



THE ALIC NEWS

Please join or renew today

SUMMER 2008

President's Message by Debbie Hite

Early Spring on Androscoggin Lake: the sound of "peepers" as evening approaches; the welcome call of the returning loons; bright sunshine; no bugs yet; and high water. With this winter's record snowfall (over 100" in our area), everyone anticipated the worst in flooding conditions. Although the lake has expanded beyond its banks in most places, we are fortunate that the ground quickly absorbed much of the snow melt and that there have been few significant rain events. The boards on the dam have held up, but were topped by the incoming waters of the Androscoggin River by over a foot at its peak. Early and aggressive snow removal from the access road permitted Ian Barclay and his crew to do some prompt intervention at the dam before conditions became too dangerous for anyone to work there. Now that the waters are receding, they can return to keep the gates on the lake side of the dam clear of debris so that the excess water will flow back into the river, thereby dropping the level of the lake. It is vitally important for lakefront property owners, ice fishermen, and recreational lake users to secure any items which could wind up in the lake during periods of high water. This includes firewood, stacks of lumber, ice shacks, sleds, skis, boats, docks, tarps, and any "clutter" because, believe it or not, some of that eventually makes its way down the Dead River and winds up against the flood gates, which, in turn, impedes the progress of the excess water escaping from the lake. If you'd be willing to add your name to the list of "on-call" helpers at the dam, you may contact Ian @ 207-577-3671 or ian@windsurfing-maine.com. You can follow their work by going to the blog on our website www.androscogginlake.org

In addition to the regular cleaning of the dam, there is the issue of its overall condition and efficiency. The MOA (memorandum of agreement among ALIC, two of the paper mills upstream, the DEP, the DOA, and the Towns of Wayne and Leeds) which took effect in 2005 established a dam maintenance committee and provided funding for repairs and improvements to this pollution control device. An inspection last fall confirmed the need for some significant attention to the structure, which is in the process of being scheduled. Of course, ALIC continues to press for greater compliance to water quality standards for the Androscoggin River, which is an ongoing struggle. We also continue - and are hoping to expand - our lake water testing program.

As we work in our mission to "preserve and protect Androscoggin Lake," ALIC finds itself aligned with many other organizations with similar goals. Among these are Maine Rivers, the Androscoggin River Alliance, the Conservation Law Foundation, the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (MECOLA), the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP), and the newly-formed Thirty Mile River Watershed Association. This last group became "official" in January of this year and I am serving as the ALIC rep to its Board of Directors. There is great potential for collaboration among the member entities stretching from Vienna to Leeds. One project currently underway is a Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program. A coordinator has been hired for the summer and is looking for volunteers to inspect boats for attached plant material. Training is provided and scheduling is flexible, probably just a couple of shifts if enough people sign up. Perhaps we can enlist the help of some of the youth at the summer camps. Send an e-mail our way info@androscogginlake.org if this is an opportunity which interests you. Another summer project in the works is a survey of aquatic plants located in the inner cover section on the Wayne side of the lake, the vicinity of the State launch on Rt. 133. Several members indicated a desire in helping with invasive plant patrol on our survey at last year's annual meeting. There are a few of us certified through VLMP to conduct such efforts, and additional helpers are welcome. The time commitment will be limited to just a couple of outings, probably in the morning when the lake is calmest. (Message continued on page 2.)

Help protect our lake.
Please renew or join
today.



Visit our website:
www.androscogginlake.org
Share your stories

President's message cont.

Our work should be completed by the end of July, which will give us the opportunity to view many plants in bloom, providing another clue for identification. Again, send an e-mail or contact me directly if you'd like to participate. Watch for details on our website www.androscogginlake.org. A list of training opportunities by VLMP can be found in this newsletter. In addition, you might want to purchase a copy of the absolutely spectacular new Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants and their common native look alikes published by VLMP and its Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants. The cost is \$13 and we'll have some available at the annual meeting. ALIC is donating a reference copy to the Cary Memorial Library in Wayne. Send us an e-mail info@androscogginlake.org and we'll reserve a copy for you, or you can check with VLMP to see if they have copies still available.

