



THE ALIC NEWS

Join or Renew Today

Summer 2018

Message from the Editor

by Tom Wells

It's been a long winter; thank goodness spring is here, even though the average temperatures are still in the 30's and there is still snow on the ground and ice on the lake. Winters in Maine are special, but by April we are more than ready for summer, and special times on Androscoggin Lake. It's just around the corner.

It is the purpose of this newsletter to report on last year's accomplishments and to put out a plea for help. We've taken strides in our ventures, *LakeSmart*, *Eyes on the Water*, *Courtesy Boat Inspection*, *Loon Count*, Loon response programs, and water quality monitoring, but we need additional help.

Our goals for the upcoming year are:

- To increase *LakeSmart* participation.
- To increase membership.
- To continue to take proactive steps at increasing water quality.

With little doubt, the board cannot do it alone. We must all take stewardship for our beautiful lake and make certain that it remains the gem that it is. The ALIC board will provide training, guidance, and support, but without volunteers we cannot accomplish our mission. Please consider helping out.

With that said, we'd like to thank all those who have devoted their valuable time to help protect and preserve Androscoggin Lake. We have had many individuals step up to help us this past year, and for that we are grateful. We would like to highlight a few individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. First and foremost, Buddy Cummings and Tom Barden are behind the scenes folks who help run ALIC and make certain that it is viable and well organized. Also playing vital roles this past year: Margaret Lane, ALIC board representative on *LakeSmart*, Ted Tucci and Joan Belluci for their work on the membership committee; Bill Messer, Water Quality Monitor; Ian Barclay dam maintenance leader; Terry Brooks, Loon Liaison contact for loons in distress plus our new *Facebook* page manager, Melissa Rodrigues-Silvestro.

Please consider playing a role in the management of our lake. Together, as a team, we can continue to improve the water quality of our treasure and enjoy all it has to offer.

Inside our newsletter you will find a number of volunteer opportunities as well as valuable information about our lake, the ALIC's involvement with important organizations trying to protect it, and also articles that share special insights from those who live on its shores.

One of our goals this year is to increase membership. We want more lakefront owners to realize that taking stewardship for the lake is an integral part of keeping it healthy. Please share this newsletter with those who may not have received it. Together, we can get even more folks involved with our mission.

Enjoy our 2018 Issue of The ALIC News.

www.androscogginlake.org

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Loon Counts

2017

adults	24
chicks	2

2016

adults	36
chicks	0

Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 11th

Yacht Club

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

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars!

A Volunteer Shares

by *Margaret Lane*

Like the magical call of the loon the *ALIC* is beckoning you. We need folks to help protect our lake and keep it healthy for its wildlife and its beauty. There is only one way to ensure this happens.

Volunteer.

Often calls for help lead to disappointment or frustration. My own experience with volunteering, though, has brought me a great deal of satisfaction. The projects are outdoors in the Maine summer and fall, which provides a pretty good environment for my work. You, too, can feel the fulfillment I get in this pristine environment.

Eyes on the Water is one such activity, coordinated by Buddy Cummings of the ALIC. I not only enjoy it but also have learned so much about our local ecology. Each volunteer claims a quadrant on Lake Androscoggin, sets out in a watercraft, with materials in tow. When reaching their area, they collect samples of plants. The goal of the project is to try to discover invasive plants early in their development so that timely intervention can happen.

Buddy has trained us and provided booklets and charts which can aid in our mission. Once back on shore, I attempt to identify my specimens and then log my findings. If I need help with identification, Buddy will visit and not only identify the plant, but also give me a mini-lesson about the species.

Needless to say, I love being outdoors and learning new things about our lake. So far I have not discovered an invasive species, but I have learned so much about aquatic plant life and enjoyed the process as well.

The wonderful thing about this activity is that it can be performed on your own schedule, and takes very little time out of your day. Additionally, you get to see your lake in a different way, and develop a newfound respect for it.

Another volunteer effort I have experienced is called *Lake Smart*. This state-wide program was introduced by the ALIC the summer of 2017. Its goal is to help lakeshore property owners learn how to protect their lake by executing some very simple, common sense landscaping ideas that prevent runoff into the lake. The biggest danger to any body of water is bacteria and pollutants that enter the lake from the storm water created by rainfall. If the flow is not absorbed or redirected, the results could be catastrophic.

