



THE ALIC NEWS

Join or Renew Today

Summer 2012

From the Helm

by Debbie Hite, ALIC Executive Director

This has been a year of transition for the ALIC Board and that is aptly reflected in **this front page of our annual newsletter. This page used to be entitled “From the President...” but we now have a new leadership team at the helm of the ALIC ship.** Longtime ALIC member, Jim Breazeale, agreed last fall to a one-year term as President, and Debbie Hite was selected last spring for the new position of Executive Director, a part-time, hourly-paid post. Many of you know Debbie from her ongoing service to ALIC, including a few years as president.

This partnership is a good fit for our association at this time and lays the groundwork for sustainability of our mission. Jim brings solid leadership to the Board and **helps it remain focused so as to not “dilute our brand,” to borrow one of his business terms.** He encourages board members to take responsibility for tasks – such as Tom Barden has done with the loon platform project (see pg. 2) while acknowledging their volunteer capacity and individual time constraints. As a seasonal resident, Jim appreciates the all-too-short summer season as compared to the unlimited social and recreational opportunities available within our lake community and beyond.

While Jim’s principle role is administrative, Debbie’s is service-oriented as stated in the following purpose: “The Executive Director serves as the local point of contact for the lake association and helps develop and support actions which fulfill the mission of the corporation.”

Recent years have brought ALIC increased opportunities for collaboration among various agencies and lake-related organizations. Ideas are often hatched over the winter, and planning for the summer season begins weeks before the ice is out of the lake. The Executive Director looks after our interests year-round, reporting pertinent information and sharing suggestions with the board and following up as requested.

We welcomed some new board members this year: Tom Barden, Chris Cushman, and George Bardaglio. In addition, we appreciate the renewed connection to the towns and the yacht club through our ex-officio board members Carroll Paradis (Wayne), Dwight Buckley (Leeds), and Chris McKee (Androscoggin Yacht Club).

(Continued on page 2)

www.androscogginlake.org

Inside this issue:

Correction to 2011 Newsletter	2
ALIC Launches Loon Raft Project	2
Androscoggin Lake Cranberries	3
Bass Tournament Schedule	3
The Case of the Mystery Milfoil	4
Events Calendar	4
Lake Levels and the Dam	5
Androscoggin Water Quality Program	5
That’s No Fish Tale	6
Aquatic Plants Workshop	6
Membership Renewal	7

Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 4th
Yacht Club

8:30 am potluck
9:00 am business

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars!

From the Helm *(Continued from page 1)*

This year's goals defined by the ALIC board focus on increasing membership numbers; enhancing the successful reproduction of the loon population; and encouraging involvement of our members in actions of significant importance to the health and well-being of the lake, particularly courtesy boat inspections (CBI) and invasive plant patrols (IPP). Read more in this newsletter about these efforts and get involved, or at least informed, to the extent you are able. We hope you'll agree that each of us plays a vital role in fulfilling the ALIC mission by the decisions we make at our camps, on our shorefront, and in the water.

You're urged to share this newsletter with your summer guests and to invite your neighbors to join the lake association. We look forward to seeing all of our lake friends at the annual meeting on Saturday morning, August 4, at the Androscoggin Yacht Club in Wayne.

Correction to the 2011 Summer Newsletter



The summer 2011 edition of *The ALIC News* included a beautiful photo of a group of loons swimming before the setting sun on Androscoggin Lake. It is embarrassing to say, however, that we credited this photo to the wrong person. The caption should have credited the photo to Terry Brooks. Thank you Terry for allowing us to use this great photo in last summer's newsletter!

