

Moose Pond Association Annual Meeting Notes

Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 9:00a

Pleasant Mountain Ski Area – Main Lodge

On Saturday, July 8, 2023, the Moose Pond Association (MPA) board and +/- 100 interested others met for the MPA's Annual meeting at Pleasant Mountain's main lodge. The following board members were present including Zach Clayton, Bill Dexter, Paul Dwyer, Shawn Hagerty, Bill Monroe, Anne Munstedt (Clerk), Ruth Neagle (Treasurer), Richard Niedel, Mark Patterson (Immediate Past President), Stephanie Scarce, Richard Niedel and Chip Wendler (President). Board members Bill Dromeshauser, Scott Frame, Bill Muir, Steve Petter and Laurie Vance (Vice President) were not able to attend.

Welcome and Agenda Overview by Chip Wendler (President)

MPA President Chip Wendler welcomed the group and noted that the annual meeting slide deck will be posted on the MPA website after the meeting concludes. As was the case in 2022, Chip highlighted that a key objective for the MPA's annual meeting is to make sure that the membership has a clear understanding as to why the MPA was founded, what MPA's key goals are and how we are trying to achieve these goals. He asked the audience to provide feedback after the fact -- including any suggestions in terms of what the MPA might do to make future annual meetings more interesting and useful to the membership.

Chip noted that, on August 14, 2023 the MPA will start celebrating its 15th year as a lake association and that none of this would have been possible if Dave Ehrman had not agreed to be the organization's founding president. Dave was in attendance at the meeting and the crowd recognized his 10 years of leadership. Chip also recognized immediate past president Mark Patterson who led the organization for three years after Dave stepped down. Mark followed by thanking Steve Cavicchi who was the organization's first treasurer and also played an instrumental role in getting the MPA off the ground.

Chip followed with an overview of the agenda and mentioned the presence of two special guests. Boyne's Ralph Lewis was present to provide an update related to Pleasant Mountain's development plans and LEA's Executive Director Colin Holme was attending to report on Moose Pond health, invasive plant surveys and loon counts as well as LEA's broader activities which impact all lakes across the state including Moose Pond.

Next, Chip presented from a slide which showed the current 16-person MPA board including Zach Clayton*, Bill Dexter, Paul Dwyer, Shawn Hagerty, Josh Harrington (NEW/PROPOSED), Scott Frame*, Bill Monroe, Bill Muir, Anne Munstedt (Clerk)*, Ruth Neagle (Treasurer), Richard Niedel, Steve Petter, Mark Patterson, Stephanie Scarce, Laurie Vance (Vice President), Chip Wendler (President). Those Board members with an "*" after their names have expiring terms but all three members have agreed to serve again if approved by the membership at the end of the meeting. Chip noted that long-term board member Bill Dromeshauser had asked to resign citing increased work responsibilities but that he remains committed to the MPA and has agreed to continue on as a Lake Section Captain and has already made his generous annual membership donation.

Chip then showed a map of Maine: Yellow and Blue marks on the map indicate hotspots of invasive plants and animals on lakes. Moose Pond is surrounded by lakes with variable leaf milfoil, and it's a miracle we haven't had an infestation to date.

One year ago, in July 2022, about ½ of the MPA board and several LEA staff members went on a field trip to Lake Arrowhead, approximately 35 miles away from the shores of Moose Pond, where things are a disaster. Lake Arrowhead has had a milfoil outbreak going on for two decades. The group that visited the lake saw one of their two dive teams harvesting Milfoil. At their docks they have giant pickle barrel buckets where every day

they store the harvested milfoil before carting it away. Residents cannot fish or swim by shoreline, property prices have dropped 30-40%, and they spend >100K a year simply to carve pathways between their docks and the open water. There is nothing they can do about it, it's never going to go away, and is really just a matter of maintenance. Prevention – keeping milfoil and other invasive species out of Moose Pond or, at the very least, catching an outbreak early and being able to have a ready and robust response to any sort of outbreak is absolutely critical.

Boyne Presentation - Ralph Lewis, General Manager, Pleasant Mountain

Boyne Development Plans & Conservation Policies

Chip introduced Ralph Lewis and thanked him and Boyne/Pleasant Mountain for their support of MPA via an annual donation and the use of meeting space for our annual meeting.

