

Fall 2022

MoosePondMatters

The Devastating Impact of Invasive Plants:

Our Field Trip to Arrowhead Lake

by LAURIE VANCE - MPA VICE PRESIDENT

Back in July, MPA President Chip Wendler and LEA Executive Director Colin Holme organized an outing for the MPA board and LEA staff members to get a first-hand look at a lake struggling with an overwhelming infestation of invasive plants. We drove the 28 miles from Moose Pond to Limerick, ME, and boarded a pontoon boat with two Lake Arrowhead Community Board members: Mike Fitzpatrick and Dave Sanfason. Mike and Dave have worked tirelessly (24-30 hours per week!) for years trying to halt the spread of three invasive plants that

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Loon Population & Protection on Moose Pond!

by RICHARD NIEDEL - MPA BOARD MEMBER

What a privilege it was to watch a newborn loon develop into a juvenile this summer. This maturation was documented daily through the long distance lens of our multi-talented photographer, Nancy Campbell, MPA member and Moose Pond resident. 2022 marked the third year in a row that the loon pair has nested near the narrows, producing 2 eggs this year. Happily, one hatched on July 13. Watching the adults feed the surviving chick and fearlessly protect it was awe-inspiring. Our hearts quickened listening to the haunting warnings of the adults as one of the local bald eagles circled in interest. Stress levels were also up when boaters drove too close or approached the family too quickly. Some jet skiers dangerously threatened the loons as well,



LOON CHICK BEING FED

riding too close, too fast, and circling the trio. Thankfully, the loon parents were successful in protecting their new offspring.

The historic shape of Moose Pond's loon population, and this applies to most lakes in our state, is somewhat unknown. Luckily, the Maine Audubon's Loon Count has been compiling data detailing loon sightings during their one-day loon count since 1983. This invaluable data

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The MPA's Lake Section Captain Initiative: Extra Protection for Moose Pond

by SHAWN HAGERTY - MPA BOARD MEMBER

The MPA recently launched a new initiative to enhance our efforts to protect the lake we love from invasive plant and animal infestations. Called the Lake Section Captain Initiative, it allows for more coverage and more frequent examination of the lake.

Many readers may already know that a portion of their donations to the MPA are used to pay the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) to conduct an annual survey of high traffic areas around Moose Pond. The hope is, should milfoil or other invasive species enter the lake, this survey will catch them. However, a once yearly survey limited to a very small percentage of the lake can only provide

so much protection.

The Lake Section Captain Initiative divides the lake into 17 sections, assigning a "Lake Section Captain" to each zone. Over time, these volunteers will become familiar with the types of plants currently growing in their section, and will be able to quickly detect any changes, specifically the presence of any invasive species, so that we can take quick action to remove them before they spread unchecked. An infestation that is not quickly



BUDDY THE DOG HELPS INSPECT HIS SECTION OF THE MOOSE POND SHORELINE

addressed could mean permanent, and costly, damage to our lake.

In October, I completed the survey of my section. I am, admittedly, not well versed in aquatic plant identification,

so part of my preparation was to visit the LEA headquarters in Bridgton. The LEA team is extremely eager and happy to explain the differences between native milfoil and invasive milfoil. Believe it or not, Moose Pond does have harmless,

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Happy holidays to all of you. I hope this latest version of the MPA's Moose Pond Matters newsletter finds you happy and well. I want to thank our paying members for their ongoing support of our efforts to maintain and improve the quality of life on Moose Pond for all to enjoy for generations to come. We can't do what we do without your financial support.

As I was reviewing all of the articles that were kindly submitted by various members of the MPA Board, 10 numbers stood out to me. They were 1135, 100000, 32, 20, 0, 1000, 17, 1, 50000, and 222. What is the story behind each of these numbers?

