

Mascoma Lake Association

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2011

Spring Greetings

Terri Lynch, MLA President

As I write, it is the second week of "spring." The lake is still frozen and snow covers a good portion of the ground. The only sign of Spring is the muddy paws of my two dogs. This has been a long and hard winter and I will even be happy to see the dandelions popping up. Of course I will really know it is spring when I hear the wail of the male loon as he claims his pond and calls for a mate.

It will come eventually and the busy season for the Mascoma Lake Association will be upon us.

Our Annual Meeting is set for Saturday July 23rd at 8:30 a.m. and I hope to see you there.

Check the website

www.mascomalakeassociation.org

for updates on the 250th Anniversary of Enfield and the date for our Social.



Photo by Pat Carrier

LOON CENSUS 2011

Terri Lynch, MLA President

The annual loon census, organized by the Loon Preservation Society, will be held statewide on Saturday, July 16th 8 - 9 a.m. Rain or shine. It is a great excuse to get out on the lake on a summer morning.

The lake is divided into areas, according to the number of volunteers, and volunteers circle around their areas for a full hour documenting any loon activity. After the hour, volunteers turn in their forms and enjoy coffee and muffins at the Lynch's dock.

The past five years have been blessed with good weather and we hope for that this year. Volunteers do need to be willing to venture out in the case of rain. If you're interested in volunteering, please email terri.m.lynch@gmail.com. Let's hope to see some Loon pairs with chicks.



Opportunity for New Lake Host Point Person

With summer approaching, the Lake Host™ Program offers an exciting opportunity for a new point person to manage the program. Liz Bucklin is stepping down after eight years of running this program. She is now taking applications for a replacement to run a program that has done so much for Lake Mascoma's fight against milfoil.

Although grant money for funding the program has decreased, there is still enough money to hire two lake hosts. Being point person requires two hours of training in Concord, and one to two hours a week for paperwork, checking on the hosts, etc. Pre-season may take a little extra time to get things running, as does the end-of-season report, which responds to questions from NH Lakes Association.

This program is essential to Mascoma Lake water quality. Its volunteers are the front line of milfoil defense. At the boat landings, they check for invasive plants and inform boaters about fundamental aspects of lake health and stewardship.

Since 2002, paid and volunteer Lake Hosts have conducted more than 361,000 courtesy boat inspections. They have made 1,081 "saves" that identified exotic aquatic plant fragments just entering or leaving lakes.

Please contact Liz Bucklin to learn more about becoming the new Mascoma Lake point person for the Lake Host Program.

dbucklin@comcast.net

or call

(603)448-3626

MLA ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 23 • 8:30 a.m.

Enfield Community Center

308 US Route 4, Enfield

The speaker this year will be Mary Haagen, lake resident and historian. Haagen, a retired professor of music at Dartmouth College, is a specialist in Shaker music and has recorded several collections of Shaker songs.



Mary Ann Haagen lives on Mascoma Lake with her husband Charlie. She is a retired public school teacher and a long-time student of Shaker history. She is a former Board member and Chair of the Enfield Shaker Museum Board of Trustees.

For 20 years, she has directed the Enfield Shaker Singers, who have recorded three CDs of Shaker music and a DVD of Shaker march and dance traditions. Her research is particularly focused on the Enfield Shaker Society and its connection with the community that surrounded it.

She is currently a visiting scholar in the music department at Dartmouth College.

In her talk, which continues the Town's 250th celebration, Mary Ann will discuss the importance of the Lake in the Enfield Shakers' history and their roll in the development of a lakeside community.

As part of the presentation, Carolyn Smith, first director of the Enfield Shaker Museum, will share 19th and early 20th Century photographic views of Shaker Bridge, Mascoma Lake, its hotels, boats, and early camps.

ENFIELD'S 250th ANNIVERSARY

Plans for



July 1-4th will be filled with celebrations to mark 250 years since Enfield's Town Charter was signed in 1761.

The Town of Enfield and its residents, including several MLA members, are planning a variety of activities to commemorate the occasion. The three days of celebrations will feature a wide variety of events.

