



# THE ALIC NEWS

Please join or renew  
today

SUMMER 2010

## President's Message by Debbie Hite

As I sit down to write this message, the recent oil spill off the Gulf Coast of Louisiana drives home the fragility of our ecosystems. I can't help but consider how we'd react to an exposed terrain; oil or gas leaking from motors; and a host of pollutants from other sources environmental incident of similar proportions on Androscoggin Lake. Heaven forbid. Yet, we regularly face very real, potential threats, most of which are within individual ability to control: fragments of invasive plants trailing on boat equipment; seepage from faulty or inadequate septic systems; water-borne phosphorus carried across roads, driveways or such as discarded tires, batteries, lead sinkers, tributary streams and, yes, the Androscoggin River. Any single situation by itself might seem like a "drop in the bucket," but when that bucket is your bathing beach or the neighboring cove, the impact becomes very personal. And that's without considering the effects on fish, waterfowl, and wildlife which can be less perceptible but still very serious.

ALIC is 40 years old this summer. I've been involved for about 12 years, six years as a board member. The other day I came across an article I'd written for *The Country Courier* in September 1999 about ALIC's annual meeting. The speaker, David Ladd, a young man from the Portland regional office of the DEP's Watershed Management Division, had especially impressed me. He encouraged us to take seriously our own personal stewardship of the lake and to "get out of the mindset that [all] the pollutants are coming from the pipe." "Where do we want to be in 30 years?" he asked his audience.

So much of ALIC's attention and resources have been devoted over the years to addressing the impact of the paper mills upstream. Significant legislative and legal action and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) have provided a framework for future cooperation among the involved entities. It's time now for ALIC to examine how it can encourage its members and also the local communities to further help in its mission "to preserve and protect" the lake. The ALIC Board has decided to "hang out our shingle" so to speak. We'll be holding two free Friday evening summer seminars at the Ladd Center, one about septic systems in the shoreland zone, the second about loons. Additional details are in this newsletter. We're also sponsoring, along with some other members of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA), a workshop on invasive aquatic plants, led by the very knowledgeable folks at the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). In addition, new signs will be posted at the area launches reminding boaters to check their motors and trailers for plant material, and every bass club holding a tournament on this lake will receive a call prior to the event reminding them of their commitment to inspect their equipment per the terms of the tournament permit. We will also be recruiting courtesy boat inspectors to join the teams of monitors being trained and organized by the 30 MRWA. And, finally, we plan to make some signs, stickers, and t-shirts available identifying ALIC as the "voice" for Androscoggin Lake. We hope you'll take advantage of the many opportunities to increase your awareness of and strengthen your commitment to improving the ecology of the lake.

Lastly, I want to thank the membership for its support of me as ALIC President these past three years. My term expires this season, and I need to devote more attention to the home front. At this moment, unfortunately, there appears to be no one available to accept the helm as president. The Board is exploring alternative leadership models and I am confident that ALIC will remain an effective and viable association. Sustainability is the current buzzword these days and, with that in mind, I have created a spreadsheet outlining the tasks for each month, as well as key contacts. Our administrative assistant should be able to perform some of these duties. Our connection as members will be increasingly important, and I'm hopeful that you will embrace the technology which exists now through the Internet to become more informed and involved, even from a distance. And, of course, there are openings for additional board members. Let's have a safe and healthy summer season. I look forward to seeing you around the lake!



Visit Our Website:  
[www.androscogginlake.org](http://www.androscogginlake.org)



**Join us for the Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 10, 8:30 am**  
**Potluck Breakfast at AYC**

Please bring a dish to share. We will have our regular business meeting at 9:00  
Including nominations to the board.



