



BEAR POND CURRENTS

June 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 Sampson, 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. Holt, K. Mitchell, J. Sabine

Other Important Numbers

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

Greetings From The New President

I am very honored to be the president of our great association for the next 2 years. I have great shoes to fill following Mary Wallace and all that she has done for our pond in the past 12 years. A special thank you to Mary.

I hope everyone had a great winter. I only had to shovel the roof of our garage at camp, once this winter. The year before, I had to climb on the roof twice. This is how I measure the snow fall at Bear Pond.

Our first meeting will be on the 28th of June this year. I went to a meeting this winter in Hartford on proposed changes to the Hartford's Comprehensive Plan and Subdivision Regulations. I will be attending the Maine Congress of Lakes Association Conference, (COLA) on June 20th at St Joseph's College in Standish. I wish to participate in the afternoon session on Helping Your Lake Association Grow. I will report my learnings at our meeting on the 28th.

We still need a few volunteers on our Committees. Anyone wishing to help our Pond Association please contact myself or one of our officers.

Thanks, Jim Adams

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

BPIA MEETINGS — 9:00 AM on June 28, July 26, August 30 At BQ Hall

Fourth of July Boat Parade - July 4th at 2:00 PM (starts at Goodwin's)

Pot Luck Supper & Auction - Saturday August 1, at 6:00 PM

Yard Sale - Saturday August 15th

BPIA Yard Sale a Huge Success

People lined up at 8 AM to get the best buys. Special thanks to Nanci and Willie Weed who sold hot dogs, chips and drinks. The proximity to the Turner Beach enabled us to draw many people just for lunch. Thanks also goes to Kurt Youland who provided us with the use of his private beach property.

Doreen Maxwell, Elizabeth Hoy, and Anne McAllister have agreed to chair the 2009 yard sale after the huge success last year. They hope people will begin to clean out camps and save items. The date of the sale will be in August with a rain date also in August.

New Officers Seated at August Meeting

Jim Adams, former VP, took the helm as president at the August meeting. Long time member and former director Mike Gordon stepped into the VP office. Flowers were presented to Connie Bilodeau, outgoing treasurer, and she was thanked by Jim for her long tenure and dedication to the treasurer's position. Kudos and flowers were also extended to Peggy Poskus for her meticulous work as secretary. Peggy will remain the secretary of the membership committee. Darlene Burdin takes her place.

Jim said many kind words about Mary Wallace who served as president for 12 years, the longest termed and first woman president of BPIA. He listed the many accomplishment of BPIA under her tenure and presented her with flowers. Mary will take over as treasurer.

What's Wrong With Phosphorous?

Phosphorus is a fertilizer that is present naturally in soil and that's good for plants. But when it washes into lakes, it's bad because phosphorous also fertilizes tiny, floating aquatic plants called algae.

Normally phosphorus is retained and recycled in the forest ecosystem, but soil disturbance and changes in land use allow phosphorus to be transported in surface water run-off. Then it's carried to lakes in stormwater, streams and drainage channels. It can be attached to soil particles or dissolve in the water itself.

Roads, construction projects and agricultural activities all add phosphorus to lake ecosystems. Phosphorus can also come from other sources that are more concentrated such as septic systems, lawn fertilizers and soaps and detergents.

When excessive amounts of phosphorous wash into a lake, that can fuel an algae population explosion, called an algae "bloom." That deceptively pleasant name means algae have formed colonies so dense they cover lakes with a greenish-brown scum — complete with an unpleasant odor. It blocks sunlight to beneficial aquatic plants, consumes oxygen (which may lead to fish kills) and interferes with feeding cycles of other aquatic organisms. All of this makes phosphorous a huge threat to Maine's lakes.

That's why it's so important to use phosphate-free detergents and phosphorous-free fertilizers. Most Maine soils are already high in phosphorus, but you can check the content in your soil with a simple test, available through the Maine Soil Testing Service (<http://anlab.umesci.maine.edu>) for about \$12. If you must fertilize, many stores now carry phosphorus-free fertilizer. When buying fertilizer, remember the amount of phosphorus is represented by the middle number in the ratio on the bag.



Another way to prevent phosphorous from entering lakes is to wash vehicles and boats at public car washes or areas where there's ample soil to infiltrate run-off water. Maine law prohibits washing or bathing in lakes or ponds.

From Lakes Environmental Association Homeowners Guide

Native plants and trees soak up a huge amount of surface water runoff and provide erosion control, privacy, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Phase II Of Dam Plaque To Commence

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

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 #:

Members Needed To Battle Threats

Bear Pond is a beautiful lake but, as with all lakes, it is a very fragile natural resource that could be permanently impacted. One does not have to look far to see examples of various threats.

- Problems with the Canton Lake dam resulted in very low water levels.
- Invasive weeds in Lake Auburn have taken over one cove.
- Numerous algae blooms on Sabbattus Pond impact swimming and boating.

