



THE ALIC NEWS

Join or Renew Today

Summer 2017

President's Message

by Don Welsh, ALIC President

How fortunate we are to have such a great national resource as beautiful Androscoggin Lake to grace our communities.

But, it takes a lot of volunteer effort to protect and preserve our lake. So, my theme and plea this year is, Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer! That is the crux of my message to our ALIC members. We have an all-volunteer organization that is headed by your Board of Directors with no paid staff and, while the board members work very hard, we cannot do it alone. We need your support in helping out with the many goals and objectives noted throughout this year's newsletter. More specifically, here are the programs that make up the ALIC mission and for which volunteers are dearly needed:

- Water quality monitoring program
- Courtesy Boat Inspections
- Invasive Plant Patrol, *Eyes on the Water*
- Loon counts and Loon response program
- *LakeSmart* program that encourages landowner stewardship practices
- Improvements to signage around the lake
- Boating safety education program
- Lake advocacy

There is a lot of information in this year's newsletter which I hope you take the time to read. These articles tell much about our lake and our programs.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you who make a conscious effort to preserve and protect our lake and its habitat. In particular, I would like to recognize a few of the folks that go above and beyond to accomplish our mission: Our vice president, Bill Messer for all that he does with water quality and with the dam. Tom Barden, for his work as treasurer and submitting articles for publication. Aaron Chrostowsky, board member, for his work on our Facebook page and monitoring email. Tom Wells for heading up the *Loon Count* program each year. Terry Brooks, our *Loon Liaison* contact person for loons in distress. Byron Brooks for clearing brush from the fence at the public boat launch. Julie Ritter for designing our Annual Meeting poster. Liz Manduca and Bill Cousins for their efforts to improve signage at the boat launches. Bill Uliasz for his work on tax maps. All who contributed to the publication of this newsletter. Last but not least, I extend my sincere appreciation to Buddy Cummings for all that he does for ALIC. Behind the scenes he is involved positively in all of the above events.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on Saturday, August 19. I know you will enjoy our keynote speaker, Maggie Shannon, Maine Lakes Society, who will talk about the *LakeSmart* program.

www.androscogginlake.org

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Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 19th
Yacht Club

8:30am potluck
9:00am business
10:00am speaker

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars!

Lake Association Program for *LakeSmart*



Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation has set a goal to encourage lake owners to participate in the *LakeSmart* program over the next couple of years. This program will be the focus of the *2017 ALIC Annual Meeting* on August 19th. Maggie Shannon, *LakeSmart* program director, will be our guest speaker.

If you are not able to attend the *ALIC Annual Meeting*, but are interested in learning more about the ALIC *LakeSmart* initiative, contact any of the board members listed below. Or, you can send e-mail to alic_board@androscogginlake.org, and a board member will contact you.

The following is taken from www.mainelakessociety.org/frequently-asked-questions-about-lakesmart:

What is LakeSmart?

LakeSmart is an education and reward program for lakefront property owners who maintain their homes in ways that protect lake water quality and property values.

How long does it take?

The *LakeSmart* visit takes less than an hour. You will be told right away whether you qualify for an Award or Commendation and you'll also receive information about lake-friendly land practices and relevant web links.

What's the Matter with Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff ruins lakes! Erosion and sedimentation from shoreline development and camp roads are the major cause of smelly, cloudy water, algal blooms, fish kills, and water you wouldn't want to swim in.

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Expanded Newsletter

Notice that *The ALIC News* is bigger and better than ever this year. For the past few years, our newsletter has been limited to 8 pages. This year, we are pleased to announce that our newsletter has grown from 8 to 14 pages. Hats off to all who contributed to this year's newsletter!

Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation

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Board of Directors

George Bardaglio
Tom Barden, Treasurer
Bruce Burleigh
Aaron Chrostowsky, Secretary
Buddy Cummings

Martha Hoddinott
Ron Jubinville
Bill Messer, Vice President
Molly Saunders
Don Welsh, President

Eyes on the Water Program

by *Buddy Cummings*

A very special thanks of appreciation go out to all who have participated in the *Androscoggin Lake Eyes on the Water* program.

This program, with now over 30 volunteers, continues to monitor our lake for the early detection of potential aquatic invaders.

