



# BEAR POND CURRENTS

August 2005

## BPIA Representatives

### President

Mary Monahan Wallace  
224-7198

### Vice President

Dick Bray  
224-7763

### Secretary

Peggy Poskus  
224-7801

### Treasurer

Connie Bilodeau  
224-7487

### Board Of Directors

Bruce Goddard - 224-8034  
Mike Gordon - 224-7812  
Ken Holt - 224-7925  
Pete Pillsbury - 225-3479  
Gerard Sampson, Jr. - 897-2650  
Kent Mitchell - 224-7375

### Newsletter & Website Editor

Rich Bray - 224-8036  
rnbrayjr@gmail.com

### Committee Chairs

- ♦ Dam Keeper - Mike Gordon
- ♦ Dam Fundraiser - Goddards
- ♦ Loon Nest - The Pillsburys
- ♦ Membership - Tim Verrill
- ♦ Monitors - R. Bray, K. Holt, K. Mitchell

### Other Important Numbers

Hartford Town Office 388-2674  
Turner Office 225-3414  
Game Warden - 657-2345

## Pot Luck Supper Enjoyed By All



Fifty people attended this year's pot luck supper but the flies stayed home.

Food as always was delicious and plentiful and the auction was great fun. All proceeds go to the dam fund. We thank Pat and Gerry Sampson and their committee for all their hard work to provide a night of food, fun, and frolic.

## Schedule Of Activities

### UPCOMING BPIA MEETINGS

August 28  
At Boofy Quimby Hall at 9:00 AM

Visit the BPIA Website!!  
[www.bearpondme.org](http://www.bearpondme.org)



#### BEAR POND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



Welcome to the website of the Bear Pond Improvement Association.

The Bear Pond Improvement Association (BPIA) is a volunteer-based organization of nearly 200 member families whose purpose is to increase the well-being of Big Bear and Little Bear Ponds, and the surrounding watershed in Turner and Hartford Maine. Our goals are to maintain the aesthetic quality of Bear Pond, assuring enjoyment for all of its visitors, and homes, residents.

BPIA is a non-profit organization founded in 1958 to perform the following services to ensure the quality of the Big Bear Pond:

- Maintain and operate the outlet (the Dam) and the water level of the Pond, as required by state law.
- Test and monitor the water quality.
- Educate visitors about lake ecology, and threats to water quality.
- Promote public safety and safeguard the pond's wildlife and environment.

This site is designed to provide educational information and a source of historical data. Some of this information is available as Adobe Acrobat files. To view these files you will need Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded for free by clicking on this button.

[Download Acrobat Reader](#)

Printed: 08/04/2005 10:00 AM. URL: [www.bearpondme.org](http://www.bearpondme.org)

For information or suggestions, e-mail us at [webmaster@bearpondme.org](mailto:webmaster@bearpondme.org)  
BPIA P.O. Box 4 North Turner, ME 04266

Bear Pond Currents Is The Seasonal Newsletter

Of The Bear Pond Improvement Association

BPIA, P.O. Box 4 North Turner, ME 04266



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

# Watershed Demonstrations Correct Erosion Problems

Saturday, July 29, was another landmark day for the watershed committee. A serious erosion problem existed on the right of way to the pond shared by several camps including the Adams and Weeks camp. Mr. Weeks and Mr. Adams had taken advantage of a consultation from

Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation made available to homeowners around the pond under the BPIA watershed grant. Water rushing from the hill was causing serious erosion on the steep right of way.



Plans were drawn up and approved and permits were granted by the DEP. On the day of the project 20 volunteers worked throughout the morning. Stone walls were built; ties with stone for filtering and drainage were added; areas were leveled and planted with water absorbing native plants, and bucket loads of crushed rock were dumped and raked. Despite the fact that many volunteers had to leave by early afternoon, the Weeks, Adams, and Goddards finished the job by 6 pm. While the list of all the volunteers are not available at this time, we thank all the people who worked to restore this area.

After consulting with the Oxford county Soil and Water Conservation, a second private road, Big Bear Lane, had several erosion problems corrected by volunteer BPIA members Moe LeClerc, Tim Verrill, and Bob Harlow. Re-ditching and lining along with barriers to catch erosion were installed in early spring. Thanks to these volunteers.

# Officers and Directors Propose Amendments to Constitution

At the August meeting, the membership will be asked to vote for a proposed change to Article 2 - The Purpose of the Association.

The change is recommended to bring the purpose more into keeping with what the Association is presently doing.

