

Mascoma Lake Association

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2016

Eagle Update

by Pat Carrier



An adult pair of eagles continue to spend time on Mascoma Lake. They started visiting here three years ago when they took over an abandoned nest. Throughout the year, the eagles have been spotted both on Mascoma Lake and Crystal Lake.

Last fall, a mottled juvenile eagle and the adult pair were observed feeding on an animal carcass on the lakeshore. They would swoop down and feed. Sometimes one while the other two waited patiently nearby, and at other times two would feed together.

The 2016 mid-Winter Statewide count of eagles in New Hampshire yielded 115 Bald Eagles. Of that total, 34 were observed on the Connecticut River south of the Wilder Dam.

Overall long-term trends, the number of eagles counted in New Hampshire continues to double roughly every 10 years (Statistics obtained from the NH Audubon Society):

2015	110 eagles
2005	55 eagles
1994	25 eagles
1984	12 eagles

What a great success story for a bird that was on the endangered list.

This spring they have spent time on nest maintenance, transporting branches to the nest. Then working hard to weave the new materials into the established nest. The pair certainly appear to be calling Mascoma Lake home.

Milfoil Control: Can Synchronized Swimming Help?

by Martha Rich & David Kelman

It wasn't exactly an Olympic-level performance, but Mascoma milfoil divers did get into their own version of synchronized swimming late last summer. The idea was to conduct an intensive harvest in three areas that had shown persistent infestations all season. At each site, divers first swam in parallel lines, spotting plants and looking especially for small seedlings. They marked every plant they saw, and then swam back to dig them all. We mounted this aggressive underwater search to supplement the surface spotting our weed-watcher volunteers have always done. Since trying out this method, we've discovered that others have had the same idea: the Crescent Lake Association in Acworth/Unity also uses synchronized swimming to battle their invasive weeds.

Thanks in part to the synchronized-swim cleanup, last summer's harvest set a new record since milfoil control began on Mascoma Lake two decades ago: 5,454 plants, more than twice the number in 2014. (We count every plant we remove, whether it's five inches or five feet long.) Of course, the higher count may reflect an increased growth of milfoil, not just a more effective harvest. We can't be certain the synchronized diving will reduce infestation in our lake's most troubled areas, but we do hope to see some results when we return to monitor those sites this year. It's also possible, after a mild winter and early spring, that milfoil will get a head start and flourish in 2016. It's hard to predict, but there's one thing we know for sure: our program must continue every year.

If not controlled, Eurasian milfoil forms dense stands of vegetation in the water. Thick mats at the surface shade out native plants, reduce oxygen levels, and impede boating. Milfoil can ruin lakes. While we can't expect to eliminate

continued page 2: Milfoil

MLA Annual Meeting and Speaker

Saturday, July 23, 2016

Enfield Community Building
Coffee @ 8:30 am • Meeting @ 9

by Allison Flint

Our guest speaker at the annual meeting will be Jim Gallagher from the NH Dam Bureau to explore and discuss the proposed hydro-electric project on the Mascoma River which involves rebuilding our lake dam and building a new dam down the river. Jim will present the details and will be able to answer any questions or concerns we may have.

Grafton Hydro has applied for and received a permit for this project allowing for 3 years to investigate and develop a construction plan. The permit does not allow building yet, just pursuit.

During these 3 years, we may have input into the effects of this project, both positive and negative, to Mascoma Lake, so understanding the issues is timely and important to our community.

I look forward to seeing you all at the annual meeting and on the lake this summer!

UFO?

(Unidentified Floating Object)



NEW THIS YEAR.

A bright orange floating lite buoy to mark larger areas of milfoil invasion.

If you see them on the lake
STAY AWAY!!

Milfoil, from page 1

this invasive plant, we can continue effective management. It's an effort we renew annually, and everyone can help.

As current coordinators, we (David Kelman and Martha Rich) will be patrolling the water on the MLA pontoon boat again this summer, looking for the distinctive feathery stalks of the aquatic invader. We'll drop orange-yellow foam-noodle markers or the new orange buoys when we find plants. Local weed watchers will also monitor areas near their homes, place markers, and report to us when they spot milfoil.



