

Fathoms

The Newsletter of The Sebasticook Lake Association

Volume 28
Number 2

*Our association was formed in 1972 to improve and maintain
water quality and the general conditions of Sebasticook Lake*

December
2021

President's Message

*December's wintry breath is already clouding the pond.
Frosting the pane, obscuring summer's memory.*

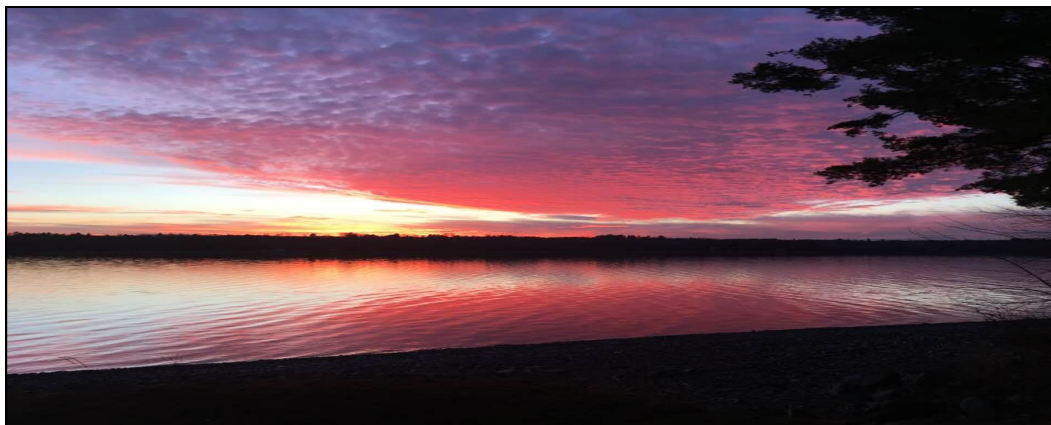
John Geddes *A Familiar Rain*

The memories of last summer are a little more 'normal' than the memories of the summer of 2020, when Coronavirus alienated us all and interfered with life at camp as we knew it.

Last summer, the usual activities were able to be enjoyed again; boat rides with friends, cookouts and Cribbage games with relatives, and visits with neighbors on the porch, all of which reminded us of the reason we all love camp and Sebasticook Lake. These activities connect us to each other and sustain us through the cold, dark winter that seems to last longer each year. The time spent at camp not only recharges our batteries to help us soldier through the snowy months, but to be able to carry on in spite of the daily challenges that seem to want to bog us down.

Summer's memory may be sweetened by new generations being introduced to camp or bittersweet, due to a family camp being sold. And whether your favorite memory of camp is sitting on the porch swatting bugs without spilling your beverage, or looking at the twinkling lights on your Christmas tree with the frozen, snow covered lake in the background, they fortify our love for the place we call home.

Be well. Muf





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**2021 Annual Loon Count
For Sebasticook Lake:**



**11 Adult Loons
5 Single Loons
0 Chicks**

*Loons sing their praise
tree frogs echo through the
night.*

*New friendships are made
and old friendships strengthen
and reunite.*

Corey Long

**TRANSFER
STATION
HOURS**

**Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, and Saturday
8 am to 4 pm**
Closed Sunday and Monday



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

For those of You
Who Wish To Be Part of
The Sebasticook Lake Association
Yet Do Not Live on the Lake
\$8 Per Year
Includes
“The Fathoms” Newsletter



Sebasticook Lake Association
Caps and Shirts and Canvas Bags
Make Great Christmas Presents

Show off your membership in the Lake Association
and support it at the same time!
Check them out at the annual meeting or
Contact Muffy 368-5424

Shirts \$20

Caps \$10

Lake Association E-Mail Data Base

We are continually building an e-mail database of Sebasticook Lake Association members. There will be an e-mail sign-up sheet at this year’s meeting. If you are unable to attend, please send your e-mail address to
PERLMUTTERS@MSN.COM

Of course, e-mail addressed will be used only for Lake Association business and will *never* be given out.

SEBASTICOOK LAKE ASSOCIATION MINUTES
JULY 10, 2021

The meeting was held at the American Legion Hall in Newport, Maine on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The 2019 Secretary's report was accepted. No one could find a copy as it's been two years since we've had a meeting, so we acknowledged them.

No guest speaker this year due to the circumstances.

Treasurer's Report – *Rick Berry* - Last year was kind of a dud. Less dues came in, but no fireworks expense, so that helped. There also wasn't a cookout last year and no invoice from the VLMP or Maine Congress of Lake Association's, so we didn't pay those either. A question arose about paying for the testing of the water quality. Muffy said he (Andre Cushing) was being trained last year but wasn't official until later in the year. Donnie Gross spoke and said that Andre Cushing does have some tests from last year.

We receive some funding from the town every year from boat excise taxes. Half to us and half to the town. This is why we keep a balance in our account in case we come up against some invasive species in our lake, we, at least have some funding for this. This works the same way for the snowmobile club; they receive half of the snowmobile excise taxes from the town. We pay \$250 to the Volunteer Lake Monitor Program and \$200 to the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (now Maine Lakes) every year in the event we need training or need assistance with our lake. Every year we provide any expenses for the Water Quality Testing. Andre Cushing is now doing this and Donnie Gross is assisting. Mr. Gross said Andre would like to do the testing once a month. In the event that Mr. Cushing and Mr. Gross would like to be reimbursed for any expenses, we motioned and voted to pay them.

