



THE ALIC NEWS

Please join or renew today

SUMMER 2007

State of the Lake Presidents message by Anne Huntington

Well, the black flies hatched today so since they make it uncomfortable to work in the garden, it seems a great time to reflect on the past year and its impacts on Androscoggin Lake.

We had a beautiful fall that really did last almost forever. The lake didn't freeze until well into the New Year. I remember thinking about whether it was legal to ice-fish from a boat. I still don't know the answer to that one. We had very little snow until the end of January. There was much less ice fishing than usual and the vehicular traffic on the lake was almost unnoticeable. Alison Lincoln-Rich tells me that there are a lot of brown trout that didn't get caught this winter so that makes the spring fishing look inviting. The water was very low right up until the ice started to melt in April. At that point we had rain and rain and more rain. Consequently the lake was extremely high this spring and remains high as I write this on May 9. It rose almost to the flagpole at the Yacht Club and has retreated a couple of feet but is still over the lower end of the public boat launch in Wayne. We had one back flow which fortunately didn't harm the dam but it took a looong time for the Androscoggin River to go down enough so that the water could escape from the lake. All in all it was a very strange winter.

The Board of ALIC has been working this winter to outline our priorities for the coming years.

We continue to monitor the water quality issues and licensing proceedings affecting the Androscoggin River. Even though the dam on the Dead River was not seriously damaged this year, the backflow continues to remind us that our water quality is linked to that of the River. We do not yet know if maintaining the dam will be sufficient to lower our phosphorus levels enough so that we will not suffer blooms. It took a long time to create the problem and it takes a long time to fix it. In the meantime, we have continued to pursue grant opportunities to fund phosphorus reduction efforts in our immediate watershed. This process continues to be frustrating. There are a lot more organizations competing for a smaller pot of available money. It may be that if ALIC and waterfront property owners really want to take additional steps to protect our lake from damaging algae blooms, it will be necessary to pay for improvements ourselves. The Board is exploring options for using a portion of our resources to assist with remedial projects either through technical assistance or matching grants. This will be a topic for discussion at the Annual Meeting in August. Sue Waterman will be taking the Secchi disc readings this summer and submitting the data to DEP and VLMP so that we

can monitor water clarity and phosphorus levels. Our everlasting thanks go to Beth Pochopien and Jack Mahoney for the years that they have been responsible for this important testing.

ALIC Board members continue to be concerned about the potential impact from invasive aquatic plants. Several members have received training in plant identification and we continue to monitor the weed beds around the lake. It is vitally important that each and every boat that enters Androscoggin Lake be completely free from plant material. We no longer have a regular inspection program at the launches because it proved extremely difficult to find volunteers to staff the inspection stations. It is up to all of us to be vigilant. As camp owners you can help. If you see someone launching a boat with plant material on it, you can politely remind them that it could be very damaging (it is also illegal). You can also make yourself familiar with the plants in your area. Then if you see something that is different, you can alert Board members Debbie, Sue or Anne or call VLMP at 207-783-7733 for further direction. Please remember that the native plants are critical to the health of the lake. Even though it is possible to buy various herbicides over the internet, it is not legal to apply those herbicides in Maine unless you are a licensed applicator with appropriate permits.

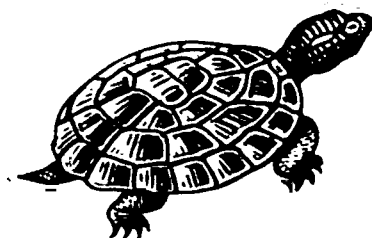
Other areas we have discussed include: the changing demographic of the winter and summer residents of Wayne and Leeds and the effects this may have on the lake, the need for a more formal system of monitoring the health of the wild-life populations on the lake. [The eagle egg(s!) probably hatched May 5th or 6th. I can monitor the nest with a telescope from my living room.], the difficulty of maintaining communication with our membership and the need for updating the web-site (in process) and publication of the newsletter (we seem to be down to one a year).

Board members also are considering ways of expanding member participation in the Board's activities. Androscoggin Lake is unique in that there is no real population center bordering the lake. We have been drawing Board members from quite a small pool. The result seems to be that those of us who are serving on the board have been doing so for a very long time. We have several members who would like to take a less active role because of increasing family and employment commitments. It is not necessary that you be a year round resident to be involved in the Board of ALIC. It is possible to participate through e-mail especially during the winter. Please consider becoming a Board Member and let us know what you are willing to do to help.

