



McGRATH POND & SALMON LAKE ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2009

Eurasian Milfoil

ALERT!

**Have you
inspected &
cleaned
your boat?**

The future of Maine Lakes
depends on YOU!

Milfoil Alert

Dear Neighbors,

The lakes are high, many boats are in dry dock or on lifts -- a wet, wet spring has left us drenched. Be assured, the Association has been actively working with DEP and BRCA to best address our milfoil infestation in Kozy Cove on Salmon Lake. While I don't like to be alarmist, watershed residents need to be informed. The quality of our lakes is at stake.

During four bi-weekly dives, DEP has harvested approximately 176 EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) plants and 23 sprouts. This is nearly twice the amount harvested last fall. Dick and Betsy Enright have been diligent in their efforts to survey the cove and mark potential plants as they clear and maintain the nets at the dam location. In a cursory survey by divers outside of the cove, no milfoil has been discovered to date.

However, it is imperative to the safety of our lakes that boaters stay out of the cove. The DEP and IFW have closed the cove to all non residents for the remainder of 2009. THERE IS TO BE NO FISHING OR RECREATIONAL BOATING ALLOWED PER STATE ORDER. Signage is scheduled for the mouth of the cove prior to July 1st.

While the Board and individuals are being pro-active in our milfoil challenge, we are also prioritizing the educational mission of our Association. The Board has formally joined in a regional effort to make watershed properties Lake Smart. A common sense approach, Lake Smart outlines pragmatic practices which will protect our lakes and ensure water quality for future generations (see page 5 for a list of common sense practices). Dick Enright and Robyn Deveney, Association board members have been trained to assist residents develop and maintain their properties in a manner to best protect our lakes and water quality.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 11TH WILL FOCUS ON TWO INITIATIVES; OUR WORK WITH DEP TO COMBAT THE MILFOIL INVASION, AND OUR WORK WITH BRCA TO MAKE OUR PROPERTIES LAKE SMART. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT RESIDENTS BECOME INFORMED AND INVOLVED IN BOTH OF THESE INITIATIVES. OUR LAKES DEPEND ON AN INFORMED WATERSHED.

We have chosen to have our meeting at Pine Tree Camp on North Pond.

The administrators at the camp have been gracious in sharing their facility. Tours of the facility; including the only handicap accessible tree house in Maine, a chicken cookout, dessert reception and business meeting are planned. I want to encourage all of you to attend the annual meeting and become Association members.

Thank You,
Don Borman



Board of Directors Spring 2009

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Shoreline Soundings

Mysteries of Loon Revealed

by Dick Enright

Common Loons are beautiful, mysterious birds that we love to watch. Their yodels and tremolos are haunting, often stopping our conversations. Their speckled black and white bodies blend in with the lake ripples. The red eyes (only during the summer) increase their visibility under water. Watch as they eat a fish - they learn very quickly that a fish doesn't go down the throat backwards! They fly at up to 60-90 MPH at an altitude of 1,500 to 2,000 feet. They can take off and land only on water. Truly Mysterious!

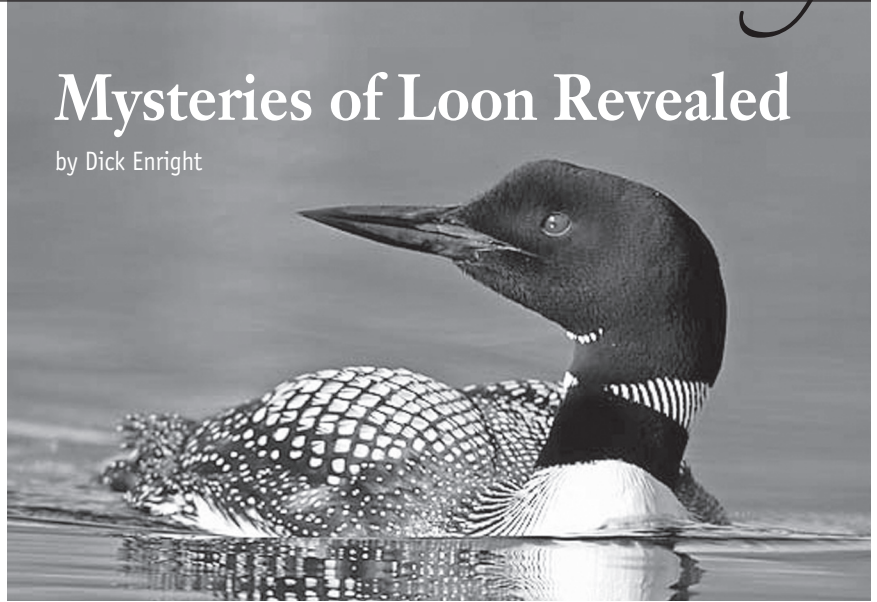
Loons are protected by both state and federal laws prohibiting harassment of wildlife. GIVE THEM SPACE AND OBSERVE BUT IF THEY START TO SWIM AWAY OR ACT LIKE YOU ARE IN THEIR SPACE -YOU ARE. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT WHEN THEY ARE NESTING AND HAVE CHICKS.

