

Mascoma Lake Association

SPRING 2019
NEWSLETTER

HARMFUL INVASIVE SHORELINE PLANTS

by Penny Koburger

The majority of non native plants cause no harm in our landscapes. However, some are very aggressive and have developed a foothold in our Mascoma watershed. They are invasive and choke out desirable plants that birds and wildlife depend upon for food and habitat. Over time they can create an impenetrable barrier to shoreline access and clog streams. Some produce toxins that are harmful to other plants and wildlife. Learning to recognize some of these plants is the first step their removal.



Japanese Knotweed (above) is beautiful, but a serious concern. It grows in extremely dense thickets about 8 feet tall. It loves to get its start in disturbed wet areas, such as road verges or shorelines that have been bush-hogged. The tiniest piece of root is all it takes to start another plant. There is a stand of Japanese Knotweed along Main Street in Enfield. Near buildings its' aggressive, fast growing roots can go through plumbing and walls. If you just mow it down you are actually triggering it to extend its root outward and upward and rapidly resprout from its root tips. Removal is a long process of cutting down, removal of as much roots as possible, and then smothering it with black

continued on page 3: Invasives

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOAT PARADE

July 6th • 3 pm

Check website for details

LOON CENSUS

July 20th • 8-9 am

Statewide event at this exact time to help the loon Preservation Committee monitor the loon population. Volunteers needed to record loon activity for 1 hour rain or shine. Need boat, binoculars, watch and cell phone. If interested email terri.m.lynch@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 27 • 8:30 am

LaSalette Cafeteria

Guest speaker: Alison Marchion from the Upper Valley Land Trust. MLA Volunteers will report changes to MLA website, the new updated map, water quality and milfoil eradication.

OLD HOME DAY FESTIVAL

July 26-28

Kristin Harrington, Chair

For the 7th consecutive year, OHD offers a little of something for everyone, including Community Picnic, Ice Cream Social, Cruise Night, Home Brew Festival, Country Fair and much more.

For full schedule, check after July 5:
<http://www.facebook.com/EnfieldOldHomeDays/events>
or see posters at local town businesses.

MLA CLEAN UP & PICNIC

August 18th

Clean up at 1 pm • Picnic at 4 pm

Rain date August 25th at Lakeside Park

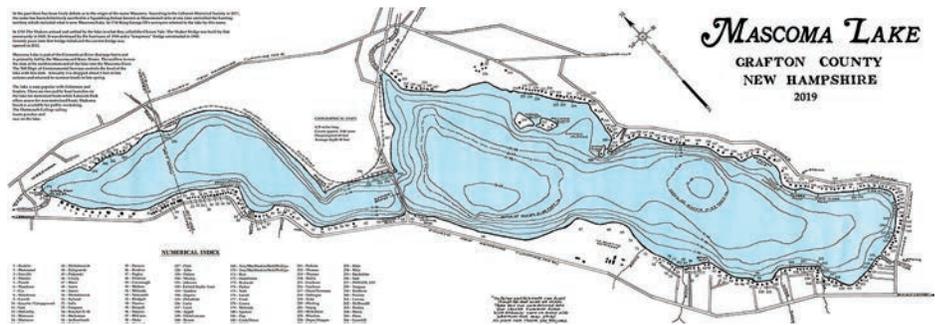
Milfoil Control: Cautious Optimism

by Martha Rich and David Kelman

As we begin our 23rd year of battling Eurasian milfoil in Mascoma Lake, we're feeling, at long last, hopeful. We know we cannot eliminate this invasive weed, but we believe our control efforts have begun to reduce its presence in our waters. That's important, as Eurasian milfoil can ruin a body of water if it's not kept in check. It can form thick mats that crowd out other plants, harm fish, and make swimming and boating really unpleasant. It has lots of strategies for multiplying.

We, however, have lots of strategies for controlling it. Our state-authorized volunteer program monitors the lake and removes the plants, working with crews of trained SCUBA divers and boat tenders, as well as lots of people who watch out for the weed from shore and from their boats and paddleboards. We've developed new ways of searching for the plants—including "synchronized swim" events, when 5-10 snorkelers move in a line to scan the lake bottom visually and mark plants. This has proved an effective way to monitor infested areas and conduct efficient harvesting. With high spirits and strong

continued on page 3: Milfoil



Coming soon—updated version of Mascoma Lake Map

Over the last year, members of the MLA Board have been working to produce a 2019 version of the Mascoma Lake Map. We are using the 1984 map as a template and will show all current property owners who abut the lake. The 1984 map used the 1971 version produced by Jane Clark as its template and hats off to her for creating the map before the days of computers. The information included for 2019 has been taken from publicly available sources. These maps are a terrific historical record and make great gifts! Hopefully, will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Very Useful Mascoma Lake Websites

