

# The Clary Lake Clarion

Volume 4 Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Clary Lake Association

Spring/Summer 2013

## Message from the President

It is difficult to find words that reflect cause to celebrate the condition of our much loved Lake today. To say that the past couple of years have been challenging is an understatement! Yet we must forge ahead and promote stewardship of the natural resource around which our Association is formed.

We can however celebrate the fact that membership now stands at an all time high, clear evidence of our commitment to a common goal. If ever there was a time when we needed your continued participation, this is it! We can also celebrate the steadfast and thorough lines of communication that have been opened anew and continue to keep us all informed, at every turn, of proceedings with the Lake Level Petition, the efforts to keep it moving, and the efforts being made to undermine those proceedings. In addition, this most difficult and frustrating situation we are facing has served to bring us all closer together in our common cause, determined to have our voices be heard.

It is never easy to take on a difficult task and then have to layer in government and bureaucracy, at any level. What's worse, we face a political climate that has been highlighted with unresponsive or worse yet, blatant partisanship favoring policies that have not always been kind to causes such as ours. Keeping this in mind, it is of paramount importance that we hold fast to our commitment to continue, in whatever ways we can, to work towards practical, long term solutions to the problems facing us.

Our Association's Board has been quite active over the last year and we have formed a newly appointed Membership Committee and Fund-Raising Committee to help grow our numbers both in human and monetary capital, as we seek a larger, louder, more unified voice: people act and money talks. We want to be ready to assist in the restoration of the Clary Lake Dam, no matter where its ownership falls.

Already we have raised over \$1400 towards the 'dam repair fund' with many promises of more money to come when a formal plan is actually on the table. Members and Friends of Clary Lake have come forward to volunteer time and donate money, unsolicited, because they believe in the cause and love their Lake. This outpouring of support for Clary Lake and the Association should only serve to strengthen our resolve and help us focus and see light in the dark tunnel we have had to operate in. We have the ways and means to see this through. This we can truly celebrate! Stay involved! Join a committee! Stay tuned!!

