



THE ALIC NEWS

Join or Renew Today

Summer 2014

Executive Director's Message

by *Debbie Hite, ALIC Executive Director*

After what seemed like an interminable winter, spring is here at last. The ice went out on April 24, nearly three weeks later than last year, and the lake was still up in the woods in early May. The first loons came back even before the ice had fully dissipated, so we're not the only ones anxious for summer to get here! Here are some of the projects on our agenda this season.

First of all, the ALIC-sponsored **Scavenger Hunt** is being launched with this newsletter. Enroll now on our website and then be on the lookout with your camera to "capture" items from the various categories. Images will be shared online and select printed photos will be on display at the annual meeting, Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Androscoggin Yacht Club. More details inside this newsletter and on our website.

Second, the **Watershed Survey Update** is underway. Some of you were involved in the initial survey back in 2000 from which a management plan was derived in 2004. There's an opportunity to apply for some grant funding to remediate erosion and reduce runoff, but first the survey must be updated as it is now over ten years old. Much has happened in that time, notably the creation of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, which has been successful in obtaining grants and managing the very effective Youth Conservation Corps. We're hopeful to obtain funding in the next cycle for additional improvements around the lake.

Third, we're renegotiating the **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** for the pollution control device on the Dead River (aka "the dam") which was achieved nearly ten years ago. The two paper mills upstream – now known as Verso and New Page – have provided annual financial support amounting to a total of over \$100,000 to sustain the maintenance fund, even after their obligations ceased with the renewal of their discharge licenses in 2012. While they are still willing to be involved on some level, a major reduction in their financial contributions is anticipated. We've made great progress, though. As projected back in 2002, the sturdier 3' flashboards have significantly reduced the number of spillover events of the Androscoggin River over the dam. A recent DEP examination of data collected from 2009-2013 indicates that lake water clarity has not only improved but stabilized. Moreover, phosphorus and chlorophyll concentrations obtained in 2013 are the lowest recorded since 1998. It looks like Androscoggin Lake is becoming healthier again!

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www.androscogginlake.org

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Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 9th
Yacht Club

8:30 am potluck
9:00 am business

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars!

Executive Director's Message *(Continued from page 1)*

Lastly, ALIC will be conducting an informal study this summer of the shifting lake levels as they relate to the influx and outflow of the Dead River. Delegated observers around the lake will record the effects to their shorefronts as well as the readings from the USGS gauge. This will help inform our understanding of the changes that occur over the course of the entire season.

Lots of good information in this newsletter, which we hope you will share with your summer visitors, especially the next generation of your families – potential ALIC members. Check out our website, friend us on Facebook, and renew your membership or join ALIC today. We look forward to seeing you soon and at the annual meeting on Sat., Aug. 9. Thanks again for your support!

Understanding Shoreland Zone Guidelines

by Debbie Hite

Regulations for the shoreland zone can be perplexing even to the best-intentioned property owner, particularly where clearing vegetation is concerned. Acknowledging the importance of the 100' buffer strip in contributing to water quality, wildlife protection, and shoreland preservation is a good first step towards respecting the rules and regulations. Here are a few basic guidelines from a DEP Issue Profile on the topic, which can be read in its entirety, as well as other supplemental materials, at www.maine.gov/dep/land/slz.

- Clearing of vegetation in the first 100' from the normal high-water line of a great pond is restricted in any 10-year period to 40% of the volume of trees 4" or more in diameter, measured at 4.5' above ground level.
- No clear-cut openings are permitted (openings greater than 250 sq. ft)
- Beyond this buffer within the larger 250' shoreland zone, limitations are less restrictive, but still exist.
- There is a point system which defines an appropriate stand of vegetation.
- Vegetation less than 3' high and other groundcover must be maintained within the 100' buffer strip.
- Pruning of tree branches on the bottom 1/3 of the tree is permitted.
- A footpath not to exceed 6' wide is permitted, provided that a clear line of sight to the water is not created. It must meander rather than be straight.

