

Mascoma Lake Association

SPRING 2017
NEWSLETTER

Eagle Update

by Pat Carrier



Here is Abby watching her eaglet from across the island.

Eagle Identification

In 2016, photos taken on Mascoma Lake found our female eagle to have a leg band that confirmed she is "Orange S3". "Orange S3" was banded in June of 2011 as a chick at Onota Lake, Pittsfield, MA. She was observed several times

continued on page 2: Eagles



LOON CENSUS 2017

Volunteers Needed

The Statewide Loon Census will take place on Mascoma Lake Saturday, July 15th • 8-9 a.m.

Volunteers go out by boat to an assigned area and observe and record any loon activity for the full hour. This event is held rain or shine. A pair of binoculars is very helpful. Terri Lynch will be organizing the census for Mascoma Lake.

To participate, please email: terri.m.lynch@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING Saturday July 8, 2017

Coffee 8:30 • Meeting at 9
followed by our guest speaker:

Tom O'Brien,
President of NH Lakes

WE ALL LOVE OUR LAKE!

That's a given, because we choose to live here! And the MLA mission is to help preserve the health and quality of our lake.

Ongoing milfoil abatement has successfully kept this invasive issue at bay – thanks to continued efforts and support by volunteers and your donations. The water quality team monitors the health and safety of our lake water and watershed inlets.

As we gather topics for our guest speaker Mr. O'Brien to address, we're focusing on how we, as a community, can best preserve our lake for all to enjoy – humans and wildlife – and how to support environmental guidelines for development and use of the lake when State oversight is continuing to scale back.

Contact a board member to voice what's important to you so we can work together to make Mascoma the best lake it can be.

And be sure to invite a neighbor to the July 8th meeting so we can continue to expand our membership. New members get a free map!



NEW Fireworks Rules!

By Martha Nelson

Last November, the Enfield Selectboard, voted to adopt a new ordinance to better control the use of fireworks around the lake. This was felt to be important because the Department of Environmental Services has said that some ingredients in fireworks can pollute water and harm the ecosystem.

Under the new rules, Class C fireworks will be allowed only on Friday and Saturday until 10:30 pm and on New Years Eve, Independence Day, and Labor Day. Class B fireworks are prohibited unless permission is granted by the Fire Chief or Police Chief.

1st offense: written warning.

2nd offense: \$250 fine. 3rd offense: \$500.

For more information, please go to:
www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Falls/9200/toxic_fireworks.html

www.serconline.org/phosphorusbackground.html

The MLA Association would encourage those who use fireworks, to avoid firing over the lake and keep debris out of the lake.

BOAT PARADE



TUESDAY, JULY 4 • 3 PM

Check our website:
www.mascomalakeassociation.com
or our FaceBook page:
Mascoma Lake Association
for more information
closer to the date.

Eagles, from page 1

wintering from 2011-2015 at Conowingo Dam, on the lower Susquehanna River, Hartford County, Maryland. She was observed in May 2015 at Powdermill Pond, Hancock, NH. Of the 509 Bald Eagles that were banded in Massachusetts since 1987, this is the first eagle that has been reported often enough to justify keeping a running tally and sending out periodic updates. Her story continues on Mascoma Lake.

Mascoma 2016 Breeding Season

The territorial pair of Eagles reached breeding maturity. Female "Orange S3" was 5 years old. We affectionately called her Abby, and her male partner, Ben. Ben & Abby had been visiting Mascoma on and off since April of 2013. They spent a lot of time in and around the nest that spring. Not successful in the breeding season in 2015, we had high hopes for 2016.

Early March 2016, we again saw Ben and Abby transporting branches and soft grass material to the nest and feverishly working on it. After all, Decorating and Interior Design are very important. Adding materials to the nest, refining the design, and making it "family" ready seemed to be the goal.

