

Maranacook Lake News

Summer 2020



*** ICE OUT APRIL 2, 2020 ***

From the President

Dear Members:

I once again thank you for your continued support of the Maranacook Lake Association. This year has certainly provided us with many unique challenges. Our major goal this year was to double our membership but the inability to meet and promote our wonderful lake in person was difficult. This goal can only be accomplished with your help recruiting new members.

Maranacook continues to be an example of what a great lake can be. Its clarity, water level, and absence of invasive plant life are constantly being monitored. **The majority of your lake association's resources (YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES) help provide the funding for these positive monitoring measures. THIS YEAR, THROUGH THE COURTESY BOAT INSPECTION (CBI) PROGRAM, 2208 BOAT INSPECTIONS WERE COMPLETED WITH 396 OF THEM HAVING AT LEAST ONE PLANT FRAGMENT FOUND AND REMOVED!!! THIS MEANS 396 BOATS ENTERING THE LAKE WOULD HAVE BROUGHT PLANT FRAGMENTS (and potentially invasive plants) INTO THE LAKE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM.**

Your appreciation, thoughtfulness, vigilance, and support are the necessary attributes to Maranacook's continued good health and are needed now more than ever!

Your Board of Directors is to be complimented on their dedication and desire. Our thanks to them.

Respectfully,
Peter S. Washburn



Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed: Protecting Our Lakes in the Wake of a Pandemic

Zoom meetings, a virtual 5k, and changes in programming are just some of the pivots The Friends has had to make during these challenging times. One thing remains steady, the lakes, ponds, and streams of the Cobbossee Watershed still need our protection and we have done our best to rise to the challenge!

This summer certainly looked different from previous years of coming together as a community for our Friends on the Fourth 5k, Summer Nature Day Camps, and our Annual Cocktail Party Fundraiser. This year, 100 people participated in a “virtual 5K race”, complete with a special edition commemorative t-shirt. Our popular Tadpole Patrol program morphed into Family Tadpole Patrols, with participants in a session all members of the same family or “quarantine bubble”. Although our Youth Conservation Corps program did not run this summer, we still provided free site visits providing technical advice to shorefront property owners. And although our Nature Day Camps were not held this summer, FOCW Education Director Cami Wilbert did offer a FREE Family Fun Day at the YMCA Camp of Maine.

The Friends “Milfoiler” programs definitely did NOT take a hiatus this summer. Courtesy Boat Inspectors were determined to be “essential workers” prior to Memorial Day Weekend, so the coverage at Maranacook launches was the same as previous years. **Increased boat traffic this year has meant increased inspections; we performed 2208 inspections (an increase of 220 from 1,988 inspections in 2019) and found and removed at least one plant fragment in 396 of those inspections (an increase of 178 from 218 in 2019)!**

2019-2020 CBI STATS

2020 (without all of the data submitted-total hours and inspections will increase from now to end of year)

617.4 paid hours 2,208 inspections 396 inspections where plant fragments were found and removed

2019

718 paid hours 1,988 inspections 218 inspections where plant fragments were found and removed

The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Plant Survey Team was back in Maranacook Lake this summer, searching for invasive aquatic plants. The team surveyed the north end of the south basin, Norcross Point boat launch area and cove, the Readfield launch off Route 41, and Dead Stream. **No invasive aquatic plants were found!** This is certainly an important time for vigilance as invasive aquatic plants are present in other waterbodies in the Cobbossee Watershed. Early detection is an important piece in protecting our lakes from infestations of invasive aquatic plants.

Elsewhere in the watershed, this was a BIG year for Annabessacook Lake, which underwent an herbicide treatment in an effort to “RESTORE Annabessacook and PROTECT Cobbossee”, and The Friends staff and volunteers from the Cobbossee Yacht Club Lake Association were out on Cobbossee Lake doing European frog’s-bit removal.

There is so much disruption in our usual way of doing things. Our number one priority is the safety of our staff, our volunteers, and our community, but our mission still remains the same. The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed is here to engage the community in protecting and improving the lakes, ponds, and streams of the Cobbossee Watershed. We will need the help of our community more than ever this year. Please consider donating to The Friends so we can continue the work of protecting our treasured lakes.

If you would like to learn to identify invasive aquatic plants and help keep Maranacook Lake free of these invasive species, please contact Toni Pied, toni@watershedfriends.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WE THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
AND OFFER A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MADE
DONATIONS IN ADDITION TO MEMBERSHIP DUES!

- **The majority of your membership dues is used to pay the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed to provide CBI (Courtesy Boat Inspections) at the public boat launches in Winthrop and Readfield.**

THE CBI PROGRAM IS OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST INVASIVE PLANTS!
PLANT FRAGMENTS WERE FOUND AND REMOVED IN 396 OF THE
2208 CBI INSPECTIONS COMPLETED THIS SUMMER...