Respectfully and with sincere thanks,

Ellis Percy, President



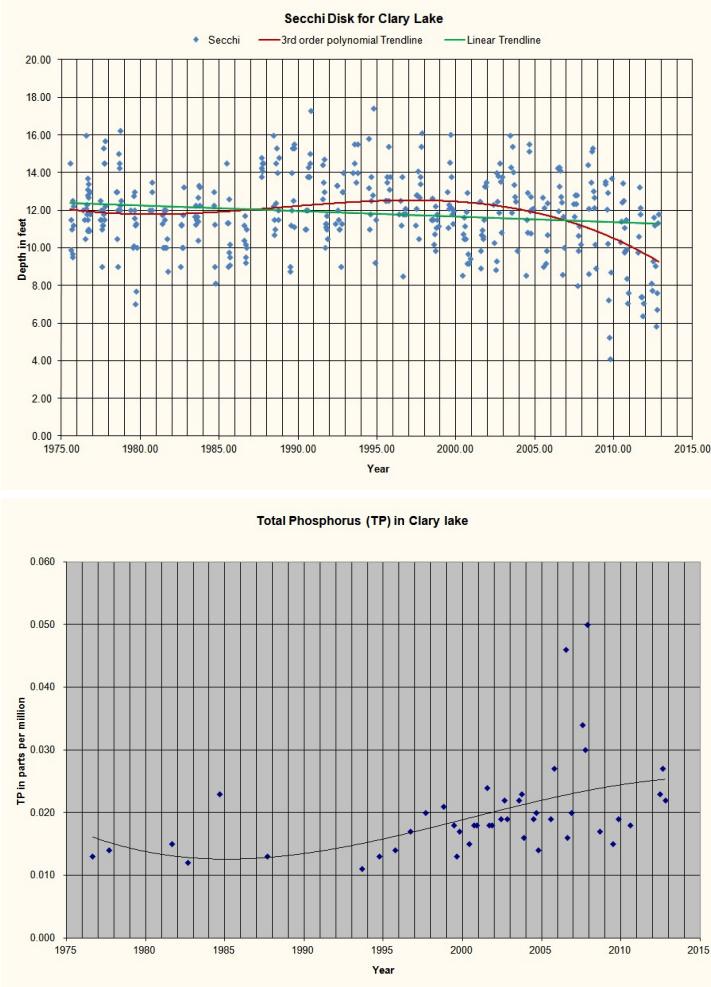
## Lake Level Petition News

Before starting work on this newsletter I looked over the Summer 2012 newsletter to get a then-and-now comparison to see where we stand. As Ellis Percy has so eloquently stated in his Message from the President, "it is difficult to find words that reflect cause to celebrate" where we are today. On one hand it seems like not a lot has happened since this time last summer, though not for lack of trying: we're still waiting on the DEP for a decision, we still don't own the dam, the lake level is still up and down but mostly down. That said, a lot HAS transpired in the last 12 months and we are a lot closer to the placement of a water level order on the Clary Lake dam than we were a year ago. So it is now just a matter of time. I blame the lack of real visible progress on Mr. Kelley's outstanding ability to stall, confuse, and distract. He is very good at erecting bureaucratic hurdles. It also appears that DEP has developed a foot-dragging problem recently resulting in less enthusiastic enforcement of environmental regulations. It is also regrettable that the petition process has become so contentious; we knew that it was going to get ugly, and it has. Again I blame Mr. Kelley for the escalating rhetoric surrounding the petition. I will be making a presentation about the state of the petition, what lies ahead, and I'll be answering questions, at the Annual Meeting. Until then, the most current information about the petition is still the Clary Lake Association website. Please feel free to contact me at 549-5991 or by email if you any have questions at all. Respectfully, George Fergusson, Clary Lake Water Level Petition Spokesperson.

## Lake Water Quality Update

David Hodsdon and Jack Holland, members of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitor Program (VLMP), continue to monitor the water quality of Clary Lake on a regular basis. Roughly every 2 weeks during the open-water season they go out and take various measurements including secchi disk readings (water transparency/clarity) and dissolved oxygen

and total phosphorus measurements. Measures of water clarity (generally declining) and total phosphorus (generally rising) show disturbing trends as evidenced by data collected since 1975. The greatest changes have come about in the last 10 years. The declining water quality primarily manifests itself as algae blooms which we've been seeing with increasing frequency in recent years, in late summer or early fall. Lower than normal water levels, especially in the summer and fall lead to reduced flushing and concentration of nutrients and are most certainly significant contributing factors in the declining water quality though there are undoubtedly other issues at work. It is time (once again) to identify point sources of pollution around the lake and take steps to mitigate them. I've included some charts that graphically show the water quality problem. In the first graph of secchi disk data, the downward trend is visible:



The second chart shows total phosphorus since 1975. Primary sources of phosphorus around a lake are runoff from lawns and erosion from roads and agricultural activities. Phosphorus can also be released from bottom sediments when they're "stirred up" due to wave action. This is a particular problem with low water levels. You've all seen it. Full sized versions of these graphs along with several year's worth of collected data are available on the website under the "Charts & Data" main menu heading. David and Jack will be talking on this subject at the Annual Meeting.

## Loon Count

The 2013 official Audubon Loon Count will take place on July 20<sup>th</sup> for ½ an hour between 7:00 am and 7:30 am. Mary Shaw will be leading the count and will present a report at the Annual Meeting. Anyone interested in participating in the count can contact Mary at [mgingrowsh@roadrunner.com](mailto:mgingrowsh@roadrunner.com). Sadly, there are no baby loons on Clary Lake this year. Indeed, it appears as though the pair of loons on the lake have decided not to even try making a nest this year. Whether this is because of the severely fluctuating water level or for some other reason, we don't know. For more information about the Maine Loon Project visit the Audubon website: <http://maineaudubon.org/wildlife-habitat/the-maine-loon-project/>

