



BEAR POND CURRENTS

July 2006

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 Pilsbury - 225-3479
Gerard Sampson, Jr. - 897-2650
Kent Mitchell - 224-7375

Newsletter & Website Editor

Rich Bray - 224-8036
rnbrayjr@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

- ◆ Dam - Cal Burden & Dale Twitchell
- ◆ Dam Fundraiser - Goddards
- ◆ Loon Nest - The Pilsburys
- ◆ 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

Despite Claps on Shore, Clap of Thunder Ends Boat Parade

Thirteen brave boats decorated for the 4th of July lined up despite the threatening sky. This year we were joined by three boats of pirates braced with pistols and swords, bandannas, eye patches and an occasional hook for a hand. Captain Hook and his men and women and crocodile and the Pirates of the Caribbean were very well behaved and did not try to board or loot any other boat during the parade. Other boats wore the traditional red, white and blue. One saluted the Red Sox and the Patriots.

Well wishers lined up around the lake to watch and cheer as each boat passed. Two thirds of the route was finished when the ominous clap of thunder sent the boats scurrying and racing back to their respective docks.

Despite the abrupt end, a good time was had by all. The winners of the parade will be announced at the next meeting and newsletter.



Bear Pond Currents Is The Seasonal Newsletter

Of The Bear Pond Improvement Association

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



www.bearpondme.org

2006 Schedule Of Activities

2006 BPIA MEETINGS

July 30, August 27

At Boofy Quimby Hall at 9:00 AM

Pot Luck Supper & Auction-August 5th at 6:00 PM

Visit the BPIA Website!! www.bearpondme.org.



BEAR POND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



Welcome to the website of the Bear Pond Improvement Association.

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

BPIA is a non-profit organization founded in 1958 to perform the following services to ensure the quality of life at 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 residents 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 the 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.



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



Watershed Committee Completes Project - Applies For New Grant

This past October, the BPIA Watershed Committee with volunteers from the Turner Boy Scouts completed work on the Turner Town Beach. Ties were placed to be used as steps to prevent beach erosion. To further protect the beach, Turner now has a sheriff checking badges so only Turner residents use the beach. Volunteers can be seen around 7 pm each evening cleaning the beach.

With the help of Oxford County Soil and Conservation Commission, BPIA has applied for a new \$62,000 grant reported Watershed Chair, Dick Bray. We will know in late July if we have received this grant. Pete Pilsbury has joined the Committee members: Bev Murphy, Ken Holt, and chair Dick Bray.

Remember To Pay 2006 Dues

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

Name:

Pond Address & Phone #:

If Applicable,

Permanent Address & Phone #:

BPIA Constitution Change Approved

Last August BPIA adopted the following Article:

The Bear Pond Improvement Association, founded in 1958, is a non-profit, volunteer organization whose purpose is to maintain the well-being of 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

A second amendment changed 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.

Loon Eggs Do Not Hatch

Sadly our lake will not see baby loons again this year, Pete and Natalie Pilsbury, loon chairs reported. It seems that the heavy rains may have caused the eggs to decay. Pete removed the eggs which had turned brown after the mother loon had abandoned her nest. Last year the eagles may have gotten the eggs, so the Pilsburys built a protective canopy on the nest. But nature will have its way, and the eggs once again did not hatch.



The new and improved loon nest with the canopy

Officers Up For Re-election VP Dick Bray To Leave Executive Board

Dick Bray announced that he would not seek another two year term as Vice President of BPIA. Dick has loyally served that BPIA in that capacity for 10 years. Living on the pond year round has made him invaluable to the president, and he and Mary are often in communication over the winter on BPIA issues. Dick will, however, remain as Chair of the Watershed Committee. Peggy Poskus will remain secretary for another term only if no one steps forward to take over. Mary Wallace and Connie Bilodeau will serve another term. Mary Wallace urged people to consider running for office with an eye to one day assuming the presidency.

A nominating committee was appointed that consists of Pete Pilsbury and Bruce Goddard. Bruce explained that any member of the Association can place his or her name in nomination to be an officer by notifying either himself or Pete. Bruce asked that no one nominate another person unless first asking that other person if he or she would accept. The election will be at the July meeting and at that meeting other names may be placed in nomination with that person's consent.

The officers begin their new term of 2 years at the August meeting.

Pot Luck Supper - Saturday August 5th

Once again we will have our annual Pot Luck Supper. This yearly event is a fund raiser for the Association and the dam. The supper will begin at promptly at 6pm. The doors are open by 5 for set up and arrival. All are welcome to come and help set up.

For all you folks new to the pond, this it how it works. Admission is free. People are asked to bring a hot dish, a salad, and a dessert that is big enough to feed all the people you bring with you and a few other people as well. The Association provides a cold drink and coffee.

After the meal, we have the annual auction. People are asked to bring homemade foods (cakes, jams, relishes, cookies, etc.), handmade craft items, gently used items that someone else might want, antique items, and items for children. (No junk, please!) They are auctioned off to raise money for the BPIA. Also the items for children aged up to 12 are auctioned free to any child there.

We hope you will attend and bring another family on the pond who is not a member and might want to learn more about the Association.

