

The Clary Lake Clarion

Volume 10 Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Clary Lake Association

Spring/Summer 2019

Message from the President

To be able to begin this message with “For the first time in ten years, Clary Lake is filled to capacity” lifts my spirits in a way I could not have foreseen even a year ago. Since this time last year, the Association and its Board have been involved in Federal Bankruptcy Court, raised a boatload of money, secured title to and possession of the dam, and watched a crew of skilled repair artists working in freezing water to repair the dam and make it possible for us to manage the lake level to meet the requirements of the Water Level Order. For those who might be new to the Association, all this began with our petition to DEP back at the beginning of 2012, asking them to set a lake level that protects the natural environment as well as our use and enjoyment of Clary Lake. It's been a long and arduous journey to get where we are today.

None of this could have been accomplished without your help and support. Thanks to you, we raised close to \$140,000 to make our dream a reality. Now we must turn our attention to maintaining our momentum for the future. We need the continuing commitment of you and others to make this a reality.

At its May meeting, the Board reviewed the excellent suggestions and ideas that some of you provided to help us develop a road map for the Association going forward. It will take additional effort by the wider Membership to complete this project. So, at the Annual Meeting on August 3, we'll present what we've figured out thus far, and ask you to fill in the blanks. *(continued on page 4)*



Rick Pease of Pease Specialty Contracting spraying gunite on the Clary Dam, Fall 2018. Photograph by George Fergusson

Annual Meeting Notice

This year's Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at 2 PM on Saturday August 3, 2019. If the weather cooperates, we'll be meeting at the Clary Lake Dam! We're planning to have a couple of awning tents set up to provide some shade, and some seating will be provided but you should plan on bringing a lawn chair or two if you have them. If the weather does not cooperate we'll meet in Steven Cowles' new barn which is in the field next to the Clary Lake Dam. In either case there should be plenty of parking available. In the past we've held a potluck supper after the Meeting, but this year we're thinking of inviting the local community to a conventional cookout. Expect more information on the CLA *(continued on page 4)*

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

By George Fergusson

It is hard to believe all that has transpired since we first filed the water level petition back in early January, 2012. I remember the meeting at Ellis Percy's home where we made the decision to proceed just like it was yesterday. We were blithely unaware of what lay ahead! We were under no illusions it was going to be easy, we knew it was going to be a drawn-out battle but we were confident that we would ultimately succeed in restoring Clary Lake to its historical splendor. That said, none of us thought it would take 7 years before we would claim victory. As each year passed into the next with us seemingly no closer to a resolution, I must admit I occasionally grew tired, and despondent. Then after a few days of feeling sorry for myself, I would remember what was at stake, I'd take a deep breath, *(continued on page 3)*

In Times of Peace...

by Margaret Fergusson

For the past 8 years the Clary Lake Association has been on a war-time footing, battling for the survival of Clary Lake. Now that we own the dam, we're facing a new “time of peace” challenge. I asked my wife, Margaret Fergusson, to write something about this new paradigm.

Behold....our Lake has been returned to us! For the past eight years we have been engaged in a war, truly fighting a battle, most importantly on behalf of Mother Nature, and also one for restoration for our 'places' on the shores of our beloved Clary Lake. Now our 'creature comforts' and the comforts of the creatures who have tried to flourish in the ecosystem under siege are being rejuvenated. One of the great mysteries of the human condition is the extent to which we each will rally for a cause when under attack and when *(continued on page 2)*

(In Times Of Peace, continued from page 1) victorious, laying down our arms... we again have the great propensity to let down our guard and enter into a false sense of security... known as complacency.

Perhaps the war/peace metaphor is overly dramatic and flowery (I can't help myself!) and yet, I believe in many ways it is apt to the reality we may be facing if we are not careful to remain consciously grateful and diligent in our stewardship of Clary Lake. Many people have given of their time, their effort and their money to bring us to this new day. I urge us all to make a commitment, in these 'times of peace' to continue building a healthy community through collaboration, consensus, adhering to ecologically sound practices, recruiting new members, taking on a task for the Association, thinking of future work with and on the Board, in office-holding, as we move into a new era of life with our Lake.

