

The Clary Lake Clarion

Volume 3 Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Clary Lake Association

Spring/Summer 2012

Message from the President

Dear Friends and Family of Clary Lake: To say that there is a lot happening in our *little neck of the woods* is an understatement, as you can read about in this newsletter and on our website. Many thanks to George Fergusson for his steadfast efforts to keep us informed about the petition initiative and for making so much valuable information available to lake shore owners on our new and improved website, clarylake.org. This year's Annual Meeting, certain to be filled with emotional opinion and lively discussion, is also a unique opportunity for us to come together as a community. If ever there were a time for all voices to be heard and for property owners and friends to be members of the Association, committed to maintaining the health and well-being of our lake, it is now! I urge you to join and look forward to a brighter future for our much loved lake. See you at the meeting! Respectfully, Ellis Percy, President.

Lake Level Petition News

The public hearing on the lake level petition has been not yet been scheduled as this newsletter goes to print. I can only imagine what is holding up the process; there are 6 petitions before DEP this year so they've got their hands full. Rumor has it Clary Lake is at the **top of the list** for attention so while some petitions will likely be pushed off till next year, I'm confident that ours will be addressed this summer. Rest assured we will let you know as soon as the hearing is scheduled. Everyone who can should plan on attending the the public hearing to show solidarity and support for this effort, regardless of whether you intend to testify or not. For the latest news on the petition, keep an eye on the web site. If you want to be added to the Petition Update email list (about 1 message per month), contact George at the address below. There will be a meeting of the signers of the petition and other interested parties at the home of George and Margaret Fergusson on Saturday, the 16th of June at 2pm to discuss strategy and make plans for the public hearing. If you wish to testify at the public hearing or be an intervener in the proceedings, or if you are just interested in helping out with leg work and such, you really should try and make this meeting. For more information, contact George Fergusson at 549-5991 or email him at gfergusson@clarylake.org.

Dam Update

We have little to report at this time on the Association's attempt to purchase the dam. You would think that the dam owner would literally JUMP at the opportunity to sell the dam to the Association but apparently it is not that simple. About all we can say at this time is that negotiations are ongoing and every effort is being made to accommodate the needs of the dam owner while protecting the interests of the Association. We are hopeful that our efforts will be suc-

cessful. In the meantime, in anticipation of receiving title to the dam we're proceeding with an engineering assessment and have begun talking to contractors and looking into the permitting that will be required to repair the dam. We'll not want to waste any time in getting to work on it we own it. We are contracting with Kleinschmidt Associates, an engineering firm located in Pittsfield Maine to help in this process. News on this project will be posted on the website.

Loon Count

As most of you probably know by now, a pair of loons built a nest and started sitting on it on the 27th of May. Tragically, this nest was flooded and subsequently abandoned only 8 days later. It is not known at this time whether the loons will try again or not. It is early in the season, so we hope they will. The loons have not had much luck raising a family in recent years largely because of fluctuating water levels.



Nesting Loons. This nest was flooded and subsequently abandoned. Photo by George Fergusson 28 May 2012

The 2012 official Audubon Loon count will take place on July 21st for ½ an hour between 7:00 am and 7:30 am. Mary Shaw will be conducting the count and will present a report at the annual meeting. For more information about the Maine Loon Project visit the Audubon web site: <http://maineaudubon.org/wildlife-habitat/the-maine-loon-project/>

About the Lake

Heavy spring rains have caused the lake level to rise from a low of 63" below the top of the dam in late April to a current level of a little less than 20" below the top of the dam despite the dam's gate being open for most of that period (the gate was closed for about 6 days in late May). The water level is now high enough so that water is pouring through the hole in the concrete plug in the middle of the dam. Ironically, the

reason the dam owner has tried to keep the lake level low for the past couple of years has been to prevent this very thing from occurring. Clearly, no resolution of our water level crisis can occur until the dam has been repaired. In any case, the gate remains open so our advice is enjoy the high water while it lasts.

Invasive Plant Patrol Workshops

There is still time to sign up for the Invasive Plant Patrol workshops being put on by the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and co-hosted by the Clary Lake Association. Registration is free! There are two workshops, an introductory one and a field lab. More information including how to register and a link to the VLMP web site is posted on the Association web site's Programs page. Here are the dates of the two workshops:

Introductory Invasive Plant Patrol workshop:

When: **Tuesday, June 19 2pm-8pm**

Where: **DLWA Headquarters (Jefferson)**

Deadline for registration: June 12

Field Invasive Plant Patrol workshop:

When: **Monday, July 16, 1pm-5pm**

Where: **Pemaquid River in Bristol Mills**

Deadline for registration: July 9

The Web Site

We hope that you are finding the Association web site to be helpful and informative. It certainly has allowed us to keep everyone better informed than ever before at a time when being better informed is so important. If you haven't visited the site yet, you should do so! Point your browser at: <http://www.clarylake.org/> and start browsing, there's lots of information to be had.