- 1,135 is the number of Courtesy Boat Inspector hours at the Route 302 and Denmark boat launch ramps that your MPA membership donations helped to fund. These inspectors examined 1,673 boats/trailers and found 51 plant fragments (none of them were invasive this year).
- \$100,000 is the dollar amount that the community surrounding Arrowhead Lake pays annually to unsuccessfully fight their totally out of control variable leaf milfoil infestation.
- 32 is the number of lakes in Southern Maine that are infested with invasive plants; 25 of these lakes are located within 40 miles of Moose Pond, including Arrowhead Lake.
- 20% is the average decline in lakeside property values when a lake is combatting a pervasive milfoil infestation, according to some studies.
- \$0 is the cost to have your property examined by a member of the LakeSmart team. They can suggest adjustments to your landscaping to curb harmful, phosphorus-laden run-off from making its way into the lake.
- \$1,000 is the amount of matching funds available to each homeowner who needs financial support to implement any run-off management ideas suggested by the LakeSmart team.
- 17 is the number of volunteers who have signed up to patrol "their" section of the Moose Pond shoreline twice a year. They watch out for invasive plants and animals so that we can catch an infestation early and combat it in a rigorous manner.
- \$50,000 is the 2021-2022 budget for the Marine Safety Program in nearby Naples. It is used to educate the boating community, enforce Maine's boating safety laws, and enforce the town's mooring/dock ordinances. They also respond to marine emergencies.
- 1 is the number of newborn loon chicks who survived this year's breeding season on Moose Pond. We should and can do better with this in the future with your help.
- 222 is the number of membership donations that the MPA has received in 2022 through the end of October. With more than 900 properties around the lake, and given what's at stake if our lake becomes infested, we would really appreciate it if you would partner with us and support the cause. Please consider becoming an MPA member and renewing that membership on an annual basis.



THE LEA'S DR. BEN PEIERLS PRESENTING AT THE MPA'S ANNUAL MEETING.

If we had more support from the community, we could increase the amount of courtesy boat inspector days/hours at both boat launch sites, could fund more costly/complicated projects meant to reduce harmful run-off from entering the lake, and could increase the size of our Emergency Reserve Rapid Response Fund to quickly combat an

invasive plant infestation if/when it is detected.

As I close, I want to give a shout out to the members of the MPA Board who kindly volunteered to write articles for this newsletter, and who work diligently on behalf of the MPA membership throughout the year. Also, a big thank you to Beth Osborne, who was a huge

help during the article review and editing process for this issue of Moose Pond Matters. **MPA**



See you on the lake,
Chip Wendler, *MPA President*
Middle Basin Resident
30+ Years on the Lake
chipwendler@gmail.com



8 LOONS ON THE LAKE

Loons... continued from page 1

demonstrates that Moose Pond has supported loon activity for over 39 years! Now, it's safe to assume loons were on Moose Pond before 1983; there just isn't supporting documentation. This loon count data does have some limitations. For example, loon chick sightings were infrequently reported in the loon count data sets, and many of the surveys only covered a portion of the lake. Thus, the loon count data can be used to confirm historic loon presence, but can't necessarily be used to demonstrate loon productivity or loon population shifts for the whole of Moose Pond. Six adults and one chick were observed during Loon Count Day. However, 8 loons were spotted together on the lake on a different day.

The loon count dataset and the Lakes Environmental Association's (LEA) recent Loon Monitoring Project include observations of both adults and chicks for two out of the last three years. Over these years only 1-2 chicks were observed per year. Moose Pond's loon population is reported as "likely stable" because eggs are laid and chicks occasionally survive. However, it should be noted that this data can only show us so much. Moose Pond spans approximately 1697 acres, and an average loon's territory is between 100-150 acres. Thus, it is possible that Moose Pond's loon population is either under-reported or under-productive. Gathering more data over time will help to clarify this issue.

Lakeside residents can volunteer to monitor loon populations... [and] can support loon populations by encouraging lake users to slow down.



LOON CHICK ALL GROWN UP

Another resource is The Loon Restoration Project. This is a collaborative research initiative including Maine Audubon, LEA, Maine Lakes, and the Penobscot Nation. It places artificial nesting platforms in confirmed loon habitats on lakes with declining or under-productive loon populations. The goal is to use the data collected to help determine if artificial nesting platforms increase loon productivity. To accomplish this, LEA is partnering with volunteers who are willing to monitor loon populations during nesting season. This year, an artificial nesting platform was placed in Moose Pond's southern basin and monitored throughout the season. MPA members, meanwhile, kept tabs on a natural nest. As a result, there is an entire season's worth of data on two of Moose Pond's loon pairs for 2022!