OK back to the garden.
someone has to feed the black flies.
Anne

Visit Our Newly Update Website
www.androscogginlake.org

Please take a moment to check out our recently updated website. Heather Peel of Fayette, Maine, was hired to redesign our site and we are excited to share all of this useful information with you. We have added many important links. We have also started a blog. Please add and share your stories or information with all of us.



Advice from a LOON

Spend time at the lake.
Enjoy a good swim.
Call your friends.
A little color goes a long way.
Surround yourself with beauty.
Enjoy time alone.
Dive into life!

Join us for the Annual Meeting Saturday, August 18, 8:30 am Potluck Breakfast at AYC

Please bring a dish to share. We will have our regular business at 9:00 am with presentations to follow.
We look forward to seeing all of you.

The Little One by Sue Waterman

While out paddle boating last October, I saw a mother loon still tending to her chick. After studying the chick and her mother, I came to the conclusion that this youngster was not the Blodgett Island chick, for that one was on its own quite a while back. This one was a late bloomer and I became worried that it might be too immature to migrate. I called the wild life refuge center and was told they would come over and rescue it if needed. With much relief on November 23, I observed the chick fending for itself and later it was thrashing on the surface of the water.

December 28 and 29 a large flock of loons were feeding in our cove, the little one joined them but in the evening had returned to his area of safety. On December 30, Androscoggin Lake was 75% iced over, there was at least 200 loons by Blodgett Island. It was exciting to see them back and forth all morning. By mid-afternoon the lake got really loud with the loons crying "we have to go, we have to go now" as they took off for their short flight to the ocean. The late little one left at the tail end. With tears in my eyes, I whispered "Goodbye and God Bless till next spring."

2006 Loon Count Results

On July 15, 2006, a group of hardy lake lovers took to their assigned areas. From 7:00 am until 7:30 am each monitor sat quietly, binoculars raised, watching over their area.

Our monitors recorded 31 adults and no chicks.

It was later reported a chick was born on Blodgett Island that did not get counted and a 2nd chick was reported "our late bloomer"

mentioned above was also later reported. An additional chick was born in the inner cove, but died within days of birth. This chick was recovered and sent to Biodiversity for testing.

Previous year Loon counts

2005 30 Adults 0 chicks.

2004 27 Adults 0 chicks

2003 25 Adults 0 chicks

LOON CAM

If you are interested in watching loons up close and safely, check out the following link.

Check out the Loon Cam from Biodiversity at

<http://www.briloon.org/ed/looncam.htm>

List of Bass Fishing Tournaments

The following list was generated from the DEP, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website.

There are two different types of tournaments.

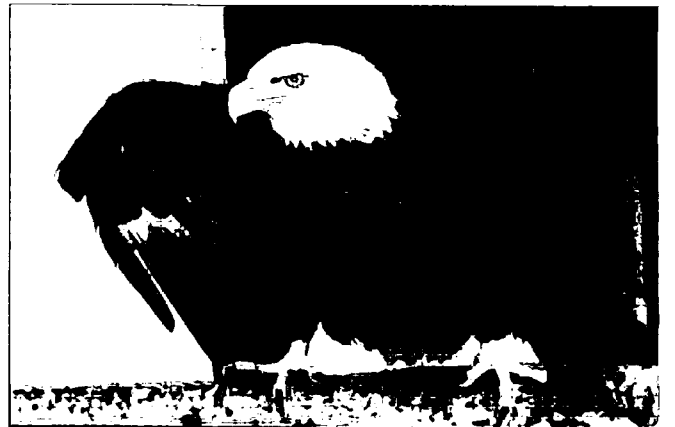
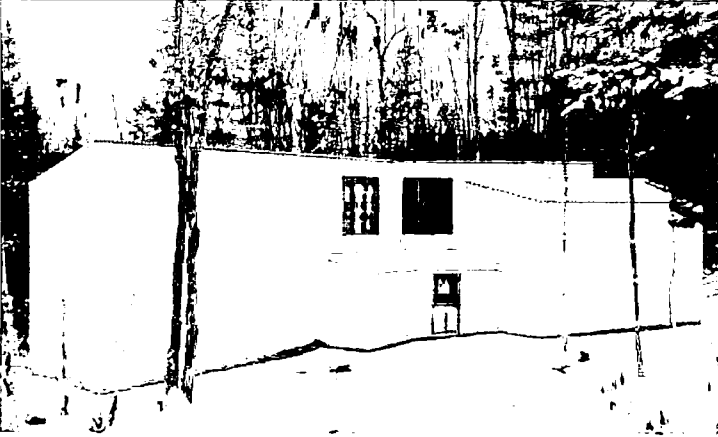
Open - Tournament is open to any boater from any club. Maximum # of boats is 100.