For entertainment, there will be a street dance, a Colonial Ball and a play. Parades will feature floats and boats on Mascoma Lake and Spectacle Pond. A ceremony will commemorate the historic event, while an oral history project and self-guided tour will illustrate Enfield's two and a half centuries as a town.

Join the fun as a volunteer on a committee or in a marching band.

For more detailed information and correct times and dates, consult the web-sites of:

Town of Enfield
www.enfield.nh.us

Enfield Village Association

www.enfieldmainstreet.org/index.html

Mascoma Lake Boat Parade Saturday, July 2



The Lake's contribution to the celebration of Enfield's 250th anniversary is a round-the-lake boat parade.

The parade will be on Saturday, July 2nd, with boats departing at 3 p.m. Barbara and George Crowe, long-time residents of Mascoma Lake are Chairmen.

This boat parade is meant for EVERYONE. In addition to joining with their own boats, many boat owners have space for others who would like a ride and join the celebrations.

Decorating boats (and people) is encouraged!

The Mascoma Lake Sailing Club is also participating, and is doing everything possible to include any kind of

BOAT PARADE, continued

boat. To get in touch with them, please contact sally.sharp@dartmouth.edu.

To make the parade inclusive, we want every part of the Lake to have a volunteer, following the parade's organization.

We plan to cruise the entire lake at slow speed. We have learned from experience that starting all boats in one place is difficult, so a small group will start at a designated meeting point. Then, the group will continue around the lake.

Come out and join the parade when we pass your house! Have fun meeting or renewing friendships along the Lake. The parade should take about two hours. Complete details will be available after June 20th.

Because of the construction of the new bridge, we needed permission from the State for the parade. Our application was filed in early September of 2010.

For more information, please contact Barbara or George Crowe, whose home is on Shaker Blvd., via e-mail at: barb.crowe@comcast.net. After June 1st, contact them at home.

We have planned for this parade to take place in great weather. Should the weather not cooperate, decisions will be made accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Shaker 7 Road Race Sunday, June 26

Don't miss the Shaker Seven Road Race, the Enfield Village Association's annual fundraiser. Its seven-mile course starts and finishes at the Enfield Shaker Recreation Park on NH Route 4A in Enfield. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and the starting gun is at 9:00.

Because the Shaker Bridge in Enfield is under construction, this year's race will follow a new route along 4A to Shaker Boulevard and back.

There will be water stops along the route and water and oranges at the finish line. At the end of the race, there will be a free brunch for all runners and volunteers.

The \$20 registration fee also includes T-shirts for all pre-registered runners, prizes for 1st and 2nd in all categories and random drawings for prizes.

Granite State Race Services will do the timing. For more information on participating as a runner or volunteer, contact: Dolores Struckhoff at Enfield Village Association: eva@interdial.net or call (603) 632-7197.

MLA Newsletter

Madeleine Johnson, Editor

Thank you to all who make this newsletter possible; the contributors and especially Betsey Child, graphic designer. It is her generous donation of time and skill in doing the layout of the newsletter that have raised it from the home-made, irregular sheet it used to be into a professional-looking and timely publication.

No fancy graphic layout is any good without content. The reporting – on the Mascoma Shores development – the comments – poems and thoughts – and information – on geese, cleaning products and water quality all come from you, our readers and Lake Association members.

Because we have all become a bit more "professional" we now have a publication schedule that will allow you to get your thoughts and information out there. In the past, there have been some mix-ups and even some hurt feelings about material that did not arrive in time to be included.

Please send questions and suggestions for articles or announcements to me at:

madeleinejs@gmail.com

or Terri Lynch at

terri.m.lynn@gmail.com.

These are appreciated any time.

However, in order to finalize the files for printing, we must respect lead and production times. The deadline for final drafts for the Fall issue is October 15th, and for the Spring issue is April 15th.

There may be leeway for "breaking news" and last-minute articles on pertinent subjects.

Mascoma Lake Maps FOR SALE

Unframed \$15.00

Please email us if you would like one:
mla@mascomalakeassociation.org

Song about the Lake

Rick Sky, created a song entitled "Mascoma Lake" on his new CD, "I'll Meet You There". It is about life and nature on and around our lovely lake. For free listening and more information go to www.rickskymusic.com.