**THAT'S ALMOST 400 BOATS STOPPED FROM ENTERING
MARANACOOK LAKE WITH PLANT FRAGMENTS!**

- ***IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE 78 MEMBERS WHO HAVE YET NOT PAID YOUR 2020 DUES WE HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND HAVE INCLUDED AN INVOICE IN THIS NEWSLETTER.***

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE YOU MAY PAY UP TO 3 YEARS AT ONCE (30.00 PER YEAR)

EITHER BY MAILING A CHECK TO MLA, P O BOX 6, WINTHROP, ME 04364

OR VIA OUR WEBSITE WWW.MARANCOOKLAKEME.ORG

Additional donations are tax-deductible and always welcome

- Invasive plants have been found in Annabessacook and Cobbossee Lakes. We need to be extremely vigilant in our efforts to prevent invasive plants from entering Maranacook Lake...

**YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS CRITICAL AND NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER
TO KEEP MARANACOOK LAKE HEALTHY AND FREE OF INVASIVE PLANTS!!!**

- Our goal for 2020 was to double our membership
(only about 30% of lakefront property owners are current members of MLA)

Unfortunately, with COVID-19 restrictions, the door to door contact we had hoped to make was not feasible. You can help us by reaching out to your neighbors and inviting them to join MLA if they are not currently members.

With increased membership dues we will be able to continue and possibly increase coverage of the boat launches in future years.

**Please consider passing along this newsletter to a neighbor
with a personal invitation to join MLA and
support our efforts to protect Maranacook Lake**

New members may pay either by mailing a check to MLA, P O Box 6, Winthrop, ME 04364 OR VIA
OUR WEBSITE WWW.MARANCOOKLAKEME.ORG

MARANACOOK LAKE WATER QUALITY

Maranacook Lake continues to have good water quality, as measured by the Cobboossee Watershed District (CWD), with help from our Maranacook Lake resident volunteers Ed Dodge, Shelly Gerstein, and Gale Mettey. Although we are somewhat challenged this year with staffing impacts and protocol requirements due to Covid-19, CWD began tracking the **lake water clarity** in May and will continue through October. We do this by using a Secchi disk, pictured at right. At the south basin “deep” station, where the lake is over 110 feet deep, all Secchi disk measurements have been 7 meters or more, which is converting to feet, they have ranged from 23 to 27 feet. In the north basin, the Secchi disk has depths averaging around 5 meters, or, ranging from 15 to 20 feet, until a recent dip of about 1 happens there in September or October.



We measured **very warm water temperatures** in CWD lakes this year. Near surface temperatures in Maranacook Lake in June, July, and August were around 80°F or above. However, in the deepest waters of the south basin, a frigid 46° persisted all summer. This year’s high water temperatures are thought to have caused the severe algae blooms that have appeared this summer in some of Maine lakes, including Upper Pleasant Pond in the CWD.

Looking back at 2019, as this is the first newsletter report since then, we are pleased to say that water clarity remained good in Maranacook Lake in 2019 and measurements were typical for the lake. In the south basin, the average water clarity measured 6.5 meters (21 feet), and in the north basin it measured 4.9 m (16 ft). The variation between the basins is expected due to differences in lake depth and watershed runoff. Once again the north basin water clarity, which is a bit lower, stayed well above levels indicating algal blooms.

Phosphorus in lake water is of great significance with respect to the absence or presence of algae blooms: the less phosphorus, which is food for the algae, the greater the lake water clarity. CWD and watershed residents work hard to limit phosphorus from running into the lake. Results are now available from analysis of sediments collected in a previous year from the lake bottom, at both the south and north basin deepest spots. Based on the concentrations of phosphorus, iron, and aluminum in the sediments, we learned that the capacity of the sediments to bind phosphorus and keep it from migrating up into the lake water is weak in Maranacook Lake. Therefore, phosphorus that does enter the lake from the watershed and ends up in the lake bottom can be a problem in the future. Keep doing all you do to reduce runoff and soil erosion and prevent phosphorus from getting into the lake. Some straightforward recommendations are:

- do not fertilize with phosphorus;
- stabilize bare soil;
- direct runoff to areas where it will soak into the ground first on its way to the lake;
- do not remove natural vegetation, and, plant more vegetation where possible.

MARANACOOK LAKE DAM PROJECT: DONE!!!!



gate installation - October 2019



a minimum flow, controlled from within the gate house, passes over the new gate between new concrete piers – June 2020

Demolition and concrete reconstruction was done last summer and the new 20-foot long gate was installed in late October. The building to house the gate controls was finished at the end of the year. The actual controls were inexplicably delayed by the manufacturer and were finally installed this year. The end result is a reinforced dam with a large and operable gate which will allow for better stormwater release and drawdown for winter. This will reduce both flooding and shoreline erosion, to protect property and lake water quality. Being a new system, there will be a bit of a learning curve with using it to achieve water management goals.

The dam is co-owned by the Towns of Readfield and Winthrop. Construction was done by H.E. Callahan Construction Co., per design by GEI Consultants, Inc. Maranacook Lake residents Roland Cote and Larry Perkins were Clerks-of-the-Works. The Project Management team included the above, plus the Town Managers and Cobbossee Watershed District. Years of work by the Maranacook Lake Outlet Dam Committee laid the foundation for the project.