ALIC Launches Artificial Loon Raft Project

by Debbie Hite

Buoyed by the success of the West Acres platform and informed by our wonderful speaker at last year's annual meeting, the ALIC Board of Directors has set a goal of increasing the likelihood of loon chicks born on Androscoggin Lake. To that end, it has launched a grant program which will underwrite the construction of two rafts this season and two next year at a cost of up to \$200 per unit. One additional raft is being built and sited by an ALIC member who did not apply for the grant. Participants were selected from a field of applicants who responded to an appeal through

the lake association's Yahoo!Group and who were able to commit to the program requirements. Director Tom Barden is heading up the project and is considering a summer workshop for community members who might like to build a raft for future use. **This year's three loon rafts are all located in designated areas on the Leeds side of the lake.** They will be closely monitored, with observations shared via the ALIC website blog, the Yahoo! Group, the newsletter, and, of course, the annual meeting which will be Saturday morning, August 4, at the Androscoggin Yacht Club in Wayne.

Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation

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Executive Director

Debbie Hite

Board of Directors

George Bardaglio
Tom Barden
Jim Breazeale, president
Buddy Cummings, secretary
Chris Cushman

Jean Gardner
Lincoln Hayes
Martha Hodinott
Joan Sandidge, treasurer

Androscoggin Lake Cranberries

by Tom Barden



Cranberry Stem and Blossom

The name cranberry, for the red or purple berry that grows wild on the shores of Androscoggin Lake, is believed to have come from ‘crane berry’. Early native Americans and early settlers thought the blossom looked like a crane and hence the name crane berry. Cranberries like to grow in moist alkaline soil. The shores of Androscoggin lake have the proper environment for cranberries to grow wild and they do grow any place there is an open area with loamy soil that is not crowded with other plant species.

I always thought the cranberry plant had to be submerged for a portion of the growing season to bear fruit but research has shown this is not true. Cranberries are submerged commercially during the first part of the growing season to prevent pest and insect damage and are submerged at the end of the growing season if the berries are to be *wet* harvested.



Cranberries in Fruit

Cranberry stems on the shores surrounding Androscoggin Lake grow from four to six inches in length. When the cranberry plant flowers in early June one to six white



Natural Wet Harvest

blossoms appear. After fertilization the berry forms and is white. If cranberries are picked and squeezed before they change color to red or purple, white cranberry juice is produced. Cranberries change color from white to red or purple about the same time apples change color. I have learned that *white* cranberries can be frozen and will change color to red or purple or *ripen* in the freezer for Thanksgiving.

The other thing I have learned the hard way is that crazins are made from the outer skin of the cranberry after it has been squeezed and the inner pulp, seeds and juice have been extracted.



Cranberry Land

Cranberries are very good and provide cranberry sauce, orange-cranberry relish, craizins, cranberry juice, oil of cranberry and mulch.

2012 Bass Tournament Schedule

Club tourney usually involves fewer than 20 boats. Open can involve as many as 100.

Measure & release usually involves about 15 boats. All fish are released after being measured. These tournaments are often held during the spawning season, from May to mid-June.

4/28	club	Maine Country Bassers
5/26	measure & release	Kennebec Valley Bassmasters
6/17	open	Maine Country Bassmasters
7/15	open	Western Maine Anglers
8/5	open	Central Maine Bassmasters
8/18	club	Western Maine Bassmasters
10/7	club	Bronzeback Mainiacs
10/28	club	American Bassmasters

The Case of the Mystery Milfoil

by **Debbie Hite**

Last year mid-summer, Wayne resident and seasonally paid Courtesy Boat Inspector Vanessa Randall made an interesting discovery at the State launch on Rt. 133. Vanessa makes a habit of examining the **natural debris floating at the water's edge when she comes on duty.** On that July day, she found a plant **segment which didn't resemble anything she was accustomed to seeing,** so, per her training protocol, she bagged it up to give to the CBI coordinator. The specimen made its way to the Auburn office of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) and its Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants. ALIC has affiliations with this resource, which oversees the State-wide efforts of water quality monitors and invasive plant patrollers.

By this time, the plant had disintegrated somewhat, but the staff at VLMP thought it to be one of the native milfoils. They had some other specimens they were sending out for DNA testing and thought it best to include the Androscoggin sample in the packet destined for a university lab in Michigan. The results were inconclusive. The specimen did not match any of the markers for the currently listed invasive milfoils, known Maine natives, or a wide range of other milfoils. Its identity remains a mystery.