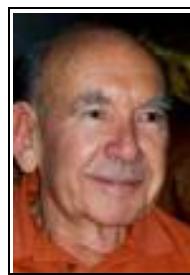
## Association Committees

Committees are the mechanism by which the real business of the Association gets done. Our standing committees include Fund Raising, Membership, Nominations, and Bylaws. We also form ad hoc committees as needed to address specific issues. Our committees have been relatively inactive in recent years but we're building fires under them now in an effort to get things moving again. If you want to get involved, joining a committees is a great way to do it.  
[Membership Committee \(membership@clarylake.org\)](mailto:membership@clarylake.org)  
 Margaret Fergusson (Chair), Sue McKeen, Malcolm Burson  
[Fund raising committee \(fundraising@clarylake.org\)](mailto:fundraising@clarylake.org)  
 Margaret Fergusson (Chair), Mary Shaw, and Jane Chase  
[Nominations Committee \(nominations@clarylake.org\)](mailto:nominations@clarylake.org) Trudi Hodgkins (Chair), Sue McKeen, and George Fergusson.  
[Bylaws Committee \(bylaws@clarylake.org\)](mailto:bylaws@clarylake.org) This committee is currently not staffed but we're looking for volunteers to dig into our bylaws and bring them up to date. Contact the CLA Board if you're interested in participating on this (or any other) committee.

## Edward Donald Grant Jr.

**May 19, 1923 – June 19, 2013**

I got an email from Kate Seba just a bit ago letting me know that her father Edward Grant Jr. passed away at his home in Baton Rouge Louisiana this morning at 11:17 AM, surrounded by his family. He was 90 years old. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Ed was an active and valued member of the Clary Lake Association for a long, long time. He will be missed. At Ed's request, there will be no funeral. All who loved Ed are invited to a gathering celebrating his life to be held at his home in Baton Rouge June 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. There will be more about Ed and his life and an obituary posted on the Association website soon.



## About the Website

Traffic is up so we know you're using it but we can always use more participation! The website allows us to keep everyone better informed at a time when being better informed is so vitally important. The new site, launched early last winter, allows people to upload pictures, comment on news items, and share the site with their friends their

facebook and Google+ accounts. It has never been easier to make your opinion known! You can also sign up for news updates or a periodic newsletter, join the Association or renew your membership, or donate money using our safe, secure payment processing system. We're always looking for suggestions of ways to improve the site and make it more informative so send us your ideas. If you haven't visited the site yet, please do so! Just point your browser at: <http://www.clarylake.org/> and get started!

### **Annual Meeting Notice**

The Annual Meeting of the Clary Lake Association will be held Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM at the home of Robert Antognoni (549-7694), 26 Robert E. Dow Rd in Jefferson on the south side of Clary Lake. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a pot luck supper afterward. The rain date is the same time the next day, Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup>

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We will be presenting a proposal asking the Membership to authorize the Board, in advance, to take certain actions in relation to the Clary Lake dam to include a) entering into negotiations to accept ownership of the dam, b) hiring Kleinschmidt Associates to perform an engineering assessment of the dam, and c) funding repairs on the dam either partially or in full, should the opportunity arise.

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The Nominations Committee has come up with names of people to fill open Association positions, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. These are: Ellis Percy and Malcolm Burson for second terms as President and Vice President respectively, George Fergusson for Secretary, Linda Gallion for another term as Treasurer, and Jane Chase for a 2 year Board position. You can also nominate people for open positions at the Annual Meeting.

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Included in this newsletter is a membership sign up form. Annual dues are \$25 per family and the membership year runs from annual meeting to annual meeting. You'll notice that we no longer ask for separate Summer and Winter addresses, they have been an endless source of confusion as in "the man with 2 watches will never know what time it is." Please provide your main address where you get most of your mail and **please** include an email address if possible as

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Return to: **Clary Lake Association, P.O. Box 127, Whitefield Maine 04353**

2013/2014 Membership Dues: **\$25.00** Membership year: 2013 Annual Meeting to 2014 Annual Meeting.

Voluntary Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

it makes contacting you fast, free, and easy! Dues paid now will provide full membership privileges for you and your family through the Summer of 2014. You can also sign up or renew your membership on the website using our secure PayPal payment processing system. Never has it been easier or more convenient to join! Add your voice to ours!

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### **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.

The **Clary Lake Association** is a non-profit 501C(3) 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 Ed: George Fergusson  | editor@clarylake.org        |
| Association Board Address:   | board@clarylake.org         |
| Current Board Members: Tom Vigue, Jack Holland, George Fergusson, David Knight, Robert Antognoni |                             |

snip-----

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