Loons, having spent their winter on the ocean shoreline, arrive within a day or two of ice out! They have probably been scouting out the open lakes. The females arrive about two weeks after the male has found a territory satisfactory to build a nest and mate. Contrary to common folklore, loons do not mate for life. If they happen to show up on the same lake that is fine if not they will bond with a new mate. The courtship is a display of dipping their bills in the water or swimming around each other.

In May and June the Loon couple builds their nest of dead vegetation and mud on the shoreline away from wind, waves, people and predators such as raccoons, dogs etc. When the female lays her egg or two, the couple take turns sitting on the nest while the other is near by feeding and keeping a watchful eye on the nest. It is only a few inches above the water and not much more than a mud patty.

In the summer, after about 27 days, the eggs hatch. The loon family moves to a nearby "nursery" area. Here the parents are very protective and feed the young constantly. These are times to stay away and observe from a distance the parents become very agitated if there is a boat or something between them and the chicks. Often a chick will ride on the back of the parent.

By September and October most chicks can feed by themselves and fly. However, if they were born too late or the ice comes in early the chicks may not get out. In November loons return to the ocean or other open water, waiting for ice out in the spring.



The Annual Loon Count is completed by volunteers every year under the direction of the Maine Audubon Society. The chart below shows the results of the Loon count for Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond.

| | Adults | Chicks |
|------|--------|--------|
| 2008 | 12 | 4 |
| 2007 | 11 | 5 |
| 2006 | 10 | 3 |
| 2005 | 6 | 3 |
| 2004 | 15 | 0 |
| 2003 | 9 | 1 |

The 2009 Loon Count will be Saturday July 19th, between 7- 7:30 a.m. If you would like to participate in counting loons, please contact Dick Enright 207-693-3588.

You are cordially invited to our Annual Meeting



Location: Pine Tree Camp – 114 Pine Tree Camp Road, Rome – *Follow route 137 past Oakland until route 8 joins 137. Bear right on route 8/137 toward Smithfield. Take second left, Pine Tree Camp Road, (Pine Tree Camp sign on left corner). Pine Tree Camp is on right.*

An extraordinary summer camp for children and adults with physical and/or developmental disabilities. Established in 1945, Pine Tree Camp offers Maine children and adults with disabilities an extraordinary summer camp experience. The 280-acre camp is located on North Pond in Rome, Maine. The facility is fully adapted to meet the special needs of campers. The barrier-free setting and commitment of our staff allow campers to fully participate in activities that normally aren't available to them including swimming, fishing, boating, outdoor games, kayaking, arts and crafts and even camping in a tent under the stars.

For campers, Pine Tree Camp is a highlight of their year. It gives them the opportunity to spend time with their friends in a setting that meets their unique needs. For families, Pine Tree Camp offers an extended period of greatly needed respite from caregiving.

Since it began in 1945, Pine Tree Camp has never turned anyone away because they could not afford to pay tuition. This tradition is kept alive by thousands of generous friends, supporters and volunteers.



Pine Tree Camp's Accessible Treehouse Maine's only accessible Treehouse

Pine Tree Camp is home to Maine's only fully accessible Treehouse. This unique and innovative structure allows Maine children with disabilities to experience the wonder and pure joy of spending time in a real treehouse.

Date: July 11th

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM (Complimentary)

Chicken Barbecue: 6:00 PM (Reservations Required)

Desserts and Beverages: 6:30 PM

Cost: \$8.00

Tours of facility: 5:00 and 5:30 PM

To make reservations:

Return form, email tborman@roadrunner.com
or call 465-7638 and leave a message



Perspective on Invasive Plant Identification Training

by Rob True; Salmon Lake Water Quality

Tuesday, June 16: I had the opportunity to attend the first VLMP Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) Introductory Workshop of the summer, held at the Belgrade Center for All Seasons. There were between 30 and 35 people in attendance for this incredibly well organized training session that went from 2:30 until shortly after 8:00. I believe there may have been another person or two from the McGrath Pond Salmon Lake area, but because I sat near the front and their hands were down before I turned around, I failed to see who they were.

Roberta Hill and Jackey Bailey did an excellent job presenting an overview of the invasive species issue in Maine, how to identify Maine's eleven invasive aquatic plants and how to differentiate the invasives from the helpful natives. They did all this with the use of a well paced power-point aided talk with ample breaks. Following the pizza break we all were able to play with many samples of various forms of invasive and non-invasive plants at 9 stations set up to help us put to practice in a helpful manner what we learned earlier. We were able to look,

touch, cut up and do most anything we needed to determine if the samples were invasive or not.

