

Saturday Pond Watershed Association Newsletter



Spring **2025**

Otisfield, Maine

www.SaturdayPond.org

Issue **37**

OUR MISSION

**Preserve-Enhance
Educate-Protect**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Julie Ywoskus, President
Steve Markarian, Vice-President
Amy Brown, Treasurer
Susan Haber, Recording Sec.
Susan LaFleur, Corresponding Sec.

APPOINTMENTS

Julie Ywoskus - Loon Counter
Amy Brown - Clerk
Eric Williams - Archivist, Website
Steve Markarian - Water Monitor
Jerry Haber - Water Monitor
William Young - Newsletter
Water Monitor

Saturday Pond Watershed Assoc
40 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield, Maine 04270

President's Message

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

My name is Julie Ywoskus and I am the new president of Saturday Pond Watershed Association (SPWA). For the past 6 years I have lived full time on Saturday Pond with my husband, John, 3 dogs and 2 cats. We have been part of the Saturday Pond community since 2005 and I have been an SPWA trustee since 2018. I want to thank Lourdes Engel for her work as the previous president of SPWA and Bill Bramswig for his work creating our annual newsletter for the past few years. We will miss both of their participation in our SPWA work.

Over the coming year, the association is hoping to involve more of you in our watershed activities. There is room for new or returning people to become involved in all areas, including patrolling for invasive plants, monitoring our loons, welcoming newcomers, and disseminating information to members. In this newsletter, you can read about the many ways to get involved. If you are interested in finding out more, please email or speak to us. We welcome your participation!

If you want to support the work we do for Saturday Pond, please consider becoming a new SPWA member (or renewing your membership) by completing the form on the back of the newsletter. Please include your email address as this is the easiest way for us to communicate important SPWA information with you. We also have a new email address, saturdaypondwatershed@gmail.com for you to communicate with us. The saturdaypondloons@gmail.com address is no longer in use.

Our SPWA annual meeting will be Sunday, July 20 at 10am at the Pond View beach on West Shore Drive. Lee Dassler of the Western Foothills Land Trust and Otisfield Conservation Committee will speak to us about the work of the land trust and specifically about the community forest being planned on 85 acres on Moose Pond and how you can get involved in this process. If there is rain, we will hold our meeting at the Otisfield Community Hall. Looking forward to seeing you at the annual meeting and on the pond!

Julie Ywoskus, SPWA President

Want to check your knowledge about Brown Tail Moths?

Take this quiz:



1 – What months do brown tail moth adults fly?

- a. Whenever they feel like it
- b. July and August
- c. August and September
- d. Only months ending in Y

2 – What time of day do they fly?

- a. Night time
- b. Mid day
- c. Morning
- d. They don't fly.

3 – What can you do to reduce attracting the moth?

- a. No outside lights at night in late June and then all of July and August
- b. Wear Axe body spray
- c. Shout at them
- d. Stop flirting with them

4 – How can I eliminate Brown Tail Moths on my property

- a. Where it is possible and practical, removing and destroying nests is the preferred method of control

- b. Hire a licensed commercial applicator of pesticides
- c. Use a wet/dry vac with a HEPA filter filled with a few inches of soapy water
- d. All of the above.

5 – Where can I learn more?

- a. https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/documents/browntail_moth_faqs_06032022.pdf
- b. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/browntail-moth/index.shtml>
- c. https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/documents/browntail_moth_brochure.pdf
- d. All of the above.



Repair of leaning spillway

Answers:

1 – B. Brown tail moth adults emerge late June and fly through August.

2 – A. Peak flying activity is at night around lights.

3 – A. Turn off outdoor lights during peak moth activity in July to reduce the moth attraction to your property.

4 - D. Recruit professionals when you can't remove webs. The Maine.gov website lists some reputable licensed professionals.

5 – D. Any of these links will bring you to important information about the Brown Tail moth infestation and what you can do about it. There is a wealth of information out there and to keep our families safe and our pond pesticide free, please take responsibility to educate yourself before doing anything rash. (get the pun?)

Thank you and hope to see you all on the pond this summer!