Ralph made the following comments:

- He and his team have been working hard to rebrand and increase revenue since the COVID pandemic ended
- They got a late start on the construction of the new parking lot at the corner of 302 and Mountain Road but the work should be finished by the end of August
- They are adding 25,000 feet of new pipe on the mountain to increase their snow-making capacity
- They have added new lights and are rebuilding the main stairs and ticket office
- They purchased additional acreage, but have no development plans for 3-5 years in terms of increasing the skiable terrain of Pleasant Mountain
- They hope to add summer activities to the mountain in 2024 and plan to experiment with keeping the restaurant open during the high traffic summer months
- In 2024 they hope to increase lift capacity
- From an environmental impact point of view they are guided by the National Ski Association's "Going Green" policies and hope to have all electric snow cats by 2030. Their carbon footprint is down year-on-year and it is something that they closely monitor

LEA – Colin Holme

Report on LEA's Activities in General

Chip introduced LEA's Executive Director mentioning that the LEA has been a great partner and that everyone should support both MPA and LEA. Donations to the MPA pay for the Courtesy Boat Inspectors but LEA sources the CBIs and manages the program. Donations to the MPA are used to pay for LEA staff to come out to the lake during the summer and winter to monitor the quality of Moose Pond's waters and also to look one time each year for invasive plants that may be present at several potential hot spots including the two boat launches, the north and south narrows and the several neighborhood "marinas" that are present on the lake (e.g. Knight's Hill, Lakeside Village, etc.). That said, LEA works on many important initiatives that impact all of Maine's lakes such as the Clean, Drain, Dry program (encouraging the emptying and cleaning of bilges and fishing wells) as well as an extended no wake zone for wake surfing boats.

Colin made the following key points.

- The MPA has been a great partner and is one of the most well organized lake associations that the LEA works with

- The only thing that he thinks we (the MPA) could do better right now would be to have a list of back-up CBI volunteers to help cover the boat launches if LEA has trouble filling a slot or if one of the regular CBIs calls in sick – Woods Pond has a very well organized program to that end
- He believes that his staff is the most well qualified in the state for the monitoring of Moose Pond
- In 2023, Keoka Lake and Moose Pond have paid to become test sites for a new Advanced Algae Testing program
- As everyone knows, the labor market is tight, boat launch workers are harder to find and it is harder than ever to keep employee turnover low
- LEA is the largest organization of its kind in the state and receives grants of about \$200,000 that are then supplemented by member donations
- He would like to see more money from the state for invasive plant protection and thinks the price of the annual boat registration/milfoil sticker should go up by at least \$10
- They are starting to see Zebra Mussels as a potential problem as some of these creatures have made their way from lakes in Canada to lakes in Northern Maine
- It would be helpful if Inland Fish and Wildlife can help establish legislation for supporting rigorous and mandatory boat checks
- Wash outs – given all of the heavy rain we have been seeing – have been a big issue this year
 - LEA has been working with DPW to increase the size of the culverts and open blocked culverts
 - Open-bottom culverts would be better but they are more expensive to install and maintain
 - More funding would be available if Moose Pond had fish in the streams leading into the lake but it does not as most of the streams are coming off of Pleasant Mountain or Hio Ridge
 - More education for neighbors through real estate agents and schools would be helpful to make landowners aware of things that they can do to make their properties more lake friendly
 - The LakeSmart program helps to that end and Colin would encourage all property owners to sign up for a LakeSmart property examination

LEA Report on Moose Pond's Lake Health

LEA monitors 40+ lakes in the state including Moose Pond but everyone should realize that there are more than 6,000 lakes in Maine. LEA go out on Moose Pond every 2 weeks during open water season (from May to October) and monitor the three basins and have been doing that for decades in some cases.

The three parameters they look at are:

-Total Phosphorus (lower the number the better)

-Water Clarity (Secchi Depth) (higher number is better)

-Chlorophyll (lower the number the better)

So far the data says everything is stable, and close to long term average conditions. Stable / no change since 1996, except in the south basin that has an increase in phosphorus, not at a level that is a concern yet, but they are keeping an eye on the data. We have had reports of some Gleotrichia (little yellow floating balls) in Moose Pond but it is typically not harmful to the lake but can be a skin irritant.

As Chip said, once every year we take dive teams out to inspect Moose Pond hot spots for invasive plants. LEA looks at the two boat launches, the two narrows and several neighborhood marinas. Moose Pond has been lucky so far as we have only see native milfoil. Native milfoil is not an issue.

