

Mascoma Lake Association

**SPRING 2023
NEWSLETTER**

OLD HOME DAYS JULY 14, 15 & 16

Enfield Old Home Days (OHD) is returning to its traditional summer timeframe. This year's Old Home Days will take place July 14, 15, and 16 with something for everyone, young, old, and in between.

After last year's trial of moving the festivities to fall, it was determined that summertime is still the best time for Old Home Days. Choosing dates has not been easy and we hope the selected dates will suit most people's schedules.

Plan now to join in the fun of this traditional New Hampshire celebration, started back in 1888 by then-Governor Frank Rollins. Watch for upcoming announcements of various OHD events!

The MLA hopes to offer the youth education program Watershed Warriors as part of the festivities.

CALENDAR

ICE OUT

April 12

SUMMER KICK-OFF PARTY

Saturday, June 24 • 11:30-2:00

(Rain date: Sunday, June 25)

Lakeside Park

BOAT PARADE

Saturday, July 1 • 3pm

Rain date Sunday, July 2

Meet at Rail Trail rope swing prior to start

LOON CENSUS

Saturday, July 15 • 8-9 am

Yearly Statewide Loon Count

to be organized by the

Loon Preservation Committee.

To volunteer you need a boat, census form, a pen, ability to identify loons, a watch and a pair of binoculars.

terri.m.lynch@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 29 • 9 am

Enfield Community Building + Zoom

MLA CLEANUP

August 5-6

Check website for updates:

www.mascomalakeassociation.org

President's Message by Martha Jane Rich

It's 1923. People have survived the trauma of the first World War and the flu pandemic that followed. In this year, *Time* magazine publishes its first issue and Lou Gehrig hits his first home run. The Disney Brothers found their Cartoon Studio, while Harry Houdini is a popular performer.

Hitler and Mussolini are rising to power in Europe, and the Ku Klux Klan is unleashing a wave of terror in the U.S. Insulin becomes generally available for diabetics. Automobile safety advances with the invention of the traffic signal we still use today. (Cars have outnumbered horses for at least ten years.)

In late summer, following the death of Warren G. Harding (the first president to visit the territory of Alaska), Calvin Coolidge becomes president (the first to make a speech broadcast on radio). And in western New Hampshire, "several owners of property on the shores of Mascoma Lake" meet to establish "the Mascoma Lake Improvement Association for the purpose of 'the betterment of conditions around Mascoma Lake.'"

Looking back across the century, we can see continuity with the current MLA mission. The founders' goals included, first and foremost, "to preserve the natural beauty, peace, and quiet" of the lake. For them, this meant working to "prevent the erection of signs ...to eradicate unwarranted noise or nuisance ... and to stop the dumping of rubbish" in the water and woods.

As summer residents with concerns for their property, they were also hoping to win "special police protection" for their cottages. (They did.) At the same time, they were community minded: they wanted to "share community interests with the townspeople

of Enfield and Lebanon," specifically to promote a public beach for Enfield citizens. (Shakoma Beach opened in 1957.)

A further aim looks more far-sighted from our 21st Century perspective: "to have surveys made to study pollution," support healthy fish stocks, and "prevent the lowering of the water level during the summer" (achieved when standards for minimum levels were set in 1934).

This early set of commitments, to responsible living and recreation on the lake, environmental protection, and community outreach, launched the stewardship the MLA continues to this day.

In 2023, our hundredth summer, we'll celebrate both continuity and change in MLA history.

We'll start with our Summer Kick-off party on June 24, a new event last year that echoed the "many social gatherings" of the early years. You'll have a chance to learn about our current lake protection programs, enjoy a free BBQ lunch and ice cream, and review an array of MLA merch: our popular hats as well as new reproductions of vintage maps, postcards, and publications (including the 1961 Mascoma Lake History by Mrs. Frances Campbell, the source of quoted material here).

Our annual meeting on July 29 will feature highlights of MLA history, compiled from the material many of you have generously supplied via our Facebook page and website this winter. We'll continue to welcome your photos, stories, and favorite memories of life on the lake.

