

# Saturday Pond Watershed Association

## Newsletter

Spring 2020

Otisfield, Maine

[www.saturdaypond.org](http://www.saturdaypond.org)

Issue 32

### 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

### President's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's that time of year when we reach out to all of you through our annual newsletter. Summer on Saturday Pond is always special, especially this year.

It's been a trying spring for most of us, filled with anxiety, stress and social isolation due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Worry about the economy, the pressures of homeschooling and lack of childcare, and questions about what our Fall will look like add to this departure from our normal lives. For those of us lucky to live near our family, socially distanced visits in the driveway are a blessing. For those family members and friends that are geographically distant, Zoom has become our way to communicate.

Yet, look around-the beauty of nature is calming. The hoot of an owl and the cry of the Loon and the sparkle of the water on Saturday Pond are antidotes. Take a deep breath and smell the pines, throw your kayak or canoe in the water or putter around in your motor boat. A visit to the beaver dam can provide relief. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by the incredible beauty of Saturday Pond.

There will be some normalcy to the summer. The dedication of volunteers in monitoring the health of our Pond will continue. Notably, Susan LaFleur and her wonderful group of volunteers who have taken the time to become certified, will conduct the annual Invasive Plant Survey. Steve Markarian will continue to perform water quality testing for the presence of phosphorus and water clarity throughout the summer with the Secchi Disk and water grabs.

**We will NOT be holding an in-person Annual Meeting at Pond View this summer.**

The Board of Trustees has made the decision to hold the **Annual Meeting remotely** at the same time on Saturday, July 11th at 10:00 AM. Please go on the Saturday Pond Watershed Association website for information on how to join the meeting remotely.

**The website address is: [www.saturdaypond.org](http://www.saturdaypond.org).** The Agenda will be posted there, as well. We urge you to attend and participate. In order to conduct the meeting in an organized way and get through the agenda, the President will call on attendees to speak-just raise your hand. Everyone will be heard.

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

Sincerely, Susan Haber, President



## Important Web Sites to Visit



[www.lakestewardsofmaine.org](http://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org)



[www.mainelakessociety.org](http://www.mainelakessociety.org)



## 5 Loons on Saturday Pond



## Counting Loons For Maine



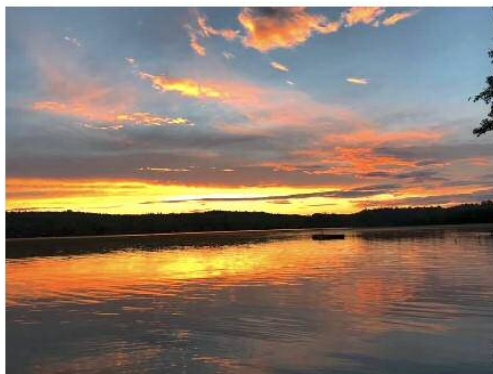
That's me on the left, Robin Bramswig, along with Julie Ywoskus, and I have been given the honor of "Official Loon Counter of Saturday Pond."

On the third Saturday 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. The official count for 2019 on Saturday Pond was 2 adult Loons.



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



**Join Facebook Group**

*"Saturday Pond Loons"*

## The Dam!



Log that floated, and was stuck in our dam, but was removed by several neighbors!

## Spring Kayaking in Maine



## Using the Secchi Disk



Ft to Bk: Steve Markarian, Jerry Haber

## Spotted Last Year Over SP





## 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.

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

### Water Clarity Using Secchi Disk

04/20/2020, 05.10 meters.  
05/15/2020, 05.13 meters.  
06/07/2020, 06.60 meters.  
06/21/2020, 05.65 meters.

The water clarity in the shallow areas has been very clear this past few weeks most likely because of the lack of rain. I have been surprised I'm not getting deeper readings when I test. Not sure why, possibly pollen suspended at lower depth's.

Starting in 2018 we decide to test for phosphorus once a summer instead of twice. We were testing in July and again in August. The test results were roughly the same every year so we decided once in the middle of the summer was enough. I will be testing for phosphorus at the end of July.

## Non-Native Plants - Invasive

Hello, my name is Susan LaFleur and I am one of the Invasive Plant Patrollers here on Saturday Pond. My family and I have been enjoying our summers here since 2010. In the summer of 2013, I became interested in learning about aquatic plant species, and especially the invasive kinds that can seriously affect the health of our Maine lakes and ponds. That year, I attended a workshop sponsored by Maine's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and became a certified invasive plant patroller. Each summer, a group of dedicated volunteers and I kayak and patrol our pond, identifying native plants, and keeping alert for any suspicious-looking or non-native plants. In the Fall, I submit an aquatic plant screening survey to the Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) in Auburn. On the survey, I document native plants and animals that I and other surveyors have observed. I am pleased to report that we do not have any documented invasive plants at Saturday Pond!

You can get more information about becoming a certified IPP/Invasive Plant Patroller by contacting the LSM at (207)783-7733 or by visiting their website, [www.lakestewardsofmaine.org](http://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org).

\*\*\* Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing recommendations, the LSM will not be having in-person training sessions for Spring and Summer of 2020. Instead, they will be offering an on-line weekly webinar series and on-line workshops. More information on these can be found on their website. The webinars are open to all Maine citizen lake scientists and to the general public. Pre-registration is required if you would like to attend.

My family and I feel so fortunate to live on beautiful Saturday Pond. This quote can be found on the LSM website: "Keeping a watchful eye on the health of Maine Lakes since 1971". I am happy to do my part to keep our pond a fantastic place for all of us to enjoy for years to come!

**What Can You Do?** 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.

## Ice In and Ice Out

### This Year

Ice in: Dec 2, 2019

Ice Out: April 3, 2020

### Last Year

Nov 23, 2018

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.

## The Loon's Nest



As with years passed, Julie and I began the 2020 season kayaking as early as possible with the excitement of welcoming back the Loons....or should I say, for them to welcome us as they usually arrive first.

The joy of seeing them on the pond begins the journey of watching them thru the early weeks of Spring in hopes of finding Mamma Loon on a nest. We had a few days of hope when we spotted them near a potential nest, (a previously used site), enjoyed kayaking by for the next few days and seeing her on the nest and even a chance to see one egg while she was out feeding.

The picture of the loon in this newsletter is of the proud Pappa Loon protecting the nest during these times. Although the adult loons are alive and well and have had a few visiting loons, the egg was gone within a few days and the nest abandoned. We now move on to enjoying their calls and cries and fingers crossed we have more success in 2021.



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## Summer is here!

**Annual Meeting:** The Board of Trustees has made the decision to hold the **Annual Meeting remotely** at the same time on Saturday, July 11th at 10:00 AM. See the President's message for more details.

Remember **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 2020-2021**

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

We are trying to transition to a paperless newsletter. Please add your email address and next year we will send the newsletter to you by email. If you prefer a paper copy, we will continue to send the newsletter by regular mail.

**Checks payable to: SPWA**

**Mail to: Amy Brown**

**651 New Gloucester Rd**

**North Yarmouth, ME. 04097**

**Membership is \$20.00 per year**