VLMP's Roberta Hill notes that **"this is not necessarily bad news"** and has suggested a regimen for

ongoing monitoring of the area. She has also advised the expert peer review group at the State, with whom ALIC has very good relations, of the discovery.

We are, of course, relieved that the plant is not one of the invasive milfoils, but we are anxious about the potential threat in the vicinity of the launch. The incident underscores the importance of courtesy boat inspections as well as the value of having as many sets of trained eyes as possible examining aquatic plant life, particularly in target areas such as launches and nearby coves. We are also thankful to be a member of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association which coordinates CBI and makes many other services available. (Come to the July 16 seminar to learn more about the 30MRWA.)

One of the ALIC goals this season is to build up its volunteer corps for courtesy boat inspections. The training is simple, scheduling is flexible, and the **time commitment is minimal.** Perhaps you'll consider taking a turn – even just a few times – to help protect and preserve Lake Androscoggin. To learn more about CBI, visit www.30mileriver.org click on links, then educational resources, then go to invasive plants and click on CBI training video. CBI training will also be offered at 6:30 p.m. before the July 16 seminar described below. Thanks for helping in this important work.

Events Calendar



- June 28, 8:30am** Plant Paddle Workshop, the Androscoggin Yacht Club, Wayne
Land-based and on-the-water session to get acquainted with aquatic plants.
See page 6 for details.
- July 16, 7pm** ALIC and the *30 Mile River Watershed Association*, the Ladd Center, Wayne
Lidie Roberts, executive director of the *30 Mile River Watershed Association*, will talk about programs and resources available to both ALIC and our lake community. Come early for CBI training at 6:30.
- August 4, 8:30am** ALIC Annual Meeting, the Androscoggin Yacht Club, Wayne
The potluck breakfast begins at 8:30am, followed by the business meeting at 9:00am. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.
- August 11, 7am** Annual *30 Mile River Watershed Association* Paddle Trek
Canoe or kayak this 15 mile trail .

Visit www.androscogginlake.org for more information regarding summer events

Understanding the Link Between the Dam and Lake Levels

by Debbie Hite

Every year, there are questions and complaints about the changing water levels on Androscoggin Lake. **Some people believe that ALIC “controls”** the lake level, which is not true. The varying levels are directly tied to the Androscoggin River and its impact on the dual flow of the Dead River.

In the spring, with the rains and the snowmelt, water usually rushes over the Dead River dam (a State-owned pollution control device) and out into the lake, carrying with it anything in its path. The flashboards atop the dam reduce the chances of more **“spillover” events in the regular season.** When the Androscoggin River is lower than the lake, the Dead River reverses its flow and water is directed from the lake towards the dam, again carrying tree trunks and debris, passing through its gates and out to the Androscoggin River. This back and forth continues over time, resulting in

frequent blockages at the dam which have to be removed by our team of volunteers.

Occasionally, usually in late August or September, if there has been little rainfall, the water level naturally drops to levels that result in shallow, warm water which invites algae growth and mosquito breeding. A number of years ago ALIC and state biologists determined that, whenever the water **level drops to 276’ above sea level, efforts should** be taken to slow down further drainage from the lake. At that time, obstructive panels are placed over the waste gates to retard the water outflow. The panels are removed once the lake is restored to a healthier water level. This action, the removal of debris, and the use of the flashboards are the only interventions by ALIC with any potential influence on lake level. Any additional changes are attributable to Mother Nature.

Androscoggin Water Quality Program

by Jim Breazeale

The first organizational Purpose listed in ALIC’s bylaws is to **“Maintain and improve the quality of the water”.** All users of Androscoggin Lake share a keen interest in knowing that our water is as safe and pure as it can reasonably be.

Since Androscoggin receives inflow from thirty miles of upstream lakes and backflow from the Androscoggin River whenever the river level exceeds that of the lake, we are dependent on those sources, as well as our own direct watershed runoff and lake users, to ensure that our water remains pure and free from algae and invasive aquatic plants. This is a formidable task, but fortunately we have the leadership and support of numerous organizations and individuals. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and Maine Congress of Lake Associations all work closely with our own ALIC volunteers to monitor and safeguard our lake water.

