

THE ALIC NEWS

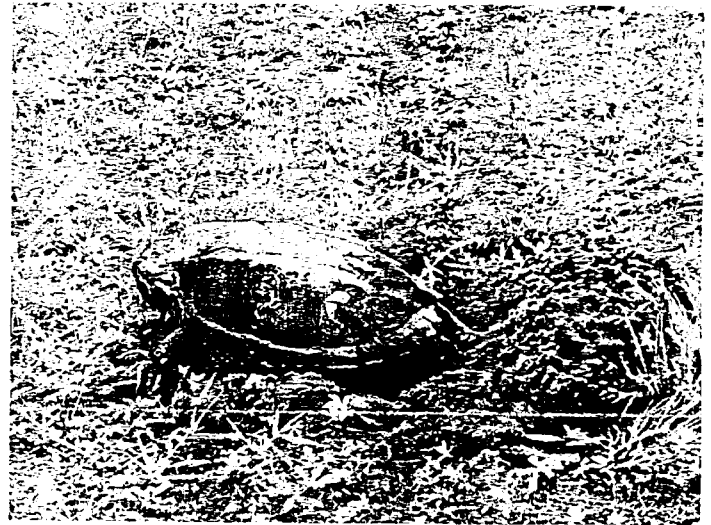
P.O. Box 307, Wayne, ME 04284
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Summer 2006

Preserving The Resource We All Share

By Anne Huntington, President of ALIC's Board of Directors

We have had a wonderful spring here on Morrison Heights. As I draft this, the leaves are just starting to obstruct my incredible view of the lake. Mount Washington is still snow covered so even though the gardens are ready to plant, local wisdom says there could still be a frost. Wonderful news!! There are two very young eagle chicks on the nest. Based on behavioral observations, we think we may be watching two different, perhaps younger, adults. If that is the case, we have a much better chance of surviving chicks. The mergansers and other early migratory waterfowl are long gone and the loons sing every night. The black flies weren't bad this year and mud season was almost not noticeable but the frost heaves on the paved roads were more like canyons.



Are you making your contributions to the lake community? If you can't lay eggs, join ALIC and think about volunteering.

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Photos

Debbie Hite and Anne Huntington

For the first time since I have lived in Wayne, there was no spring flood and no overflow from the Androscoggin River!! This means that the boards on the dam are intact and are not in need of immediate repair. This spring more improvements were made on the road so that we can count on year- round access for repairs. The dam maintenance committee, thanks to Bruce Cavanagh and Ian Barclay, is doing an incredible job. This is the second year that the paper mills have provided funds to cover the maintenance of the dam. Remember to thank Molly for her incredible efforts which resulted in the MOA with the mills. Also, the Dam Maintenance Committee appreciates all efforts to keep potential flotsam cleaned up because eventually much of it needs to be fished out of the dam grates, which can be quite a task.

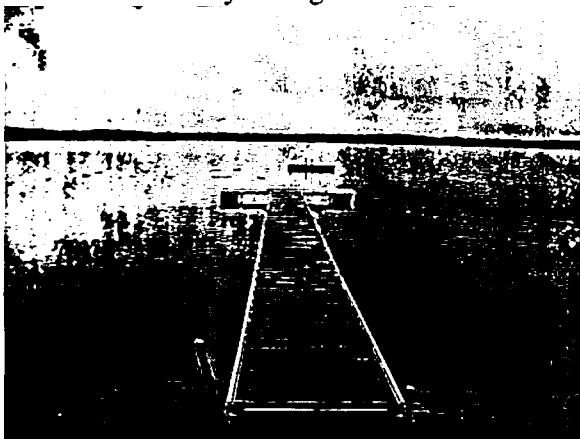
Presidents Message (continued)

Even though we had almost no spring runoff, the recent heavy rains have raised the lake level to seasonal norms. Like everything else, the lake level benefits some and is not so great for others. The early loon nests were mostly flooded when the water level rose so if we want chicks this year we need to be especially careful of those pairs that try again. This means not disturbing the setting birds and observing the no-wake zones especially near the passage between Hog Island and the head of the Delta, around Lothrop (Black-Sand) Island and around Blodgett Island.