*Please consider  
taking a turn  
on the ALIC  
Board*

**Board of Directors**

2010 President – Debbie Hite, 524-2009, [pushywoman@aol.com](mailto:pushywoman@aol.com)

2010 Vice President – Bill Messer, 685-9306, [bmesserwc@yahoo.com](mailto:bmesserwc@yahoo.com)

2010 Lincoln Hayes, 786-8445, [linchayes1@downeastfood.com](mailto:linchayes1@downeastfood.com)

2011 Secretary – Peter Ault, 685-4220, [lpault@roadrunner.com](mailto:lpault@roadrunner.com)

2011 Martha Hoddinott, 685-3332, [mlhodd@roadrunner.com](mailto:mlhodd@roadrunner.com)

2012 Treasurer – Joan Sandidge, 685-3638, [jsandid@aol.com](mailto:jsandid@aol.com)

2012 Jim Breazeale, 685-5552, [jimb@valproco.com](mailto:jimb@valproco.com)

2013 Alison Lincoln-Rich, 685-4350, [alicolnrich@kentshill.com](mailto:alicolnrich@kentshill.com)

2013 John "Buddy" Cummings, [jc2332@gmail.com](mailto:jc2332@gmail.com)

2013 Jean Gardner, 685-4196, [jcwgardner@msn.com](mailto:jcwgardner@msn.com)

Administrative Assistant-Cathy Cook, 685-1045, [cathycook1@hotmail.com](mailto:cathycook1@hotmail.com)

Advisory Board

Molly Saunders

Anne Huntington

Bruce Cavanaugh, Dam Cmte

Ian Barclay, Dam Cmte

Beth Pochopien, Water Quality Monitor

Theresa Kerchner, Kennebec Land Trust

Peter Hirsch, Camp Androscoggin

Jack Mahoney, Emeritus



**(Belated) Treasurer's Report by Joan Sandidge**

I really meant to send this report earlier...sorry it's so late, but there is so much to do. With all the wind, the raking and picking up sticks seems to go on forever. And one must stop and watch the LOONS. There is the outside furniture to get out and oops! That Adirondack chair needs a paint job. Oh look! The HUMMING-BIRDS are back! Better get their feeder filled and hung. Now it's time for those fun trips to Gingerbread Farm, Longfellows, Elvins, and Chretiens to fill the window boxes and whiskey barrels. Wow! There are the ORIOLES, better put out the oranges. Oh my! The lake looks so calm and tempting, guess I'll get the kayaks out and explore while the lake is high. Hey! There goes a HERON. OOH! Summer folks are returning – time to visit and catch up, but first MY REPORT.

ALIC exists so that we can all continue to enjoy a clean wonderful lake. It exists mainly by the support of our members. Funds also come from memorial gifts, the Dick Hoddinott Advocacy Fund and towns of Wayne and Leeds. All contributions are gratefully accepted. We THANK all who have generously donated. We could not continue the programs which keep our lake healthy, clean and safe without your continued support.

As Androscoggin Lake is the last lake in this chain of lakes, our board of directors has formed alliances with other organizations to protect and improve lake quality. We are currently aligned with Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA), Maine Rivers, 30 Mile River Watershed Assoc (30MRWA) and Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP).

Again, a big THANK YOU to all our members. Remember we would love to have more folks join us, so encourage your friends and neighbors to join. Also, invite them to our annual meeting July 10 and our summer programs July 23 and August 13.



*ALIC needs you. Please join or renew your membership today.  
Get others involved—buy a membership for a family member or friend.*



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the newsletter electronically next year.

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.

## A memory for a lifetime....shared by Bill Messer

July is a very busy time for the Messer family with the arrival of our grandchildren (now totaling seven). The summer of 2008 was no exception. Kayaking, sailing, tubing and, of course, fishing occupied most of the summer. Since I am no great fisherman, fishing with Grandpa did not always mean catching fish. The last night before my daughter and her children were to return to their home in Louisiana, I suggested to my granddaughter Abigail and my oldest grandson Marshall that we go out on our small 15 foot boat to test the water and do some last-minute fishing. We ventured off around 5 pm to the first test station and dropped anchor. Abigail, who was seven years old at the time, eagerly accepted responsibility of logging the test data for clarity and dissolved oxygen. Marshall, who was nine years old at the time, was initially interested in the scientific aspect of the adventure but soon became anxious to catch some fish. After I collected the required test data, I agreed to try our luck at fishing before we proceeded to the second test station.



