

# MASCOMA LAKE ASSOCIATION



## NEWSLETTER FALL 2012

### Shaker Bridge Grand Opening

After two long years of construction, the new Shaker Bridge over Mascoma Lake opened on Saturday, September 15th with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Lyme Town band provided upbeat music for the occasion.

Ceremonies began at 11 a.m. with Town Manager Steve Schneider acting as Master of Ceremonies. Speakers included local State Representatives Chuck Townsend and Paul Mirski, County Commissioner Mike Cryans, Councilor Ray Burton, Selectmen John Kluge and Don Crate, and Marty High, Chair of the Enfield Shaker Museum Board. A representative from Senator Jeanne Shaheen's office brought greetings and congratulations from the senator and Steve Schneider read a congratulatory letter from Rep. Charles Bass.



Finally, after the ribbon was cut by Selectmen Crate and Kluge, Ray Burton drove his antique bright yellow convertible, the first vehicle to "officially" cross the bridge, accompanied by Donald A. Crate and Evelyn Crate (parents of Selectman Crate). The pedestrian crowd followed the car on foot across the new bridge.



In addition to music provided by the band, the Enfield Shaker Singers treated everyone to a medley of Shaker songs, reminding everyone that it was the Shakers who built the first bridge across the lake in 1849.

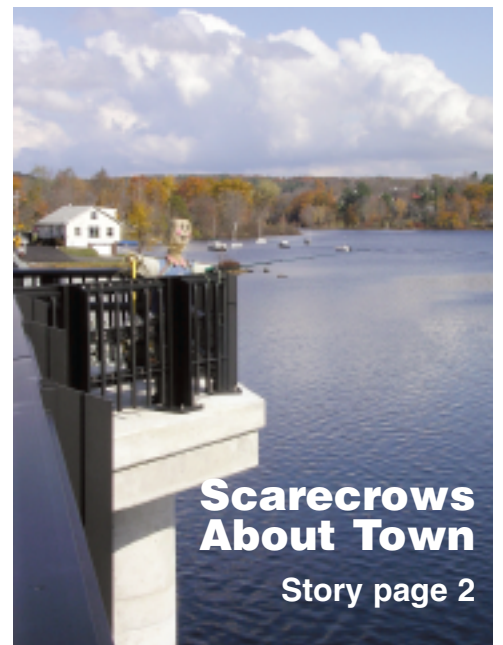


As a perfect end to the ceremonies, the Enfield Shaker Museum hosted an open house with a tasty soup and salad lunch. The Museum also displayed exhibits focusing on the history of the

three bridges across the lake, including a model of the original bridge cribbing, built by Charlie DePuy. The kiosk, also built by Charlie, features all three bridges and has been on display at the boat ramp. If you missed the bridge opening, don't miss the wonderful bridge exhibits at the Museum!

We are all delighted to have this beautiful new bridge. I, for one, am certainly grateful for the vision of the Enfield Shakers who built that first bridge across the lake. It is one of only two bridges that cross a lake in the State. Were it not for the Shakers, there would probably not be a bridge across the lake today. Thank you, Caleb Dyer!

*Meredith Smith, Chair  
Bridge Dedication Committee*



**Scarecrows  
About Town**

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## Mascoma Lake Loons

What started as a small project last year by the Enfield Village Association Design Committee has blossomed into approximately 70 scarecrows around the town of Enfield. Our goal was to get them made and dressed for the Shaker Bridge dedication on September 15th.

In early August, a group of women started assembling the bodies and painting the faces on burlap. Most of the scarecrows were made from recycled materials. Twigs and grain bags were used to create the torsos, while newspapers and lots of grocery bags stuffed the bodies. Gallon milk jugs gave the heads their shape. All the clothes were donated, even the wedding dresses. We asked most of the Enfield businesses to donate an outfit that depicted their business.

The bride and grooms attended three weddings before they were displayed at the Methodist and Union Churches. They provided a great photo-op for the guests.



The best part of our scarecrow project this year is the many additional figures around town, made by local residents. The community effort has added to the festive spirit this fall season. They can't help but make you smile!

Our dilemma now is finding a place to store the bodies and clothes in the off-season. Any storage suggestions, please let me know.

Thanks to all who donated their time and creativity towards this fun fall project.

By Linda Zoller-McKibbins

The Loons on Mascoma had a busy summer. With the early ice-out, we worked on getting the Loon Nesting Platform out early with hope that the Loons would chose this and be protected from flooding and predators. A small group of volunteers rebuilt the old nest with the help and supervision of Susie Burbidge, the field biologist from the Loon Preservation Committee, who covers Mascoma Lake. As the loons watched us place it off Relham Island, they were curious, but in the end, chose another site.