How will we show our gratitude? This upcoming boating and swimming season will find many of us out on



Wild Rice, Clary Lake

the Lake in areas that have been unavailable to us for nearly 10 years... Oh! the wonder of a meander down the channel... a mile and a half of tranquil water with wild rice swaying, water fowl in abundance...

winding our way down to the dam. Hundreds of acres of marsh once dry, now submerged in life-sustaining water, just begging a kayak or canoe to enter; relieved of angst about taking out a rudder, centerboard, or propeller because of ledges and rocks hiding just below the surface. It's not enough to just bask in the wonders of nature and our return to the 'good ole' days'.

Some ways in which we might think of engaging or re-engaging, in light of our victory, would be to make our voices heard, most importantly, new voices, with proactive endeavors, suggestions for activities, planning and actively participating in celebrations that showcase our success, fostering a more robust Membership, promoting our 'jewel' through word of mouth; recruiting, advertising, encouraging greater viewership and stewardship and sharing on our website, designing signage at both the dam location and the boat landing; exploring new partnerships and more fully honoring all of that which we thought we had lost. This is our task!

Your input is crucial, your action needed. We hope for a record turnout at the Annual Meeting and encourage everyone to get involved, stay involved, become actively involved. There will be a suggestion box at our upcoming meeting. Let's make our Membership really mean something. In our case...it not only 'takes a village'...it takes a Membership! Thank you! Margaret Fergusson



Browntail moth caterpillar showing the two two distinctive orange spots

Browntail Moths

There is a large and growing Browntail Moth problem around Clary Lake, with some areas being especially hard hit. If you're not familiar

with these insect pests, chances are you will be soon. There is a particularly bad infestation of Browntails over on Hodsdon Lane. From the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention: *"The browntail moth caterpillar has tiny poisonous hairs that cause dermatitis similar to poison ivy on sensitive individuals. People may develop dermatitis from direct contact with the caterpillar or indirectly from contact with airborne hairs. The hairs become airborne from either being dislodged from the living or dead caterpillar or they come from cast skins with the caterpillar molts. Most people affected by the hairs develop a localized rash that will last for a few hours up to several days but on some sensitive individuals the rash can be severe and last for several weeks. The rash results from both a chemical reaction to a toxin in the hairs and a physical irritation as the barbed hairs become embedded in the skin. Respiratory distress from inhaling*



Browntail moth nests in the top of an Oak tree.

the hairs can be serious." The invasion has been moving up the coast from Southern Maine for a while and is now moving inland. Browntail Moth caterpillars can be distinguished from Tent Caterpillars by the two orange dots on one end. In the fall,

female Browntail moths roll up a leaf with silk web (usually near the top of a the tree where they're hard to reach) and lay as many as 400 eggs in each "nest." They favor Oak trees, but not to the exclusion of other varieties. From the ground the nests just look like dried leaves that didn't blow off the tree last fall. You'll be hearing a lot more about Browntail Moths in the future as these insect pests are becoming a State-wide problem.

Printing and postage paid for by our Advertisers!

Gallion Woodworks
Custom Made Fine Furniture & Cabinets
Rick Gallion

777 Gardiner Road
Jefferson, ME 04348

207-549-5961
fax: 207-549-9912

(Looking Ahead, continued from page 1) and get back to work. I think the the most difficult period for me personally were the 4 years that the Water Level Order appeal languished in Lincoln County Superior Court; there was so little we could actually do except wait, and try and keep our Goal alive in the hearts and minds of our Membership, and the general public. Never once did I regret our decision to pursue ownership of the dam, question whether we were up to the task, or doubt for one second that we would ultimately achieve our goal.

