

The Clary Lake Clarion

Volume 12 Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Clary Lake Association

Spring/Summer 2021

President's Message

Dear Neighbors and Friends of Clary Lake!

It goes without saying, though I will go ahead and say it anyways, that we are living through difficult and divisive times, whether speaking politically, spiritually, or medically. Isn't it comforting to know that we can all certainly agree on one thing? – we all love our Clary Lake!!

In this season of renewal and hope, we can also look back on our progress with dam ownership and maintenance, water quality monitoring, and invasive species protection through our Courtesy Boat Inspection program, knowing that we have done well and also be energized to double down on our efforts and continue this important work. We are always looking for volunteers for the CBI program and welcome your inquiry and participation in this most needed endeavor. You can find out more about CBI elsewhere in this newsletter.

At the time of this writing in early April, the water is still really cold, but docks are going in at a rapid rate, a few boats are tooling around the lake and fish are just waiting to bite! We are anticipating a busy season with folks anxious to resume activities that are safe and fun and so all efforts we can make to 'preserve and protect' our natural treasure are encouraged and appreciated. We will also, with Membership approval later this year, be bringing on some new 'blood' to our Board and welcome the new energy and fresh perspective as we navigate all the waters that lead to our healthy lake. We anticipate some group activities, already being coordinated by our Program Committee, possibly a Coffee Clutch out on the lake, an Ice Cream Social and participation in the Whitefield 4th of July Parade if it should take place this year. All of these activities are subject to change as we work our way through the 'recovery' of our social lives.

Your continued support whether through elected service, committee assignment, volunteerism or simply by renewing your Membership is greatly valued! Together we are a force to be reckoned with and we can accomplish great things. We look forward to seeing you at a safely orchestrated version of our traditional Annual Meeting, with more details to come. Keep an eye on our website, and stay in touch! Respectfully, David Knight, President



Wild Rice (*Zizania palustris*) is making a comeback in the marshes around Clary Lake. Photograph by George Fergusson

2021 Annual Meeting Notice

This year's Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at 2 PM on Saturday August 7, 2021. We will be meeting at the Clary Lake Dam! We will setup some awning tents (a few more than last time to allow for social distancing) to provide shade, and some seating will be provided but as usual, it never hurts to bring a folding chair or two if you have them. The rain date will be the next day, Sunday August 8, same time, same place. We will have our traditional potluck supper after the Meeting so bring your favorite salad, casserole, side dish, or what have you and of course, bring an appetite!

This year's meeting agenda includes the election of officers, and update on our vision exercise introduced in 2019, and a short but informative program on invasive plants and how we're working to protect Clary Lake from the introduction of unwanted plant and animal species.

In addition to the Annual Meeting in August, we're planning several other events this summer including an ice cream social and a birding trip to the marsh led by Malcolm Burson in early June. Keep an eye on the website for more information about these events.

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 (continued on pg 4)

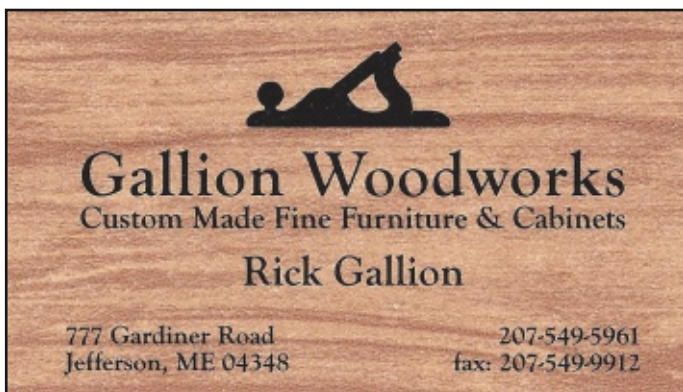
Membership Matters

We weren't sure how the 2020 Membership year was going to turn out given that we canceled our 2020 Annual Meeting and all of our planned events last summer, but as you can see from the current Membership List on page 5, we did just fine! At 159 members, we actually ended up with 2 more than we had the year before so I think it's safe to say the covid-19 pandemic has had no measurable impact on our membership numbers.