The critical activity is harvesting: specialized underwater weeding to remove plants without fragmenting and spreading them further. We're especially grateful to the harvesting crews. Those 5,454 plants last summer were dug by 10 different

divers, who dove for a total of 162.5 hours, assisted by 8 different tenders and conveyed by 3 different captains. We appreciate whatever help you can provide; whether it's keeping a lookout when you're boating or fishing, monitoring your home waters, or participating in the harvest. Let's work together to keep milfoil firmly under control and our beautiful lake open. For Milfoil Control, contact:

Martha Rich & David Kelman ssmilfoil@comcast.net 802-233-9964

MILFOIL MAPS

Interactive maps that track patterns of milfoil growth over time are posted on the MLA website. The maps allow you to filter data by any increment of time or number of plants harvested. You can zoom into any area for detailed information.

The intensity map is at

<https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=17UoPCqzNacYaMht7ehG3UiNtmPAaXCNDtFodAnr->

The location map is at

<https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=1EpzYzsd-RFf2fAxVQe5jYxPedr2jV8VYGYGHZlo>

You can also find the maps from the MLA home page by clicking on Lake Issues and then About Milfoil. At present, the maps include three years of data.

MILFOIL CONTROL: EVERYONE CAN HELP!

- If you see an orange-yellow foam-noodle milfoil marker, or the new orange markers, please leave them where they are and avoid motorized boating near them.
- If you think you see Eurasian Milfoil, let us know and we'll follow up on suspected sightings. You don't have to be an aquatic plant expert, just an alert citizen!
- If you would like to monitor the water near your property on a regular basis as part of the "neighborhood water watch," let us know. Your commitment as a watcher would be to cruise your area from the shoreline to a depth of 12-14 feet when the lake is still and the sun is not directly overhead (usually early morning or late afternoon). We ask that you report at least once by July 15 and a second time by the middle of August. We particularly need weed watchers on the 4A side from the Baited Hook to the head of the lake.
- If you're a SCUBA diver or want to become one, we welcome new divers. With the state-approved training, it's easy to learn the techniques of proper milfoil harvesting.

A Brief Memory *by Austin Flint*

It was a perfect day to be on the water. The blue sky held occasional clouds which drifted lazily to the horizon. There were four of us in the small aluminum boat. Karen Hambleton in the stern with her son Evan, who seemed comfortable to be on the voyage, wherever we were going. Bill Martin was in the bow. He directed us to a floating marker up ahead, not far from shore. He and the oarsman were both professors who had reached the stage in life that did not require class duties in the summer.

We dropped anchor and Karen prepared to dive. Her equipment included a tank and a "dry suit" which was watertight, but had to be zipped up across her shoulders by a second person. Soon she was in the water and out of sight except for the line of bubbles, headed for the marker. Evan seemed quite content as long as there were bubbles showing that mother was "all right."

Karen returned soon, with a bag filled with a few sprigs of green plants. She had harvested the first milfoil in Mascoma Lake.



Enfield Boat Launch

by Rick Sam

The Mascoma Lake Enfield public boat launch was originally constructed as a Class VI road to access the lake in the early 1960s. The Town of Enfield took over maintenance of the boat launch and parking area and ownership not long after the initial construction. The launch was eventually paved to near the waters edge. It required that tow vehicles enter the lake and boat propeller dredging caused a section of the lake bottom to erode and add to the turbidity of the lake. It was quite challenging to launch a boat, but especially to load a boat on a trailer given the very irregular lake bottom surface. The new launch area includes a stable ramp into the lake and improved parking area.

The first phase of the project was to remove several feet of soil from the parking area and replace it with crushed stone. This was followed by the installation of a cofferdam. Lake water was pumped out to permit the lake bottom in the launch area to be excavated without any of the disturbed material entering the lake. The bottom material was replaced with crushed stone and a cast-in-place reinforced concrete anchor was installed to support precast reinforced concrete dock planks. The anchor plus planks result in a 12 ft. wide by 46 ft. long surface for trailers to back into the lake. The concrete is surrounded by stone on either side and beyond.

