

# Maranacook Lake News



Presented by:

Maranacook Lake Association Like Us on Facebook June 2015

## Summer Greetings!

We are excited for lots of sun & fun this summer, especially after surviving a long Maine winter. We encourage visitors to our lake to support us as we enjoy sharing our lovely lake and land with all. Support comes in the form of membership dues and donations. Courtesy Boat Inspections are our primary expense. This program is directed by the Friends of 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 milfoil has been found in surrounding lakes in recent years.

Please join us in keeping this program thriving by sending in your membership dues today. We look forward to seeing you all out on the lake this summer. Let's hope for a very sunny summer!

~Ed Atlee, Board President



### FUN IN THE SUMMER SUN

**Sunday July 5 School Street Band will once again play at LOWERY LANDING from 12-4**

This year's event will benefit the Maranacook Lake Association and the Hillandalers Snowmobile Club.

We are accepting donations for raffle prizes and taking orders for t-shirts!

Contact Melanie at [dancewear@icloud.com](mailto:dancewear@icloud.com)

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Concerts at Norcross Point

June 28		Hambone
July 5		the Band Apollo
July 12		Rain Date
July 19		Dave Gutter
August 2		Primo Cubano
August 9		Rain Date
August 15*		The Veayo Twins
August 16	*Winthrop Art Walk & BBQ too!	
August 23	(1-3)	Simons and Goodwin
August 30		Wicked Blues Band
		Cowboy Billy and Malinda Liberty

\*All Concerts are on Sundays (except Aug 15) and run from 2-4pm. Concerts are weather dependent.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on Saturday July 18, 2015

8:30am-10:00am

This year's speakers will be in attendance to offer presentations on invasive plant life near and around our watershed, a plan to begin mapping our lake to better protect against invasives, and give us an update on the dam.

- \*Tamara Whitmore, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed
- \*Wendy Dennis, Maranacook Lake Outlet Dam Committee
- \*Sue Neal, Annabessacook Lake Improvement Association

### Meeting Schedule

8:30	Registration & Coffee Talk
8:45	Presentations
9:30	Business Meeting

**MLA is now officially a 501(c)3 non-profit organization**  
With this change we are updating our bylaws and include them below so you may vote on the changes during our business meeting.

\*\*\*ARTICLE I, NAME, The name of the organization shall be the "Maranacook Lake Association", incorporated in the State of Maine, a non-profit organization, hereinafter referred to as the "Association".\*\*\*

\*\*\*ARTICLE II, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES, The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.\*\*\*

\*\*\*ARTICLE XII, DISSOLUTION CLAUSE, Upon dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding sections of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed or the Cobbossee Watershed District, both corporations exempt under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or in equal portions to the Town of Winthrop, Maine and the Town of Readfield, Maine to be used for public purpose.\*\*\*

### PLANT PADDLE

As most of you know, Variable Water Milfoil (VWM) was found on Annabessacook Lake last summer. Our first **3-hour plant identification paddle** to train interested individuals to look for VWM on Maranacook Lake will take place on **August 8<sup>th</sup>** (see insert in this newsletter)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

# A Watershed Approach to Combatting the Spread of Variable Water Milfoil Spreading

Join us in protecting our *aquatic ecosystems* and *property values* in the Cobbossee Watershed!!

On August, 31, 2013, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) Courtesy Boat Inspector Shannon Power found a suspicious plant fragment floating along the edge of Annabessacook Lake. The Friends submitted the fragment to the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, who passed it along for DNA testing. In December 2013, word was received that the fragment was indeed Variable Water Milfoil (VWM), the most prevalent invasive aquatic plant occurring in Maine waters.

The collaborative effort that ensued over the next year and a half was essential in the resulting successful search, location and removal of a newly established community of Variable Water Milfoil. Sue Neal, President of the Annabessacook Lake Improvement Association (or ALIA) and a FOCW Board Member, was the champion of this fight, spending tireless hours learning, informing and organizing shorefront property owners around Annabessacook. FOCW, along with the Cobbossee Watershed District, the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP), provided lake and plant expertise, assisted in training, organized a lake-wide survey of the "littoral" or shallow areas of the lake and handled suspicious plants as they were found.

