



BEAR POND CURRENTS

August 2009

BPIA Representatives

President

Jim Adams
754-5491

Vice President

Mike Gordon
224-7812

Secretary

Darlene Burdin

Treasurer

Mary Monahan Wallace
224-7198

Board Of Directors

Bruce Goddard - 224-8034
Dick Bray - 224-7763
Ken Holt - 224-7925
Pete Pilsbury - 225-3271
Gerard Samson, Jr.- 897-2650
Kent Mitchell - 224-7375

Newsletter & Website

Mary Monahan Wallace
Rich Bray - 224-8036

Committee Chairs

- ◆ Dam-C. Burden & D. Twitchell
- ◆ Dam Fundraiser - Goddards
- ◆ Loon Nest - The Pilsburys
- ◆ Membership - E. Hoy
- ◆ Monitors - R. Bray, K. Mitchell, J. Sabine

Other Important Numbers

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

Scott Williams Enlightens Members About Bear Pond

Scott Williams, Executive Director of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program spoke at the July 26th BPIA meeting, and presented a slide show.

Basic Facts about the pond: The average depth is 12 ft. The maximum depth is 28 ft. and the surface is 432 acres. Big Bear flushes 2.5 times a year and Little Bear 11.1 times. Big Bear's watershed is 1.58 square miles and Little Bear's is 5.29 square miles. it is one of only a few lakes that has 2 true basins and it has above average water quality. Thus began Scott's informative and educational presentation about the pond.

There are 6 threats to the health of the pond:

1. Acid rain - this is usually a problem for high altitude lakes. Bear Pond is relatively low altitude and well buffered against acid rain, so this threat is minimal
2. Mercury contamination of fish—this is a problem in all Maine lakes
3. Global climate change
4. Wildlife habitat loss from development
5. Aquatic invaders such as variable leaf milfoil found in Lake Auburn, Thompson Lake, and Little Sebago Lake (they spend \$5,000 a year trying to control it.), zebra mussels which have been found in Vermont and recently in Massachusetts (fresh water mussels like the ones in Bear Pond indicate a healthy lake.) , Hydrilla found in Pickerel Pond, Eurasian milfoil found in Salmon Lake, spiny water fleas, rusty cray fish, and northern Pike which are now found in Bear pond.

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Bear Pond Currents Is The Seasonal Newsletter

Of The Bear Pond Improvement Association

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



www.bearpondme.org

2009 Schedule Of Activities

FINAL BPIA MEETING — August 30 9:00 AM At BQ Hall

Yard Sale - Saturday August 15th

The yard sale this summer will be from 9AM to 2 PM across the road from the Bear Pond Village Club House on Bear Pond Road. In case of rain, it will be at Boofy Quimby Hall.

People may bring their wares to set up at 8 AM. Lunch of hot dogs, chips and a drink will be available.

T-shirts with the Bear Pond logo are being ordered and may be available as early as the Yard Sale.

Potluck Supper Takes the Cake

All of the nearly 80 people who attended the supper declared the food to be the best ever. The array of hot dishes, salads and desserts was mouth watering. The 50-50 netted \$91.00. The red and blue cutlery on the white table cloths gave a festive air. The auction was not only hilarious thanks to comic auctioneer par excellence - Ken Holt but also netted \$339.50 due to some hot and heavy competitive bidding. Thanks to Pat and Gerry Samson who chaired the supper and all their helpers. It is still THE social event of the summer.

Please Remember To Pay 2009 Dues

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

Name:

Pond Address & Phone #:

If Applicable,

Permanent Address & Phone #:

Scott Williams Enlightens Members About Bear Pond

6. THE SINGLE MOST PERVASIVE THREAT - polluted storm water runoff in the watershed.

POLLUTED STORM WATER RUNOFF comes with greater development in the watershed. Farmlands use manure and homes use fertilizer. The suburban look of homes around the lake has a negative impact because there is greater runoff. A study by the Maine DEP compared a developed lake to an undeveloped lake. The former had 5 to 10 times more phosphorus than the latter. Animal waste, septic systems, decaying organic matter and fertilizer are all sources of phosphorus.

