



KEY DATES:

- Thursday, December 1: Water quality presentation by 4th–6th graders from Ossipee Central School, the Freedom Elementary School, and the Sandwich Central School. Remick Museum, Tamworth, 6–8 PM. Info from GMCG @ (603) 539-1859.

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OSS�PEE LAKE REPORT

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SELECTMEN SAY BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS RAISE MILFOIL CONCERNS

OSS�PEE – The Select Boards of Freedom and Ossipee, joined by the Ossipee Conservation Commission, have told NH Fish and Game officials that the agency should fund a milfoil prevention program at the Pine River boat ramp as part of planned improvements to the site.

Town officials were among the approximately 30 people who attended two September public meetings on the state’s proposal to “improve the functionality” of the boat landing, which is on Route 25. The busy landing, which is the only state-owned

public boat access facility for Ossipee Lake, has been deteriorating for years, with safety hazards ranging from rutted roads to rotted docks. NH Fish and Game assumed responsibility for the site several years ago and began cleaning it up this summer.

Now it wants to complete the job by making improvements that include replacing the boat launch with a double ramp and establishing better-defined parking areas. Fish and Game official Jeff King said the project will cost \$250,000 to \$750,000 and take several years to complete if plans are approved.

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A state employee talks with Ossipee Lake boaters as rotted docks are removed from the NH Fish and Game public boat landing on Route 25. Clean-up work began this summer in advance of site improvements that have raised concerns about milfoil prevention at the busy site. *Alliance Photo*

PRESERVING A NATURAL LAKESIDE SETTING ON NORTH BROAD BAY

By Larissa Mulkern

Editor’s Note: This article on North Broad Bay Association is part of an ongoing series about Ossipee Lake’s homeowner groups.

FREEDOM — Louise Anderson was just a toddler when her dad, Roy Lundin, purchased four lots on North Broad Bay in 1928. That purchase – at \$25 a lot – would eventually kick-start one of the oldest local lake homeowners groups, the North Broad Bay Association, on Ossipee Lake.

“I remember when we first came here, it was wilderness,” said Louise, who moved to Ossipee Lake from Massachusetts full time in 1998. One of the North Broad Bay Association’s longest-standing members, she now serves as the association’s treasurer.

Her institutional memory of her summer visits here includes the names of some original residents, such as Henry Gardner and Hector Brody, and some famous visitors,

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PRESERVING A NATURAL LAKESIDE SETTING

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like NASA Astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Back before snowplows and a new Route 16, Ossipee Lake was for summer camps.

“You didn’t come up here in the winter,” she said. “The place was only accessible usually after May 30th,” she said, adding that her family built a rustic cabin and stayed for a month every summer. “It was like living in a wooden tent,” said Louise.

“The walls were not insulated. If you ran your hand on it you’d get splintered,” she said of the original camp, which was torn down and rebuilt as a four-season home in the mid-1980s.

Over the years, many of the original camps on North Broad Bay Road have been torn

down and rebuilt to modern standards, but as in years past, the well-maintained road is still unpaved, and Anderson strives to keep as many original trees on her property as possible.

Anderson said the association was made up of neighbors interested in maintaining a natural environment. Dues in the early days were \$4 a year – now they are \$35 a year, she said.

The association now includes approximately 19 households, whose members gather for an annual social event and raise money for charitable causes like camp scholarships or to support volunteer firefighters in Freedom.

Full-time residents with deep roots include Chuck and Heloise DePew. Heloise was just a youngster when her family first visited during the summer of 1948.



Louise Lundin, age six in 1930, strikes a pose on the dock of her parents’ waterfront cottage on North Broad Bay Road in Freedom. She moved to the lake full-time in 1998. *Contributed Photo*

She was a classmate of Charlie Peters, whose family owned a camp that burned down during a big fire in 1947 that started on North Broad Bay Road, said Chuck DePew in a recent interview.

“The fire spread from there and went all the way over to Maine,” he said, recalling the fire started when sawdust ignited.

“The main part of the association was social – you’d get to know your neighbors, go to the annual picnic, and address some concerns,” Chuck said.

As far as land preservation, another close-knit

group formed in 1947 – Broad Bay Associates. “This was a group of people that got together and they formed a trust that bought the land across the street,” he said, adding that the goal was to protect that land, between 55 and 60 acres, from development.

The DePews have a sentimental, as well as historical, connection to North Broad Bay. Chuck and Heloise met each other when they both worked as camp counselors – she at Camp Huckins, he at Camp Robin Hood.