By Jim Martel

I would like to point out two very useful websites for information about Mascoma Lake. The first is the Lake Information Mapper on NHDES Website: nhdes.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1f45dc20877b4b959239b8a4a60ef540. It combines several sources of lake information on one website. Once you click on the website you will see a map of New Hampshire. Find Mascoma Lake and click on it. A dialog box will pop up that lists a wide variety of useful information such as Lake Trophic Survey Reports, VLAP Reports, Cyanobacteria blooms, and Exotic Invasive species. Basically it contains all you want to know about Mascoma Lake water quality in one spot.

The second website: www4.des.state.nh.us/rti_home/station_information_display.asp?WID=fivebasins&ID=MCAN3&NAME=Mascoma+Lake&FULLPOND=Full+Lake++7+ft.+Local++750+ft.+above+sea+level, contains data and graphs on lake elevation, dam flow, precipitation, and air temperature. It is very useful for finding out if the lake is at the normal summer elevation or how close it is to the winter elevation.

There were no beach closings secondary to cyanobacteria blooms last year. Not sure why, but we must be doing something right. Remember, the key food for any algae is phosphates. We can reduce phosphates by using zero phosphate fertilizer, and preventing surface runoff from entering our lake.

Fireworks and the Impact on Wildlife

As summer and fireworks seem to go together, those shot over water add harmful debris to our lake which affect fish and wildlife. With a prevailing north wind, the southern shore collects cardboard, plastic pellets, plastic shrapnel, and chemically laden debris. These pollutants can also remain on and below the surface to be ingested by fish and water birds.



The Saturn Missile and those like it are especially harmful pollutants with plastic shrapnel left behind.

We encourage all who engage in fireworks to do so with common sense and over land, not water. As a reminder to all Enfield residents, the town restricts detonation: only legal on Fridays, Saturdays, and 4th of July, 5:30-10:30pm. The City of Lebanon has no restrictions at this time.



LAKE HOSTS

Lake Hosts will be present at our two public boat ramps from May 25 to Sept 2 (weekends and holidays), offering voluntary boat inspections and assisting boaters with the NH law of “Clean, Drained and Dry” to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

On arrival at any boat launch, **NH law states that your boat needs to be Clean, Drained and Dry – with the plug out.**

Before leaving any boat launch area:

CLEAN: Clean off all mud, plants, animals, and debris from your boat, trailer, and equipment (anchors, lines, paddles, cockpits, everything).

DRAIN: Drain the motor, bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, storage compartments, and gear. Blow out jets. OPEN/REMOVE drain plugs and keep out/open while trailering.

DRY: Dry off everything that came into contact with the water. If launching your boat again within 5 days, thoroughly rinse with clean water where runoff won't flow back into the water and towel dry—rinsing with high pressure, hot water between waterbodies is the gold standard.

Extra caution should always be taken if a boat has been in a waterbody infested with aquatic invasive species.

<https://nhlakes.org/clean-drain-dry/>

2019 Mascoma Sailing Club Log

by
Kate McMullan
and Sally Sharp



Despite a very late, cold and miserable spring, Mascoma Sailing Club is up and running for the 2019 season! Three club boats were launched in early May and once warmer weather arrives we're eager to launch our weekly Thursday evening Community Sailing program. We invite all Enfield residents (including Mascoma Lake summer residents) to join club members for a Thursday evening sail – no experience necessary – we will “show you the ropes.” Help rig the boat, trim the sails or take the helm, or just come along for the ride as we cruise the lake for an hour or two.

Our popular Women Can Sail program, will take place on Wednesday evenings throughout July. Come join us to try sailing, or improve your sailing skills, in a supportive, women teaching women, atmosphere.

Have your own sailboat? Join us for our annual Summer Sailstice event on June 22or our Griesbach Regatta in early August.

For further information on these programs and other club happenings, visit our club website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/shakersailclub>.

Do you have children living on the lake or will your grandchildren be visiting this summer? Our Youth Summer Sailing program, open to area youth 11+ at nominal cost, will convene the 3rd and 4th weeks of July. We offer lessons at both beginning and intermediate levels. See Play Mascoma Valley! Recreation Guides on the Enfield Town website for more details.