- Abby Marble
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Beaver Dam N.W. Cove

There is something truly magical about summertime in Maine.

I do love the fall, with the smell of crisp leaves, and winter, with its deep pockets of snow, and even the spring, with its bursts of green breaking up stick season, but summer never ceases to steal the show. There is something so comforting about the knowledge that whatever season of life we're each in, summer can be counted on to come back to the pond. Summer on Saturday Pond offers all so much: long days of light, barbecues with neighbors, morning paddles, fishing trips, pickleball or four-square matches, and laughter shared over campfires after a long day in the sun are just a few of my many, many favorite moments.

I love the way that Saturday Pond sounds during the summer, too; mornings full of birdsongs, splashes from friends and family as we jump off the dock or the pontoon boat, our loon pair chatting back and forth all day as they explore, and nights listening to peeper frogs and Barred Owls as we all drift off to sleep. Of all the sounds I hear throughout the year, summer on Saturday Pond will forever be my favorite soundtrack. Summer feels right, too.

Our camp has the most beautiful moss carpet on the forest floor that leads from our bottom porch all the way down to the waterfront, and it's a true sign that summer has arrived when we can kick off our shoes and enjoy feeling that moss on our bare feet.

However summer finds you this year, I hope you can take a moment to soak it in, welcome it back, and share in that joy of another season on the pond with the ones you love. Cheers to another season of sun!

- Julie Markarian

Invasive Plant Patrolling on Saturday Pond

Invasive aquatic plants can have a negative impact on the health of Maine lakes. They can harm native plants and animals, damage fishing and recreational experiences, and can reduce property values.



Once invasive plants are discovered, it is very difficult and costly to eliminate them from a water body.

They can be introduced by boats and other equipment that have been used in infected lakes and not properly inspected and cleaned before entering another lake.

To prevent the spread of invasive plant species, people should clean, drain and dry boats and equipment. Many Maine lakes have volunteer boat inspectors at boat launches, and certified Invasive Plant Patrollers (IPP'ers) also survey lakes to search for invasive plants.

Every summer on Saturday Pond, a group of certified IPP'ers patrol the pond to identify native aquatic plants and search for any suspicious, non-native or invasive plants. They receive training from Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM). We are very fortunate that no invasive plants have been found at Saturday Pond!

Information about becoming a certified invasive plant patroller can be found on LSM's website @ www.lakestewardsofmaine.org and by contacting the SPWA @ saturdaypondwatershed@gmail.com

- Susan LaFleur

Loon Nesting Update

Last season, our loons nested on the raft, but sadly we did not have a chick.



This season, Maine Audubon's Loon Restoration Program helped us move the raft closer to the shore for more shade and protection; and to anchor a new sign asking people to stay back. Both our loons are here on the pond, and as of early June they have started to nest on the raft. We are hopeful that by early July we will have a chick.



Just a reminder to keep your distance from any nesting loons and to learn about signs of loon stress. We don't know why our loons failed to produce a chick last year, but we do know that having people get too close can cause them to leave the nest. Please observe with binoculars only.... if you can see a nesting loon with your eyes only, then you are too close. Fingers crossed this year, we will see loon chicks!

- Julie Ywoskus

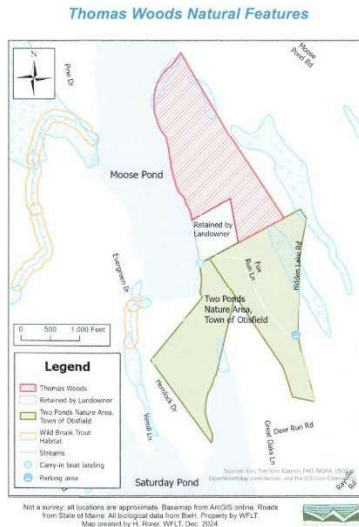
Thomas Woods - An Otisfield Community Forest on Moose Pond

In January, Otisfield residents voted to have the Selectboard purchase an 85-acre forested parcel on Moose Pond as a community forest, called Thomas Woods. Funding will be provided by grants and donations organized by the Western Foothills Land Trust (WFLT).