“We had a summer romance that led to 55 years of marriage,” he said, bringing a smile to Heloise’s face.

IN MEMORIAM

The Ossipee Lake community lost a good friend when DES’ Jody Connor died in June. Jody was a tireless ally in matters large and small. He was available on short notice to appear at a meeting if his presence was important; and he could often be found answering emails late into the night and on weekends if timely information was required.

His influence can be felt in virtually every state initiative designed to preserve and protect our lakes – from the Exotic Species Program to the Volunteer Lakes Assessment Program.

On the legislative front, he was a driving force behind regulations pertaining to acid rain, water quality, and mercury and toxic cyanobacteria, among others.

In a memorial article, DES Commissioner Tom Burack called Jody “an iconic colleague,” and “an extremely humble person, never seeking public accolades although he was deserving.”

In response, Jody would likely have said many of his DES friends and colleagues are equally as deserving. He was that kind of person.

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The Alliance is a member of the New Hampshire Lakes Association and Loon Preservation Committee

TOWNS WANT MILFOIL PREVENTION PLAN AT STATE BOAT RAMP

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Fish and Game hosted the meetings, which were held in Ossipee, to allow the public to comment on the proposed plan.

While the idea of physical improvements to the site were generally well-received, local officials were surprised that the plan is silent on the issue of milfoil, which is spread by boats and is a significant problem for Ossipee Lake.

In a letter to Fish and Game officials, Ossipee's Select Board said "Since milfoil is spread primarily by boats, we believe that any plan to improve or expand the Pine River Boat Ramp should include a state-funded boat inspection program to prevent milfoil from entering or leaving the lake."

Freedom's Board of Selectmen sent a similar letter, stating "We believe that it should be the responsibility of the agency improving the access to fund this [boat inspection] effort on a continuing basis," noting that the town has spent more than \$130,000 to treat milfoil in the lake and prevent its spread.

The Freedom Board additionally asked Fish and Game to provide "extra resources" for boat inspections during the bass fishing tournaments the agency sponsors. The letter said tournament boats often use the lake's milfoil-infested areas, where their props can dislodge invasive weeds and spread fragments to new areas.

Ossipee Lake Alliance Director Bob Reynolds, who attended one of the public meetings, said there is growing frustration about the continued spread of milfoil and the cost to control it.

He said paying to keep milfoil in check in state-owned waters has largely been left to lake communities like Ossipee and Freedom, which together have spent \$189,000 of town funds on various control methods.

Reynolds said Ossipee Lake Alliance this year commissioned a study to determine how much the state is paying as a percentage of all spending on milfoil control. The study, released in June, showed the state paid just 12% of the total cost of controlling milfoil last year. The study also showed that half of the state's infested lakes have no milfoil control program.

State's Role in Funding

Complicating the issue of funding a milfoil plan at the Pine River ramp is the unusual role the state plays in milfoil prevention.

While the state has for many years managed a milfoil awareness program using print and online media as well as community outreach, the physical task of keeping milfoil out of New

Hampshire lakes, including at state-owned ramps, is the responsibility of private initiatives like the Lake Host program.

The Lake Host program is overseen by the non-profit NH Lakes Association (NHLA), which derives funding for the program from a number of sources that vary annually. In some years those sources have included the Federal government.

In 2011 the Lake Host program was supported by a grant from DES and the Department of Safety as well as by "private donations," according to the organization's website.

Lake Hosts on Ossipee Lake

There has been a Lake Host program at the Pine River ramp since 2002, according to Ossipee Conservation Commission member Jean Hansen. The Ossipee Commission currently manages that program and a second one at the Town of Ossipee's Pequawket Trail boat ramp, which also offers free lake access to boaters.

When the programs are in operation, boaters receive a "courtesy inspection" of their craft when entering or leaving the lake. An NHLA "payroll grant" pays for the inspectors as a match against the Conservation Commission's volunteer time and "in-kind" contributions.

Hansen said the Conservation Commission must apply annually to NHLA for financial assistance to operate the two Lake Host programs and the level of funding is never certain.

In an email exchange with Ossipee Lake Alliance, Fish and Game official Jeff King said he felt the meetings were productive in "bringing forth public concerns and allowing the agency to describe the project."

He said the current design is preliminary and is subject to refinement, adding that it must also go through the state's environmental permitting process.

The Pine River landing, which is located near the junction of Routes 16 and 25 in Center Ossipee, was developed in the 1970s as a commercial business.