Lakeside residents can volunteer to monitor loon populations. On a body of water as large as Moose Pond, the more monitors we have, the more likely we are to locate additional nests and accurately describe the loon population and loon productivity. The north and south basins, in particular, are under-monitored. If anyone within these areas would be interested in checking in on loon populations a few times a month, please contact LEA's Maggie Welch at maggie@mainelakes.org

Lakeside residents can support loon populations by encouraging lake users to slow down within 200 feet of the shore.

This minimizes wake disruption of loon nests. A heavy boat wake can wash over nests and push an egg out. Eggs that fall into the water can't be recovered by the loons. Similarly, consider limiting firework displays on the water. Loud fireworks scare loons off of their nests. This leaves eggs unattended. If the adult is scared enough to stay away for hours, the egg may get too cold, which decreases the chances of the egg hatching.

Loon populations can also be supported by maintaining a respectful distance. Approaching loons on the nest or chicks in the water is stressful for them. Loons are known to abandon nests if disturbed or threatened. Loon parents will also aggressively protect their chicks if they feel threatened. It's safest for loons if people and dogs stay back and give them space. Placing signage at public boat launches and providing loon-specific informational brochures to renters can help. On lakes with public access, the biggest obstacle is educating short term visitors, who may not be as invested in loon health as lakeside residents. Leaving well placed, accessible information is a good first step in teaching and mobilizing people toward a better future for the loons.

Kezar Lake is a local success story. After observing poor chick survival rates, they began monitoring their loon population and strategically placed nesting platforms on the lake. Long story short, their chick survival rate is increasing! It takes time and careful monitoring, but bolstering loon populations can absolutely be successful.

MPA wishes to thank Maggie Welch (Staff Researcher LEA) for her significant input to this article, and to Nancy Campbell, MPA member and photographer extraordinaire. **MPA**

YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT LEA AT MAINELAKES.ORG, AND MORE ABOUT THE LOON RESTORATION PROJECT AT MAINEAUDUBON.ORG/PROJECTS/LOONS/LOON-RESTORATION-PROJECT/

The Importance of the Sleep-Away Summer Camps on Moose Pond

by ZACH CLAYTON • MPA BOARD MEMBER



CAMP WYONEGONIC CAMPERS PADDLING ON MOOSE POND

Moose Pond has always been a popular place for locals and tourists alike. In any season, the lake and its surrounding mountains offer a wide range of activities that are enjoyed by all ages. The lake's popularity has increased in recent years as more homes have popped up along the shoreline and as working-from-home has become a more prevalent way of life. Most residents and visitors are likely familiar with the three basins, the boat ramps, and, of course, Pleasant Mountain, but some of you may be less familiar with the Sleep-Away Summer Camps that have called Moose Pond home for more than 100 years.

While legend has it there were once up to four camps on the lake (two on the south basin and two on the main basin), only two camps remain: Camp Wyonegonic, a girls' sleep-away summer camp founded in 1902, and Camp Winona, a boys' sleep-away camp founded in 1908. Both camps were founded by the Cobb Family, who were educators and instilled the camps with a love of learning and a deep respect for the outdoors. This philosophy has been carried through the generations. Campers take part in a wide array of activities from team sports, to archery, swimming, and sailing, as well as frequent field trips to the surrounding mountains, rivers, and lakes. Both camps' current owners, the Sudduth family (Wyonegonic) and the Ordway family (Winona) strive to preserve the Cobb Family's philosophy.

While these two camps are each unique in their own right, they do share many similarly special qualities. One such quality is the amazing waterfront that has played such a major role in the camp's history and present activities. Before roads wound their way through the countryside of Bridgton and

Denmark, staff, campers, mail, and supplies all came to the camps by boat on the waters of Moose Pond. Both camps still refer to the old dock numbers that served as a type of "address." These days, the camps boast campers from all over the world who escape to "the shores," as they call Moose Pond, every summer.

