



OSS�PEE LAKE REPORT

Volume 11, Issue 1 • Spring 2012

KEY DATES:

- Friday, June 8 – Saturday, June 9: New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society, UNH, Durham. Info available from Jacquie.Colburn@des.nh.gov or 603-271-2959.
- Saturday, June 16: Ossipee Lake Alliance Annual Lake Representatives Meeting. Public invited. Ossipee Town Hall, Center Ossipee. 9 AM–Noon. Coffee at 8:30. Info at 914-588-3280.

CONTACT US:

OSS�PEE LAKE ALLIANCE
PO Box 173
Freedom, NH 03836

info@ossipeelake.org
Phone: 914-588-3280
www.ossipeelake.org

OSS�PEE LAKE, THE BAYS, THE RIVERS
AND CHANNELS, DANFORTH POND,
LOON LAKE AND ROUND POND

David Smith, Executive Director
Susan Marks, Development Director
Board Members: Howard Bouve, Perry
Fine, Barre Hellquist, Jean Hansen, Bob
Reynolds, Susan Marks, David Smith

THREATS TO OUR LAKES WILL BE THE FOCUS OF ALLIANCE'S ANNUAL LAKE REPS MEETING

OSS�PEE—"Threats to Our Lakes" will be the theme of Ossipee Lake Alliance's annual Lake Representatives Forum on Saturday, June 16, at Ossipee Town Hall. The meeting is open to the public.

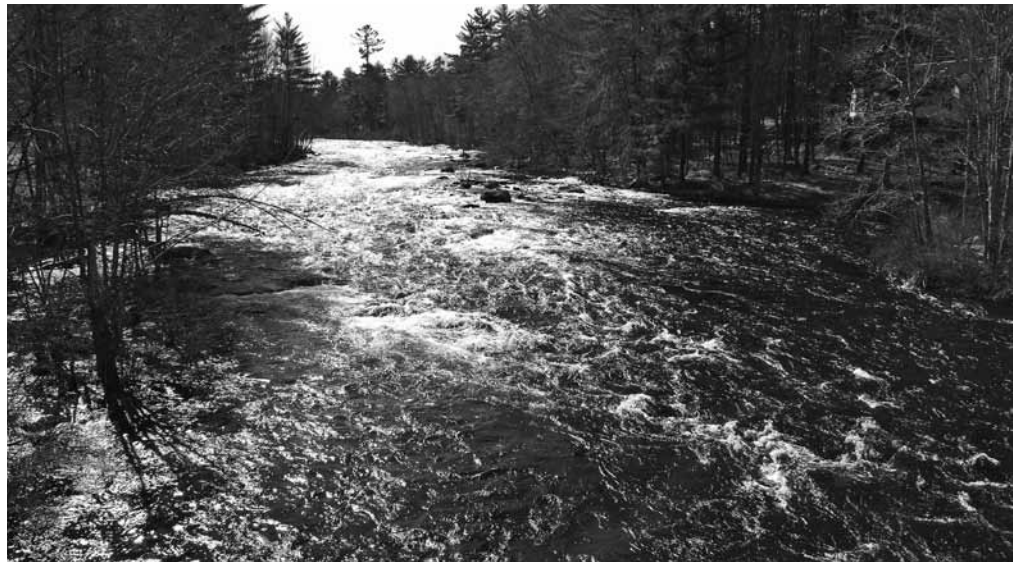
Starting with a coffee reception at 8:30 a.m. and running until Noon, the Forum will feature five speakers covering issues affecting Ossipee Lake and surrounding lakes and ponds as some of the area's most significant economic, recreational, and environmental resources.

John Shipman, Chairman of the Ossipee Watershed Coalition, will start the morning with a presentation on how lake water quality is related to watershed management planning in the multi-town Ossipee Watershed.

Two presentations on milfoil will be given by Bob Reynolds, an Alliance board member who serves on the N.H. Legislature's Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee.

Reynolds will update last year's headline-

Continued on page 3



With little snow to melt, the flow of the Ossipee River was gentler this spring. Unseasonably warm weather in mid-March brought our kayakers, a few daring swimmers, and even a waterskier. Ice-out was declared to be Saturday, March 24 - the earliest such date in 17 years. *Photo: Susan Marks*

ACTIVE AND GROWING: BROAD-LEAVITT BAY ASSOCIATION FOCUSES ON A HEALTHY LAKE

By Larissa Mulkern

[Editor's Note: This is the third article in our series about the property owner associations of the Ossipee Lake area.]

