

Mascoma Lake Association

SPRING 2018
NEWSLETTER

Annual Meeting • July 28th • LaSalette Cafeteria • 9-10:30 a.m.

As the Town of Enfield and our lake community are currently facing a significant opportunity with the Mascoma Lakeside Park, we've made it the theme of our newsletter this year.

The park is located at the center of the lake, east of Shaker Bridge on two lots currently owned by the State, and is the site of our Annual Social in August.

Considering the mission of the MLA – “... to protect Mascoma Lake and its environment, promote the responsible and sustainable enjoyment of the Lake by all its users, and to educate the public on issues related to these objectives” – we understand and appreciate this prize piece of land for its many recreational

and educational uses.

We hope to welcome the Enfield Town Manager, Ryan Aylesworth (or another representative) as our speaker at our Annual Meeting on July 28th. Because this is Old Home Days weekend, our timing goal is to gather on Saturday morning before 9 and conclude our full meeting by 10:30 am. We will be efficient and well-aware of the community events happening that weekend.

We hope to see you all at LaSalette in the first floor cafeteria space for the Annual Meeting.

– Allison Flint, President

This past summer, NH DOT completed its work on Main Street and at the old underpass, thus completing the Shaker Bridge rebuilding project. The bypass road, constructed as a temporary road while the new bridge was under construction, has now been permanently closed off to traffic, apart from emergency vehicle access.

For several years now, the lakefront area where the temporary bypass road went through (formerly the site of the old motel) and adjoining lot owned by NH DOT, has been managed by the Town of Enfield and used as an area for parking, small boat access, picnicking, and simply enjoying the lakefront.

These two lakefront lots owned by NH DOT have recently been declared surplus and will be sold in the near future at a price yet to be determined. The Town has received indications from NH DOT that Enfield will be offered the opportunity to purchase the land at fair market value. It should be noted that in anticipation of a possible purchase of the land, the Town had a comprehensive appraisal done in 2016. If for some reason the Town cannot raise the funds to purchase the property and therefore maintain control, it will be sold to the highest bidder, possibly cutting off public access forever.

The Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee (MLPC) was formed in 2015 to assist in creating a vision for the park, once the NH DOT completed its work. Since its formation, the MLPC has purchased picnic tables and built a State-approved non-motorized

Mascoma Lakeside Park

By Meredith Smith



boat ramp through private donations and small grants, and created an account for future purchases.

An information kiosk built by Boy Scout Nick Williams as his Eagle Scout project was installed this spring. Also planned for the Lakeside Park is an educational component where classes can be taught on such things as invasive species, water quality, and lake safety.

Early in 2018, a fund-raising campaign was kicked off with the expressed purpose of raising funds to purchase the two lots from NH DOT. At the March 2018 Town Meeting, the Town overwhelmingly voted to allow the Enfield Selectboard to purchase the two lots with donated funds exclusively (the MLPC has pledged that no public funds will be used to purchase this land). The Selectboard has also established a Mascoma Lakeside Park Trust Fund which is holding

the donated funds. If, for any reason, the Town cannot purchase the two lots, all donated funds will be returned to donors.

The MLPC has been meeting twice monthly and is working diligently to raise the anticipated purchase price of the two lots, probably somewhere in the \$150,000 range. They have received a challenge grant from the Byrne Foundation of \$75,000 and hope to meet that goal very soon. However, other expenses are anticipated, and a maintenance fund is also planned. The Mascoma Sailing Club and Enfield Village Association have both pledged annual contributions to that fund for the next five years. Volunteers have also been helping to maintain the park area.

The MLPC looks forward to finally securing this beautiful spot on the shores of the lake we all love and enjoy, to be preserved forever for future generations. The Mascoma Lakeside Park has received the endorsement of NH Lakes Association with a statement from President Tom O'Brien stating: “Enfield’s efforts to secure Mascoma Lakeside Park in order to provide appropriate and responsible public access to the lake is a project that NH LAKES fully endorses. It takes a collaborative community effort to get this kind of work done. This project embodies that spirit and it will ensure that there will always be public access to the lake for all to enjoy.”