Pursuing a resolution to our crisis has been a continual, daily challenge for me for the past 7 years but while I may have been the one making most of the noise, I sure had a lot of help from a lot of people without which we never would have succeeded. I'd like to take a moment to thank some of them. First and foremost is my wife Margaret! I can't imagine staying the course without having had her help, encouragement, wise counsel, and unconditional love to fall back on. She used to tell people that being married to me was like living with a politician running for office but the election never happened. It also



Dave Knight adjusting the gate.

goes without saying that our Board and Officers have done an outstanding job fighting the battle to restore Clary Lake, not to mention putting up with me all these years. They've been great! Over the last 7 years we've held almost 70 formal Board meetings, uncountable informal meetings, and exchanged thousands upon thousands of emails. Finally, for all our efforts, we the Board simply couldn't have done this without you, our Membership, and others in the community who offered their money and support. It took the concerted efforts of all of us, together, to bring about the successful resolution of our water level crisis which we're celebrating today. You should all be proud. Through your continuing support and your donations, you have validated our efforts, for which we will be eternally grateful. On behalf of the Board, Thank You!

So we should remember the past, but not dwell on it. It's time to look ahead and start charting our path into the future. You'll notice there is a new theme for this year's newsletter, distinctly different from years past when all we could report on was incremental progress towards our goal, and sometimes not even that: it's about celebrating our success and starting to envision the future.

Both Malcolm's "Message from the President" and my wife's "In Times of Peace" columns speak to this vision exercise: we are the stewards of Clary Lake and its health and welfare are in our hands. There are many challenges facing our Lake, indeed, facing all Maine lakes, from climate change to declining water quality and from residential development to the threat of invasive plant and animal species. We need to be prepared to confront whatever comes our way.

Just as our Lake faces challenges, our Association faces challenges as we move into the future. Our Membership has grown from a low of 26 in 2011 to 148 Members in the current year. It's pretty obvious that this growth is due to interest in and concern over the health and welfare of Clary Lake, our ability to articulate and focus that concern, and to our efforts to purchase the dam and resolve the water level crisis. Our Organization needs to grow as well to keep pace! The Association now has credibility, accountability, and momentum like never before, and we need to keep it going. It's pretty exciting! We now own the Clary Lake Dam which as you all know is subject to a DEP Water Level Order. It's a big responsibility and going forward, a big challenge. How are we going to keep our Membership active and engaged into the future? How are we going to identify and address all the challenges we'll face? Our Board has been pondering these and other questions for a while now, and we've embarked on a vision exercise to help define and guide our Association's direction into the future, and you'll all be playing a part in it. These are exciting times, and I look forward to whatever the future brings.

George Fergusson, Secretary

Midcoast Conservancy considering Fish Passage into Clary Lake

The Midcoast Conservancy is pursuing funding for the purpose of conducting a study of the feasibility of various projects in the Sheepscot River basin including establishing fish passage (alewives) into Clary Lake. The Clary Lake Association Board supports this initiative and will be providing more information about it at our upcoming Annual Meeting on August 3rd.



(Annual Meeting, continued from page 1) website about the meeting and cookout as our plans firm up.

Included with this newsletter is a remittance envelope, and we encourage everyone to send in your Membership dues early! Annual dues are (still only!) \$25 per Member which entitles you to one vote; additional family members if they wish can also pay dues and be counted as a voting Member.

You can also sign up or renew your Membership online using our secure PayPal payment processing system. Notice that we no longer ask for separate Summer and Winter addresses (though we still keep multiple addresses on file where appropriate) as they have been an endless source of confusion over the years about which address to use when sending out a mailing. Therefore please provide your **primary** mailing address and also please include email addresses for you and your family if you have them as email makes contacting you fast, free, and easy!

We know a lot of you, for your own reasons, like to wait to renew your Memberships at the Annual Meeting, and that's fine! However, if you're going to renew at the Meeting please arrive a little early to sign up so you'll have some time to settle in before the Meeting starts. We'll have the registration desk set up and ready to go no later than 1:00 PM and we will start the Business Meeting at 2:00 PM sharp. Please remember, our Membership year runs from the beginning of one Annual Meeting to the beginning of the next Annual Meeting so in order to participate in and vote at the Meeting, you have to be a paid up Member for the coming year.

A final reminder: full Membership in the Association is now open to *"all persons who support the purpose of the Association as stated in the bylaws and who pay annual dues to the Corporation."* You need not be a Clary Lake shore owner to be a Member, and we're especially interested in attracting Members from the wider community. There is strength in numbers, and we encourage you to invite your neighbors and friends of Clary Lake to come to the Meeting and join the Clary Lake Association. See you at the Annual Meeting!