OSS�PEE — Milfoil control, water quality, fire protection and taxes—the list of priorities for the active Broad-Leavitt Bay Association has grown since its inception in the early 1960s. So has its membership.

Currently, the association lists 185 members, up from a low of about 90 members 10 or 15 years ago, according to long-time member

and former President and Vice President, Sheila Jones. Jones has deep roots here in Broad-Leavitt Bay, and enjoys sharing her experiences.

Jones spent her first season on Ossipee Lake during the summer of 1950.

"We lived in tents and cooked on a two-burner Coleman stove," she said, recalling coming to the lake with her parents and her two sisters from the north shore of Massachusetts.

Continued on page 2

BROAD-LEAVITT BAY ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO GROW



Canoeists from Camp Marist on Leavitt Bay. Broad-Leavitt Bay Association membership is open to all shoreline and land-locked property owners on the Ossipee side of Broad Bay and Leavitt Bay.

Continued from page 1

"In the '50s, it was idyllic here. I can't imagine a parent doing anything better for a kid than to be on a lake. It was just wonderful," said Jones in a recent interview.

By the early 1960s changes and development were in the air. So when construction started on a nearby portion of Route 25, Jones' father, Jack Taylor, was among a proactive group of property owners to form the Broad-Leavitt Bay Association.

"My dad was one of the founders. There were a number of people on Leavitt and Broad Bay, a very proactive group. One of their main interests was the quality of the lake," said Jones. Back then, members were concerned with plans to fill a bog and cut trees to make way for a new Route 25, and how the work would impact the lake.

Another priority at the time, in the mid-1960s, was to ensure response if a fire broke out. Most of the roads were dirt. Some were named, others not. It was an association co-founder, Maurice Lee, from Pittsburg, N.H., who championed fire protection efforts.

"They were concerned about fire, so they bought an old fire engine from the town of Pittsburg. Maurice kept it at his house. Everyone knew how to drive it," said Jones. The association assured that the dirt roads were oiled, to keep the dust down.

In recent years milfoil control has become a top priority. Current Association President

Jim Fitzpatrick, who bought property on the lake in 1990, formed a milfoil control committee and was among the members to work on a control plan with the Town of Ossipee's Conservation Commission.

"The quality of the lake is our issue," said Fitzpatrick. Association members urged the town's board of selectmen to appropriate funding to combat milfoil utilizing the herbicide, 2,4-D, which has proven effective in several areas on the bay.

Fitzpatrick said milfoil had spread to Leavitt Bay, but that hand-pulling "wasn't the ticket."

"We treated it with 2, 4-D last spring, about nine acres worth. It was here and there and everywhere. By the time it was treated last June it was very thick," he said.

At the second inspection later in the fall, however, the herbicide had worked.

"It was very effective," he said. This year, the association will work with D.A.S.H.—Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting, whereby a specially outfitted pontoon boat and a team collect milfoil from infested areas.

"Maintenance of the lake is an ongoing thing," said Fitzpatrick.

Association members, including Fitzpatrick and Jones, were also active in helping the state create a plan for Ossipee Lake Natural Area, to protect it from further environmental damage. The plan in effect restricts beach access.

Continued on page 3

OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT:

Writer & Editor: David Smith
Design Services: Design Monsters

Send mailing address changes to
info@ossipeelake.org or PO Box
173, Freedom NH 03836.

Stay current with lake news year-
round by subscribing to Ossipee
Lake News, our free e-mail news
service. Sign up at:
www.ossipeelake.org/e-mail.



The Alliance is a member of the
New Hampshire Lakes Association
(www.nhlakes.org).

LAKE REPS FORUM, NOW PUBLIC, SET FOR JUNE

Continued from page 1

making Alliance study that showed state funding for milfoil control declined to just 12% of total funding in 2010, leaving almost all of the cost in the hands of local lake communities like Freedom and Ossipee.

His new presentation, "Controlling Milfoil and Other Invasive Species: How Are We Going to Pay for It?", will detail state and local milfoil control funding in 2011.

Reynolds, a career environmental professional, will also lead a presentation entitled "2,4-D Aquatic Herbicide: It Kills Milfoil But What Else Does It Hurt?"

The importance of controlling storm water runoff on lakeshore properties will be the focus of "Keeping Phosphorus from Damaging Ossipee Lake," to be presented by Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance program

manager Dustin Johnson.

The Forum will conclude with "Ossipee Lake's Aquatic Plants: Which Ones are Endangered, Invasive, and Native?" led by Alliance board member and retired college professor Barre Hellquist. Hellquist has studied Ossipee Lake's plants for more than 50 years and will have plant specimens to view as examples.

