

Maranacook  
Lake News

Winter 2022



ICE OUT ~ April 4, 2021

## From the President

Dear Maranacook Lake Association members,

Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to preserve our wonderful lake.

We have been able to once again survey the lake for invasive plant life, as well as inspect boats as they enter the lake.

Our goals moving forward are many...

First, with your help, we need to grow our membership as well as encourage everyone's involvement in our mission. This will enable us to increase the much-needed Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI), which is the number one preventive measure for stopping invasive plant life.

**Remember, an infestation is only one boat away.**

Second, we need to promote and educate everyone relative to best practices in lake stewardship through signage, educational presentations, both live and on the web.

Third, we need to raise the resources to accomplish our mission through sponsorships, donations and volunteerism.

By fulfilling these goals we can institutionalize the necessary steps to preserve our beautiful Maranacook Lake.

Lastly, I want to thank those for their recent generous donations and your dedicated board of directors for all that they do.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter S. Washburn

**We are currently looking for INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THREE BOARD POSITIONS...**

**We are especially in need of individuals willing to  
transition into the following positions in 2023  
Membership Chair, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor**

**If you have an interest in any of these positions, please contact Peter Washburn-President  
at [maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com) or 207-441-9396**

**ANNUAL MEETING – Saturday, July 16, 2022 ~ 8:30 a.m.**  
**PLACE To Be Determined**

**2021 ANNUAL MEETING WAS HELD SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021 AT THE BAILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**THE PRESENT SLATE OF OFFICERS VOLUNTEERED TO REMAIN IN PLACE FOR 2022**

**Peter Washburn, President**  
**Anne Schmidt, Secretary**

**Lynn Reed, Vice President/Membership Chair**  
**Terri Kangas, Treasurer**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**2021 Beginning Balance 12,273.40 (+ 21,151.00 Income - 8,350.13 Expenses) = 25,074.27 Ending Balance**  
**2020 Beginning Balance 8,576.27 (+ 12,564.00 Income - 8,866.87 Expenses) = 12,273.40 Ending Balance**  
**2019 Beginning Balance 10,091.24 (+ 10,395.17 Income - 11,910.14 Expenses) = 8,576.27 Ending Balance**  
**2018 Beginning Balance 10,993.81 (+ 8,585.00 Income - 9,487.57 Expenses) = 10,091.24 Ending Balance**

**The significant increase in revenue in 2021 was primarily due to an increase in donations from members including an extremely generous donation from one member and numerous donations received in memory of MLA member Jim Schmidt who passed away on October 5, 2021. Jim Schmidt and his wife Anne (MLA board member) have lived on Maranacook Lake and been passionate supporters of MLA and its mission for many years. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Schmidt family for choosing MLA to be the recipient of donations in Jim's memory.**

**All of these donations are strategically being used to increase coverage of both boat launches by the CBI program to prevent invasive plants from entering the lake over the next few years.**

**A HUGE THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ALL WHO MADE THESE DONATIONS!!!**

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**At the end of 2021 we had 275 members on the membership roster of which 218 paid dues in 2021 (189 renewals, 29 new members)**

**WE THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

**57 members did not pay dues in 2021 (57 @ \$30 = 1,710.00 in lost revenue)**

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!!!**

**IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF CBI COVERAGE AT BOTH PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCHES IN WINTHROP AND READFIELD WE NEED ALL MLA MEMBERS TO RENEW AND PAY THEIR MEMBERSHIP DUES.**

**WE ALSO NEED MLA MEMBERS TO HELP US RECRUIT NON-MEMBER LAKEFRONT PROPERTY OWNERS AND OTHERS WHO USE AND ENJOY THE LAKE TO JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS! (LESS THAN 40% OF HOUSEHOLDS ON AND AROUND THE LAKE ARE CURRENTLY MLA MEMBERS)**

**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**  
**P.O. Box 6**  
**Winthrop, ME 04364**  
**maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com**