This year the Board is tackling the phosphorus problem head on. The Watershed Grant Committee, Debbie Hite-Chair, has been working on a section 319 grant in conjunction with the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District. If we are successful, we will have the funds to start implementing some of the phosphorus reduction projects identified by the survey that was completed in 2000 as well as some which have been identified more recently. See the article on page (3) for more information about this opportunity.

Finally, the ALIC Board needs a few good men or women who are willing to help us take care of the business that helps take care of the lake. If you have any interest in joining us, or helping in any way with wildlife, plant, or water quality monitoring, PLEASE contact any member of the ALIC Board. Contact information appears on the newsletter cover. We need participation from summer residents or friends of Androscoggin Lake on both the Board and on various committees.

Let's have a great summer and enjoy the incredible resource we are lucky enough to share.



A quiet moment at Leeds beach.

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program Upcoming Events

VLMP is a nonprofit group with offices in Auburn that encourages responsible stewardship of our natural resources with a focus on lakes. They offer many programs and lectures that may be of interest to ALIC members and friends. Their website can be found at:

www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org .

The Wayne Conservation Commission in conjunction with VLMP is offering training in invasive aquatic plant monitoring at the Bearnstow Camp in Mount Vernon on July 12. This workshop is offered free of charge and ALIC believes that the more people we have around the lake who have had the training...the better our chances of catching an infestation early when control is most likely to be successful. If you are interested in this training, please contact Anne Huntington if you have questions or register by phone or through the above website. If you are interested but not available that day, the training is offered at several other locations around the State this summer. Check the VLMP web-site for details.

VLMP is also offering a summer lecture series at the Brackett Environmental Center in Auburn. Pre-registration is appreciated. For more information and directions call 783-7733 or check online at the web-site.

VLMP Summer Lecture Series

June 15, 6:30 PM---Love Upon the High Seas: A Unique Glimpse of the Mating Behavior of Harbor Seals

July 13, 6:30 PM---Silent Unraveling: The effect of Global Warming on Coral Reefs

Date /Time TBA---All About Maine Lakes: A Seminar on the Water

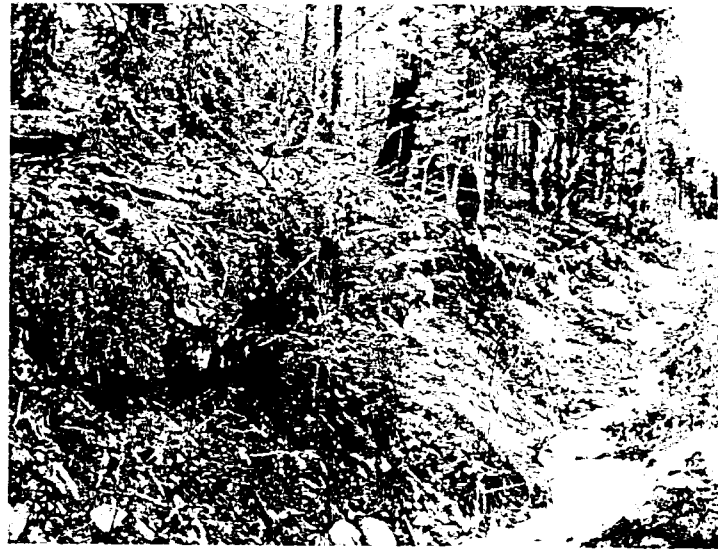
September /Time TBA---Invasive Terrestrial Plants

