



THE ALIC NEWS

Summer 2011

Please join or renew today!

Message by Debbie Hite, Executive Director

The black flies have emerged, so summer must be within reach. What a long winter we endured with 10" of snow on April 1 and ice in the lake until April 19, a whole month later than last year. Now we're waiting for the lake to recede and water temps to warm up. Summer fun is ahead!

Also ahead is a full slate of opportunities for our membership and lake community at large. The ALIC Board hopes you'll take advantage of many of these offerings to become better informed and more personally involved. You can:



- take a free class on Invasive Aquatic Plants
- join the team of Plant Patrollers on our lake
- learn how to navigate the DEP permitting process
- obtain instructions for effective erosion control measures
- find out how to beef up your buffer
- get acquainted with area LakeSmart vendors and contractors
- visit the new Maine Lakes Resource Center
- take a turn performing boat inspections at area launches

You'll find more details inside this newsletter, on our website and Yahoo!Group, and in "The Messenger." We look forward to seeing you at this season's events and at the annual meeting Aug. 6.

The ALIC Board of Directors took a step this spring towards sustaining ALIC into the future by creating the paid position of Executive Director. This person will serve as the local point of contact for ALIC year-round and will help develop and plan actions which support the mission of the corporation. The responsibilities include researching opportunities for education and enrichment of the membership and the community on lake-related topics; advocating at the legislative level for continued lake protection; cultivating a network of contacts within area agencies and associations; and exploring funding sources for Board-approved projects and initiatives, including grants. The Board offered me the part-time, hourly position and I am pleased to accept this new role. The success of ALIC, however, still depends on YOU and your commitment to doing what's right for the health of the lake.

It is anticipated that there will be two positions available for new directors on the Board. There are two years remaining in my term, ending in August 2013, and there is one vacancy in the next three-year rotation as Peter Ault plans to retire after many years of service on the Board. Thank you Peter! Both year-round and seasonal residents should consider serving, as we often conduct our monthly meetings via conference call. In addition to filling these vacancies, the Board hopes to have a slate of officers to present at the annual meeting on Aug. 6.

On a final note, I am pleased to report that lake water quality has improved, according to the biennial report of the DEP's Bureau of Land and Water Quality. The "Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Reports" published in every even-numbered year, indicates that Androscoggin Lake is one of 12 lakes that moved to a new listing since 2008. It has climbed one notch to category "2" ("5" representing the lowest water quality). You can find the 204 page report by going to www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docmonitoring/305b/index.htm. The listing describes the lake as stable but still susceptible to an occasional bloom. Let's do what we can to sustain that cautious optimism!

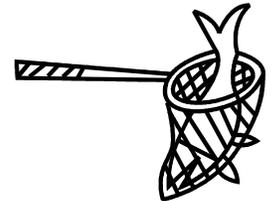
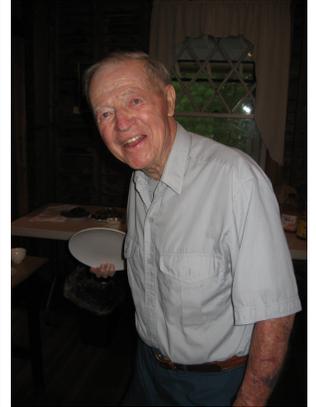
Jack Mahoney, ALIC emeritus and patriarch

Now in its 41st year, ALIC would like to dedicate this newsletter to Jack Mahoney for his long-standing service to our association and to its mission “to preserve and protect Androscoggin Lake.” Many of you will remember his lively presentations at our annual meetings about his Secchi disk testing and his collaboration with water quality monitor and neighbor Beth Pochopien over a period of many years. We appreciate their contributions.

A retired biologist, Jack was concerned about the introduction of pollutants over the decades from the Androscoggin River into Androscoggin Lake. He began early testing on his own and tried for years to convince the State to test fish from the lake as they do from the river. In 1996, his persistence was rewarded. The result: lake fish showed dioxin levels about the same as the river fish. The positive outcome was ongoing testing by the DEP and also several studies examining the effectiveness of the Dead River dam (aka pollution control device) and the impact of decades of pollution from the Androscoggin River.