## **Your Board of Directors**

**Peter Washburn, President**  
207-441-9396

**Lynn Roberts Reed**  
**Vice President/Membership**  
207-441-7333

**Anne Schmidt**  
**Secretary**  
207-458-0922

**Theresa Kangas**  
**Treasurer**  
207-395-5344

**Tom Baker**  
**Web Coordinator**  
978-886-3964

**Barry McCluskey**  
207-395-5344

**Greg Piper**  
207-707-2111

**Penny Pray**  
207-242-0468

**Heinz Walbaum**  
207-755-1327

**Tanner Webb**  
207-441-4537



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UPDATED NEWS & EVENTS**

### **2021 MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT**

**MARANACOOK LAKE 2021**  
**27 Adults - 2 Chicks - 1 Nest**

For data from 1983 to present visit  
<https://www.lakesofmaine.org/lake-loons.html?m=5312>

### **8 BASS TOURNAMENTS**

**WERE HELD ON**

**MARANACOOK LAKE 2021**

For more detailed information visit  
<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/bass-tournaments.html>

**2021 & 2022 WINTER SOCIALS**

**CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19**

**STAY WELL EVERYONE, WE ARE  
PLANNING A 2023 WINTER SOCIAL!**

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



## Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Maranacook 2021 Invasive Aquatic Plants Report

Greetings from the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, we have good news to report regarding Invasive Aquatic Plants and Maranacook during the 2021 summer/growing season: **A FULL SURVEY OF THE SHALLOW AREAS OF MARANACOOK LAKE BY THE FRIENDS PLANT SURVEY TEAM RESULTED IN NO FINDS OF INVASIVE PLANTS GROWING IN THE LAKE!**

The Friends plant survey team consists of 4-5 college students and adults who are trained to identify plants growing in the water that may be suspicious for being an invasive plant. The team plies the waters via kayaks and paddleboards, looking into the water as deep as 15 feet, in the littoral zone determined by sunlight's ability to reach the growing plants.

When a suspicious plant is found, a sample is taken and brought to Toni Pied, the Friends resident plant specialist. While the ideal situation would have surveyors constantly scanning the littoral zone for suspicious plants during the entire growing season, a full survey of these shallow areas every year is a good step towards finding a rooted invasive plant before it is able to spread into a full-blown infestation.

