

# Saturday Pond Watershed Association Newsletter

Spring 2021

Otisfield, Maine

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

Issue 33

## 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

Clark, Amy Brown  
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. This edition is distributed a little later than in the past, and so is the date of the Annual Meeting, which will be held on **Sunday, July 25 at 10:00 AM** at the Pond View Beach. We are meeting in person this year, and it will be wonderful to see everyone. In case of rain, we will hold the meeting by zoom. The zoom invitation will be posted on the SPWA website, on the day before the meeting, if the forecast is for heavy rain.

Twenty- Twenty was a hot summer and lake temperatures were slightly higher than usual. Small Fish kills of juvenile yellow perch, white perch and bass occur when temperatures rise. This was evident in late June, July and early August when fish carcasses could be seen floating in Saturday Pond and washing up on shore. According to James Pellerin, Regional Fish Biologist at Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, summer fish kills are common in the area. Fish consume copepods (small crustaceans in the water), that are infected with larval worms. While the parasitic worms aren't deadly to the fish, they render the fish susceptible to other parasites and bacterial pathogens which thrive in warmer temperatures, resulting in fish die-off. These events are generally short lived and will resolve when the weather cools. Hopefully, we will not see a repeat of last summer's conditions.

On a proactive note, volunteers will conduct the annual Invasive Plant Survey in their kayaks and canoes with data collected sent to the State. Water quality monitoring will continue with testing of phosphorus levels and lake clarity. The results are posted in the next newsletter and on the SPWA website.

This issue of the newsletter presents the story of the logs that randomly float up on the pond and a review of the guidelines for safe and considerate boating on Saturday Pond.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Haber, President SPWA



## History of Logs on the Pond

By Amy Brown

Anyone that has spent any significant amount of time on Saturday Pond has come across semi floating bark less, sawn end (straight cut) logs. Many, like myself, have wondered "where did these logs come from?". If you've asked anyone you may have heard "they were sunk for preservation" or "the Hurricane from 1938"... Well both of these statements are correct.

In September of 1938 one of the worst storms to ever hit the northeast made landfall on Long Island, NY and tracked across RI, CT, and Massachusetts into Vermont. The outer east edge had such strong winds it decimated a great part of western Maine's forests. East Otisfield alone had approximately 2000 trees uprooted.

Five years previous to the hurricane in 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), an organization that put tens of thousands of Americans to work during the Great Depression on projects with environmental benefits. The CCC was open to unemployed, unmarried U.S. male citizens between the ages of 18 and 26. All recruits had to be healthy and were expected to perform hard physical labor. Enlistment in the program was for a minimum of 6 months. Participants were paid \$30 per month (\$25 of which was sent home to their families). They were provided housing, food, clothing, medical care and offered basic and vocational education.

After the hurricane in 1938, the U.S. Forest Service directed the CCC to strip the downed trees in Otisfield of their bark, branches, and twigs to reduce the danger of fire. At the time the state did not have the means to fight a large forest fire as we do now. The members were brought in from the CCC Camp in Bridgton. They were housed in sheds put up between the north end of Saturday Pond and Moose Pond. After stripping the trees they put them in the ponds to protect them from getting worms. Dam Keeper Linley Peaco and his young son Gordon remembered there were so many trees floating that it looked like a film of trees on both the ponds. You can still make out the logging roads where they hauled the trees to put into the lakes when hiking the Two Ponds Nature Area off Hidden Lake Rd (formerly

the Harlen Swamp road until the name was changed in the 1990s when the 911 system was set up). Not only were there sheds to house the corps but stables for the horses used for hauling logs and a blacksmith shop. There were multiple portable saw mills set up to process the trees as they were removed from the lakes. Two of those mills were located on the south east side of Saturday Pond on the current Sirois property. These were steam mills powered by boilers. Processing these trees provided income for the local economy.

A special thank you to our current Dam Keeper Dan Peaco, whose Grandfather and father passed on fabulous stories of our Pond and the Town of Otisfield.

A shout out to Al Sirois, Pat Dryzga, Jeff Marble, Jerry Haber, Jean Hankins (Otisfield Historical Society Archivist) and Jess Dorr (Otisfield Historical Society Secretary); thank you for all your help! And Wikipedia that helped fill in the particulars on the CCC.

## BOATING HAZARD WARNING

Here on Saturday Pond boaters occasionally come across a partially submerged log. These are an extreme boating hazard and should be dealt with immediately. If you are unable to tow the log to shore and secure it, please make a best estimate observation of its location and notify someone able to take care of it, or one of the SPWA Directors. Thank you.



Dam Log !

## Invasive Plant Patrollers

Hello, I'm Susan LaFleur and I am one of the certified IPP'ers, invasive plant patrollers, here on Saturday Pond. My family and I have been summer residents since 2010.

In 2013, I became interested in aquatic plant species, especially the invasive types that can affect the health of Maine lakes and ponds. I attended a workshop sponsored by the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) and became a certified invasive plant patroller. At various times throughout the summer, a group of dedicated volunteers and I kayak around our pond. We observe and identify native plants, keeping alert for any suspicious-looking or non-native ones. In the Fall, I submit an aquatic plant screening survey to the Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) in Auburn. I document native plants and animals that I and other surveyors have observed. I am happy to report that we do not have any documented invasive plants at Saturday Pond! If you are interested in joining our group of 'plant patrollers', contact me at (603)247-3468.