Much of the staff are former campers who plan to send their own children, should they have them, to camp someday. Their thoughts about Moose Pond are intertwined with their feelings about their camp experience, and as Clayton Miles (a former camper, parent, and long-time staff member at Camp Winona) described to me, "They wake up to it [the lake], they fall asleep to it, they play in it, and it is the backdrop to some of the most important moments of their young lives." As we continued to talk about the idea of stewardship, we both agreed that building a love of place creates generations of stewards for the camps and lake on which they sit. The

Building a love of place creates generations of stewards for the camps and lake on which they sit.

campers also provide an introduction to the outdoors and the qualities of nature that make it such a magical part of life itself.

Sara Fields Polstein, a former camper, counselor, and now parent to a future camper, reflected on her own camp experience saying, "Wyo was my first and really only exposure to the outdoors - it's where I gained a love and appreciation of nature." This reflection rings true for many campers, especially in this digital world. Sara continued: "Preserving the oasis of Moose Pond so that my son can experience camp is incredibly important to me." The summer camp communities, both past and present, represent a group of people who care deeply about the health of Moose Pond. The lake and the camps are inextricably connected, and the health of one impacts the other.

The next time you're on the lake and see a group of campers paddling in canoes or enjoying the water from the dock, or maybe you bump into them hiking on Pleasant Mountain, remember they are part of the next generation of people who hope to protect this truly special place.

Importantly, each camp intentionally educates their own communities about the original inhabitants of the area. The summer camps have been situated on Moose Pond's shoreline for over the last 100 plus years, but the lake and surrounding wilderness were part of the traditional hunting grounds and

inhabited for thousands of years by the Pequawket tribe prior to European colonization and expansion. Both camps conduct land acknowledgments and honor the historical significance of this native American heritage to the Moose Pond

Basin region.

For more information about Wyonegonic or Winona and their unique histories, please visit their websites. If you are interested in seeing some truly spectacular photos of the lake and its surroundings, check out Clayton Miles' photography at www.cjmilesphoto.com.

To learn more about how you can help protect Moose Pond, please visit the MPA website at www.moosepondassociation.org. **MPA**

Lake Health Statistics for Moose Pond: What Gets Measured and Why

by BILL MONROE • MPA BOARD MEMBER

Most readers will know that the Lake Environmental Association (LEA) is an essential partner to the MPA in the pond protection process. We literally could not do it without their help and the MPA encourages you to support both organizations. Amongst other important duties, LEA monitors the water quality in over 40 lakes in the region, including Moose Pond.

What does LEA measure?

LEA is looking for the following:

- Water clarity
- Water temperature and dissolved oxygen levels
- Phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels
- pH, alkalinity, conductivity, and color

The trends found here are important for monitoring the long-term health of Moose Pond.

Why do they measure what they measure?

Water clarity: Clearer lakes are generally healthier lakes.

Temperature and Oxygen: The temperature profile demonstrates lake stratification and can also indicate whether there is a suitable habitat for cold water fish. The oxygen profile helps determine biological activity and whether or not the lake is at risk for internal phosphorus recycling.

Phosphorus (the nutrient that controls algae growth) and Chlorophyll-a (the green pigment found in plants): In both cases less is better! They have specific techniques to determine whether or not phosphorus is being recycled into the upper waters from the sediments. More phosphorus means more algae, which is not good.

pH, Alkalinity, Conductivity, and Color: All of these statistics reflect the general health of the water – very similar to a swimming pool water sampling program.

What were the statistics for Moose Pond last season?

The below were pulled from the mid-season report which was presented at the MPA annual meeting. Full 2022 results are still being compiled.

- Middle Basin: Water clarity is within the high clarity range, with the average clarity value less than the Middle Basin's long-term average. Total phosphorus concentrations are within the moderate range, with the averaged total phosphorus concentration higher than the Middle Basin's long-term average. To date, we have only 1 chlorophyll data point. This chlorophyll reading was obtained in late May and was within the moderate chlorophyll range.
- North Basin: Water clarity in the North



Basin is within the moderately clear range, with the average clarity value near the North Basin's long-term average. Total phosphorus concentrations are within the moderate range, with the averaged total phosphorus concentration higher than the long-term average. The chlorophyll reading obtained in late May was within the low chlorophyll range.