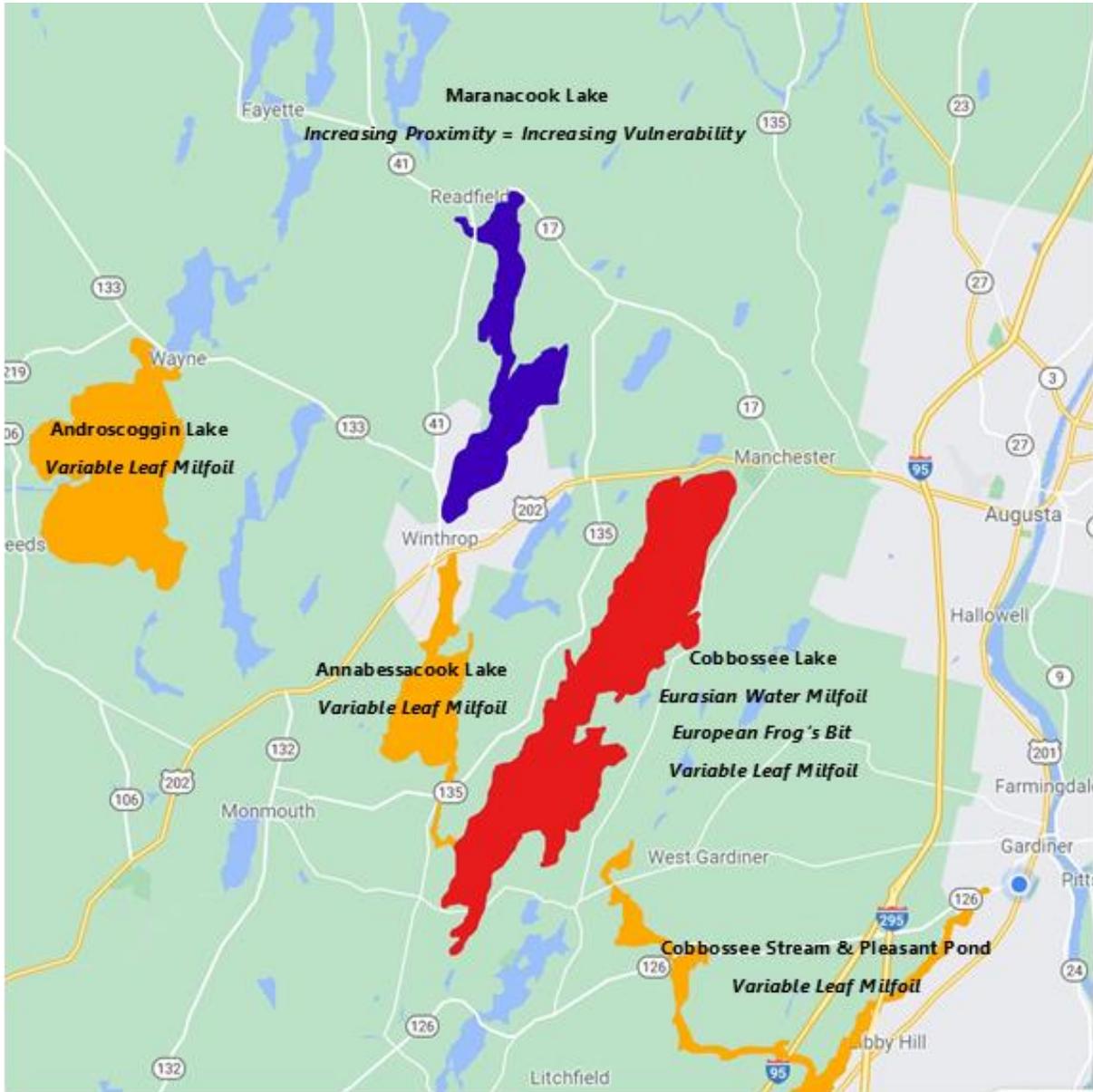
Equally important to the plant survey's "early detection" concept, is the preventative measures of the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program. 2021 marked the 18<sup>th</sup> year of boat inspections provided at launches on Maranacook, as a "courtesy" to boaters. The goal of the program is two-pronged: prevent fragments of aquatic plants from entering or leaving Maranacook while educating the boater to self-inspect when paid inspectors are not on hand.

**This past summer 2,014 inspections were performed between the Route 41 (Readfield) and Norcross Point (Winthrop) launches; 24% of those inspections yielded plant fragments that were removed, more than double the % in 2019 (see backside of article for last 3 years stats)**

The cost of this program is not free; efforts between Courtesy Boat Inspection and Plant Survey work in 2021 exceeded **\$13,800** however the cost of preventative measures is far less than control efforts after invasive plants are able to establish.

Maranacook is a lake in serious jeopardy of having aquatic invasive plants introduced. The map provided shows the current lakes in close vicinity to Maranacook that are battling invasive aquatic plants. Ten years ago, the threats were to the south east (Cobbossee Stream/Pleasant Pond) and north east (Belgrade Lakes). In 2021, the threat has moved incredibly closer: to Annabessacook directly downstream of Maranacook, Cobbossee Lake to the near southeast and most recently, Androscoggin Lake to the west. The seriousness of this threat is probably best showcased in Cobbossee Lake, where the lake association, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Friends are working together to battle not one, but three invasive plants; two of which expand their territory at extraordinary speeds: Eurasian Water Milfoil and European Frog's Bit. I encourage you to check out our updates in the Cobbossee Yacht Club Lake Association's newsletters on their website for more information on this ongoing threat [www.cycmaine.org](http://www.cycmaine.org)

For more information on Invasive Aquatic Plants or the Friends other lake protection efforts, please contact Tamara Whitmore [tamara@watershedfriend.com](mailto:tamara@watershedfriend.com) or Toni Pied [toni@watershedfriends.com](mailto:toni@watershedfriends.com)  
207-395-5239



**2019-2021 CBI STATISTICS**

**2021**

**679 PD HRS - 2,014 INSPECTIONS - 483 INSPECTIONS WHERE PLANT FRAGMENTS WERE FOUND & REMOVED (24% OF ALL INSPECTIONS, MORE THAN DOUBLE THE % IN 2019!)**