More information about becoming a certified IPP invasive /plant patroller is available by contacting the LSM at (207)783-7733 or by visiting their website, [www.lakestewardsofmaine.org](http://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org). They offer free trainings and workshops throughout the summer. Due to COVID-19 social restrictions, the LSM will not host in-person sessions for 2021. Instead, they will be offering an on-line weekly webinar series and on-line workshops, open to the public. More information can be found on their website.

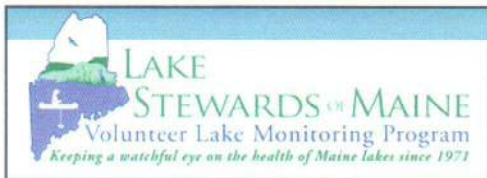
My family and I feel so fortunate to live on beautiful Saturday Pond. I and other concerned residents are happy to do our part to keep it a wonderful place for all of us to enjoy for years to come!



Gray Tree Frog



## Important Web Sites to Visit



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



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

### Ice In and Ice Out

This Year	Last Year
<b>Ice in:</b> Dec 8, 2020	<b>Dec 2, 2019</b>
<b>Ice Out:</b> April 1, 2021	<b>April 3, 2020</b>

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

### Water Testing Saturday Pond

Submitted by Stephen R. Markarian  
QA cert # MA 2465

#### Secchi disk readings

04/20/2020	05.10 meters
05/15/2020	05.13 meters
06/07/2020	06.60 meters
06/21/2020	05.65 meters
06/27/2020	05.45 meters
07/11/2020	05.24 meters
07/25/2020	05.82 meters
08/03/2020	06.30 meters
08/08/2020	06.13 meters
08/12/2020	06.20 meters
09/04/2020	07.05 meters
09/20/2020	07.30 meters - The disk rested on the bottom. This was the only time it did so in 2020.

I tested for total phosphorus once in 2020. Tested on 08/03 2020. Results were 4 ug/l [ Micrograms per Liter ] This was an excellent result.

## Soft plastic lures are popular

Keep Maine's waters clean and fisheries healthy. Soft plastic lures are popular fishing tackle; and just like all other equipment, it's your responsibility to properly maintain and dispose of them. Over the years, plastic lures have been improperly used and disposed of, consequently ending up on lake bottoms or in fish stomachs. Do your part: Properly dispose of soft plastic lures.

### What Can Harm Our Pond?

Phosphorus is not just in fertilizer. It's in; Dishwasher & Laundry Detergent, Pesticides, Paint Thinner, Automobile Oil, Pet Waste, Lawn Fertilizer, Soil and trash

Phosphorus in soil and fertilizer promotes plant growth in your garden AND IN OUR POND! In ponds and lakes, however, the crop is algae, rather than flowers and vegetables. Algal blooms smell terrible, turn water green, and use up oxygen.

You may think a little pet waste or extra fertilizer won't make a difference, but a little pollution from you, from your neighbor, from others around the lake, year after year, does add up to a polluted lake.

#### So What Can You Do to Protect Our Pond?

Use lake-friendly, low phosphorus household products, especially dishwasher and laundry detergent. Limit your use of lawn fertilizer or don't use any at all. Prevent soil and water runoff from your lawn from entering the lake by leaving the natural trees, shrubs, bushes, and ground-cover near the waterfront or by planting trees and native plants at the waterfront to create a buffer if none exists. Bag pet waste and put in the trash. Clean any vegetation off boats and fishing equipment to prevent introduction of invasive plants



Mushroom photographed with flash

## Boating Guidelines for Saturday Pond

By Steve Markarian and Jerry Haber

Saturday Pond is a pristine, small, shallow pond occupying approximately 179 acres in Otisfield, Maine. The residents of Saturday Pond have taken great care to ensure that the beauty, purity and tranquility of the pond are preserved.

The following recommendations are made to ensure that our power boating experiences on Saturday Pond will be safe and enjoyable, without adversely impacting others on the pond. These recommendations are in accordance with the boating laws of the State of Maine.

Respect the water safe zone, the area of water within 200 feet of any shoreline, where your boat may not be operated faster than headway speed (the slowest speed at which it is possible to maintain steering and control).

Please be mindful of the size of your boat wake and its effects on other boats, swimmers, kayaks, canoes, sailboats, water bicycles, floats and docks. Power boat wakes are often largest at low speeds.

Do not exceed headway speed in the three shallow coves on the north end of Saturday Pond. Boat wakes in these narrow areas are disruptive to pond residents and pond ecology.

Canoes, kayaks, sail boats, and paddle boats have the right-of way over power boats. Boat wakes are dangerous for small water craft and it is the responsibility of power boaters to be aware of the size of their wakes when small craft are on the pond.

When starting a skier, drive away from the shoreline. When dropping a skier, drive toward the shoreline and turn out. Do not parallel the shoreline. Water skiing, tubing and wake boarding are prohibited from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.

Be aware that prolonged circling and wake jumping generate large wakes, which may adversely affect other boaters on the pond.





# We're back!

**Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday July 25th at 10 AM at the Pond View Beach on West Shore Drive. Please join us for a mini-breakfast and the meeting.

If it rains the meeting will be held by Zoom. See more in Presidents message

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



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## Membership Form for 2021-2022

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks payable to: SPWA**

**Mail to: Amy Brown**

**651 New Gloucester Rd**

**North Yarmouth, ME. 04097**

**Membership is \$20.00 per year**