Design & layout of this newsletter donated by MLA member Betsey Child, owner Lasting Impressions Graphic Studio, Enfield. betsey-last-imp@comcast.net

Soon-to-Be New Shaker Bridge

By Betsey H. Child



Rusty old bridge closed to vehicles in August.

The old Shaker Bridge is fast-becoming a memory. The few rusty pieces of old steel are a reminder that it had lasted far past its useful life. It was closed suddenly and without warning at the beginning of August last year.



Sudden closing to all vehicles in August.

MLA's Annual Meeting in July informed us about the \$9 million bridge and road construction project, and now that it has begun, we can see its actual scope. The project had been on a 10-year plan but was stepped up due to the rapidly deteriorating state of the bridge, and the fact that Stimulus funds were able to be used on other NH State projects which freed-up funds for this project.

The work being done on the bridge and surrounding area is of great interest to many, especially those of us who live on the shores of Mascoma Lake. A large colored drawing (top of page) of what the project entails is in the office of Steve Schneider, Enfield's Town Manager, for anyone to go see.



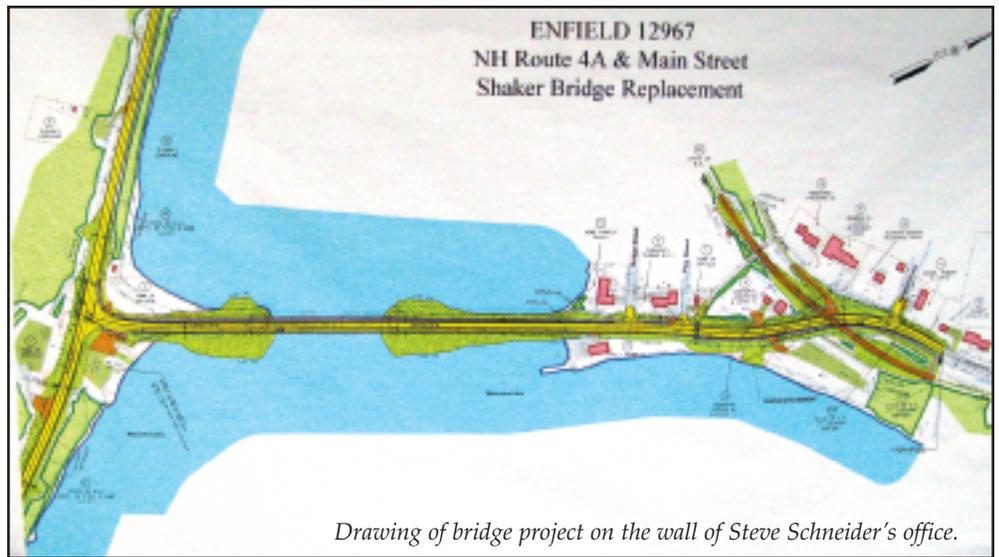
Removing the deck throughout the winter.

The bridge is being dismantled, piece-by-piece, with all final evidence of the old bridge to be removed around October.

The land around the causeway is being graded and stone is being added to the sides of the road for a wider approach.



Equipment widening approaches to the bridge.



Drawing of bridge project on the wall of Steve Schneider's office.

Throughout the winter progress was made, little-by-little, until one day a huge change occurred.

My husband, Jim Shibles, and I live off of Route 4A just south of the Enfield Shaker Museum. On January 7 at 9 a.m. we drove to West Lebanon and at 2 p.m. upon our return, every single tree on the west side of Route 4A from the Shaker Bridge to LaSalette had been cut down! It was such a shock that we began to question what was happening and when and why. I began with Mr. Schneider's office.



Cutting trees and installing poles January 7.

Mr. Schneider directed me to Jeffery Potter, Contract Administrator of the project. We met in his office trailer by the bridge and I quickly learned that this project was much larger than I had realized.

I asked him about the cutting of all of the trees on the uphill side of the road from LaSalette to the bridge, and some that were cut on the lake side, and if they planned to cut any more or replace any, and he said no.

Mr. Potter explained that drainage all along that stretch of road has always been a huge problem, and that the tree-cutting and re-construction of the road has to deal with that on-going issue.



One of five drainage areas on Rt. 4A.