Club—Tournament is open to members of the specific club hosting the tournament only. Usually under 20 boats.

Date	Hosts	Type
6/17	Pinetree Bassmasters	Club
6/22	Saco Valley Casters	Club
6/24	Central ME Bassmasters	Open
7/28	Vacationland Bass Club	Club
8/12	TBF of Maine	Open
8/26	AC Maine	Open
9/9	Mid Coast Anglers	Club

This list may not be a complete list.





There and Back Again: An Eagle's Tale

Dec. 5 – Dec. 9, 2006 as told by Avian Haven Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center
www.avianhaven.org

Special thanks to the Avian Haven Wild Bird Rehabilitation for letting us share this story with all of you.

Sadly, traps set legally for fur-bearing mammals sometimes catch other animals, including bald eagles. Because of compromise to circulation caused by trap jaws, these birds' stories do not always have happy endings... but this one does! We were inspired to compose this account by photographs taken at the scene by Russ Dillingham for the Lewiston Sun Journal. It's intended for private circulation to the folks involved (plus a few of our special friends and helpers). Many of these individuals provided information to fill in the blanks and correct mistakes in the story as we first understood it. If any errors remain, we apologize; they are ours alone. DW & MP

Around noon on Dec. 5, Robert Scott of Leeds noticed bald eagles feeding on a deer carcass on a nearby property. As he took a closer look, one bird appeared to be "stuck," and it was soon apparent that this eagle had been caught in a foothold trap, one of several that had been set for coyote and fox around the carcass. Soon after Mr. Scott called Maine's Department on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Warden Dave Chabot was on the scene to free the bird. The trap had been set legally, but according to newspaper accounts, the trapper was so upset at having inadvertently snagged our national bird that he pulled all his traps from the area. While en route to the scene, Dave had called wildlife rehabilitator Sherri Gee of Minot and asked her to meet him at the scene with a carrier. After freeing the bird from the trap, Dave (whose hands were then full with a bird weighing roughly 10 pounds!) recruited Bob Peters, a U.P.S. driver who happened along, to call her again, to say that he had the bird. While Sherri was on her way, she called us to let us know that a trap-caught eagle would be headed toward us shortly. The effort it took to hold this heavy bird is evident on Dave's face in this photo, but as more onlookers (not to mention Sherri!) appeared, he managed the grin shown on the Sun Journal's front page on 12/6. The eagle had been caught by only the rear toe, or "hallux." But Dave knew that compromised circulation was a risk, and that even a seemingly minor injury of this sort could have severe consequences within a few days. Releasing a bird to the wild directly from a trap is never advisable. As soon as Sherri arrived, she and Dave huddled the bird into her waiting carrier. Just a few minutes later, she called us to say "I'm on the road headed north – where do you want to meet?" She and Marc agreed on one of their usual spots in Augusta – the Sears parking lot. Marc loaded an eagle-size carrier in our car, and headed south. When the bird arrived here, the injury did indeed seem minor – you have to look carefully to see the wound on the hallux (just below the talon in this blurred photo). We started treatment to promote circulation and crossed our fingers. In a couple of days, the bird was restless in our large indoor hospital cage, and the toe looked fine. Coincidentally, we had JUST finished the main section of a new habi-