- South Basin: Water clarity in the South Basin is within the moderately clear range, with the average clarity value near the South Basin's long-term average. Total phosphorus concentrations are within the moderate range, with the averaged total phosphorus concentration higher than the South Basin's long-term average. The chlorophyll reading obtained in late May was within the low chlorophyll range.

It is expected that the chlorophyll readings will end the year at their long-term averages as additional samples are taken and analyzed. In all three basins, phosphorus levels tested higher than their long-term averages; which is a little discouraging. More will be understood at the end of the year; there were 4 more tests done in each part of the lake. As discussed above, higher phosphorus levels are connected with higher algae growth. A healthy lake has less algae in it. In general, Moose Pond has moderate-to-low levels of phosphorus, and chlorophyll and clarity are in the moderate-to-high range.

What can Moose Pond property owners do to improve the quality of the lake for future generations?

Protecting Moose Pond is as simple as keeping natural fertilizer phosphorus out of the water. Since most of the phosphorus reaching lakes is attached to soil particles, erosion control is the key. Fortunately, fixing or preventing erosion of driveways, roads, ditches, shorelines, parking areas, and home sites is also cost-effective. It lowers overall maintenance costs.

It is important for all of us to monitor the erosion on our properties and prevent run-off going directly into the lake. Natural vegetation, as opposed to lawns, is one of the best filtering systems. In all cases we need to prevent any fertilizer from entering the lake without being filtered.

If each of us does our part then the whole lake will benefit for years to come. More about LEA's water testing program can be found on their website at: www.mainelakes.org/water-testing-program/

The LEA site was used as a resource for the majority of the information in this article. **MPA**



LakeSmart: Promotes Lake-Friendly Landscaping

by BILL DEXTER • MPA BOARD MEMBER



Did you know that PHOSPHORUS is one of the more damaging substances that makes its way into Moose Pond? It is. An excess of phosphorus in a lake contributes to excess algae and/or cyanobacteria growth, making the lake cloudy green and smelly. Over time, as these plants die and sink to the bottom of the lake, they decompose and begin to rob the lake of vital oxygen supplies.

Take advantage of the LakeSmart program!



AN EFFECTIVE BERM INHIBITS UNHELPFUL RUNOFF FROM REACHING THE LAKE



MITCH AND CINDY CODDINGTON, MIDDLE BASIN RESIDENTS, RECEIVE THEIR LAKE SMART AWARD

Did you know that **MOST** of the phosphorus comes from run-off from our lakefront properties? It does.

Are you aware that there are **BEST PRACTICES** to reduce or prevent phosphorus from running off into Moose Pond? **THERE ARE!**

And did you realize that there is a **NO COST, COMPLETELY PRIVATE** evaluation program designed to help us do

this? **THERE IS – THE LAKESMART PROGRAM!**

One of the most frequent contributors to run-off into Moose Pond from our properties is unimpeded water coming from driveways and parking areas, down a sloped hill or bank. There are two great ways to stop or mitigate this unhelpful run-off. The first (see picture) – and one of the simplest and least costly methods

- is to build an above ground berm, or barrier, to divert water into more thickly vegetated areas where run-off can readily be absorbed. The second is to vegetate the area (ideally with native plants – blueberry bushes work great!) down slope between the lake shore and the areas that contribute to the run-off. Like the berm, this helps with absorbing any run-off that is occurring.

If you would like to take advantage of the LakeSmart program, here are the basics:

- It is a free program – there are no costs associated with the LakeSmart property inspection process
- The inspection is fully confidential
- It takes about an hour to complete the evaluation
- Shortly after the inspection, you will receive recommendations about best practices you could adopt to lessen your impact on Moose Pond
- **MATCHING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE MPA** for any work you undertake to reduce run off (up to 50% of cost or \$1000 max)
- You can qualify for a “LakeSmart Award” (see picture)

In 2022, 15 properties were evaluated on Moose Pond and 10 awards were given/recommended.

If you want to learn more about the LakeSmart program or set up a LakeSmart evaluation, contact our Moose Pond LakeSmart coordinator, Bill Dexter, at dexathome@gmail.com, or by cell phone at 207-232-0726. **MPA**



SAVE THE DATE! – Saturday, July 8, 2023

The MPA's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 9:00am...

Please make plans to join us.