Phosphorus Reduction and the Watershed Grant Process

As I write this entry for the newsletter, we're in our third day of rain. The streams are swollen and water is running off the roads, across lawns and parking pads, carrying with it nutrients which eventually will enter the lake. Non-point source pollution - namely phosphorus - is what we need to reduce in Androscoggin Lake. Levels above 15 parts per billion increase the likelihood of blooms; our summer concentrations average 16-17 ppb. Our hope is to reduce our summer phosphorus levels to a more normal 12 ppb. If we can do this, we will reduce the chances that the lake will continue to suffer from algae blooms. A bloom is caused when tiny microscopic plants feed on excess phosphorus and reproduce to the point that the water itself turns green. Phosphorus is present in fertilizers (the middle number), manure and other products, like motor oil, which should never be used or disposed of in such a manner that they can become part of the runoff that ends up in the lake. It is also found in soils and gravel where it is bound to fine particles or sediments. It becomes a problem when those materials erode and sediments are carried to the lake in the runoff.

Maintaining the dam will help but that is only part of the solution. We also need ALL landowners in the watershed to see themselves as stewards and to take responsibility for maintaining the quality of the lake we share. What can you do? If you can slow or stop the nutrient-laden runoff, you can reduce the phosphorus. **THINK BUFFER ZONES** which absorb runoff before it gets to the lake. Water and nutrient rich sediments run off pavement, compacted soils, disturbed bare soils, lawns and roofs. You can: use berms, let the brush grow, plant shrubs, and use conservation mulch. Comply with Shoreland Zoning and other laws designed to protect water quality. Don't cut the trees (it's OK to limb them). Do not fill or channel wetlands. Properly maintained roads with water bars, culverts, ditches and catch basins curb erosion and divert runoff so that it can be absorbed before it carries sediment into the lake. There are many good solutions.

ALIC is partnering with the Kennebec County Soil and



Ditch Erosion

Water Conservation District for a Section 319 NPS grant to help remediate some of our non-point source phosphorus problem areas. The proposal was submitted to the State on June 1 and notification is expected at the end of July. This is the final section of the Watershed Management Plan which was started in 2000. While preparing the current proposal, we resurveyed parts of the watershed to identify current needs. If we get the grant, ALIC will have access to technical assistance, matching funds, and educational materials to implement conservation practices on qualifying sites. We will work with the towns of Wayne and Leeds, road associations and individual landowners who can potentially benefit from the available resources. A revised work plan which identifies final project sites where landowners have agreed to participate in the remediation effort will be due in September. Projects will start in April 2007 and must be completed within a two-year period. We will also be developing educational materials and other learning opportunities as the project progresses.

If you have a project that might be eligible for this program, need technical or financial help or more information, please contact committee chair Debbie Hite, 211 Lakeshore Dr., Leeds, ME 04263 207-524-2009 pushywoman@aol.com We appreciate your interest and support!

From "The Road to Summer Paradise"

by:
Pete Spivey



THE "GARAGES"

"Back in 1918 or thereabouts, my mom, Virginia Street, came to Wayne with her mother and dad (known as "Uncle Doc and Auntie Mabel" Street). They arrived fairly late and it was dark and rainy. At the top of the hill they came to a gate and since my grandfather had never been there before he opted to walk down to see if they were at the right place. Quite some time later he came back and confirmed that they were where they wanted to be.

My mom then had to get out of the car and proceed to open at least five gates - and close them - before they arrived at the garage area which had at least 7-9 garages (currently behind Lees/Gardners). They walked the rest of the way to the camp which they rented from Mr. Lincoln and is now owned by the Browns. They learned of the rental from the Burrs.

Auntie Mabel didn't care much for the place so she asked to stay in the Point cottage the following year (1919). From that time on it was always the camp they rented until my dad, Del Spivey, bought it in 1946.

During that time (1919-1946) a family named McFadden lived in the other side of the camp (it was a duplex) and back-to-back kitchens separated the two "homes."

In those days the camp was very primitive: no interior walls with the exception of the single wall separating the kitchen from the rest of the house. Upstairs it was open to the rafters and a single sheet separated the two "bedrooms." All lighting was by kerosene lamps and heat was supplied by a wood stove. A hand pump in the kitchen was the water supply and there was an outhouse for each "home" of the duplex. It became my job to empty the outhouses at the beginning of the summer. It was easy and not too smelly, so I hired out to clean a number of others along the shore. I guess there was a spring at camp in those days, but the first one I remember was at Hyatt's in '36 or '37 and I would visit it with Betsy, the Reed's nanny (I guess that's the best word I can use).

