

# Saturday Pond Watershed Association

## Newsletter

Spring 2022

Otisfield, Maine

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

Issue 34

### 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

Clerk, 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,

By the time you receive this newsletter, summer will be in full swing. I'm hoping for cloudless skies, warm water (but not too warm), loon calls and perhaps some chicks.

The sights, sounds and smell of the pines around Saturday Pond remind me of overnight camp in Maine. Like many of you, we've tried to recreate that magic for our kids, grandkids and friends. In this Newsletter, there is an article written by a long-time visitor to the Pond that captures this magical feeling.

An additional article in the Newsletter will cover boats, wakes and safety tips.

The Watershed Association continues to monitor 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 and perhaps become involved as an IPP Volunteer! There is also an ongoing Water Quality Monitoring Program where volunteers collect water samples to measure the amount of phosphorus and test for water clarity. The results from last summer and from summer's past are in the Saturday Pond Watershed Association Website and in this Newsletter.

The SPWA Website is updated regularly and is maintained by Eric Williams. It's a good resource to learn about or refresh your knowledge about the Pond. Along with water quality information, the Website provides information on historical ice in-ice out dates, minutes from Trustee Meetings and from the Annual Meeting and a link to past watershed studies. The website also contains the history and By-Laws of the Watershed Association and miscellaneous information about the Pond, including a link to several Google Maps. Upcoming events around the Pond are posted. If you know about a public event that affects the Pond, such as a parade or shoreline clean up, please ask Eric to put it on the website. He can be reached via E Mail at [ewilliams@saturdaypond.org](mailto:ewilliams@saturdaypond.org). The link to the Website is: <http://saturdaypond.org>.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 24, 2022 at 10 AM at the Pond View Beach on West Shore Drive. Please join us for some snacks and coffee pre meeting. While we hope to have it in person, the meeting will be held by zoom in case of rain. Please refer to the Website for last minute details.

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

Sincerely,  
Susan Haber, President





Written by: Steve and Albina Papows  
Painting by: Albina Papows

My family was first introduced to the magical place that is Saturday Pond over thirty years ago by our dear friends, Steve and Jeri Markarian. Our first glimpse was driving down Deer Run road and seeing the pond's surface sparkling with diamond highlights between the hemlock trees. The welcoming smell of pine filled the car's interior as we rolled down our windows. It so reminded me of arriving at summer boy scout camp when I was a kid.

Both Steve and Jeri refer to their place on the pond as "the camp" although, in reality, it's a stunning home built by Steve himself and decorated, tastefully, by Jeri. No matter what has been going on in our lives, when we pull in their driveway, the stress of everyday life falls from our shoulders. If I had to use one word to describe the feeling of coming to Saturday Pond then I would say, "sanctuary." This idyllic setting, immediately surrounds you, with nature giving you a warm hug as if to say, "Where have you been?" It's like stepping into a different plane of existence, like drinking from the garden hose when you were young, playing "kick the can" or the grade school summers that never seemed to end.

We always walk, across the emerald green moss, that carpets the forest floor, down to the dock, to view the pond in it's entirety. There is barely a breath of wind and the pond is a sheet of glass burnished silver from a high sun. Lily pads dot the surface and dark tree lined points jut out to form hidden coves. A raft anchored off of Steve's dock beckons for a swim. Placing my hand in the water, I find it warm and inviting with a softness unlike the ocean, at home. The shriek of an osprey sounds, overhead, it's form framed against an azure blue sky. It was all simply too much to take in, at one glance!

Our wives have been longtime friends who started the tradition of mom's and kid's spending time, in the summer, at Saturday Pond. Between the five couples we have 7 kids. It was a special time for them to connect with nature and have

some good old fashion fun! They cherish these memories to this day. At some point the husbands were invited to tag along. Eventually, we started spending time there in the winter, also.

So, for the next thirty years, Saturday Pond became our summer and winter retreat due to the grace of our two hosts, Jeri and Steve. We all bonded at that special place, it became the seed from which sprouted lifelong friendships for our families. Our kids had a blast! We used to take them for nature walks along the upper road, casting animal tracks, we found, in plaster. On the return trip, the kids would extricate the tracks like amateur archeologists to add to the camp's collection. Steve would pull the kids in a tube behind his boat, their laughter echoing down the shore. Mid-day they would bask in the sun on the raft like the turtles on surrounding logs. Here they all caught some of their first fish, holding them up for the camera. Scavenger hunts with clues that ended with digging up a treasure chest across the pond. Ghost stories were told around the pond campfire while making s'mores. Other memories of skating on the pond, in winter, ice fishing or snowshoeing to the old boy's camp. New Year's Eve celebrated, every year, the kid's embarrassed by their parent's antics. So many delicious feasts, prepared and devoured, around the beautiful, long pine table. Our lives were made all the richer for that place.