They are resetting all new utility poles further back from the road, making five new drainage points along the road beside the

lake, preparing for new guard rails, and getting ready for grading and repaving.

Reconstruction of 4A from the bridge to LaSalette will take place from July to November, with paving taking place in steps, ending in October. This section will be widened to have 4' paved shoulders on both sides next to 11' travel lanes that will better accommodate bikes and pedestrians.

Planned for June are improvements to 4A from the bridge to Evenchance Road. There will be a 1.5-foot shoulder next to 10' travel lanes, new pavement and guardrails.

There will be new sidewalks from Rt. 4A across the bridge, along Main Street to the underpass which will connect with the existing sidewalk into downtown.

The bridge itself will have only two piers, sidewalks, lights like the ones on the bridge in Enfield Village, and two small juts-outs for fishing and just looking. Clearance will remain about the same as now.

Passage from south to north sides of the lake will remain open, with a few exceptions when they are placing beams, or other potentially dangerous activities to boaters, but the plan is to have access up and down the lake during this project. The new piers will be built in September and October of this year.

The little Town beach will remain as is and will be open most of the time. They are planning an improved stairway to the upper parking lot, and much-improved safety crossing markings. Construction equipment will soon be out of the boat launch area.

Bridge work will be on-going with the project being completed by the end of September 2012.



What is left of the old bridge as of April 7.

Further questions can be directed to Steve Schneider who will either answer them or direct you someone who can.

Many thanks to Jeffery Potter, Alex Vogt, Project Manager, and Steve Schneider for their help with this article.

Septic Systems: A Spring Hazard

The following is adapted from an important article published by the NH Lakes Association. Please visit the site (well worth it for numerous lake issues) for the complete article.

Septic systems pose many potential hazards for the quality of our lake water, particularly in the spring and winter when frozen ground, melting and additional rainfall can overflow leach fields and send pollutants into our lake.

If your house is located in a low-lying area or near the shoreline of a lake or the bank of a river and it has a septic system, taking a few minutes to read this article might save you some headaches this spring. A well-maintained septic system is better able to withstand excess water from snowmelt, heavy rains, and floods, so it is best to keep the system pumped and in good working order at all times.

Under 'normal' conditions, the soil in a leach field is relatively dry and contains oxygen, which allows it to treat wastewater that passes through a septic system by removing disease-causing bacteria and other contaminants.

Throughout the winter, the normal use of water in a house keeps the soil around the septic tank and leach field from freezing and allows the system to function properly.

However, when the area above or surrounding the leach field receives more spring snowmelt, rain, and/or floodwater than it can absorb, the soil becomes waterlogged and oxygen is not available to break down the waste. This causes the septic system to malfunction. As a result, contaminants and pathogens pollute the groundwater and nearby lakes and rivers. In addition, the septic tank fills with water, sending wastewater to back into the house.

This is a serious headache!

Septic Maintenance and Service Recommendations:

(from the NH Department of Environmental Services)

Know the location of your septic tank and leaching area. *(Remember, the tank area is often the first place where snow melts in the spring. If you don't know where your leach field is, contact a professional.)*

Inspect your tank annually. Have it pumped as needed – and at least every three years.

Do not flush bulky articles such as diapers or sanitary pads into system.

Do not flush toxic materials such as paint thinner, pesticides, or chlorine into your system. These may kill the bacteria essential to a properly operating septic system.

Repair leaking fixtures promptly.

Conserve water and use water-reducing fixtures wherever possible.

Keep deep-rooted trees and shrubs from growing on your leaching area.

Do not drive or park heavy vehicles on your leaching area.

Storms and Flooding

If your property is susceptible to flooding, take the following precautions:

Seal all possible points of excess flow to the system, including the septic tank manhole and inspection ports.

Turn off the pump at the circuit box before the area floods. If you have a pump in the lift station of a mound system, turn off the electricity. (Don't forget to turn the pump back on again before you use the system.)

Waterproof all electrical connections to avoid electrical shock or damage to wiring, pumps, and electrical system.

During a rainstorm

If your property is susceptible to flooding, use as little water as possible and avoid non-essential use. If the leach field becomes covered with water, don't use the system and avoid contact with any standing water.