...and will once again take place at Pleasant Mountain's Main Lodge. We had a record-setting crowd at the 2022 annual meeting, where we were unfortunately crammed into the East Lodge. That will not be the case this year!

Also, after receiving a number of member suggestions, we have moved the meeting to earlier in the summer hoping that more members can attend before heading south in late August, when we have traditionally hosted this session.

Does Moose Pond (Bridgton's Lakes) Need a Marine Safety Officer?

by SCOTT FRAME • MPA BOARD MEMBER

In recent years, the MPA has received an increasingly large number of complaints related to discourteous boating behavior and the negative impact it can have on other boaters, shoreline erosion, and wildlife nesting grounds. We have also seen a rise in questions related to what is and is not allowed in terms of docks and moorings in front of our properties.

As a part of our investigation into what the MPA might want to do (or at least advocate for) to address these concerns, MPA President Chip Wendler and I met with Shawn Herbert – the Harbor Master and Chief of the Marine Safety Division for the Town of Naples, ME. Naples hired their Harbor Master and established their Marine Safety program back in 1987 when the Town of Naples passed a mooring ordinance. By 1989 their duties expanded to include the promotion of boating safety and the enforcement of safe boating regulations.

The Mission of the Naples Marine Safety Division is to provide proactive education to the recreational boating community, reactive enforcement of the rules and laws of the State of Maine and the Town of Naples, and rapid response services in the event of a water emergency within the territorial waters of the Town of Naples. In 2021, the Naples Marine Safety team logged a total of 1,308 service hours and handled 736 calls for service.

Naples spent nearly \$50K on their Marine Safety Program during the 2020-2021 season, and approved expenditures of nearly double that amount in their 2021-2022 budget. A significant portion of the budget dollars used to underwrite

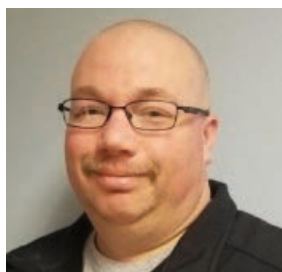
the program come from annual mooring fees and one-time inspection fees related to the installation of new docks. The Division is made up of 13 part-time employees / deputized volunteers. Their primary duties include enforcing Maine's statewide boating laws (do boaters have up-to-date boat registrations/milfoil stickers and the proper equipment on their vessel), are boaters obeying Maine's boating regulations (no wake zones, etc.), and are property owners following Maine's regulations related to the number and placement of docks and moorings. Currently, the Moose Pond Courtesy Boat Inspectors at the Route 302 and Denmark boat ramps check for a milfoil sticker and encourage boaters to get one if it is absent. In contrast, Naples visitors are prohibited from entering Long Lake and Sebago Lake if they do not have a sticker on their watercraft.

If Bridgton hired one or more Marine Safety officer(s) and equipped them with a boat, one could envision a scenario where an officer could randomly visit each of Bridgton's largest lakes (Moose Pond, Highland Lake, Woods Pond, and Long Lake's northern end) on a weekly basis to monitor compliance with both safe boating and dock/mooring regulations.

- Do you think Moose Pond would benefit from this sort of initiative?
- Or do you think it is a bad idea?

We want to hear from you so that we can develop an informed and well-supported position on this important matter. Please share your thoughts with me at scottdframe@gmail.com. **MPA**

We want to hear from you so that we can develop an informed and well-supported position on this important matter.



SHAWN HERBERT, TOWN OF NAPLES
HARBOR MASTER

MPA Board of Directors:

Here is a list of the MPA board members who are working hard on your behalf. Please thank them if you see them in, on or around the lake.