The old article reads: The purposes of said association are to further by all legal means a social organization which shall assist the welfare, benefit and improvement of the community designated as Bear Pond; to exercise all such power and authority, and to do all things necessary and desirable to achieve and carry out the purposes of said association. But declared that this is NOT a corporation for gain or profit, to acquire, hold, manage, control, and dispose of personal and real property.

The new article will read: The Bear Pond Improvement Association, founded in 1958, is a non-profit, volunteer organization whose purpose is to maintain the well-being Bear Pond and the surrounding watershed of Hartford and Turner, Maine. BPIA's goal is to maintain the health and beauty of the pond for the benefit of all human and wildlife residents.

BPIA performs the following services.

- Maintains and operates the outlet (dam) and the water level set by state law
- Monitors through baseline testing the water quality
- Educates residents through newsletters, a website, and watershed demonstrations about lake ecology and threats to water quality
- Promotes public safety on the pond
- Safeguards the pond's wildlife
- Maintains membership in the Congress of Maine's Lakes Associations

This amendment was well received at the meeting.

A second proposed amendment from the floor will change all references in the constitution to he/ him to he/ she or him/her...to allow for the fact that there is a woman presently serving as president. This amendment brought applause from the floor.

# Spotlight On BPIA Volunteer Dick Bray

Among the many volunteers to BPIA, Dick Bray stands out as a man who has directed all his energies to the preservation of Bear Pond. Dick has been Vice-President for 9 years. During that time he has been a key player in the decisions that have been made by the Association. Because Dick is a year round resident, it has fallen to him to be in charge during the nine months that the President is out of state. This means he has fielded calls and served as the guardian of the association with many phone calls out of state so he can always bring the President up to speed.

Dick attends all meetings, all Directors meetings, and he has been part of every repair team at the dam. During the 4 annual water testing mornings, it is Dick's pontoon out on the lake with Dick spending hours on the pond with the water testers. When Turner first bought a town beach, Dick served on the committee to draw up the rules for the beach. All this he does with the full support and encouragement of his wife Claire.

But no job could have been more demanding than the job of Watershed Committee Chair that Dick took on 6 years ago. In all the articles we have printed about the progress of the watershed study and the grant and restoration projects, it is Dick who has been there every step of the way. Meetings, calls, sleeves rolled up, Dick, the committee and volunteers have brought 2 prestigious awards to the BPIA. Dick has worked tirelessly for the wellbeing of the pond. Today the spotlight is on volunteer Dick Bray.

## Remember To Pay 2005 Dues

*Please Send \$25.00 To: BPIA, P.O.  
Box 4, North Turner, ME 04266*

Name:

Pond Address & Phone #:

If Applicable,

Permanent Address & Phone #:

## Classifieds



Master License MS60016931

Fully Insured

**S.M.B.  
Electrical Services**

Residential - Commercial - Industrial

"No Job Too Small"  
25 Years Experience

Stephen Bilodeau  
207-577-8241  
Auburn, ME

Free Estimates

# Human Activities Speed Up Lake Aging Process

Just like people, lakes age and change over time. Lake aging is the natural process by which a lake fills in over time with sediment, silt and organic sediment, eventually becoming a wetland or swamp, and finally a field. Sediments can be carried into the lake by the tributary streams, through the air, or come from materials produced in the lake itself. From the time that a lake forms, the aging or filling in process begins. Lakes age (i.e. fill in) at different rates because of differences in runoff and watershed characteristics.

The natural aging of a lake takes places over hundreds of years. However, human activities can greatly accelerate the process and reduce it to decades, or even a single decade. This is called cultural aging. Erosion from developed areas will carry phosphorus containing effluent, fertilizers, pesticides, and soils into a lake. These byproducts of human activity significantly accelerate aging by adding sediments and by triggering plant and algae growth. Unfortunately, human-oriented land uses, including residential development, are major contributors to cultural aging.

Erosion is a double whammy for aging. Phosphorus is naturally found in soil and is a common additive to consumer products, and when added to a lake from erosion, it can cause tremendous increases in aquatic plants and algae. Even minute amounts of phosphorus can have a large impact. Plant growth eventually dies and decomposes adding sediments to the lake. The other aspect of erosion is the direct deposit of soils and sediments that fill in a lake.

Typically, any form of land development contributes more phosphorus to a lake than wild or forested land. Some significant sources of phosphorus that can find their way to a lake are: phosphate based detergents, lawn and garden fertilizers, improperly sited and maintained septic systems, waterfowl, animal and pet wastes, and road deicers. These can all be carried into a lake from stormwater runoff, and this runoff increases significantly with land development and more buildings, roads, and driveways.