This year's event marks the first time the Lake Representatives Forum has been open to the public. Created as a way for representatives of the lake's numerous property owner associations to help set Ossipee Lake Alliance's work agenda, the biennial meeting grew to become annual and then to become a public forum.

"We had so many calls last year that we decided it was time to make it an open forum," said Susan Marks, the Alliance's director of programs, who added that all local property owners are invited, not just lake residents.

ALLIANCE OFFICIALS AT NALMS CONFERENCE

DURHAM—Two Ossipee Lake Alliance officials will be among the presenters at the 2012 annual meeting of the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC NALMS) at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, June 8-9.

Five workshops will be offered on Friday the 8th, including one on "Managing Storm Water Runoff" by UNH's Jeff Schloss, and one on "Aquatic Plant Identification" by Alliance director Barre Hellquist.

On the same day, an "Exotic Species Forum" by members of the milfoil study committee

enacted by the N.H. Legislature will feature Alliance director Bob Reynolds. Reynolds will also participate in "Costs of Lake Management," one of a full day of concurrent technical sessions on Saturday, June 9.

Topics at the event will include lake and watershed management, climate change, algae and cyanobacteria, GIS mapping, and many more.

Registration is open to the public, and more information can be found through the interactive site at https://www.events.unh.edu/RegistrationForm.pm?event_id=10024.

A HEALTHY LAKE IS TOP PRIORITY FOR THE BROAD-LEAVITT BAY ASSOCIATION

Continued from page 2

Rising property taxes on lakefront properties are a top priority this season, as the association is currently involved in a lawsuit against the Town of Ossipee over property assessments.

"We have an effort regarding the amount of taxes we pay—the tax rates were lowered in Ossipee Village, but not in Center Ossipee. And every abatement request we filed was denied by the selectmen," said Jones. The outcome of this litigation is pending.

"Half of the town's tax base is generated by

lakefront property," said Fitzpatrick.

In the meantime, while the parties await the outcome of litigation, the association continues its work to grow membership and protect the lake.

Most recently, the association seeks to expand its geographic membership area to include residents of Remle Road. The annual meeting of the Broad-Leavitt Bay Association will be held on the last Saturday in July, the 28th.

UNDERWRITING SUPPORT FOR THIS
ISSUE COMES FROM:



THE LAKE REALTY SPECIALISTS
(603) 539-3200
4sale@worldpath.net
www.ossipeelakere.com

A HIKER EXPLORES THE UNIQUE OSSIPEE PINE BARRENS

By Ed Parsons

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

FREEDOM — Pine Barrens have been around a long time. When my friend and I took a walk this week in The Nature Conservancy's 2,800 acre Ossipee Pine Barrens Preserve, we could feel that.

Walking away from the highway along the 1.3 mile Pine Barrens Loop, which began off Route 41 in Madison, we could see a few hundred yards all around us beneath the green upper bows of the uniform pitch pine forest. We couldn't remember any other forest type where you easily see so far.

Closer, the base of every pitch pine trunk was scorched black from a recent controlled burn, a modern way to recreate naturally occurring ground fires that this unique forest needs to control invading tree species like white pine, and to open the pitch pine's fire friendly cones.

Surrounding the trail on the forest floor was a tangle of three foot scrub oaks with brown crinkled leaves that would soon fall off.

"Wouldn't want to do much bushwhacking here," I noted.

We knew we were in an ancient setting. It's well known that the sandy soil in these pine barrens was deposited as a deep sandy outwash when the last glacier receded. The sands beneath the Ossipee Pine Barrens were later located on the bottom of a big post-glacial lake that included both Silver Lake and Ossipee Lake.

Today, the sand there is 240 feet deep in places. The soil is nutrient poor, yet pitch pine and scrub oak thrive there, as well as other plants such as sweet fern and low bush blueberries. Threatened wildlife found there includes the whip-poor-will, common nighthawk, eastern towhee, and a couple dozen endangered moths and butterflies.

One reason these are threatened is because pine barrens have rapidly disappeared. Their location, gentle terrain and dry soil lend them to development. The Ossipee pine barrens are the last "intact" example of a pitch pine/scrub

oak woodland in New Hampshire. But what was once 6,000 acres of pine barrens there is down to 2,000 acres, and only half of the Nature Conservancy's 2,800 acre Ossipee Pine Barrens preserve is actual pine barren.

Development interests have sometimes scoffed at the natural value of pine barrens, claiming they are only a recent forest, having grown after intensive logging.

