

Maranacook Watershed News

A Publication of the Maranacook Lake Association

June, 2014

Issue 22



ANNUAL MEETING - SATURDAY, JULY 12TH @ 8:00 A.M.

ALFRED W. MAXWELL AMERICAN LEGION POST# 40 IN WINTHROP

8:00-8:45 Registration and light breakfast

8:45-9:30 Speaker - Wendy Dennis, Chair, Maranacook Lake Outlet Dam Committee

MARANACOOK LAKE DAM REPAIRS – PAST AND FUTURE

9:30-10:30 Brief break and Business Meeting

HISTORY OF THE DAM AND WATER LEVELS...The inability to adequately control water levels continues to be an issue of concern for the Maranacook Lake Association. We are glad to report that during the past year the Maranacook Lake Outlet Dam Committee has reorganized with members from both Winthrop and Readfield and Wendy Dennis from the Cobbossee Watershed District as Committee Chair. The committee has been working on gathering data in order to determine what future modifications need to be made to the dam to resolve this problem. Wendy Dennis will be the guest speaker for our **ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JULY 12TH PRESENTING “MARANACOOK LAKE DAM REPAIRS – PAST AND FUTURE”** detailing the configuration and capacity of the dam before and after the 1995 reconstruction, the 2006 repair, and future plans for additional modification, using data and photos to explain the different water levels in each of these situations.

COURTESY BOAT INSPECTIONS AND INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES...The majority of MLA dues are used to support the Courtesy Boat Inspections at the two boat launches in Readfield and Winthrop. This program is directed by the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed and these inspections are critical in monitoring boat traffic coming into the lake and preventing invasive plant infestations, thereby protecting the lake and property values on and around the lake. The effort to keep invasive plant species from entering the lake is increasingly important as last summer a variable leaf milfoil fragment was found floating in Annabessacook Lake by a Courtesy Boat Inspector (see page 3 for more information on this from the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed).

MLA WEBSITE - WWW.MARANACOOKLAKEME.ORG

We have redesigned the MLA website! The new platform will allow us to keep information current on the website and also to accept secure payments for dues and donations. A membership form can also be downloaded and mailed in with a check if you prefer. Please check it out and let us know your thoughts.

◉ FUN IN THE SUN ◉

CONCERT AT LOWERY LANDING - SUNDAY, JULY 6TH - 12 - 5 PM

featuring **THE SCHOOL STREET BAND**...look for all the boats on the Memorial Drive side/Winthrop end of the lake just south of Tallwood Point.

THIS IS A BY BOAT ONLY EVENT...NO LAND TRAFFIC PLEASE.

CONCERTS AT NORCROSS POINT - SUNDAYS JUNE 29TH - AUGUST 31ST 2-4 P.M.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets or come by boat and enjoy the beauty of Maranacook Lake while listening to a variety of music from many talented Maine performers. These concerts are free, offer a little something for everyone, and provide a lovely way to spend Sunday afternoons.



