

BEAR POND CURRENTS

June 2008

BPIA Representatives

President

Mary Monahan Wallace
224-7198

Vice President

Jim Adams
754-5491

Secretary

Peggy Poskus
224-7801

Treasurer

Connie Bilodeau
224-7487

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 Editor

Rich Bray - 224-8036
rnbrayjr@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

- ◆ Dam - Carl Burden & Dale Twitchell
- ◆ Dam Fundraiser - Goddards
- ◆ Loon Nest - The Pilsburys
- ◆ Membership - Elizabeth Hoy
- ◆ Monitors - R. Bray, K. Holt, K. Mitchell

Other Important Numbers

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

Letter From The President

Dear Members of the Bear Pond Association and All Lovers of Bear Pond,

This year marks a very special time - the 50th anniversary of the Bear Pond Association. A small group of about 10 people resolved to come together for the well being of the pond. Look what they started. Today we are one of the oldest lake associations and certainly one of the most active.

We start our anniversary festivities with the dedication of the plaque commemorating the restoration of the dam. This will be at the dam at 11 AM Sunday, June 29 immediately following our first meeting which starts at 9 AM at Boofy Quimby Hall.

I hope you will all join us as we remember or loved ones living and deceased at the plaque dedication.

We also hope you will decorate your boats and join us for the July 4 boat parade to commemorate our 50th anniversary. It begins at 2 PM near the narrows entering Little Bear Pond. Hope to see many of you join us.

Warmly,

Mary Monahan Wallace

Bear Pond Currents Is The Seasonal Newsletter

Of The Bear Pond Improvement Association

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



www.bearpondme.org

2008 Schedule Of Activities

BPIA MEETINGS — 9:00 AM on June 29, July 27, August 31 At BQ Hall

Dam Restoration Plaque Dedication - June 29th 11:00 at the Dam

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

Pot Luck Supper & Auction - Saturday August 16th at 6:00 PM

INVASIVE PLANT WORKSHOP

JULY 2ND, 2008 3:00 pm to 8:30 pm At the Hartford Town Hall

Come join us and learn to identify invasive aquatic plants that can **"ruin"** a lake for boating, swimming and fishing. Bring your own drink and dinner.

To attend, call or email

Biff Atwater at wmatwater@comcast.net (508) 528-4086 or Peggy Poskus at mainloon@aol.com (207) 224-7801 or the Hartford Town office 388-2674

SPONSORED BY

MAINE CENTER FOR INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS & THE BEAR POND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION & THE LAKE ANASAGUNTICOOK ASSOCIATION

Please Remember To Pay 2008 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 Help Battle Threats

The effort to keep Bear Pond healthy and pristine is not an easy task. Unfortunately, there are several threats that could severely impact the quality of life on Bear Pond such as:

- Algae blooms resulting from excessive phosphorus carried into the lake from land erosion.
- Invasive aquatic plants taking over and choking off boating and swimming.
- Dam problems resulting in wildly fluctuating water levels.

Bear Pond is a beautiful lake but, as with all lakes, it is a very fragile natural resource that could be permanently impacted by any one of these threats. These problems are very real and one does not have to look far to see examples of these threats.

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

In the effort to preserve and protect Bear Pond, the BPIA sponsors the following activities to ensure that property values and recreational opportunities are not negatively impacted by these threats.