After a rainstorm

If your leach field and/or tank area are covered with water, do not have your septic tank pumped. This may cause the tank to float out of the ground and cause major damage to the drainage pipes connected to it. Avoid using the system and wait for floodwaters to recede.

When floodwaters recede, minimize water use until you know that the system is working properly.

If you suspect damage to your tank or leach field, have your system professionally inspected and serviced.

Signs of septic system damage

House drains flow slowly.

Toilets drain slowly or sound strange when flushed.

Water backs up into floor drains in the basement.

For more information

To learn more about septic systems, visit NH Department of Environmental Services' website at des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/ssb/index.htm.

This article is based on the Summer 2006 issue of *Pipeline*, a publication of the National Environmental Services Center, which can be found at website www.nesc.wvu.edu/pdf/WW/publications/pipeline/PL_SU06.pdf.



William Butler Martin, Jr. August 31, 1923 – January 5, 2011

"I expect to pass through this world but once.

Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature let me do it now.

Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again."

~ Etienne de Grellet,
French poet and missionary (1773-1855)

These were the favorite words of Bill Martin, long-time lake resident and steward, distinguished professor and beloved father and husband, who passed away in January. We'll miss him.

Ever since he sneaked out of his bedroom window to explore the lakes around his home town father's canoe, Bill Martin was a lake lover. Born in Ashburnham, MA, in 1923, Bill graduated from Clark University in 1948. After completing graduate work at Yale, Bill joined the faculty of Union College in Schenectady, NY, where he was a professor of chemistry, and dedicated an entire course to water. He retired in 1989.

Bill came to Lake Mascoma for the first time in 1950, when he married Nancy Atwell, whose grandfather had built a house on Comfort Point in 1905. Nancy's father's practical jokes and love of disguises did not put Martin off; Martin too had a mischievous sense of humor.

In 1967 the Martins inherited the Atwell cottage. When he and Nancy retired, moving to Lake Mascoma seemed the natural choice.



Once on the lake permanently, Bill turned his lifelong interest in water to practical and active use. In 1991 he volunteered for the Mascoma Lake Association's water quality committee.

The towns of Enfield and Lebanon depended on Bill's testing. Not content with the minimum requirement by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Martin took additional water sam-

ples, monitoring water temperature and turnover in the fall and winter. A precise record keeper, each year Bill presented a detailed report at the Association's Annual Meeting, giving copies to Enfield and Lebanon. And he was always the "go to guy" for newspaper reporters or students seeking information on water quality.

Bill was fundamental for the finances of the water quality program too. In addition to personal contributions, Bill found outside revenue for water testing. He negotiated agreements with Lebanon and Enfield to provide annual support, and found and prepared applications for grants to the Association.

One of Bill's most ambitious projects was a \$15,000.00 grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to study the source waters of Mascoma Lake. While doing this project, Bill clambered around, taxing his 80 year old knees to the limit, while Nancy waited in the car to be sure he returned safely. Bill felt it was very important to this completed this project and have a base line reference for use in the future.

While swimming with his grandchildren in 1999, Bill felt a weed wrap around his thigh; he had identified Milfoil. With his New England sense of the common good, he alerted the State of New Hampshire, ignoring those who feared the bad news out might affect property values.

Bill also did his own experiments on milfoil growth. By cultivating pieces of various sizes, he saw that it only took a fragment for the plant to propagate and threaten the entire lake's health. He put untold hours into searching for and helping divers uproot the plant, retiring only when lifting the divers' tanks had become too hard. Mascoma Lake's success in keeping milfoil growth at bay belongs to Bill Martin.

In 1998, when the Mascoma Lake Association was due to celebrate its 75th Anniversary, the Association was foundering. But Bill assumed the presidency and saved the Association from dying. By revitalizing the board, publishing the Association newsletter, rebuilding the membership roster and reestablishing the annual meeting, Bill created the MLA we know today. He remained President until 2001. The success of today's MLA belongs Bill Martin.

In 2005, the New Hampshire Lake Association honored Bill's work by giving



NHLA Board Chairman Tom Deans (l) presents the 2005 John F. Morten Memorial Award for Exemplary Lakes Stewardship to Bill.

him the John F. Morten Memorial Award for Exemplary Lakes Stewardship. Jody Connor, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Limnology Center Director, said of Bill, "He was one of our greatest volunteers who would always go above and beyond the call of duty.