The best thing about the Point cottage was its porch, which went along two sides which faced the lake. I can remember eating on that porch for years and my granddad throwing corn cobs into the lake after dinner.

As for the road, I don't know when the farmhouse at the top was built, but it was there all the time I can remember until WWII. My mom told me about the gates (with poles, not the swing-open type) but I don't remember them. I do know that there must have been fields where the woods are now 'cause you can still find the remains of the stone fences that kept cows from entering certain fields.

I do remember Indians coming down the hills to trade trinkets and stuff to the campers. My mom used to talk about an old Indian school about on the Holman runway and I think I can remember its ruins. Also remember Charlie Gott bringing eggs, milk, butter and other foodstuff to camp, first by boat and later by truck.

My mom used to run across the rocks to town. (I found this hard to believe until this summer with the lake so low.) I guess we tend to forget the times when the lake was so low that there really were Seven Sisters in front of the Cummings' place. There was an old ice house and the old boat house on the beach, both of which were used by everyone in my early youth. After WWII the ice house was moved to the old road that led to the beach behind our place.

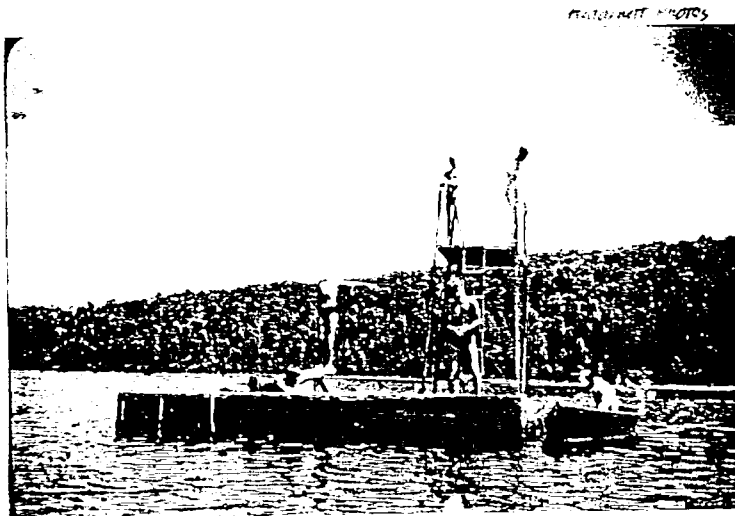
I guess I could go on for a long time, but enough for now, and next time we'll cover by decades so it will make better sense."



Right out front

Pete Spivey passed away in early May at the age of 74. He was a dear friend of our lake community and will be sorely missed. There was a wonderful compilation of memories put together in 2000 by the summer folks of Lincoln Point called The Road to Summer Paradise. The above is Pete's recollection of his early years at camp. Pete used to say that he wished he could redo his contribution so Tom Wells edited his remarks slightly. While we will miss him terribly, his memories of "Paradise" will be valued by all.

Pictures are from "The Road to Summer Paradise" and were from the Lee and Hoddinott Collections. My thanks to Gary Walters for sharing his copy with me.
ALH



THE FLAT

Notice:

ALIC will continue to mail the newsletter to our members. If you are not a member and would like to continue to receive this newsletter, please contact Debbie Hite or Alison Rich and make sure we have a valid address. Thank you.

Do We Have a New Resident in Androscoggin Lake?



Picture by Lucas Hoddwells Wayne Elementary School. Fifth Grade

Ice fishermen are reporting that Northern Pike have appeared in Androscoggin Lake. This voracious predator was illegally introduced into central Maine lakes several years ago and has spread through several watersheds, frequently with help from irresponsible "sportsmen". While large pike are very popular with some fishermen, they are capable of severely disrupting the other fisheries on a lake. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife would like to restrict the pike populations to the places where they have already become well established. IF and W therefore recommends that pike caught in Androscoggin Lake not be released. They would also like to confirm the presence of pike when they appear so, if you catch one, please freeze it and contact Region 2 fisheries biologist Bob Van Riper at 547-5314. Remember it is illegal to move any live fish from one body of water to another.