I am now a certified invasive plant patroller and as such, will be looking for the spread of the Eurasian water milfoil as well as other invasive aquatic plants. It is my hopes that the MPSLA could establish some sort of a list of certified people to call upon if someone on one of the lakes, or somewhere else for that matter, comes across something they believe to be invasive. I (perhaps we) would be more than happy to identify the plant and take whatever steps may become necessary to protect our lakes from these very invasive plants.

The workshop was very educational and a lot of fun, is free to anyone and will be repeated throughout the summer at various locations listed in the Water Column (VLMP newsletter).

Diane and Brian Smith, and Bob Meyers of MCGrath Pond also attended the presentation.

MPSLA partners with DEP to sponsor Eurasian Milfoil Workshop

On May 27, fifty watershed residents attended an evening presentation on Eurasian Water Milfoil and its invasion of Kozy Cove on Salmon Lake. John McPhedran of the DEP invasive plants division provided an in depth review of the plants, their detrimental nature and work of DEP to eradicate this species. DEP reported that nets are in place to filter water leaving the dam that flows into hatchery stream and prevent outflow of plant fragments out of the cove into Salmon Lake. The state has closed the cove to fishing and recreational boating. Residents may enter and exit the cove only.

John introduced two flyers developed by DEP, BRCA and MPSLA which will be distributed to boaters and the MPSLA membership. (A copy of which is attached to this newsletter). Samples of Eurasian Milfoil and non invasive native species were examined by participants so everyone would be better informed and able to survey Lake Frontage in front of homeowner's property.

During a question/answer session:

Question: How many plants were found in the first dive of this season?

Answer: 60, which is a lot more than expected (100 total for last year)

Question: What will be the next steps?

Answer: DEP will hopefully coordinate dives every other week until plants are under control

Question: Why isn't the cove shut down?

Answer: DEP and IFW must balance what's in the best interest of all.

Following the meeting, Jason Bulay provided information on a volunteer program to conduct a second survey of the shorelines of the two lakes. Roughly 15 volunteers have stepped forward to take part in continuing snorkeling and kayaking surveys. (Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Dick Enright @)

DEP summary of spring activities:

May 8, 2009 – Installed nets at dam and outlet. Surveyed cove and marked Milfoil plants with buoys

May 18, 2009 – DEP, BRCA and MPSLA met for strategy update

May 19, 2009 – First dive – 61 plants scattered but some concentration in east end and near outlet to lake

May 22, 2009 – DEP and MPSLA survey cove by Kayak and mark additional plants

May 26, 2009 – DEP divers remove an additional 27 plants

May 31, 2009 – MPSLA (Enrights) clear debris from net at dam site

June 4, 2009 – DEP dive team removes 38 plants from dam area and outlet area of cove, place benthic barrier over concentrated area

June 17, 2009 – DEP dive team removed 58 plants plus 21 sprouts near benthic barrier. Put down one steel bottom barrier, surveyed bottom of area outside of cove and found no EWM.



McGRATH POND
& SALMON LAKE

❖ A S S O C I A T I O N ❖

Be Lake Smart For The Sake Of Your Lake

What is harming your lake?

Phosphorus in soil and fertilizer promotes plant growth in your garden and in our lake. In lakes, the crop is algae, rather than vegetables. Algae blooms smell terrible, turn water green and use up oxygen. Lower oxygen levels in the water choke fish. Swimming, fishing and lakeside living lose their appeal and the value of your property goes down.

Lake Smart Orientation at Annual Meeting July 11th

DEP has partnered with BRCA to develop a Lake Smart Program for the Belgrade Lakes. Board members Dick Enright and Robyn Deveney have attended orientation sessions, certifying them to assist landowners who want to have their property officially designated as Lake Smart.

21 Ways to make your property LAKE SMART

1. Pump septic system every 3 – 5 years
2. Keep septic system free of woody growth
3. Cover exterior heating tank
4. Apply pesticides ONLY as a last resort
5. Pick up per waste and put in trash
6. Maintain and enhance native vegetation (buffer) – trees, shrubs, ground cover
7. Leave duff later as natural mulch
8. Leave native water plants to stabilize shoreline
9. Make paths stable and winding
10. Remove dock each fall
11. Cut grass at 3 inches and leave clippings to eliminate fertilizers
12. Minimize lawn area
13. Plant or mulch bare soil
14. Keep shoreline stable by not disturbing vegetation and rocks
15. Direct roof runoff to a rain garden
16. Plant vegetation downhill of parking area
17. Minimize and define parking area
18. Crown and stabilize road
19. Stabilize ditches with vegetation
20. Install water diversion bars and ditch turnouts
21. Buy fewer chemicals, store safely and dispose at hazardous waste collection site

Lakes like less lawn...