Importantly, it is not just Variable Leaf and Eurasian Milfoil that are of concern. As the chart Chip highlighted at the beginning of the meeting shows, we also see invasive plants such as Brittle Naiad, Curly Leaf Pondweed, European Frogbite, and Hydrilla in Maine's lakes and so the MPA membership needs to stay vigilant as it is much easier (and much less costly) to prevent an infestation than it is to remediate one.

The MPA's new Lake Section Captain Initiative is a great advancement in that more of the Moose Pond shoreline will be covered more frequently. Individual property owners can also keep a regular watch on their shoreline to look for any suspicious plants that they might see. If you see a suspicious plant, take a sample, float it in lake water in a white bowl or Frisbee. Take a picture and send to LEA via "invasive plant form" that you can find on the LEA website. Save the plant in lake water in a plastic bag in your refrigerator and note the time, date and place that you found it.

LEA Report on Moose Pond's Loons

- Maggie Welch is in charge of loon preservation
- Water levels impacted nesting opportunities
- Large wakes can wash nests away
- One baby reported in middle basin
- Two nests confirmed in lower

CBI Activities and Boat Wash Stations – Bill Monroe

MPA member donations pay for the CBI staffing that is present at both the Bridgton/Route 302 and Denmark boat launches throughout the summer. LEA hires, trains and manages the CBIs and we are grateful for their efforts. We have shortages of inspectors, and are looking for volunteers. Hoping to put together a list of volunteers that can be called upon if needed. Sign up forms will be available after the meeting.

Here are the key points about Moose Pond CBI Coverage:

- CBI coverage is our largest budget item as CBIs are our first and most important line of defense preventing invasive plants from entering Moose Pond
- CBIs can't be at the ramp 24/7 and so boater education is also critical (self-policing)
- 1,673 inspections were performed in 2022. Although 55 plant fragments were collected from boats and trailers last summer nothing invasive was found.
- MPA membership donations paid for 1,141 hours of coverage at a cost of \$20,538 in 2022
- In 2023 we are budgeting \$23,040 for 1280 hours of CBO coverage
- We want to increase September coverage in particular as advised by LEA and the State
- MPA applied for and received a grant from the State of Maine for \$4,250 in 2022 and that rose to \$4,830 in 2023

Bill Monroe attended a statewide Invasive Plant conference in April and learned the following from Chris Riley who collects all of the data referenced below:

- Of the 321 lake associations in Maine, only 118 of them (including Moose Pond) do boat inspections
- Private boat launches on private property are a big problem as boats are normally NOT inspected at those launch sites
 - New legislation was passed such that sites with six or more docks must now have an inspection process

- A Naples campground was the cause of an invasives outbreak on Long Lake in 2017
- Asking that non-motorized crafts be licensed and inspected has met with staunch resistance

There are boat wash stations at both of the Moose Pond Boat Launch ramps.

Collins Plumbing, donates the time and materials each year to start up the Denmark Ramp's wash station and so, if you use Collins Plumbing, please thank them for the work they do for us on the boat wash station. The Bridgton Fire Chief helps to facilitate the opening of the 302 boat wash station.

No Wake Zones and Wake Wise Program – Shawn Hagerty (on Behalf of Scott Frame)

Over the last two or three years, the MPA has received an increasing number of complaints related to boater courtesy (or a lack thereof) including the impact of large wakes on other boaters, people's docks, shoreline erosion and wildlife nesting grounds.

Headway speed buoys are positioned in the narrow areas of moose pond. Buoys are placed in areas identified by the warden, and have been there for a number of years now. There are eight of them in total from Denmark to just north of the 302 causeway. Volunteers for this are really important. Buoys need to be taken out in the fall and put in every spring, and we coordinate with the state to make sure they are functioning as necessary, and replaced when needed. The whole point is to make sure we are going slowly through those narrow spaces, and not producing large wake because those narrow areas are particularly sensitive to the damage caused as a result of boat wakes.

Over the last few years MPA has positioned WakeWise signs at the two boat launch ramps and have made these signs available to neighbors who wish to position one of these signs facing high traffic areas. This year the MPA has produced and distributed WakeWise bumper stickers that property owners can decide to place on their boats and cars to raise awareness about this important issue. We are trying to educate and raise awareness, and to adjust behavior as to how people move around the lake.