A neighborhood team of bird watchers started observing Ben and Abby's behavior beginning March 12th, when Abby started an around-the-clock attendance of the nest. If she laid an egg, the incubation period would be 35 days. Hatching was expected in the April 14-18 time frame. The nest was attended

constantly. Ben arrived periodically to give Abby a most needed break. Atta Boy, Ben!

On April 17, our neighborhood bird watching team started seeing more activity in the nest. We could see both eagles in the nest, balancing on the rim, and seeming to peck at something. After consulting with Chris Martin, NH Audubon Society, he confirmed that this increased activity is consistent with newly hatched eaglet(s) being fed by their parents.

We continued to watch Ben and Abby's behavior. It appeared that they were breaking up food and placing it down into the nest (probably into the eaglet's hungry mouth). They were still manning the nest 24/7. If they were feeding an eaglet(s), the eaglets were still too small to observe, being too low in the nest.

On April 27, we could see the head of the baby eaglet, who we named Chris, just over the rim of the nest. By 3 weeks old, eaglets are 1 foot high. They add one pound to their body weight every 4-5 days, and will stay in the nest for 10-13 weeks before they can take their first maiden flight.

Early in July we watched Chris, now adult size, hovering over the nest; practicing flying skills, but not quite ready to fly. Now larger than Dad, it is believed that Chris is a female.

On July 13, Chris took her maiden flight to North Island, landing on a branch that was too small to hold her weight. The branch broke, and Chris tumbled. An hour later she was again



observed flying. Quite a maiden voyage!

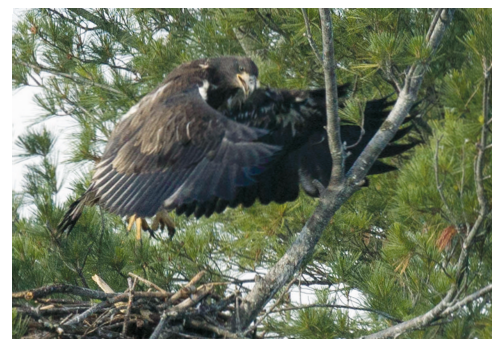
Chris spent the rest of the summer and into the fall maturing, honing flying skills, and learning to hunt for her own food. We continued to see Chris, as well as parents Abby and Ben, in the nest and flying around the lake. Chris was last seen in early December and assumed to have moved on to her new life.

Mascoma 2017 Breeding Season

Abby and Ben started the 2017 breeding season in early March working on the nest. On March 16, a 24/7 manning of the nest began, and continued until April 26. Starting on April 27, we could no longer see an eagle manning the nest. If a successful hatching had occurred, one eagle would attend the nest, and the second eagle would be bringing in food to feed the eaglets.

As of this writing, it appears that this nesting season has failed. Let's hope 2018 is a better season.

The fabulous eagle pictures were taken by C. Harris.



Mascoma Lake Sailing Log • By Kate McMullan

Several years ago I overheard a young boy, who was standing at the end of a Mascoma Lake dock, excitedly say, "Look Mom, that sailboat is dancing with the wind!"

That sailboat, of course, was a Laser. First built in the early 1970's and introduced to Mascoma Lake shortly thereafter, Lasers, according to Mascoma Lake resident Gary Orkney, are, "very athletic to sail, of simple design, and easy to transport."

Gary participated in Mascoma Lake's first District 7 Laser Class Masters Regatta held on the lake in the spring of 1974. These typically two days of racing events, sponsored initially by the Dartmouth Summer Sailing Club and more recently by the community-based Mascoma Sailing Club, have taken place just about every year since then. They have attracted sailors from all over New England as well as New York and



Canada. Gary goes on to explain that Mascoma Lake is a very good Laser racing lake because its northwest orientation aligns so well with spring winds.

We hope there is never a day when watching single handed dinghies 'dip and run' is not a part of our lake experience.

2017 WATER QUALITY REPORT

By Jim Martel & Martha Nelson

Most scientists around the world support the conclusion that increased CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) production is the main cause of global warming. CO₂ prevents heat from escaping to space, causing a “greenhouse” effect on the earth below.