Before Memorial Day Weekend, we had a nesting pair in Lebanon along a wooded area by the Rail Trail. A few weeks later, the pair in Enfield set up their nest on Wood Island. With the help of signage provided by the Loon Preservation Committee, my husband and I roped off the entrance to the waterway between Wood Island and the shore.

Less than a week before the Lebanon chick(s) were due to hatch, the adults were seen swimming together (usually the pair are not seen together while nesting except when changing the guard over the eggs). Unfortunately, an investigation proved predation of the nest.

A single chick hatched in late June from the Enfield nest and we floated signs behind the islands in hopes of raising awareness among boaters to slow down and steer away from the Loon family. That same week, the Lebanon pair set up another nest right by the Baited Hook restaurant. My response was, "What were they thinking?" In their defense, it was before July 4th and maybe they didn't realize they were nesting near the best ice cream spot on the lake and would soon have many spectators. I did not have high hopes for this pair, but we posted signs and roped off the area.

Just like children, they fooled us and produced a chick in late July, just before the Annual Meeting. We put out a floating sign at the Lebanon end, encouraging boats to slow down and steer around the Loon family.

On October 5th, I set out to check on the loons one last time before our boat was pulled for the season. The Enfield chick was on its own in the middle of the lake. The parents usually migrate before the chick as their parental role is over. The chick looks healthy and is sporting some real feathers. Soon he will fly to the coastal waters where he will continue to mature. Loons will stay in salt water until breeding age, around four years, and then will return, guided by instinct, to the lake of origin.

The Lebanon chick, then only 10 weeks old (as seen below - photo from web), was still accompanied by a parent. "Our" chick is growing well and it was reassuring to see that the parents were still feeding and protecting it. The adult is starting to molt, losing the vivid black and white feathers of mating season and looking quite grey. They will both be grey all winter.



I hope they have a safe flight and I look forward to their return in spring. The chick won't return for years but the adults, with some luck, will return with ice-out in spring. I am already anticipating that wonderful loon wail which heralds the end of winter and the start of spring.

by Terri Lynch

Milfoil control efforts expanded this past summer, as we welcomed new weed watchers and new divers to the MLA's ongoing battle against the stubborn invasive plant. We don't expect to eradicate Eurasian milfoil, but we do aim to keep it from spreading out of control in our lake. Having held the line again this year, we can call the summer of 2012 a success.

The total harvest this year was 2,059 plants removed. This is similar to last year's count of 2,271. (Since the program started in 1998, the average has been about 1,500 per year, with a range from 221 to 3,039.) All the data collected in the past ten years should be online by next summer, as we have continued to make progress with our GPS mapping project.

Some sections of the lake remain entirely free of milfoil this summer, while others required repeated harvesting. The "hot spots" for 2012 include areas that are especially vulnerable because of shallow water and past infestations: the mouth of the Mascoma River to the Shaker Bridge, the area between the Sunken Islands and Rock Cove (sometimes called Perkins'), the shoreline from Currier's Landing toward the dam, and a patch the size of a narrow football field near the campground boat slips.

This year once again, we salute the small band of faithful workers who began fighting milfoil fifteen years ago, with the late Bill and Nancy Martin in the lead. That group includes past coordinators Roger and Marta Barnes, who are finally enjoying a well-deserved retirement from the milfoil battle – though they generously have continued to assist and advise as needed. Four highly experienced SCUBA divers continued their steady service this summer: Bud Lynch, Jim Martel, and Dave and Rusty Michael. These folks spent many hours underwater, digging in the muck

with trowels and fingers to haul up bags full of the stringy, fragile weeds.

That may not sound like much fun, but seven new divers answered the call to join in this summer: Debbie and Jack Cronenwett, Linda Zoller, Andy McKibben, John Brady, Leif Daulaire, and Ryan Sanders. With a group this size, we were able to sponsor state-approved training at our own lake in early August, and many of the newly-trained divers jumped into harvesting with great enthusiasm as soon as they could. We're delighted to welcome them to the Mascoma crew. Diving here isn't much compared to a coral reef, but it provides a vital service to everyone who lives on this lake.

We're also grateful to topside tenders like Terri Lynch and to the "weed watch captains": people all around the lake who monitored their areas, placed milfoil markers when they spotted plants, and reported their finds to us. There was a new level of vigilance in 2012 in this important part of the program. Thanks to all the keen-eyed watchers who patrolled!

Now that it's late fall, Milfoil is going dormant and the harvest season is over – but we'll take up the challenge again next June. As the plants begin to grow again, we'll be counting on another great community effort. The NH Department of Environmental Services has cited Mascoma Lake as one of the state's "success stories" in chemical-free invasive weed control.