It's always a good idea to check in with your local code enforcement officer before beginning any project within the 250' shoreland zone. In Wayne, that would be Ken Pratt ceolpi@msn.com 576-1413; in Leeds, Larry Grant leedsceo@fairpoint.net 524-2754. Copies of the local shoreland zone ordinances are available at the town offices.

Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation

Executive Director

Debbie Hite

Board of Directors

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Wayne, ME 04284

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The Rising Lake

by *Bill Nye*

Our first summer on the lake was in 1948. Several sets of aunts and uncles came by that summer to help us finish our old camp, long since replaced. Even in July, the lake was low enough that our beach on Lincoln's Point Cove was wide enough for guests to sleep in a 4 person tent. After the cottage was built, the beach tent continued to be a favorite sleeping annex for kids. The rocks in the cove were exposed all summer, and we would walk out to them, and fish and dive off of them.

In recent years, we rarely have any beach until mid-August, and the rocks barely break the surface by Labor Day. I miss the years when nature controlled the level of the lake and we had our beach.

Response to "The Rising Lake"

by *Buddy Cummings*

At the time that the dam on the Dead River was constructed in 1933, the average height of Androscoggin Lake was 269' above sea level (ASL). The purpose of this dam is to limit the overflow of the Androscoggin River and reduce the amount and impact of pollutants.

A core group of volunteers maintains the dam, performing the very important, and often dangerous, task of keeping the dam free of debris which impede outflow at the grates.

The lake association works closely with the volunteer team. Both ALIC and the team have agreed that the dam be configured to slow outflow

from the lake when lake levels drop to 269', as a too shallow lake increases the risk of an algal bloom. This policy is in place to mitigate the impact of biological pollutants.

Recent years have brought some unusually high rainfalls, and that is largely responsible for the sustained high lake levels we've experienced. However, some lake residents have expressed concern that outflow from the lake may appear to be slowed even when the dam is free of debris and the lake has not yet dropped to the 269' mark. ALIC plans to meet with some of these residents later in the summer to discuss these concerns.

2014 Bass Tournaments on Androscoggin Lake



06/15	open	<i>Maine County Bassmasters</i>
07/05	club	<i>Western Maine Anglers</i>
07/12	club	<i>Ladies' Day Out</i>
09/21	open	<i>Bronzeback Maniacs</i>
10/05	club	<i>Waldo County Bass Addicts</i>
10/11	open	<i>USA Bassin-Dags</i>
10/26	open	<i>TBF of Maine</i>

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

ALIC continues its protocol of telephoning the clubs in advance of tournament day to encourage good lake stewardship, attentive boat inspections, and respect of shorefront properties.

Scavenger Hunt

ALIC is sponsoring a Scavenger Hunt this summer. This is designed to be a fun and informative activity whereby participants will capture photo images of as many items as possible from the list of ***Stuff to Scavenge for the Scavenger Hunt***. Images, in turn, will be uploaded to the scavenger hunt website to share with everyone.



The Scavenger Hunt is open to anyone with a love of Androscoggin Lake. Membership in ALIC is not required to participate. But, all participants must enroll in the contest in order to submit and upload photos.

Each contest participant must upload all of their photo entries into their personal gallery by July 26.

Grand prizes will be awarded to those having captured images in the most scavenger categories. Other prizes will be awarded by popular vote at the ALIC Annual Meeting on August 9th for such things as “trickiest to find” and “peoples’ choice”. And, every contestant will receive a special prize just for participating.

Visit the Scavenger Hunt website at www.androscogginlake.org/scavenger to learn more about the contest, to sign up as a participant, and to watch the action as it unfolds.

Remember to attend the ALIC Annual Meeting on August 9th. Enjoy the photo gallery display and participate in the voting.



Last winter, we launched a new ALIC Facebook page. This is an open forum. We encourage everyone with an interest in Androscoggin Lake to participate by posting their thoughts and photos on our new page.

Find us by clicking on the Facebook icon at www.androscogginlake.org.

