



Saturday Pond Watershed Newsletter

Spring 2018

www.saturdaypond.org

Issue 30

OUR MISSION

Preserve – Enhance
Educate – Protect



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Bruce LeBlanc - Clerk

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Steve Markarian and Jerry Haber - Water Monitors

Robin Nureck-Bramswig - Loon Counter

Susan Haber-Newsletter

40 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield, Maine 04270
www.saturdaypond.org

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After what seemed like an eternity of a winter, the feeling of summer is back in the air on Saturday Pond. The cry of the loons, multi-colored kayaks floating by, screen doors slamming, dogs barking, children shrieking with glee, the mesmerizing forces of the waves during the day and the calm and serenity of a beautiful sunset at the end of the day . . . the familiar sights and sounds of summer on a lake.

This year brings change for me personally and to the watershed association. As you may know, after 36 wonderful years, I'm leaving my position as CEO of a community-based service agency which provides support to people with mental health conditions and developmental disabilities. Not ready for retirement, I have taken on a new position of CEO of a trade association advocating for 130-member agencies serving people with developmental disabilities, brain injuries and individuals with autism spectrum disorders. With the increased responsibilities of this position, I have decided to step down from my position as President of the watershed association.

I have so enjoyed my time on the Board of Trustees. Over the past 12 years, the association has built on the foundation of the Trustees' early years. We have established spring and fall planning meetings to set annual goals which have included monitoring our water conditions for clarity and phosphorous, monitoring the wildlife in the watershed, tracking the dates of Ice-In and Ice-Out and educating the public about the watershed through our newsletter and speaker events. During this time period, we were able to conduct a comprehensive watershed survey and are now in the process of getting interested individuals trained as invasive plant surveyors. Over the next few years, we hope to have surveyors trained in every corner of the lake so that we can monitor the presence (or lack thereof) of milfoil or other invasive plant species.

I love our lake and its surrounding hills and valleys. I am grateful to the other volunteer stewards of our lake and for the many friendships I have made on and off of Saturday Pond. I look forward to continuing my involvement as a member of the watershed. A watershed, also known as a drainage basin, is all the land and water areas that drain towards a lake. Our watershed is comprised of between 200-250 households. Over the past few years, our core group of Saturday Pond watershed stewards has grown. We invite you to join us in preserving one of Otisfield's unique treasures - Saturday Pond and its surrounding areas. Our Annual Meeting is just around the corner – *Saturday, July 14th at 10 AM at the Pond View Beach.*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you a safe and wonderful summer season!

Ellen Attaliades, President

Volunteer Monitoring Programs-Results In!

WATER CLARITY USING A SECCHI DISK - PHOSPHOROUS TESTING - INVASIVE PLANTS - ICE OUT

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Clarity	6.12 m.	6.14 m.	-----	-----	6.20	4.51-6.35	4.66-7.54
Phosphorus	9 (12) ppb	6) ppb	4ppb	3 ppb	5 ug/L	6 ug/L	5 ug/L
Invasive Plants	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Ice Out	April 20	March 22	April 8	April 22	April 19	March 18	April 20

Note: The State of Maine switched its measurement of phosphorus from ppb to ug/L (micrograms per liter). Phosphorus is the nutrient that best indicates the growth of algae in a lake.

Secchi disk readings are in meters. It is an indirect water quality indicator because water clarity is affected by the presence/absence of algal growth. The State of Maine showed a decrease in water clarity this summer. Steve Markarian conducted the Phosphorous tests and Secchi disk readings. Susan LaFleur conducted an Invasive Aquatic Plant Survey.

Steve Markarian tested for Phosphorus in May, July and September. Jerry Haber is certified as a Water Quality Monitor and joins Steve Markarian in water quality testing.

Robin Nureck is the "Official" Loon counter on Saturday Pond. Results are filed with Maine Audubon. The Loon count was two this year. Loons left the Pond in November. Other wildlife spotted by SPWA Members include Golden Eye Ducks, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Heron, Mink, Fox and Bobcat.

