

The Clary Lake Clarion

Volume 1 Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Clary Lake Association

Winter 2007/2008

Back in the 1920's my father Stuart Fergusson and Paul, Ruth, and John Robert MacDonald ran a small newspaper they called the **Clary Lake Clarion**. My father was the editor, Paul and Ruth were reporters, and John Robert, the youngest of the group, was the delivery boy. Their office was in an unused room upstairs in my father's house and they used a typewriter and carbon paper to produce each issue. I haven't seen a copy of the paper since I was a child. Anyways, it seems only fitting that we should resurrect the name and call our Association newsletter the **Clary Lake Clarion**, doesn't it? At least we can try it out for a while and see what people think. Somehow, I think Stuart, Paul, Ruth, and John Robert would approve.

New Association Web Site

The Association now has a web site, and it's about time! We can turn out a newsletter or 2 a year, but we'd like to keep our membership (and the public) better informed of what is going on and a web site seemed to be the right way to do it. The address is <http://www.clarylake.org/>. The site will forever be under construction, because that is the way web sites are. I'm not the greatest web site designer, but I manage. Aside from the domain name registration fee (\$15 per year) the site is costing us nothing as a friend of mine is hosting it.

You'll find lots of information on the site including past newsletters, meeting minutes, etc. It is my hope that the site will help foster a stronger sense of community amongst all Clary Lake shore owners, members and non-members alike and be a source of useful information for the general public as well. I'm also thinking about setting up an email list to facilitate communication with our members. We generally only meet once a year as a group and it would be nice to be in better contact. We don't intend to spam you regularly, but we'd like to be able to send out periodic emails with news and other items of interest. Let me know if you'd like to see this.

I sincerely hope you will help us keep the site current and useful by contributing information and news of interest to other lakeshore owners. We have no idea what to expect. Surprise us! Send your ideas, pictures, and recipes to gsferg@clarylake.org and we'll try to get them incorporated into the site quickly. If you don't have email or web access, please let me know and I'll see to it that you don't miss a thing.

Dam Update

I wanted to let you know the results of the Special Meeting held last month and what came of the initiative to obtain the dam. As many of you have no doubt heard already, the Association voted overwhelmingly in favor of accepting the dam. I had hoped to be able to tell everyone that we now own the dam, but that is not the case. Regrettably, the deal fell through. My friend came to Maine as promised just before Thanksgiving, met several times with Mr. Kelley, and viewed the property but they were not able to arrive at an agreement. I was at one of those meetings and can honestly say that it did not appear to me as though Mr. Kelley really wanted to sell despite what he has been saying all along. It is hard to believe that Mr. Kelley let this opportunity slip through his fingers.

At the same time that the prospective buyer was considering the property, Mr. Kelley contacted me with an offer to "explore" the possibility of his company giving the dam to the Association, ostensibly "under the same terms" as it was being offered to us by the prospective buyer. It turned out that Mr. Kelley's concept of "free and clear, no strings attached" was not what most people think and the Board decided not to enter into negotiations after it became clear that the terms under which Pleasant Pond Mill LLC might be willing to give us the dam were not terms under which the Association would be willing to accept it. Personally I believe Pleasant Pond Mill LLC only bought the dam to protect their mill building downstream and to use as leverage against the Clary Lake Association, the lakeshore owners and the Towns of Whitefield and Jefferson to get cooperation by threatening to let the dam collapse. I

further believe they really have no intention of either giving the dam away, or fixing it. This is not idle speculation on my part as Mr. Kelley has stated a number of times that he doesn't really care about Clary Lake, doesn't want to spend his own money to repair the dam just to make the lakeshore owners happy, and that life would in fact would be much simpler for them if the dam just went away.

Nobody is more disappointed than I am that the dam deal fell through though anyone familiar with Paul Kelley should not be too surprised. I won't apologize. We tried, it was worth the effort, and that is all that really matters. Clearly the Association is united around owning the dam if that is what it takes to safeguard Clary Lake, and I believe it is. I am not going to give up. Eventually I am confident that we'll get the dam because we're the only ones that really want it. For now, we will wait, and see what happens.

In The News

In a recent article in the Lincoln County News about Pleasant Pond Mill LLC's Whitefield Appeal Board meeting it was stated that the Clary Lake Association had "declined ownership" of the dam. I felt this misleading statement required a response and so I wrote a letter to the Editor that appeared in the 5 December 2007 issue of the paper:

<http://www.mainelincolncountynews.com/index.cfm?ID=29251>. If anyone has trouble getting off the Lincoln County News site, I've posted a copy of it on our site:

<http://clarylake.org/docs/04december2007-letter-to-editor.html>. Here is a link to the offending article that got me all fired up in the first place:

<http://www.mainelincolncountynews.com/index.cfm?ID=29026>. We've been on the sidelines of this issue long enough. It is time people knew where the Association stands.

New Lake Level Petition?

There has been some talk around the lake of a new lake level petition being circulated. Clearly this is in response to concern about what if anything Pleasant Pond Mill LLC intends to do with the dam. Nobody believes any longer that Paul Kelley is looking out for any but his own interests and this leaves people feeling worried, helpless, and victimized. I for one understand that feeling. The Association proper has not taken an official position for or against another petition and I don't expect we will. A new petition would have to be a lakeshore owner initiative and not an Association effort. I would nonetheless like

to discuss the matter and let you know how I personally feel about it.

I have until now been opposed to a new petition because I felt it would have a profoundly destabilizing effect on the situation surrounding Pleasant Pond Mill LLC, their ownership of the dam, and our attempts to effect a mutually satisfactory resolution to the matter. A new petition would preclude any kind of meaningful dialogue with Pleasant Pond Mill LLC. Now, after 4 months of honest effort trying to effect solution it appears that it really is impossible to work with Pleasant Pond Mill LLC and supporting a new petition is beginning to look like a good idea. I am concerned nonetheless that a petition might have an effect other than what we'd like to see. It would be like putting a gun to Paul Kelley's head; there is no telling just what they will do if faced with a DEP imposed lake level order. We know what happened last time, and it wasn't pretty. We're out of options however. What you do if or when a petition circulates is your choice. I expect I'll sign.

Clary Lake Sweatshirts!

Sweatshirts with this beautiful stitched design are still available. Cost to members is \$15 and \$20 for non-members. These can be picked up at Linda



Gallion's house or ordered by sending your check or money order and \$5 for shipping and handling to: Clary Lake Association, P.O. Box 127 Whitefield ME 04353

The Clary Lake Association is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the natural beauty and quality of Clary Lake and it's watershed. Membership in the Association is open to all Clary Lake shore owners and people who have lawful access to the lake (which is just about anyone) and costs \$20 per year. You can find out more about the Association and sign up or renew your membership on our website:
<http://www.clarylake.org/about.html>

Current Association Officers:

President/Editor:

George Fergusson <president@clarylake.org>

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Trudi Hodgkins <vicepresident@midmaine.com>

Treasurer:

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Secretary:

Sue McKeen <secretary@clarylake.org>

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Tom Vigue <polarisman@aol.com>

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