tat for eagles recovering from injuries, as you see in the photo to the left. We already had an eagle in the "apartment" to the front and right (that bird is another story altogether!), but the Leeds eagle became the first occupant of the main cage around noon on Dec. 7. By late that afternoon, his posture indicated readiness to depart! But Charlie Todd, Maine's Eagle Biologist, wanted to make sure the bird was banded first. The red color band for one leg was supplied by Bill Hanson (Wildlife Biologist with Lewiston-based Florida Power & Light Energy), who took the photo to the right when he delivered the band. Charlie planned to bring us the numbered band that same afternoon. Preparing to depart Bangor, he put his banding kit in a Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife truck, then went back inside to get his laptop. But when he returned to the parking lot, someone else had taken the vehicle (and his banding kit!) Weather the next day featured a slippery rain and snow mix; for various reasons, it seemed prudent to wait one more day for the weather to clear. Charlie arrived with the band the next morning (Dec. 9). After one last look at the injured hallux while the bands were applied, we were confident that the toe was and would stay healthy. We had called Warden Chabot to coordinate a transportation relay to the release site, but unfortunately, due to illness, he was unable to leave home. So, on the spur of the moment, Charlie arranged to meet Sherri at the field in Leeds where the bird had been trapped. This stunning photo of Sherri releasing the bird (that's Charlie in the background) made not only the Sun Journal but newspapers all over the eastern seaboard!

The story doesn't quite end there, however. From the beginning, Charlie had believed this eagle to be the male of the pair nesting at Androscoggin Lake. So while en route to Leeds with the bird, he had called Anne Huntington (observer of the nest) and Molly Saunders (property owner at the nest site), inviting them to join Sherri and himself for the release. From Sherri's arms, the bird circled the vicinity, and was then observed to fly strongly toward the nest site until it was lost from view about a mile away from that area. Anne suggested that everyone drive back to her place to see if a bird might be in the "favorite snag" of that pair. Sure enough, an eagle, presumably the one just released, was in that snag when they arrived. The clincher was Anne's report to Charlie the next morning (the 10th) that two eagles were seen together on the snag near the nest site for the first time since the trapping incident – leaving little doubt that the bird trapped in Leeds was indeed the Androscoggin Lake resident. Several days later, Charlie told us more about why the Androscoggin Lake nest is so special: In 1970, it was the last remaining eagle nest

in the Androscoggin River Valley. The eagle population was in a severe decline at that time, with few if any remaining in the western half of Maine. For 19 years, the only eagles in the Androscoggin valley region were visiting transients or wintering birds – not resident breeders. But as the population recovered and began to spread westward, Androscoggin Lake attracted the first pair back to the watershed in 1990. Eagles have returned to that nest every year since, with 18 youngsters fledging over that time span. The two eaglets shown above, almost certainly offspring of the bird whose story is told here, were banded by Bill Han-

son this past spring. In 2006, at least 18 other pairs of eagles nested in the Androscoggin basin.

A final bonus from the incident was that blood we drew from the trapped bird at the request of ME DIF&W will help investigations of the health of birds eating fish from Androscoggin Lake. The happy ending to this story was made possible by a well-coordinated group effort, perhaps the key part of which was the quick response of Warden Dave Chabot, who broke his prior speed record in getting to the scene. Thanks and kudos go to many others as well: Robert Scott for reporting the bird; U.P.S. driver Bob Peters for phone help; Sherri Gee for the transport toward Avian Haven and her breath-taking release toss-up; Bill Hanson for providing the color band and photos as noted; Charlie Todd for the numbered band, transportation to the release site, countless phone calls and e-mails as the situation unfolded, and a wealth of historical and contextual information; Terry Heitz for last-minute finishing touches to make the new eagle habitat ready for occupancy on short notice; and Anne Huntington for the final report of the bird's reunion with his mate. Last but by no means least, we thank Russ Dillingham for making his awesome Lewiston Sun Journal photos available to us.

Diane Winn & Marc Payne, Avian Haven Co-Directors

EAGLE CAM



Check out this live feed of eagles nesting in Maine.

<http://www.briloon.org/watching-wildlife/eagle-cam.php>

What's under the surface?

Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

Link to VLMP website:

www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org

Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants

The introduction of non-indigenous invasive aquatic plant and animal species to the United States has been escalating with widespread destructive consequences. The impacts of the spread of invasive aquatic plants are well known: habitat disruption, loss of native plant and animal communities, reduced property values, impaired fishing and degraded recreational experiences, and enormous and ongoing control costs. Learn to identify these plants. The following workshops are being offered.