We would like people to:

- maintain headway speed when they are less than 200 feet from shore and...
- leave their docks moving toward the center of the lake instead of parallel the shoreline

With the help of LEA, the State is getting close to passing and implementing new laws requiring so-called Wake Boats to be at least 500 feet from shore and in not less than 20 feet of water regardless of distance from shore. The MPA is strongly in favor of this legislation.

LakeSmart Update – Bill Dexter

LakeSmart is about teaching property owners how to reduce erosion and runoff to stop phosphorus entering lakes so that we can prevent excess algae growth. There are various techniques that we preach to property owners when we walk their property and see how they might make their property more lake friendly

- We assessed 12 properties in 2022 and have 22 more to do
- We wrote an article in the fall 2022 edition of Moose Pond Matters to educate all property owners on lake about the things that they can do to make their properties more lake friendly
- It is a totally free and voluntary program
- Nothing gets reported to a code officer or anyone else for that matter – just the property owner gets the report

Examples of property remediation suggestions include:

- Adding erosion control mulch
- Creating a dripline for each of your structures
- Planting raingardens
- Adding steps to your pathways
- Crowning your driveway to get water off the roads quickly
- Adding swales, open top culverts and rubber razors to your driveway

A fully protected shore looks natural. LakeSmart is not against lawns, but lawns don't protect the lake, especially when there is no buffer or vegetation between the lake and the lawn.

Lake Smart is a free program – there is no obligation to take our suggestions. About a dozen MPA members in audience have gone through it. Typically, evaluation takes an hour then the evaluators will put together a feedback package.

If we identify things that you can do to improve your property and you chose to do them, the MPA is offering matching funds up to \$1,000 to fix these problems if you need this added financial incentive to move forward with the fixes.

If they walk your property and it scores particularly well, LakeSmart will present you with two LakeSmart award signs, one for the lake side and one for the road side of your property to help promote the program. Bill Dexter – presented a lake smart award to some members at the meeting. If you want a LakeSmart evaluation of your property, contact Bill at 207-232-0726 or dexathome@gmail.com.

Our NEW Lake Section Captain Initiative – Zach Clayton

Our key objective is to provide more thorough coverage of the lake above and beyond LEA's annual survey of potential hot spots (boat launch ramps, the north and south narrows and the neighborhood marinas).

We have 17 volunteer Lake Section Captains who will monitor "their section" of the lake's shoreline providing complete coverage of the Moose Pond Shoreline with the exception of the very shallow northern most parts of the North Basin near Sweden.

- A very successful test and learn phase in 2022
- Lake Section Captain's duties include:
 - Paddling "their" assigned section of the lake in July and September
 - Looking for suspicious plants along the shoreline
 - If suspicious plants (or animals) are identified
 - Take a picture and submit it to LEA at Submit sample photos to LEA through the Suspicious Plant form online. Address: <https://mainelakes.org/invasives/plant-submission/>
 - Note the time, date and location where the plant was harvested
 - Harvest a sample in a plastic bag filled with lake water and keep refrigerated
 - As requested by LEA (after they review the picture you have sent in) bring the sample in to LEA
 - Report your successful survey to Zach Clayton (the Captain of the Captains)
 - You can do this too in front of your properties – the more eyes the better!!!

Member Communication – Mark Patterson (Immediate Past President)

- We send annual solicitation letters to 900+ land owners in and around the lake but only seem to ever get about 240 folks to sign up as members even though the stakes associated with an invasive plant (or animal) infestation are very high in terms of falling real estate values and enjoyment of the lake
- If any members of the audience have any ideas about how we can reinforce our message, please let us know what you think we should do to that end
- We have started to present at the various neighborhood and road associations to present our message and encourage membership and so if you want any of us to meet with your group please let us know
- We have tried to keep the focus of the Moose Pond Association Facebook site oriented toward sharing the joy of living and playing on Moose Pond and have created an alternate site called Moose Pond for Sale or Rent to channel more commercial messages to that site.

Membership Health – Ruth Neagle

MPA have 140 members so far this year versus 166 last year at this time. We are very stable year over year which means by year end we will probably have +/- 230 members -- which is about 25% of the 920+ parcels on and/or around the lake. Our ultimate goal would be to get upwards of 50-60%. Please encourage your friends, family and neighbors to join the MPA each year.

On-line giving has increased this year and now represents about 50% of giving.

Please Promote MPA, as this will allow us to increase CBI hours, take on additional projects, and increase our Rapid Response Emergency Fund to quickly combat an infestation once detected. Our goal is to have that emergency fund get to >\$100,000, so when the need arises, we can jump right on it.

