

Mascoma Lake Association

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2015

Courtesy and Safety at the Shaker Bridge



There have been some issues of safety involving excessive speed by jet skis and motor boats when traveling under the Shaker Bridge. This concern, as well as fish hook safety, was raised at the 2014 annual meeting. The NH Boating law states that "vessels shall be operated at headway speed only, while passing under all bridges."

"Headway speed means 6 miles per hour or the slowest speed that a boat can be operated and maintain steerageway" (i.e., no wake). Remember the hand-painted signs on the old bridge? Please be mindful of these rules at all times for the safety of everyone involved.

There have also been problems navigating under the bridge with fishing lines in the boating lane. Although there are no specific rules for casting off a bridge, common sense tells us they don't mix well. Propellers and the boaters themselves could become tangled in fishing lines and hooks.

Because the bridge is a popular fishing spot, it does become crowded. Please encourage fellow fishermen to avoid the mid-section of the bridge for the safety and convenience of passing boaters.

*Source: Chapter 270-D
Boating and Water Safety
on New Hampshire Public Waters*

Lake Host Program

The ongoing efforts of our Lake Hosts continue this year, with Carrie Hackeman assuming the duties to organize and submit forms to the state each week. We appreciate Carrie's willingness to do this extra task and know we can support her with a Point Person - this is where you come in. If you are interested in helping preserve our lake by working with the Lake Hosts for 2-3 hours each week all summer, please step forward.

Our three paid Lake Hosts oversee both boat ramps on the weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Carrie Hackeman and Alix Hurley are returning, with Annabelle Nicholson joining this year as back-up. Please say hi to these ambassadors of the lake when you see them at the boat launches. We need volunteer Lake Hosts to fulfill requirements of grants we receive so you can offer your time here as well.



A VISION FOR ENFIELD

by Terri Lynch

On January 23rd and 24th this winter, a Charette was held in Enfield with Plan NH, a group of professional volunteers including engineers and planners with a goal to help beautify New Hampshire, one town at a time. The focus area is the two lots currently owned by the DOT near the Shaker Bridge (the site of the former motel and staging area for the bridge work). These parcels are some of the last undeveloped lakefront in Enfield and offer truly beautiful long views down the lake.

The group solicited wish lists and suggestions from several community groups including the Enfield Village Association, Friends of the Northern Rail Trail, the Heritage Commission, Mascoma Sailing Club and the Mascoma Lake Association. The planning sessions were also open to the pub-



lic. The most discussed vision for the parcels was for open green space/park for gatherings, with picnic tables and restrooms. Parking, non-motorized boat launch and storage, environmental education and compliance with shoreline protection guidelines were also discussed.

After taking feedback from all groups and attendees, the Charrette group

brainstormed and came back to present a possible plan for the two parcels incorporating the wishes of the majority.

The potential plan shows a park-like area with some trails, picnic areas, an amphitheater space using the slope along the rail trail corridor for seating, access for non-motorized boat, and public restrooms.

These plans are only a possibility. If the town obtains the parcels and there is impetus to follow through with development, this vision could become reality.

Enfield could have a beautiful park that would offer public access to a beautiful resource, an opportunity not readily available to many Enfield residents.

More information about the Charrette may be found on the Town of Enfield website under New Enfield Projects.

MASCOMA LOONS

By Terri Lynch

The loons returned to Lake Mascoma on April 16th heralding spring's arrival. Last year the Enfield pair had two flooded nest failures and the Lebanon pair did not even establish a nest.



Bud Lynch towing the new loon nest.

The Loon Preservation Committee has

supplied us with a new floating nesting platform delivered in early May and positioned close to the first loon nest site of last year. With sod and some small vines added to the platform, we hope the loons may choose this safer option. The older platform will be repaired and left at the Lebanon end of the lake with hopes of loon use – last year only some turtles and ducks visited it.