After showing Abigail the technique of attaching the nightcrawler to the hook, she dropped a line to the bottom and within seconds landed a nice 12 inch white perch. It was at that moment that Abigail fell in love with fishing and I'll never forget the look of excitement and joy on her face. Within the next half hour, Marshall and Abigail landed large white perch nonstop. I myself was only able to catch a few of the smallest members of this school of fish.

Marshall, sitting at the bow, had trouble taking a smaller perch off the hook while, at the time, I was attempting to bring in my first large fish. While waiting for my help, Marshall had the small perch, still on the hook, on his lap. From nowhere, an eagle dropped out of the sky, brushed Abigail's shoulder, and proceeded to snatch the perch from Marshall's lap. Fortunately, Marshall had a good hold on the fishing pole while the eagle flew away with the perch. Needless to say, our screams of joy and excitement were heard along the shores of our beautiful Androscoggin Lake, and the memory will last a lifetime!!



## List of Bass Fishing Tournaments

- 06-20-10 Open - Pinetree Bassmasters
- 08-01-10 Open - LA Junior Bassmasters
- 08-07-10 Club - Dirigo Anglers
- 08-08-10 Open - TBF of Maine Inc.
- 08-22-10 Open - American Bassmasters
- 09-04-10 Club - Rebel Bassmasters
- 09-12-10 Club - Cumberland County Bass Club



For more information and group contact information follow this link:

[http://www.maine.gov/IFW/fishing/derbies\\_tournaments/basstournaments/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/IFW/fishing/derbies_tournaments/basstournaments/index.htm)

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.

## ANNUAL MEETING



★ Our annual meeting is earlier this year due to limited availability of the facility. It is our hope to see perhaps some of our members for whom the previous August dates were inconvenient.. Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 10, and join us for the always-delicious potluck brunch beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Yacht Club in Wayne, followed by our business meeting, which will include nominations to the Board of Directors.

### PURPOSES OF ALIC (from our bylaws):

1. Maintain and improve the quality of the water.
2. Assist with the maintenance of the pollution control device on the Dead River and monitor the high water influx
3. Protect and conserve the natural beauty of the shorelands and the wildlife that are in the lake watershed.
4. Foster a sense of personal responsibility on the part of all individuals for sensible use of the lake and its surroundings.
5. Promote educational activities at all levels to enlighten everyone within the watershed about wise use of our environment.
6. Establish good public relations with the communities of Wayne and Leeds and all the communities on the Thirty Mile River chain of lakes.
7. Lobby at all levels of government for legislation and financial support to achieve our goals.

**Visit our website and blog at [www.androscogginlake.org](http://www.androscogginlake.org)**

**ALIC will have T-shirts available** in 3 different colors with the loon ALIC logo on the right chest area.

\* A nice looking way to support your local Lake Association!

\* T-shirts are \$15.00 each, for sizes S-XL.

\* XXL and up are \$17.00 each.

\* Colors available: serene green, stone blue, and ash grey.

\*All shirts will be available for sale at the annual meeting July10th, and at the ALIC summer seminars July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>.

\* To have a T-shirt set aside for you, go to [www.androscogginlake.org](http://www.androscogginlake.org), then click "contact us".

\* Shirts will also be for sale at A Lakeside Studio Pottery in Wayne.



*Please check your boat, live well, motor, and trailer for aquatic plants before and after your lake excursions.  
Thank you, VLMP*





## 30 Mile River Watershed Association Update

This past year saw an expansion of services offered by the 30 MRWA, of which ALIC is a member entity with representation on the board by Lincoln Hayes. Our membership assessment this year is \$750.