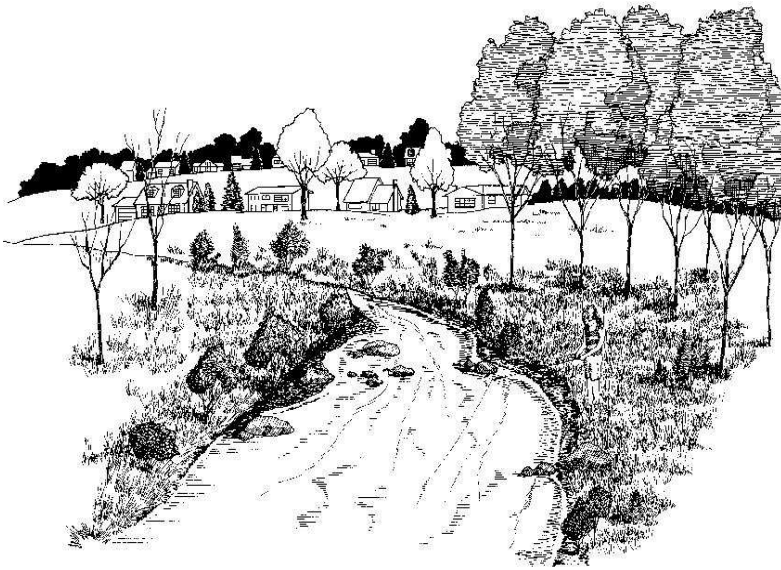
- Membership in the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and Maine Congress of Lakes Association which, in turn, trains and certifies our lake monitors for detection of invasive plants and water quality testing methods.
- Supports the water quality testing that is performed by our volunteer monitors 4 times per summer, and pays for sample testing to look at long term water quality trends.
- Controls the water level to prevent erosion.
- Maintains and repairs the dam and dam gates. Last October a major reconstruction was performed to stabilize the dam.
- 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 pond for any invasive plants.
- Provides an educational newsletter 3-4 times per year.
- Plans and organizes social events each summer: Boat Parade on the 4th of July, Pot Luck Supper and Auction, 3 membership meetings per summer.
- Makes annual contributions to the Turner Rescue Unit.
- Pays an annual premium of \$3,000.00 for insurance on the dam.
- 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.

Intro To Nonpoint Source Pollution

Background

Clean water is important to everyone in Maine, and one of the keys to understanding water quality is to understand the concept of watersheds. A watershed is the land area - much like a bowl - in which water is collected. As we all know, water flows by gravity down hill, first forming small streams which flow into larger streams into lakes, rivers and eventually the ocean. In Maine, we all live in a watershed, whether we're in Kittery or Fort Kent.



The activities that take place in watersheds affect water quality. Over the past 20 years Maine's industries and municipalities have done a great job cleaning up industrial pollution and sewer discharges. Today, most of our water pollution comes from stormwater. Every time it rains, the rainwater

washes off driveways, roofs, parking lots, roads, agricultural fields, construction sites, forestry operations, and other surfaces carrying with it contaminants to our streams, lakes, ocean and groundwater. This type of pollution is known as nonpoint source pollution (NPS).

How serious is nonpoint source pollution?

NPS is the number one threat to the waters of the state of Maine and the nation. Maine has 2,500 Great Ponds, and almost 10%, or 234 lakes, are known to have water quality problems. Many of these lakes are experiencing "cultural eutrophication", or increased algal growth, that reduces water clarity and dissolved oxygen for fish habitat. There are 230 closed shellfish areas (269,387 acres "off limits" to harvesting) and 724.5 miles of rivers, streams and brooks that fail to fully support all their designated uses. NPS pollution is the major reason for most of these water quality problems.

Nationally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that a full 60 percent of all pollution sources are nonpoint.

Who is responsible for nonpoint source pollution?

Since water pollution is caused by land use activities, each of us can be contributing to non-

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Nonpoint Source Pollution (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

point source pollution without even being aware of it! Therefore, everyone must try to prevent or control nonpoint source pollution. Clean water starts with each one of us!

How can nonpoint source pollution be controlled?

Over the years many groups and agencies have developed methods for controlling NPS pollution. These methods are called Best Management Practices, or BMPs. They can be as simple as seeding and mulching a site, or as complicated as engineered structures like nutrient control basins. In either case, the goal is to prevent pollutants from reaching the water.

Can individuals make a difference?

You bet. In fact, by making simple changes in our daily lives we can make a tremendous difference in the quality of Maine's water resources. Here are just a few ways you can help:

Soil: Try to keep exposed soil areas to a minimum and seed and mulch disturbed areas as soon as possible (within a week). Properly shaping roads, road ditches and driveways will also help reduce soil erosion. Planting a vegetative buffer down slope of your home and yard can act as a filter to collect and remove sediments and nutrients from stormwater.