**Tax deductible donations for the purchase of the Lakeside Park land can be made to:
Town of Enfield, c/o Ryan Aylesworth
P.O. Box 373, Enfield, NH 03748.**

I will be organizing the loon census here on Mascoma Lake in participation with the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) who organizes the census across NH on the same day and time.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers need to commit to be out on the lake in their assigned section anywhere on the lake for the full hour, making observations about any loon activity seen. An extra pair of eyes and binoculars, along with the census form on clipboard, are all helpful. This is rain or shine. I need 12 boats to cover the lake well and will sign up the first 12 volunteers with some stand-bys. This is generally a lovely time to be out on the lake and folks are welcome back to my dock afterwards to hand in their findings and enjoy some homemade muffins. If interested email me at terri.m.lynych@gmail.com

GIVE ME YOUR LEAD

Even after passage of legislation in 2016 prohibiting the sale and use of lead sinkers and jigs one ounce or less, loons are still dying from lead poisoning. Lead poisoning remains the number one killer of adult loons in NH, accounting for 44% of all adult loon deaths from 1989-2017. Even one small lead sinker ingested will be broken down with acids and stones in the gizzard and release toxic levels into the loon's bloodstream. A miserable death follows over the next one to two weeks.

It is believed that the majority of these loons are getting the lead from current fishing activities and only a very small amount from lead that is left behind on the bottom of the lake. Since

LOON CENSUS 2018

Saturday, July 21 • 8 to 9 a.m.

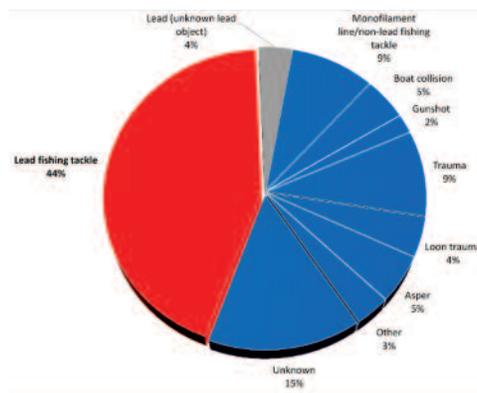
By Terri Lynch



Mom and baby enjoy a peaceful swim.

First Loons arrived this spring on April 18

these lead sinkers and jigs are no longer legal or for sale, I think they must be coming from old tackle hanging around. I am sure many of us have a fishing tackle box in the garage or basement waiting for that visiting friend or grandchild. PLEASE do some spring cleanout. If the sinkers and jigs have been in there for more than two years, you can assume they are lead. Please remove these and bring them to me for proper disposal. Sinkers and jigs are easily replaced with



safer materials – steel, tungsten, etc. I will leave a bucket out by my mailbox at 94 Livingstone Lodge Road, Enfield, so you can drop them off anytime. I will also be collecting your lead at the MLA annual meeting and will have some non-lead sinkers and jigs to offer as replacements. *This is so important. Let's put an end to loon deaths from lead!*

Mascoma Lake Loon Update 2017

Last September an adult male loon was found dead on Mascoma Lake. He was most likely the father of the chick hatched at the Lebanon end of the lake last July. He became entangled in a fishing line in early July. There were over a dozen attempts by the Loon Preservation Committee biologists (Sarah Cantrell, Susie Burbridge, John Cooley) and myself to try to net and untangle him, but he was too evasive. If we had been able to untangle him, he may have survived. He had swallowed a hook/jig with about 12' of line attached which was wrapped around his neck and tongue. He ended up leaving the chick and mom as he could not defend them or care for the chick. It is likely that he was caught by a fisherman and the line was cut when he/she realized they had caught a loon.

There was a second adult loon on the lake that became entangled in fishing line in August. This one was also too active to catch, but apparently was able to fly as it vanished in the late Fall. According to the LPC, this was an unusual occurrence for two loons to be so affected on one lake. Fishing line entanglement is attributed to about 9% of adult loon deaths.