The Great Wayne Fair

The great Wayne Fair is going to be held Saturday, August 5, at the Wayne Elementary School. Anyone interested in participating – renting a craft/art booth, selling food, or playing music should contact either Lisa Clarq (685-3130) or Stan Davis (685-9636), entertainers should contact Louise Sidelinger (685-3855). There will be lots to see and activities for children of all ages.

The ALIC Board would like to contribute by celebrating the beauty and importance of Androscoggin Lake. We want to provide an area for people to share their impressions of the Lake. If you have a painting, photo, poem or story or anything else to share or display, please contact Martha Hoddinott at 685-3332 by July 15, so that she can make plans for the show.

Board Members and Volunteers Needed!

The individual histories that connect us to this area are so varied, but the common bond we all have is our love for the lake. Wherever our lives lead us, we always seem to be drawn back to the warm days of summertime on Androscoggin Lake. It nourishes our lives with its warm waters, scenic views, abundant wildlife and endless sunsets. We are all so lucky to be here in this place!

ALIC values our "lake dwellers," but needs their support in keeping our waters clean and the wildlife community healthy. The Board of Directors is in desperate need of an infusion of "new blood" and we're looking especially to summer folks to re-energize us! Please consider becoming an active member of the ALIC Board of Directors. We will organize informal meetings throughout the summer months to accommodate our seasonal residents and can stay connected through e-mail during the remainder of the year. Please call Molly (685-4982) or Martha (685-3332) to discuss the possibilities.



June 12th 2006

Following several days of rain the Androscoggin River is flooding back into the Dead River.

New Hope for Androscoggin River Clean up!

The Maine DEP has issued new draft discharge licenses for IP and Rumford Paper Company, and finally there is hope that the Androscoggin River will eventually be in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

A different version of the licenses, issued in 2005, allowed the mills 10 years to reach compliance with Class C standards. (This, the lowest water quality standard still requires that the river be "fishable and swimmable" and free of algal blooms.)

Normally, dischargers must comply with a new license on the day it is issued. Because this unusual 10 year compliance schedule was deemed illegal under the Clean Water Act, the licenses were appealed by the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the Conservation Law Foundation, Maine Rivers, and the Androscoggin River Alliance. ALIC joined that appeal, because the integrity of the Clean Water Act is crucial to the future health and restoration of Androscoggin Lake.

These latest draft licenses, issued by the new DEP commissioner David Litell, with courageous support from Governor Baldacci, are much improved. The discharge reductions needed to bring the river into compliance are increased and the mills are allowed 2 1/2 or 5 years (depending on the pollutant) to make the reductions.

Rumford Paper Company (formally Mead) has done an excellent job managing its waste treatment plant, and is already discharging at the reduced levels required.

IP will need to make modifications to its waste treatment and to the in-plant process. Therefore the extra 2/12 years seems the fairest and least disruptive solution to this long and difficult dispute.

ALIC will continue to monitor the license process. We are hopeful that state government and the mills are finally moving in the right direction: commitment to long term clean-up of the Androscoggin River.

****Septic News and Views****

Phosphorus isn't the only nutrient of concern in Androscoggin Lake. Septic runoff is not only a source of nutrients but can also contribute significant bacterial and other types of contamination to the lake and to wells. Here are a few tips to keep your system working properly.