Phosphorus levels on Bear Pond are presently average for the state. Oxygen levels are generally good and chlorophyll levels are slightly higher. Water clarity is 5.8 meters or 19 ft. on Big Bear and 3.7 meters or 12 ft. on Little Bear (which is much shallower.) Typically the more wetter the spring, the poorer the water clarity. In 2006 clarity was 5.7 and it was a very wet May, In 2007 clarity was 6.3 and it was a very dry spring. In 2008 clarity was 5.9 - a very wet summer. Minimizing and controlling storm water runoff is very important to maintaining good water clarity in Big and Little Bear Ponds.

Officers and Directors Visit Camp Wekeela

Jim Adams, Mike Gordon, Mary Wallace and Ken Holt spent a wonderful 3 hours with new owners of Camp Wekeela, Ephram and Lori Caflun. The Cafluns proudly showed off the wonderful activities and facilities on the site. They introduced us to many of the staff who come from all over the world - from South Africa to Northern Ireland to Rumford, Maine. They shared their hopes, dreams and plans for the camp. Above all they expressed their desire to be good neighbors on the pond.

The BPIA members in turn offered helpful hints from how to prevent the sand from eroding on the beach to places to take the campers on cold and rainy days, and gentle reminders to have speed boats stay 200 feet offshore. The Cafluns were interested in the invasive plants, water testing and the dam. BPIA invited them to come and see the dam and send someone out on water testing day. The Cafluns live in Ridgewood, NJ, only 2 towns from Mary Wallace, so hopefully plans can be made in the spring over a great NJ pizza for some of these events to take place next year.

The visit ended with a delightful lunch of Sloppy Joes and sweet potato fries in the dining room with the 150 campers. The Cafluns donated 21 cases of Vitamin water to the Association which was used at the pot luck supper and will be used at the yard sale. We thank the Cafluns for a wonderful visit and donation and look forward to a new and positive relationship with Wekeela.

Phase II Of Dam Plaque Is Underway

Due to many inquiries as to whether there will be another opportunity to contribute to the dam fund and have a name appear on the plaque, phase II has begun and will continue until we have sufficient names to order an addition to the plaque. The original plaque hangs at the dam as a beautiful tribute to members of BPIA past and present. Platinum Circle is \$500.00. Gold Circle is \$250.00 and Silver Circle is \$100.00. Send all donations made out to BPIA using the form below.

**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, BPIA Dam Restoration,
202 Bear Pond Road, Turner, Maine 04282

New contributors:

New contributors:

Noni and Nick Adams - \$100.00

Sylvia and Roland Fisher - \$100.00

Kathleen Martin and Richard Beaudet for Fred and Van Nolkemper - \$100.00

Please call Mary at 224-7198 if there is an error in money or spelling.

Highlights of July '09 Meeting

41 members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account: \$3,019.79

Bear Pond Protection Fund: \$8,668.20

Fund Raising Committee: The yard sale this summer (August 15) will be from 9AM to 2 PM across the road from the Bear Pond Village Club House on Bear Pond Road. In case of rain, it will be at Boofy Quimby Hall. People may bring their wares to set up at 8 AM. Lunch of hot dogs, chips and a drink will be available.

T-shirts with the Bear Pond logo are being ordered and may be available as early as the Yard Sale.

Membership Committee: PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!! 93 members have paid.

Watershed Committee: Dick Bray has contacted Jeff Stern who was involved in our first Watershed survey, grant, and restoration. He is now a private consultant and will provide us with some information on acquiring another grant. More info will come in the next newsletter.

Loon Committee: Ken Holt reported that the Audubon Society loon count was on July 17. 12 loons were counted on the lake.

Dam Committee: A nylon piece on the gates has been ripped and water is leaking through the gates. It has not presented a problem due to large amounts of rain. If we have a dry spell, the water will go down, but it cannot be repaired until fall when the water has been let out of the lake. It will be a minor repair.

Water Testing Committee: There has been a slight drop in water quality due to the rain and a decrease in oxygen levels due to warmer weather.

Invasive Plant Committee will be conducting the invasive plant check in August. If you see a plant you think is invasive, do NOT pull it out. Report it to BPIA and we will check it out.

New Business: A new plaque dedicating the Forever Wild Land to Leslie Wight was presented by President Jim Adams to Leslie's sister-in-law. The sign will be placed on the site.

President Jim Adams introduced Scott Williams of The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program to speak about the pond. (See article elsewhere.)