**2020**

**651 PD HRS - 2,208 INSPECTIONS - 396 INSPECTIONS WHERE PLANT FRAGMENTS WERE FOUND & REMOVED (18% OF ALL INSPECTIONS)**

**2019**

**718 PD HRS - 1,998 INSPECTIONS 218 INSPECTIONS WHERE PLANT FRAGMENTS WERE FOUND & REMOVED (11% OF ALL INSPECTIONS)**



## News from Cobbosee Watershed District

By Wendy Dennis, December 2021



### Maranacook Lake Water Clarity

Once again, Cobbosee Watershed District (CWD) staff - Ryan Burton and Wendy Dennis – and dedicated Maranacook Lake resident volunteers Ed Dodge, Shelly Gerstein, and Gale Mettey, tracked lake water clarity in 2021 at two stations in the lake. We do this by using a Secchi disk, pictured at right. Maranacook Lake continues to have good water clarity. At the south basin “deep” station, where the lake is over 110 feet deep, all Secchi disk measurements were between 6.0 and 7.9 meters, which converts to between 20 and 26 feet and is considered very good. The north basin usually has good clarity that is somewhat lower than the south basin due to differences in lake and watershed characteristics. The 2021 average water clarity of 4.8 meters (nearly 16 feet) in 2021 was typical. What was somewhat unusual is that the lowest water clarity of the season occurred in July and early August, while the fall water clarity, which is usually the season’s lowest, was really quite good! It is reasonable to suspect that the nearly 8 inches of rain that fell in July washed some nutrients and particles into the lake which affected water quality. The need persists to reduce phosphorus runoff and soil erosion from the watershed. As a final note, like last year, we measured some very warm surface temperatures in Maranacook Lake, 80°F or more in late June and in August.

### Maranacook Lake Level Management

“Management” implies that there is a plan that can be executed to manage water levels. The Cobbosee Watershed District, working with the Towns of Readfield and Winthrop as dam owners, and in communication with the Maranacook Lake Association, does implement water level management according to broad CWD water levels standards which give guidance in order to prevent flooding and shoreline erosion, support recreational use, and protect environmental and aquatic life conditions. The success of the management, however, is tied to highly variable and somewhat unpredictable weather conditions. General patterns of water level management can usually be achieved but specific levels cannot be guaranteed. By the end of 2021, CWD will have measured the water level of Maranacook Lake nearly 150 times. As of early December there have been 36 adjustments (raising or lowering) of the Maranacook Lake Dam gate in 2021. Hopefully MLA members will find the following information educational.

#### FALL DRAWDOWN

**What is a lake “drawdown”?** A lake drawdown is the intentional act of lowering the surface level of the lake. It is usually actively done by increasing the release of water from the dam that holds water in the lake, although sometimes it is done passively if weather conditions have resulted in less water coming into the lake than is going out. Drawdowns are typically conducted in the fall of the year at eight dams within the Cobbosee Watershed, which results in lower water on 14 lakes in the watershed. Maranacook Lake is included in these numbers of lakes and dams, now that the dam at the outlet of Maranacook Lake has been renovated (completed early 2020).

**What is the purpose of a drawdown?** Winter and spring flood control is the primary reason the lake level is lowered. Once the ground is frozen, most of the water from rainstorms is directly transported to the lake, as opposed to during the growing season when a substantial portion of rainwater infiltrates into the soil. From December through early April, rainfall will cause flooding more readily. Therefore the drawdowns are scheduled to be completed before December. The highest flood potential occurs in late winter and early spring when snowmelt occurs, and especially when snowmelt and large rainstorms occur simultaneously. Efforts are made to keep lake levels stable and as close to the drawdown level as possible before the spring runoff period. Once spring runoff is underway it is usually not possible to keep up with the inflowing water, so creating some storage beforehand is a safety measure.