Join your neighbors by signing up to adopt your own shoreline zone. We'll train you and provide you with materials. While our 30 or so current volunteers provide great coverage for around 35% of our shoreline, much is still not monitored. We need your help!

On July 3rd, at noon, I will be hosting a summer 2017 kick-off celebration for *Eyes on the Water* at my camp. This is an opportunity to meet others on the team. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Whether you are a current volunteer or potential new member, plan to attend if you can. RSVP by calling me at 207-320-5720.

Annual Conference of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

The *Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP)* will be holding its Annual Conference this year on July 29th at the *Great Outdoors* in Turner. This is always a fun and informative event with interactive displays, presentations by Maine lake scientists, re-certification workshops for water quality monitors, a plant paddle on Pleasant Pond, and lunch. Contact Buddy Cummings at 207-320-5720, if you are interested in carpooling to the event.

Visit www.mainevlmp.org for more information and to register.

Calendar of Events



- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| June 24 | Maine Lakes Conference , Orono
Visit www.maine-lakessociety.org |
| July 3 , noon-2pm | Eyes on the Water Kick-Off Celebration , Buddy's camp, Wayne
Call Buddy at (207)-320-5720 |
| July 29 , 9am-1pm | VLMP Annual Conference , The Great Outdoors, Turner
Visit www.mainevlmp.org |
| July 30 | Annual 30 Mile River Watershed Association Paddle Trek
Visit www.30mileriver.org |
| August 19 , 8:30am | ALIC Annual Meeting , the Androscoggin Yacht Club, Wayne
Potluck breakfast at 8:30am, business meeting at 9:00am, speaker at 10:00am |

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

The Loon Project: Protecting Maine's Valued Friends

by Tom Wells

Living in Maine is a blessing. We have access to myriad natural resources, and it seems that there is an *Aha!* moment around every corner. Not only do we have hundreds of miles of coastline to explore, Maine also is home to over 6000 lakes and ponds. And there is a special bird that makes these bodies of water unique ... Loons.



Loons at Sunset
photo by Terry Brooks

Few people will argue the fact that this mysterious bird is exceptional. It's almost impossible to describe the call of the loon: haunting, melodic, eerie, hypnotic. These words do little justice to the unique sound, or the creature that creates it. While eavesdropping on their conversation, I close my eyes, take a deep breath, and feel like everything is okay. We love our loons.

This is why it's so important to help keep the flock alive and well. The loon captures the Maine we all know: its natural beauty, its uniqueness, its spirit, its independence. This one-of-a-kind creature is a much-anticipated symbol that means summer is right around the corner. We all anticipate its

arrival, while yearning for its hauntingly beautiful calls to break the silence of our night.

In order to monitor the flock and keep it healthy, the Maine Loon Count was introduced in 1983. It is held yearly across the state on the third Saturday in July. The goal is for volunteers to provide an accurate count of their loon population. Beginning at 7:00am, they document the position of loons on their lake until 7:30am. Because each participating lake group performs this at the same time, this ensures that no loons are counted twice.

All volunteers follow the same format. They drive their boats to the designated area by 7:00. Because of its size (3,826 acres) Androscoggin Lake is divided into eight sections, each one assigned to a volunteer(s) who patrols it in a motorboat (because of the large size of each section), looking for adult loons, babies, and nests with eggs. From 7:00–7:30, they count the elusive birds. Once a loon is spotted, volunteers record its location along with a time of day. On the map, they mark the location with a letter: **A** for adult and **C** for a chick. The recorder also draws dashes that represent the observation route and also the letter **N** for the known location of a nest. This data is important so no loons are counted twice, and the survey arrives at an accurate count.

Statewide, the procedure must conclude by 7:30am. On Androscoggin Lake, volunteers gather at the house of the coordinator, where they share coffee and donuts, and of course, loon stories. At this time, they compare loon locations, also time of sighting, in order to avoid duplicate sightings.

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The ALIC Facebook page 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 at www.facebook.com/androscogginlake.