Ice-out was called on April 23 for 2018.

Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program protects Maine lakes and ponds through educational workshops and a robust citizen participation program whereby volunteers monitor various water quality indicators, assess watershed health, and screen the lakes and ponds for invasive aquatic vegetation and animals. Become educated and involved by attending the following session:

Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop 101 Tuesday, August 2, 2018, Bridgton, Maine Lakes Science Center. Completion of this workshop satisfies the IPP certification requirement.

Additional workshops are offered on other dates and at other locations.

For further detail contact VLMP at 207-783-7733. Pre-registration is required.

SPWA needs additional residents to assist with the Invasive Plant Patrol survey during the summer. Please consider signing up for the workshop and volunteering your time for the survey. Contact Susan LaFleur, our Invasive Plant Patroller, for coordination or questions (susan.r.lafleur@gmail.com).

Saturday Pond Watershed Association Annual Meeting

The SPWA Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 10 AM at the Pond View Beach, on West Shore Drive. Rain location is at Robin Nureck and Bill Bramswig's house, 60 Ridgewood Terrace, Pond View. We encourage everyone to attend. Come, re-connect with your neighbors, and discuss the status of Saturday Pond. If you haven't already joined, please send in your membership dues for SPWA 2018. A form is attached to this Newsletter. We have requested that you provide your e mail address on this form. We will only use your e mail for news blasts, reminders of upcoming meetings, and the Annual Newsletter. We have also provided a separate box to check off if you'd like to donate an annual membership as a holiday gift, a "welcome to the Pond" gift for a new neighbor, or to honor an individual!

Annual dues remain at \$20.00

For the first time, T- Shirts with the Saturday Pond Watershed Association logo will be available for purchase at the Annual Meeting. VistaPrint was incredibly generous in producing the shirts. Local photographer and resident Bill Branswig photographed loons on Saturday Pond and has created a beautiful 17"x22" poster for purchase. Proceeds from the T-shirts and poster will go to the SPWA.

What do you Get for Your Membership in SPWA?

The SPWA is committed to protecting the water quality in the Pond. Volunteers test the waters annually for Phosphorus levels (an indicator of nutrients in a water body, which can lead to algal growth), water clarity and turbidity and the presence of invasive aquatic plants. We provide educational programs, typically at the Annual Meeting, an annual Newsletter, and bring up items of interest and concern to Town Boards and Committees.

The purpose of the Association, as expressed in its Mission Statement is: 1. To perform all acts appropriate to a non-profit scientific, literary and educational corporation dedicated to the promotion and development of environmental quality standards; and 2. To preserve, enhance and protect the advantages of Saturday Pond and its environs.

Once again our goal is to provide more outreach and encourage greater participation in the SPWA. Grab a friend or neighbor and tell them about the SPWA, encourage them to join, attend the Annual Meeting, and participate!

Boat Registration and Lake and River Protection Sticker

According to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, all motorized watercraft (including canoes with electric motors and jet skis) must display the "milfoil sticker" on inland waters. The sticker reads "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers-Preserve Maine Waters".

For owners of Maine-registered boats, this sticker is automatically combined with your watercraft registration fee. Owners of non-Maine registered boats must purchase the \$20.00 sticker annually and affix it to their watercraft. Stickers may be purchased on-line or at venues around the State. Contact MDIFW at 207-287-8000.

Miscellaneous

Did you know that the SPWA has a website? Access it for all news about the Watershed Association and some wonderful historical facts at www.saturdaypond.org.

Have you ever noticed an oar, paddle, or boat floating in the lake without its owner nearby? We've decided to start a virtual "lost and found" on the website. From time to time we will identify any found items. Boaters-please put your name and phone number inside your boat so that you can be reconnected with your property if it floats away!

The Annual Saturday Pond 4th of July Regatta will be held after the Town of Otisfield parade. All watercraft will gather at Pond View for the start and make a slow loop around the Pond.