

Mascoma Lake Association

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2014

Eagles on Mascoma Lake

Birdwatching on Mascoma Lake has become very popular over the past years due to the presence of loons, osprey, and bald eagles. This past summer, many were surprised by the appearance of a large eagles' nest on the east side of one of the islands. With luck and patience, many saw both eagles together.

Good news! On December 1st, we spotted the two adult eagles and a juvenile on the ice on the south end of Mascoma Lake in Enfield. They visited the spot for three days! The adults were swooping down and providing food for the young eagle and taking turns accompanying it as he ate. A few times, all three were spotted together resting on



the ice.

We hope this coming season will present many new opportunities to observe these majestic symbols of our nation.

Submitted by Andrea Kangas
Photos by John Lund
(Sept. 2013, Mascoma Lake)

We have a new Lake Association Website!

Time to log in to your account.

Dear MLA Members,

We have been working on a new Mascoma Lake Association website the past couple of months, which is live and ready for your login. The name of our new website is: www.mascomalakeassociation.org

An account has been set up for you to take advantage of all the features our new online website provides: news about our lake, events, photos, lost and found, updates on controlling invasive weeds, etc. We will use the new website for conducting surveys, improving communications with our members and providing informative videos and news bulletins.

Your Username and Password to log in for the first time will be included separately with this newsletter. You can change your password once you setup your user profile.

This YouTube video offers directions for signing on for first time:

http://youtu.be/3rzDtZa_qvE

Follow the LOG IN link on our new home page at the top right hand corner, just under the Weather, to log in for the first time.

Once you're logged in, browse around and see all the new features available.

Fill out your personal profile to keep your contact information up to date. You can check the lake's event calendar to see what's going on. If you need help getting started, check out the online tutorial videos at Get Started just under the Welcome message on the home page.

Spread the word. The more Mascoma Lake Association members that setup their account, the faster our online lake community will become more valuable for everyone. So tell all your friends! If they are not yet current members, this new website will serve as an excellent introduction to the Mascoma Lake Association. They can join easily by going to the Join Us link to set up their new account.

Check the site frequently to find lake announcements, community events, lost and found, and to manage your member account.

www.mascomalakeassociation.org
really is where everything comes together. See you online!

PS: We are sensitive to members who do not regularly use a computer. Please indicate on your application form if you will not be able to access and use our new website, and we will send you a printed newsletter.

Time for a Change

I have enjoyed being the MLA president for the past 7 years but it is time for me to move on. Allison Flint, who you elected as Vice President last year, is ready to take over the reins. Allison has been a life-long summer resident on the lake and has now moved here year round.

She lives at the head of the lake in her family home. Most of you know her dad and next door neighbor, Austin Flint. Allison is a school teacher and social worker and has had a life-long connection to Mascoma and the Upper Valley.

Once again the Vice President seat will be vacant and we would love to see it filled this year. I will continue my work with loons and helping with weed watching and will remain on the board for the next year.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve.

*Sincerely,
Terri Lynch*

The Mascoma Boat Parade

RETURNS ON
July 5th • 3-5 p.m.

NEW: We will parade clockwise around the south end of the lake.

Participants in the Northern end will gather in front of the Baited Hook at 2:30 and start heading south to follow the tail end of the Southern group at the Yacht Club.

The Southern group should start gathering at the Dartmouth Yacht club location at 2:45.

Costumed boats and passengers are welcome and appreciated!!

**Contact organizer is Tom Bonardi
632-7896**

MILFOIL CONTROL: THANKS TO YOU, A MODEL PROGRAM

Martha Rich & David Kelman

We've had some bad news and some good news—and both have boosted our determination to keep up the milfoil control effort this summer. First came a clipping from a friend in Connecticut: news that in badly infested lakes down there, some towns have started a program to import sterile grass carp, "big, weed-eating, non-breeding fish to chomp" at the problem. Introducing an exotic fish to control an exotic weed is a desperate measure. We don't want to end up like that!

Other lakes have resorted to the chemical treatment of invasive weeds, however, because Mascoma Lake feeds the Lebanon water supply, the use of chemicals is not permitted.

Better news came in early April, when Bud and Terri Lynch reported that Mascoma Lake's milfoil control project had been cited as a "model program" at the Mascoma River Watershed Summit. Our program relies on people, not fish, and it's the dedicated volunteers who make it so successful. Founded in 1997 by the late Bill and Nancy Martin, Karen Hambleton, Roger and Marta Barnes, and other pioneers, the program has kept milfoil under control ever since. We can't expect to eliminate this invasive plant, but we can continue to build on sixteen years of effective management. It's an effort we must renew 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, making it hard even to launch a boat. Milfoil can ruin lakes.

As current coordinators, we (David Kelman and Martha Rich) will once



again patrol the water on the MLA barge "S.S. Milfoil" looking for the distinctive feathery stalks of the aquatic invader. We'll drop our orange-yellow foam-noodle markers when we find plants. Local "weed watchers" will also monitor areas near their homes, place markers, and report to us when they spot plants.