With our purchase of the dam in late 2018 and the restoration of historical water levels in Clary Lake, properties that in some cases had been on the market for years finally began changing hands. To say there was pent up demand to buy and sell lake front property doesn't quite do justice to the frenzy of property conveyances that have taken place over the last couple of years (and which continues today). I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce some of the new people around the lake. Even before we bought the dam, Gordon Frizzell sold his camp over on Hornpout Lane to June Lordi (you'll remember this is the camp that was nearly broken in half by a large pine tree that blew down in an October 2017 wind storm) and the Wright camp on Maplewood Lane in Jefferson (a short side road off of Hodsdon Lane), next door to Jack Holland, was transferred to Nora Hoelsing. Also in 2018, the Starks sold their camp at the end of Duncan Road to Kim Teel and Richard Reid sold his place on Duncan Road to Todd & Stephanie Vincentsen. In 2019 also over on Maplewood Road, Daniel & Susan Erlandson sold their place to Thomas & Christine Mazza, and the same year they in turn sold it to Maggie Muth and

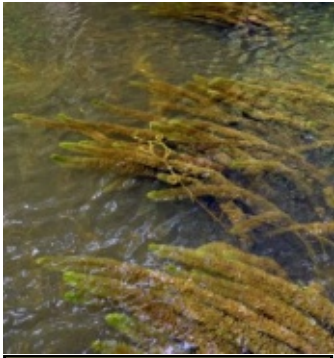
Don Hogg who own it today. Just down the road, Joann Tribby transferred her property at the end of Maplewood Lane to her daughter, Juliana Hoffman. The same year Jean McWilliams' camp on Hodsdon Lane was purchased by Jessie & Stephanie Cheney. Also in 2019, long time CLA member Bill Donovan sold his camp over on Hornpout Lane to Carolyn Curtis and Paul Devlin. Also in 2019, Bob Rubin and Cheryl Ayer sold their place over on the west shore of the lake to Mark & Tara Doe, and Eve & Doug Kinney sold their place at the end of Duncan Road in Jefferson to Anya Lagasse & Megan Breece. Early the following year, the MacDonald estate on the east side of North Clary Road near the State Boat launch was sold to Kathryn Ference & Kelley Doore and John & Barbara Ahern sold their place at the corner of Routes 215 and 126 to Todd R. & Lynsey Johnston. Later that year Bill & Val Albert sold their place on Hodsdon Lane (next door to Cheney) to Karren & Gregory Briggs and Jon Moody sold his little lot over off Duncan Road to Dana & Rita Simmons. Also in 2020, Debora Connell-Duncan sold one of her lots on Hodsdon Lane to Charles & Rebecca Cole, and Art & Ellen Enos finally sold their property to David & Fran Marsh (he also bought the adjoining property that belonged to George Page). Also in 2020, Barbara (Sadler) Humphrey sold her remaining Clary Lake shore front property near the end of Hornpout Lane to John Lawrence & Marcia Smolin. Also in 2020, Beverly D'Urbano sold the remainder of her property on North Clary Road to Eric & Brenda Scherer, and Don & Lucy Norman sold their remaining property diagonally across the road from the Highland Cemetery in Jefferson to Terry Melanson Jr. This year so far, Dennis Morgan has his place on Hodsdon Lane on the market but so far no buyer.

Thanks to our outreach, I am happy to report that MOST (but not all) of the new property owners around Clary Lake have joined the Association. We hope this trend continues long into the future.



Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

The most common way invasive species make it into Maine lakes is via boats and trailers which can pick up fragments of invasive plants in one lake and carry them to another. Therefore, the most logical place to stop this transport is to intercept them at the boat launch! This will be our third year conducting Courtesy Boat Inspections at the State Boat launch on Clary Lake and by the time you're reading this we will likely have already started the new season. We



*Variable Leaf Milfoil
Pleasant Pond, Litchfield*

currently have approximately 10 volunteers, many of whom have been conducting inspections since we started in 2019. They sign up for two hour shifts on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays starting Memorial Day weekend and continuing through Labor Day. Inspections start at 6

am and run until 2 pm. The reason we only conduct inspections on weekends is because we don't have the staff to cover weekdays, and weekends are typically the busiest days at boat launches. People who use boat launches during the week are also more likely "regulars" who know all about CBI and know they're responsible for keeping Maine's waterways free of invasive plants. Therefore, if an invasive is going to make its way into Clary Lake, it will most likely happen on a weekend.