Safety is on everyone's mind as we head out onto the lake, and the ALIC Board has been discussing some issues related to this topic. The untimely and tragic sailboat accident this past November heightened awareness of the need to identify points of access to the lake for use by emergency personnel. We appreciate your cooperation as we work this summer to plot these locations which will then be communicated to sheriff's and fire/rescue departments in both Androscoggin and Kennebec County. Another issue under consideration is the marking of hazards in the lake. This has been the topic of disputes in past years between conservation and recreational concerns. Representative Gary Knight has been helpful in seeking the answers to some of our questions. The 30 Mile RWA may also prove helpful in this matter. The Board is exploring all possible scenarios and is open to your input. Until a decision is made, you're left to your own devices and those "unofficial" bleach bottles.

As another summer season approaches, the ALIC Board would like to encourage you to keep the environmental needs of the lake and its watershed in mind when you are considering improvements around your camp. When you live on a lake, even if it's just for two weeks in the summer, you can't proceed as if you were in suburbia. Androscoggin Lake is a fragile water body, at the mercy of those who use it. Some common sense "Do's and Don'ts" can be found in this newsletter. We also have a good supply of informative pamphlets and booklets available on our resource shelf downstairs at the library in Wayne. You'll also find there a copy of the watershed survey conducted in 2003 and the subsequent management plan, listing site-specific BMPs. The town offices of Wayne and Leeds also have a reference copy.

Many people appreciate Androscoggin Lake. If we adopt good stewardship practices, it should remain a source of enjoyment for many years to come. You are invited to partner with ALIC in working towards that goal. Renew your membership or join ALIC today. If your situation permits you to join the Board, we'd love to count you in (four members' terms expire this summer). If you can help with any of our projects, we'd welcome your participation. Stay connected through the website (a work in progress!) and please feel free to contact any of us board members with your comments, questions, concerns, and encouragement. Hope to see many of you at the annual meeting and around the lake this summer!

Join us for the Annual Meeting Saturday, August 16, 8:30 a.m. Potluck Breakfast at AYC

Please bring a dish to share.

We will have our regular business at 9:00 am with presentations to follow.

On the agenda for the annual meeting will be the discussion of and voting on a revision to our By Laws. While the wording may change somewhat, the substance of the amendment is as follows: Article II: PURPOSES

#2 (current) Control and regulate the level of the lake and maintain the dam on Dead River.

#2 (proposed) Advocate for sustained protection from pollution due to the influx of the Androscoggin River by assisting with the maintenance of the Dead River dam and by responding to seasonal fluctuations in the lake level.





A PERFECT DAY IN MARCH

By Martha Hoddinott

In defining the perfect day, one surely must clarify that every day begins in its “perfect” place. That place for me is the east shore of Androscoggin Lake in Wayne, ME. Sheltered by giant pines and perched on a ledge with an unobstructed view of Androscoggin Island and its sister islands off the cape (the land formed by the Dead River and the lake), I get a vast view of the expanse of this beautiful body of water. As the sun rises behind my home, I can watch the hills across the lake (in Leeds) light up with the pale pink tint of the morning sunlight. It creeps slowly across the snow-laden whiteness of 4 + feet of ice stretching the shadows of my giant pines all the way across to the islands. From when I first start to notice the shadows, it takes little time for the brightness of day to sweep across to meet this east shore. It’s always a grand event and I try to take time each morning to watch.

I suppose that most of us would agree that waking up each morning to this lake is surely enough to fulfill the promise of a “perfect day.” This winter has made it sometimes difficult to appreciate each day, for the twenty-plus snowstorms and the “oh-no-not-another-6-12-inches” state of mind. Some may find it’s tough to admire the lake’s beauty while shoveling roofs and plowing or snow blowing driveways every few days. But it’s nothing that a good cross-country ski around the lake can’t cure.

It’s a windless day, with the sun sparkling off the newly-fallen snow. It is so bright that my squinting reminds me to put on my sunglasses. There’s a solitude that’s hard to describe. The giant sound of endless quiet roars in my ears. In mid winter the lake is desolate except for the occasional snowmobiler or ice fisherman. There are some brave souls who will practice their driving skills on the lake, driving their car on down at the state access (if someone plowed it) going for a little joy ride, doing 360s and big turns and skids with snow flying in all directions. This year with the heavy snow accumulations it hasn’t happened much. The year I got married was the last time we dared to drive out across the lake. It’s unnerving at best to be in a car and on ice. I remember we drove with the windows down thinking that if we had to make a quick escape it would be helpful. (This was definitely younger day thinking!) But this day there are only the pepperings of the random ice shacks off Lincoln Point and nothing but open whiteness.