Quarter-time Executive Director Lidie Robbins of Vienna, ME was successful in obtaining some grants to get a Youth Conservation Corps underway this season (see special note below), to further support the Courtesy Boat Inspection program, and to expand public outreach about the Association and its purposes. Nearly 50 volunteers joined the five paid staff to perform over 900 boat inspections on eight lakes. It was a paid staffer who discovered several milfoil fragments trailing from a boat entering Parker Pond and averted a potential disaster. Additional volunteers are needed. Training is provided and scheduling is very flexible.

30 MRWA hosted a workshop for invasive plant patrollers in partnership with VLMP and is on board, with support from ALIC as well as other associations, to host additional workshops this summer. The Intro Workshop will be Tuesday, July 6, from 2:30-8 pm at the Mt. Vernon Community Center. A Field Workshop, suitable for those with basic training, will take place Sunday, July 25, 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Minnehonk Town Beach. Pre-registration is required. Last season, 40 volunteer plant patrollers in the watershed, including several here on Androscoggin, conducted surveys on a total of eight lakes. Lidie reviewed and compiled all the surveys for submission to VLMP.

30MRWA director Clyde Walton presented eight free camp road maintenance "walking workshops" aimed at reducing runoff. He is willing to offer his services again this year to landowners and road associations. As a retired area road expert, Clyde is well-known for his gentle, non-threatening, but professional manner. Another retiree, Lake Steward Adrien Polky, patrolled throughout the watershed educating people about boating laws and encouraging reasonable practices.

To cap off the season, Lidie organized a "paddle trek" through the 30 Mile River, complete with shuttles and portages, which was enjoyed by 39 participants on Aug. 15. Feedback favors making this an annual event, with the second trek scheduled for Aug. 7. For more information or to inquire about any of these programs, visit [www.30mileriver.org](http://www.30mileriver.org) or contact Lidie via e-mail: [info@30mileriver.org](mailto:info@30mileriver.org)



### Free Labor for Erosion Control Projects



The 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30MRWA) is seeking project sites for this summer's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) work in our watershed. The YCC's mission is to preserve and improve water quality by addressing erosion and runoff issues on watershed property. The YCC provides all project labor free of charge; the landowner is responsible only for the cost of materials.

To arrange a site visit, please contact 30MRWA Executive Director Lidie Robbins at [info@30mileriver.org](mailto:info@30mileriver.org) or 293-2181. We are available to look at specific problems or simply to review your property and suggest ways to reduce your impact on the lakes.

All work is strictly cooperative with landowners and no sites will be identified for enforcement action. Our purpose is to encourage good stewardship of our lakes.

## Important information about septic systems

(Much of this information is from: [www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docqw/septic\\_systems](http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docqw/septic_systems))

Failing septic systems are the source of 5-10 percent of the phosphorus that reaches lakes. When phosphorus levels rise, even by a small amount, plant life -including algae - will multiply. Many of you noticed how dense the aquatic plants already were at mid-summer last year after a wet start of the season introduced considerable run-off into the lake. In a lake such as Androscoggin, which can have phosphorus readings close to "red flag" levels (+15) in any given summer, it is essential that every measure be taken to reduce the overall concentration of phosphorus from any source.

Here are some pointers on what YOU can do to limit the impact of your septic system on lake water quality.