LakeSmart is not a state mandated program, but an effort to educate lake property owners so that they can take responsible stewardship for their body of water. There is some training involved, but the payoff is worth it. We are all new to this and learning together. Our team must protect our lake and take ownership for its health and beauty. This is about Lake Androscoggin property owners voluntarily asking for help from the ALIC and soliciting information about making improvements to help the lake.

This program is a win-win opportunity. Participants learn how to make adjustments to their property which helps the lake. They may receive aid in doing so. And the end result is self-satisfaction, a cleaner lake, and improved property value.

Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation

ALIC
PO Box 307
Wayne, ME 04284

alic_board@androscogginlake.org

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The Bygone Days of Lincoln Point

by Terry Brooks

Every spring the residents of the 22 camps that currently comprise the Lincoln Point community return to celebrate the reappearance of Maine summer, the loons, and the friendships that have been dormant since the previous fall. It is a diverse, vibrant collection of young and old, some coming to stay all summer while others have only a few precious days or weeks to enjoy the lake's magic. Today, we take for granted the endless amenities that make lake life easier, thereby enabling us to spend more time enjoying the outdoors with family and friends.

At the turn of the 20th century, the primary landowners in the Lincoln Point area were the Lincoln and Norris families. Charles Lincoln built cottages around the Point that were rented to families who were also friends and returned yearly. One camp that still remains was built in 1906, and others date back to the first two decades of the 20th Century. During WWII, many renters were not able to drive to Wayne due to the gas rationing, and after the war, Mr. Lincoln started selling land and camps to many of the regular renters. At least half of the camps on and around Lincoln Point originated before 1955.

Our Lincoln Point forebears did not enjoy the comforts that we take for granted today. Many arrived with steamer trunks by train to North Leeds, then a stagecoach to Leeds, then a rowboat ride across the lake— even in the middle of the night! Others came by horse and wagon. Later, automobiles had to navigate a steep camp road that was no more than two deep grassy ruts. The road ended just short of the Point, where all supplies had to be carried to the various camps by wheelbarrow or ferried from there by row boat.

Water for the camps was from hand pumps or from the lake for washing and cooking, and obtained from a community spring for drinking. Before WWII, there was a communal garden, and later, farmer Charlie Gott brought vegetables, chickens, and dairy products around by boat. Historically, local Native Americans came down the hill to sell baskets. There has always been a General Store in town, with various owners through the years. For many years, it had the only phone accessible to campers. Mail was collected in town by whomever was going, then placed in cubbies in an old ice box near the Point for pick up by recipients. Mail delivery could be a sporadic event.

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Calendar of Events



- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| July 21st | Annual State Loon Count
Call Tom Wells for details or to volunteer: 557-2516 |
| June 23rd | Maine Lakes Conference, University of Maine at Farmington
Visit www.mainelakessociety.org |
| July 28th | VLMP Annual Conference
Visit www.mainevlmp.org |
| July 28th | Annual 30 Mile River Watershed Association Paddle Trek
Visit www.30mileriver.org |
| August 11th | 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



Best Management Practices to Keep our Lakes Clean by The 30 Mile River Watershed Association

Have you ever noticed exposed roots, gullies, undercut banks, or accumulated sediment on your property or camp road? These are all common signs of erosion, which is defined as the gradual removal and transportation of rocks or soil in a particular area. Erosion poses a significant risk to water quality because it has the potential to pollute storm water runoff. Polluted storm water runoff is one of the largest threats to the water quality of our lakes, ponds, and streams.

As storm water flows, it can erode away bare ground, picking up pollutants along the way, such as fertilizers, bacteria, grease, and soil. This polluted runoff adds phosphorus, a nutrient that feeds algae, to our lakes. Therefore, as phosphorus increases, the likelihood of harmful algal blooms also increases. These algal blooms cause a decline in water quality and hurt property values, recreation, and aquatic organisms.

The good news is that there are often simple, low cost fixes you can implement on your own property to help mitigate erosion and capture polluted storm water runoff on land BEFORE it reaches the lake. Through stabilization, infiltration, and diversion, these fixes, or Best Management Practices (BMPs), help prevent excess phosphorus from getting into our lakes and streams.



Riprap installed by 30MRWA's YCC stabilizes the soil and prevents it from washing into the stream.



Infiltration steps installed by 30MRWA's YCC allow storm water to soak in, filtering it and reducing erosion.