Fertilizers: Fertilizers contain nitrates and phosphates which, in abundance, cause algae blooms that can lead to fish kills. Avoid overuse of fertilizers, and do not apply them right before it rains.



Pesticides: Many household products made to exterminate pests are also toxic to humans, pets, wildlife, fish, small aquatic organisms and plants. If at all possible, use natural pest control methods, but when a commercial pesticide is necessary, follow all label directions carefully and never over use.

Household Hazardous Products: Many common household products (paint thinners, moth balls, and drain & oven cleaners, to name a few) contain toxic ingredients. When improperly used or discarded, these products are a threat to public health and the environment. Never pour hazardous products down any drain or toilet. Do not discard with regular household trash. Use natural and less toxic alternatives whenever possible.

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Nonpoint Source Pollution (continued)

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Motor Oil: Motor oil contains toxic chemicals that are harmful to humans, pets, wildlife and fish. Never dump used motor oil down a storm drain or on the ground. Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a service station or local recycling center. (One gallon of oil can contaminate one million gallons of water.)

Pet and Livestock Waste: Animal wastes contain bacteria and viruses that contaminate shellfish and cause the closing of swimming areas. Pet owners should pick up after their pets and dispose of the wastes in the garbage or toilet. Livestock owners should work with their local Soil and Water Conservation District Office to develop a manure management plan.

Septic Systems: An improperly working septic system can contaminate groundwater and create public health problems. Avoid adding unnecessary grease and solids to your septic system. Inspect your septic system annually and pump it out at least every 3 to 5 years.

Boat Discharges: Dumping boat sewage introduces disease-causing bacteria and viruses into the water and adds nitrates and phosphates that can trigger algae blooms. Boat owners should always use marine sanitation devices or pump-out facilities at marinas.

Litter: Place litter, including cigarette butts and fast food containers, in trash receptacles. Never throw anything down storm drains. Recycle as much as possible.

How can I get additional information on NPS pollution?

For more information on what you and your community can do to reduce nonpoint source pollution, call or write the Bureau of Land and Water Quality, at the DEP office nearest you:

Central Maine Regional Office

17 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Or check out our web site at: www.maine.gov/dep

Nonpoint Source Pollution (continued)

Types of Nonpoint Pollutants and Their Impacts

Pollutant	Nonpoint Source	Impacts
Bacteria	Livestock, pet waste, septic systems, and boat discharge	Introduces disease bearing organisms to surface water and ground water, resulting in shellfish bed closures, swimming restrictions, and contaminated drinking water
Nutrients (phosphates & nitrates)	Fertilizers, livestock, pet waste, septic systems, suburban & urban development, and soil erosion	Promotes algae blooms and aquatic weed growth which can deplete oxygen, increase turbidity, and alter habitat conditions.
Sediment (Soil)	Construction, driveways, ditches, earth removal, dredging, mining, gravel operations, agriculture, road maintenance, and forest operations.	Increases surface water turbidity which in turn reduces plant growth and alters food supplies for aquatic organisms, decreases spawning habitat and cover for fish, interferes with navigation and increases flooding risk.
Toxics & Hazardous Substances	Landfills, junkyards, underground storage tanks, hazardous waste disposal, mining, pesticides and herbicides, auto maintenance, runoff from highways & parking lots, boats and marinas	Accumulates in sediment posing risks to bottom feeding organisms and their predators, contaminates ground and surface drinking water supplies; some contaminants which may be carcinogenic mutagenic and/or teratogenic can bioaccumulate in tissues of fish and other organisms including humans.
Airborne Pollutants (i.e., acid rain, nutrients & metals)	Automobile and industrial emissions	Reduces pH in surface water which alters habitat and reduces natural diversity and productivity; increased nitrogen may enhance eutrophication of coastal waters. Mercury accumulates in fish tissue threatening bald eagles and people.