But Jeff Lougee of the Nature Conservancy knows better. He has been involved in an ongoing study of the endangered moths that hold out in the pine barrens.

"There are 18 endangered species of moth found in the Ossipee Pine Barrens. They have evolved in this kind of setting, and are one of the strongest indicators that pine barrens have been around a long time."

The Moth Inventory

Lougee was involved in March's well-publicized beginning of a moth inventory at the preserve, using "sugar bait" patches to attract them. [See note at the end of this article]. The bait is a mix of bananas and a local brew, Tuckerman's Ale. Beginning during March's heat wave, moths were found to be plentiful. When the bait line was walked, most bait patches had three or four moths on them, and one had 20 moths. This inventory is ongoing through the summer.

One state threatened species they have collected so far is the Pine Pinion Moth. It was also found there in 2003. But it is important to note that, other than these recent local captures, it has not been collected anywhere in the country in the last 75 to 100 years.

Live specimens of the Pine Pinion Moth have been sent to a scientist in New Jersey, who will try to get them to reproduce, and then try to get them to produce multiple generations. The moth will also be described in detail, and a DNA analysis done.

The Nature Conservancy has often used endangered plants and animals to justify preserving a piece of land, but another thing going for the Ossipee Pine Barrens is that it is located above the largest "stratified drift" aquifer in the state, that provides water for

Continued on page 7



Cecropia Moth

OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR LOONS, THE COMMON MERGANSER IS A FAMILIAR PRESENCE

By David Eastman

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

TAMWORTH—Common mergansers are sociable birds found swimming on lakes and rivers throughout the Northern Hemisphere. They are divers and fish eaters in our northeastern wilds, and have the widest distribution of all mergansers.

The unmistakable males show up on our ponds and small lakes in April after ice-out, but are so conspicuous that some mistake them for early common loons returning. Those guys have yet to come in from the Atlantic coast at that time, in order to reclaim their breeding territories on New Hampshire's lakes, but will soon enough.

It is the black and white coloring of the big common mergansers drakes' plumage at a distance that confuses the onlooker. The male birds' long, narrow bill with its serrated edges readily distinguishes mergansers from all other ducks. This pointed, thin bill is bright carmine red with a blackish culmen and nail.

Common mergansers are among the largest ducks, and have been called "Goosanders." Sawbill is another moniker as this bird's hooked upper bill with sharp saw-like edges helps hold onto slippery fish. Less stocky than eiders and goldeneyes in flight, the slender drakes appear more elongated than other waterfowl, flying in trailing lines close to the water's surface.

Male common mergansers have a glossy, greenish-black crested head and upper neck. The lower neck, breast and underparts are creamy-white with a variable pink wash. They have black backs and upperwing coverts with white scapulars. The legs and feet are a deep red.

Female common mergansers have a tufted rufous, red-brown head that is clearly defined from the lower neck by a clear whitish chin. The back and sides are "Quaker lady" silver-gray and the breast and belly are white.

This is a diving duck that strongly prefers freshwater, where it can be found on a variety of habitats. It forages by diving below the wa-

ter's surface and swimming underwater, propelled by its webbed feet. Mergansers require fish in their diet. They can sometimes be seen swimming on the surface, curiously peering under it with their heads partially submerged, and then diving after prey underwater whenever it is spotted.

That is very interesting when they do it as a group, cruising around our NH ponds with the intense purpose of a flotilla. The mergansers' diet is mostly fish, but also crustaceans, amphibians, aquatic insects, and occasionally aquatic plants. Typical dives last about 30 seconds and can go 6 to 15 feet below water.

Mating pairs form in late winter. The common



merganser usually nests in tree cavities, either made by large woodpeckers or created where a limb broke off. It will also use a nest box constructed a bit bigger than for a wood duck.

Infrequently a common merganser might make its nest in a rock crevice lined

with down, a hole in the ground, a hollow log, in an old building, or even in a chimney.

Common merganser hens begin laying eggs about 2 weeks after arrival, and she will incubate them for 28 to 32 days. Females select the nest site and often return to the same one used in previous years. Many times in the far north, there are no cavities of the size demanded by a common merganser pair. The species measures 21 to 27 inches in length.

Young common mergansers leave their nest hole within a day or so of hatching. The mother protects the 7-14 chicks, but she does not feed them. They dive to catch all of their own food. They eat mostly aquatic insects at first, but switch over to fish when they are about 12 days old. Eventually, frogs and salamanders can be eaten as they grow up, along with crustaceans, shellfish, and mollusks.