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It's a unique opportunity for folks that live on the lake to help our loon population. There is little doubt that part of the reason for our healthy flock is the efforts that are being made to protect it. Since the first loon count, held in 1983, the statewide population has doubled (from 1500 to 3,000 on 300 lakes and ponds). On Androscoggin Lake, the numbers are seldom the same, but do represent a healthy number of these special birds. The highest count was recorded in 2008 (39 adults, 2 chicks) and the lowest was recorded in 2009 (26 adults and 1 chick). The last three years we have had very consistent numbers:

2014 – 35 adults and 1 chick
 2015 – 35 adults and 3 chicks
 2016 – 36 adults and 0 chicks

On Androscoggin Lake, the Annual Loon count represents a festive occasion that accomplishes more than providing a database. It is also a time to renew friendships, visit with people from around the lake, and enjoy some special time with those who share a common goal. Many counters include their children, grandchildren, and friends in this special event.

It is their goal to make certain the Maine loon serenades us for years to come.

The entire lake community can help with the cause. The *Maine Audubon* and *The Loon Project* do realize that the numbers cannot be exact, due to many factors. In order to address this, they have introduced additional data-collecting opportunities on their website, www.maineaudubon.org/wildlife-habitat/the-maine-loon-project.

Protecting Water for our camps and Camps

by Jim Breazeale

Ahh, Summertime! A time to sit back, relax and enjoy the beauty of our lake. But as I experience the serenity of the moment, I am sometimes reminded by the sound of a bugle call drifting across the water that, while most of us are enjoying the idleness of summer, other ALIC friends are caught up in a frenzy of summer activities that are also made possible by the beauty of our lake. With this dichotomy in mind, I thought it would be interesting to hear the perspective of Peter Hirsch at *Camp Androscoggin*.

Peter has enjoyed summers on the lake since he was six years old, and his *Camp Androscoggin* as well as *Camp Tekakwitha* are members of ALIC. Peter offered that, although his summer goals are likely not the same as most ALIC members, he and his campers share the same love of Androscoggin Lake, which he calls a "jewel." His interests are closely aligned with all ALIC members, and his primary concern is in preserving the quality of the lake water. He is concerned about the possibility of invasive plants being introduced into the lake from the Androscoggin River overflow, upstream lake watershed and by boaters visiting from other infested lakes. Doing their part, his staff and campers participate in ALIC's Eyes-on-the-Water program by inspecting the section of shoreline that abuts their camp. Peter notes that Androscoggin is a shallow lake and requires strong vigilance and rigorous water and boat inspections. "We can never become complacent," he says.

Peter was initially drawn to ALIC by "the heroic work of Molly Saunders and others at a time when the lake was in jeopardy." He sees ALIC as "a powerful proponent for the health of the lake." He and the *Camp Androscoggin* caretaker stay informed about ALIC's activities and maintain a voice thru contact with ALIC leadership. Peter is pleased to see a renewed vigor in our organization and closed our conversation by noting again that "we can never become complacent." *Camp Androscoggin* stands ready to assist ALIC in its effort to preserve and protect the lake.

Just as businesses and organizations around the lake benefit from ALIC's activities, ALIC benefits from the involvement of our Camp members. Hats off to Camps *Androscoggin* and *Tekakwitha*!

Atlantic Salmon and Native Species Return to Maine's Inland Waters

by David Van Cott



Atlantic Salmon, *Salmo salar* “the Leaper,” and native sea-run species are returning to Maine’s cleaner waters with reopened access 2,000 miles inland from the sea beginning just East of the Androscoggin River to Canada. Penobscot Nation tribes once saw Salmon in great abundance navigate rapids, not unlike the falls in Lewiston, dubbed the “bad follow / bad carry.” Those who had experienced a teeming run of salmon (plus untold millions of feeder Alewife herring, sea Lamprey, Shad, and water filtering Dwarf Wedge Mussel larvae hitchhiking on gills) fought for their return for the rest of their lives until in time they were forgotten. Built to power the Industrial Revolution, some New England dams blocking aquatic migration routes now have fish ways or were decommissioned. Although young fry provide a food source for loons and bass, Salmon have been resilient since the ice ages and masters of disguise by fully utilizing their environment. A minor improvement in marine survival can make a difference. One closely watched success model for all of Maine is the Tyne River in England (see films of the Salmon leaping on YouTube.com); despite a grim industrial past just a few decades ago, the Tyne is now England’s best Salmon fishing ‘area of environmental excellence’ with sustainable numbers already returning.