MASCOMA LAKESIDE PARK

Meredith Smith, Chair, Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee

The long-held dream of a public park on the shores of Lake Mascoma for all to enjoy is now a reality. The three-acre property, until recently owned by New Hampshire Department of Transportation, was purchased by the Town of Enfield in early March 2019. All funds needed to cover the purchase and the related expenses were raised through private donations in a fund-raising effort spearheaded by the Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee.

In July of 2018, Senator Shaheen's office notified the Town that it had been awarded a grant of \$135,000 from the Northern Borders Regional Commission for an open-air pavilion at the park and other site development work. The grant requires a dollar for dollar match to cover a budget of \$270,000 for the improvements. This spring, through the efforts of the Lakeside Park Committee and the generosity of donors, that goal has been reached.

In addition to the construction of an open-air pavilion, the Lakeside Park Committee will strive always to maintain the natural beauty of this space. Plans include removing invasive species, adding native plants and rain gardens to help control run-off while developing a network of trails. Old and rotting retaining walls will be replaced and a toddler wading area will be created. Benches may be added, along with more picnic tables. It is anticipated that the pavilion will offer a space for organizations like Mascoma Lake Association to host gatherings and a place where educational programs can be offered focusing on lake health. Year-round use of the park will be encouraged with activities such as ice skating, fishing derbies, cross country skiing, and other winter activities. Mascoma Lakeside Park is the only lakefront park in New Hampshire bordered by the Rail Trail, making it truly unique in every way.

The Lakeside Park Committee welcomes comments and suggestions from the public.

7 mils plastic, topped by mulch for at least two years. This plant should not be left in a brush dump nor “composted”. Other methods of eradication are in Doug Cygan’s “Preventing the Spread of Japanese Knotweed”, 2018, from the Dept. of Agriculture (download is free).

Another major concern are the Common and Glossy Buckthorn. (Photos © New England Wild Flower Society). These small trees (about 6 to 15 feet tall) are often seen on shorelines and woodland edges and are very fast growing. The berries can cause nutritional deficiencies and diarrhea in birds and small animals. They weaken our already stressed out wildlife. Buckthorns can be cut down to the ground and roots treated or removed. New saplings that arise can be pulled out in following years. If Buckthorn are around, they will dominate the area due to chemicals put out by their roots. Serviceberry, dogwoods, and Viburnums are good alternative plantings.



Multiflora Rose is again a lovely looking plant. It is unfortunately way too happy here and grows in ever expanding, impenetrable thickets at the expense of native shrubs that feed our birds and wildlife. This plant has long 15 foot arching canes. Unlike native roses, at the base of each leaf stalk there is a fringed little “turkey foot”, distinctive to this plant. Removing these plants is a 2 person job: one to hold back a thorny cane while the other cuts the branches at the base. The root ball can be dug out.

When an area of ground is “cleared” or logged, it is important that we plan what is going to grow in that area and actively plant before invasive plants can come in and take hold. Monitoring and removing unwanted plants/weeds is important to give desired plants a chance to get firmly established. Other plants and trees are the best defense against invasive plants.

For information, “New Hampshire Guide to Upland Invasive Species”, by Doug Cygan is a free download on your computer.

cooperation among swimmers and support crew, these swim parties are starting to be a lot of fun.

Our spirits lift, too, when we look at patterns in harvest data. Our current sense of optimism comes from the trend we see in recent years: the total number of plants harvested each summer has dropped from a high in 2015 of 5,454 to just 619 last year. When we compare the number of plants harvested per marker—an indication of the infestation’s intensity at a given site—the trend is the same. In 2015, the average cluster of plants around a marker was 15.25. Last year, it was 2.75. So even with more aggressive search and harvest methods, the divers were digging out far fewer milfoil plants.

It’s an encouraging trend. Keeping it going will require the same concerted effort every year, as every plant that escapes our attention can swiftly become a new colony. Everyone who cares about Mascoma Lake can contribute to controlling milfoil.

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.
- If you think you see Eurasian milfoil, let us know and we’ll follow up on suspected sightings.
- 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.”
- 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.
- If you’re a swimmer, you could join our “synchronized swims.”

Questions or interest in volunteering?
Contact: David Kelman & Martha Rich
smilfoil@comcast.net 802-233-9964

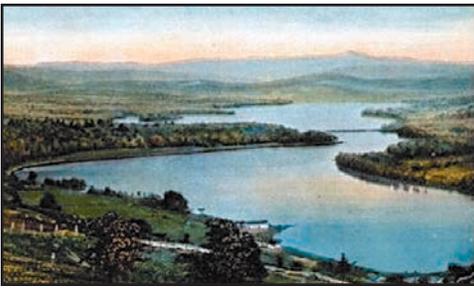
IN MEMORIAM

The MLA lost three beloved members over the winter months.

