

Saturday Pond Watershed Association Newsletter

Spring 2019

Otisfield, Maine

www.saturdaypond.org

Issue 31

President's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Spring has come to Maine! Ice-out occurred on April 22nd and a loon was heard shortly thereafter.

The Saturday Pond Watershed Association Trustees are focused on maintaining the water quality of the Pond. A number of Trustees have been certified as Invasive Plant Patrol Volunteers ("IPP") by the Lake Stewards of Maine. They have attended workshops and learned to recognize the invasive aquatic plants on Maine's "eleven most unwanted list", and to distinguish these invaders from their native Maine look-alikes. You may see them in their kayaks and canoes several times during the summer peering into the Pond and removing plant samples. Feel free to ask questions of this hardworking crew and perhaps become involved as an IPP Volunteer! There is an ongoing Water Quality Monitoring Program where volunteers collect water samples and measure the amount of phosphorus and test for water clarity.

At the May Board of Trustees meeting, Maggie Shannon of the Maine Lakes Society presented information on the LakeSmart Program. The Program is free and is an educational and reward program for lakefront property owners who maintain their land in ways that protect lake water quality and property values, by controlling stormwater runoff. Several Trustees have volunteered to "try out" the program on their own property. We will provide updates.

The Saturday Pond Watershed Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 10 AM at the Pond View Beach on West Shore Drive. Please join us for a mini-breakfast and the meeting.

You will notice that the newsletter has a different and improved "look" this year. This is due to a SPWA member who has a professional background in graphic design. We've also introduced the readers to several Trustees who contribute their time in keeping the Pond healthy.

Finally, I would like to thank Ellen Attaliades who has served so ably as President for many years. Her knowledge of the Pond, her energy, diplomacy and willingness to do what needed to be done is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we wish you a happy and healthy summer.

Sincerely,

Susan Haber, President

OUR MISSION

**Preserve-Enhance
Educate-Protect**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Susan Haber, President

Steve Markarian, Vice-President

Robin Bramswig, Vice-President

Amy Brown, Treasurer

Julie Ywoskus, Recording Sec.

Susan LaFleur, Corresponding Sec.

APPOINTMENTS

Bruce LeBlanc, Clerk

Eric Williams, Archives, Website

Steve Markarian, Water Monitor

Jerry Haber, Water Monitor

Robin Bramswig, Loon Counter

Bill Bramswig, Newsletter

Saturday Pond Watershed Assoc
40 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield, Main 04270

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It's over!



Summer is here!

Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 10 AM at the Pond View Beach on West Shore Drive. Please join us for a mini-breakfast and the meeting.

After the meeting at 2:30 join members for a fun paddle on Saturday Pond. We'll meet at the beach. *(details inside)*

Remember to **register your boat** and get a **Milfoil Sticker**.

Annual **July 4th boat parade** on Saturday Pond at 1:00 PM. All crafts welcome, and waving from your dock's great too!



&



Membership Form for 2019-2020

Joining SPWA is an investment in the future health of our watershed and the beauty of Saturday Pond.

Today Saturday Pond is free of Invasive Plants.

Becoming a member will help keep it that way.

Checks payable to: SPWA

Mail to: Amy Brown

651 New Gloucester Rd

North Yarmouth, ME. 04097

Membership is \$20.00 per year



Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Water Quality Testing

I'm Steve Markarian and I am one of the two trained water quality testers on our pond, along with Jerry Haber. A water quality tester must first attend a training class at Lake Stewards of Maine in Auburn where all our data is recorded. We must also take a yearly recertification online along with recertifying in person every six years at a regional class.

As water quality testers, we check for the amount of algae suspended in the water by using a secchi disk. This is a simple and inexpensive device that is very accurate in determining the amount of algae in suspension using the clarity method. We lower a disk attached to a tape measure that is marked in hundredths of meters. Using a scope, made from a PVC tube, we lower the disk in the water until it is out of sight. Saturday Pond averages 6 meters. This test is done at least every other week or more from April until October, if possible.

Water clarity using secchi disk

04/30/2018	5.65 meters
05/08/2018	5.97 meters
05/14/2018	6.40 meters
07/01/2018	5.05 meters
07/04/2018	5.58 meters
07/19/2018	5.52 meters
08/03/2018	5.25 meters
08/16/2018	5.80 meters
09/03/2018	6.10 meters
09/10/2018	5.50 meters
09/18/2018	5.85 meters

Total phosphorus test water grab method.
07/17/2018 6 ug/l [Micrograms per liter]
08/22/2018 7 ug/l

Water clarity readings were lower than in past years, possibly because of more rain than normal. Phosphorus readings were up slightly from 2017 but still very good.

The other test that we are trained to perform is for phosphorous using the water grab method. All samples gathered are tested at the state of Maine lab. The lab sends us a kit with sterile bottles and an ice pack. A special procedure is used to gather the water sample so as not to contaminate the test bottle and to ensure the most accurate result. The sample must be placed in the insulated box along with the ice pack, to keep it cold, and mailed as soon as possible. The phosphorous levels have been averaging 6 parts per billion in the last two summers. Phosphorous test is done in July and August. **All costs of testing are paid for by our Watershed Association dues.**

Saturday Pond's water quality readings have been above average. The pond's deepest point is only 25 feet, where all the testing is done. The pond is shallow, sunlight reaches the bottom, and therefore it's susceptible to algae blooms.