Water Level Management Plan

Special Condition 5 of the Clary Lake Water Level Order requires we prepare a Water Level Management Plan (WLMP). The WLMP includes procedures for record keeping, a protocol for how the Clary Lake Dam will be operated around the year so as to maintain the desired water level regime, a maintenance and repair plan, procedures for monitoring and maintaining minimum flows, and procedures for alerting Clary Lake shore owners of pending water and dam related events such as dam repairs and maintenance, possible flooding, etc. We worked on the plan most of the winter, and DEP has recently granted provisional approval of our WLMP. We'll meet with DEP to review the plan next year to see how well it has met everyone's needs. The completion of a management plan was the final requirement of the WLO and it's good to have it behind us! The plan is available for download from the CLA website under the Charts & Data menu heading, and copies are also available for review at the Whitefield and Jefferson town offices. We encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the WLMP.

(President's Message, continued from page 1) And this year's meeting will be a BIG DEAL! We will meet at the place we've been working to own for so many years: at the Clary Lake Dam! After the Meeting, there will be an actual cookout instead of our usual potluck, and we plan to extend an invitation to the greater Whitefield and Jefferson communities to join in our celebration. Watch for further details as the event gets closer!

My final term as President will come to an end at the upcoming Annual Meeting, and I'd like to thank you all for the opportunity and privilege of serving on your behalf these past four years. It's been a long strange trip! While I won't have the privilege of writing to you again in this column, I am planning on contributing to future newsletters, and from time to time on the Clary Lake Association website. You haven't heard the last of me! I am also only stepping back a little ways, to a regular seat on the Board and I look forward to continuing to serve our Membership in that capacity. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting as we celebrate the lake and take our next steps as its stewards.

Respectfully, Malcolm Burson, Outgoing President



Shaw and Son
Outdoor Maintenance, LLC
Commercial & Residential

Ernie Shaw
Augusta

Tel. 622-3308
Cell. 458-7781



Jefferson Scoop
Summer Hours
11:30 AM- 9:30 PM
Everyday
Featuring
Giffords Ice cream
& the Best
Vanilla Soft Serve
Rt. 32, Jefferson Village

2018/2019 Association Members

John & Barbara Ahern
 William & Valerie Albert
 Patricia & Rusty Althenn
 Charlene Andersen
 Todd Hornecker & Mary Antognoni
 John & Sheila Barnstein
 Erika & Jeffrey Bennett
 Georgina & Gary Bergendoff
 Gareth & Beverley Bowen
 Albert Boynton
 Jeffrey Brann
 Peter & Diane Brush
 Daniel & Dorothy Burns
 Malcolm C. Burson
 M. Jane Chase
 Tim & Martha Chase
 Debora A. Connell-Duncan
 Steve & Julie Cowles
 James Croce
 Beverly Cronkrite
 Karen Stutzer & Terry Crummett
 Genie & James Dailey
 Beverly D'Urbano
 William & Janet Donovan
 Dana & Lisa Dow
 Dan & Susan Erlandson
 Cheryle & Peter Fasano
 Colin S. Fergusson
 Sara Jean Fergusson
 George & Margaret Fergusson
 Elizabeth Fergusson
 Kenneth G. Finegan
 Jeffrey & Diana French
 Kelsie L. French
 Linda & Rick Gallion
 Daniel H. Gatz
 David & Carol Giampetruzzi
 Steve & Ann Giampetruzzi
 Roger Gilbert
 Janina Malone & Baxter Gillette
 Leslie Gillette
 Thomas & Delph Gillette
 Ernie Shaw & Mary Gingrow-Shaw
 Eleanor Goldberg
 Dee Ann Grazioso
 Elizabeth Potter Hale
 Tim & Trish Harkins
 Mrs. Stacy Herring
 Gladys Hewett
 David S. & Gail A. Hillstrom
 Trudi Hodgkins
 Frances Hodsdon
 David & Janette Hodsdon
 Nora Hoelsing
 Juliana Hoffman
 Jack & Ann Holland
 Jaclyn Holland