Frame your view of the lake with native plants that attract wildlife and provide privacy for you and your family. A lush, wide ribbon of trees and shrubs is the number one protection tool.

Invasive plant workshop attendees from MPSLA

McGrath Pond:

*Diane and Brian Smith
Kathy Meyer*

Salmon Lake:

*Rob True
Mal Dawson
Betsy Enright*



Brian and Diane Smith identify plants



1st MPSLA Dinner Social

Whisperwood Camps

July 15th at 6:30 PM

Fixed price menu • \$15.00 • BYOB

For details/reservations call 465-3983



Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) Summer Events

The BRCA has a full slate of activities scheduled for this summer, including:

“Aquafest”, a day full of family activities on Saturday, July 8 at the Belgrade Center for All Seasons Community Center;

The Harold Alfond Memorial BRCA Pro-Am Golf Tournament and Reception on Wednesday, August 19 at the Belgrade lakes Golf Club;

The second annual 5-K “Race for the Lakes” on Saturday, September 5 at Camp Renoia in Belgrade Lakes;

Outdoor Outings: Canoe trips (July 11 and 21; August 8 and 18), guided hikes and nature walks (July 14, 25 and 28; August 4, 11 and 25) a lecture series (July 2 and 16; August 6 and 20); and a special “Family Story Time on The Mountain on July 8.

And for those hikers out there who would like to help keep our trails in good shape, there will be a trail work day on Saturday, August 1, when three kiosks will be erected, and general trail maintenance performed. Volunteers should meet at the BRCA offices at 8:30 in the morning.

For more information about any of these activities, please see the BRCA website www.belgradelakes.org or call the BRCA at (207) 495-6039. Generally, people interested in participating in any of these events are requested to call ahead.

Annual Meeting Agenda *July 11th • Pine Tree Camp*

5:00 Tours of the Facility

6:00 Chicken Cookout (Camp Dining Room - \$8 charge)

6:30 Dessert Social (No charge)

7:00 Meeting

Welcome and Introductions

Educational Presentations

DEP: Milfoil in Kozy Cove
BRCA: Lake Smart

Business Meeting

Introduction of Board and Officers

Treasurer's Report

Membership Committee

Water Quality

BRCA Updates

Navigation Buoys and the Dam Committee

Newsletter

Nominations and Elections

Presidential Goals

**Reply
Requested Annual
Meeting Barbecue**

MPSLA Board Committees

Education/Water Quality

Ron Purnell
John Loomis
Robyn Deveney

Membership

Jay Wietecha
Andrea Rhoda
Bill Pullen
Gina Murphy

Town Relations

Doug McCafferty
Mark Gray
Rick Swanson

Newsletter

Neil Amalfitano
Don Borman



McGRATH POND
& SALMON LAKE

❖ A S S O C I A T I O N ❖



Annual Membership Form

January 1 – December 31, 2009

We need all Watershed residents to support the Association with tax-deductible membership contributions and funding for our education and water quality improvement efforts as well as our Courtesy Boat Inspection Program on McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake. Please consider joining or renewing at the highest membership level you can comfortably afford (\$25, \$50, or \$100). Additional contributions for the courtesy boat inspections and the education fund will help ensure the quality of our watershed area and the value of your property! If you are affiliated with a business and would like to join as business partner, contact Jay Wietecha, (465-9692)

Membership Levels

____ \$25 Association Membership

____ \$50 Lake Steward Membership

____ \$100 Watershed Futurist Membership

____ Other Amount _____

Additional Funding

\$_____ Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

\$_____ Frances Fox Sandmel Education Fund

\$_____ TOTAL AMOUNT -- Thank You!

Name(s) _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone No# _____ Email address _____

Summer Mailing Address (if different) _____

Summer Mailing Dates _____ Summer Phone # _____

We Need Volunteers! Would you consider volunteering for the following activities?

____ Boat Ramp/Milfoil Monitor

____ Membership Committee

____ Water Quality Committee

____ Newsletter Committee

____ Board Member

____ Other

Please mail this form & check payable to McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association to:

John Loomis, Treasurer, MPSLA
3 Bringham St., Waterville, ME 04901





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3 Brigham St.
Waterville, ME 04901



Annual Meeting Dinner Response

July 11th • Pine Tree Camp

6:00 Chicken Cookout (Camp Dining Room - \$8 charge)

6:30 Dessert Social (No charge)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Number Attending _____

Please mail this form & check payable to McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association to:

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3 Brigham St., Waterville, ME 04901