**How low will the lake drawdown go?** The amount, or depth, that a lake is lowered by drawdown varies, depending on how much water discharge it must handle from upstream lakes, and how large the watershed, or land drainage area, is around the lake, coupled with the ability of the dam at the outlet of the lake to release water. Cobbosee Watershed District has targeted a drawdown of 1 foot below the full pond elevation for Maranacook Lake. In contrast, the drawdown target for Cobbosee Lake is around 2.5 feet below full. Part of

the basis is that Maranacook Lake receives water from four upstream waterbodies, three of which are very small, while in comparison, fourteen lakes or ponds drain into Cobbossee Lake. Keep in mind that the drawdown amount is a vertical measurement, a depth of water, not a horizontal distance of water from the shoreline. A one foot drawdown on Maranacook Lake would result in a lake level of 210.5 feet above sea level (NGVD 1929), using the system used by USGS to calibrate our gage.

**What is the Maranacook Lake drawdown schedule?** The drawdown will typically begin sometime in October. This year dry weather for most of October allowed the drawdown to not start until late October. The Maranacook Lake drawdown level goal of 1 foot below full pond is a target. How long it takes to reach the goal, and how well the target level can be maintained, depends somewhat on the weather. For much of October the lake level was three to four inches below full pond, so when the drawdown started the aim was to lower the lake another 9 inches by mid-November. The drawdown went a little slowly due to more than 3 inches of rainfall in the last week of October, and then another two inch rainstorm in mid-November. The lake rose to full pond temporarily before it declined to the drawdown target. Note that the lake coming up a bit following rain does not indicate a problem with the dam; in fact, it is because of the new large gate that the lake only came up a few inches. In comparison, the late October rain caused an 11 inch rise at Annabessacook Lake and a 2 foot increase at Pleasant Pond. The Maranacook Lake drawdown goal was reached in early December.

**Is the fall drawdown target an unusual level for Maranacook Lake?** Water level records collected by CWD since 1975 reveal that the answer is both: Yes and No. In the past, Maranacook Lake would be around the drawdown level (no more than 3 inches above) at some point in late summer or fall nearly every year (90% of them) until the former dam owner Carleton Woolen Mill reconstructed the dam in 1995. The new dam structure caused flooding and erosion problems, which became the incentive for the current dam owners to renovate the dam in 2019 with a lower spillway and a larger gate to allow for greater water level control. In the years between those two dam reconstructions, Maranacook Lake was no longer typically near the drawdown level (no more than 3 inches above) at some point in late summer or fall; that only happened in 33% of the years. Now it appears possible to return to the previously-seen lower levels in fall, and, also to maintain them during winter, which has seldom been the case. This will be monitored. Associated benefits or problems will be evaluated to determine if the drawdown target needs adjusting.

### **What about water level management for other seasons?**

**Winter to early spring:** The water levels management goal for winter into early spring is to keep the lower lake level as stable as possible until spring runoff happens, which will cause the lake to refill from snowmelt and spring rain. At that time the dam will be operated to pass water to reduce flooding. The new gate at the dam will keep flood levels lower than was possible with the old gate and former high spillway, although some flooding is to be expected if snowmelt and rainfall are substantial.

**Spring, the elusive season:** When the danger of spring flooding appears to have subsided, the dam will be operated to hold water in the lake such that the lake will be at full pond by the end of May. Even if snow cover is low in early spring such as it was last year, the lake level will not be brought up right away because, as mentioned earlier, the runoff potential will still be high until the growing season is underway.

**Summer:** The summer water level season begins in June. The goal is to start the season with a full pond, and, expecting the level to decline during summer due to evaporation, minimize the amount of water leaving the lake such that the decline is gradual. Typically a small amount of outflow at the dam needs to be maintained for aquatic life in the Mill Stream, the receiving water downstream. The full pond level is 211.5 feet above sea level using the NGVD 1929 system, which is what our gage measures. *(For anyone who wants to compare the lake full pond level to survey data that used the more current NAVD 1988 system, which may have been used on any survey data for their property in the past few years, full pond would be 210.9 feet above sea level. This can be confusing. At this time CWD water level reports out lake levels in the NGVD 1929 system.)*

**Information:** The Cobbossee Watershed District issues a monthly water levels report that includes Maranacook Lake. You will be able to access that on the Cobbossee Watershed District facebook page and/or the Maranacook Lake Association facebook page. For additional information, call the Cobbossee Watershed District at 207.377.2234 or email [cwg@fairpoint.net](mailto:cwd@fairpoint.net).