No Adverse Impact from Mascoma Lake Park

By Jim Martel

There doesn't appear to be any adverse impact to lake water quality by the proposed Mascoma Lake Park. My only concern is making sure that runoff is intercepted by rain gardens and vegetative barriers that force the water to infiltrate through the soil before entering the lake. These barriers will need to be maintained in order to remain effective.

In addition to the water quality sampling that we do each year under the NHDES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP), we are taking on two new studies. The first is a cyanobacteria monitoring study. The purpose of the study is to get a better idea of the size of the cyanobacteria population and how it varies over the summer recreation season. With this information, we will be better able to predict when

blooms are likely. Samples are taken from three locations every two weeks. Mark Manikian, one of our regular VLAP volunteers, is taking the lead in this study. Samples are analyzed at DES under the direction of Ms. Amanda McQuaide, Beach Program Coordinator.

The second study is being conducted by Patty Murray, another VLAP Volunteer. She is looking at the chloride concentration in the lake during the spring snowmelt season. We are hoping to document a reduction in lake chloride concentration due to a reduced amount of salt being applied to Rt. 4A. It may take a while for any change to occur. The chloride concentration in the lake is not a problem at this time, but it is increasing and could become a problem in the future.

MILFOIL CONTROL AT THE LAKESIDE PARK

Martha Rich & David Kelman



The area of the lake near the new park, like most shallow Mascoma Lake waters, is good habitat for Eurasian milfoil. That's an invasive aquatic plant discovered in our lake two decades ago. If not controlled, this type of milfoil forms dense stands of vegetation in the water. Thick mats at the surface shade out native plants, reduce oxygen levels, and impede boating. Milfoil can ruin lakes.

Fortunately, the all-volunteer control effort on Mascoma Lake has been keeping this destructive weed in check for more than 20 years. Over the past few summers, with increased numbers of enthusiastic volunteers, we've stepped up our search and harvest methods. There are some indications that infestations are reduced. We can never expect to eliminate this invasive plant completely, however, we can – and must – continue effective management.

The Lakeside Park will offer a new opportunity to educate the public about this effort. Chances are we'll find some milfoil plants in nearby waters this year, as we have in the past. (For a look at infestation patterns in past years, please visit our interactive maps on the MLA website: see below for details.) Our crew will be putting out our customary foam markers, so boaters and swimmers can

avoid disturbing plants until our trained divers harvest them.

Everyone who enjoys the park will have a stake in preventing the spread of Eurasian milfoil and keeping our beautiful lake open. Here's how you can help:

- If you see an orange-yellow foam-noodle milfoil marker, please leave it where it is and avoid motorized boating near the marker.

- Do not attempt to remove milfoil yourself. It must be harvested by trained personnel. Improper removal will contribute to its spread. (It's also illegal in New Hampshire to dig up aquatic plants of any kind without a permit. Removing native plants such as bass weed can create more inviting conditions for invasive milfoil to grow.)

- If you think you see Eurasian milfoil, let us know and we'll follow up on suspected sightings. You don't have to be an aquatic plant expert, just an alert citizen!

- If you live on the lake and would like to monitor the water near your property on a regular basis, you can join the "neighborhood weed watch." Your commitment as a watcher would be to cruise your area from the shoreline to a depth of 12-14 feet when the lake is still and the sun is not directly overhead (usually early morning or late afternoon). We ask that you 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.

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

Questions or interest in volunteering? Contact: David Kelman & Martha Rich at 802-233-9964, or by emailing us at ssmilfoil@comcast.net.

MILFOIL MAPS

Interactive maps that track patterns of milfoil growth over time are posted on the MLA website. The maps allow you to filter data by any increment of time or number. The **intensity map** is at <https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=17UoPCqzNacYaMHt7ehG3UiNtmPAaXCNDtFodAnr->

Follow-up on Hydropower Dam Project

by Martha Nelson

Two years ago a representative from NH Dam Bureau came to our Annual Meeting to discuss Boston-based Grafton Hydro LLC's proposal to study the possibility of generating electricity at Mascoma Lake dam and river. They were proposing the use of the Mascoma Lake dam and construction of an additional dam located in Lebanon between High Street and Route 120. The dams were expected to produce 2.1 mega-watts, which would be able to power 1500 homes.