If you are boating, steer clear of loons. While most adults will be able to get out of your way, a loon chick cannot as it is flightless, just learning to dive and is nearly invisible in the water. Loons may abandon their nest or chick if people come too close.

To keep lead from our waters, a new state law restricts the sale and use of lead weights and jigs 1 oz or less and



Photo by Martha Nelson

goes into effect in 2016. Be proactive and get the lead out of tackle boxes now! If you have some lead to dispose of, please contact Fish & Game to learn the safe way to do so.

Please help to promote a healthy environment for all creatures of Lake Mascoma. If you would like to learn more about these awesome birds, visit <http://www.loon.org>.

2015 Mascoma Lake Water Quality • Story and Photo by Jim Martel, Water Quality Committee

Over the past several years I have been keeping an eye on the “conductivity” of the water entering the lake from the Route 4A side. Several dissolved pollutants could be contributing to a high reading including calcium, magnesium, sodium, silica, phosphates, chlorides and many other ions. Sara Steiner of the New Hampshire DES and I did a small study and it looks like sodium chloride is the main culprit for the high conductivity.

If conductivity increases, it could interfere with the annual lake turnover that mixes the aerated surface water with the bottom low oxygen water. The heavier high conductivity water settles to the bottom and stays there, creating a dead zone. Studies have shown that lakes and streams with good fishing have conductivities ranging from 150 to 500 micromhos/cm. The lower layer of water in Mascoma Lake has a conductivity of about 60 micro-



Strip of road salt applied to shoulder of Route 4A to help reduce ditch freezing.

mhos/cm and is slowly trending higher. While the NH lake median is 40 micromhos/cm, this early detection means we can monitor and begin to reduce the amount of salt that enters the lake.

When road salt dissolves in water, the chloride molecule is not retained by the soil and easily moves with water flow. Chloride is not significantly removed by chemical reactions, evaporation, or vegetation. Therefore, nearly all of the chloride

applied to the land surface as road salt will eventually end up in the nearby surface waters or groundwater.

There are a several ways to reduce the amount of salt runoff going into Mascoma Lake. One is to designate the section of Route 4A along the shore as a “low salt zone”. This would officially establish a lower rate of salt application for this area. Another would be to scrutinize the present application practice to see where salt applications can be reduced or eliminated, such as stopping the use of road salt to keep roadside drainage ditches from freezing (see photo). Other options would be to use an alternative de-icing chemical. Several are available and each has its pros and cons. However, we have to be careful not to compromise driver safety. I have already discussed this issue with our local District Engineer and he seems receptive to some changes.

ENFIELD OLD HOME DAYS ★ JULY 24, 25, 26, 2015

By Meredith Smith

Old Home Days is a tradition begun in 1897 by New Hampshire Governor Frank W. Rollins. It is a time to celebrate our town and our traditions.

★ FRIDAY, JULY 24 ★

The celebration kicks off with an old-fashioned band concert in Huse Park sponsored by the Enfield Lionesses. Prior to the concert, a take-out pulled pork picnic-style supper will be available at the Enfield Methodist Church.

★ SATURDAY, JULY 25 ★

Grand parade on Main Street, ending at Mascoma Lake and community picnic.

Quilt show, Open House of the historic Greeley House (home of Enfield

Village Association), and an 1850s era school-day reenactment at the historic Lockehaven schoolhouse.

Annual ice cream social at the Enfield Library with face painting and games.

Chicken BBQ sponsored by the Enfield Fire Department.

Top off the evening dancing and greeting friends and neighbors at the historic Enfield Center Town House with live music by Jim Hollis and line dancing with Jamie Orr.

★ SUNDAY, JULY 26 ★

Canoe and kayak paddle on Mascoma Lake.

The Whaleback Ski Center hosts a pancake breakfast, followed by a hike up Whaleback Mountain.

The Lutheran Church offers an old-fashioned church service, featuring hymns from bygone days.

Grand opening of Enfield's new Dog Park!

The Conservation Commission will lead a hike for the more adventuresome.