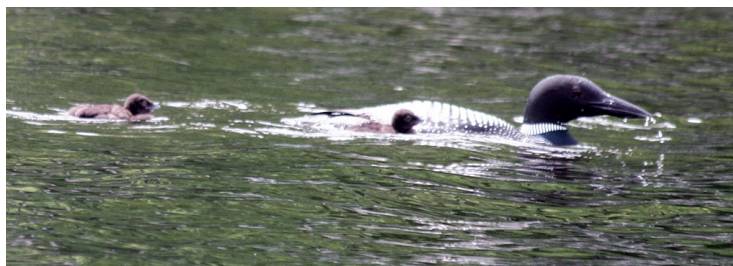
The history of the Mascoma Lake Association belongs to all of us, and we look forward to an Anniversary Celebration that honors our shared legacy.

Congratulations, MLA!



LOON CENSUS 2023

by Terri Lynch



Each year the Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough, NH, organizes a statewide Loon Census to monitor the number of loons on New Hampshire's lakes and ponds.

"During the 2022 Loon Census, a total of 458 volunteers took to 114 lakes across New Hampshire to count loons. In total, they documented 462 adult loons, 80 loon chicks, and 4 immature loons." (This report taken from the Loon Preservation Committee Website.)

On Mascoma Lake we had two adults counted at the 2022 Census. I will organize Mascoma Lake's participation again this year. About 12 boats (motorized are preferred but all are welcome) are needed to cover the 1,158 acres of our lake. I will divide the lake up and make assignments for participants. Volunteers will need to be at a designated section of the lake for the full hour recording all loon activity seen and then reporting findings back to me. I will review reports and submit results to the LPC.

Most volunteers have enjoyed this time on the lake, but it is a rain or shine event. This year the census will take place on Saturday, July 15th between 8 and 9 a.m. If you would like to participate please contact me directly at terri.m.lynch@gmail.com

The NH LAKES Lake Host Program

Clean water, happy wildlife, and stable property values depend on a healthy lake, free of invasive species. The NH LAKES Lake Host Program is the first line of defense in keeping our lakes free of invasive plants and animals.

Lake Hosts offer free complimentary boat inspections and teach boaters about the Clean, Drain, and Dry: <https://nhlakes.org/clean-drain-dry/> method for aquatic invasive species prevention. They also protect our lake by capturing the invasive species that hitchhike on boats, trailers, or recreation gear before they can ruin the lake we love.

On Mascoma Lake we staff both the Enfield and Lebanon ramps on Friday afternoon and all-day Saturday and Sunday with paid Lake Hosts. We rely on volunteers to staff our ramps during the week. We are always looking for volunteers and appreciate any time you can contribute.

This important work is our association's most costly program. Even with a grant from the NH Lakes Organization the MLA invests approximately \$10,000 each summer to protect Mascoma Lake from invasive species.

For more information or to donate to our Lake Host Program please visit the NH Lakes website at: <https://nhlakes.org/>

Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a volunteer Lake Host. We are also hiring paid Hosts if you know someone 16 years or older who is interested. We need your help to care for the lake we love!

Thank you.

Tricia Barr,
Volunteer
Lake Host Coordinator
603-252-6142
pjobarr.barr@gmail.com



You can help the loons if you...

Do not use lead fishing weights or jigs

Steer your boat away from any loons
(a chick may be nearby and will be nearly invisible in the water and unable to get out of your way)

Give loons some space, a distance of 150' is optimal.

Use binoculars to enjoy them.

Stay clear of any loon nests.

Retrieve fishing line;
entanglement has caused many loon deaths.

Report any loon that is beached or appears in distress to
603-476-LOON (5666) and to 802-558-0082

Learn more about loons at <https://loon.org/>

LOON FACTS

Did you know that ...

Loons can live 30 or more years.

Loons do not mate for life.

Loons stay in water unless flying or nesting ...
beaching indicates illness or injury.

Loons can swim fast underwater – 20 mph has been recorded.

They can dive and stay under for up to 5 minutes.

They can dive up to 200'.

They have been clocked at flying speeds of 70 mph.

A loon's eye is red in summer, a dull grey in winter.

They cannot walk well on land

as their legs are positioned way back of their body.

They need a long stretch of open water to take flight.

They cannot take flight from land.

Mascoma Sailing Club

by Kate McMullan



It's that time of year! Boats are being uncovered and inspected, small repairs made, gear pulled out from storage. MSC member Reg Jones reported online on April 12th, "Ice went out last night and Dartmouth is sailing this afternoon." Member Sally Sharp was out on the lake on her Laser the following day. Member Andrei Burnin and two friends spent most of April 24 on the lake windsurfing. Andrei subsequently reported on Facebook, "Windsurfed over 60 km on Mascoma today ... with a top speed of 26 knots."