*Have your septic tank pumped every two to three years.*

- *Get holding tanks pumped regularly; avoid reaching the alarm level.*
- *Consider upgrading your system if you've increased the use of your camp.*
- *Use only phosphorus-free laundry, dishwasher, and other cleaning agents.*
- *Avoid using products labeled "anti-bacterial."*
- *Watch for signs of a failing system:*
  - 1.) **Sewage odor** near the septic tank or leach field.
  - 2.) **Standing water** over the tank or leach field.
  - 3.) **Slow running** drains and toilets.
  - 4.) A patch of **bright green grass** over the leach field in the winter, or lush green growth in summer, when other grass is slow growing.
- *Attend ALIC's SEPTIC SEMINAR on Friday, July 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ladd Center in Wayne. See details elsewhere in this newsletter, including information on the generous incentive drawings which could help you with replacement of , or significant upgrades to, a faulty system.*



***Support all efforts to keep our beautiful lake clean.***

### Loon Count 2010 and Loon Photo Contest

*Editor's Note: Some information for this article was gleaned from the Maine Audubon Website.*



The loon count is the centerpiece of Maine Audubon's Loon Project. Through the project, Maine Audubon actively engages people in conservation, educates the public about loon biology, and collects the scientific data needed to advocate for legislation that benefits loons and the lakes they live in.

This year's loon count will be held on Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 7:30a.m. People interested in volunteering should contact Tom Wells at 685-3332 or email him at [tomhod@roadrunner.com](mailto:tomhod@roadrunner.com).

Last year's loon count ran smoothly despite the wet weather. On Androscoggin Lake the eight loon spotters counted 26 adult loons and 1 chick, which was down from the previous year (a record number of 39 adults and 2 chicks).

In the state-wide results, the number of chicks this year was the 6th-lowest in the count's 26-year history and biologists believe this was due to the very wet weather, which caused lakes to rise and wash away loon nests along with their eggs.

In addition to the loon count, the Maine Audubon Society will be sponsoring its 2nd annual 2010 Loon Photo Contest, starting July 1st. Judging will be in September and a variety of prizes will be awarded. Details, as well as guidelines for taking loon photographs can be found on the Maine Audubon Web site, [www.maineaudubon.org](http://www.maineaudubon.org). Make sure you take a look at last year's amazing and beautiful photographs.



*Please be sure to come to the free program on loons, sponsored by ALIC, at the Ladd Center in Wayne on Friday evening, August 13th.*

### You Are Invited to Two Lake Community Programs:



The ALIC Board is excited to be sponsoring two informative seminars to be held on July 23 and August 13 at the Ladd Center in Wayne. The Friday evening programs will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be open to interested residents of our lake community, as well as the 30 Mile River Watershed. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

The July program will focus on septic systems within the shoreland zone. Maybe you've been thinking about upgrading your old system or replacing your holding tank. Perhaps you're a new camp owner and are totally unknowledgeable about septic systems. Whatever your situation, you'll get valuable information at this event. Our speaker will be Jim Jacobsen, Maine DHHS Division of Environmental Health, Subsurface Wastewater Program, who has a 40 minute presentation, "somewhat conversational in tone" he says, that addresses proper design, installation and maintenance of septic systems.

Jim says that, "to many, the operation of such systems is very much an 'out of sight, out of mind' issue, which leads to system neglect and eventual failure. This discussion will focus on maintenance of existing subsurface wastewater disposal systems to increase efficiency and longevity." We've also invited our local plumbing inspectors, Ernie Sylvester from Leeds and Ken Pratt from Wayne, as well as some area contractors who work in the field (pardon the pun) to participate in the Q & A session which will follow Jim's presentation. (Continued on next page...)

### Note from Cathy Cook, Administrative Assistant:

Hello! I am new to the lake and new to ALIC. I was hired in July 2009 to assist with the many tasks of the volunteer board members, especially the very hard-working president, Debbie Hite, and former treasurer, Allison Lincoln Rich, who had also put in countless hours, compiling membership data and producing the newsletter. I was immediately impressed by the amount of time these two people devoted to ALIC and the amount of knowledge about the lake they had acquired through their years of involvement with ALIC. There is so much for me to learn!