Usually, being the first one up of the crew, I would walk down to the dock with a coffee and my rod to make a few casts. In the utter stillness, a low mist clings to the surface of the pond. As the sun began to rise, the mist is tinted apricot reaching upward in spiraling tendrils with the promise of another hot day. Times like this will be forever etched in my memories' hallways. The night before I laid awake in the upstairs bedroom that faces the pond listening to the haunting calls of the loons, the smell of pine caressing me as I drift off to sleep.

Yes, Saturday Pond is truly a magical place and all our lives are the better for it! Thank you, Steve and Jeri for sharing such a surreal place with us.

Hello, I'm Susan LaFleur, one of the Invasive Plant Patrollers here on Saturday Pond. Our family has 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 types that can affect the health of Maine's lakes and ponds. I attended a workshop sponsored by Maine's Lake Monitoring Program and became a certified invasive plant patroller.

Every summer, a group of volunteers and I kayak and patrol our pond. We identify native plants, keeping alert for any suspicious-looking or non-native, invasive ones. In the Fall, I submit an aquatic plant screening survey to the Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) in Auburn. I document plants and animals that I and others have observed. I am very pleased to report that we do not have any documented invasive plants on Saturday Pond!

This year, the LSM is celebrating 50 years of working to protect Maine Lakes and providing education and training to Maine citizen lake scientists and the public. Throughout this summer, they will be offering live, in-person, outdoor invasive plant patrol workshops and water quality workshops. If you are interested in learning ways you can help to preserve the health of Maine lakes or if you would like to become an IPP/Invasive Plant Patroller, more information can be found by visiting their website, [www.lakestewardsofmaine.org](http://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org) or calling (207)783-7733

If you have any questions or are interested in joining our group of plant patrollers, please contact me at (603)247-3468. Let's all stay dedicated to keeping Saturday Pond a wonderful place for all to enjoy for years to come!

## Water Testing Saturday Pond

Total Phosphorus:

Sample taken 08/16/2021

5 UG/L [micrograms per liter]

Secchi disk readings:

04/28/22	6.77 meters
05/10/22	7.05 meters
06/01/22	5.91 meters
06/20/22	5.80 meters
07/01/22	5.65 meters
07/24/22	6.10 meters
08/03/22	7.10 meters
08/16/22	6.49 meters
09/29/22	6.20 meters

2021

Today is May 13th. And the water temp.

2.5 down from the surface at my dock is 58 degrees. The water level is normal for this time of year.

Respectfully, Steve Makarian



## Ice In and Ice Out

This Year	Last Year
Ice in: Dec 7, 2021	Dec 8, 2019
Ice Out: April 4, 2022	April 1, 2020

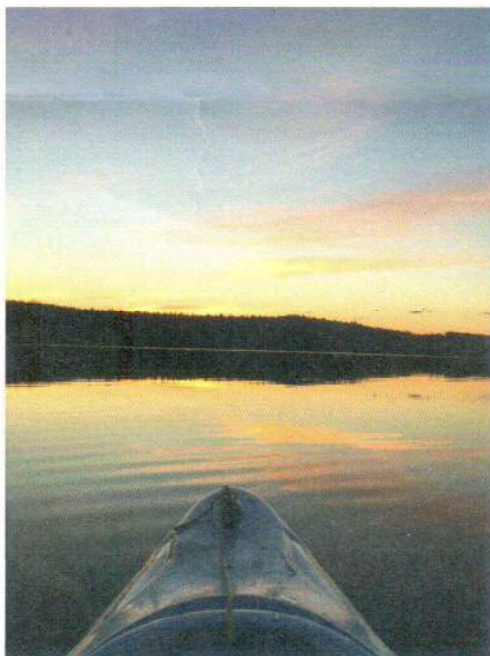
Ice In means 80% or more of the pond is ice, and just the opposite, Ice Out is 80% of the ice is gone.

## Maine's Native Berry

U of Maine Cooperative Extension

See more at: <https://extension.umaine.edu/blueberries/about-2/>

Maine's lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium* Ait.) is native to northern New England and Atlantic Canada. In Maine, this crop is not planted but inhabits large fields on mountain tops and in glacial outwash plains which formed 10,000 years ago. Any given field can have as many as 1,500 genetically distinct wild blueberry plants that create a patchwork of berry flavor, shapes, and colors which is why many people refer to them as wild. Wild blueberries are grown in a two-year production cycle that alternates between a "prune year" and a "crop year." Following the harvest in August, plants are pruned to the ground by mowing or burning. This makes the entire year after harvest, a vegetative year where stems, leaves, and buds develop. In the second year, plants bloom and produce blueberries. Wild blueberry farmers typically divide their acreage equally between the two cycles in order to harvest a crop every year.