The work of planning Thomas Woods is ongoing. The Otisfield Conservation Committee is holding a series of 6 monthly meetings during which Otisfield residents determining how the forest will be managed, what natural resources need to be protected, whether there will be recreational trails or an educational center, and so on.

The remaining planning meetings are on July 22 and August 26 at the Otisfield Community Center from 6-8pm. All Otisfield residents are invited to help plan this great asset to our community. At our SPWA annual meeting on July 20, Lee Dassler from the WFLT and Otisfield Conservation Committee will talk to us about Thomas Woods and other WFLT projects.

- Julie Ywoskus



Water Test Results for Saturday Pond for Transparency Depth.

2024 Results

5/03/24	4.37 meters
5/26/24	4.73 meters
6/08/24	4.47 meters
6/16/24	5.07 meters
7/01/24	5.52 meters
7/08/24	6.25 meters
7/27/24	4.55 meters
8/21/24	5.67 meters
8/25/24	5.68 meters

The test results for phosphorus taken on 7/08/24, was 3 ug/l which is an excellent result. I have performed this test twice in 2024.

2025 Results

5/14/25	4.73 meters
6/03/25	6.40 meters.

I will be testing for phosphorus again this year around 7/06/25 and may have the results for the annual meeting in July.

- Stephen Markarian

Ice In & Ice Out

Ice In

Ice Out

December 4, 2024 March 28, 2025
Ice In/Out is based upon 80% of the Pond

INVASIVE ZEBRA MUSSELS

Zebra mussels are freshwater invasive bivalve shellfish that hitch rides on contaminated boats from one body of water to the next. They are easiest to identify at their adult stage when they are $\frac{3}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length but they are usually transported in their larval stage which is microscopic. They have a distinct, flat bottom “D” shape to their shells that allows them to sit flat against a solid surface, and have black zigzag stripes against a cream background that gives them their name. They are extremely stinky and sharp shelled. Female zebra mussels can release up to a million eggs per year, due to their high reproductive rate they are highly invasive.



They are competitive for food resources and nutrients that native fish and wildlife require. In addition they can attach themselves to hard surfaces, including watercraft, pipes, rocks, docks, and even native mussels. Zebra mussels can cause significant economic damage by clogging water intake systems at power plants and industrial facilities.



Zebra mussels were likely brought over from Europe and Russia to the US as stowaways in the ballast of ships. They are pervasive throughout the Canadian Great Lakes and have spread to the Midwest and West Coast (even Texas) via rivers and watercraft. Zebra mussels are currently found in the Saint John River from Madawaska downstream. This is the first known occurrence in Maine. They are extremely difficult and costly to eradicate making prevention the key.

Prevent their introduction to new water bodies by inspecting and cleaning watercraft before and after use in infected areas. Maine law requires that prior to entering a waterbody and when preparing to leave launch facilities, boaters must remove or open any devices designed for routine removal/opening (for example, hull drain plugs, bailers, live wells, ballast tanks) to encourage draining of areas containing water (exuding live bait containers). This must be done in a way that does not allow drained water to enter any inland water of the state. Dry all equipment and water craft completely before reuse. While they can be removed, washed off, and drained out with best cleaning and draining practices, allowing watercraft and all gear to dry

thoroughly between water bodies is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of these microscopic zebra mussel larvae. This drying should occur for multiple days (2-5 days) when possible. Please help us keep Zebra mussels from entering Saturday Pond, these practices will also help us keep Saturday Pond free of invasive plants.

- Amy Brown



Do you see what I see below?



aturday Pond Watershed Assoc
0 Ridgewood Terrace
Otisfield, Maine 04270



No Invasive Plants!

Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday July 20th** 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 indoor location for the meeting will be at: **Otisfield Community Hall**.

Remember: Register your boat and get a Milfoil Sticker. Follow all Maine's boating laws, and no personal watercraft (Jet Skis) are allowed on Saturday Pond. Questions or Comments? Email us at: SaturdayPondWaterShed@gmail.com



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Membership Form **2025-2026**

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 _____