MSC will again offer area residents a variety of opportunities to get out on the lake. Our *Women Can Sail Program* is a chance for women interested in sailing to take the helm under the guidance of an experienced woman sailor. It will meet Thursdays late afternoon, 4:30pm to dusk, starting June 22. Also our very popular Community Sailing Program is an opportunity for individuals and families to try sailing by going out on a Club boat with a MSC certified skipper. This program will occur late Wednesday afternoons, 4:30pm to dusk, throughout the summer.

MSC's Youth Sailing Program (open to ages 12+) will occur the weeks of July 10 and 17. Sign up is through the Enfield Recreation Department.

Informal Laser racing, in conjunction with the Dartmouth Sailing Facility, will occur Tuesday evenings starting at 6pm. In addition, MSC will host our annual Griesbach Sloop Regatta, open to all, the first weekend in August.

Visit our website or Facebook page for specific information for all of the above. We look forward to a wonderful and busy season of sailing. See you on the water!

MLA Announces Development of a Watershed Management Plan

by Jim Martel

I'm pleased to announce that the Mascoma Lake Association has approved the development of a watershed management plan for Mascoma Lake.

The purpose of the plan is to protect water quality. It identifies existing and future problems from all sources of pollution.

Once the plan is completed, it will provide a list of recommended actions such as redirecting runoff away from the lake or changing zoning regulations. The plan is flexible so that it can be modified as time goes on. Having a good plan is important because it makes it easier to justify funding for improvement projects.

Of course there is a cost associated with developing this program. The cost varies depending on the scope of the study. Typically, costs range from \$75,000 to \$150,000. Most of the money will be spent on engineering services. Fortunately, grants are available to pay most of this cost. I expect that it will take two or three years to complete the plan.

We will be working with several federal, state, and local agencies to develop the plan. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services offers their expertise and encouragement. Enfield and Lebanon are in favor of this project. Lake Sunapee has just completed their plan.

I hope you will also support the development of such a plan for Mascoma Lake.

Congratulations to Jim Martel



VLAP Coordinator Sara Steiner with Jim Martel, May 12, 2023

For his decades of service to Mascoma Lake, Jim received the 2023 Secchi Disk Award, the highest honor given by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to a member of its Volunteer Lake Assessment Program. The award recognizes Jim's work leading our VLAP water quality testing team; his many years as a milfoil control weedwatcher, captain, and diver; and his latest initiative, developing a watershed management plan. Everyone who loves Mascoma Lake can be grateful to Jim for his unflagging dedication to protecting and improving our water.

LET'S ALL PROTECT OUR LAKE WATER

Last June, just after this newsletter came out, Mascoma Lake was closed for a week: a potentially toxic cyanobacteria bloom caused a State-ordered ban on swimming and boating. We don't know exactly what caused that problem here, but it's clear that cyanobacteria blooms are on the rise all around the State. As our water quality team leader Jim Martel notes, developing a local Watershed Management Plan should provide some answers along with recommended actions. Meanwhile, we can all take simple measures to reduce pollutants.

Here are two things you can do this spring to promote health and safety for yourself and our lake:

Check your septic system: Your septic system is a highly efficient biological system that can effectively digest and disperse your household sewage and other organic wastes. Properly designed, installed, and maintained, it should give you many years of trouble-free service, but only if it is properly maintained. The key to the life and service of any septic system is proper maintenance. Your tank should be pumped at least every two to three years. Remember not to flush grease or toxic materials (paint thinner, gasoline, pesticides, chlorine, drain cleaners and other caustic or toxic substances) into your system.

For more information, we recommend the DES Fact Sheet **"You and Your Septic System"**. Visit the NHDES website, go to the "Home and Recreation" tab, and select "Septic Systems." <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/ssb-13.pdf>

Reduce your use of fertilizer. Runoff from excess fertilizer increases the nutrient load in waterbodies, promoting algae blooms. Please use sparingly, if at all, and choose a phosphorus-free fertilizer (the middle number in the N-P-K listing on the bag should be '0').

<https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/1-Lake-Friendly-Actions-Top-10-Ways-to-Keep-Lakes-Healthy-NH-LAKES.pdf>

If you think you see cyanobacteria or have other lake water quality concerns, you can report to the MLA via email: mla@mascomalake-association.org or directly to the town health inspector, Liam Ehrenzweig (Inspector@enfield.nh.us, 603-442-5426.) The MLA works with officials to take samples and share notifications as needed.