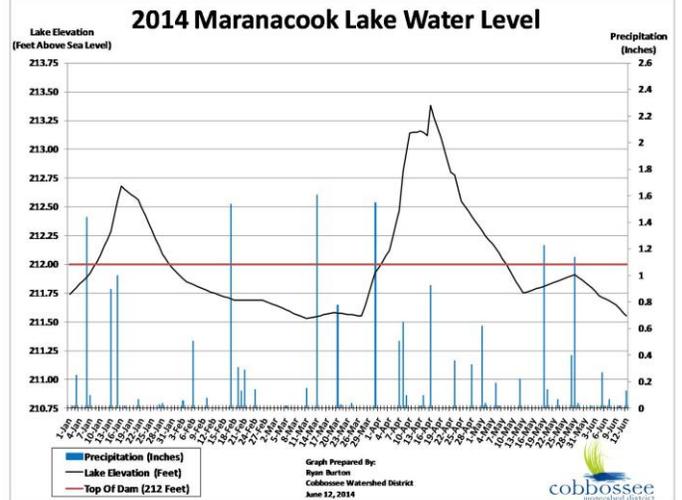
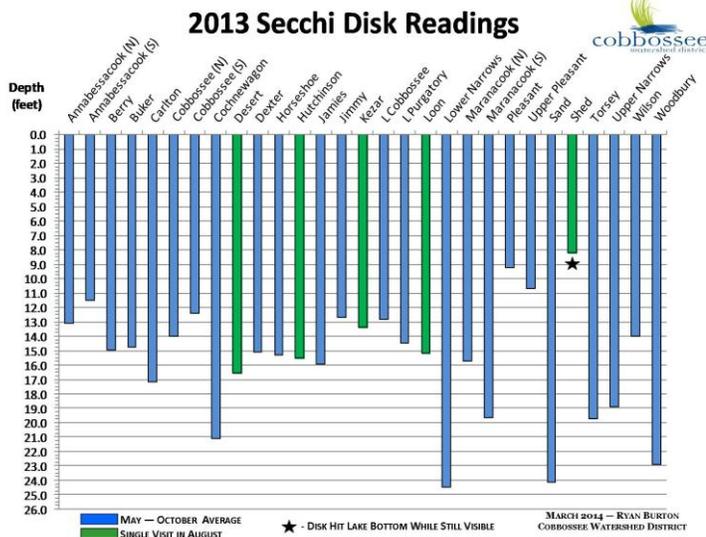
News from Cobboossee Watershed District
 P.O. Box 418, Winthrop, ME 04364 (207)-377-2234 cwd@fairpoint.net

MARANACOOK LAKE WATER QUALITY

We are always upbeat about starting our lake water quality monitoring each spring. This year CWD will be monitoring Maranacook Lake’s water quality in both the south and north basins at least monthly, more frequently when time allows. CWD’s testing will include Secchi disk transparency (water clarity), temperature, dissolved oxygen, total phosphorus, alkalinity, and chlorophyll-a (indicator of algae). Two volunteer monitors will gather additional Secchi disk transparency measurements. Joe Saunders, a CWD Trustee, has already started monitoring the south basin, and veteran monitor Ed Dodge is ready to start in the north.

Water clarity in the south basin was a bit low on the first date measured, May 16th, but quickly improved. The most recent clarity was 6.6 meters (21 feet) in the south basin, and 5.4 m (18 feet) in the north. Temperature in the upper 15 feet of water was only about 60 degrees F on May 16th. Earlier this week the surface was 75 degrees. The water is well-oxygenated to the bottom in the south basin. Phosphorus and chlorophyll lab results are not in yet.

Last year’s Secchi disk results for Maranacook Lake indicate that water clarity is remaining stable. The south basin continues to be one of the area’s more clear lakes, while the north basin water clarity is right in the middle of the Cobboossee Watershed District lakes. See graph below-left for last year’s average water clarity for CWD lakes.



MARANACOOK LAKE LEVEL

The lake level on June 12th was 211.55 feet above sea level. This is five inches below the top of the main spillway of the dam, and 7 inches deep flowing over the lower spillway. The gate is wide open. This water level is typical for early June in the past few years, except for 2012 when the level was 22 inches higher (due to 5 inches of rain)! The gate will remain open until the water declines another 7 inches to 211.0 feet above sea level (if nature allows). The graph above-right shows water levels in 2014, including the high-water peak during spring runoff.

MARANACOOK LAKE OUTLET DAM COMMITTEE

The Dam Committee has been carefully considering what steps should be taken to increase outflow at the Maranacook Lake Dam. The Committee is recommending two studies be conducted prior to modifying the dam, so that the Towns can choose a structural modification that is cost effective and meets outflow goals. The Committee made funding recommendations to the Towns of Winthrop and Readfield for the FY 2014/15 municipal budgets. On June 2nd the Winthrop Town Council approved \$12,000 for the dam. The Readfield Select Board placed an article on their Town Meeting warrant for \$13,500, which the Readfield voters approved on June 12th. Funding by both towns is a very positive step. Now the Committee plans to move forward with procuring a consultant for a hydrologic study of the Maranacook Lake Watershed, which will model rainfall and runoff, incorporate water level goals, and quantify how much more discharge capacity is needed at the dam to reduce flooding and erosion. That information will then be used for an engineering study to evaluate the effect of various potential modifications to the dam. The Towns will need to approve the requests for proposals and contracts for each study; the Committee does not have authorization to spend municipal funds.