I moved into the lovely Foss cottage last May 1st., and my children and I soon became fans of Lake Androscoggin, though it rained nearly the entire first two months of summer. We swam, we kayaked, we played by the lake every day we could, weather permitting. First thing each day, I would go to the window and observe the ever-changing colors of the lake and the amazing wildlife. The magical loons, the osprey pair in our cove, the cormorants nesting in the big tree in front of Mrs. Johnson's place, the beavers, a mink, the mergansers — something new and exciting everyday!

Yet, it is the light that reflects on the lake from the sky that is the most mesmerizing to me. The sunlight dazzling like diamonds on the clear blue water below a deep blue sky. The dark gray color of the lake when the thunderclouds are hovering above, making the leaves and grass almost fluorescent green in contrast. The peachy-pink sunsets reflecting on the smooth glassy cove. And the sun's first light hitting the perfectly still water early in the morning.

The fall produced magnificent colors reflected in the lake and quiet kayak tours with no one in sight, while pausing in the middle of the still lake, looking up towards Morrison Heights. And then came winter, and, though x-country skiing with Daisy dog on the frozen lake was brief, due to little snow, the lake conditions turned perfect for skating for awhile. The kids, the dog, and I delighted everyday in skating around the cove and visiting the beaver huts over past Jack's house. Once, a bald eagle swooped down right in front of us, snatching an ice fisherman's discarded bait. My daughter Jillian and I skated every day we could, with Daisy running to keep up, sometimes over to the Yacht Club where we'd meet other children skating and playing ice hockey. We even skated on Christmas Eve, a memory to be treasured!

Then the ice melted into an early spring. The mergansers came back, then the loons appeared too, with their welcome first calls. Little by little, the lake comes alive again. For the first time, we've seen a lake go through each season of the year. We know we are truly blessed to live on Androscoggin Lake.

I am still always looking out the window at the lake, while I am cooking, eating dinner with Dustin and Jillian, talking on the phone, etc. Today I saw the Great Blue Heron walking on my shoreline for the first time this spring. The colors still amaze and thrill me daily. I have heard it said that the sky is the background to our thoughts. So has the lake also become the background to mine.

Slowly, I am learning about why it is important to preserve buffer zones, about the impact of phosphorus, about the clarity of the lake, etc. I am still amazed by the volunteer hours that the ALIC board members contribute as well as by their knowledge of lake health issues, I am impressed by the generous donations of the growing numbers of ALIC members. I now understand that it is for the love of the lake, and the quality of life it provides for us, that we must continue to all work together for our beautiful Androscoggin Lake.



### Community Programs: Continued from previous page

TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION AND ACTION by property owners on Androscoggin Lake whose systems are in need of significant attention (replacement or major upgrade), there will be several prize drawings, consisting of both cash and in-kind services, with a total potential value of over \$3,000. More details will be forthcoming in the local media and on our website blog at [www.androscogginlake.org](http://www.androscogginlake.org).

The August program will bring us Susan Gallo, Wildlife Biologist from Maine Audubon. Her multimedia slideshow will run through a year in the life of a Maine loon, as well as summarize the major threats they face on both their breeding and wintering grounds and recent research into their migration routes, calls and habits. This show is appropriate for even the youngest loon enthusiasts, with amazing images from Maine photographers that will inspire you to work toward common loon conservation. We look forward to getting better acquainted as well as informed at these summer events!

## A Day on The Lake ...by Buddy Cummings



Today was one of those perfect days on the lake, the kind of day that will stick in my memory and sustain me throughout the long hiatus before I am able to return to our camp in Wayne again in the spring. Up until now, I've never been in Maine in October. And, what a treat it is!

Yup, its starting to get cold. But, the wood stove is doing a pretty good job of keeping me warm. It runs between 80 and 90 in the living room, near the kitchen, as long as I keep the stove burning ... then drops off to about 60 in the front room, about 50 in my bedroom, and somewhere between 35 and 45 outside.