In the effort to preserve and protect Bear Pond, the BPIA sponsors the following activities:

- Membership in the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and Maine Congress of Lakes Association which, in turn, trains and certifies our lake monitors for detection of invasive plants and water quality testing..
- Pays for water sample testing to look at long term water quality trends.
- Controls the water level to prevent erosion.
- Maintains and repairs the dam and gates.
- Provides help and advice to correct erosion problems around the pond and watershed.
- Applies for soil and water conservation grants to repair erosion problems.
- Monitors the pond for any invasive plants.
- Provides an educational newsletter 3-4 times per year.
- Maintains a web site on the internet at www.bearpondme.org.

If you have not yet sent in membership dues, please use the form in this newsletter to join BPIA and send in your \$25.00 membership dues. The BPIA is working hard to protect and preserve Big Bear and Little Bear, and membership dues are a key source of funding.

Highlights of August '08 Meeting

30 members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account: \$3,426.95

Bear Pond Protection Fund: \$4,769.93

Yard Sale raised \$625.00

Fund Raising Committee: Due to the success of the 2008 sale, plans will begin for a huge sale in 2009 (August 15) with profits going to the BPIA Protection Fund. Start saving your items. It was also decided to investigate shirts, hats, sweatshirts and Bear Pond magnetic signs for the car.

Nominations Committee: New officers were elected: Jim Adams - President, Mike Gordon - VP, Darlene Burdin - Secretary, Mary Wallace - Treasurer. Directors were reappointed by President Adams who is not related to John or John Quincy!

Membership Committee: Dues remain at \$25 for 2009. Membership rose from 125 to 175 after the membership drive.

Watershed Committee: Dick Bray has resigned as chair of the watershed committee but is willing to work with the new watershed chair. If interested, call Jim Adams.

2008 POT LUCK SUPPER

Many thanks to Pat and Jerry Sampson and their committee for the success of the 2008 pot luck supper. In addition to the delicious food, there was a short meeting of with reports by all the committees. About 80 people in attendance heard first hand about the work of BPIA.

The meeting was followed by the annual auction. Between the auction and the 50/50, over \$450 was raised. Thanks to all for your generosity. It was an evening of laughs and good cheer.

Introduction To Important Regulations

There are numerous laws and regulations that waterfront property owners need to be aware of before altering the landscape, installing docks/ decks, or expanding structures. These regulations were implemented in the past 30 years because of deteriorating water quality in many lakes due to uncontrolled development.

By the 1960s it was clear that Maine's lakes were seriously threatened by land development. Political leaders and state agencies responded to this crisis by adopting a series of laws and regulations. The primary aspects of the new regulations are;

- control of shoreline alteration called Shoreland Zoning - a state law requiring that each city or town adopt shoreland regulations conforming to state-set standard regulations.
- a plumbing code that set standards for private sewage systems;
- a minimum-lot-size law that controlled land divisions pending adoption of necessary controls by local governments;
- a "Site Law," which required state review and approval of developments over 20 acres;

These regulations achieved their aims to a large degree. The quality of new lakeshore development is far better than it was a generation ago. However, the laws and regulations on shoreland development, even if fully enforced, are only a partial answer to the long-term protection of Maine's lakes. Hopes for reducing threats to water quality will depend on education and on building a stronger ethic of landowner responsibility.

Summary of Regulations To Be Aware Of

Shoreland Zoning

Most land uses within 250 feet of Maine's rivers, wetlands, lakes, the ocean, and within 75 feet of certain streams are subject to the regulations of Maine's Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act. The law protects water quality, limits erosion, conserves wildlife and vegetation, and preserves the natural beauty of Maine's shoreland areas.

The Shoreland Zoning law requires that municipalities protect shoreland areas through adopting shoreland zoning maps and ordinances. Zoning ordinances provide for what types of activities can occur in certain areas. For example, they address building size and setbacks,

(Continued on page 7)

the establishment of resource protection, general development, residential, and other zones. Shoreland areas include areas within 250 feet of the normal high-water line of any great pond, river or saltwater body, areas within 250 feet of the upland edge of a coastal wetland, areas within 250 feet of the upland edge of a freshwater wetland except in certain situations, and areas within 75 feet of the high-water line of a stream.

The Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act was enacted by the Legislature in the early 1970's and targets development along the immediate shoreline of lakes such as Bear Pond. The law **requires towns to enact a shoreland zoning ordinance at least as stringent as a model ordinance developed by the state.** The ordinance must apply to all areas within 250 feet of lakes, ponds, rivers, tidal areas (coastal wetlands) and freshwater wetlands, and at least 75 feet from certain streams. These areas make up the *shoreland zone*.

Activities in the shoreland zone are regulated by the town through its code enforcement officer and planning board. The DEP oversees the town's administration and enforcement of shoreland zoning but does not issue town permits under this statute.

The Hartford Shoreland Zoning ordinance is actually more stringent than the model ordinance developed by the state and requires Code Enforcement approval for any activity within 75 feet of the water.

The Natural Resources Protection Act

Defines more specifically certain protected natural resources, especially water bodies and wildlife habitat. The law regulates work done in, over, or next to any body of water, as well as sand dunes, marshes and other wetlands, high mountain areas, and areas of designated significant wildlife habitat. Regulated activities include soil disturbance by logging equipment, use of fill, stream or wetland crossings, and in some cases, clearing of vegetation for purposes other than forest management. In most cases, landowners conducting these activities must abide by certain standards and/or obtain a Department of Environmental Protection permit before beginning work.