With my ski tips disappearing into the whiteness and my two Corgis trailing behind me in my tracks, I head down the shore line towards Dole’s Beach hoping to find a snowmobile trail so I don’t have to break trail for long. I love being on Androscoggin Lake in the cold and quiet of this mid winter’s solitude.

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or join
today.



Photo by Jean Gardner

First loon of the season.
Taken at the yacht club

For the Love of Loons

There is one thing that every lake in Maine shares – the annual loon count. Each year, on the third Saturday in July, between 7:00 and 7:30 eager “loonies” start up their boat engines and head out to their territory to count Maine’s most popular bird. And Androscoggin Lake is no exception.

By default, I was appointed captain of the loon count a couple of years ago. My wife Martha’s pottery business was prospering and taking up much of her time. The fact that I’m a teacher with the summer off made me the perfect appointee. So, one morning she “asked” me to take her place as the person in charge of the annual loon count. Having participated in it the previous four years, I found it hard to come up with the proper excuse to politely bow out, so I agreed. (My mother-in-law Moo Hodinott had organized it before Martha, so I guess that they wanted to keep it in the family!)

Last year the organizing details seemed to be going well. I made calls and thought that I had enough people with boats to thoroughly cover Androscoggin Lake. The day before, however, three of the seven volunteers reported that because of extenuating circumstances they could not help (boat motors not starting, sudden guests arriving, Parents Weekend at Camp Androscoggin). So Martha and I scrambled and came up with some last minute volunteers (Thank you, thank you!!)

The following morning things went smoothly. We were on the lake by 7:00, counted loons for the required half hour, and reported back to our house for coffee, donuts, pleasant conversation and to tally up the number of loons on our beautiful lake (The count this past summer was 29 adults and no chicks – down from 31 the year before.) After everyone left, I realized that despite the rather chaotic preparation, the job of “head loon counter” went well!! So, I guess that this year I may be contacting some of you to hop in your boat and count some loons!!

If anyone would like to be included in our annual loon count, here is some information:

When: Third Saturday in July. You must have a boat and be in your designated area by 7:00 and count loons for half an hour.

What you do: Beginning at 7:00 AM, you cruise your section of the lake counting loons and recording time and place of sighting. This is happening in every lake in Maine at this time so the count is accurate and there are no double sightings.

Why: Because you love loons and want to make sure that they represent a healthy population. Also, we make great coffee and supply delicious, fattening donuts, coffee rolls and Danish!!

If you are interested, contact (Tom Wells) at tomhod@roadrunner.com.

Previous year Loon count

2006 31 Adults 0 chicks 2005 30 Adults 0 chicks 2004 27 Adults 0 chicks
2003 25 Adults 0 chicks



List of Bass Fishing Tournaments

| Date | Club | Type |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 5/17/2008 | BronzeBack Maniacs | Measure/Release |
| 6/15/08 | PineTree Bassmasters | Open |
| 6/22/08 | Central Me Bassmasters | Open |
| 8/9/08 | Mainely Bass | Club |
| 8/10/ 2008 | TBF of Maine | Open |
| 8/16/2008 | GBI Basscasters | Club |
| 8/24/08 | Black Bear Bass Club | Open |
| 9/6-7/2008 | Maine Bass Federation | Open |
| 10/5/2008 | Mid Coast Anglers | Club |

FISH STOCKING REPORT

| Date | RELEASE POINT | # |
|----------|---|------|
| 11/21/07 | WAYNE BOAT LANDING Brown Trout (17" Brood Stock) | 40 |
| 10/10/07 | WAYNE BOAT LANDING Brown Trout (12"inch) | 1900 |

Eagle Nest Report

Even though there was a lot of activity on the nest, no egg was produced. At this point, it is too late to expect any additional production.