Date, Time	Location	Town	Town
6/18, 4PM	Alfred Town Hall		Alfred
6/23, 9:30AM	VFW Hall		North Windham
7/3, 9AM	Fayette Central School		Fayette
7/10, 3:30PM	Public Safety Building*		Raymond
7/12, 3PM	U. Maine Farmington		Farmington
7/18, 3:30PM	VFW Hall		Lovell
7/21, 9:30AM	American Legion Hall*		Newport
8/1, 3PM	Bunker Hill Auxiliary		Jefferson
8/8, 3PM	Delta Institute		Bowdoin
8/18, 9AM	Dewitt Field Airport (Fly-in)		Old Town

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40 HP Four-Stroke Honda Engine

Minnkota Electric trolling motor

EZ Ride Trailer, all from Hamlin Marine

Tickets for sale online

www.maine.cola.org

Fish species in our lake

Common Name	Scientific Name
Alewife, landlocked	<i>Alosa pseudoharengus</i> (landlocked)
American eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>
Brown bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>
Brook Trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>
Brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Chain pickerel	<i>Esox niger</i>
Cusk	<i>Lota lota</i>
Golden shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>
Landlocked salmon	<i>Salmo salar sebago</i>
Largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Pumpkinseed Sunfish	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
Rainbow smelt	<i>Osmerus mordax</i>
Redbreast sunfish	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>
Smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>
White perch	<i>Morone americana</i>
White sucker	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>
Yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>

Northern Pike has been reported in Androscoggin Lake. This fish is an illegally stocked fish.

Operation Game Thief

Unauthorized introductions of invasive, exotic fish species are particularly destructive to Maine's native brook trout populations, but they may also cause irreversible changes to entire aquatic ecosystems by restructuring plankton and forage fish communities that have evolved since the last glacial retreat. Moreover, strategies to eliminate or control invasive fish are difficult to design and implement, costly, and almost entirely ineffective. The illegal introduction of any fish into any Maine water is a Class E crime, punishable by fines up to \$10,000! The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is offering a minimum reward of \$2,000 for information leading to the apprehension of persons responsible for the illegal introduction of fish. Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-253-7887.

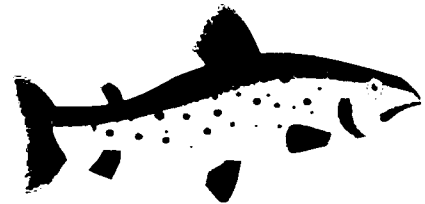
Winter, 2006-2007 by Alison Lincoln Rich

With winter coming late this year the lake did not freeze over completely until January 9, 2007. Christmas without ice, snow no! That just doesn't happen. Not in Maine. Not in my back yard. Well it did this year, no snow no ice. This is not how it is supposed to be. Oh no, no pond hockey on New Year's Day. No fishing, no skating. My family usually keeps a skating rink going all winter. That means my dad, Steve Lincoln, goes out after each storm, when it's still freezing and the wind is howling down the lake, because timing is crucial to keep a good skating surface without a zamboni. He uses his four wheeler with a plow to make us a rink. My dad, he's tough and dedicated and free, the best rink manager you can get. Give him food, bake a few cookies and he is good to go for hours. The weather conditions in late January finally gave us some ice that we could dare to get the four wheeler on. It's a sight to see my dad checking the ice conditions. Mom is the safety director, although she doesn't usually watch, just tells him over coffee that morning how to do it, just in case he falls through. Dad has a long, really long rope that he ties around the big pine closest to the water and to himself, then walks out making holes every few feet., testing the thickness or rather say the thinness of the ice. Finally by the end of January, Dad gave the go ahead that we could get on. The ice was only safe in the well protected coves at that time. The main lake was not even close to being safe yet. Finally fishing is on, Dad's plowing, life is good. Add a couple dozen hockey sticks and a pair of cones and you are ready for a game. Some pretty good games of young and old, skates or none, get going out there. A little rowdy at times, but no fighting here. My kids have friends over and people just stop by and play a little pick-up with who ever is around. It's always a good time. The fishing villages that usually develop in the coves never really appeared in their usual form, just a few shacks here and there, none at the deep hole because ice conditions were not great until very late in the season. There still were many days that families came out to ski, fish, skate, and enjoy the lake under winter conditions. The lack of fishermen played a part in not having as many eagles around this winter. The fishing was pretty exciting. The bass were big and plentiful. The pickerel and perch were always hungry and kept the flags a-flying. The occasional brown trout did get pulled out, much to the delight of the fishermen. Please note we always put the browns back. All the other fish we line up on a bank of our rink and wait and watch for the eagles to come to feed. One day we saw 8 feeding at once. In February of 2003, we had 22 eagles out front at once eating the fish. That was cool (as my kids would say). If you haven't witnessed this up close and personal, it is amazing. Eagles are such big, beautiful, alluring birds, graceful, yet scavengers. The juvenile eagles, with their fluffy, un-presentable looking feathers, are obviously strong and powerful lurking about. All figuring out their way in the world of feeding. They fly over high above and check out the fish left about, then swoop down, flying just over the snow for the grab-n-go maneuver. The juveniles tend to just barrel through pushing anyone there out of the way and taking what they want. For the last 5 or 6 years we have witnessed this sight on a daily basis when the ice is safe and the fish are plentiful.