The parking area is paved with asphalt, includes painted lines to designate tow vehicle/trailer parking, and slopes slightly toward the lake. A fabric lined, stone filled trench between the parking area and lake will catch rainwater and direct it to a spillway at the south end of the parking area.

A dock has also been installed adjacent to the boat launch.

This project was started in mid-April and was completed in mid-May. The work was done by L&M Service Contractors based in Orford, NH.

Crazy Month of March

by Sally Sharp

From ice boating to sailing in the crazy month of March – what a way to wrap up the ‘winter’ of 2016. It was such a long wait for good ice on Mascoma Lake, but when it happened the first weekend in March it was spectacular! Just a light breeze on Saturday, at first barely enough to power the DN ice boat across the ice, but Gary Orkney and I did get in a few exhilarating reaches up and down the lake. Sunday our luck ran out – not a breath of wind, just brilliant sunshine and clear blue sky. Oh well, we just dug out the nordic skates instead!



But the ice was short-lived; the rest of March felt more like May, and Ice Out happened within two weeks (likely the earliest in recorded history). On March 25 Gary and I rigged our Lasers and enjoyed a gorgeous Easter Sunday sail around the lake. Except for the ice-cold water, and the ice-covered rocks of Sunken Island and along the shoreline, you’d never guess it was March, the warm sun and nice breeze made for a delightful spring sail.



LOON REPORT & CENSUS

by Terri Lynch

The first sighting of a loon on the lake was on March 15th. This was most likely a male, as they are the first to return in the spring, followed by the female in several weeks.

We are hoping for a successful nest or two this year. The major cause of nest failure is flooding caused by the loons nesting too close to the waters edge. We had nest failure due to flooding the past three years. While flooding is a threat to the egg, the loon chicks also face predation by eagles, crows, snapping turtles and injury by powerboats. We have had chicks survive to fledge in 2005, 2009 and 2012.

Lead poisoning is also another hazard that loons face. Loons ingest stones to break down their food in the gizzard and unfortunately lead sinkers look a lot like stones. The lead is ground up in the giz-

zard and absorbed into the blood stream. Death occurs within a few weeks. Senate Bill 89, which goes into effect June 1, bans the sale or use of lead sinkers one ounce or less.

The new threat to NH loons is possibly on the horizon. An adult loon death in Maine has been attributed to tropical malaria which in the past has only affected southern birds.

Please report any loon injuries or death to the LPC at 603-476-LOON or to me at terri.m.lynch@gmail.com.

The statewide loon census will take place on Saturday, July 16th from 8-9 am. Participating involves being out on the lake in your assigned area by 8 am, recording your observations for a full hour and reporting them. If you would like to participate contact terri.m.lynch@gmail.com

Want to Learn How to Sail?

by Kate McMullan

One of the pleasures of summer is watching sailboats on the lake. Have you ever thought about learning how to sail?

Mascoma Sailing Club invites all community members to join us for an introductory sail this summer at no charge. We offer alternate Wednesdays Women Can Sail clinics or you could join us for a Thursday evening Sloop Group sail. During the Old Home Days festivities you can sign up (on our website/Facebook page) for our second annual Community Sail.

Do you have children or grandchildren around this summer? Think about our Youth Summer Sailing Program. MSC offers prospective sailors, ages 12-15+, sailing lessons at a nominal cost. Play Mascoma Valley! Recreation Guides on the Enfield Town website for more details.



Mascoma Boat Parade Sunday, July 3 • 3-5 p.m.

We will parade clockwise around the lake starting at the Dartmouth Yacht Club.

Participants from the north and south ends of Mascoma Lake should begin milling around the Yacht Club by 2:50. The lead boat, a green and tan Sanpan pontoon boat, will start right at 3 p.m.

Costumed boats and passengers are encouraged and appreciated.

If questions, contact organizer Tom Bonardi at 532-7896.

ENFIELD OLD HOME DAYS

JULY 29, 30 31, 2016

by Kristin Harrington

FRIDAY JULY 29

This is the 4th Annual Enfield Old Home Days. The festivities will kick off with a pulled pork supper at the Methodist Church followed by a band concert at Huse Park.