- ZACH CLAYTON*
MIDDLE BASIN • 30+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- BILL DEXTER*
MIDDLE BASIN • 50+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- BILL DROMESHAUSER*
MIDDLE BASIN • 30+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- PAUL DWYER*
MIDDLE BASIN • 40+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- SCOTT FRAME*
MIDDLE BASIN • 40+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- SHAWN HAGERTY*
MIDDLE BASIN • 2+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- BILL MONROE*
NORTH BASIN • 5+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- BILL MUIR
MIDDLE BASIN • 5+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- ANNE MUNSTEDT*
MPA CLERK
SOUTH BASIN • 30+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- RUTH WYMAN NEAGLE*
MPA TREASURER
MIDDLE BASIN • 50+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- RICHARD NIEDEL*
MIDDLE BASIN • 50+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- MARK PATTERSON*
MIDDLE BASIN • 40+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- STEVE PETTER
NORTH BASIN • 5+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- STEPHANIE SCEARCE*
SOUTH BASIN • 30+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- LAURIE VANCE*
MPA VICE PRESIDENT
MIDDLE BASIN • 10+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- CHIP WENDLER*
MPA PRESIDENT
MIDDLE BASIN • 30+ YEARS ON THE LAKE
- *THIS BOARD MEMBER IS ALSO A LAKE SECTION CAPTAIN

Thank You

Collins Plumbing & Heating
For Maintaining the
Denmark Boat Wash Station



Field Trip *continued from page 1*

are overtaking their lake.

We saw:

- Docks and coves choked with thick growing milfoil making them unswimmable and not boatable.
- Areas deemed a remediation “victory” that were still infested.
- A shift from eradication to acceptance. A main goal was to simply carve pathways through the invasive plants from docks to the open water.
- Fragments of milfoil, hydrilla, and swollen bladderwort drifting throughout the lake.
- A boat crew of 4 individuals working all summer, 5 days a week, 8 hours a day, to carve pathways from coves to deeper sections of the lake.
- Two divers in scuba gear actively pulling up the milfoil by hand, then feeding it into a vacuum. They called this “pluck and suck.”
- A community devastated by both the lifestyle and financial impact of invasive weeds, fighting to keep their lake functional.

We learned:

- Property values on the lake dropped from 20-30% due to the infestation of invasive species.
- Tax revenue for the town was impacted; non-lake resident tax rates went up significantly.
- The cost for remediation is currently about \$100K per year.
- Remediation is largely the responsibility of the community, not the state.
- The two boat teams currently employed take out approximately 1,200 cubic feet (compressed) of invasive plants each summer.
- Logistically, the Lake Arrowhead Community fights to keep the boat teams productive every possible day during growing season. The work is hard and hiring qualified divers is difficult.
- Despite the infestation and Lake Arrowhead’s appeal to stop boats coming in and out of the lake, fishing tournaments are still allowed by IFW (Maine Inland Fishing & Wildlife). These boats can easily travel to Moose Pond and other lakes, bringing fragments with them.
- The Community Boat Inspectors at Lake Arrowhead have the most “catches” of all other Maine lakes combined.

Seeing an invasive plant infestation first-hand was invaluable. We are all passionate about preserving Moose Pond for future generations. Understanding the imperative to act now to prevent or, maybe more realistically, prepare, for a potential infestation became obvious. Funding the Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) Program,



MEMBERS OF THE MPA BOARD AND LEA STAFF SEE ARROWHEAD LAKE’S VARIABLE LEAF MILFOIL INFESTATION FIRST HAND

staying vigilant when we launch our watercrafts, and watching the shoreline we use is critical. Additionally, establishing a plan and a fund for acting fast if an infestation is discovered should be a key goal for our lake association. The consequences of not acting are almost unimaginable...had we not seen it first-hand.

What you can do:

- Learn, look, and report any questionable aquatic plants and animals you might see to the MPA. It’s easy:
- Take a picture and send it to info@moosepondassociation.org noting the time, date and location of your “find.”
- Even better, bag it with some lake water and bring it directly to the LEA at their headquarters located in Bridgton at 230 Main Street.
- Contribute to the Moose Pond Association so that we can continue and expand our CBI program. This will also allow us to build up an Infestation Rapid Response Fund to address any infestation quickly and thoroughly if/when one occurs.

If we all work together, we can maintain and improve the quality of life on Moose Pond, allowing all to enjoy the lake for many generations to come. **MPA**

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ONE OF TWO MILFOIL HARVESTING BARGES THAT WORK ALL SUMMER LONG ON ARROWHEAD LAKE

Courtesy Boat Inspector Program Update

by STEVE PETTER • MPA BOARD MEMBER

Each year, members donate more than \$30K to the MPA to help protect Moose Pond from invasive species, monitor lake health, educate property owners on the dangers of phosphorus-laden runoff, and promote lake-friendly boating behavior.