MARANACOOK LAKE LEVEL AND FALL DRAWDOWN

The new gate at the Maranacook Lake Dam will allow for a fall drawdown, or lowering, of the lake - a practice that is used at most lakes in the Cobbossee Watershed District. The purpose of a drawdown in fall is to reach a level by winter that will provide some protection against shoreline ice damage and, more significantly, will create some storage in the lake to reduce flooding from rapid inflow of water during snowmelt and spring runoff. Within the Cobbossee Watershed chain of lakes, fall drawdown target levels range from approximately 1 to 2 ½ vertical feet below a full pond level. A level of 1 to 1 ½ feet below full pond may be appropriate for Maranacook Lake; it will take some experience to determine the best drawdown goal. The full pond elevation for Maranacook Lake is 211.5 feet above sea level, using the NGVD 1929 system. As of late-September 2020, following a very dry summer, and with a very minimal amount of water flowing at the dam, Maranacook Lake was a little more than ½ foot below full pond. There is no need to start intentionally lowering the lake further until mid-October. However, CWD usually does not delay lake drawdowns later than that due to recommendations from the Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Property owners and lake users should expect water to recede during October. Questions can be directed to CWD at 207-377-2234 or cwd@fairpoint.net.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

WE HAVE ELECTED TO FOREGO THE ANNUAL MEETING DUE TO THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE RECENT PANDEMIC.
The following includes the necessary information relative to this year's work of your MLA Board of Directors.
There is no new business that would require membership vote.

THE PRESENT SLATE OF OFFICERS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO REMAIN IN PLACE FOR THE NEXT YEAR:

Peter Washburn, President Lynn Reed, Vice President/Membership
Anne Schmidt, Secretary Terri Kangas, Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been a challenging, yet successful, year for your association. Our major focus was to double our membership and improve our communication. Because of our inability to meet in person as a group and go door-to-door these will remain the goals of the near future.

Your dues have been well spent, providing Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) Friday through Sunday thanks to the well-trained Friends of Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) workers.

As noted, the boat traffic has increased greater than 10% this summer. More significantly, there was an 80% increase from last year in the number of boats found to have plant fragments.

The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed and other volunteers continue to survey the lake for invasive plant life. The Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD) monitors the water quality and, thanks to our new and improved dam, the water level.

The 2020 winter social was again a success. Thanks for attending.

Given these difficult times, it is more important than ever to be good lake stewards and to encourage best practices to preserve our lake.

Your help is needed to get the word out to our neighbors and friends to become involved and support our association.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

2018 Beginning Balance 10,993.81 (+ 8,585.00 Income - 9,487.57 Expenses) = **10,091.24 Ending Balance**
2019 Beginning Balance 10,091.24 (+ 10,395.17 Income - 11,910.14 Expenses) = **8,576.27 Ending Balance**

2020 Income/Expense Summary

Beginning Balance	8,576.27
Income	6,568.00
Expenses	(841.80)
Balance 09/30/2020	14302.47
EXPECTED INCOME	
CBI Reimbursement	3,150.00 (Towns of Winthrop & Readfield)
EXPECTED EXPENSES	
CBI Inspections-FOCW	(9,200.00)
Newsletter	(1,000.00)
Expected Ending Balance 12/31/2020	7,252.47

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

250 Members on the roster ~ 172 paid Memberships (162 renewals, 10 new memberships) THANK YOU!
78 Unpaid Membership Dues @ \$30 = \$2,340.00 ~ WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!!!

**IN ORDER TO CONTINUE CBI COVERAGE AT THE TWO PUBLIC BOAT LANDINGS
WE REALLY NEED EVERY CURRENT MLA MEMBER TO RENEW AND PAY THEIR DUES ANNUALLY.**

**WE ALSO NEED CURRENT MEMBERS TO HELP US RECRUIT NON-MEMBER LAKEFRONT PROPERTY OWNERS
AND OTHERS WHO USE AND ENJOY THE LAKE TO JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS!**

Membership dues may pay either by mailing a check to MLA, P O Box 6, Winthrop, ME 04364
OR VIA OUR WEBSITE WWW.MARANCOOKLAKEME.ORG

Maranacook Lake Association
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Winthrop, ME 04364
maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com

Your Board of Directors

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Vice President/Membership
207-441-7333

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***A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
ROBERTS FUNERAL HOME AND
BAILEY LIBRARY FOR HOSTING
MLA BOARD MEETINGS**



**"LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK
& CHECK OFTEN FOR
UPDATED NEWS/EVENTS**

MARANACOOK LAKE LOON COUNT 2019 *24 Adults and 2 Chicks*



7 BASS TOURNAMENTS WERE HELD ON MARANACOOK LAKE IN 2020



2020 WINTER SOCIAL



Once again, Archie provided an evening of great entertainment and members enjoyed connecting with old friends and making new acquaintances.

**DUE TO ONGOING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS
2021 WINTER SOCIAL TBD**