My family enjoys the lake all year round, as I know many of you do as well. When I wrote above about no ice or snow in December and January, I said not in Maine, not in my back yard. Of course, I know full well that my backyard is your backyard and that things can happen in our backyard if we don't do all we can to protect it. If we all work together, we can keep the lake beautiful and healthy for many generations to come. For starters, please join or renew your membership to ALIC. Please plant buffer zones rather than mow to the waters edge. Make sure no pollution, such as gas, oil, trash and septic waste leech into the lake. Please wash your boats and trailers and make sure your guests do the same. Please watch the aquatic plants and algae growing near your home or camp, if you see something that doesn't belong, please let ALIC or VLMP know. The saying goes it takes a village to raise a child. It will take this entire lake community to protect this lake. The little things mean a lot and actions speak louder than words. So enough said. Let's see action. Join or renew now and take steps to protect our backyard for tomorrow. Thank you. I live in the inner cove with Todd Perkins and our children, Kelli 16, Nathan 11, Lindsey 9 and Ben 5.



Note from Treasurer: Please send your dues now. Please be sure to include your email address. All donations are tax deductible. ALIC's new laptop produced this newsletter and is helping out with the website update. Join us at the Annual meeting for all the details.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Our mission to protect and preserve beautiful Lake Androscoggin can continue only with your support. Please renew or join today.

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Email: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

DUES: \$20.00 Individual \$35.00 Family \$50.00 Loon Supporter \$75.00 Contributor

\$100.00 Benefactor _____ Dick Hoddinott Advocacy Fund All donations are tax deductible.

Mail to: ALIC, PO Box 307, Wayne, ME 04284

Androscoggin River Discharge Licenses by Molly Saunders

Finally, we will soon have a ruling on the new discharge licenses for the paper mills on the Androscoggin River. We should be one step closer to the clean up of the river.

The licenses expired years ago and there has been an epic battle over the terms of the new licenses, involving the mills, several environmental groups, the Governor, the state legislature, and the DEP. I have attended many meetings and hearings on this problem, including the year long "Gulf Island Pond Stakeholders" process, which was abruptly cancelled before it concluded.

ALIC's position throughout has been to support the Clean Water Act, which requires ongoing reductions, and eventual elimination, of discharges. As we have graphically seen this spring, with two floods which overtopped the dam, the only way to completely protect Androscoggin Lake is to work for clean river.

The new licenses as issued by DEP required a second bubbler (oxygen injection system) in Gulf Island Pond, thus allowing higher discharge levels than if there were no bubblers. Also, DEP allowed Rumford Paper Company 5 years to comply with the new discharge levels; Verso (formally IP) was allowed 10 years. Normally dischargers must be in compliance on the day the license is issued, unless there is a special exception of 1-2 years to allow for the installation of new equipment.

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) has determined that both these provisions are illegal under Maine law and the Clean Water Act. In a coalition with CLF, the Androscoggin River Alliance (ARA), Maine Rivers, and ALIC, we appealed the licenses to the Board of Environmental Protection (BEP). The Natural Resources Council of Maine also appealed the Verso license. The mills also appealed the provisions of the licenses, on the grounds that the limits are too strict, and stating that they should not have to pay for the doubling of the oxygen injection.

The BEP held formal hearings

on the appeals from May 2-10. Many lawyers presented highly technical information, and CLF did a great job preparing and presenting our coalition's case that the 5 and 10 year extensions are illegal. John and Sara Yindra testified for Androscoggin Lake; even under cross examination they were unflappable and credible. Tom Wells, Barbara Angell, and Steve Saunders testified at the evening public hearings. They all made a strong presentation, and we are grateful to them for giving up a weeknight at home to help the cause of Androscoggin Lake.