The critical activity is harvesting: that's the specialized underwater weeding required to remove plants without fragmenting and spreading them further. Our expanded team of active divers harvested a total of 3059 plants last summer (up over 50% from 2012). As in past years, some areas remained entirely free of milfoil, while others showed persistent infestations: especially between the islands and shore, the channel where the Mascoma River joins the lake, and a large patch near the campground docks. We also found increased plant growth last year on the Lebanon end of the lake near the rail trail coast. We continued GPS marking to track patterns of milfoil growth over time.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! EVERYONE CAN HELP!

- If you see 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 watcher 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 middle of August. We particularly need weed watchers 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 welcome new divers and you can contact us for more information. With the state-approved training, it's easy to learn the techniques of proper milfoil harvesting.

- We also need people to become diver tenders on the "S.S. 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 battle against Eurasian Milfoil in 2014, we appreciate 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 harvest. Let's work together to keep our model program going, keep milfoil firmly under control, and keep our beautiful lake open.

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

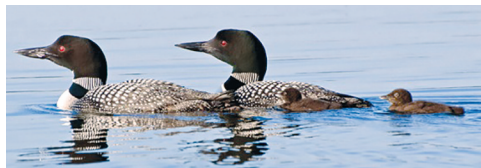
ANNUAL LOON CENSUS • SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014 • 8 A.M.- 9 A.M.

The Loon Preservation Committee hosts this annual event.

"Each year, 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, and
4. a community based tool for generating interest and involvement in loons."



MLA participates in this census by organizing observation on the lake during the census hour.

The lake is divided up, areas assigned to volunteers and then the observations are compiled and shared with the LPC. This event is held rain or shine.

Terri Lynch is organizing Mascoma Lake's participation again this year.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email: terri.m.lynn@gmail.com

Loon Facts

1. Their closest living relatives are penguins and a group of birds called the "tube-nosed swimmers" (including albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters)
2. Loons are visual predators, locating fish by sight and diving deep to catch them - as deep as 200 feet!
3. The red in the Common Loon's eye helps it to see under water
4. Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour
5. Loons can dive up to 200' in search for food
6. Loons can live up to 30 years

LAKE HOST PROGRAM

The program provides "Hosts" to greet boaters at launching sites to educate and assist in inspecting their boats and trailers for invasive species of aquatic plants and life forms (zebra mussels, for example) both when launching and retrieving. The objective is the removal of species that invade, spread rapidly and greatly harm lakes and ponds. This will prevent more species in Mascoma, and spreading Mascoma's to other locations.

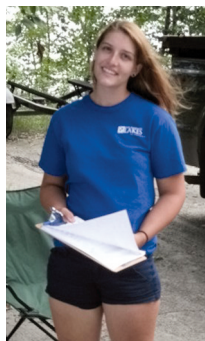
The Lake Association's program started in 2002 when New Hampshire's program started. Jim Martel got the program off the ground. Beginning in 2005 Liz Bucklin headed the program for seven years. Many thanks to Jim and Liz for their years of service, initiating the program, and keeping it running.

The program is funded in part by the boat registration fee, New Hampshire Lakes Association grants, the Town of Enfield Town and the City of Lebanon budgets, and our own funds 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 and work). Elaine Troy has obtained these grants.

Last year we received grants totally \$3700, to which we added \$629. We worked 397 hours and performed 888 inspections, with two weekend and holiday paid Hosts and one fill-in paid Host. One of the weekend Hosts also did administration as Lead Lake Host. There were very few hours of Volunteer inspection time, probably due to our late start in recruiting from our membership. We Hosted from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, and one Fishing Tournament after that.

This year, Elaine Troy has once again submitted our grant application. We have two full-time Hosts returning from last year, Amy Brock and Carrie Hackeman (pictured left). Carrie will also be Lead Host and is looking for a fill-in Host. We plan to person the ramps from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and Host Fishing Tournaments after Labor Day if volunteers are available.

We would benefit from many more Volunteer Hosting hours this year. You can Host for only a few hours, once during the season, or on more than one occasion. Hosting is done at the two



boat ramps. The mission is educating boaters to stop invasive species themselves, since the ramps are always available, and it is not possible to Host 24/7. Training takes less than an hour at the ramps, when the paid Hosts are on duty. Please consider when you can Host as you plan your summer schedule. If you can Host please notify Elaine Troy (lanie600@nycap.rr.com) with your preferred times. Paid Hosts are on duty 8-4, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

When passing the boat ramps, please show your appreciation to our Hosts!

For more info, contact Point Person,
Howard Shaffer
email: hshaffer3@myfairpoint.net
or phone: 603-632-5139



2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT *by Jim Martel*

Last year was a tough one on lake water quality. The above-average rainfall caused much more runoff to enter the lake, carrying with it more sediment and phosphorus lowering the transparency and the phosphorus causing more algae to grow. The average Secchi disk sighting went from about 12 feet in depth in 2012 to just 10 feet last year.