The data we collect on boat inspections goes into a vast State-wide CBI database maintained by DEP. Last year they developed a smart phone app for inspectors to use to record their boat inspections, to replace the paper forms we used the year before, and it's made the whole data gathering process much simpler and faster. Last year a few of our volunteers still used the paper forms and we entered the data into the app off-site. Hopefully this year everyone will be

using the app, but people without a smart phone can still use the paper forms. (continued in next column)

There are currently 30 Maine lakes with one or more invasive aquatic plant infestations in them. We don't want to see Clary Lake on that list! Last summer I took a boat ride with a friend of mine on Pleasant Pond and up Cobbossee Stream in Richmond, ostensibly to go fishing, but really I wanted to see an invasive plant infestation in situ, and I was not disappointed: there's a healthy infestation of Variable Leaf Milfoil in that waterway and it wasn't hard to find. The picture at left showing the invasive plant was taken just a little ways south of the Thorofare Road boat launch, where we put in. Further to the south towards the end of Pleasant Pond the plants grow thickly enough to make motoring and fishing a problem.

We're always looking for more volunteers. With more help we could minimize the time burden on our volunteers and/or increase our hours of coverage. While the vast majority of CBI programs around the state are staffed by paid workers, our CBI program is an all-volunteer operation and we're glad it is. We own it and we have a vested interest in the success of the program because it's our lake. We also don't have the hassle, overhead, and cost of managing payroll not to mention funding it, even with matching grant funds from the State.

While looking for aquatic invasive plants is the most obvious reason for conducting courtesy boat inspections, another very real and important purpose is simply one of educating the boating public: we want people to learn the importance of keeping invasive plants out of Maine lakes and to get used to the idea of checking their own boat and trailer for hitchhiking invaders even when there isn't a CBI volunteer available to check it for them. Therefore, conducting boat inspections is as much an exercise in public relations as anything, and it's fun! If you want to get involved in our CBI program, check out the information on the Clary Lake Association website under the Programs/Education menu heading, or contact George at gsfergusson@clarylake.org.

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(continued from pg. 1) 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). Please provide us with 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, you have to be a paid up Member for the coming year in order to vote at the Annual Meeting.

And a final reminder! Full Membership in the Association is 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. We are especially interested in attracting Members from the wider Whitefield and Jefferson communities, and beyond. 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!

The Birds of Clary Lake

One of the great treasures of our lake area is the large number of bird species that can be seen in the woods, waters, and marsh. Because we have these diverse habitats, we attract a significant group of the inland species that breed in central Maine, plus good numbers of migrants in spring and fall. As you read this, we're in prime time for welcoming our avian summer residents, and seeing some of their friends and relations on their way north to breeding grounds in Canada. For the past twelve years, Eleanor and I have been keeping a formal list of birds we've observed at our camp and within one mile inland of the lakeshore all around Clary. So far, we've noted 105 species, and I'm sure we'll find a few more this coming summer and fall. For example, our list includes 16 species of warblers, the colorful insect-chasers of spring and early summer. In the marsh, we can find specialists in the eco-system like American bittern, great blue heron, Wilson's snipe, swamp sparrow, Eastern kingbird, and alder flycatcher. During a walk in the woods or along a camp road, you can hear all three of our resident thrushes, the great singers of the bird world: hermit and wood thrushes, and veery; and see the glorious colors of scarlet tanagers and rose-breasted grosbeaks. And in addition to our beloved loons on the lake, you can expect to encounter mallards and Canada geese.

For those of you who'd like to learn more about Clary's birds, I'm planning to lead an expedition into the marsh early on the morning of Saturday, June 5, weather permitting. This will be limited to canoes and small boats (electric motor only) and kayaks, to a maximum of -8- craft. Plan to meet on the water at 7 am at the marsh entrance on the Whitefield shore. Please let me know by email if you'd like to come along.

This year, I'll be participating in the Maine Breeding Bird Atlas project, which is in the 3rd of a four-year effort to locate and map all the birds that are known to breed in Maine. I'll be surveying a quadrant that includes most of the Jefferson shore from the boat launch west to the marsh entrance, the area around Three Corner Pond, and the area to the north of these to Route 17. If anyone knows of likely birding locations in this area, let me know! And if you need help identifying a bird (pictures help!) or want to share a sighting, or just want to learn more, do get in touch! Malcolm Burson (email bursonm4@gmail.com or call him 207-838-6519)

CLARY LAKE BED AND BREAKFAST

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2020/2021 Association Members