Financial Health

- In 2022 we received donations of \$47,282 (264 transactions) vs \$41,504 (277 transactions) in 2021
- The figures above include our CBI grants from the State of Maine
- Nancy Campbell **Scenes of Moose Pond** calendar sales netted \$1,500 for MPA and was a nice way to make more people aware of the MPA and its goals
- Our largest expenditures are:
 - The CBI program (\$20K)
 - Payments to LEA for surveys, monitoring and general support (\$5K)
 - We use LEA resources beyond surveys/monitoring and encourage everyone to donate to them directly, as well as MPA, and take advantage of their programs. They are a key resource for us.
 - Membership communication including the website, newsletter and mailings (\$7K)
- We have a cash reserve of >\$50K which we are maintaining for two reasons:
 - If we have a milfoil/other invasive plant infestation in Moose Pond we want to take quick action to remediate it
 - We offer matching funds (\$1 for \$1 up to \$1000) to lakeside home owners who under the direction of LEA/LakeSmart choose to remediate troublesome run-off areas on their land
- Below is the Board Approved Budget for 2023

INCOME	Board Approved 2023 Budget			2022		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
MEMBERSHIPS	41,000			\$ 30,000	\$ 42,583	\$ 12,583
Donations in Kind	-			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Raisers/Memorial Fund	-			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hat/Shirt Sales/Amazon	-			\$ 100	\$ 15	\$ (85)
Calendars	6,700			\$0	\$ 6,875	\$ 6,875
CBI Grant From DEP	4,800			\$ 3,800	\$ 4,200	\$ 400
TOTAL Receipts	52,500			\$ 33,900	\$ 53,673	\$ 19,773
EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
COURTESY BOAT INSPECTORS	23,000			\$ 20,250	\$ 20,538	\$ (288)
LEA Moose Pond Survey & monitorin	5,600			\$ 2,570	\$ 3,760	\$ (1,190)
LEA Support	2,000			\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -
Wash Stations/Ramp Maintenance	300			\$ 300	\$ 1,256	\$ (956)
Bloomerang	1,600			\$ -	\$ 2,150	\$ (2,150)
Website Services/MPA Newsletter	3,000			\$ 3,500	\$ 5,595	\$ (2,095)
Calendar cost	3,500			\$ -	\$ 5,238	\$ (4,671)
Brochure/Signs/Mailing	1,500			\$ 3,500	\$ 1,529	\$ 1,971
Paypal, Tax, Legal Fees & Misc	2,000			\$ 800	\$ 1,952	\$ (1,152)
Emergency reserve fund	10,000			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL Expenses	52,500			\$ 32,420	\$ 42,950	\$ (10,530)

Board Nominations and Elections

The following board members were voted in again by the membership present on July 8, 2023.

- Zach Clayton is currently serving as a general member of the board with a zero-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2023 and would like to re-up with a term expiring in 2026
- Bill Dexter is currently serving as a general member of the board. A two-year term was renewed this year and is slated to end in the Fall of 2025.
- Paul Dwyer is currently serving as a general member of the board. A two-year term was renewed this year and is slated to end in the Fall of 2025.
- Shawn Hagerty is currently serving as a general member of the board with a two-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Josh Harrington is a newly proposed board member with a term that would expire in 2026.
- Scott Frame is currently serving as a general member of the board with a zero-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2023 and would like to re-up with a term expiring in 2026
- Bill Monroe is currently serving as a general member of the board. A two-year term was renewed this year and is slated to end in the Fall of 2025.
- Bill Muir is currently serving as a general member of the board. A two-year term was renewed this year and is slated to end in the Fall of 2025.
- Anne Munstedt is currently serving as Secretary of the board with a two-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2023 and would like to re-up with a term expiring in 2026
- Ruth Neagle is currently serving as Treasurer of the board with a two-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.

- Richard Niedel is currently serving as a general member of the board with a two-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Steve Petter is currently serving as a general member of the board with a two-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Mark Patterson is currently serving as a general member of the board with a two-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Stephanie Scarce is currently serving as a general member of the board with a two-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Laurie Vance is currently serving as Vice President of the board with a two-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Chip Wendler is currently serving as President of the board with a two-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.

Annual meeting – moving earlier in the year may be better to attract a larger audience as families with children in school and sports can't usually make the late August meeting. Proposed date is July 13th, 2024