Monitoring for Invasive Plants

My name is Susan LaFleur and I am one of the Invasive Plant Patrollers on Saturday Pond. My family and I have been residents here since 2010. I became interested in studying and monitoring the aquatic plants at our pond when I met Pixie Williams in 2013. She is a botanist and dedicated volunteer with the VLMP (Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program), now called the LSM (Lake Stewards of Maine). That summer, she invited me to join her and a few other Pond neighbors for "plant paddles" early on Sunday mornings. We spent many hours in our kayaks, observing and identifying plants with Pixie's help. She inspired me to learn more about Saturday Pond and its native plants and animals. With her encouragement, I attended a training workshop and became a certified IPP (Invasive Plant Patrol) volunteer.

Each summer, I kayak and patrol our pond; taking plant samples, identifying native plants and keeping a watchful eye for any suspicious or possibly invasive ones. In the fall of each year, I submit an invasive aquatic plant screening survey to the Lake Stewards of Maine or LSM in Auburn. This survey documents the native aquatic plants and animals that I've observed at our pond and also whether we've identified any invasive plants. I am happy to report that we do not have any documented invasive plants in our pond!

The Lake Stewards of Maine sponsors free training and workshops for people to screen the ponds and lakes of Maine for invasive aquatic plants. Saturday Pond has a group of dedicated people who have also attended IPP training and have become certified plant patrollers.



Sign at Pond View's Boat Launch Ramp



*"A pond with no invasive plants improves real estate value"
Join PVWA and help us, help Saturday Pond*

Ice In and Ice Out

Ice in: Nov 23, 2018

Ice Out: April 22, 2019

Ice In means 80% or more of the pond is ice, and just the opposite, Ice Out is 80% of the ice is gone.

Something New this Summer

Join members for a fun paddle around the pond and learn a bit about aquatic invasive plants. Bring your kayak or canoe and join us at Pond View's Boat Launch Ramp on West Shore Road. July 13 at 2:30

Meet Pixie Williams

Maine's newest herbarium has recently been named for one of Saturday Pond's most ardent stewards, Pixie Williams.



In addition to paddling the waters of Maine in search of interesting and potentially invasive aquatic plants, this intrepid nonagenarian is mentoring a team of amateur botanists who are (through a

painstaking process that can best be described as labor of love) assembling this unique herbarium. With her extensive background in plant systematics, Pixie's taken on the critically important task of ensuring that the herbarium, though small by most standards, will be "totally by-the-book," a state-of-the-art collection. And actually, when complete, the Pixie Williams herbarium will encompass two distinct collections: one a formal archive; the second, designed for more extensive handling and traveling, the "teaching" collection.

Both collections will contain at least one representative specimen of Maine's 200 or so native aquatic plants, the eleven aquatic invaders considered to be the most imminent threats to Maine waters, and a wide variety of common and not-so-common wetland 'edge' species. The herbarium is housed at the Lake Stewards of Maine Center for Lake Stewardship, and will be open to the public on a limited basis this summer, by appointment only. Please contact Lake Stewards of Maine for more information.

herbarium

NOUN
A systematically arranged collection of dried plants.

Important Web Sites to Visit



www.lakestewardsofmaine.org



www.mainelakessociety.org

Maine IF&W Wardens



Maine Warden with his dog - photo IF&W

In May 2018, two wardens from Maine Inland Fish and Wildlife used Saturday Pond as a training site for their Special team of Canine Service Dogs. The Wardens conducted search and rescue drills with the dogs, using dummies for practice, as a means of simulating a real rescue operation. The Wardens made use of the Pond for several days and stayed at a house on Saturday Pond."

Turtles around the pond

This photo is from Pond Views levee at the end of Ridgewood Terrace. Seems to be a popular spot because we see Turtle egg shells in that area every year. Not all make it back to the pond and are dug up by various animals.



Counting Loons For Maine



That's me on the left, Robin Bramswig, and I have been given the honor of "Official Loon Counter of Saturday Pond." Each season begins with welcoming the loons back after the long winter. Mid to late May we look for any signs of nest building and hope to find one. Once we do, a buoy is put afloat to alert boaters near the nest. Then hopefully eggs are laid in the nest and baby chicks are born mid July.

On the third of July at 7:30 AM, all Loon Counters across Maine survey their lakes and ponds simultaneously, in order to count the Loons. The coordinated timing is important to ensure that the Loons are not double counted, if they visit another pond or lake. We kayak the entire lake looking for singles, pairs, a raft, (3 or more loons) and baby chicks. In 2018 there was a bit of drama with two loons chasing each other so we think one or two were visiting, but the official count was 4.



Floating Loon Nest



On another lake where a class was held there was a floating loon nest. The nest is made with PVC pipe and plastic netting. Then additional hay and grasses are added on top. A small ramp is added to one or two sides to help the babies go from water to nest. The top curved tubes help stop eagles from swooping down on the Loons and babies.

Flyer placed on docks last Summer



Sorry to invade your peace and quiet but we need your help to keep invasive plants out of our pond.

What Are We doing Already?
On behalf of the Saturday Pond Watershed Association, several of your lake neighbors have attended classes to learn

about invasive plants and how to keep our pond free of them. We have a group of volunteers from around the pond to help monitor all watercraft being launched on to the pond. We will be surveying the lake during the spring, summer, and fall seasons to make sure we can all enjoy a clean and beautiful pond for generations to come. Also there is a list of Maine Lakes with invasive plants and Saturday Pond wants to avoid that list.

But We Need Your Help too! Please check any watercraft including kayaks/canoes, motors, trailers, floats and fishing gear that will go on the pond, to make sure there are no plant materials attached of any type. Even a very small piece of invasive plant can contaminate a pond causing the dense growth and rapid spread of these unwanted plants. This can significantly reduce the enjoyment of the pond for swimmers, boaters, and those who live along the shore and can potentially affect property values.



SPWA members on the pond



Two photos from an invasive plant class