We will see the little family of the hen merganser and her similarly plumaged chicks throughout the summer months. Maybe out in the middle of a lake or running up on a river's rocks, in a rapid pitter-patter of little feet.

We might see the drakes zooming up the same river, just barely passing over a bridge to con-

Continued on page 7

WHY DO MOTHS LIKE BEER? THE OSSIPEE PINE BARRENS HOLDS SOME ANSWERS

Continued from page 5

Freedom, Madison, Ossipee and Effingham. The adjacent Freedom Town Forest also helps protect the water quality in this aquifer.

My friend and I arrived at the Route 41 entrance to the pine barrens on a chilly and windy day after the heat wave. Spoiled from the heat, I wore a down jacket to ward off the cold. From the kiosk in the parking lot, we took the right hand fork of the 1.3 mile Pine Barrens Loop, and soon were in the forest proper.

I had visited the pine barrens once before, long ago, though didn't go very far into it. The trail system had not been developed as much as it is today, and in a short distance it felt like I had seen it all.

But this time, my friend's appreciation for the natural world helped open my eyes, and I saw the unique quality of the uniform forest as we left the road behind.

I noticed that the dead pitch pine that were still standing were scarred by fire their entire length. Engulfed by flames during a ground fire (now controlled), they fall to the ground quickly and are therefore more useful for nutrition in the nutrient poor soil.

We hit a power line, and walked north up it to the next trail junction, where the Pine Barrens Loop turned left back to our car, and a short spur to the West Branch Trail headed into the woods on the right.

The West Branch of the Ossipee River winds south through the pine barrens from the southern outlet on Silver Lake, eventually emptying into Ossipee Lake. The 3.2 mile West Branch Trail follows it south, beginning across the road from the Silver Lake boat launch on East

Shore Drive. The trail eventually comes out near Camp Calumet on Ossipee Lake.

From the junction, we turned right a short way and soon reached the river bank. On that cold day, the water was too high and chilly to cross to reach the West Branch Trail on the other side, so we lingered on the riverside a while before turning back to our loop hike.

We watched its steady, hypnotic flow through this unique forest. I have always enjoyed a landscape more when a river runs through it.

So, Do Moths Like Beer?

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Jeff Lougee about using beer to attract moths during the March inventory. Ben Leubsdorf was the reporter for the Concord Monitor.

Q: How does using sugar bait help you count the moths? A: The sugar bait is specifically for moths that fly in the spring and fall, and there are several of the rare species that are part of that list of 18 that come to the sugar bait but they don't come to the blacklight traps, which are a common way to trap moths. It doesn't give us an accurate count. It really just tells us, the only thing we can gauge is... are these critters here, or are they not. Q: Tuckerman is providing the ale. How did that happen? A: "Well, Jim O'Brien, who's our director of external affairs...a light bulb went on when I was talking to him about this. And he said, let's call one of the local breweries." Q: Do the moths have any ill effects from the beer mixture? I mean, do they get drunk? A: "I'm not sure. It's possible. Most of their life is while they're caterpillars or pupae and when they eventually enclose and become a functioning adult, they only live for a couple weeks."

LAKE AREA'S COMMON MERGANSERS

Continued from page 6

tinue their way up a riverine corridor. And any of these ducklings can easily float downriver in fast currents with their mother. They look like champion kayakers then. Even in the shallowest rushing waters, they extend their heads underwater, avidly peering for finny prey.

The birds are extremely nonchalant in this pursuit. Both chicks and mom seem to know a river's riffles by heart as they head downstream, easily missing the rocks they flow between.

I have even seen a duckling brood cruise down through the rapids backwards, facing

upstream with immersed heads looking at the bottom below.

I especially like it whenever I see the little family group scamper up ledges and rocks during white water moments to get to waters above, adequately handling New Hampshire's demanding environment.

David Eastman also broadcasts "Country Ecology" four times weekly over WMWV 93.5 FM. As Vice President of the Lakes Region Chapter/ASNH, he welcomes you to monthly programs at the Loon Center in Moultonborough. He is available at: cebirdman@hotmail.com or www.countryecology.com for consultation.



OSS�PEE LAKE ALLIANCE
PO BOX 173
FREEDOM, NH 03836

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NORTH CONWAY, NH
PERMIT NO. 160

OSS�PEE LAKE REPORT: SPRING 2012



INSIDE:

- Lake Reps Meeting Set for June
- Broad Leavitt Bay Association
- The Lake's Common Mergansers
- Do Moths Like Beer?
- Alliance at NALMS



Preserve. Protect. Educate.