For more recommendations on ways to make your property as lake-friendly as possible, check out the LakeSmart program from our friends at NH LAKES: <https://s.pointerpro.com/lakesmartstart>



Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

www.mascomalakeassociation.org

. Board Members .

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Vice President • vacant

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It has been a productive fall and winter for the Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee (MLPC) with members volunteering their time, both in committee meetings and hands on work, planning landscaping and infrastructure, laying out trails, and coordinating with landscape designer and volunteer, Mike Burns. A special note of thanks goes to DPW Director Jim Taylor and his crew who continue to plow snow, mow grass, and take a special interest in keeping the park looking great.

The \$125,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Grant (LWC) required a match, which was met. This provides a total of \$250,000 for major upgrades to the parking lot, making it "lake friendly". It will also provide funding for walking trails throughout the park with a Pollinator Garden, Native American Garden, Education Area, native plantings, and continued removal of invasives, a daunting task! In conjunction with the LWC grant, two sub committees of the MLP Committee, Infrastructure and Landscape, have been formed to study and suggest various improvements to the park as the MLP Committee focuses on putting the LWC grant to work. The two committees report to the entire MLP Committee monthly and suggestions made are discussed and voted on.

Landscape Designer and Enfield landscape business owner Mike Burns has been working pro bono with the MLPC to create the

Lakeside Park News

*by Meredith Smith, Chair
Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee*



plan for the park that meets or exceeds Shoreline Protection and all environmental laws. Mike is continuing the work of architect Paul Mirski who also volunteered his time in designing the pavilion and the comprehensive layout of the park. Sadly, Paul died this past February. Our sympathies go out to his family, along with our gratitude for Paul's tireless work on the park planning and design.

Volunteer workdays have been organized for the summer months by Pattie Fried, Master Gardener and gold star volunteer. Check the

kiosk at the park or go to the Town website for days and times to volunteer. The goal is removal of invasives along the shoreline in preparation for replanting of native plants and shrubs. Invasives were identified and marked by Emma Erla, invasive species expert at UNH and more recently, Grace Glynn, a wetland scientist employed by Dubois & King, the company retained by the Town to identify invasives on Town lands. Invasive removal is an ongoing task and volunteers are needed to help with this critical effort.

Currently, the plan for the parking lot at Lakeside is at Pathways Engineering. The new parking area will be "lake friendly" and meet all the requirements of the Land and Water Conservation grant. Work on creating the new parking area is not expected to begin this summer as permitting and engineering will take some time. Walking trails are expected to be laid out and possibly built this summer. Most of the trails will be ADA compliant. Work on creating the pollinator and Native American gardens will also begin this summer.

This beautiful park, a gift to the Town of Enfield, could not have happened without the support of over 100 generous donors and grant funding agencies. So many have given of their time and talents in addition to financial support. Lakeside Park is something all Enfield can be proud of! Thanks to all who helped in making it happen.

MILFOIL CONTROL: WHEN DO WE CELEBRATE?

by Martha Rich and David Kelman

As the chart at the right indicates, the trend for Eurasian milfoil in Mascoma Lake is definitely heading down. With your help, we have continued to search thoroughly and harvest promptly, but even with diligent monitoring, the total count at the end of last summer was an all-time low of 35 plants. That made it hard to comply with the Department of Environmental Services' reporting requirements. They want to know how many buckets were harvested from each lake, and we had to resort to a fraction.

After a quarter century of annual milfoil control efforts, it seems we've achieved success. Do we get to declare victory? Is it time to celebrate? The answer is Yes and the answer is also No.

Yes, let's revel in the worst-case scenarios we've averted. By controlling the spread of this invasive aquatic weed, we've prevented thick mats of the plant from forming and choking out oxygen for other species—essentially ruining the lake. Instead, our water has stayed open for boating and swimming and fishing. We have thriving wildlife, including loons and eagles. We've protected lakeshore property values and recreational assets for all the visitors who enjoy Lakeside Park, Shakoma Beach, and the Rail Trail. By keeping the weed under control, we've avoided the need for chemical treatments or other costly remedies; when infestation gets out of hand on a lake, costs skyrocket. And all this is thanks to a long-running all-volunteer program supported by MLA members' dues and donations. So yes, that collective stewardship has brought results well worth celebrating. Let's do that every day this summer, every time we set out in a boat, or swim, or simply look out at our beautiful lake.