Buoy Committee – *Dick Stone* – Several years ago the State took over the markers. They stay in year-round now. If anyone sees one or if it breaks loose, please let Dick know and he'll report it to the state. Dick takes a ride around every couple of weeks to make sure they are all in place. The markers are 200' out to mark shallow water or rocky areas. You're at your own risk if you go inside the markers.

Cookout Committee – *Barbara Cloutier* – It's nice to be back. It's a beautiful day for a picnic. She thanked all members of the Cookout Committee. Each year it's a little bit difficult to plan the barbecue as we never know about the weather or about how many to make food for. If there are leftovers, we've already bought what we have left. This year it was particularly difficult, whether it was going to be outside, wear masks, etc. We made a different plan and it changed as we went along the way. Thank goodness for the state of Maine, things are looking good. We have hand sanitizers and gloves. All cookout members are vaccinated if that makes anyone feel better. We do have burgers and red hot dogs this year. We hope you all stay for the barbecue with great big appetites.

Fireworks Committee – *Mike Vining* – 9:15 tonight. Everything is all set. Permits are ready to go. The Loconte's match our donations and provide a lot of funding for them. Trivia question – Who was the president of the lake association before Muffy? Answer: Mike Vining.

The fireworks area has been cleaned up and mowed, so it's all ready to go. Muffy said we were lucky enough to be able to use the same area for the fireworks to launch as it had been sold and rebought.

Membership Committee – *Allan Fernald* – Needless to say the payee's were a small number this year. A little over 100 people mailed their dues in. But, we have 326 total people on the lake. Last year we let it go but this year we're coming after you. New members, we have two here today. Hopefully, our numbers will be better next year.

Newsletter Committee – *Debbie Ferrell* – We moved the mailing to early November. We had a lot of returns in the mail. Hopefully it's just an odd year. We had a few corrections in the newsletter. Advance Auto is not moving into the expansion across from Key Bank. It is O'Reilly Auto moving in there. The Riverwalk Festival was not mentioned in the newsletter and we heard a lot about that. The circle at the light - The Town has nothing to do with the circle. That is entirely the state. The corrections are on the Facebook page. This year was surprising. If there is anyone interested in being on the committee or have articles you'd like to share, we welcome them. Anything anyone likes or doesn't like? A lot of people said they enjoyed getting them. We didn't do one last fall and Debbie didn't hear anything about it. A question was asked about doing a paper newsletter in the spring and online one in the fall. Rick had mentioned instead of doing a newsletter, maybe do a potluck dinner in the fall. We don't get a lot of fresh input, maybe we could discuss the summer's events or anything that went on. We could still do a newsletter but just make it online. Mr. Gross asked - Does the water draw down get posted on the website as soon as it's voted on? Debbie said she put it on the website. We have a Water Regulation Committee. The town has to have at least two weeks notice to the public to make everyone aware. We did do it a little earlier last year as the water was low and it wasn't the best quality. The best bet is to look on the website around the 3rd week in August. The website is: Sebasticooklakeassociation.org

Water Quality Testing – *Donnie Gross* – He grew up with Mike Vining and we all know we used to be able to walk on the water. He's working with Mr. Cushing. They went out on 6/13, in 55' of water. They both took the secchi disk test. 3.8-4.2 meters or about 12 or 13 feet. The temperatures, depth and oxygen levels are all the factors. We got readings between 8.4 to 2.5 for oxygen. Most of it was 8.4 to 7.9. It seemed pretty consistent over the years

See *Minutes*, next page

(Minutes from page 3)

we've had previously. The water temperature ranged from 71 to 65 degrees. It was enjoyable and if Andre can go twice a month, I'll go. Those are all unofficial numbers. Alan Whitaker went out with Andre last week but didn't have the information with him today. Andre has the information but isn't here today. Alan Whitaker is going to get certified as well as Mr. Gross

Drawdown date – *Muffy Pare* - When the water is really low in the winter, it is a concern to the snowmobilers for hazards such as rocks sticking up, etc. It would be good to have a lot of different opinions for how low to draw down the water. It's not just we're all sitting around having coffee and we pick a day. It's based on scientific data. The water flows down to Burnham, so we have to let them know and make them aware. It takes two to three weeks to make everyone aware. We do try to tell people. It's in the Rolling Thunder and on the website. It used to be the Tuesday after Labor Day, then the Monday after Labor Day, then the last week in September. It changes every year not by a huge amount of time, but it does change. It's based on water quality readings. We'd like to have a conversation about it. Some people have said that they'd like to keep it until Columbus Day in October. At some point, we would like to stop opening the gate and letting the water out every year, but it may not be the year to do it yet. Does anyone have some input as to when they'd like to see it drawn? Is there a professional opinion that has been done recently? It was done in the 80's but nothing since. Dave Hallowell and Dave Coutermarsh who were with the University of Maine used to give us their opinions, but we don't know who it is since Dave Hallowell has retired. Debbie Ferrell is going to reach out and see if they are going to replace Dave Hallowell? Debbie stated Dave Hallowell said we need to have four or five years of continuous results before we stop letting the water out. If you go onto the DEP website, you can find a lot of information about runoff. You can also find out a lot from the two groups that we contribute to, the VLMP and Maine Lakes. Paul Greene spoke about doing work to your property and to watch the water when it rains. Where is it going? Paul said he would invite anyone over to see what Paul and Maureen just did to their property.