It is important to understand the differences between the two mills. Rumford is already discharging well below the new license limits. They do not need the 5 years to reach compliance, and they only appealed because they do not want to pay for the second bubbler. It was apparent from much of the testimony that Rumford does a good job managing its waste treatment plant and is making a credible effort to be good environmental citizens of the river valley.

I think the managers at the Verso mill in Jay are also well intentioned; but after sitting at the hearings for several days, I am not convinced that the Verso front office is willing to make the substantial and long term investment necessary to bring the mill into compliance, even in 10 years. Verso also discharges below the new limits, but they are having trouble with their waste treatment lagoon and they periodically have "burps and overflows" from the lagoon that spill high levels of phosphorus and pollution into the river. Since Verso is only 10 miles upriver from the mouth of the Dead River, the lake can get substantial pollution from the Jay mill.

I will continue to investigate this situation, especially the connection between these overflows and the flooding on the river. I am optimistic that the BEP will do the right thing, uphold Maine law and the Clean Water Act, and require that the mills continue to make substantial reductions in their discharges.

Dam Maintenance Update By Ian Barclay

So it's Spring, and the water levels once again have been up on Lake Androscoggin. As one inquisitive property owner pointed out, "Everyone else's (*other local lakes, ponds, and rivers*) water levels are normal, why are we still at flood stages?" At that point we took a drive to the Dead River Dam, which on that late April Saturday, was showing about 5 inches of flashboards. "There used to be a dam here when we were kids" he told me. "Oh, it's still there," I assure him, "it's just buried under 14 feet of water."

For those un-anointed, until the Androscoggin River levels drop, we cannot get rid of any water, and continue taking on more water from Pocasset Lake all the while. There are times when the water on the Andro-river side of the dam can rise 10-12 feet in 24 hours. We (ALIC and Dam Volunteers) have no recourse in this situation except wait until the A-river side drops (and it can drop fast, but not as fast as it can rise, I am told this is due to ledge just North of Twin Bridges which slows out-flow) and then be ready to keep the racks of the dam un-clogged, allowing maximum out-flow.

Which brings us to today. We have been at the dam 1 to 3 times a week since early April, with work parties of one to four men, using all our hand tools, chains, and come-a-long to remove larger logs and debris. For the immediate future, we need cleaning every 48 hours, and are trying to keep up. In May I SCUBA dived the dam and plan to again, as the pressure subsides, to clean up submerged logs, assess dam structure, and look for long lost tools. This year we seem to have a new trend of green hardwood tree tops floating downstream into the racks.