What effect will global warming have on Mascoma Lake other than warmer water? Researchers from Lund University in Sweden concluded that a warmer climate will cause algal blooms to increase, especially toxic blue green algae or cyanobacteria. More algae could reduce water quality at Mascoma Lake so it could no longer be classified as oligotrophic

An oligotrophic lake is “characterized by a low accumulation of dissolved nutrient salts, supporting but a sparse growth of algae and other organisms, and having a high oxygen content owing to the low organic content” (dictionary.com). Warming could also cause



MILFOIL CONTROL: ALL SYSTEMS GO!

By Martha Rich & David Kelman

Last year, we asked: can “synchronized swimming” help reduce the milfoil problem in Mascoma Lake? It’s yes... but only if we combine that activity with all the other systems we now have in place to combat Eurasian milfoil.

Over the past several years, we’ve had two goals in coordinating this program: to expand the number of volunteers and to organize the effort for maximum efficiency. We’re happy to report success on both fronts. More lake residents and friends are involved in sharing the work, and the quality of that work is better than ever.

One major upgrade last summer was a better boat; thanks to the MLA’s investment and board member Tom Bonardi’s expertise in outfitting the SS Milfoil II, we can now carry more crew members and equipment. Kim and Tom Potter have improved the design and production system for our floating plant markers, while Allison Flint introduced large lighted buoys (glowing “pumpkins”) for greater safety at night.

Weed-spotting, too, has improved with the use of paddleboards; Debby Cronenwett pioneered this effective method of looking for milfoil and Matt McIntyre has raised it to an art form. And yes, we did find that several synchronized diving harvests reduced plant

“brownification” from the leaching of humus-rich brown water from land.

Water clarity is an important feature of lakes, determining how much light and heat penetrate beneath the water surface and what sorts of animal and plant life can live there.

Cyanobacteria thrive in warm, nutrient rich waters and can cause beach closings all over New Hampshire. We can all help protect the quality of the water on Mascoma Lake with conservation practices that prevent storm water runoff from draining into the lake. For more information and a description of cyanobacteria and photos go to:

www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/beaches/cyano_bacteria.htm

Mascoma Lake water quality has improved significantly over the last few decades and we want to assure this continues in the years to come.

WARNING!

If you observe a cyanobacteria bloom, do NOT drink the water, do not wade or swim in the water; keep pets and livestock out of the water.

CALL NHDES AT 603-419-9229
TO REPORT THE BLOOM.



growth in historically stubborn areas.

All these improvements yielded encouraging results. Last year’s total harvest was 2,612 plants – less than half the previous year’s number. Given our sense that the control effort was pretty thorough in 2016, this reduction in plants is a good sign. There may actually be less milfoil in our lake. We’ll continue tracking the trends, but for now we’re cautiously optimistic.

The number will never be zero. We can’t expect to eliminate this invasive plant; we can only continue effective management. If not controlled, Eurasian milfoil forms dense stands of vegetation in the water. Thick mats at the surface shade out native plants, reduce oxygen levels, and impede boating. Milfoil can ruin lakes. Everyone has a stake in preventing that outcome, and we cannot have too many people involved in this work. It’s an effort we renew annually. We appreciate

Lake Water Level Survey Results

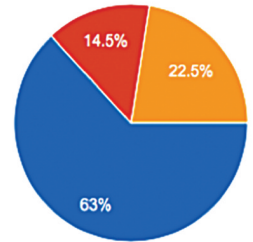
Last fall the MLA put out an electronic survey to gather input on water level preferences. This was sent by email to all MLA members and put on the Enfield Listserv over several weeks, resulting in 138 responses.

Various concerns were raised such as erosion damage (waves and ice) from high water to shallow issues from an abundance of sandy bottom. But the majority of respondents would like the water levels to remain as they are now.

Of those responding, 85% are already MLA members and 98% live on or have direct access to the lake. We thank all who responded and took the time to voice opinions and concerns.