For the first time in the 10 years I've been involved in monitoring lake water quality, I saw two blue-green algae or cyanobacteria blooms last year, both in late August. I would describe them as not



blue-green in color but more like a lime green (picture above). This bloom was only about a foot wide and occurred along the shore in calm conditions. I took a sample

to DES for analysis. They found 1 million cyanobacteria/milliliter, which is quite high. If you see something like this give me a call (632-7594) and don't swim in it or allow your pets to drink it. Cyanobacteria can produce a toxin which becomes concentrated during a bloom.

Don't confuse a pine pollen "bloom" with a blue green algae bloom – the pine pollen bloom usually occurs in June and the pine pollen is dispersed on land as well as water. The green dust on your car is pine pollen.

One way to reduce or eliminate algae blooms is to reduce the amount of phosphorus in the lake, much of which is carried into the lake with the sediment and overland runoff. We can help to reduce this input by intercepting all overland flow and forcing it to filter through the ground, where physical, biological and chemical processes capture and hold the phosphorus.

See (<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/nhdes-wd-10-8.pdf>) for information on how you can control runoff from your property.

Good news; Scotts no longer has phosphorus in its lawn fertilizer. Other fertilizer manufacturers are expected to follow suit. This should be a great help in reducing phosphorus in lakes.

Enfield Old Home Days

Save the dates of July 25, 26, and 27! Enfield will celebrate Old Home Days with activities for young and old alike.

Friday starts the celebration with a chili cook-off at the Methodist Church and an old-fashioned band concert in Huse Park.

Saturday, The Greeley House, new home of the Enfield Village Association, will be open for tours and refreshments. On Main Street, the Enchanted Island will help children (with caregivers) explore and discover magical things.

The Library will hold its annual ice cream social: sundaes, games and face painting. Enfield Fire Department's chicken BBQ at Community Building.

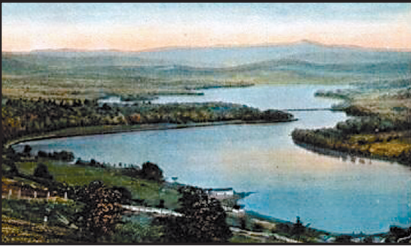
All-community dance in Huse Park with music by Enfield's own Jim Hollis.

Sunday, hike up Shaker Mountain, sponsored by the Enfield Conservation Commission, with Alan Strickland.

Visit the Enfield Shaker Museum offering free admission to all Enfield residents to help celebrate Old Home Days!

It is also the weekend of the MLA Annual Meeting.

For more information or to volunteer for Old Home Days, contact Meredith Smith at meredithsmith22@comcast.net.



Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

MLA Board Officers & Members

President • Terri Lynch
Vice President • Allison Flint
Treasurer • Gary Gaudette
Secretary • Sally Sharp

Enfield Village Association's Greeley House



Again this year, the Enfield Village Association invites Lake Association members to stop by after your meeting to see the Greeley House at the corner of Main Street and Shaker Hill Road. Last year the building was a shell. This year you can inspect EVA's new headquarters with the tin ceiling and wide board floors. We should be moved in by then and ready for visitors.

The Greeley House is one of the oldest in the village. In the mid-19th century it was owned by the Shakers, who housed their mill manager there. Later it became the Town Clerk's office and telephone exchange.

EVA acquired it in 2012 to save it from almost certain demolition. EVA's offices will occupy the two front rooms and the remainder of the house will be a single

family residence. The renovation is being done by local contractors and volunteers working side-by-side, and is funded by private contributions.

Although EVA's space is finished now, work on the residential space has just begun. This would be a good time to see the building's most unusual feature, the vertical plank walls, or to sign up to join in the fun of returning this historic treasure to community service.

Doug Smith, for the EVA Board

New MLA Website is unveiled!

We have been working on a new MLA website which should be ready for you to access in May. It is:

www.mascomalakeassociation.org

You will be able to take advantage of all the features our new on-line website provides: news about our lake, events, photos, lost and found, updates on members and your membership, newsletters, and more.

Our previous website topics and email address will still be available. We look forward to your feedback.

MLA Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2014

8:30-11:30

Enfield Community Center

Corner of RT 4 & Main St, Enfield
Light refreshments will be served.

Hear updates from our committees about water quality, invasive species, the Lake Host Program, and loons & eagles on the lake. We will be introducing our new web site and exciting new ways to share information.

Our guest speaker this year will be Andrea LaMoreaux from the NH Lakes Association. She will be addressing storm water runoff, its effects on water quality and what individual homeowners can do to reduce this negative impact.

We will be having a RAFFLE for a rainwater barrel (like the one shown here). This can be a helpful and attractive way to start your own storm water management plan.

Hope to see you!