SATURDAY JULY 30

This will be a busy day starting with breakfast at the Community Building, a quilt show, old time flea market and parade in the morning. Contact Lindsey Smith if you want to enter a float in the parade. The parade will be followed by a Community picnic, paddleboard and Pakboats demonstration at the Lakeside Park. Later in the afternoon, the Greeley House will be open, or cool off at the ice cream social. All this will be followed by a chicken BBQ and a dance.

SUNDAY JULY 31

Start the day with Gentle Yoga and a pancake breakfast. Then enjoy the Artisan Craft Fair, Classic Car Show, and Mascoma Valley Guitar Orchestra Concert, at Enfield Shaker Museum. Don't miss the Lockhaven Schoolhouse historic reenactment. Go for a sail with the Mascoma Sailing Club, or hike with the Conservation Commission. End the celebration with "Sing a Song at Twilight" at the Mary Keane Chapel.

For a schedule of events, locations, and more information, please visit

www.enfield.nh.us

or

www.facebook.com/EnfieldOldHomeDays



Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

www.mascomalakeassociation.org

MLA Board Officers & Members

President • Allison Flint

Vice President • Vacant

Treasurer • Gary Gaudette

Secretary • Karen Hambleton

LAKE HOSTS:

MLA Ambassadors at the Ramps

by Carrie Hackeman & Allison Flint

Through NH Lakes, the MLA supports the Lake Host program at our two boat launches, weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Our paid hosts are funded by a state grant (thanks to Elaine Troy), municipal funds from the City of Lebanon and Town of Enfield and MLA makes up the short-fall.

Last year we only found one plant species on a boat, during all of the inspections, and it turned out to be native and harmless. We hope this is an indication our educational program is working.

We had three paid hosts and three volunteers in 2015. For the coming year we have four paid lake hosts and are looking for more volunteers.

If interested, contact Allison at mia@mascomalakeassociation.org.

We're looking forward to a great summer.



by Meredith Smith

The dream of a park on the shores of Mascoma Lake is finally becoming a reality in a cooperative effort with the Town of Enfield, Enfield Village Association, and the NH Department of Transportation. The land adjoining the temporary bypass road, constructed as part of the rebuilding of Shaker Bridge, will soon become a lakeside park for all to enjoy.

In January of 2015, Plan NH conducted a charette focused on the two lots owned by the NH DOT (the old motel site and adjoining lot) and now under long term management by the Town of Enfield. The charette envisioned a four season recreation hub that could include public rest rooms, a pavilion, small amphitheater, picnic grove with tables and benches, and a new non motorized boat ramp. In April of 2015, a committee was created by the Selectboard to work on making the charette plans come to fruition.

The Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee (MLPC) has met monthly and hopes to have a new non-motorized boat ramp built over this summer. The ramp will be constructed to DES specifications and will prevent further deterioration of the shoreline from small boat launchings. Mowing of the second lot has been accomplished with yet more to do this spring (no trees to be removed). It is hoped that with donations, picnic tables might also be installed this summer.

The MLPC is working on the tax impact of these improvements. EVA is partnering with the Town of Enfield on this project and will serve as 501 C3 vehicle to obtain grant funding. NH DOT will build sidewalks, do shoreline appropriate landscaping, and street lighting to match the lighting on the bridge. When complete, the Mascoma Lakeside Park will become the gateway to Enfield Village and a place for all to enjoy.

Donations for benches, picnic tables and all other amenities are welcome. Checks may be made out to EVA/MLP and sent to PO Box 763, Enfield, NH, 03748. Donations are tax deductible.

More News on ALS Study • *by James Martel*

A recent article in the Concord Monitor pointed out that cyanobacteria or blue green algae is present in all New Hampshire lakes, not just Mascoma. The problem with cyanobacteria is that it may cause ALS, (Lou Gehrig's disease). We can lessen cyanobacteria growth by reducing the amount of phosphorus entering the lake. Part of your dues goes toward paying NHDES for lab analysis of our lake water samples. Recent results can be found on www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2015/documents/mascoma-enfield.pdf. The bottom line: the lake is in good shape, but working together we can make it better.