Endangered Atlantic Salmon are still grown in 4 underfunded Maine hatcheries then trucked upstream to prevent extinction. Too many are lost at sea and they face a more uncertain future than ever due to many complex factors; habitat loss to cultivation, development, logging that ‘straightened’ river obstacles providing shelter, erosion, algae blooms, poor agricultural practices, slow soil recovery from acid rain due to

incremental implementation of the 1990 Clean Air Act, warmer water currents, commercial overharvesting, etc. When forest is disturbed or cleared for a lawn or pasture, for example, grasses retain calcium levels Salmon in particular need for healthy gills while the increased water runoff adversely affects alkalinity, pH, Aluminum, and water pollution levels. Maine’s goal is to restore healthy inland ecosystems so fish populations can flourish again.

Maine is focused on the land-fish connection meaning each property is important. While much of the world is under cultivation, most yards are grass with flora native to China and that is not a functioning ecosystem. The acclaimed breakthrough books “Bringing Nature Home” and “The Living Landscape” by D. Tallamy find that restored native forests absorb large volumes of storm water, elements that cause water pollution, and protect the watershed to the sea. In summer, Salmon seek cold water in cool pools formed by layers of shade and slow flowing clean ground water that a buffer of thick forest root matrix provides. Each mature tree in the Eastern US intercepts 1,000 gallons of rainfall each year and sequesters tons of carbon. Forest landscapes also connect diverse ecosystems for wildlife, especially endangered bee pollinators, and cool neighborhood air masses. Seek to understand your land and reduce the major problem of nonpoint source water pollution.

To do even more start by reading Mark Whiting’s survey of Maine’s Salmon Rivers, recent articles by the Nature Conservancy/Down East/Forbes magazines, involve youths in conservation, contact your elected local representatives because State-Federal support is under pressure, review Linda Bacon’s DEP initiatives, or visit www.Mainesalmonrivers.org.

Fishing on Androscoggin is for the Birds

by Jim Breazeale

Since 2010 our friend and neighbor, Bill Messer, has been regaling everyone with his tale of the osprey or eagle that snatched the perch right out of his hands as he was removing it from his grandson's line. We all listened and smiled politely, at the same time thinking that this brings fishing tales to a new level of credibility.



Well, I became a True Believer in August of 2011. Two visiting grandchildren were anxious to try their hand at fishing and, as is the case with most young children, they quickly tired of trying for the trophy fish. Instead, they wanted to go for the sure thing — worms, just off the bottom, about a hundred yards off shore — irresistible to white perch.

This fishing is so productive that it requires one adult per child to handle the baiting and unhooking.

We noticed two ospreys circling overhead but saw nothing unusual about that and proceeded to cast anchor and drop lines overboard. Immediately, the rods began to bend and the children shouted with excitement. As the fish surfaced the osprey began attacking the fish, and as we quickly pulled the fish in the boat both ospreys aggressively continued the attack. Over the years we have enjoyed watching these birds and admired their fishing prowess, but up close and personal it is a totally different and frightening experience. With a wingspan that exceeds the height of the children, talons that put our hooks to shame and an attitude like a watchdog, the ospreys clearly had the advantage. With all hope of a pleasant fishing outing gone, we two adults took turns fending off the birds with a long handle net while the other handled the baiting and unhooking activities. Soon we wised up and tossed a couple of fish to the ospreys. This satisfied their appetite for awhile, and I highly recommend it as a first line of defense to anyone who comes under osprey or eagle attack while fishing. Our onshore family witnessed this when they heard the screaming, so we do have witnesses.

LakeSmart ...

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Tell Me More about the LakeSmart Visit

A trained volunteer will assess four areas of your property, starting at the driveway and working toward the shorefront. If your home scores well in all 4 categories, you will get the prestigious *LakeSmart* Award — two handsome blue and white signs for posting at the roadside and lakefront. If you pass in 1 to 3 *LakeSmart* categories, you will receive a Certificate of Commendation, helpful suggestions, and our thanks for caring about the lake. Whatever the outcome, you'll learn how to become more lake-friendly, and that is just as important.