Today, the lake has been perfectly calm all day. The trees are starting to turn red, and orange, and yellow; some have even lost their leaves altogether. All but a very few people are now gone from the lake. There are no boats. There is only moon and star light across the lake at night. Most of the birds seem to be gone, except for one or two finches which visit me occasionally. And, even the red squirrels and chipmunks seem to be showing up less and less; just last week they were busily preparing for the cold; now, even they are silent.

This morning, my aunt and I decided to go out on the lake for one last kayak ride. At first, we paddled near the shoreline. I was worried about getting too far from the shore, since kayaks can be tipsy and the water is now fairly cold. But, the lake was like glass, the sunshine intoxicating, and the two of us soon ended up in the middle of the lake. We drifted magically in our kayaks across the glassy surface, transfixed by the utter silence, amazed by the fall colors, listening for loons, trying to spot the eagles again ... one of those perfect moments, and a new kind of perfect day on the lake for me, one who is usually in California by now.





**Oh buoy, oh buoy .....Debbie Hite**

Many of you are discovering something new literally "dotting" the lakescape as you return to your camps this season. Last fall, at the request of our two municipalities, the Dept. of Conservation Navigational Aids Program put in 59 buoys on Androscoggin Lake to mark the most significant hazards. By their definition, that means those outside the water safety zone (the first 200' from any shore) and those covered by less than 4' of water at low water periods during the boating season. Exceptions are made in the case of a channel or critical high traffic area. The markers, which are actually white poles chained to 300 lb. anchors, will remain in place year round.

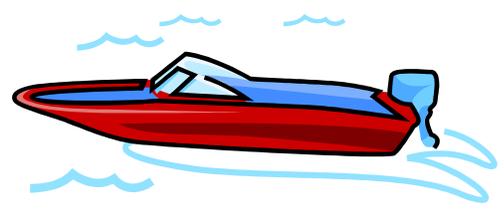
While the ALIC Board certainly endorses safe boating practices on the lake, it has chosen to reserve its opinion on the buoys. Some members fear that there will be increased traffic and speeding on the lake now that its many rocks are marked. Others find the markers an eyesore. Still others are anxious about future expectations the State may express for our assistance in monitoring the buoys, which is supposed to be performed every three weeks during the boating season. The ALIC Board is not assuming any care taker role at this time for the buoys.

If ALIC members individually want to offer their help as monthly monitors, they should contact Navigational Aids Supervisor Tim Thurston at (207) 582-5771 or at [timothy.thurston@maine.gov](mailto:timothy.thurston@maine.gov) If you're aware of an unmarked hazard that meets the above criteria, report it to him. If you come across a buoy that is damaged or off-course, contact him. There is a blue sticker attached to every buoy with the pertinent information.

Ultimately, safety is an individual responsibility. Boaters are advised to become educated on the various symbols, colors and meanings of the buoys by going to the following website: <http://www.state.me.us/doc/parks/programs/boating/navaids.htm>



**RED AND GREEN**  
**GO BETWEEN**



***Watercraft may not be operated at a speed greater than headway speed while within the water safety zone (200 feet from shore) - that includes the Dead River. Please be considerate of small watercraft as well as the effects of wave action on shorelines.***

**Upcoming Events . . . Get Informed, Become Involved, Stay Connected**

**June 18** 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Training for new DO Monitors VLMP Brackett Environmental Ctr. Auburn

**June 26** 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 40<sup>th</sup>. Annual Maine Lakes Conference Colby College, Waterville Sponsored by Maine Congress of Lake Association (MECOLA) [www.mainecola.org](http://www.mainecola.org) ALIC president, Debbie Hite, will be one of the presenters in a session entitled "Congratulations! You're President... Now What?"