President Sheds Light on History of Water Levels

Recently heavy rains after long periods of dry weather have made pond levels very erratic. People who had put docks in when the water was very low had to readjust them after heavy rains. The gate keepers have a very important job and one that is regulated by the state of Maine. Back in the 70's several residents of the pond as well as a local farmer downstream complained to the State about water levels. Then president Moe LeClerc along with Ken Holt, Bill Lamb and then dam keeper Maurice Fournier were called to a meeting in Turner with the DEP and the state's attorney general. After that meeting the State reached a determination on the water level. It was to be kept at about 2 inches below the top of the gate unless dry weather brought the level lower. When rain sent the water higher, the gates could be opened. The DEP also said that each year they would review any complaints received and were within their rights to take over the dam at any time.

This was something BPIA wanted to avoid since the state does not maintain dams and if the state permanently opened the gates there would be NO Bear Pond. To this day the state has not received a valid complaint because our volunteer gate keepers have been meticulous in their care of the water level. Maurice Fournier followed by Moe LeClerc, Mike Gorden and now Carl Burdin and Dale Twitchell have watched the water level sometimes on a daily or twice daily basis.

Few people around the pond realize what an awesome responsibility it is to volunteer to be gate keepers. Some home owners do not even know there is a dam. Thank you to all these men.

Traditionally over the years only the left gate has been opened in the summer. A little research revealed that this was at the request of a former Turner fire chief because it is easier for the fire department to draw water from the dam when only the left gate is open. The officers, directors, and present gate keepers have agreed to continue this practice despite updating on the part of the Turner fire department.

By Mary Monahan Wallace, President

Highlights of June '06 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account: \$231.91

Savings Account: \$254.57

Dam Fund: \$11,218.61

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

Loon Committee: See related article

Dam Committee: Dale Twitchell reported that it has been difficult to stabilize the water level with so much rain. They have been watching the dam carefully. (See related article)

Water Testing: The heavy rains have made the water in the pond tea colored. This should clear up with sunny days and less rain. Despite this, the secci disc readings were good and clarity was at about 19 ft. in Big Bear. Other more sophisticated tests are sent away for analysis or done by Rich Bray. There will be more information at the July meeting. Ken Holt once again warned people to be sure their motor boats were not bringing in invasive plants. Many of the lakes in Maine now have milfoil and it is easily carried into another lake by boat motors, jet skis, and airplanes that have been on lakes infested with milfoil. This insidious plant may look dead but quickly revives and takes over a pond choking it so that swimming and boating are impossible. Carl Burdin volunteered to be trained along with the Sabine family and Rich Bray to spot invasive plants in their earliest stages.

Fundraising Committee: Hats and short sleeve are available at meetings and the Potluck supper. Hats are \$15 and shirts are \$15 for kids and \$18 for adults. 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.

Watershed Committee: Our grant ended in October and we are in the process of applying for a new grant from the DEP. (see related article)

Nominating Committee: see related article

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Lee and Marjorie Pettingill Restoration Project For The Guy Timberlake Dam Nears End

This drive, begun in 2004, is now nearing its close. There is still time to contribute. Contributors of \$100 or more will have their names on a plaque placed at the dam. This October, volunteers will be replacing parts of the dam. If you are interested in working on the weekend project in mid-October, you can sign up at a meeting or at the pot luck supper or call Mary Wallace.

The names to appear on the plaque at the dam are listed below. If there is any mistake, please call Mary Wallace at 224-7198.

Janice Robinson Buckley and Mary Robinson Entrekin	
Dick and Claire Bray	Camp Wekeela
Bob and Vicki Calawa	Beth Carver
Don Frechette	Barbara and Jack Frost
Larry and Cindy Giroux	Roland Jordon
Beverly and Paul Johnson	Bill and Kathy Kretzer
William and Barbara Lamb	Moe and Doris LeClerc
George and Jeanne Lovett	Marstaller Family
Bob and Doreen Maxwell	Larry Merrill
Pilsbury Family	Robert and Gloria Polson
Peggy Poskus	Bruce and Sheila Ray
Gerard and Evette Samson, Sr.	Paul and Connie Shaw
Mary and Meg Wallace	

IN MEMORY OF:

Norm and Amy Bray	Vernin Burdin
Sally Carver	Leo and Cecile Cloutier
Terri Lynn Curtis	Edward J. Dewling
Richard Dwyer	Maurice Fournier
Bob and Marilyn Gorden	Harry E. Holt
Jean Hutchins	Arthur and Evelyn Hutchinson
Kathryn Kretzer	William and Sadie Libby
Louise and Tom Monahan	Lee Pettingill
Rene and Arie Therrien	Ronald and Dorothy Therrien
Bertha Timberlake	Willis, Katherine and Evelyn Tuttle
Don and Ellie Wakefield	James Wallace

New Contributions

Silver Circle (\$100.00):

Howard and Barbara Frost
Beverly and Paul Johnson
Peggy Poskus
Bruce and Sheila Ray
Paul and Connie Shaw
Mary and Meg Wallace

Patron (\$25.00)

Don Frechette