On November 6, longtime board member and treasurer **Gary Gaudette** passed away at the age of 55. Recognized this past fall as the United Way Volunteer of the Year for his multiple roles in service to our community, Gary also won one of his profession’s highest honors, the O.D. Glaus Credit Executive of Distinction Award. Hypertherm, where he worked as Senior Treasury Analyst, has established an Exemplary Service Award in his name. We will miss Gary’s generous spirit, gentle sense of humor, and deep expertise—especially his talent for explaining financial matters so clearly to all the rest of us. He was a great team member and an excellent steward of the MLA’s finances.

We lost **George Crowe**, 82, on January 6. George’s four-decade career as a hockey coach included outstanding contributions at Dartmouth, where he led both men’s and women’s teams in historic winning streaks and earned numerous awards. In addition to his exceptional skill as a coach, George was a legendary mentor and friend to both athletes and colleagues. The characteristics that shaped that reputation were clear to those who knew him as a longtime MLA member: his genuine interest in other people, his kindness, and his ready wit. Like many of us, George loved Mascoma Lake in the summer, but for him, its winter ice was also a joy. We will miss his adventurous, optimistic spirit and the long years of friendship he extended to so many here.

Paul Hartnagel, 62, passed away on January 15. He had recently taken on the role of MLA vice-president with characteristic good will and enthusiasm. Paul was a proud Navy vet with experience in a wide variety of jobs, from owning a landscaping business to working as a webmaster to driving school buses, trucks, and coaches. He had an equally varied history of volunteer service, including decades as a ski and certified PSI instructor. He had the gift of finding positive elements in everything he did, and he encouraged others to do the same in their lives. He told wonderful stories. We will miss his lively energy, sense of fun, and strong dedication to our lake.



Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

www.mascomalakeassociation.org

. Board Members .

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FOR THE LOVE OF LOONS

By Terri Lynch

The image of a Loon is popular as evidenced by the number of flags, mailboxes and cards sporting their picture. If we are to keep having the joy of their presence on our lake we all need to help protect them as they are still classified as a threatened species and the challenges for them are ever increasing. Adult loons in NH are still dying in large numbers from lead fishing tackle even though the law banning the use of weights and jigs weighing 1 ounce or less (the size known to affect loons) has been in effect for years.

Please check your tackle boxes and remove any lead weights and jigs you may have and dispose of them properly, we don't want lead in the landfill either. If you are not sure if they are lead but they are over 2 years old you can assume they are. I will happily take your lead at the annual meeting or you can drop it off at my mailbox at 94 Livingstone Lodge Road. We need to stop this senseless killing of loons. The loss of each adult loon has a big impact on the survival of the species as loons do not start to reproduce until they are around 5 years of age and then a pair will have at most 2 chicks



a year. Fisherman can help by pulling in their lines when loons are around as the loons will go for anything that resembles a small fish, their usual food.

Two summers ago on Mascoma we lost an adult male loon, the father of a chick on the Lebanon end, who swallowed a jig and then became entangled in the attached fishing line. The line wrapped around his neck and tongue and led to a slow painful demise. Many attempts to rescue him failed and he died two months later. There was a second loon that summer that was also entangled with fishing line but its fate is unknown.

The other thing we can all do to help the loons is to give them some space especially if they are nesting or caring for babies. When people get too close, the loons get stressed. They will get vocal,

raise up and flap their wings, or lie flat over their nest appearing to be dead. This stress can cause the loons to abandon their nest or young leaving the eggs or babies very vulnerable. The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) suggests a safe distance is 150'. A pair of binoculars will help you enjoy the loons. Steer away from loons when boating. A loon with a chick can not get out of your way without abandoning the chick and a small chick alone on the water surface is nearly invisible to a boater.

Fireworks are also very stressful for loons who are frequently sitting on a nest around July 4th. You can hear the stressful vocalization of loons when fireworks are being set off and this can add yet another challenge to nesting loons.

If you observe any loon in distress call the Loon Preservation Committee 603-476-LOON (5666) or me at 802-558-0082.

So please, for the love of loons, do your part in helping to protect these amazing bird so that they will be around for generations to come. For information about loons or want to watch the live loon cam go to <https://www.loon.org/>