Feeding the Multitude

by Peter Emery

Ice had already formed in the more sheltered shallows along the eastern shore of Androscoggin Lake in the late fall of 2014. It extended some thirty to forty feet from the black gabbro rocks that dominated the shoreline. A lone loon dove for fish just at the edge of the ice. My dog Brody and I hesitated from our morning walk to observe a bald eagle perched on a leafless branch of an old dead, red oak near the shore of the Lake (I will here in after refer to Androscoggin Lake as the Lake). He turned his head with some disdain to glance down at us as if to ask, "Why are you disrupting my morning routine?" With great effort he launched himself towards the open water, sunk a bit, and then suddenly his gigantic wings lifted him above the canopy of shoreline trees to fly out over the Lake. The rising sun made the white of his head even more brilliant as he finally gained altitude.

As the sun emerged above Morrison Heights, I glanced to the west out over the calm waters of the Lake. About three quarters of a mile offshore to the west, the ensuing burst of light rays illuminated some sort of massive vibrating entity that stretched across the surface of the otherwise motionless Lake. Between Norris Island and Androscoggin Island, this long white ribbon of pulsating life extended for over three quarters of a mile from north to south. The sun and water played tricks with my eyes as if I were seeing a mirage: the kind that is formed on a sweltering July summer's day when you look at the broiling road surface ahead and the heat rising from the baking asphalt causes changes in air density and the resulting illusion looks like a watery road. Unfortunately, I had no binoculars. I squinted and peered into this extraordinary optical illusion to establish the cause of this frenetic activity. I finally realized that some species of bird was causing this spectacular event on the Lake. Several of the birds would occasionally arise from this lively aquatic gathering to flutter a few feet above the water only to fall back among the multitude. A couple of bald eagles hovered fifteen or twenty feet above the band

of life hoping for a tasty morning breakfast. I was determined to identify these creatures.

I proceeded to seek help from two individuals who were exceptionally knowledgeable about birds in Maine. The first person that I contacted was Bob Duchesne. He is one of Maine's top birding experts. He is the founder of his own company, the "Maine Birding Trail", where he is a popular *Audubon* trip leader. He writes a weekly birding column for the *Bangor Daily News* and has a radio show in Bangor called *Bob Duchesne's Wild Maine*. He has emphasized that bird watching in Maine generates annually millions of dollars of economic activity. From my description of the band of white birds rafting on Androscoggin Lake, Bob confidently identified the bird as the *common merganser*. Some people refer to them as Shell Drakes or Fish Ducks.

The *common merganser* is a streamlined duck, long at 22 to 27 inches. The male is striking with a clean white body, black back, dark iridescent-green head, and a pointed serrated orange bill. The male's dark green head may appear black in poor light. Sometimes a male is mistaken for a loon. The elegant gray-bodied female with her white chest has a rusty brown head with shaggy feathers on the back of her head that almost resemble hair. Immatures are also gray-bodied with white chests. In flight both sexes display thin pointed wings with large white patches on the upper wings. When I looked that morning from a distance at this massive gathering of floating *common mergansers*, the only color that I could discern was white. The *common merganser* is a "diving" duck as opposed to a "dabbling" duck. Loons, eiders, and buffleheads are examples of diving ducks. Dabbling ducks, such as mallards and wood ducks, feed in the shallow waters by dabbling (swishing their flat bills around on the surface) or upending themselves searching

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for vegetation or invertebrates. They do not dive for food. Dabblers' feet are centrally located under their bodies and enable them to tip easily and walk on land. The feet of divers are larger and placed further back under their bodies. This latter orientation of feet is ideal for diving and swimming under water but makes walking on land difficult. The *common merganser* dives for fish, amphibians, crustaceans, mollusks, and other invertebrates. The jagged edges on its narrow orange bill allow it to grasp slippery fish.

Also the wings are different in these two groups of ducks. Dabbling wings are broad and long. A dabbler can take flight almost instantaneously, as if it were released from a catapult. The diver has smaller, pointed wings and it requires a running start. Dabblers are relatively slow fliers but can land with pinpoint accuracy. Divers come in fast and skid across the surface until they stop.

Bob Duchesne indicated that plenty of *common mergansers* nest here in Maine. They nest in tree cavities in forests near rivers and lakes. Their range goes all the way to northern Labrador. They are equally comfortable in lakes and rivers where they can dive and feed for "bait" fish, amphibians, crustaceans, and mollusks. The abundance of small fish in our Lake is certainly one of the primary attractions of migratory, diving ducks.

