

Mascoma Lake Association

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2013

Save the Date: July 26-28, 2013

OLD HOME DAYS RETURNING TO ENFIELD

The New Hampshire tradition of Old Home Days, begun in the late 19th century, will once again be celebrated in Enfield! *Save the dates of July 26, 27, and 28* for some old-fashioned fun and a time to reconnect with neighbors and friends.

The festivities will kick off on Friday with a band concert in Huse Park (rain location will be Enfield Village School). Main Street will be the center of Saturday's daytime activities with the farmers' market, library open house, ice cream social, scavenger hunt, and a tour of the Greeley House (the red house on the corner of Main Street & Shaker Hill Road), currently



undergoing restoration.

A "Come-one, Come-all" dance at the Stone Mill (Enfield Shaker Museum) on Saturday evening will give young and old a chance to trip the light fantastic.

An old-fashioned field day will top off the fun-filled weekend on Sunday.

We hope this will become an annual event. If you have a suggestion or would like to help in any way, please contact Meredith Smith at meredithsmith22@comcast.net.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN JULY AT OLD HOME DAYS!

Meredith Smith

Chair, Enfield Heritage Commission

Protect Our Loons and Get the Lead Out!

Status of SB 89: by Terri Lynch

"This bill clarifies the definition of lead fishing sinkers and jigs which are subject to the prohibition on sale and use in the state." Members of the Loon Preservation Committee have been studying loons for over a decade and have found that lead jigs larger than those banned in earlier legislation have been found by necropsy to have killed over 50 adult loons in the past few years. These loons were adults of breeding age, and since it takes six years before a loon breeds, this is a significant impact to the population. For more information, visit <http://www.loon.org/ingested-lead-tackle.php>

The NH SB 89 bill would expand on previous legislation to ban lead jigs of the size found in these affected loons. This would not take effect until 2014, which would give those who fish a chance to find alternatives that work for them. There are plenty of options on the market already.

Massachusetts banned lead sinkers a couple of years ago and their fishing clubs participate in our Bass fishing contests. I spoke with one of them last year, while he was scoping out the waters prior to a contest, and he found the change to be a minor adjustment and the environmentally safe thing to do. We have removed lead from most things we come in contact with because it can be toxic, so by extension, it makes sense to keep lead out of our waters. This will help protect our loons which remain on the threatened species list.

This bill passed the Senate unanimously, but met opposition in the Fish and Game and Marine Resource Committee last spring and was tabled to a study group. This year the bill got the support of the Fish and Game and Marine Resource Committee. It has passed the House with amendment 1489h, that it would not take effect until 2016. It is expected that this bill with amendment will be signed by the Governor.



LOON CENSUS



Saturday • July 20, 2013 • 8-9 am

Each year, the LPC hosts an Annual Loon Census to monitor New Hampshire's loons and their progress on lakes throughout the state.

The invaluable data gathered from census observations are used as:

1. a mid-season check on productivity
2. a mechanism for discovering unknown birds in each territory
3. a means to track movement of loons and define relationships between neighboring pairs
4. a community-based tool for generating interest and involvement in loons

The Mascoma Lake Census will be organized by Terri Lynch.

If you would like to participate this year, please email her at terri.m.lynn@gmail.com

Participation requires being on the lake in your assigned areas – which will be given about a week before the census – from 8-9am, rain or shine. All you need is a boat and observation skills. Terri will report all findings to the LPC.

Happy Spring Everyone!!

This year was a far cry from last year when ice went out March 23rd. From Shaker Bridge, the ice went out on April 17th, and spring has been slow in coming.

The first Loons were spotted on April 11th when there was still a lot of ice on the lake and cold weather. Two Bald Eagles were also spotted that day sitting on a bit of ice looking out over the icy water. What a beautiful sight they were! They seemed to be echoing my own sentiment of "When will this ice go away?"

By the time this newsletter is in print, summer will be upon us. For the Mascoma Lake Association this is truly our busy season. The *SS Milfoil* will come out of



storage and there will be Milfoil plants to spot and remove, water testing to be done, Loons to protect and count, and lake stewardship to promote.

I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting on July 27th and wish you a wonderful summer!

Terri Lynch, President

WATER QUALITY REPORT

By Jim Martel



The new Mascoma Lake Water Quality report has been produced by the NH Dept. of Environmental Services. Visit our webpage (www.mascomalakeassociation.org/mascomalakeassociation.org/home.html) under the Water Quality section. It is only two pages long, but it is user-friendly and easy to understand.

The first page gives us a "report card" on aquatic life and recreation potential of the lake.

