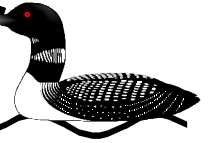


# BEAR POND CURRENTS



August 1999

Bear Pond Improvement Association

## BPIA Representatives

### President

Mary Monahan Wallace  
224-7198

### Vice President

Dick Bray  
224-7763

### Secretary

Doreen Maxwell  
224-7147

### Treasurer

Connie Bilodeau  
782-5553

### Board Of Directors

Maurice Fournier - 224-7751  
Mike Gordon - 224-7812  
Ken Holt - 224-7925  
Bill Lamb - 224-7739  
Bernie McAllister - 224-7611  
Kent Mitchell - 224-7375

### Committee Chairs

- Dam Keeper - Mo LeClerc
- Membership - Ken Gardner
- Dam Fundraiser - T. Gordon
- Loon Nest - The Pillsburys
- Monitors - R. Bray, K. Holt, K. Mitchell

### Other Important Numbers

Hartford Town Office 388-2674  
Turner Office 225-3353  
Game Warden 657-2345

## Jet Skis Cause Grave Concerns August Meeting to Discuss Appropriate Measures

Following a long discussion at the July meeting, the officers, directors, and members urge all camp owners to attend the August BPIA meeting to discuss the failure to observe state law exhibited by some jet skiers on Bear Pond.

While many jet skiers have been safely enjoying the pond, some abuse the law, the pond, and the safety of its residents. BPIA has annually published Maine's boat laws which apply equally to jet skis, yet some skiers continue to jump wakes, come dangerously close to boaters and loons, pull water skiers WITHOUT a spotter, and come close to shore at full speed. All these acts violate the law and common sense. They are also thoughtless acts which are inconsiderate of our pond community. Some towns have recommended banning jet skis. Since there are BPIA members who are responsible, jet ski owners, we have voted to:

- 1) Dedicate the August meeting to a continued discussion of the use and abuse of jet skis. The discussion will include the role of law enforcement, game wardens, and residents. BPIA is NOT authorized to police the lake but has always had the safety and welfare of residents, and the pond, as our main concern. Selectman from Hartford and Turner will be invited to the discussion.
- 2) Print, laminate, and distribute boat laws to all property owners

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Final Meeting of The Season

Sunday, August 29th 9:00 AM

All Meetings Held At Boofy Quimby Hall, North Turner

Bear Pond Currents Is The Seasonal Newsletter



Of The Bear Pond Improvement Association

# Jet Skis

(Continued from page 1)

willing to voluntarily post them on the beaches. Copies will also be posted at all roads with access to the pond, as well as the boat launch. The more families who voluntarily post rules, the louder the message sent to jet skiers that violations are not to be tolerated. Owners who rent out their camps will be asked to also post laws inside the camp, as members report that numerous violations seem to come from renters with little or no concern for us or our pond.

Since some jet skis are taken from pond to pond WITHOUT being washed, there are serious ecological issues of bringing into Bear Pond dangerous grasses and weeds (*see related article "Is Invasion of Our Lakes Imminent?"*). Since some jet skiers do not cut speed as they reach shore, there are serious issues of shore erosion. Since some jet skiers are reckless on the pond, there are serious issues of danger to life and limb. Since some jet skiers are on the pond early in the morning or late at night, there are continuous violations of issues of simple consideration for people seeking peace and rest at the pond.

Violating the law will only promote a desire for greater restrictions in the future. Obeying the law can lead to many summers of enjoying jet skis. All concerned residents are encouraged to attend the August 29, 9:00a.m. meeting at Boofy Quimby Hall, Route 219, North Turner.