The lake survey, by newly trained local "plant patrollers" and experienced plant survey teams alike consisted of more than 200 person hours on the water, searching for plants suspicious of the invasive milfoil, and resulted in twelve samples sent for DNA testing. Two of the twelve specimens were positively identified as Variable Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). GPS coordinates and map locations that accompanied the samples indicated the possibility of two different communities of the plant growing in the lake. With this information, the Maine DEP **sprang into "rapid response" mode, locating both patches of growing plants and utilizing a scuba diver to remove the suspect plants.**

Four bodies of water in the southeast portion of the Cobbossee Watershed are already infested with Variable Water Milfoil: Cobbossee Stream, Purgatory Stream, Horseshoe Pond and Pleasant Pond. All four of these water bodies are connected to each other via moving water; creating one larger connected infestation. The discovery of variable water milfoil in Annabessacook Lake represents the first spread of invasive aquatic plants within the Cobbossee Watershed to a body of water not directly connected to the known Cobbossee Stream/Pleasant Pond infestation. Although the Friends three-pronged approach to preventing the spread of invasive plants (Prevention through Courtesy Boat Inspections, Early Detection via trained patrollers surveying lake's shoreline and Control of existing infestations by harvesting, impeding and removing invasive plants), a plant, has "slipped through the cracks". The positive news that we should revel in is that our system is working. Our boat inspector found the fragment and a whole new group of active lake front property owners have been empowered in keeping a watch for potential aquatic invaders. The result of this collaborative effort is that the plants have been found and removed!

This first phase of the Annabessacook situation is just the tip of the iceberg. Surveying of the plant-growing areas in the lake will need to be done every summer, to ensure that the plants are not re-establishing themselves through missed plants or seeds lying in wait in the lake bottom. And there

**Friends of the  
Cobbossee  
Watershed**



**BE A MIL-FOILER**

are even larger questions: *Where did the initial plant fragment come from? Did it hitchhike from another lake via boat to Annabessacook? Or did it float downstream from Maranacook, the Narrows, or Wilson Pond? Is it possible that a fragment of the plant could make its way over the Annabessacook Outlet dam and make its way into the southern portion of Cobbossee Lake?*

Together, the Maranacook Lake Association and FOCW is taking a pro-active approach to protecting Maranacook from the potential spread of invasive Milfoil. For starters, the MLA Board of Directors has asked FOCW to provide Courtesy Boat Inspection staffing for all official fishing tournaments on Maranacook in 2015. Additionally, FOCW will assist MLA in the training of individuals to be aware of what plants should be considered “suspicious” and be identified by an expert. Experience has taught us that a lake will benefit from as many trained eyes on the water as possible, and no one is better equipped than the folks that live on and look at the lake on a daily basis.

**SAVE THE DATE...MLA WILL SPONSOR A 3 HOUR EDUCATIONAL “PLANT PADDLE” TRAINING BY THE MAINE VOLUNTEER LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM ON SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>. Join us (bring your canoe or kayak) to become a trained “plant patroller” and help keep your lake safe from invasive plants! Specific location and time information will be available at the MLA Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Here is how YOU can help:

- Stay up to date with MLA & FOCW initiatives** through our online e-Newsletter “The Splash”. Sign up by emailing or calling the FOCW office at the contact info below.
- Always check your boat** and remove any plant fragments before launching and after leaving a lake, pond or stream. Look for the new FOCW sticker (below) this summer!
- Learn to identify “suspicious” plants.** Sign up for a fun “Plant Paddle” or a robust plant identification class. Contact FOCW for upcoming dates, times & locations.