Anyone who lives in a lake watershed can take actions to reduce polluted runoff from their property and therefore reduce the soil and phosphorus that reaches a lake. Here are some things to do: Use mulch or plants to protect bare soil, pick up pet waste, reduce the use of lawn fertilizers and chemicals, inspect and maintain your septic system, keep grass clippings and leaves out of the lake, prevent soil erosion, wash your car at a commercial car wash, and plant trees and shrubs. Vegetation and trees are the best way to prevent stormwater runoff because they hold soil in place with their roots, and their leaves disperse rain so that runoff does not form. **A good rule of thumb is the WILDER THE BETTER.** Help prolong the lifespan of our lake by avoiding activities that urbanize your property.

# Highlights of July '05 Meeting

**Watershed Committee:** Our grant ends in October and all projects are near completion. The boy scouts of Turner will help with Phase 2 of the beach restoration. The problem is that since the watershed survey, new erosion problems have arisen on many of the camp roads. This comes from land clearance and construction taking place. While the majority of the work is being done correctly and with the necessary permits, it is essential to restore plant and tree life around the construction area. Grass does NOT absorb run-off nearly as well as plants and better yet trees...TREES...TREES...TREES!!! Paved camp roads are not as absorbent as dirt roads. The water levels of the pond in late spring and early summer were harder to keep consistent because there is more run-off than ever. We must work to prevent run-off and that means planting at least a 6 foot buffer along the shore of hardy trees and plants. Lower limbs of trees may be trimmed to keep a lake view, **BUT NO TREES OR BRUSH CAN BE CUT WITHIN 75 FEET OF THE POND (EVEN A DEAD TREE) WITHOUT A PERMIT!!! THAT IS STATE LAW THAT CARRIES A LARGE FINE IN THE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. BE SURE TO HAVE PERMITS FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER!!!**

**Loon Committee:** There are often 7 loons on the pond but no babies.

**Dam Committee:** A consultant will be

checking the dam to make further recommendations on the restoration of the dam. The gates will open October 1. Mike Gordon is the dam keeper. He has 2 new assistants, Dale Twitchell and Cal Burden.

**Water Testing:** Secchi disc readings have not been lower than usual so far this year. They are averaging about 5.2 meters rather than the normal readings around 6 meters.

**Fundraising Committee:** Hats and short sleeve Bear Wear have been ordered for the 2005 fund raiser. Hats are \$15 and shirts are \$15 for kids and \$18 for adults. Orders will also be taken for additional items such as sweatshirts and tote bags. To purchase, contact Bruce and Gloria Goddard at 224-8034.

**Membership Committee:** If you know of any people who have recently taken over a camp, please call Mary Wallace so the membership chair can approach that person to join BPIA.

**Old Business:** The Constitution of the Association states that any and all property owners around Bear Pond may join the BPIA. This means that any families that buy condos at Bear Pond Village will be invited to join and will be received with open arms. We are confident all new land owners around the pond will come to love and protect the pond as present members do.

**New Business:** 2 amendments will be voted on in August. See the article elsewhere. John Sabine and Rich Bray have volunteered to be trained to spot invasive aquatic plants on the pond.

## Guy Timberlake Dam Lee and Marjorie Pettingill Restoration Project

The second year of our restoration fund drive for the dam is underway. As you recall, last year we launched this drive to repair the dam and secure its future. Contributions of \$100 or more will entitle the contributor to place a name on a plaque that will be set at the dam at the completion of the drive. All contributors will have their names published in future newsletters. The drive will continue throughout this year. The fund will then be permanently established to take care of all maintenance and insurance on the dam.

The following contributions were received since the last newsletter.

**Silver Circle:**

Vint Hutchins in memory of Jean Hutchins—\$200

Aileen Bray, Marilyn Hoefling, John and Lynetta Bray  
in memory of Norm and Amy Bray - \$100

**Patrons: (\$25)**

Doug and Heidi Conn

**Contribution Levels**

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Boosters        | \$10    |
| Patrons         | \$25    |
| Silver Circle   | \$100 + |
| Gold Circle     | \$250 + |
| Platinum Circle | \$500 + |

If anyone thinks his or her name has been left out of the newsletter, please contact Mary Wallace at 224-7198

**Lee & Marjorie Pettingill Restoration Fund  
For The Guy Timberlake Dam**

Name of contributors \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bear Pond Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name to appear on plaque (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to BPIA Dam Fund    Send to: Mary Wallace, President    BPIA Dam Restoration, 202 Bear Pond Road, Turner, Maine 04282