We'd also like to thank those of you who have submitted photographs and other materials or information to the site. Traffic on the site has increased steadily since launch back in early March. There were **1163** site visits in April and **1629** site visits in May and we're currently seeing **50 to 70** visits to the site each day. Feedback suggests you think the web site is just great- we've gotten a number of emails from people from away who really appreciate being kept on top of the situation with pictures and commentary.

In the interest of partnering with neighboring organizations, we are providing some space on our web site for the Branch Pond Association. It seems like the least we can do. Branch Pond is a gorgeous pond- a real "sleeper" as they say- about half the size of Clary lake, located in the towns of China and Palermo. The pond is the head waters of the West Branch of the Sheepscot river so we're all part of the same watershed. Branch Pond lake shore owners are also going through a lake level petition process, but theirs, filed back in 2008, was put on hold for 3 years to give the dam owner time to make repairs to the dam. That 3 years was up last December and their petition is now back on track.. We're hoping to get more involved with other nearby Lake Associations in the future.

Arolyn Jean Dow Antognoni

April 8, 1931 – June 5 2012



Arolyn Antognoni has been a fixture on Clary lake and a prominent member of the Clary Lake Association from the very beginning. She started coming to Clary lake in 1949 when her father, Robert Dow built a summer cottage for his family on the lake. He subsequently built another home for his family that is now the Antognoni residence. In 1957 she married Robert Antognoni and shortly thereafter, along with Stuart Fergusson, Paul McDonald, and a few others, started what would eventually become the Clary Lake Association. The group had it's first test in the summer of 1961 when the lake was drawn down even further than it was this spring, prompting action on the part of concerned lake shore owners to address the crisis. She's been active in the Association ever since.

Over the years, Arolyn has served in various capacities in the Association including as vice president, secretary, and more than a few times as a member of the Board including the current Board. Arolyn was always ready to step up and answer the call of duty. Bob and Arolyn have also hosted the annual meeting at their home, a number of times. However, she will be remembered for her dedication to the annual Loon Count, that 30 minute early morning excursion around the lake every 3rd Saturday of July for as long as anyone can remember. The official Audubon Loon Count has been ongoing for 27 years and Arolyn has likely been counting loons longer than that. I had occasion to sit and talk with Arolyn recently. She had a ready smile and that twinkle in her eye we all know so well, as she talked about growing up on the lake as a child, of fishing with her father and eating white perch and hornpout for breakfast, and of raising her family on Clary lake.

Arolyn passed away peacefully at home on the evening of June 5th surrounded by her whole family. She will be missed. She was 81.

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. They will be on display and available for purchase at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Notice

The annual meeting of the Clary Lake Association will be held on Saturday 04 August 2012 at the home of George and Margaret Fergusson on the south shore of Clary Lake, Route

126, same place as last year. There will be a pot luck supper afterward. Rain date same time, next day, Sunday.

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Included in this newsletter is a sign up form. Annual dues are \$25 per family and the membership year runs from annual meeting to annual meeting. Dues paid now will provide full membership privileges for your family through Summer 2013. So get on board, add your voice to ours and be heard!

The **Clary Lake Association** is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the natural beauty and quality of Clary Lake and its 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 \$25 per year.

Current Association Officers:

President: Ellis Percy <president@clarylake.org>

Vice President: Malcolm Burson <vicepresident@clarylake.org>

Treasurer: Linda Gallion <treasurer@clarylake.org>

Secretary: Margaret Fergusson <secretary@clarylake.org>

Newsletter Editor: George Fergusson <editor@clarylake.org>

Association Board Address: board@clarylake.org

Current Board Members:

Tom Vigue, Jack Holland, Frances Moulton, George Fergusson, David Knight, Arolyn Antognoni

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Clary Lake Association, P.O. Box 127, Whitefield Maine 04353

2012/2013 Membership Dues: **\$25.00** Membership year: 2012 Annual Meeting to 2013 Annual Meeting.

Voluntary Contribution: _____

Total Amount enclosed: _____

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Summer Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (____)-_____ Email _____

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Winter Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (____)-_____ Email _____

Clary Lake Association
P.O. Box 127
Whitefield Me 04353