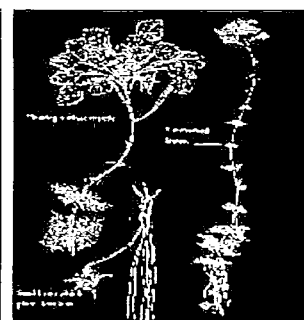
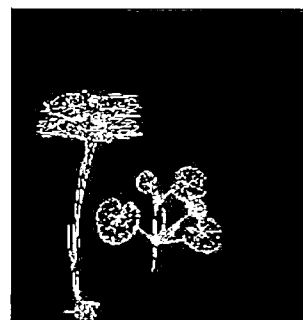
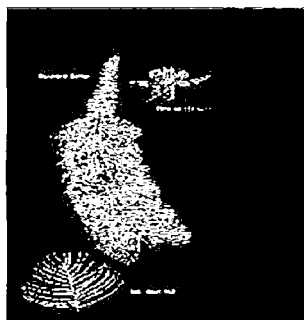
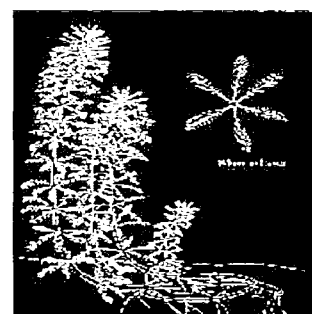
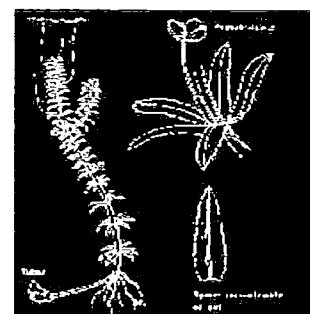
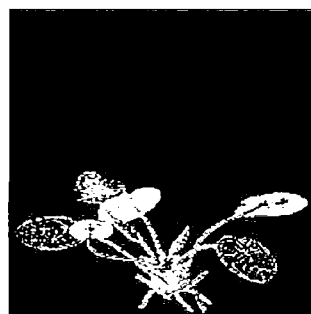
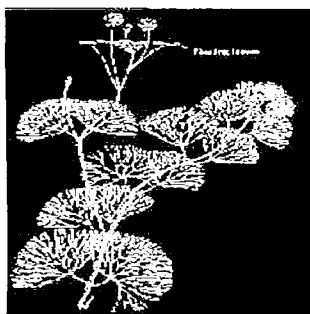
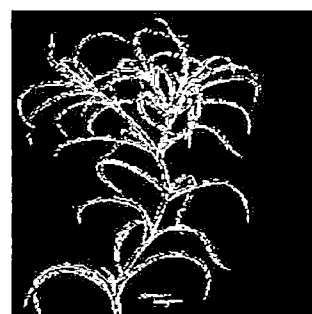
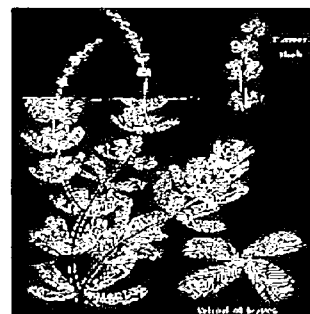
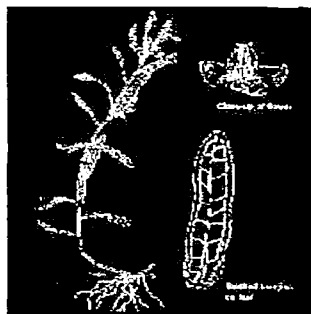
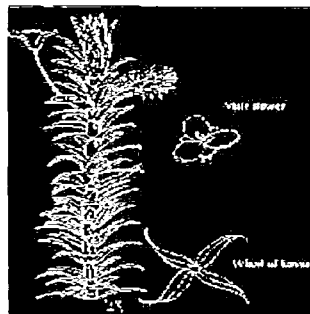
Last week, I found our tools, which we hide at near the dam, scattered all over and stuck in trees. I anxiously await our toolbox, which *will* be chained to a tree and padlocked.

Editorial Comment

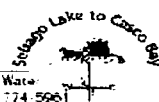
The people who maintain the dam work hard at a difficult sometimes dangerous job that is absolutely vital. They provide the only control we have over water level and their efforts are greatly appreciated. The new ALIC website continues to have a link to the Dead River water level gauge and will also have Ian's dam maintenance reports available so that all interested parties can monitor the volunteer efforts that allow the water to leave the lake as quickly as possible. We all need to remember that anything that falls into the lake or the Dead River ends up being removed from the grates at the dam.

MAINE'S ELEVEN MOST UNWANTED

Under Maine law, it is now illegal to transport ANY aquatic plant on the outside of a vehicle. It is also illegal to sell, propagate or introduce to Maine waters these eleven invasive aquatic plants:



Adapted from the illustrations appearing in reports of the University of Florida Center for Aquatic Plant Control's "Aquatic Plants for Nonpoint Ponds" (Copyright 1999 by the Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri); "Aquatic Plants of New England Lakes" (G.E. Crow and C.B. Halquist, 1955, Illustrations by Pam Brown); "The Field Guide of Freshwater Plants: Descriptions, Illustrations, Identifications, and Information" (Revised by E. Witten and M.J. Davis, 1978, January 1995); "Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Northeastern North America" (G.E. Crow and C.B. Halquist, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison).



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ALIC
PO Box 307, Wayne, ME 04284

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President- Anne Huntington. 685-3014 anne.huntington@att.net
Vice President-Martha Hoddinott. 685-3332 mlhodd@adelphia.net
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**Don't forget to check out our
website at :**
www.androscogginlake.org

**Annual Meeting
Saturday August 18, 8:30 am
Potluck Breakfast at AYC**

Please join us on Saturday, August 11, 2007 at the Androscoggin Yacht club for a potluck breakfast. Please bring a dish to share.

We will have our regular business meeting at 9:00 am following with a speaker from VLMP about important and informative lake information.

We look forward to seeing all of our lake lovers in one place.

**ALIC needs you
please renew now!**

ALIC
PO Box Wayne, ME