The ALIC board recently adopted a written Water Quality Program that details the activities necessary to monitor Androscoggin Lake water quality and to make sound judgments for the protection and improvement of water quality. The program identifies normal acceptable quality parameters and levels which will trigger further investigation or action to bring the quality back under control. A complete description of the ALIC Water Quality Program can be found on the ALIC website, www.androscogginlake.org.

For a number of years, ALIC has been fortunate to have in place a very effective sampling and testing program run by ALIC volunteers, most recently our highly qualified volunteer/member Bill Messer. Bill takes bi-weekly samples from three locations on the lake throughout the summer season. In November, **the season’s test results are handed in to VLMP, who log them in before sending them on to Maine DEP** and posting them on their website www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org. It is interesting to review past Androscoggin data and compare our lake to others in the region.

That's No Fish Tale

by Colten Brown



Colten Brown with fish

July 29th, 2011

It was a misty day. We were fishing in the cove after the channel. My dad was at the engine, my sister was in the middle and I was at the front. It was windy so the plan was to coast over the rocks. I had just caught a short (maybe 8 in.) yellow perch when out of nowhere a huge osprey swooped down (my dad had to duck) and grabbed my fish. It tugged on my rod until it snapped my line and flew off with my fish and my lure. Its wingspan appeared to be between 3-4 feet. An' that's no fish tale.

Yours truly, Colten Brown
(age 10)
From Lincoln Pt.

Workshop Offers Introduction to Aquatic Plants

With the threat of invasive aquatic plants increasing in our area, the need to know what belongs and what doesn't is greater than ever. You're invited to come get your fingers wet at a "Plant Paddle" to be held at the Androscoggin Yacht Club on Thursday, June 28, from 8:30-11 a.m. The rain date is Monday, July 9 at the same time.

The free program is a collaborative effort of ALIC, the 30MRWA, and the AYC and is limited to +/- 20 participants. Pre-registration would be appreciated by e-mail to info@androscogginlake.org. The workshop will consist of two parts: a land-based introduction to aquatic plants, both native and invasive, and an on-the-water paddle to examine what's growing in the lake. Please bring your own canoe, kayak, or low-hp boat or team up with a neighbor. Leadership will be provided by VLMP-certified invasive plant patrollers Debbie Hite and Lidie Robbins, who are also the executive directors of ALIC and 30MRWA, respectively. Come get informed and have fun doing it!

Time to Renew Your Membership



Summer is upon us. And, it is the long-awaited time for all of us to enjoy our lake during what is probably its finest season.

ALIC's primary purpose is to maintain and improve the quality of the water in Androscoggin Lake. And, ALIC is working very hard to safeguard the lake from threats posed by both pollutants and invasive plants. But, the ability of ALIC to continue its good work depends on support from all of its members.

Renew your membership today! ALIC depends upon your annual renewal.

And, learn the many ways to volunteer your time by contacting your board of directors at info@androscogginlake.org

Use the form below to let us know who you are, and send it with your check to the following address:

**ALIC
PO Box 307
Wayne, ME 04284**

Check if your employer offers matching grants to enhance your contribution.

ALIC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____
E-Mail: _____
Phone: _____

- Renew Membership New Member
- Check this box only if you do **NOT** want your e-mail address added to the ALIC Yahoo!Group. This group is used by ALIC to periodically send e-mail to its members.
- I would like to save some trees. By checking this box you will not receive paper copies of ALIC Newsletters. ALIC newsletters can always be found on the web site, www.androscogginlake.org.

Membership Level and Donations

- \$20 Individual \$35 Family \$50 Loon Supporter \$75 Contributor \$100 Benefactor
- \$200 Eagle _____ Dick Hoddinott Advocacy Fund _____ Additional Donation

Your contributions to **ALIC** are tax deductible.

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Summer Address

Street or PO Box: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Winter Address (if different)

Street or PO Box: _____
City, State, Zip: _____



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