A 2001 Kennebec Journal article entitled, “A Lake on the Edge-A Unique Man Comes to the Aid of a Unique Lake,” the newspaper piece rightfully attributed much of the improving health of Androscoggin Lake to Jack’s dedication. “It’s all because of people like Jack Mahoney,” said DEP biologist Roy Bouchard, quoted in the article. “He’s put a lot of his life into the effort to protect the lake, and he’s been absolutely reliable.”

Jack, now in his 80’s, still maintains his self-stated position as a “lake observer,” although he doesn’t get out on the water much anymore. Jack, you’re one in a million and we are honored to be following in your footsteps. Thank you!



A glimpse at ALIC’s history...

with special appreciation for those who have served in its leadership.

David Ault writes: *Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation was envisioned by Alex Dmitrieff, Harlan Choate and David Ault. Harlan did the necessary legal work to establish the corporation. Its purpose was to control the level of Androscoggin Lake so as to accommodate Camp Androscoggin’s boat, “Handy Andy”, and allow consistent nesting levels for loons. It was also intended to establish state ownership of the dam and thus obtain funding for its maintenance.*

While in the legislature from 1970-1982, Ault submitted legislation to “Maintain the State Owned Dam on Dead River” and obtained an annual appropriation of \$2500 to fund the maintenance which was done by Camp Androscoggin staff.

The original “Certificate of Organization of a Corporation,” dated May 31, 1970 lists three officers: President Alexis B. Dmitrieff, Secretary Dorothy Lawrence, and Treasurer Walter A. Anderson. Directors are named as Alexis B. Dmitrieff, Barbara G. Dmitrieff, Walter A. Anderson, David R. Ault, Edwin Longley, Jr, Dorothy R. Lawrence, and Harold C. Blanchard. Ensuing presidents are listed below:



Alexis B. Dmitreff	1970
Simone Roy	? -1989
George Leyden	1989-1997
Martha Hoddinott	1997-2000
Molly Saunders	2003-2004
Anne Huntington	2005-2007
Debbie Hite	2007-2010



Events Calendar

June 25 Maine Lakes Conference Colby College, Waterville Sponsored by Maine Congress of Lake Associations (MECOLA) www.mainecola.org Learning, networking, inspiration.

July 9 9 a.m. – noon Ladd Center, Wayne Summer Seminar “Preserving Your Shoreline and Reducing Runoff” Sponsored by ALIC www.androscogginlake.org

July 12 2:30-8:00 p.m. Mt. Vernon Community Center Introductory Workshop on Invasive Aquatic Plants, sponsored by ALIC, 30 Mile River Watershed Association, and Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance. Free, but registration required: www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org/workshops

July 16 7-7:30 a.m. Annual Loon Count Contact: Tom Wells 685-3332.

July 16 8:30 a.m.-12:30 Taylor Pond in Mt. Vernon Field Methods Workshop for Invasive Plant Patrollers (IPP), sponsored by ALIC, 30 MRWA, and BRCA . Actual on-the-water practice in conducting a plant survey. Contact VLMP (see above entry).

July 30 VLMP Annual Conference The Great Outdoors on Pleasant Pond in Turner Free (includes lunch) for certified water quality monitors and certified invasive plant patrollers, but registration required. E-mail: vlmp@mainevlmp.org

Aug 6 8:30-11:00 a.m. Yacht Club, Wayne ALIC Potluck Brunch and Annual Meeting.

Aug 10 9:00 a.m. Departure from Wayne Elem. School for Field Trip to Maine Lakes Resource Center in the Village of Belgrade Lakes. Lunch plans still in the making.

Aug 13 Annual Paddle Trek of the 30 Mile River Watershed, multiple put-in points along the route. See page 10 for more details. Register at: www.30MileRiver.org

ALIC is proud to partner with VLMP, America’s first citizen lake monitoring program celebrating 40 years.