How To Access Important Lake Information



LakeSmart

A Way You Can Protect Your Lake

www.MaineDEP.com



Water quality and clarity information

www.pearl.maine.edu

Androscoggin Lake is Midas #3836

Maine Congress of Lake Associations

www.mainecola.org

Camp Owner Information

What to Do When Opening and Closing Your Camp

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/camp/open.htm>

Road Association Information

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/roadassociation.htm>

Boating Season Checklist

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/doclake/care.htm>

Buffer Plant List

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/bufhand.htm>

Code Enforcement Officers

Town of Wayne, ph# 685-4983

Ken Pratt, ph # 576-1413 cell

Town of Leeds, ph# 524-5171

Larry Grant, ph # 524-2754

Plumbing Inspector

Ernie Sylvester, ph# 524-3491

Lake Contacts (DEP)

Related pages: [Land & Water Bureau Contacts](#); [DEP Contacts](#)

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/doclake/contact.htm>

DEP Office Toll Free Numbers

Central Maine Regional Office: 800-452-1942

How To Report Invasive Plants

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/whatif.htm>

Reporting Algae Blooms

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/doclake/repbloom.htm>

Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP)

<http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org>

What's under the surface?

ALIC PARTNERS WITH VLMP TO HELP PROTECT ANDROSCOGGIN LAKE

Invasive Plant Patrol

Invasive Plant Patrol workshops are offered free of charge to participants, and made possible through the generous support of Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Lake and River Protection Sticker program, The Betterment Fund, Horizon Foundation, Maine Community Foundation and the donations of local sponsors. Though anyone interested in learning about aquatic invaders is welcome to participate in the workshops, we encourage those who wish to become active members of Maine's early detection team to make a formal commitment to the statewide endeavor by becoming a Certified IPP Volunteer. The goal of the IPP Certification Program is to encourage and support individual and group commitment to annual collection and submission of invasive aquatic plant screening survey data. To become a Certified Plant Patroller you must participate in at least one Basic IPP workshop (or equivalent training), complete the [application](#) and sign a statement of commitment. The Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants will provide all certified patrollers with standardized field sheets, an ID card and a bucket scope.

Workshop Summaries

Invasive Plant Patrol Workshops for New Volunteers

The primary goal of this comprehensive, 5 ½ -hour workshop is to provide those who wish to join Maine's "early detection" effort with information and guidance needed to get started. All IPP training sessions are open to the public and FREE to anyone interested in learning more about the threat of invasive aquatic plants in Maine. All workshop participants receive an "Invasive Plant Patroller's Handbook," and [Maine's Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants](#).

Thank you for helping to keep Maine lakes free of invasive aquatic plants!

Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

vlmp@mainevlmp.org

24 Maple Hill Road, Auburn, ME 04210

(207)-783-7733

www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org



IPP Introductory Workshops

6/26 Fryeburg, Oxford County

7/2 Canton, Oxford County

7/10 Cornish, York County

7/16 Poland, Androscoggin County

IPP Survey Field Methods

7/12 8-12 Damariscotta Lake

8/2 8-12 Gardiner/Richmond

New Water Quality Monitors

6/28 9-12 Auburn

Water Quality Recertification

6/28 2 p.m. Auburn

7/19 1 p.m. Cobbossee

Currently –Certified Plant Patrollers on Androscoggin Lake

Sue Waterman, Wayne

Jo Moore (seasonal, Wayne)

Debbie Hite, Leeds

If you are interested in volunteering please drop us an email:

info@androscogginlake.org. Thanks



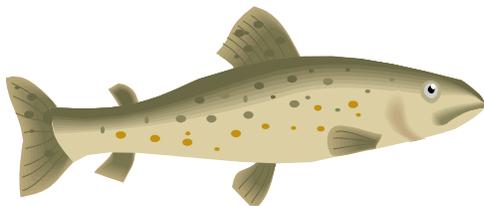
News from the Treasurer's corner

Hello:

First, I want to thank all of our members, new and old, for their response to our last newsletter making it a huge success. We have over 130 active current members. Our goal is to maintain this beautiful lake for generations to come. Your generosity is clearly setting the tone for our future success. For me, this lake is respite from the world. The lake is always peaceful. Even on a windy, rough day it brings me peace. I am sure that many of you feel the same. That is why we live or summer here. We are willing to spend the extra tax dollars to be here. We are willing to give to this organization our funds and time to keep this lake alive and beautiful. I hope that you will continue your support of our organization. This year will continue to bring challenges. ALIC is prepared to handle them and to advocate for what is best for our lake. We have positioned ourselves with many organizations that can help us protect our future here. We maintain relationships with Maine Rivers Alliance, National Resources Council of Maine, Maine Conservation Law Foundation, Thirty mile River Watershed, Volunteer Lake Monitor Program, Avian Haven, and Maine Congress of Lake Associations. Should any emergencies arise, we have many friends and colleagues that we can call upon to help us. Please take the time to renew or join today.

