY POND WATER TESTING REPORT

Secchi Disc readings

Date	Depth in meters	Location	Tester	Conditions
July 22, 2007	6.25, 6.30		Ruth Wilson	
July 23, 2007	6.04		Carl Anderson	
August 1, 2007	6.96	deepest point	Eric Groves	9:45 AM, sunny, no wind
August 18, 2007	6.70	deepest point	Ruth Wilson	10:30 AM, Windy, 8 MPH
August 20, 2007	7.11	deepest point	Eric Groves	2:23 PM, Cloudy Bright, did not hit bottom
Sept 2, 2007	6.52	deepest point	Eric Groves	11:35 AM, Bright, wind 3 NW, did not hit bottom
Sept 18, 2007	6.82	deepest point	Carl Anderson	
Oct 3, 2007	7.10	deepest point	Carl Anderson	

The average is 6.64 meters. The average for Maine lakes is 4.9 m.

2007 PHOSPHOROUS TESTING REPORT

DEPTH meters	degC	ppm
0.0	22.9	8.3
1.0	23.0	8.2
2.0	23.1	8.3
3.0	23.1	8.3
4.0	23.1	8.3
5.0	23.1	8.3
6.0	23.0	8.3

Lew Wetzel, assisted by Ruth Wilson and Eric Williams, conducted the following tests -

Phosphorous: 7 parts per billion in the deepest part (basin).

Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen Profiles - deepest part (basin).

Bottom - 23.9'

Conditions: Air Temp = 62 F, Time = 10:20 hrs, Wind = 08, direction = N

ICE OUT 2008

The date for the ice out on Saturday Pond in 2008 was the same as 2007.

Do you remember?

APRIL 24TH

VLMP TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Water Quality Monitor Training: June 28 from 9:00- Noon in Auburn

Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP): July 16, Poland

For more information visit: www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org

BOATERS: Help us protect our pond. Watch Out For Hitchhiking Plants! THANK YOU

HAVE A SAFE AND SUPER SUMMER!

Saturday Pond Watershed Association
40 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield, ME 04270

JOIN SPWA NOW 2008

Name: _____
Address _____
City/Town _____
State _____ Zip code _____
Email (optional): _____

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

Saturday Pond Watershed Association
Jacinthe Sirois Treasurer
P.O. Box 919
Oxford, ME 04270

I am interested in helping with the following:

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