## Boats, Wakes and Saturday Pond

By Steve Markarian and Jerry Haber

Summer is here. Soon swimmers, kayaks, paddle boards, canoes, sailboats, row boats, pontoon boats and motor boats will share the Pond.

Sharing the pond means that motor boaters must be aware of the impact of their wakes on other watercraft. Hull design, speed and distance determine a boat's wake size and effect on other water craft. The effects of boat wakes are varied, and include damage to docks and moored boats, disruption of loon nesting sites, shoreline erosion, as well as posing a safety hazard to motorless water craft. In addition, boat propeller wash can damage the lake bottom and aquatic plant life. Saturday Pond is shallow, averaging about 10 feet in depth, with a maximum depth of 24 feet, and is vulnerable to the damaging effects of boat wakes and propeller wash. Disruption of the Pond bottom releases trapped phosphorus, which then becomes an algal nutrient, which can contribute to an algal bloom.

So how are wakes formed? This volume taken up by the boat under the waterline is the displacement volume, and the weight of that volume of water is equal to the weight of your boat. When your boat moves through the water, it displaces a proportional volume of water and digs a trough through the water. Five to eight feet behind your boat, the sides of the water trough collapse and converge, creating a rooster tail in the center of the trough. Gravity causes this large volume of water to flow back behind the boat to find its lowest point possible, falling over itself and eventually breaking into turbulent whitewash. As the turbulent whitewater dissipates, rolling waves form and slowly dissipate as they travel outward, forming a V shaped wake.

At idle speed, the boat wake is minimal, because the boat is level and no trough is formed. At speeds of about 8-14 mph, the bow of the boat rises and stern digs into the water, creating a deep trough, and large wake. Because most power boats have planing hulls, at speeds above 15-20 mph, they ride on top of the water, reducing the amount of water displaced and therefore create smaller wakes.

It follows that heavier boats form larger wakes because they displace more water than lighter boats. For example, studies have shown that it takes 500 feet for the wake from a heavy, wake board boat to dissipate, compared with 200 feet for a normal power boat. This is less of a problem on larger, deeper lakes. However, because Saturday Pond is such a small, shallow pond, there are few areas that allow a 500 foot distance to other boaters or the shoreline. Dedicated ski tow boats, wake board boats, wake surfing boats and ballasted boats are designed to create the large wakes needed for a person

to do wake jumping and acrobatics, and wake surfing. The wakes from these boats inevitably cause the damaging effects listed above, and therefore, more appropriate for large, deep lakes.

Hull width and hull depth define how wide and how steep the sides of the trough are, and therefore the size of the wake. A deep hull creates a deeper trough than a shallower hull, and therefore a larger wake. A narrow hull, like a canoe, can't form a trough, because the displaced water fills in the area behind the boat faster than a trough can form. Pontoon boats are ideal for a small pond, since the narrow, shallow pontoons create small, narrow troughs, and therefore small wakes.

So, if not a pontoon boat, what are the characteristics of a power boat suitable for Saturday Pond? In the past, boats that have been problematic have been heavy, powerful ski and wake board boats, whose wakes cause kayakers to be concerned about capsizing, and people on floating docks and pontoon boats risking a fall. Boats that have not been problematic fall into the category of boats that are <18 feet long, weighing < 2000 lbs. When considering a power boat, the relationship between boat length and weight is important. For example, when evaluating a line of bow riders, it was noted that a 16' boat weighed 1332 lbs, 17.5'-2112 lbs and 18'10"-3822 lbs. Small increases in boat length can be associated with large increases in weight, and therefore larger wakes. On Saturday Pond, all power boats have the potential to be problematic, and no doubt, tubing and water skiing cause some of the above deleterious effects. However, in the final analysis, the impact of a power boat on the Pond and on other boaters is dependent on how the boat is driven as well as its size.

How do I make my boat wake less impactful? As required by law, proceed at idle speed within 200 feet of the shoreline. The Pond is small enough that the location of kayakers and canoes can be determined at almost any time by just looking around. Be aware of their location and slow down well in advance of your approach so that you are creating an idle speed wake and not a massive 8-14 mph wake. Or, if at a safe distance, proceed at planing speed, with enough space for your wake to dissipate before being encountered by the kayakers. Balancing the load aboard your boat to keep the bow and stern even will help to minimize your wake. Try to tube when there are no kayakers on the Pond, and restrict your path to the center of the Pond, where the water is deepest and distance to the shoreline is greatest.

Wishing all happy boating this summer.





## No Invasive Plants!

**Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday July 24th 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. The Zoom link will be posted at: [saturdaypond.org](https://saturdaypond.org)

Remember: Register your boat and get a Milfoil Sticker. Follow all Maine's boating laws, and no personal watercraft (Jet Skies) are allowed on Saturday Pond.



### Membership Form for 2022-2023

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**