After it failed, it was taken over by the state as part of a sweeping plan to increase no-cost access to state lakes for boaters. DRED managed the site for many years, turning it over to NH Fish and Game several years ago.

NH Fish and Game oversees more than 200 boat ramps around the state. To access state park ramps boaters must pay the park entrance fee. All other ramps are open to the public at no-cost.

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MIGRANTS AND DOGWOOD BERRIES

By Dave Eastman

The following article originally appeared in the Conway Daily Sun and is reprinted with permission.

TAMWORTH – As fall progresses, I enjoy watching the whitish berries of the red-osier and silky dogwoods change into their leaden-blue coloring for the season. Sometimes the yearly crop is especially luxuriant and beats the heck out of other wildlife forage shrubs for a very abundant display. These fruits will feed migrating sparrows over the next few weeks, and when the curiously bluish berries are gone, so will be most of the birdlife.

The alternate-leaved dogwood doesn't seem to have as much fruit as past years, however, nor does the small mapleleaf viburnum show much on its erect stalks. If these plants are eaten up early, then the birds might be hungry, indeed. Nannyberry seems to be producing a fine crop along the roadside ditches of Route 25 and lakefront properties, where it craves water. Mountain holly can be colorful with its beautiful crimson fruits, but the lowbush blueberries are gone after a droughty summer here. Rain was late this summer and that affects the soft mast crop just as it does our gardens' production. Neighbors saw me watering with the hose a few times in the dryness.

I always release any viburnum or dogwood when I discover them at forest edges or along a lane, and after a few years of vegetative growth, I am delighted when these small shrubs produce prodigious amounts of their berries for wildlife.

I just have to wait for that first, crisp autumn morning when I will look out my windows and see many white-throated sparrows and dark-eyed juncos feasting on the seeds and berries along the waysides I have created. Migration has arrived.

Chickadees and an occasional white-crowned sparrow will join in with these migrants from our northern woodlands and mountaintops. I scan this crowd with binoculars to determine if there are other species feeding in there with the flocks, but largely it will be the two phases of the white-throated sparrows along with immature juncos among their parent birds that I see. I peer into branches of the trees behind the dry goldenrod seedheads, and shrubs bending over their load of berries, to perhaps discover some bird species that I haven't noticed with the naked eye; always hoping to be surprised.

After this daily checking, I routinely go back to marveling at my shrubs, however. I ponder on the miracle of their ripening fruits correlating with the outbound migration of our birds, now finished with reproductive business, and

leaving our parts for more beneficial regimes. The fruiting shrubs will fuel them as they leave for southern areas of the United States, and provide for them over the winter down there, too.

The red-osier dogwood is a plant found only in wet areas and swampy terrain here. Restricted not only by moisture requirements, it doesn't tolerate high temperatures, either, and needs glaciated soils.

Red-osier dogwood grows from tundra line in Canada down through the Northeast, but it is very spotty below New England to Washington, DC. Other dogwoods such as the silky dogwood commonly take its place in moist areas below NH state line.

Highly adaptable to soil types, these two dogwood shrubs are edge species that grow mostly on river banks, in swampy lowlands, and are great bank stabilizers for erosion control. Often their roots are immersed in water, so these can be wetland indicator species. Many large stemmed clumps occur where the plants are doing well.

Red-osier's Latin name denotes that it reproduces from stems touching the ground, or growing under moist terrain, and shooting up from the roots. Notice the bright red colors on these new stems; that's where its name comes from. Silky dogwood's tend to be browner, and its new shoots have soft, fuzzy hairs.

Both of these dogwood shrubs have strange whitish berries that at first look like an old China doll's eyes—the ones that said "Mama!" when you tilted them back.

These berries that become leaden-gray or light bluish feed a great variety of songbirds, and this is why both are some of the best wildlife forage shrubs around on quiet backwaters or wet meadows.

A companion plant often found in the same locations is the northern arrowwood. This viburnum is named for the stalks on the older plants that were supposedly used as arrow shafts by the Algonquin Indians.

Look for them; they certainly seem straight enough for the purpose. Its name is viburnum dentatum, which speaks of the sharply toothed edges these glossy, veined leaves possess.

In the fall, all of these forage plants can create nice trail borders to walk between while bird watching for southbound travelers.

In addition to writing for the Conway Daily Sun, Dave Eastman broadcasts "Country Ecology" four times weekly on WMWV, 93.5 FM. For consultation, additional information, and to purchase his writings, visit his website at www.countryecology.com.

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Help Take Our Milfoil Control Funding Message to Concord -- See Page 4 to Contribute