Would you prefer the Mascoma water level to:

- remain the same
- be a little higher
- be a little lower



whatever help you can provide this year, whether it’s keeping a lookout when you’re boating or fishing, monitoring your home waters, or participating in the harvest.

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

MILFOIL MAPS

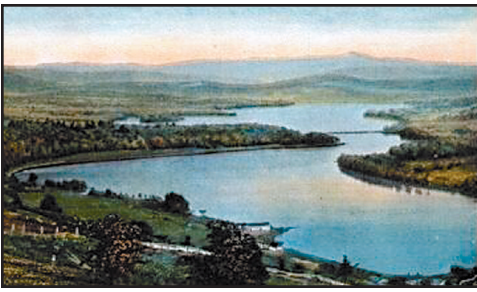
Interactive maps that track patterns of milfoil growth over time are posted on the MLA website. You can filter data by any increment of time or number of plants harvested. You can zoom into any area for details.

THE INTENSITY MAP IS AT
www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=17UoPCqzNAcYaMHt7eH3UiNtmPAaXCNDtFodAnr-

THE LOCATION MAP IS AT
www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=1EpzYzsd-RFf2fAxVQe5jYxPedr2jV8VYGWYGHZlo

You can also find the maps from the MLA home page by clicking on Lake Issues and then About Milfoil. The maps include 4 years of data.

Milfoil Control: Everyone Can Help!



Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

. Board Members .

Allison Flint • President
Ray Buskey • Vice President
David Beaufait • Secretary
Gary Gaudette • Treasurer
Karen Hambleton • Membership
Martha Nelson • Newsletter Editor
& Membership
Peter Swanson • Website
Andrea Kangas
Ann Corr
Tom Bonardi • SS Milfoil Care
Patty Murray
Bud Lynch

Mascoma Lakeside Park

By Meredith Smith

The summer of 2017 will be a difficult one for people wanting to use the Lakeside Park for launching non-motorized boats and parking at the site. The NH Department of Transportation will commence work on or about July 6 on the Main Street and Bypass Road improvements. The anticipated completion date is mid-August.

The Bypass Road will be closed to traffic for most of this time period and parking at the Lakeside Park will not be allowed. It should be noted that once the NH DOT work is complete, there will be NO through traffic on the Bypass Road and it will be reduced to one lane, to be used by emergency vehicles only. People visiting the park will enter and leave at the Shaker Bridge end of the Bypass Road. The summer of 2017 will be an inconvenience, but once completed, both Main Street and the Lakeside Park will be much improved.

In anticipation of the NH DOT work, the picnic tables have been moved to the adjoining lot which is also part of



the park but will be unaffected by the DOT project. Also, the new boat launch suffered some ice damage this past winter. Matt Dow will be removing two feet of the damaged area to make sure no further ice damage occurs. Eagle Scout candidate Nick Williams has proposed building an information kiosk that will also have benches attached as a new feature at the park. This summer the kiosk will be located temporarily on the adjoining lot, awaiting completion on

the DOT work. The kiosk will be used to post relevant lake information. A big “thank you” to Nick!

What will the future bring for the Lakeside Park? At this point no one is sure when the two lots (owned by NH DOT) that make up the Lakeside Park will be declared surplus by the State of NH. When that does happen, it is everyone’s hope that Enfield will have the opportunity to purchase the two lots, thus insuring that this beautiful piece of shorefront will be preserved forever as public access to the lake. If purchase is not an option, then the Town hopes to negotiate a long term lease (at least 50 years). Once the land is secured, either by purchase or long-term lease, the Lakeside Park Committee will begin to pursue the vision for the park created by Plan NH at the charette held in January of 2015 (available on the Town web site).

The Lakeside Park Committee welcomes volunteers interested in working on this project. From grant writing to picking up litter, there are chores for all!

INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Contact Meredith Smith at meredithsmith22@comcast.net.