His selection of Limnologist of the Year shows everyone how much the DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program admired his dedication. A pioneer for the Mascoma Lake watershed and his accomplishments in monitoring, education and special lake studies brought Mascoma Lake to a new level. We will all miss Bill!"



Limnologist* of the Year
Harry Trumbull & Bill

Bill is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nancy C. Martin, their children Timothy G. Martin of Lynn, MA; Pamela M. Havener and her husband Robert Havener of Goffstown, NH; Cynthia Hein of Fort Collins, CO; four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

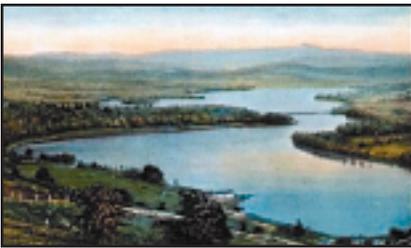
An informal memorial to celebrate Bill's life will be held this summer at Mascoma Lake. Bill requested that memorial donations be sent to the Mascoma Lake Association to continue his work.

**Limnology: The scientific study of bodies of fresh water, with special reference to plant and animal life."*

– Reader's Digest Great Encyclopedic Dictionary



VLAP Coordinator Andrea LaMoreaux (3rd from rt) looks on as Governor John Lynch signs the VLAP bill. Others include (l to r) Tom Deans, Sen. Bob Odell, Jared Teutsch, Leslie Enroth, Bill, Rep. Stephen Prichard, Rep. Alida Millham.



Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

Water Quality Report

Jim Martel

First, the good news: the Mascoma River watershed, which includes Lake Mascoma, will probably be protected under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. HB 336, the bill to bring the Mascoma River from Canaan Center to West Lebanon into the program, passed the New Hampshire House in February, 2011, unanimously and is currently being reviewed in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The Senate will probably vote on HB 336 in May 2011. This program already covers 16 New Hampshire rivers.

If – as we hope – the Senate approves this bill, volunteers from Lebanon, Enfield and Canaan will form a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) to represent their communities in river-related planning and education activities.

The first task for the new LAC is to develop a river corridor-management plan to study and balance the various needs, uses and interests of the river's resources. In anticipation of the legislation's success, this spring the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning

Commission lined up funding through NHDES to help the Mascoma River LAC develop a management plan. Having an MLA member on the Advisory Committee would benefit us all.

If interested in participating contact me at: jimmartel41@gmail.com, or Terri Lynch at: terri.m.lynch@gmail.com.

Now for the bad news: I have just learned that the budget passed by the House will severely reduce services provided by the critically important Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). This is the program that measures lake water quality and conducts statistical analysis to identify trends. It is sort of an annual physical for the lake.

Although the budget is tight, the State's share of the cost is minimal. It is short-sighted to reduce services provided by a successful, long-standing, efficient, and essential program. Our VLAP volunteers collect water samples while MLA and the Towns of Enfield and Lebanon pay for the sample analysis. The State evaluates the data and publishes an annual report. I can't think of a more cost effective approach, especially considering that neighboring states have paid positions for sampling and analysis.

Data from the VLAP program are

essential for several fundamental initiatives such as analyzing water quality trends, watershed management planning, pollution source remediation and storm-water modeling, as well as obtaining grants, and meeting federal requirements. Mascoma Lake has participated in this program since 1991.

Please contact your state representatives to let them know what a cost effective and important program this is.

Considering the tremendous amount of snow on the ground in late spring, there may be high runoff this spring. Usually this translates into a high sediment load to the lake and less water clarity. Low runoff in recent years gave us exceptional water clarity.

MLA Board Officers & Members

President • Terri Lynch
Vice President • Liz Bucklin
Treasurer • Gary Gaudette
Secretary • Ellen Lewis
Past President • Harry Trumbull
Lake Host Coordinator • Liz Bucklin
Membership • Tricia Barr
Milfoil • Roger and Marta Barnes
Water Quality • Jim Martel
Web Site • Ray Buskey
Austin Flint, Meredith Smith