According to a February 6 article in the *Valley News*, Tim Camerato reported that Grafton Hydro LLC has requested to withdraw their petition for the study from FERC and be allowed to give up the project, citing that the project was not felt to be cost-effective at this time. The permit allowed for a three-year study of the river hydrology, what type of equipment would be needed, and whether the public would be supportive of the project.



BOAT PARADE Saturday, July 7th 3 pm

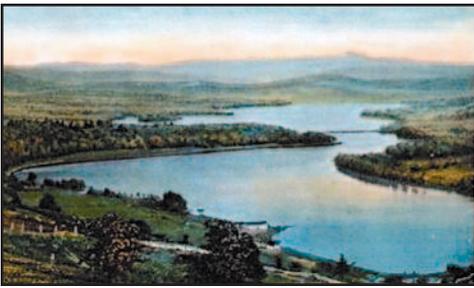
Check the website closer to 7/7:
www.mascomalakeassociation.com
or our FaceBook page:
Mascoma Lake Association

Enfield Old Home Days • July 27-29

Full events schedule available in print at Town businesses starting July 11.

Full list can be found at:
www.facebook.com/EnfieldOldHomeDays/events

Kristin Harrington, Chair



Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

2017-18 Board Members

Allison Flint • President
 Paul Hartnagel • Vice President
 David Beaufait • Secretary
 Gary Gaudette • Treasurer
 Karen Hambleton • Membership
 Martha Nelson • Newsletter
 Peter Swanson • Website
 Tom Bonardi • SS Milfoil care
 Andrea Kangas
 Ann Corr
 Bud Lynch
 Nadine Goyette
 Sandy Haynes
 Kim Potter



Mascoma Lake Hosts “Clean, Drained and Dry”

See our Lake Hosts at the ramps this summer, funded by NH Lakes, the Town of Enfield, the City of Lebanon, and the MLA. Our young hosts will be present each weekend and holiday through the summer to educate boaters and inspect vessels entering and leaving the lake. Both larger ramps will be covered and we also hope to have a Lake Host on occasion at the non-motorized boat ramp at the Mascoma Lakeside Park.

Be aware of the 2017 state policy to be enforced this year:

CLEAN off all mud, plants, animals, and debris from your boat, trailer, and

equipment. Clean off anchors and anchor lines, water intake grates on jet-powered craft, kayak and canoe cockpits, storage compartments, and paddles, too! Dispose of all material away from the waterbody where it won't wash back into the water.

DRAIN the motor, bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, storage compartments, and gear where the water won't flow back into the lake – avoid draining while on the ramp incline. Blow out water in jet-powered craft and tip paddle craft and motors to let out water.

OPEN/REMOVE all drain plugs and keep them out/open while trailering. You may need a wrench to remove drain plugs.

DRY off anything that came in contact with the water to remove invasive species not easily seen. If launching your boat again within 5 days, thoroughly rinse with clean water away from waterbodies and towel dry – rinsing with high pressure, high temperature water is best.

For more info, visit
nhlakes.org/education/lake-host/ea

2018 Mascoma Sailing Club Log

By Kate McMullan & Sally Sharp

Mascoma Sailing Club is looking forward to our 10th year of operation, now at the new Mascoma Lakeside Park. We believe that informing and educating people is an important component of ensuring the future of a healthy Mascoma Lake and that 'over the water' hands-on education works best. We are proud of the many ways we promote the environmentally-sound use of Mascoma Lake including:

- **Youth Intro to Sailing Program** (open to ages 12-18 at a nominal cost)
- **Women Can Sail and Sloop Night Programs** (open to area residents at no cost)
- **Enfield Old Home Days Community Sail**
- **Winter “WingDing”**
- **Summer Solstice “Sailstice”**

The Sailing Club is helping with development of Mascoma Lakeside Park including sharing the cost of the port-a-potty, offering in-kind help with park maintenance, and contributing funds toward the building of the non-motorized boat ramp and information kiosk. Sailing Club members have pledged funds toward the purchase of the park land and future maintenance costs, part of an ongoing commitment to participate in this exciting project.

Ice-Out was April 26, 2018