For aquatic life, the lake gets four slightly negative grades (phosphorus, pH, percent saturation of dissolved oxygen, and chlorophyll-a), and one good grade (dissolved oxygen concentration). I think we can improve on these grades by making sure that any run-off from our properties flow through a natural vegetation and soil filter. This filter will remove much of the sediment and phosphorus that cause the bad grades. Direct discharge of run-off into the lake cannot always be avoided, but it should be kept to a minimum.

The lake gets two very good grades and only one slightly negative grade in recreation potential. Both E.coli, and Chlorophyll-a concentrations were rated very good, while the cyanobacteria concentration was given a slightly bad grade. Although cyanobacteria is, and probably always has been, present in our lake, it did not develop into a bloom last year. The frequency of cyanobacteria (also called blue/green algae) blooms has decreased significantly since the town sewer system was installed in the 80s. Let's hope this trend continues.

After comparing the NH Lay Lakes Program, a more research-oriented than the DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP), I decided to stay with VLAP because of our long prior association and the new concise water quality reports that I pointed out earlier.

This year, our VLAP crew will be taking water samples on June 25th, July 23rd and August 20th.

Many thanks to the following volunteers who have been involved with sampling: Austin Flint, George Crowe, Jack Foster, Roger Barnes, Jim Magnell, Ray Buskey, Lee Hammond, and Erland Schulson.

LAKE HOST PROGRAM

This program provides "Hosts" to greet boaters at launching sites and assist them in voluntary inspection of their boats and trailers for invasive species of aquatic plants and life forms (zebra mussels, for example). Inspections are needed both when launching and retrieving. The objective is to remove species that invade, spread rapidly and greatly harm lakes and ponds. This will reduce species from entering Mascoma as well as prevent the spread to other locations.

The MLA's program began in 2002 when the NH statewide program started and Jim Martel got the program off the ground. Since 2005, Liz Bucklin headed and coordinated our program of paid and volunteer Lake Hosts until her retirement last year. Many thanks to Jim and Liz for their years of service, initiating the program and keeping it running.

The program is funded partially by boat registration fees, State of New Hampshire Lakes Association grants, the Town of Enfield and City of Lebanon budget items, and the MLA budget as needed. It began with a large Federal grant in 2002, which decreased over the years and ended in 2009. Grants must be matched 100% by local funds or in-kind contributions (Volunteer Hosting). We are grateful to Elaine Troy who obtained another State Grant this year for \$1500, as she has done for many years.

Coverage at the two launch ramps is planned for weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. As the number of volunteers permit, work will be expanded.

Aaron Pickard will be the leading Host again this year. We are recruiting other paid positions and have six Volunteers: Austin Flint, Andrea Kangas, Jim Martel, John Schumacher, Lanie Troy and Liz Bucklin!! More volunteers are highly desired, to expand our coverage and spread the work around. You can volunteer for even one day!

For more info contact the "Point Person", Howard Shaffer, at hshaffer3@myfairpoint.net or 632-5139.

Please Join Us for Our ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday July 27, 2013 • Enfield Community Center
9-11:30 am • 8:30: Registration & Light Refreshments
Committee Reports and Guest Speaker, Amy Smagula

Amy Smagula will be presenting a long term management plan for Mascoma Lake to control Eurasian Milfoil. She will also discuss new invasives that we need to be on the lookout for.

She is a Limnologist with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services where she coordinates the Exotic Species Program. She has a Master of Science in Water Resources Management from the University of New Hampshire.

She has experience in field and laboratory limnology, aquatic plant and algae identification and management, lake and watershed assessment and management, and lake related policy-making.

Amy currently serves as Region 1 (New England)



Photo by Murray Carpenter.

From "Rock Snot", PRI's Living on Earth, 8/7/2009

Director for the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS). She is also on the Boards of the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society, the New England Chapter of NALMS, and the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel.

MILFOIL CONTROL: A GROUP EFFORT

Martha Rich & David Kelman

As we all look forward to the summer season we spend boating, swimming, and enjoying our beautiful lake, Eurasian milfoil is making plans to grow as well. This means we all need to make a continued effort to control this invasive plant in our waters. While we can't expect to eliminate it, we can build on fifteen years of successful management. It's an effort that must be renewed annually, and everyone can help.

If it is not controlled, Eurasian Milfoil forms dense stands of vegetation in the water, with thick mats at the surface that shade out native plants and reduce oxygen levels. Severe disruption of recreational activities follows. The bottom line – milfoil can ruin lakes.