Interested in becoming a water quality monitor or invasive plant patroller? Does your certification in Secchi or DO need renewal? VLMP has a full schedule of training sessions and workshops available all summer long. Find out all the details at www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org



An interesting note from VLMP:

“The efforts of volunteers to collect Secchi data matching flyover dates of the Landsat 5 satellite is paying off, according to DEP Biologist Linda Bacon. DEP is currently funding a graduate student position at the University of Maine to compare Secchi data to satellite images, and hopes to have a completed model in 2-3 years. This technology has the potential to be able to identify algae blooms from space! Bacon says that ‘volunteer data will be more valuable than ever to help calibrate the satellite.’”

“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 the days when the satellite passes over Maine.”

2011 Landsat 5 Overpass Dates

May 4, 20

June 5, 21

July 7, 16

Aug 8*, 24*

Sept 9*, 25

Oct 11, 27

* high priority, if clear skies



Field Trip Announced

Join your fellow ALIC members and friends on an excursion to the new Maine Lakes Resource Center in the village of Belgrade Lakes in Central Maine. The center is part of the “Docks to Doorways” project, a \$2.5 million conservation initiative springing out of the Belgrade Lakes Association, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA), and Colby College’s Environmental Studies Program. Although it’s fitted with the latest green technology, the 3500 sq. ft. building resembles a 19th. century barn and has been built with recycled posts and beams. The interpretive facility includes porous pavers, buffer plantings, a wet lab, aquaria housing native and invasive species, and many other displays pertaining to lake water quality. We’re planning this field trip for Wed. Aug. 10, with departure from Wayne at 9: 00 a.m. Lunch plans are still in the making. Learn more at the ALIC annual meeting, on our website and through the Yahoo!Group. RSVP by e-mail: info@androscogginlake.org A fun and informative outing for all is guaranteed!



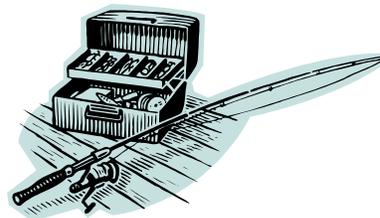
ALIC Opens Communication Channel to Bass Clubs.....Debbie Hite

After years of disgruntled feelings and resentment among lake residents about the frequent bass tournaments on “their” lake, the ALIC Board of Directors decided last season to learn more about the clubs behind the events. In addition, the board wanted to increase awareness among the bass clubs of the concerns of our members. The initiative has been very productive and has put ALIC in the spotlight among its affiliated associations.

The process was actually rather simple to implement. IF&W posts the tournament schedule on their website in the spring, along with the contact info for each bass club. About two weeks prior to each tournament, ALIC’s administrative assistant Cathy Cook calls the club contact to confirm the information and to express our concerns i.e. inspection of all equipment for trailing plants; wake speed zones esp. in the Dead River; courtesy to others around the lake; and respect for wildlife. She follows a prepared script, which ensures that the conversation is uniform each time and keeps the tone cordial.

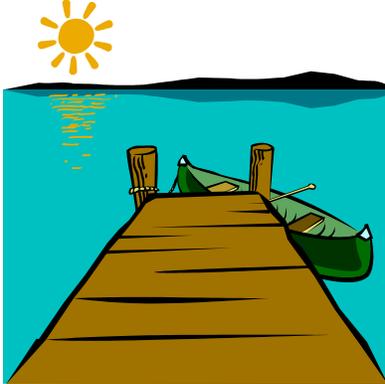
After just a few weeks of these phone calls, the word must have gotten around that Androscoggin Lake has a pro-active lake association, because some bass clubs started contacting US in advance to provide their information and to respond to our concerns. Moreover, Steve Wilson, President of the Maine Bassmasters Federation Nation, called to inquire about ALIC’s initiative and to offer to come to one of our board meetings. We learned that there are three umbrella organizations governing most of Maine’s bass clubs. While Steve believes that his group does a good job at monitoring their members behavior and compliance to tournament requirements (including boat inspections), he did imply that there are some clubs who may not come as close to complying to these standards. And, of course, there are also other boaters who may either be unaware of the threat of invasive aquatic plants or inattentive when it comes to inspecting their equipment.