As the water freezes to the north of us, many *common mergansers* come south and gather in big flocks with our own resident birds, wherever there are good schools of fish. Some wander south to open rivers and even to brackish waters along the coast. Many are here in Maine, even in the depths of winter. They can be seen in the Kennebec River in Bath all winter. Others may go only as far south as needed to find open water. Bob believes the southern edge of their winter range is Virginia.

I also asked Dick Lee, a year round resident of Wayne for over five decades and an expert on Androscoggin Lake's wildlife, about the identity of these birds. He confirmed Bob Duchesne's

conclusion that the unknown duck was a *common merganser*. Dick has often maneuvered his boat along the sheets of late fall ice to get a closer look at these gregarious birds.

When I first sighted the bird, I tried to count their vast numbers from the shore. It was difficult, especially because of their distance (three quarters of a mile) from me. I waited for the sun to rise higher for better visibility. I peered out over the lake. I estimated an incredible five thousand *common mergansers*!

In the past Dick has estimated the numbers of migratory *common mergansers* to be in the thousands. He has also witnessed their organized flights to the west as the ice began to encroach on their limited open water. They assembled in groups of 100 to 150 and each group flew directly over Norris Island on a westerly course to possibly the Androscoggin River.

Dick has hunted these ducks. Upon retrieving his quarry, he has found two or three "bait" fish lodged in their throats. They are apparently quite capable of catching multiple slippery fish in their serrated beaks on a single dive. He also indicated that a few *common mergansers* nest near the shores of the Lake in the summer months. He has seen a few females with several chicks swimming near the shore. It is normal for *mergansers* to form creches late in the summer where just a few females are tending dozens of chicks.

In my conversations with Dick, he mentioned that *common mergansers*, as well as other species of ducks and aquatic mammals, can act as hosts of the trematode worm, which causes "swimmer's itch". Well, as you have read, I did finally determine the identification of this bird: *common merganser*.

Dick Lee and Bob Duchesne were of immense help in my simple quest to learn about this fascinating, beautiful duck. I especially thank Dick Lee for his patience with my queries. He is a valuable resource with whom to consult about the vibrant life of our Androscoggin Lake.

Water Quality Report

by *Bill Messer*



This past year presented several "abnormal" weather related conditions which helped and also impaired the quality of Androscoggin Lake:

1. The spring snow melt was gradual and rainfall was low which resulted in a lower than usual amount of suspended solids runoff. The Secchi Clarity Test is the standard test used by VLMP (and others) to measure the relative clarity of water which is usually affected by algae and suspended solids. Clarity in June averaged 5.32 (6 tests), which is the highest that I have seen in 10 years of testing.
2. Due to the extended drought period and warm summer, the clarity dropped in July to an average of 4.92 (7 tests); early August showed 4.30 (3 tests) and by mid to late August clarity sank to 2.42 (5 tests). During late July through most of August, many small algae spores were dispersed in the water, which represented the major cause of the drop in clarity.

The low level of clarity in late August was by far the lowest that I have tested in over 10 years. Close contact with the State DEP reported that many area lakes were experiencing record low water levels and significant algae bloom.

3. In late June, the steel panels were installed by the Dam Maintenance Crew to slow down the drop in lake level and were left in for the full season due to the abnormally dry summer. Even with the panels in place, most of the season our lake was 6 to 10 inches below the target goal of 269' above sea level. I must emphasize that ALIC has no responsibility or involvement in regard to the installation of the steel panels and has no authority over the Dam Maintenance Crew.
4. A few isolated pockets of algae growth near the shore line developed and in the shallow areas on the Leeds side. In August we initiated a more direct test (chlorophyll) for determining the potential for an algae breakout. The results averaged 88 ppb (3 tests) and more testing will be made next year to track phosphorus, Secchi clarity and chlorophyll.
5. Fortunately, the rains came in September (just in time), flow through increased and clarity increased to an average of 4.77 (7 tests).
6. October averaged a healthy 4.85 Secchi clarity (3 tests) and we finished off the year with a respectable 4.57 average clarity, especially considering the very low clarity in August.
7. Phosphorus averaged 12.8 ppb (30 tests), with a high of 26 ppb and a low of 10 ppb. Considering the lack of rain, the phosphorus values were only 0.8 ppb above our average
8. Oxygen levels dropped during the middle of the summer as expected, but fortunately the wind speed along with our shallow, rocky bottom was sufficient to "turn over" the water to minimize oxygen stratification.