Mascoma has so far escaped this fate, thanks to the volunteer program founded by the late Bill and Nancy Martin, Karen Hambleton, Roger and



Marta Barnes and other pioneers, in 1997. As the current coordinators, we (David Kelman and Martha Rich) will be patrolling the water on the MLA barge "S.S. Milfoil" looking for the dis-

tinctive feathery stalks of the aquatic invader. We'll drop our orange-yellow foam-noodle markers when we find plants. Local "milfoil watch captains" will also monitor areas near their homes, place markers, and report to us when they spot plants.

The critical activity is harvesting: the specialized underwater weeding technique required to remove plants without fragmenting and spreading them further. Our team of active divers grew from four to nine last summer, thanks to enthusiastic new volunteers who joined in after completing the state-approved training in July. Under the guidance of our veterans, Bud Lynch, Jim Martel, and Dave & Rusty Michael, the new crew helped harvest a total of 2,059 plants over the summer.

As in past years, some areas remained entirely free of milfoil, while others showed stubborn infestations: especially the sunken islands, the channel where the Mascoma River joins the lake, and a large patch near the campground docks. We have continued the GPS marking, with intent to create an interactive Google map showing patterns of milfoil growth over time.

Everyone can help!

- If you see a marker – an orange-yellow foam-noodle milfoil marker – please leave it where it is and avoid motorized boating near the marker.

- If you think you see Eurasian Milfoil, let us know and we'll follow up on suspected sightings. You don't have

to be an aquatic plant expert, just an alert citizen!

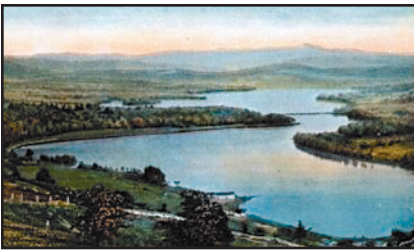
- If you would like to monitor the water near your property on a regular basis as part of the "neighborhood water watch," let us know. Your commitment as a watch captain would be to cruise your area from the shoreline to a depth of 12-14 feet when the lake is still and the sun is not directly overhead (usually early morning or late afternoon). We ask that you report at least once by July 15 and a second time by the end of August. We particularly need watch captains on the 4A side from the Baited Hook to the head of the lake.

- If you're a SCUBA diver or want to become one, we'd love to hear from you. It's easy to learn the techniques of proper milfoil harvesting and we provide the training.

- We also need people to become diver tenders on the *SS Milfoil*. Tenders accompany the captain and the divers on each harvesting trip. They clean collection bags, count plants, and record harvest locations on our GPS.

As we prepare to resume the struggle against Eurasian Milfoil in 2013, we welcome whatever help you can provide, whether it's keeping a lookout when you're boating or fishing, monitoring your home waters, or participating in the dives. Let's work together to keep milfoil under control.

For Milfoil Control, contact Martha Rich & David Kelman at ssmilfoil@comcast.net or call 802-233-9964.



Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

Waterfront Park Proposed Near Shaker Bridge

At the Main Street/Rail Trail project, the Town of Enfield is working to develop a lakeside park once NH-DOT is finished using the site. This will be on the old motel site just east of Shaker Bridge which offers a beautiful view south down the lake and is centrally located.

The Town Recreation Commission has started working on a tentative plan for such a park. They will be seeking input from other individuals and groups. Any interested MLA members should contact Steve Schneider, Enfield Town Manager, for more information, and/or to volunteer to assist with this effort.

Submitted by Kate McMullan

MLA Board Officers & Members

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

WEED WATCHERS AND DIVER ORIENTATION

Let's Get Organized!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 23rd AT 5:00 pm

The Second Annual Weed Watchers and Diver Orientation will take place at Bob and Tricia Barr's home at 39 Glen Road in Enfield.

Martha Rich and David Kelman will get us organized as they start up the *SS Milfoil* activities for the summer season!

We all want to do our part to identify and mark exotic species. Although Eurasian milfoil is our immediate threat, there are also other dangers on the horizon. Come and find out what Eurasian Milfoil looks like and how to properly mark and report it.

Martha and David will tell us what they have planned for diving and removal plans this summer. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm to

keep our lake healthy.

We will enjoy Mickey's pulled pork and slaw for dinner with wine, beer and soft drinks provided. Bring an appetizer or dessert if you can.

RSVP to Tricia Barr:
pjbarr.barr@gmail.com
or call 632-7924.

MLA WEBSITE

www.mascomalakeassociation.org

Peter Swanson, with input from our Board members and the technical expertise of Rick Hutchins, have designed an inviting home page and easy-to-access topics: 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 info and links to groups of interest. There is a message board page for lost-and-found items.

Send your best photographs in jpg file format, with captions, for use at our discretion, to mla@mascomalakeassociation.org

*Design & layout of this newsletter
by MLA member Betsey Child
Lasting Impressions Graphic Studio, Enfield
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