Events Calendar



- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| June 28 , 8am-3pm | Maine Lakes Conference , Colby College, Waterville
Visit www.mainelakessociety.org |
| July 19 , 9am-1pm | VLMP Annual Meeting , The Great Outdoors, Turner
Visit www.mainevlmp.org |
| July 26 , midnight | ALIC Scavenger Hunt Deadline
All images must be uploaded and tagged. Visit www.androscogginlake.org/scavenger |
| July 26 | Annual 30 Mile River Watershed Association Paddle Trek
Visit www.30mileriver.org |
| August 9 , 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. |

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

Stuff to Scavenge for the Scavenger Hunt

Participate in the Scavenger Hunt, and see how many of these things you can find on or around Androscoggin Lake ...

enjoy	someone enjoying the lake	plantings	effective buffer zone plantings
sky	sunrise, sunset, clouds	board	member of the ALIC board
boat	non-motorized boat in use	alic	ALIC logo on something
dam	dam on the Dead River	invasive	invasive land plant in our watershed
fish	fish or fisherman	cbi	courtesy boat inspector
wildlife	wildlife on or near the lake	erosion	erosion concern
habitat	undisturbed wildlife habitat	plant	aquatic plant
loons	loons	plane	float plane
monitor	plant patroller or water quality monitor with equipment		

Freshwater Jellyfish

by Jennifer Brown

It was the 29th of September 2013, around 9:30 in the morning. Had I walked to the top of Morrison Heights that day, I'm sure I wouldn't have been able to see the lake at all. The fog that had blanketed our area was dense and mystical feeling.

I borrowed Cathy Spivey's kayak and ventured out into the lake for a very close to shore paddle. It was a little unnerving how quickly the land disappeared from view. The water was completely still and the silence around the lake was peaceful. I drifted about for a few minutes and noticed what I thought were my whirlpools from the paddle. I stopped paddling for awhile and watched the "whirlpools" that didn't seem to disappear. I thought, "That is odd, they should slowly dissipate ..."



I moved the kayak to get a better look and found the most incredible tiny creature pulsating around the bright yellow kayak ... jellyfish. They ranged in size from a dime to a quarter, but there was no mistaking what I was viewing – a school of freshwater jellyfish. Luckily, I had my camera with me. I got a couple up close shots and watched in amazement while these tiny delicate creatures swam around in the fog.

In the twenty years I'd been on the lake I'd never seen anything like this. I didn't even know there was such a thing as a freshwater jelly fish. I ran to our neighbors, the Arsenaults, to show them the photos. Bob and Mary Ellen had no idea what I'd captured and recommended I contact Buddy Cummings. I happened to know he was at the Brooks. I quickly got to the beach and shared the photos with them and within minutes Terry had searched the web to reveal the true identity of this mystery creature. They are called *craspedacusta sowerbii*.

According to Wikipedia, "Craspedacusta sowerbii is a freshwater jellyfish in the phylum Cnidaria. Since it is classified as a hydrozoan, it is one of many jellyfish that are also known as hydromedusae."

Fortunately, they are harmless and are being found more often in North America. Keep your eyes open for them on our lake because they are out there.

Visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/androscogginlake, if you have observed this species and would like to share.

Lake Legislation

by *Debbie Hite*

Two bills called for attention from lake supporters in February: LD 1626 and LD 1744. Thank you to our members who encouraged the support of their Maine legislators, in response to our blog post. ALIC Executive Director Debbie Hite was among the many representatives of lake and watershed associations who testified at the hearing before the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee in Augusta.

LD 1626 responds to the need for greater financial support for the removal of current infestations of invasive aquatic plants. The bill calls for a \$5 increase in the "milfoil sticker" required of boaters in Maine, a fee which has not been raised since its implementation 13 years ago. In 2013, only \$80,000 in State funding was provided for control efforts by 17 groups who contributed nearly \$500,000 of their own funding and match. With the passage of this bill, the increased State support would come closer to matching that local figure.