Classic Car Show at the Enfield Shaker Museum where there will also be a traditional craft fair with demonstrations.

Mascoma Sailing Club will offer free sails on Mascoma Lake.

For a schedule of events, locations, and more information, please visit

www.enfield.nh.us
or [www.Facebook.com/EnfieldOldHomeDays](https://www.facebook.com/EnfieldOldHomeDays)

MILFOIL CONTROL: AFLOAT FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Martha Rich & David Kelman

It was Terri Lynch who noticed it first: "Doesn't it look as if this boat is leaning to the left?" The rest of us tilted our heads and looked hard at the S.S. Milfoil. Our trusty old milfoil boat was listing; its port pontoon was taking on water.



Fortunately, our newest MLA board member, Tom Bonardi, came to the rescue. He was able to repair the pontoon in his welding shop, and the S.S. Milfoil will float for another season. In addition, Enfield electrician David Dow donated his time to install a new electrical system for the recently purchased trolling motor, clearing the deck for milfoil work.

Thanks to these generous volunteers, the S.S. Milfoil is ready for the 17th year of milfoil control. The effort began in 1997 with the late Bill and Nancy Martin, Karen Hambleton, Roger and Marta Barnes, and other pioneers. Milfoil can ruin lakes and its control is an effort we must renew annually - everyone can help.

As current coordinators, we (David Kelman and Martha Rich) along with local "week watchers," will again patrol

the water on MLA's pontoon boat, looking for the distinctive feathery stalks.

Our expanded team of active divers harvested a total of 2,305 plants last summer (fewer than the previous year, but about the same as 2012). Persistent infestations remain between the islands and shore, the channel where the Mascoma River joins the lake, a large patch near the campground docks, the Lebanon end of the lake near the rail trail coast, and a burgeoning patch between Black Point and the Dartmouth Sailing Club.

You can also find the maps from the MLA home page by clicking on Lake Issues and then About Milfoil. You can

EVERYONE CAN HELP!

- If you see a milfoil marker, please leave it and move away
- If you think you see Eurasian Milfoil, let us know. You don't have to be an aquatic plant expert, just an alert citizen!
- If you would like to monitor the water near your property on a regular basis as part of the "neighborhood water watch," let us know. We ask that you inspect your area and report at least once by July 15 and a second time by the middle of August. We particularly need weed watchers on the 4A side from the Baited Hook to the head of the lake.

We continued GPS marking, to track patterns of milfoil growth over time, and posted interactive maps on the MLA website:

The intensity map is at

<https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=17UoPCqzNAcYaMHt7ehG3UiNtmPAaXCNDtFodAnr>

The location map is at

<https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=1EpzYzsd-RFf2fAxVQe5jYxPedr2jV8VYGWYGHZlo>

zoom into any area for detailed information. The maps include three years of data, with historical data going back for more than a decade (thanks to the excellent record-keeping of Marta Barnes) will become digital soon.

Although this mapping project has proceeded more slowly than we had hoped, we were pleased last fall when NH Weed Control Certification instructor Ted Aldrich reported to State Wildlife Biologist Amy Smagula that, with the maps, "The MLA may be pioneering the next generation of harvest reporting."

- If you're a SCUBA diver or want to become one, we welcome new divers. With the state-approved training, it's easy to learn the techniques of proper milfoil harvesting.

Let's work together to keep milfoil firmly under control and our beautiful lake open.

For Milfoil Control, contact:
Martha Rich & David Kelman
ssmilfoil@comcast.net
and 802-233-9964

A pair of territorial eagles continues to frequent Mascoma Lake. They live in the nest started a few years ago by another mature pair of eagles. As observed recently by Chris Martin, Senior Biologist at NH Audubon, the larger female is unbanded and has a full white head, but her tail has dark feather tips - which indicate she is probably 5 years old. The smaller unbanded male has a similar dark-tipped tail, but also dark smudges on his head, likely 4 or 5 years old.