**July 6** 2:30-8:00 p.m. Intro to Invasive Plants Mt. Vernon Community Center Hosted by 30 MRWA with sponsorship from ALIC and other associations. [www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org](http://www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org)

**July 10** 8:30-11:00 a.m. ALIC Annual Meeting Androscoggin Yacht Club, Wayne Breakfast pot-luck followed by business meeting. [www.androscogginlake.org](http://www.androscogginlake.org)

**July 23** 7:00 p.m. Septic Seminar featuring speaker, contractors, local plumbing inspectors, Q & A, door prizes and major incentives (cash and in-kind services) for significant improvements to systems in need of attention. Ladd Center, Wayne. Sponsored by ALIC to encourage positive steps to better septic use and maintenance, with the goal of improving lake water quality.

**July 25** 1:30-5:30 p.m. Field Survey Methods Class for Invasive Plant Patrollers Town Beach, Minnehonk Lake, Mt. Vernon. Hosted by 30 MRWA with sponsorship from ALIC and other associations [www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org](http://www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org)

**July 31** 1:00-3:00 p.m. VLMP Annual Conference & Recertification Great Outdoors, Turner

**Aug. 7** Time TBA 30MRWA 2nd. Annual Paddle Trek through the watershed. [www.30mileriver.org](http://www.30mileriver.org)

**Aug. 11** 1:00-5:00 p.m. Advanced Invasive Plant ID Class VLMP Brackett Center, Auburn

**Aug. 13** 7:00 p.m. Loon Seminar featuring Maine Audubon slideshow, sponsored by ALIC, Ladd Center

**Interesting Note from VLMP for Lake Monitors:**



As the Landsat 7 satellite orbits the earth, it takes photos of Maine lakes and ponds (as well as other features of the earth's surface). The satellite images could be used to help characterize the transparency for many Maine lakes (thousands!) for which we do not have current water quality data. Volunteer lake monitors can play an important role in helping to "ground truth" or calibrate the satellite images by taking **Secchi disk** transparency readings on these dates.

**2010 Landsat 7 Overpass Dates**

**May 10 & 26    June 11 & 27    July 13 & 29    August 16    September 6 & 22**



## Stay Up-to-Date Throughout the Year

**ALIC has created a new online Yahoo! Group** to allow us to better communicate with the entire membership throughout the year. If you have an e-mail address, you no longer need to keep checking [www.androscogginlake.org](http://www.androscogginlake.org) or to wait for the annual newsletter for ALIC news!

We know that you probably already get a lot of e-mail, so in order to keep a cap on e-mail traffic from this group, we have set it up as a "moderated" group. This means that messages can only be posted to the group by members of the ALIC Board of Directors.

When you sign up, you have two easy options to choose from:

- You can sign up to just get e-mail postings from the group without actually joining the group.
- Or, you can become a full member of the group itself. Members of the group are able to browse through past postings, but Yahoo! does require that you create a Yahoo! account for yourself, if you do not already have one.

To sign up, just send an e-mail to [AndroscogginLake-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AndroscogginLake-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Please include your full name and, optionally, your address, in the body of your e-mail, so that we know who are. Or, if you prefer, just give us your e-mail address when you sign in at the upcoming annual meeting, and we'll handle the details for you.

Once you have indicated to us that you want to sign up, you will receive an e-mail with further instructions for either joining the group or just receiving e-mail posted to the group site. If you want to have complete member access to the group, you will need to either supply your existing Yahoo! account information or to create a new Yahoo! account. Alternatively, to opt for e-mail updates only, without creating a Yahoo! Account, just click on "join the mailing list instead" snuggled away near the bottom of the message.

If you have further questions or experience any problems, please send an e-mail to [info@androscogginlake.org](mailto:info@androscogginlake.org).

***Note from Treasurer: Please send your dues now. Please be sure to include your email address. All donations are tax deductible.***

ALIC  
PO Box 307, Wayne, ME



**Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday July 10, 8:30 am**  
**Potluck Breakfast at AYC**

**ALIC needs you.**  
**Please renew now!**

[www.androscogginlake.org](http://www.androscogginlake.org)

ALIC  
PO Box 307  
Wayne, ME 04284