William & Valerie Albert
Charlene Andersen
Georgina & Gary Bergendoff
Andrew B. Berry
Ethan Bowen
Gareth & Beverley Bowen
Albert Boynton (rest in peace)
Jeffrey Brann
Megan Breece
Karren & Gregory Briggs
Daniel & Dorothy Burns
Malcolm C. Burson
M. Jane Chase
Tim & Martha Chase
David Chase
Jesse & Stephanie Cheney
Chickawaukee Ice Boat Club
Alan G. & Linda J. Clark
Clary Retreat LLC
Richard H. Cichalski
Steve & Julie Cowles
James Croce
Beverly & Rick Cronkhite
John R. Crosby
Karen Stutzer, Terry Crummett
Paul Devlin & Carolyn Curtis
Genie & James Dailey
Beverly D'Urbano
Alan & Joannie Decker
Mark & Tara Doe
Kathryn Ference Kelley Doore
Belle Douglas
Robert & Mildred Dow
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Cheryle & Peter Fasano
Colin S. Fergusson Sara Roy
Sara Jean Fergusson
George & Margaret Fergusson
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Gillette
Leslie Gillette
Thomas & Delph Gillette
Ernie Shaw & Mary Gingrow-Shaw
Eleanor Goldberg
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Dee Ann Grazioso
Tim & Trish Harkins
Gladys Hewett
Jesse Spector & Logan Higger
David S. & Gail A. Hillstrom
Trudi Hodgkins
Frances Hodsdon
Nora Hoelsing
David & Janette Hodsdon
Juliana Hoffman
Jack & Ann Holland
Jaclyn Holland
Jayson Holland
Joseph Holland
Taylor Holland
Bambi Jones
Rhian Waller, Brandon Keller
Wynne & Michael Keller
David & Gayle Knight
Anya Lagasse
Ellen Dolce & Tom Lawton
June Lordi
Megan Luisi & Richard Luisi
Ray & Judi Martin
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Edwin A. & Mildred E. Rosso
Rob Rowland
Eric & Brenda Scherer
Kate & David Seba
Lewis A. & Paula P. Shorey
Stephen & Mary Lou Smith
John Lawrence & Marcia
Smolin
Randy & Jody Thivierge
Joann Tribby
Annette C. & Stephen Vandel
Thomas Vigue
Todd & Stephanie Vincentsen
Ned & Brenda Vitalis
Stephen Viti
John S. & Darleen A. Williams
Arlene & Randy Wing
Total: 160! Whooohoo!

This Year's Elections

This year all of four of our Officer positions are up for reelection and there are two board positions as well to be filled. To start, David Knight is running for his second and final two-year term as President. Regarding the Vice Presidency, in March of this year, Randy Wing resigned his position as Vice President due to personal reasons, and Steven Relyea, who was about to complete his sixth and final year on the Board, relinquished his Board position and was appointed by the Board to finish out Randy Wing's term. Steven will be running for a two-year term of his own as Vice President. Mary Gingrow-Shaw is running for her fourth two-year term as Treasurer, and George Fergusson is running for his fifth two-year term as Secretary (neither the Treasurer nor Secretary positions are subject to term limits). Finally, Ellis Percy is completing his sixth and final year on the Board. Ellis first served the Association as President from 2011 through 2014 and has been on the board ever since. We are grateful for the contribution of his time! However, we're likely not done with him yet, Ellis is willing to accept a Committee assignment as soon as we can find a good fit for him. The Nominations Committee has come up with two Clary Lake Association members to fill the vacant Board positions, Steven Cowles, and Gareth Bowen. Steve and his wife Julie bought the Chase property on Route 218 adjoining the Clary Lake dam a few years ago and has been active in the Association ever since. He's a member of the Dam Operations Committee and has been active in the Courtesy Boat Inspection program since it's inception in 2019. Gareth Bowen and his wife Beverley bought the old Goss property on Route 126 in Jefferson a couple of years ago. Some of you met Gareth and Beverly at the hors d'oeuvre party at their home a year ago last February. Gareth too has been active in the CBI program.

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: David Knight	president@clarylake.org
Vice President: Steven Relyea	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: Kelsie French, Jack Holland, Malcolm Burson, and Ellis Percy	(as of 5/09/2021)

These Gifts

by Margaret Fergusson

The distant rumble and cracking
has given way to water-lapped shores

beneath the surface, life teems
awaiting the battles to begin

they do not shun us for
the game belongs to them

to share these depths
and accept the outcome.

Slowly the human toys appear upon the water
and sounds of the season erupt

the call of the loon
and the quiet paddling of the muskrat

lazy reeds poke through the surface
catching the breeze in dance

and lilies rest languidly
their beds undulating in the currents.

Take care this time
to catch all of it

embracing this plenitude
adoring this miracle

tending to your place in it
abiding in neighborly peace

these gifts
that are given.