Eagles reach sexual maturity about 4 or 5 years old. We had hoped 2015 would be the first year for this pair of eagles to mate and reproduce. There was much activity around the nest for a few weeks in late March to early April with daily sightings. As April pro-

Eagle Update

By Pat Carrier

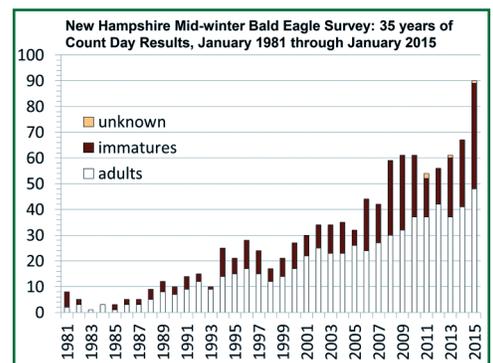


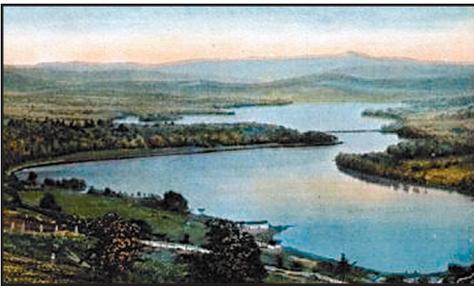
gressed, little to no activity was seen.

After no sightings for almost two weeks in early spring, we are again seeing them soaring majestically over Mascoma Lake. We have also observed an immature eagle with no white on its head visiting the nest.

2015 is not the year for eaglets on Mascoma Lake, but since an eagle's life span is up to 30 years, we still have hope in the future.

Photo by Pat Carrier;
Chart source is NH Audubon





Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748



BOAT PARADE Saturday, July 4th

Details to come on the MLA website.



L-r: David Fracht, Charlie Clark, Larissa Pyer, Marcia Herrin, Jo Ann Clark, Terri Lynch.

Coming Soon!! Shaker Field Dog Park

by Terri Lynch

Groundbreaking for the new dog park located in Enfield on 4A near the Shaker Athletic Fields has begun with official opening on July 25th. The park will have separate areas for small dogs, large dogs and a training section. For more information about the park, please go to <https://sites.google.com/site/mascomadogpark/>

While the park is open to the public, dues-paying supporters are vital to maintaining the park and members vote on operational issues.

LOON CENSUS 2015

The annual NH Loon Census, organized by the Loon Preservation Committee, will take place on Saturday, July 18th from 8 to 9 am. Terri Lynch will again be organizing the census on Mascoma Lake. Volunteers must be out in their boats in an assigned area promptly at 8 a.m. and observe and record any loon activity for the full hour. This event is Rain or Shine. An extra set of eyes and a pair of binoculars are advised as well.

If you are interested in being an observer please send an email to terri.m.lynch@gmail.com.

For more information about Loons and the LPC got to

<http://www.loon.org>

MLA Board Officers & Members

President • Allison Flint

Vice President • Vacant

Treasurer • Gary Gaudette

Secretary • Karen Hambleton

Annual Meeting Sunday, July 19th at 1pm

By Allison Flint

We are meeting on a Sunday for the first time in our collected memories due to a busy town calendar and the amazing popularity of Enfield's Old Home Days which needs the Community Center on the last weekend in July.

For our education/entertainment this year, Jay Aube, Shoreland Program Outreach Coordinator of the NH DES Wetlands Bureau, will talk us through the NH Shoreland Protection Act and current guidelines.

Jay has worked for the Department of Environmental Services for seven years. He is a former high school science teacher and has a background in Environmental Biology and Chemistry. He will provide a brief history of this Act and discuss the minimum standards of the law as it exists today. Emphasis will be placed on the shoreland permitting process and the limitations on tree and vegetation removal.

Our business portion of the meeting should run an hour and half or so, followed by the education portion.

Refreshment will be available all afternoon!