**BE A MIL-FOILER**

**Check your boat  
before it floats**



Friends  
of the  
Cobbossee Watershed  
We "Otter" Have Clean Water



**BoatU.S.  
Foundation**  
for Boating Safety & Clean Water  
Funded by a grant from  
the BoatU.S. Foundation

**Contact the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed**

Phone: 207-621-4100      Fax: 207-621-4144

Executive Director: Tamara Whitmore      Email: [tamara@watershedfriends.com](mailto:tamara@watershedfriends.com)

The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed - our mission is **“To engage individuals, businesses and communities in protecting and improving the lakes, ponds and streams of the Cobbossee Watershed.”**

Maranacook Lake Association  
P.O. Box 6  
Winthrop, ME 04364

#### Board of Directors

Ed Atlee, President  
207-377-8112 or 207-622-5656  
Peter Washburn, Vice President  
207-377-3851  
Heinz Walbaum, Treasurer  
207-512-4162  
Anne Schmidt, Secretary  
207-458-0922  
Lynn Roberts Reed, Membership  
207-441-7333  
Melanie E. Randall, Newsletter  
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Allen Massey  
207-685-4698  
Bill Wing  
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Anna Iredale  
215-886-8592  
Ed Dodge  
207-458-1739

[maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com)



Lowery Landing 2014 Concert Image

### Other Events of Interest

August 16<sup>th</sup> **Hillandalers Challenge**  
5K obstacle course \$31.50 per person  
8:30-12pm start times

August 22<sup>nd</sup> **Maine Lakes Society Conference 2015**  
At Camp O At Ka on Sebago Lake

### Bass Fishing Tournaments on Maranacook

June 17	Mainely Boaters	Open/Weigh In
June 20	Central Maine Bassers	Club/Weigh In
July 12	Outcast Bass Club	Open/Weigh In
August 29	Classic Bassmasters	Open/Weigh In
September 19	Mainely Bass	Club/Weigh In
September 24	Saco Valley Cast Masters	Club/Weigh In
October 10	Generation X	Open/Weigh In

**\*ICE OUT DATE 2015 ~ April 21, 2015\***  
**Winner Ice Out Contest ~ Mathew Bernard**

**WE ARE FISHING FOR FRESH BLOOD!**  
**WON'T YOU HELP US HOOK SOME NEW MEMBERS?**

*Participation in the lake association can vary in many forms...from simply becoming a member of the lake association to serving on the board (this is not a huge time commitment as we meet once monthly), recruiting friends and neighbors to join, and/or offering a special talent. We are always looking for individuals interested in joining us in our work to protect our lake and our watershed.*

Dues and contributions are used to protect and improve the water quality of Maranacook Lake and its watershed for the benefit of all.

**Membership costs \$30 per year per household.**

**Secure payments for dues and donations may be made directly on our newly redesigned website at [www.maranacooklakeme.org](http://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 questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact one of us personally or email us at [maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com).