Stabilization BMPs hold the soil in place, preventing it from rushing down into the lake. Plantings, erosion control mix, and crushed rock can all hold the soil in place. Riprap can also be used to stabilize the shoreline.

Infiltration BMPs capture runoff and allow it to soak into the ground, filtering out pollutants before the water enters the lake. Infiltration steps, roof dripline trenches, and rain gardens all capture storm water runoff and allow this to happen.

Diversion BMPs direct the flow of storm water runoff to a vegetated area, allowing the runoff to infiltrate the soil, where it is subsequently filtered. Rubber razors, open-top culverts, and crowned surfaces (driveways and roads) all help divert storm water runoff.

As discussed on the next page, the LakeSmart program aims to educate landowners about these lake-friendly practices. A free visit from trained LakeSmart volunteers will help you understand what is working well and what could be improved. If you do have erosion on your property and would like to install any of these BMPs, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association is here to help.

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Lake Buffers ... the Time is Now

by David VanCott

Editor's Note: The following article is based on information from *Inside Climate News*, a Pulitzer Prize winning non-profit organization publication. It discusses the effect of warm water damage to aquatic life and how to address it.

Good news first - A Solution: To provide aquatic life the cool-filtered water needed beginning at your home, consider a layered buffer of native flora framing your house and views on your property. It is one beautiful way each of us can do our part to address how to reduce the environmental stress affecting the ecosystem. The exquisite appearance of a layered buffer may be achieved by planting tall canopy and understory trees in the background, small shrubs and plants in the foreground, with an evergreen ground cover defining the buffer's border. This practical buffer will thrive while absorbing falling leaves and reduces the need for lawn mowing and leaf raking maintenance! Choosing your favorite younger natives will be easier to plant and cost less (space them considering their width when mature). Watching them grow can be cheerful to look forward to each year. An odd number of each native arranged as a recurring theme creates an unstructured natural look for the eye as opposed to formal rows. Also, improved curb appeal increases your property value.

Even if your property is not on waterfront, buffers are important because heavy rain hits the surface of grassy areas and begins flowing downhill in a flash. This runoff quickly overloads land below. The process continues all the way into streams, storm drains, lakes, rivers, and beyond to the sea that amounts to water pollution. With less cool-filtered groundwater due to increasing deforested or developed areas, water temperatures have been rising too high during dry summer months. However, buffers can help provide cool-filtered water to aquatic species year round.

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LakeSmart on Androscoggin and Pocasset

by Buddy Cummings

Last summer, ALIC teamed up with the 30 Mile River Watershed Association to launch our participation in LakeSmart.

LakeSmart is an education and reward program sponsored by the Maine Lakes Society to promote good lake stewardship practices for lakeshore property owners. The program works by encouraging everyone to sign up for a free visit from our volunteer team of fellow lake residents. As part of each visit, the team meets with property owners to talk about best practices and the LakeSmart program overall. We also walk the property to identify those things that are already making a positive impact, as well as potential opportunities for improvement.

At our Annual Meeting last year, Maggie Shannon, program director of LakeSmart, was our featured speaker. Members were enthused by her presentation. And, many signed up to learn more about the program.

Because of all of interest in this program, we decided to team up with the 30 Mile River Watershed Association to help us in our efforts. This collaboration allowed us to visit many of the property owners who signed up at last summer's meeting before the season was over. We were also able to help in expanding efforts to Pocasset Lake.

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Bygone Days ...

(Continued from page 3)

Cooking was done mostly on wood stoves, and light provided by kerosene or gas lanterns. Garbage was burned or buried and cans/bottles usually sunk out in the lake. Each camp had an outhouse, and many were two-holers!

On the beach near the Point, there was an ice house which held blocks of ice cut from the lake during winter, packed in sawdust and straw, and delivered to camps weekly for use in iceboxes.

Much has changed over the decades, but one constant remains: We are a community rich in history and with an abiding devotion to this town, this lake and to each other.

Best Management Practices ...

(Continued from page 4)

Back for its 8th season, our YCC crew works throughout the 30 Mile River Watershed to install the BMPs discussed here, with the ultimate goal of protecting water quality. All work is strictly cooperative with landowners and provided at a much reduced cost. To learn more or to submit a project request, visit www.30mileriver.org/programs/youth-conservation-corps/, email steward@30mileriver.org or call us at 207-860-4043.