*Submitted by Mary Wallace*

# Highlights of the July Meeting

- ◆ Treasurer's Report: General Fund \$2,372 and Dam Fund \$2,028
- ◆ Membership Committee: To date, 120 families have joined BPIA. There are 210 families on the pond.
- ◆ DamCommittee: Everything is ok at the dam.
- ◆ Pond Monitoring Report: Secchi disc testing in July yielded readings of 5.7 meters , or 18.5 feet. This is an average reading for this time of year.
- ◆ Dam Fundraising: T-Shirts at \$15.00 are now available at our August meeting and Pot Luck Supper. Cookbook committee is accepting recipes. Phyllis Curtis has hand made a beautiful cathedral window-style afghan to raise money for the Dam Fund. The Afghan & a Loon Centerpiece will be raffled (\$1.00 donation) at the August meeting.
- ◆ New Business: The minutes will show that BPIA does NOT mark rocks on the pond and assumes no responsibilities for rocks unmarked. Jet Skis were discussed ( see related article).

## Get Well Wishes to:

Leslie Wight who broke her jaw,  
and Mona Gardner, Mrs. McAllister,  
Elizabeth Morris, Pat Turgion,  
all recovering from surgery.

*(Please notify us if you know of someone who should be included in this column)*

# Is an Invasion of Our Lakes Imminent? by Scott Williams, Maine VLMP

Maine is one of the few States whose lakes have not experienced significant problems resulting from "exotic" or **invasive** aquatic plants. Numerous lakes in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut have become choked with **invasive** plants that can interfere with boating and swimming and alter fishery habitat. Most of these plants are exotic or "foreign". Exotic means that a plant or animal is **not native** to a region or a country. When newly introduced to a lake, many exotic plants have the potential to become a disruptive nuisance.

**Native** aquatic plants play a number of important roles in lake ecology. However, their presence may, at times conflict with the ways in which we use our lakes. For example, dense stands of Pickerel Weed may interfere with swimming and boating, but fishermen recognize the excellent habitat that these plants provide for some species of fish. The overall benefits of rooted lake plants to water quality and to all lake users far outweigh the occasional inconveniences they cause to swimmers and boaters.

The benefits of **native** lake plants include:

- Providing food and shelter for a wide variety of insects, fish, birds, and mammals
- Helping to reduce shoreline erosion by reducing the force of waves
- Protecting water quality by using nutrients that could be used by algae.

When **invasive** plants from other geographic regions (or even from the lake next door) are introduced to a lake they may proliferate rapidly because the factors that control them in their native waters, like disease and competition, may not exist in their new habitat. Many of the most troublesome exotic aquatic plants in this country were brought here for use in private aquariums, or they were transplanted to a lake or pond because people admired their flowers. Most **invasive** plants are hearty, resilient, and highly adaptive. They reproduce in a number of ways, including fragmentation (any fragment that breaks off from the plant is capable of becoming established as a

separate plant) and can be spread when small fragments become attached to boats, motors, trailers, fishing traps, nets, bait buckets, and other devices. When a boat is transported from one lake to another, an attached fragment may break loose, creating the potential for a new population to develop in that lake.

When an **invasive** exotic plant is introduced into a lake, the following negative changes may take place in the ecosystem:

- The plant may out-compete **native** plants.
- Stress to fish populations, due to low oxygen concentrations in dense plant stands.
- Swimming and boating may be seriously impaired due to heavy plant growth

Extensive research has been conducted on the subject of controlling **invasive** plants. Much of this research suggests that the most effective (economic and practical) approach to this problem is through prevention or early detection. If lake users are well-informed about the ways in which plants spread, infestations may be prevented. If one does occur, early detection can reduce the chances that the plant will spread throughout the lake.

This potential threat became very real on Cushman Pond in Lovell, ME as residents reported seeing an unusual plant growing very rapidly in the lake in 1996. The plant was readily identified as a member of the Milfoil family and the New Hampshire DEP reported that this plant has caused problems for some other lakes in that state.