This special resource for all to enjoy, Lake Androscoggin, certainly is a dynamic and challenging "Body of Beautiful Water".

Cohabiting with Resident Canada Geese

by Anne Huntington

If you are having trouble with Canada Geese lounging, eating and “fertilizing” your lawn or spending the night on your wharf, it is because you have created an environment that is very attractive to them.

Resident (by that I mean not migratory) geese arrive in the spring and seek quiet secluded areas to nest and hatch their goslings. Following the hatch, the adults molt so that they are unable to fly. Unmated geese also molt but slightly later. After molting and while raising young, geese seek areas with ready access to water, safe places to lounge and ample food supplies. Unfortunately a fertilized, freshly mown lawn with a few trees for shade but not enough to provide cover for predators, and easy walking access to water for protection is absolutely perfect goose habitat.



Geese by the Mill Stream
photo by Anne Huntington

It may help to stop fertilizing the grass and to let it grow to 4-5 inches. It is the tender young grasses, that the geese really love. Planting additional trees and placing a few rocks that could shield predators may also make your yard less attractive. Coyotes and foxes really are your friends here. Remember that the young geese will return to the place where they learn to fly. 6 geese this year may turn into a significant flock a few years down the road. There are hunting seasons which may be helpful in some areas where hunting is an option. It is also possible to get a permit to “addle” eggs on the nest which can cut down productivity.

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Photo Gallery: Scenes of Winter on our Lake



Breazeale's Cedars in the Snow
photo by Fred Duplisea

Supermoon from Morrison Heights
photo by Anne Huntington



Icefog from the Yacht Club
photo by Anne Huntington

Cohabiting ...

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Canada geese are protected by a Migratory Bird Treaty so you are not allowed to have any physical contact with them but there are ways to make your property less attractive. A combination of techniques may be necessary to successfully discourage these birds from congregating in undesirable locations. The following list gives some options:

1. Absolutely DO NOT FEED THEM!!!! Not only does that guarantee that they will stay, but non natural food like bread, corn and even poultry food is not good for them and may even be harmful.
2. Scare tactics like mylar tape or models of predators, might work for a little while but geese are very intelligent and will get used to most options and then ignore them. You can move them around every day or two and try them in combinations but realistically, they don't work long.
3. Harassment may help but it needs to be consistent. Noise and chasing them can make them less comfortable. Specially trained dogs can be effective.
4. Modify the shore front with a buffer. This is the most effective long term solution if you wish to maintain some lawn. The key is that the geese not be able to see the grassy lawn area from the water. The buffer should be constructed of native shrubbery and trees, be at least 25 feet deep and have a curving path to the water front. The thicker the growth, the better but it doesn't need to be very high. It is also possible to include a 2-3 foot fence and a gated path within the buffer. High bush blueberries are wonderful but probably shouldn't be closest to the shore because some geese like them. Of course a buffer on the shore isn't going to be much help if your neighbor mows to the water line and feeds the geese. At some point this has to be a community effort.
5. By far the easiest option is to let the lawn go and let the shore cover grow back all by itself. If the soil is not disturbed, the potential for invasive plants to get a foothold is lessened but in this area, it is best to keep an eye out for honeysuckle and bittersweet especially.

Note that these last two options are not only good for discouraging geese but are the best thing you can do for the water quality in your lakes and streams!

2017 Bass Tournaments on Androscoggin Lake



04/23	club	<i>Mainely Boaters</i>
05/06	club	<i>Western Maine Bassmasters</i>
06/18	open	<i>Maine B.A.S.S. Nation</i>
07/09	club	<i>Pinetree Basscasters</i>
07/29	club	<i>Good Spirit Bassmasters</i>
07/30	club	<i>Good Spirit Bassmasters</i>
10/14	club	<i>Southern Maine Anglers</i>

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.

Time to Renew Your Membership



The primary purpose of our lake association is to maintain and improve the quality of the water on Androscoggin Lake. ALIC members and volunteers work 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.

Consider volunteering! Participate in the *Eyes on the Water* program. Contact the board for other volunteer opportunities. We cannot do it without your support.

If you have not already done so, renew your membership in ALIC today!

To renew, use the form below, 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

ALIC MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 Address (if different)

Street or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____



ALIC
PO Box 307
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