Jayson Holland
 Joseph Holland
 Taylor Holland
 Rhian Waller & S. Brandon Keller
 Wynne & Michael Keller
 Doug & Eve Kinney
 David & Gayle Knight
 June Lordi
 Megan Pratt-Luisi & Richard Luisi
 Glenn Bruce MacDonald
 David & Teresa Magnusen
 Thomas & Christine Mazza
 Bill & Sue McKeen
 Wyatt McIarey
 Kylee McIarey
 Jean McWilliams
 Bob & Dotti Meyer
 Lucy & Don Norman
 North Whitefield Superette
 Martha Tait & Frank Ober Orff Realty
 Les & Claudia Page
 Melissa Palmer-Karas
 Joann Tribby & Ellis Percy
 Patricia H. Petry
 Jean & George Phelps
 Elnora Pike
 Kenneth Poole
 Michael Popkin
 Frances Potter
 Michael Potter
 Timothy Potter
 Gail Potter Pratt
 Lee A. & Linda Prager
 Larry & Sandra Prescott
 Ezelda Prescott
 Kenneth & Freida Rapp
 Audrey Relyea
 Greg & June Relyea
 Steven & Adrienne Relyea
 Timothy & Brenda Robbins
 Edwin A. & Mildred E. Rosso
 Rob Rowland
 Robert Rubin & Cheryl Ayer
 Kate & David Seba
 Lewis A. & Paula P. Shorey
 Stephen & Mary Lou Smith
 Laura & Noah Stelmok
 Steve Pellecchia & Kathi Sutton
 Randy & Jody Thivierge
 Thomas & Linda Vigue
 Thomas Vigue
 Todd & Stephanie Vincentsen
 Ned & Brenda Vitalis
 Stephen Viti
 Arlene & Randy Wing
 Carole Ciffrino & David W. Wright (148 Members!)

Nominating Committee

This year we have a full slate of officers up for election as well as two Board positions to fill. To start, Both Malcolm Burson and Dave Knight are wrapping up their second and final terms as President and Vice President respectively. David Knight has agreed to accept a two year term as President, and Randy Wing who is finishing up his first term as a Board Member has agreed to accept a two year term as Vice President. Both Secretary and Treasurer positions are up for reelection, and George Fergusson has agreed to accept a fourth two year term as Secretary and Mary Gingrow-Shaw has agreed to accept her third two year term as Treasurer (there are no term limits on Secretary and Treasurer positions). Outgoing President Malcolm Burson has agreed to accept a Board position, he'll be taking Jane Chase's place on the Board who is finishing her second and final term. Finally, Kelsie French has agreed to fill the remaining open Board position. Our bylaws allow up to eleven Board Members; if anyone has a burning desire to get involved, nominations for up to two additional Board Members may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Board Members serve for three years and may remain in office for up to two consecutive terms after which they can be reelected to the Board after one year. Please join us in thanking our outgoing Officers and Board Members for their service to the Association! It's been a wild ride these past few years and they all deserve our appreciation!



The Clary Lake Association is a 501C(3) nonprofit corporation duly registered in the State of Maine dedicated to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the natural beauty and quality of Clary Lake and its watershed. Membership in the Association is open to anyone and costs \$25 per year per person. Donations to the Association are tax deductible.

Current Association Officers:

President: Malcolm Burson president@clarylake.org
 Vice President: David Knight vicepresident@clarylake.org
 Treasurer: Mary GingrowShaw treasurer@clarylake.org
 Secretary: George Fergusson secretary@clarylake.org
 Newsletter: George Fergusson editor@clarylake.org
 Association Board Address: board@clarylake.org
 Current Board Members are: Jane Chase, Jack Holland, Steve Relyea, Randy Wing, and Ellis Percy

5/13/19

All Hands On Deck!

by Margaret Fergusson

How shall we stay the course,
as the sky unleashes the unknown;

and the earth claims, as She will...
and timing... elusive as wind;

each moment casting a shadow...
lighting the next presence?

And in our floating, we find strength,
knowing that to master the oncoming wave,

We have only one course...
to be here... totally committed... in this place...

embracing the mystery... welcoming the effort... loving the simplicity...
all the little voices of Mother calling....

All hands on deck!