The Cushman Pond plant was most probably transported from a nearby New Hampshire lake. It may have been introduced by a boat, or by fishing bait traps. Because the plant was discovered before it spread extensively, an attempt was made to eradicate it from the lake. We will not know until next summer whether or not the substantial combined efforts of the residents of Cushman Pond, the Town of Lovell, the Kezar Lake Association, and the Maine DEP have been effective in eliminating this plant from the lake.

# Great Ponds Task Force Sponsors Lake Legislation

Great Ponds are natural lakes of ten acres or greater in surface area, or impounded areas greater than 30 acres. Great Ponds cover about 1,000,000 acres, or 5% of the State of Maine. Bear Pond is over 400 acres, and is one of the 2,787 Great Ponds in Maine. The State owns the water and submerged land under Great Ponds, and consequently has jurisdiction over the surface-use of Great Ponds.

Maine's Great Ponds are a very significant economic and natural resource of the State of Maine. The multiple uses of the State's Great Ponds generate **enormous** but unmeasured economic, environmental and social benefits to the citizens of Maine. This fresh water resource is the focal point for recreation, hunting, tourism, residential development, energy generation, and supports a host of important resources including fisheries and wildlife habitat. To manage this precious resource, the 117th Legislature established the Great Pond Task Force to develop and assist in the implementation of a Great Pond Management Strategy for the State's lakes.

The Task Force consists of 22 members: eight State agencies, four designated members and ten public members. Issues being addressed by the Task Force include: watershed planning, lake monitoring, educational efforts, public access to lakes, and boat safety.

In early 1997 - following a lengthy analysis of threats posed to the water quality, fisheries, recreational uses, and quality of life associated with Maine's lakes and ponds - the Great Pond Task Force presented a bill with recommendations (Legal Document 1730) . The bill primarily deals with personal watercraft (jet skis) and waterboat safety, and secondarily on lake water quality.

**Outcome:** The House and Senate adopted an amended version of LD 1730. Clauses that impact Bear Pond are;

- ⇒ **Limited liability:** A lake association that has obtained a permit from the Department of Conservation to place navigational aid markers in Great Ponds is not liable for personal injury,

property damage or death caused by placement or maintenance of those navigational aid markers, provided that the lake association has placed or maintained the markers in conformance with the terms and conditions of the permit.

- ⇒ **Minimum age:** Establishes 16 as the minimum age to operate a personal watercraft;
- ⇒ **Recommendations for regulating the use, operation and type of watercraft on Great Ponds.** A municipality, with the approval of its legislative body, may submit recommendations to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for regulating the use, operation and type of watercraft on Great Ponds within the jurisdiction of that municipality. For Great Ponds that border more than one municipality, recommendations may be submitted only after approval by the legislative bodies of all municipalities in which those waters are located. If a municipality chooses to prepare recommendations for such waters, it shall take into consideration the use to which those waters are put, the depth of the water, the amount of water-borne traffic on the waters, wildlife and environmental values, noise, traditional uses of the water body and the safety of persons and property. These recommendations may be submitted only after a public hearing and must include a description of the resources the municipality, or municipalities, will use to enforce those regulations, if enacted.

The Commissioner shall submit a report to the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature by January 15, 1999 on the recommendations received from municipalities prior to November 1, 1998 and shall submit a report to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature on the recommendations received from municipalities between November 1, 1998 and October 30, 1999. Each report must be accompanied by legislation implementing the municipal recommendations supported by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

*Submitted by Rich Bray*

# Foam -- Cause for Concern?

by Dave Courtemanch, Aquatic Biologist (MDEP)

*This following is an excerpt from "Foam -- A cause for concern", which appeared in the Spring, 1979 issue of "Maine Fish and Game"*

Every summer, one of the most common inquiries made by people to the Department of Environmental Protection's Lakes Division is "does foam on the shore of a lake indicate detergent pollution and declining water quality?"

Before answering that question, we need to know a little about detergents and the processes which produce foam.

Foam is created when the surface tension of water (attraction of surface molecules toward the center, which gives a drop of water its round shape) is reduced and air is mixed in, causing bubble formulation. Many substances, besides soap and detergents, will reduce surface tension.