**We are the voice for the lake  
and we work for you.**



**MARANACOOK LAKE WATER QUALITY**

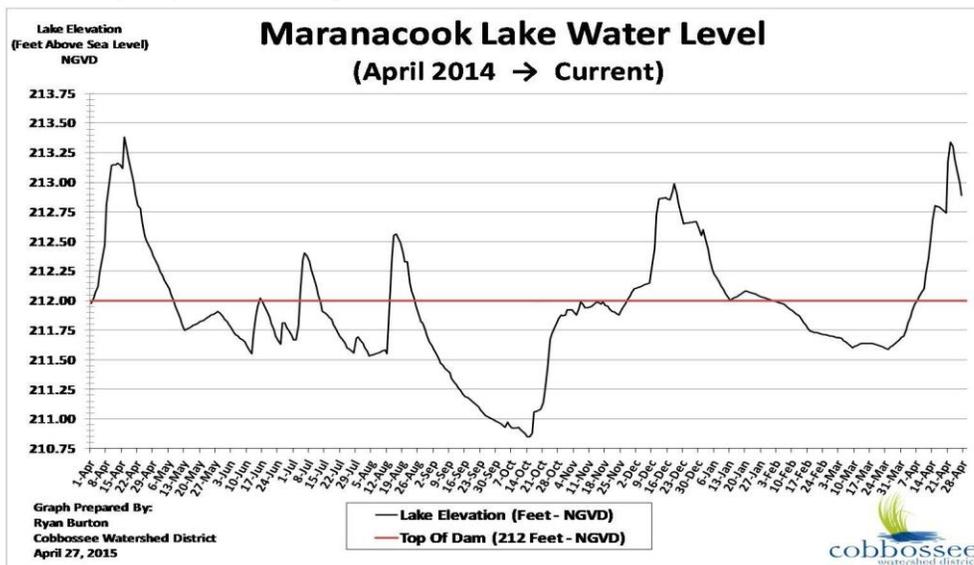
The ice is finally out and Ryan is readying the boat and equipment to start our lake water quality monitoring in May. This year CWD will be monitoring Maranacook Lake’s water quality in both the south and north basins at least monthly, and probably every two weeks in summer. CWD’s testing will include Secchi disk transparency (water clarity), and temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements from the surface to the bottom of the lake at one meter intervals. Volunteer monitors from the Maranacook Lake community will gather additional Secchi disk transparency measurements. Shelly Gerstein, a CWD Trustee, and Gale Mettey, will be monitoring the south basin for the second year, and veteran monitor Ed Dodge will monitor the north.

**Water clarity in the south basin was very good in 2014, averaging 6.7 meters (22 feet).** The 36 year average for annual Secchi disk transparency in the south basin is 20+ feet, and there is no indication of a declining trend. Every three years CWD measures phosphorus and chlorophyll throughout the season in Maranacook Lake, and 2014 was one of those years. **Phosphorus is a nutrient that acts as a fertilizer for algae. In 2014 the average phosphorus in the south basin was 8 parts per billion (ppb), safely below the 15 ppb threshold.** That doesn’t mean there weren’t any algae; it means they weren’t overly abundant, as confirmed by chlorophyll measurements which averaged a very moderate 4.9 ppb.

**Water clarity in the north basin was good in 2014, averaging 5.1 meters (nearly 17 feet).** The 36 year average for annual Secchi disk transparency in the north basin is about 16 feet, and the long term average for the annual minimum water clarity is 12 feet, which is above algae bloom level. **There is no evidence of declining water clarity in the north basin.** There was a surface accumulation of algae for a time last summer, but it was not a bloom, and samples were sent to DEP for identification. Chlorophyll averaged 5.9 ppb, below levels considered overly productive. Phosphorus in 2014 averaged 12 ppb in the north basin. At the end of the season, oxygen loss in the bottom waters in the north basin causes a release of phosphorus and high concentrations in the bottom waters. So far it has not b

**MARANACOOK LAKE LEVEL**

The lake level on April 27<sup>th</sup> was 212.89 feet above sea level. This is eleven inches above the top of the main spillway of the dam, obviously higher than desired. **The gate is wide open**, as it has been for several years. The water is declining from the spring high level that was about 1 and a half feet above full. The graph shows water levels since last April, including the high-water peak during spring runoff in both 2014 and in 2015 - nearly identical.



**MARANACOOK LAKE OUTLET DAM COMMITTEE**

The Dam Committee has been working toward the goal of structurally modifying the Maranacook Lake Dam to increase outflow. The primary objectives are to reduce flooding and erosion; maintain lower summer levels; and enable a fall drawdown. In September the Committee solicited proposals for a study of the flow characteristics of the dam and of the Maranacook Lake watershed. **Northstar Hydro, Inc. was selected and developed a model of storm water flowing into the lake and out through the dam, and the resultant lake levels; they also oversaw a survey of the dam structure.** This study was funded by the Towns of Readfield and Winthrop and was completed in February. The model will now be used to predict lake level improvements from dam alterations under consideration for the near future. The Committee is currently developing the solicitation of proposals for this next engineering work, to be completed in 2015 and funded by the Towns of Readfield and Winthrop.

Committee 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*