I would like to share a brief moment of joy that my family shared on the lake recently. May 18, 2008, it is a warm and sunny morning. Surface water temperature is reading 58 degrees which seems a little warm, given the high level of the lake. The wind is out of the west. Todd and I are making our first attempt at catching the "big" brown. We have a new electric downrigger that we are trying out. It seems sweet. Three lines in. The warmth of the sun and feeling of being on the boat are refreshing after a long winter. After trolling for just minutes, we get the first hit. Excitement immediately. Hit and run. The conditions are great for May. We have lines at 15 feet, 20 feet and 30' feet down. Another hit, fish on... Benjamin, our youngest at 6 years, takes over the pole. He reels and reels, fish fighting. Eventually getting it to the boat, it is a healthy 17" brown trout. The colors are beautiful: spots of orange, red and brown sparkle in the sun. We released it, watching it swim away. We head back to the house looking forward to another day of trying to catch the "big" brown that we can mount proudly on the wall.

I am sure that you and your families have many stories like this one. I would love to hear them and share them with our membership. Please send them to me along with your renewal form so I may share them with our membership.



Email us at: info@androscogginlake.org

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

Dam and Water Level Report

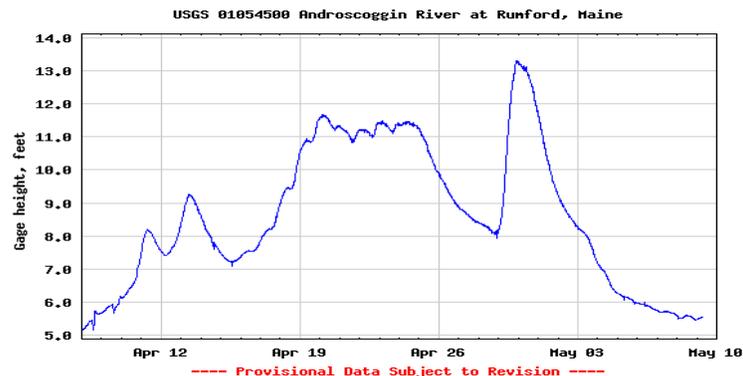
By Ian Barclay

In February 08, with near record snowfalls accumulating, and with concerns of subsequent Spring flooding in the wake of these massive snow banks and caved in roofs, it was suggested that ALIC prepare for proactive dam maintenance.

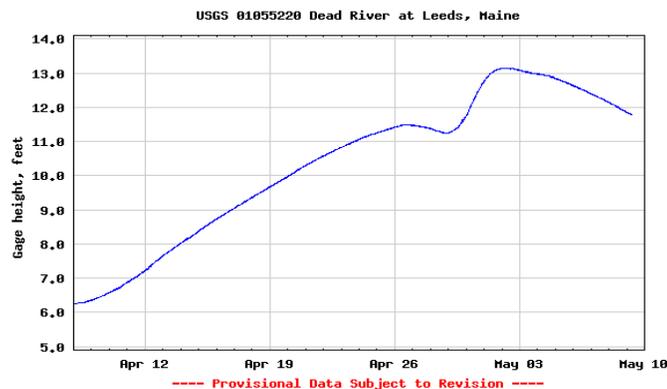
It was necessary to have the Dam access road cleared, which took heavy equipment (Bulldozer and Bucket loader) due to the depth.

In early March, once the road was clear, work parties took place (in rather Brisk waters) to achieve and sustain maximum outflow from the lake and the waters still left from November rains.

We actually had ourselves in a optimum situation until April 27th when two days of near torrential rains, combined with snowpack in the mountains finally melting caused the Androscoggin River to rise over 5 feet in 24 hours. (see graph)



Androscoggin River waters from this sudden onslaught rose high enough to clear our 3' Flashboards by 6 inches for several days, this, along with rain waters from the Thirty Mile River watershed raging into Lake Androscoggin at Wayne Village Dam, caused the lake to rise



roughly two feet around May 1st.