New Business – Hank said this is the best year for water quality he's ever seen. The water has improved. There are less weeds this year. Hank thinks it's a great idea to keep the water down. It's the best it's been in 16 years. Paul thinks with the water quality being better, it's allowing more grass to grow in shallower water. Al Howes has seen wild rice near the river on the northeast side of the lake. It roots itself, it's becoming a concern. It uproots very easily though. You just have to keep after it.

Miscellaneous – Darcy spoke about the Annual Loon Count next Saturday, the 17th from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. All information has been sent out to the counters via email or mailed. Darcy asked anyone if they had seen any chicks yet this year and no one had. It was asked what the count was last year and it was about 23 adults and two chicks. It's very exciting when you see them and get to mark them down.

Next year's meeting date and location – Usually the Saturday after the 4th of July. Same time and location? Everyone agreed. July 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Hall.

Jane Shaw spoke - She has been on the lake about 80 years. She said she remembered going to one of the first lake association meetings. There were about 20 people in attendance. The association has come a long way since then and a lot more people now.

Motion to adjourn – 11:12 a.m.

Cooks Corner



Cakes don't get much easier or more delicious than this offering from Debbie Ferrell.

Pineapple Angel Food Cake

Ingredients

1 box ANGEL FOOD CAKE MIX
1 20 oz. CAN CRUSHED PINEAPPLE (Do NOT Drain!)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Mix cake mix and pineapple in large bowl, by hand
3. Pour into ungreased 9" x 13" pan
4. Bake for 28 to 30 minutes.
5. Cool on wire rack. Serve.

A Big “Thanks” To All 2021 Fireworks Sponsors!

David & Judy Brogden
Goody Gilman
Gail & Douglas Rice
Lewis & Regena Tuttle
Kevin & Tracy Barnard
John Miller
Norine Santarpia
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Jim Ricker
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Christine & Greg Harpin
Wayne & Dianne Hawes

News about our Lake

By Debbie Ferrell

As you may know our new lake monitors have had a hard time getting their certification finally completing their Secchi disk certification in September this year. Earlier in-person testing plans were rescheduled due to a covid outbreak at the testing site. We are lucky to have three people getting certified to monitor the lake, Andre Cushing, Allen Whitaker, and Donnie Gross. Meanwhile our dissolved oxygen meter failed to calibrate in July when Patrick Lind, DEP representative who replaced Dave Halliwell, and Allen Whitaker did some water sampling. Over the winter the meter will be evaluated by YSI, the manufacturer, and either repaired or replaced before next summer. I'm hoping that next season our monitors will be quickly certified on the DO meter and update their Secchi disk certification and that we will have a normal summer of testing and results. Test results for this year show a 4.0-meter clarity in June, declining to 2.7 meters in July, and 1.8 meters in August and 1.9 meters in September. Readings below 2.0 meters is considered a technical algal bloom, even if no bloom is visible.

The second piece of news is that the Water Regulation committee and town council are discussing hiring a consultant to write a grant to obtain funding to do a new comprehensive watershed plan to replace our twenty-year-old plan. This is necessary as our lake has seen a decline in water quality the last several years. We need to know why it's happening and how to reverse it. Whether it's due to more year-round homes on the lake, less emphasis on protecting our lake or less commitment to protecting our shores, or some other unknown cause, we need to know. Once potential causes are identified we need to know how we can proceed and work to improve the quality of our lake. This new watershed plan timetable, if the grant is approved, will run through most of next year. Implementation of the plan recommendations would begin in 2023. You will hear more about this next summer and if there are ways you can participate in improving our lake's water quality.

Finally in news about our current drawdown. The Water Regulation committee is comprised lakeside owners including Muffy Pare and myself and the Town Manager, Jim Ricker, and Public Works Foreman, Steve Berry. This year the Water Regulation Committee voted to drawdown as usual in the fall but to return to past practice of closing the dam gate after a 10–12-week drawdown and allowing the water level to rise. As of this writing on November 9, the lake level is 3 inches from the lowest level possible for a drawdown. So you can expect that the gate will be closed in the coming days. Please remove your docks if you have not already done so.



Sebasticook Lake Association

www.sebasticooklakeassociation.org

Membership Form

Name _____

Address (Summer) _____

Address (Winter) _____

Telephone (Summer / Winter) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please check if this is an address change

Dues for January 2018—December 2018:

Regular \$10.00 Associate \$8.00

Make Checks Payable To:
Sebasticook Lake Association
c/o Rick Berry
3332 Kindle Ave
The Villages FL 32163

FALL 2021 ISSUE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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