The Committee began meeting in August 2013 as directed by Town Managers. Members are: Laurence Perkins, William Buck, and alternate Shelly Gerstein, appointed by Readfield; Thomas Heiss, William Wing, and alternate Gary Dawbin, appointed by Winthrop; and Wendy Dennis, appointed by Cobboossee Watershed District. Wendy Dennis



Working Together to Combat Invasive Aquatic Plants

Lake Associations often work with other organizations to protect their lakes; partnerships that include local resources like the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD) and the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (Friends), as well as state resources such as the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP). This partnership is especially important when a need for action occurs, such as the current situation on Annabessacook Lake.

On August 31, 2014, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Courtesy Boat Inspector Shannon Power found a suspicious plant fragment floating along the edge of Annabessacook Lake. The fragment was sent first to the Friends, then on to the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program in Auburn, and finally to a University in Michigan to be properly identified. The results were fearsome for Annabessacook property owners; the fragment was tested positive for Variable Leaf Milfoil, the most common invasive aquatic plant in Maine. In January, Annabessacook Lake Improvement Association board members met with staff members from each of the four conservation groups listed above to create a plan of action in searching for and eradicating any possible invasive population in the lake. Despite the reason for the meeting, it was heartening to witness the support and collaboration amongst the group as information and ideas were shared and expert advice and input were offered.

The reality of the situation is this: a Variable Leaf Milfoil fragment was found at the edge of Annabessacook. We do not know if it fell off of a boat that was entering the lake, or if it came from a living plant growing somewhere in the lake. This summer will be dedicated to finding out more information, through a thorough survey of the entire lake. If a population of invasive milfoil is found, the Maine DEP will take the lead in eradication as quickly as possible. Next steps will include the surveying of waterbodies upstream and downstream of Annabessacook, including Maranacook. While this process does take time, the more trained eyes we have on the water, the better! All Cobbossee Watershed residents are invited to join us in learning how to identify aquatic plants and survey for invasive plants at two workshops coming up in July (information below). The Friends have been surveying the lakes and ponds of the Cobbossee Watershed since 2008, however, no one knows the shoreline better than the property owners and boaters that enjoy these shallow water areas often.

To learn more about invasive aquatic plants in the Cobbossee Watershed, please contact the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed at 621-4100 or email Tamara Whitmore: tamara@watershedfriends.com To find out how you can get involved in the Annabessacook education and survey efforts, please contact ALIA President Sue Neal: sue.neal@fairpoint.net

Introduction to Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop: Introduction to plant structure, types of native aquatic plants, and identifying features of invasive plants. Facilitated by MVLMP
Wednesday July 9, 2014 2:00 – 8:00 pm @ Augusta West Kampground

Invasive Plant Patrol Survey Field Methods Workshop: On the water in kayaks & canoes, participants will learn about proper methods for surveying shallow water for suspicious plants and how to take a plant sample. Facilitated by MVLMP
Wednesday, July 23, 2014 8:30 am – 12:30 pm @ Augusta West Kampground

Maranacook Lake Association
P.O. Box 6
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Photo by Sheila Dorey



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MEMBERSHIP - *Your dues and contributions are used to further our Mission to protect and improve the water quality of Maranacook Lake and its watershed for the benefit of all.*

IF THERE IS NOT AN ORANGE MEMBERSHIP FORM ENCLOSED, YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2014 AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT...A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE DONATIONS IN ADDITION TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ☺

If there is an orange membership form enclosed your MLA dues are now due for 2014 and we thank you in advance for your continued support...your prompt payment will allow us to use our energy to focus on the important work of protecting the lake and recruiting new members rather than pestering you for your dues ☺

Secure payments for dues and donations may also be made directly on our newly redesigned website at www.maranacooklakeme.org.

Currently our membership represents less than 30% of lakefront and lakefront access property owners on Maranacook Lake. Please help us raise awareness and recruit new members, the only membership commitment is the annual dues of 30.00 and the benefits are many.

If you have any suggestions or concerns, please contact one of us personally or email us at maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com. We are the voice for the lake and we work for you.

Your MLA Board of Directors

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