- ✓ Pump your system every 3-5 years depending on use.
- ✓ Don't put food, grease or household chemicals down the drain or use the toilet as a trash can.
- ✓ Don't use septic system additives.
- ✓ Conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater (A really good low flow toilet only costs about \$75 now).
- ✓ Check for signs of a failing system: bright green grass; soggy soil, bad smell, or sluggish drainage.
- ✓ Start thinking about inspecting and maybe even replacing systems installed before 1974 or even those more than 20 years old. Always consult the Plumbing Inspector before any septic construction or changes in septic usage.
- ✓ If you use a holding tank, make sure it has a functioning alarm and ensure that it is water tight and pumped when it is full which could be as often as every couple of weeks. The necessity for frequent pumping makes a holding tank the "system of last resort".

ALIC is working on a coordinated septic system pumping program. If we have enough interest, we can schedule multiple appointments on a single day and negotiate a reduced rate from the pumping company. The tank opening would need to be uncovered and someone would need to be available to meet the truck. If you are interested, please contact Buddy Seymour at keseymou@yahoo.com.

The Dam Maintenance Committee

Here is a great example of the e-mails we receive from the ever diligent members of the Dam Maintenance Committee. Our thanks for their never-ending work which benefits the entire lake community.

Bruce, Please forward to all:

Seems our pre-emptive strikes on the debris in the Dam during Mud Season have paid off regardless of all the flood water thrown our way, we are still looking OK, borderline high.. but OK.

The Androscoggin Rivers gauge indicates it is dropping 3+ inches per day. I checked the dam last night. The A River side is maybe 18 inches higher than the Lake side, which means within the next 5-10 days we will have correct out-flow again. I kayaked out to the river mouth this morning and while waters are high, we are still not (YEA!!) into the woods.

Within that same 5-10 day window is when we will want to have a work party at the dam to intercept the logs and debris presently "looming on the horizon" in the dam lagoon. The impending minimal water pressure will make for easy work.



Almost Over! June 12th 2006

I'm not sure if this was ever noted, but when the A-river side is higher than the Lake side Barn Door #2 appears to work perfectly with no visible current, while the East side of Barn door#1 allows significant back flow. Maybe we need a patch??

Thanks, Ian

ALIC Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 23,

5-8 p.m. at the Androscoggin Yacht Club in Wayne

“Who wants to give up a lovely Saturday morning to attend a meeting?”

Similar comments and the desire to attract some folks who may not have previously been available have prompted the ALIC Board of Directors to try a new format for the annual meeting this year. While everyone always enjoyed the delicious Saturday brunches of the past, we think a table set for “a lighter fare” (finger foods, small sandwiches, and desserts) also has tremendous appeal, especially at twilight time. After the meal, you’ll receive an update on the status of ALIC and its interests and also valuable, practical information coming out of the watershed management plan. There may be a video or a Power-Point presentation or both, but you’re sure to come away better informed on what we can all do to protect this natural resource we love so much - Androscoggin Lake.

Please Mark Your Calendar and join us!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Our mission to protect and preserve beautiful Lake Androscoggin can continue only with your support. Renew your membership today!

Name _____

Summer address: _____

Winter address: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed _____

THANK YOU

DUES: \$20 Individual \$35 Family \$50 Loan supporter

 \$75 Contributor \$100 Benefactor _____ Dick Hoddinot
Lake Advocacy Fund

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ALIC Board of Directors

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Molly Saunders- Chair Water Quality Committee
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Bruce Cavanagh- Rep to Dam Advisory Committee
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Jean Gardner
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Buddy Seymour
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Advisory Board

Theresa Kerchner- Kennebec Land Trust
Peter Hirsch- Camp Androscoggin
Jack Mahoney- emeritus
Carroll Paradis- Wayne Selectman
Beth Pochopien- Water Quality Monitor

Board Committees

****We welcome anyone to join****
Contact any Committee Member

Membership and Fundraising
Alison Rich, Chair
Jean Gardner

Lake Stewardship
_____, Chair
Molly Saunders
Martha Hoddinott

Watershed (319) Grant
Debbie Hite, Chair
Anne Huntington

Water Quality
Molly Saunders, Chair
Beth Pochopien
Martha Hoddinott

Outreach and Community Education
_____, Chair
Jean Gardner
Anne Huntington

Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corp.
PO Box 307, Wayne ME 04284
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