This is where lake associations can be of help. Additional sets of observant eyes would go a long way to determining when and where supplemental monitoring might be needed. ALIC has designated up to \$1000 to increase the presence of Courtesy Boat Inspectors at the Wayne launch site this season. Staffing, training and scheduling will be through the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, which is currently recruiting candidates (older students, retirees) for the paid positions. However, it is hoped that ALIC can provide some volunteers from its membership to further support the effort. Send us an e-mail (info@androscogginlake.org) if you’d be willing to take a turn or would like more information.



Remove all plants from your motor, boat, and trailer prior to any launch. Help protect the lake from invasives.

Visit Our Website:
www.androscogginlake.org



List of Bass Fishing Tournaments

- 6/19 Open Maine B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
- 6/25-26 Club The Bass Federation of Maine Inc (multi-day event)
- 7/09 Club Central Maine Bassmasters
- 8/07 Open Central Maine Bassmasters
- 8/14 Open Western Maine Bassmasters
- 10/9 Club Rocky Hill Bass Anglers



Did You Know?



Morrison Heights in Wayne was the perfect lookout for early settlers to keep watch for Indians who would travel down the Dead River and across Androscoggin Lake as part of their waterway trek from Canada. Read on...

Summer 1776 Indian "Scares"

Winthrop-The Indian "scares" were at a height during the summer amid wild rumors circulating of the likelihood of Indians coming down the rivers from Canada to raid undefended settlements. Reports had circulated the previous summer that a party of Indians had been seen on the "Androscoggin." The source of this story was a visit made by four Penobscot, Tarratine Chiefs at Falmouth (Portland) on their way to Provincial Congress. The Indians wanted to consult with the Congress as to what course would be best for them to pursue in the war. Some of Winthrop's more isolated families were so concerned they left their homes and refused to return without guards. Daniel Allen and Samuel Pullam were hired by the town and paid "two pounds lawful money" to scout and watch for Indians. (History of Wayne, Maine Origin and Settlement Prior to 1802, p.60, by Eloise R. Ault)



Shoreline trees protect lake water quality

Spring Drama on the Lake by Cathy Cook, Administrative Assistant

This was an old-fashioned, cold, snowy winter. There were many ice fishermen in the cove, and tons of snowmobilers, but no vehicles this year, probably because of the deep snow. Bald eagles were plentiful. Skating was good for a couple weeks in December, until the snow arrived in earnest.

Finally there came the signs of spring. I always think that there aren't many people happier and more appreciative of spring than us "Mainers." On one mild and sunny day, I noticed that the ice around the edge of the lake had melted away, so that it was not easy to find a place to get onto the lake. Rick and I were sitting at the picnic table, celebrating the vernal equinox with a milkshake. Our attention was drawn to a bald eagle coming down to land near the ice fishing traps of my neighbor, Alison Lincoln-Rich. It sat patiently waiting, and we waited too, curious to see what would happen when Alison pulled a fish out of the hole.

After only a short time, a flag sprang up. As we watched nervously, veteran fisherwoman Alison nonchalantly strolled out to her flag, the eagle not 50 feet away, watching her every move. She carefully pulled out her line and took a fish off the hook, and, with all her might, tossed it in the direction of the eagle. For some time after she walked off the lake to her shorefront, the eagle waited and then eventually "waddled" awkwardly to the fish to enjoy the free meal. (Now we understood why there were so many bald eagles on the cove all winter, often sitting in the trees on the shoreline of the lovely cottage that I rent from Ken and Gloria Foss.)

To top off the dramatic moment, Daisy, my yellow lab, suddenly getting loose from her leash, ran straight out onto the ice, to the eagle and its fish! (Daisy learned earlier in the winter that the pickerel discarded on the ice taste much better than her daily grub.) But the eagle lifted off with its fish in tow, just before Daisy reached it. Another entertaining day on lovely Androscoggin Lake!