LakeSmart ...

(Continued from page 5)

Pollutants in storm water runoff are the leading cause of damage to lakes. LakeSmart is a program designed to inform you about things that can be done to help mitigate this effect.

To sign up for a LakeSmart visit, or to learn more about the program, contact us at lakesmart@androscogginlake.org.

2018 Bass Tournaments on Androscoggin Lake



06/02	club	<i>Kennebec Valley Bassmasters</i>
06/17	open	<i>Maine B.A.S.S. Nation</i>
07/28	club	<i>The Bass Federation of Maine</i>
07/29	club	<i>The Bass Federation of Maine</i>
08/18	club	<i>Southern Maine Anglers</i>
09/15	open	<i>MVB Trail Spring</i>

Lake Buffers ...

(Continued from page 5)

The popularity of clearing wildlife habitat for unsustainable wide grassy lawns that extend to the property's boundary combined with planting non-native gardens began more than 100 years ago. Back then high society, gathering at famous places including Bar Harbor, chose exotic plants secretly taken out from the Himalayan region of China. If those gilded age mansions by the sea have been lost too, their landscaping style has become increasingly common ever since unintentionally affecting everything in entire ecosystems to this day.

Why? What is at stake? Evidence of the harmful effects of increase in water temperature can be found in the recent lobster migration to cooler, Canadian waters. "Ocean acidification driven by increased carbon dioxide and fresh water runoff is quietly threatening the value of 90% of the commercial catch by Maine marine harvest industries" (Maine Sunday Telegram: "State Largely Ignores Role As Seas Grow More Acidic" 11/19/17 available online).

In 1970, American Lobster ranged from South of the Chesapeake Bay but has been retreating North ever since at 4.3 miles per year (more than the length of Androscoggin Lake). Lobster landings off Long Island, NY have decreased 97% and experts are losing hope for any South of Cape Cod given mass die-offs. Maine now accounts for 80% of New England's landings amounting to \$630 Million last year. Lobster are not settling in Maine, however, possibly because they only thrive in chilly water and the Gulf of Maine surface sea temperature is rising two times faster than the world average. If this holds true, Maine will loose much of its lobster population in the coming years.

Time to Renew Your Membership



The primary purpose of our association 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.

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

To renew, use the form enclosed in this newsletter, 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



The ALIC Facebook page is an open forum. We encourage everyone with an interest in our lake to post their thoughts and photos.

Water Quality Report

by Bill Messer

I started my twice per month water quality testing around mid-June for clarity, dissolved oxygen and temperature. This testing cycle continued until approximately mid-October.

In addition to these on-site tests, I collected samples twice per month and delivered them to our State Labs for total phosphorus analysis.

Most of these testing periods involved three designated sample stations and random testing of the Androscoggin Yacht Club basin and Androscoggin Lake outflow to the Dead River.

Overall, the 2017 season was quite similar to the 2016 season. The early part of the season, up until the first part of August, showed very good clarity, averaging above 5 Secchi units, with normal oxygen concentration gradients and erratic and somewhat higher total phosphorus levels. These test results were influenced by high wind conditions, which have more of an impact on our lake due to the rocky and relatively shallow water depth.

The effect of extended periods with minimal rain was to reduce average clarity in mid-August to below 4 Secchi units. Finally, with the benefit of rain, at the end of August the clarity increased to normal.

At the end of the low rainfall, there was a brief period of about 2 weeks where a moderate level of fine algae spores remained suspended evenly throughout the water. Fortunately, the increased flow from the rain purged these spores and we were thus able to avoid a major algae breakout.

Loon Count 2017

by Tom Wells

On Saturday, July 15th Maine's annual loon count was held. Under cloudy, windless skies, eighteen volunteers headed to their quadrants at 7:00 AM to count loons.

At 7:30 they all headed to the home of Martha Hoddinott and Tom Wells to tally the results. The total: 24 adults and 2 chicks, compared to last year's count of 36 adults, 0 chicks.

This year, the section of the lake finding most success was deep behind Androscoggin Island near the opposite shore. In this quadrant was spotted eight adults and one chick.

We'd like to thank the following people who helped with the count. If you are interested in participating, please sign the attached list and include your email/phone number and we may contact you next year.

Thank You, Loon Counters!

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: _____



ALIC
PO Box 307
Wayne, ME 04284