"Soap" is generally defined as compounds of fats, fatty acids, and caustic soda. These materials, by reducing the surface tension of water, increase its cleansing ability and produce suds.

The term "detergent" usually refers to synthetic compounds which came on the market after World War II. They also work by reducing surface tension but have the added properties of "softening" water and emulsifying (or mixing with) oils. The ability to soften water gives detergents their great advantage over soap. Calcium and magnesium in "hard" waters tend to combine with soap, binding soil particles and causing the characteristic yellowing of clothes. Phosphates in the synthetic detergents tie up the calcium and magnesium, thus increasing cleaning efficiency.

The first synthetic detergents to come on the market were usually compounds of alkyl benzene sulfonate (ABS). In the late 1950s and early 1960s, many communities experienced tremendous foam problems in lakes, rivers, sewage treatment plants, and even water faucets because of contaminated wells. These events were highly publicized, and foam became a common indicator of pollution.

Unlike soap, the structure of the ABS molecule was in a branched form which could not be broken down by bacteria. Hence, the detergent accumulated in the water and was labelled "nonbiodegradable." To combat this problem, the detergent industry changed the chemical structure to a form that *could* be attacked by bacteria. Virtually all detergents today are of this simple "biodegradable" form.

***To answer the original question then: "No, foam on a lakeshore or in a stream probably is not due to detergent contamination." Most foam is a product of nature. Small trout streams often have pools of foam where fish will hide.***

"Natural" foaming occurs when small aquatic organisms (such as algae) die and decompose, releasing a variety of organic compounds. Organic compounds leached from soil also cause foam. The Indians were known to have used various materials, such as bark and plant roots, to clean items. Like soap and ABS, these compounds also reduce surface tension.

As wind or currents stir the water, foam is produced and may accumulate in quantities on windward shores in coves, or in eddies. The natural foam has a somewhat earthy or fishy aroma, and it breaks down rather quickly. Foam from silt or erosion is usually a dirty brown color. Foam is often seen in the early morning hours and is gone by midday. Detergent foam, by contrast, will have a noticeable perfumy smell from additives which give your wash that "rosegarden" or "lemon fresh" smell.

Detergent pollution and foam can be a problem, but the foam will be localized close to the source of the discharge. A simple experiment demonstrates that wide-spread foaming on a lake is probably not from detergents. Using two common brands of detergent, we found that it took about 0.07 grams of detergent per liter of water to create suds in the laboratory. To put this in terms of a lake, it would take about (95,207 pounds) of detergent to suds-up a 100 acre lake with an average depth of 5 feet. *That's a lot of detergent!*

-- end of excerpt --

***FROM TRIPP POND (POLAND) IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION WEB SITE***

The Range Ponds Association has asked us to join them in presenting an ordinance to the Town of Poland to ban personal watercraft (aka "jet skis) on our lakes. Unable to meet before our annual meeting on July 10, we sent letters to all TLIA members (utilizing information gleaned from Scott Williams) asking for their response of Yes or No by the end of May. The Town is planning a meeting on June 29 at the Town Office at 7 p.m. for people to voice their opinions regarding this "hot" issue.

Decisions should be thoughtfully made. Most people react negatively to the noise and speed of these watercraft, but there are other issues at stake. We know there are responsible drivers but the irresponsible spoil it for others. More importantly are the emissions --unburnt fuel and toxic chemical residue-- left in the lakes. Protection of our lakes by reducing additional pollutants should be of prime importance. If we could revert to canoes, sailboats and 5 hp motors it would be great. (There are over 200 "pristine" lakes in Maine where this is law).

If the ordinance is ok'd at the Town Meeting, there will be a special Town election. If passed then, it would go to Dept. of Fish and Game by Nov. 1 (the latest date permissible to file for a ban) and then to Legislature in January. 2000.

WE urge you to respond!