With your help, we'll keep that story going in 2013.

by Martha Rich & David Kelman  
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Mascoma Lake Maps  
**FOR SALE**  
Unframed \$15.00  
[mla@mascomalakeassociation.org](mailto:mla@mascomalakeassociation.org)

*Nancy Coffin Martin, 88, died Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012 at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center after a brief illness. Her body was donated to Geissel School of Medicine. She was born in Natick, MA, October 31, 1923, daughter of Holland and Dorothy (Atwell) Coffin. She graduated from Penn State with a degree in early childhood education. Nancy taught nursery school in New England and in Schenectady, NY, where she moved with her husband in 1953. She was also active in the Union College Faculty Women's Club, and the Unitarian Universalist Church. She was the widow of William B. Martin Jr., professor emeritus of chemistry at Union College. After retirement, the couple retired to Mascoma Lake, and later to Harvest Hill. They were both active in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley, the Shaker Museum and the Mascoma Lake Association. A memorial service was held on October 14 at Harvest Hill. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Jay Crumbine officiated. You may donate in her name to the Mascoma Lake Association, PO Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748 ([mla@mascomalakeassociation.org](mailto:mla@mascomalakeassociation.org)).*

We continue to see greater transparency in Mascoma Lake this year. Our sampling team could see the Secchi disk to a depth of greater than 4 meters (or 12 feet). This improvement may be due to a reduced rainfall this year, thus less runoff coming into the lake. Runoff carries sediments which can impede transparency. You can help improve our lake's water quality by not allowing any rainfall runoff from your property to enter the lake.

Another bit of good news this year is the lack of any blue-green algae blooms. A lake survey by UNH Professor Jim Haney showed a concentrated layer of blue-green algae at about 7 meters. Under the right conditions, these critters could migrate to the surface and form a toxic bloom. There's not much we can do about this threat, but all efforts to reduce phosphates help to control algae population. For your part, please do not use fertilizers containing phosphate near the lake.

As you may know, we bought a new Dissolved Oxygen meter this year. The old one was getting difficult to maintain, however it was still useable with the right care and attention. Therefore, we traded our old DO meter for a year's worth of water quality analysis at the Colby Sawyer Laboratory. Next year we won't have to pay for this service, a savings of about \$450.

Next year I'm exploring the possibility of shifting our water quality program from the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program to the Lay Lakes Program managed by UNH. The intent is that LLP would give us information and data specific to Mascoma Lake. I'm also looking into changing the lake draw-down schedule so that the lake level would be lowered earlier in the fall, allowing work on our beachfronts before winter.

by Jim Martel





## Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

## Summer Social 2012

The MLA Summer Social was held on Sunday, August 26th, at the Mill Building of the Shaker Museum. About 50 people attended.

Everyone brought a dish to share and the MLA provided grilled meats.

We were treated to music courtesy of Betsey Child (banjo), Jim Shibles (guitar) and Ken Steinke (drums).

We played some Corn Hole, met new lake neighbors, and visited with others. It was nice to see Nancy Martin there. Perhaps the last time many of us were to see her, as she passed away on September 29th (*obit page 3*).

### MLA WEBSITE

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

You will find an inviting home page and easy-to-access topics including our mission statement, facts about the lake, calendar of events, opportunities to volunteer, water quality and invasive species information and our Lake Host Program. There is also access to our newsletters, membership information, and links to groups of interest. Send your best photographs, with captions, in jpeg format, to our email: [mla@mascomalakeassociation.org](mailto:mla@mascomalakeassociation.org) for us to include for use at our discretion.



With such positive feedback after the Boat Parade in 2011, the MLA Board decided to do it again this year. Held on Wednesday, the 4th of July, it was a grand success.

Due to safety concerns for our very young Loon chick, I volunteered to be a "chick sitter" and watched over the loon family by kayak until the parade activities drew to a close.

The Boat Parade was great fun for participants, as well as for those watching from the shorelines.

*By Terri Lynch*

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by MLA member Betsey Child  
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## Annual Meeting 2012

The MLA Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, July 28th, at the Enfield Community Building. The meeting began at 9 a.m. with Committee Reports. About 75 people attended.

At the end of the business meeting, guest speaker Susie Burbridge, Field Biologist for the Loon Preservation Committee, made a wonderful presentation on loons and the threats they face from lead sinkers used for fishing.

The MLA also started a lead-free fishing jig exchange at the meeting. Lake Hosts were also supplied with lead-free sinkers at the boat launches for exchange. We will offer this again next year.

Meeting minutes are on our website: [www.mascomalakeassociation.org](http://www.mascomalakeassociation.org).

Next year's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2013.

### MLA Board Officers & Members

President • Terri Lynch  
Vice President • vacant  
Treasurer • Gary Gaudette  
Secretary • Sally Sharp