But no, we can't just declare victory and walk away. We don't expect to eliminate milfoil from Mascoma completely. Like other invasive species, it's aggressive, tenacious, and tricky, with many strategies for multiplying. We need to stay vigilant, both through the Lake Host program at the boat launches and the weed-watching and harvesting efforts.

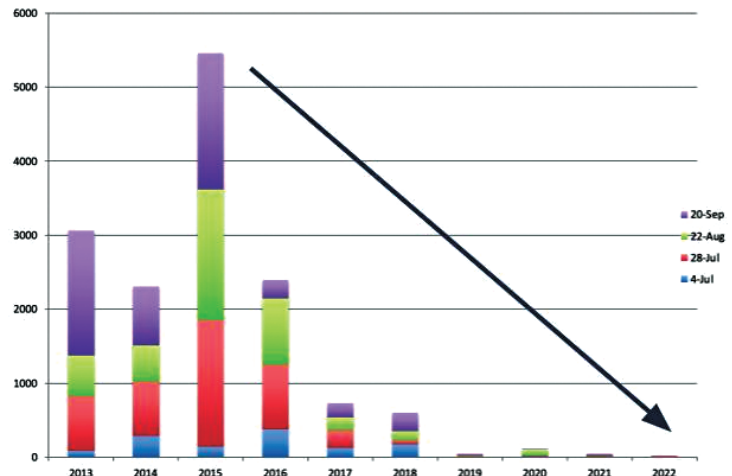
Unfortunately, one downside of success is complacency. Many people who were once dedicated members of the "neighborhood weed watch" have moved on; there are now large shoreline areas that get minimal oversight. We need more competent, committed weed watchers (especially younger ones with good eyesight) to continue patrolling our lake adequately. We will teach new volunteers how to spot, identify, and mark milfoil plants from shore, boats, or paddleboards. You can contact us directly (see below) or come sign up at the Summer Kickoff party on June 24.

With your help, in the MLA's 100th year, we can continue monitoring this lake as people have for a quarter of that century since 1923. We'll enjoy our success, but we won't rest on our laurels.



Eurasian Milfoil

Milfoil Harvest Record 2012-2022



Here are all the ways you 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 see the red-and-white "diver down" flag, slow down and steer clear. It means there are people under the water!
- Do not attempt to remove milfoil yourself. It must be harvested by trained personnel. Improper removal will contribute to its spread. (It's also illegal in New Hampshire to dig up aquatic plants of any kind without a permit. Removing native plants such as bass weed can create more inviting conditions for invasive milfoil to grow and even increase cyanobacteria risk.)
- 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're a SCUBA diver, we welcome new certified divers. With the State-approved training, it takes one day to learn the techniques of proper milfoil harvesting.
- If you're a swimmer, you could join our "synchronized swims." You need to be able to swim with a mask and snorkel for up to two hours (with breaks when you'll tread water for a few minutes). You'll need a wetsuit for flotation and staying warm.
- If you live on the lake and would like to monitor the water near your property on a regular basis, you can join the "neighborhood weed watch." 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.

Questions or interest in volunteering?
Contact: David Kelman & Martha Rich:
ssmilfoil@comcast.net 802-233-9964

Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9 • Enfield, NH 03748 • www.mascomalakeassociation.org

2023 Membership Form

January – December 2023

The activities of the Mascoma Lake Association are supported by the annual dues of its members, and each year MLA takes on new responsibilities. We hope you will be as generous as you are able.

Thank you for your support!

Name(s) _____

Please register all family members who would like to receive future MLA news.

Email(s) _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____

Summer Address (Please use 911 address) _____

Phone _____

Annual Membership \$ 50.00

Additional Donations (donations of any amount are welcome as you are able)

- **Milfoil & Invasive Species Identification and Remediation** \$ _____
- **General Support** (support for the numerous committees – see list on separate page) \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Pay online at www.mascomalakeassociation.org or make checks payable to Mascoma Lake Association and mail this form to: Mascoma Lake Association, P. O. Box 9, Enfield NH 03748

To learn more about your Association, please visit our Website www.mascomalakeassociation.org

1. The annual newsletter is distributed electronically to the email address(es) you have provided.

If you prefer not to receive the electronic email newsletter, please check here. _____

2. Information about our various Association activities is provided with this form. Your participation is welcome and encouraged if you are able.

Please list areas of interest and we will contact you: _____

3. Are there any other families who use your property who should be on our e-mail list?

If so, please have them become members and visit www.mascomalakeassociation.org for more information!