The largest line item in our budget by far is the Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) Program. Through this program we pay the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) more than \$20K to recruit, train, deploy, and monitor the folks in the yellow shirts who inspect hundreds of boats each year. These inspections ensure all suspicious plant fragments are removed from boats and trailers before being launched into Moose Pond. In 2022, MPA donor dollars paid for 1,135 CBI hours at our two ramps; dozens of plant fragments were discovered and removed. None were found to be invasive plants but, in 2020, a diligent CBI working at the Denmark launch prevented a strand of invasive milfoil from entering Moose

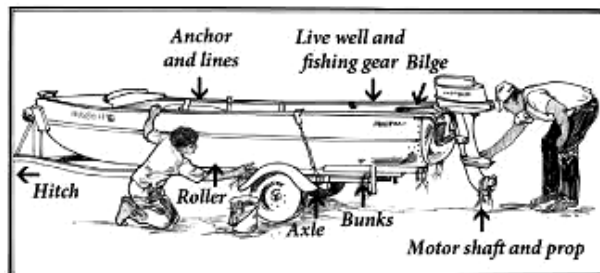
Pond. One small strand is all it takes to start a serious and costly infestation in our waters. What's more, remediation of an infestation is only possible if an infestation is caught early and is addressed properly and thoroughly.

An under-appreciated part of the CBI program is their role in educating boaters and the population at large that the spread of invasive species is a very serious problem. We all have a part to play: be aware, and do your part. In a Bangor

exceed \$4M, and cause lakeside property values on infested lakes to tumble. As Moose Pond property owners, we have a huge incentive to prevent invasive species from entering our lake.

If you are a current paying member of the Moose Pond Association, thank you so much for doing your part to help us protect the lake we love. If you are not a current member, please consider becoming one. More donor dollars means expanding the hours of CBIs. Due to budget constraints,

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Daily News article earlier this year Lori Valigra reported that invasive milfoil is now present in 32 lakes in Maine. Maine's five southern counties could see property values fall by more than \$11M because of these infestations. Moreover, Valigra reported that the annual cost of controlling these infestations could

we currently have large gaps in coverage. For example, as of this writing we can only afford to have CBIs on duty at the Denmark ramp on the weekends. If we are able to implement more consistent and regular coverage, we can ensure Moose Pond's quality for generations to come. **MPA**

Section Captain

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native milfoil. All of the Lake Section Captains will be receiving LEA plant identification training in the spring of 2023.

The day after my visit to LEA's offices, I started my initial survey by paddleboard (with help from my assistant, Buddy the dog!) while wearing polarized sunglasses so I could effectively see below the surface. Invasive milfoils grow in depths up to 15 feet; an alarming characteristic considering the many shallow areas of Moose Pond. During one of my surveys, I spotted 2 plants that looked unusual to me. The protocol for any concerning and/or suspect plant is to carefully remove a section (using a long handled grabbing tool is the easiest method), being mindful not to create any

fragments that could potentially spread the plant; place the sample in a Ziploc bag filled with lake water; note the date, time, and location; and take the sample to LEA headquarters for identification. Fortunately, this find was a false alarm; the LEA instantly recognized both of my samples as Bladderwort! For this past year, my section seems all in order.

Preventing variable leaf milfoil and other invasive plants from entering our pond remains a top priority for the MPA. With that in mind, please – please – please continue to spread the word to friends, neighbors, and visitors who bring boats into our lake to be aware of the very real threat of invasive species. Our next line of defense is early detection to prevent an uncontrollable infestation. In addition to the Lake Section Captain initiative, we encourage everyone to "Adopt Your Shoreline" and contact the MPA if you see any plants or animals that



SUSPICIOUS PLANT SAMPLE THAT TURNED OUT TO BE HARMLESS NATIVE BLADDERWORT

look unusual. Thanks for reading this article – Buddy and I hope to see you on the water! **MPA**



NANCY CAMPBELL AND THE MPA WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO PURCHASED A COPY OF HER 2023 SCENES OF MOOSE POND CALENDAR.

MOOSE POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

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