LD 1744 has several provisions. It draws attention to the successful LakeSmart program which was abandoned by the State a year ago and subsequently adopted by the Maine Lakes Society. It clarifies the roles and obligations of the Maine DEP's lakes division, many of which were diminished by the current administration. In addition, the bill fosters partnerships between the DEP and lake associations, municipalities, volunteer groups and others to help protect Maine's lakes.

Both of these bills were passed late in the legislative session, with substantial margins of support. LD 1626, was defined as an emergency measure and signed into law. However, LD 1744 was vetoed by Governor LePage, which could only be overturned by a 2/3 vote in the Legislature. On May 1, the bill received that recommendation by the House, but the Senate voted to sustain the veto, 21-14. Although this result is disappointing, hopefully the work which produced the bill will yield positive outcomes.

Time to Renew Your Membership



Summer is upon us. 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 relies on support from all of its members.

Renew your membership **today!** ALIC depends upon your annual renewal. And, remember to check if your employer offers matching grants to enhance your contribution.

To renew, use the enclosed form, or click the Join option at www.androscogginlake.org. Send your completed membership form, along with your check, to the following address:

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

Living with Wildlife - Beavers ...

by Debbie Hite



Several residents of our lake community have reported increased activity by beavers. Some property owners are less than enthusiastic when they are losing trees and the use of part of their property to the beavers' activity. That being said, we humans living in rural lake communities may do well to realize that we share our habitat with many "critters" and that coexistence can be achieved. Here is some interesting information about beavers.

Beavers are the only species that actually create their own habitat by impounding water, often in areas where flowing water exists. Other wildlife benefit from these new habitats as rest stops during migration, nesting grounds and sources of foraging. In addition, many of these ponds provide fire departments with access to water in hard-to-reach areas. Beavers breed between January and March and the average litter produces four kits born between May and June. Beavers become sexually mature at two years of age and will leave the lodge around this time to find a mate and establish their own colony. A mated pair can live together for many years, sometimes for life.

The Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has a wealth of information on its website www.maine.gov/ifw regarding wildlife-human issues, including advice about discouraging beavers from taking up residence and removing them through licensed trapping (Dec. 1 to Mar. 31) if the situation is intolerable. There are regulations attached to all of these activities, and property owners are urged to consult with a regional biologist rather than take matters into their own hands, which could result in fines. It is also strongly suggested to discuss the beaver situation with your adjacent neighbors before pursuing a course of action, particularly if access through their property is necessary. The regional biologist for our area, Keel Kemper, works out of the Sidney office at 207-547-5300. Another useful contact is the Game Warden Dispatch, which in the Augusta region can be reached at 1-800-452-4664.

When you visit the IF&W website, you can also access a list of registered Animal Damage Control Agents, independent contractors available for hire who deal with other "intrusive" species.

CBI on Androscoggin Lake

The lake association contracts with the 30 Mile River Watershed Association to provide Courtesy Boat Inspectors at the State launch in Wayne, but their hours are limited mostly to the weekends. We'd like to get a team of volunteers organized to fill in some of the gaps, serving as available in two-hour shifts. Scheduling is very flexible; training is provided, and t-shirts are offered to those on duty.

If you'd be interested in joining the volunteer CBI team to check boats and trailers for hitchhiking plants, please contact ALIC today by e-mail at info@androscogginlake.org. Early birds are welcome since the launch sees a lot of activity in the mornings. Take a turn as a CBI and help keep Androscoggin Lake free of invasive aquatic plants!

www.androscogginlake.org



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PO Box 307
Wayne, ME 04284

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation (ALIC)

www.androscogginlake.org

Membership in **ALIC** is open to everyone with an interest in preserving and protecting **Androscoggin Lake**.

To renew or to join as a new member, fill out a printed copy of this form and mail it, with your check, to the following address:

ALIC
PO Box 307
Wayne, ME 04284

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

(Member e-mail addresses are never shared by ALIC)

Renew Membership New Member

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: _____

Mailing Address

Street or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Summer Location (if different)

Street or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____