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 _____

Check here ONLY if you do not want your email address added to our Yahoo! Group
(By checking this box you will not receive the occasional e-mail updates from ALIC)

I would like to save some trees by going paperless.
(ALIC newsletters can always be found at www.androscogginlake.org)

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.

News from 30MRWA:



3rd Annual PADDLE TREK

The 30 Mile River Watershed Association will lead its 3rd Annual Paddle Trek on Saturday, August 13th. Canoeists and kayakers may join for all or part of this 15-mile trip along portions of the route from Mount Vernon Village to Wayne Village. Return shuttles will be provided at three designated points. (Rain date - August 14). More information will be available this spring at www.30mileriver.org.

To sign up, contact Lee or Mary at paddle@30mileriver.org or 897-1112.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Prevention

This year ALIC will again partner with 30MRWA to work at keeping Androscoggin Lake free of invasive aquatic plants. Courtesy Boat Inspectors will staff the Rt. 133 public boat launch on weekends to check boats for hitchhiking plants. Later in the summer, "Invasive Plant Patrollers" will survey the lake for any infestations. In July, ALIC and 30MRWA will partner with the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring program to offer two free workshops for invasive plant patrollers: an introductory workshop on July 12 at the Mt. Vernon Community Center, from 2:30-8:00 pm and a field workshop on July 16, from 8:30-12:30 at Taylor Pond in Mt. Vernon (next to the Chimney across from Echo Lake). Registration information will be available soon at www.mainevlmp.org. Volunteers are needed for both of these efforts. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lidie Robbins , Executive Director, 30 Mile River Watershed Association, lidie@30mileriver.org or 293-2181.

Summer Employment Opportunities

30MRWA is seeking a Program Coordinator for the Invasive Plant Program and Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) for the summer season. Both are part-time. The Coordinator position runs from late-May to mid-September. CBIs are needed Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, primarily weekends and holidays. For more information, visit www.30mileriver.org.





A Step in the Right Direction

A new venture last summer by the ALIC Board proved to be very worthwhile, thanks to a great response from both our membership and the watershed community. Our two summer seminars were a success by all accounts. The Septic Seminar in July drew two dozen people who learned more about how septic systems work and what steps one can take to ensure better operation of a system. Several people won vouchers offered by area contractors, which provided the incentive for them to explore replacement or significant improvements to their existing systems. Although some of these folks were unable to commit to an upgrade at this time, two property owners took full advantage of their winnings, including cash prizes from ALIC, and are well into the process of making the recommended upgrades. This is a great start towards addressing the issue of inadequate or aging septic systems around the lake, and the ALIC Board is very proud to have played a part in producing positive action in this area of concern.

The second seminar in August, featuring a presentation from Maine Audubon about loons, was attended by close to 90 people who came from all over the 30 Mile River Watershed and beyond. Even the most knowledgeable enthusiasts learned more about this favorite waterfowl whose numbers, unfortunately, are declining on Androscoggin Lake due in part to the fluctuating water levels during the nesting season and threats both natural and human.

You're invited to participate in our third seminar on July 9, focusing on shoreline preservation and reducing runoff. Find more details on page 2 of this newsletter.

Tip from "A LAKER'S DOZEN" as published in *The Lake Book*

By the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (www.mainecola.org)

Tip #7 Don't stress your septic system. Inspect the system yearly and pump the tank every 2-5 years. Systems 20 years of age and older should be inspected by a specialist. Use phosphorus-free cleaners and detergents. Stagger laundry loads. Minimize water use. Don't put toxics or grease down the drain.

Slow the flow of sediment into the lake, especially during rain events. Maintain the natural plants along your shoreline and leave a duff layer of leaves, pine needles, and twigs. Redirect runoff from roads and steep driveways via trenches or turnouts into vegetated buffer areas. Keep the contours and depressions in your lawn to catch water before it reaches the lake. Minimize bare soil; use mulch. Observe Shoreland Zone regulations.

What starts on land ends in the water!