The Androscoggin River flood waters subsided as quickly as they rose, however now the “damage was done” as the dam had 3 feet of water sitting on the “wrong side” of the flashboards (lakeside), with only two 8 foot wide sluice ways, sitting under 6 feet of water as our only possible out flow.

Upon realizing that these waters would now be “stuck” in the lake (and running over into cow pastures, woods, basements, under camps and camp roads) for weeks or longer, Marc suggested we remove a few flashboards, which now held the waters in the lake (**why did we not think of this before?**).

On May 4th we removed enough flashboards to greatly increase outflow.

On May 7th we removed a few more boards, with our goal to release 18” of water from the lake within 4-6 days.

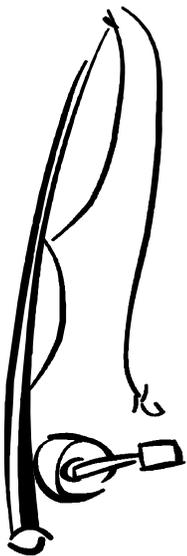
With rain in the long-term forecast beginning Monday May 12th, we are keeping a close eye on the situation so to replace the flashboards once the 18” is removed and before any sudden rises in the Androscoggin River could become a problem.

I vote for a dry May with only slow light rains.

Many thanks to those who have helped at the dam this spring. Your efforts have increased outflow.

“To Preserve and Protect” --- Some Do’s and Don’ts

- * Leave the natural vegetation along the lakefront - it acts like a sponge, intercepting runoff, encouraging evaporation.
- * Divert rain and runoff from driveways onto level areas of ground cover or woods where it can be filtered and evaporate.
- * Install gravel-filled trenches along paved areas, roof edges, and patios to filter runoff.
- * Wipe up spills from oil or other lubricants as soon as they occur.
- * If you have a lawn, mow less often: 2 ½ - 3" is optimum length.
- * Use phosphorus-free soaps, detergents, and fertilizers (middle number, zero-phosphorus fertilizer now law in Maine)
- * Have your septic pumped every 2-3 years, depending on usage, but not in late fall
- * Avoid doing multiple loads of laundry in the same time period, putting stress on your septic system.
- * Design curved paths and driveways, especially on inclines, rather than straight aways.
- * Try not to stir up the lake bottom with your boat’s propellers, raising phosphorus-laden sediment.
- * Know that the local shoreland zoning ordinance sets the rules in its municipality. Become informed, accept responsibility.



Reflections of a Summer Vacation on Androscoggin Lake
By Alexandra Lavoie, Grand Niece of Lincoln and Priscilla Hayes
(Written when she was 10 years old)

The 10 best things about spending a week at the lake!

- 1) Tubing
- 2) Fishing
- 3) Kayaking
- 4) Playing cards
- 5) Swimming
- 6) Boating
- 7) Camping out
- 8) Playing baseball
- 9) Hanging out
- 10) YOU!!!!



ALIC
PO Box 307, Wayne, ME 04284

Board of Directors

President- Debbie Hite, 524-2009, pushywoman@aol.com
Vice Pres-Martha Hoddinott, 685-3332 mlhodd@roadrunner.com
Secretary, Peter Ault, 685-4220 lpault@roadrunner.com
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Molly Saunders 685-4982 molly@waynevillagepottery.com
Jean Gardner, 685-4196, jcwgardner@msn.com
Lincoln Hayes, 786-0356, linc@downeastfood.com
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Bruce Cavanaugh, Dam Cmte, 524-2055, cavwalkers@aol.com

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Beth Pochopien, Water Quality Monitor
Theresa Kerchner, Kennebec Land Trust
Peter Hirsch, Camp Androscoggin
Jack Mahoney, emeritus
Marcin Gawron

**Don't forget to check out our
website at :
www.androscogginlake.org**

Annual Meeting
Saturday August 16, 8:30 a.m.
Potluck Breakfast at AYC

Please join us on Saturday, August 16, 2008 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 a.m. followed by information session.

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

**ALIC needs you
please renew now!**

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