



## KEY DATES:

- Saturday, June 21: "Landscaping at the Water's Edge." Calumet Conference Center, Freedom. Breakfast 8:30, presentation at 9 AM. Free. Info @ 914-588-3280.
- Saturday, August 9: "Big Birds," with Eric Masterson. A Tales of Ossipee Lake presentation for Freedom Old Home Week. Calumet Conference Center, Freedom. 8 PM. Free. Info @ 914-588-3280.

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OSSIPEE LAKE, THE BAYS, THE RIVERS  
AND CHANNELS, DANFORTH POND,  
LOON LAKE AND ROUND POND

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Susan Marks, Development Director  
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Susan Marks

# OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT

Volume 7, Issue 2 • Spring – Summer 2007

## ALLIANCE MARKS FIVE FOR FIVE

**FREEDOM** — Ossipee Lake Alliance is marking its fifth anniversary this summer with continued efforts to involve more people in charting the lake's future.

On Saturday June 21 the group will sponsor a presentation by lake landscaping expert Jeff Schloss, co-author of the book "Landscaping at the Water's Edge," which details ways to spruce up lakeside areas without harming the environment.

The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will be held at Calumet Conference Center in Freedom at 9 AM, with a light breakfast served at 8:30. Co-sponsors of the event are Ossipee Conservation Com-

mission and Green Mountain Conservation Group, and copies of Schloss' book will be available for purchase.

For its annual fund-raising campaign, the Alliance has created the theme "5 for 5" to reflect the group's achievement of five major goals in five years, according to executive director David Smith.

"Through our website, newsletters and email news service we have become the foremost source of news and information about Ossipee Lake," he said, adding that the group's services reach the lake community, state and local officials and regional media.

*Continued on page 3*



The Alliance's Susan Marks and Ward's Boat Shop owner Barry Rollins, center, present Ossipee officials with checks supporting the Lake Host program. Story on page 3. Larissa Mulkern

## DEEP, DEEPER AND DEEPEST

**FREEDOM** — If you're a boater you know where the lake's shallow areas are – probably based on the painful experience of a damaged prop.

But do you know where the deepest spots are and which part of the lake has the deepest average depth? Even if you've plied the waters of the lake and bays for years, the answers might surprise you.

You can find them in a series of maps published by the N.H. Fish & Game Department that are posted on their website and, now, on ours at [www.ossipeelake.org/deepsots](http://www.ossipeelake.org/deepsots).

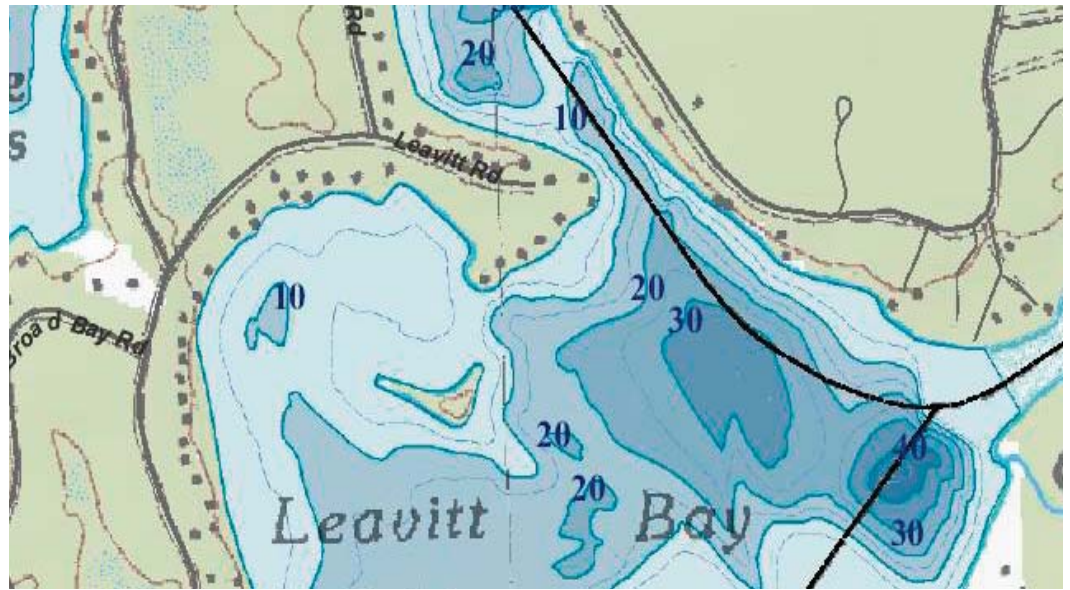
The conventional wisdom is that the big lake is shallow because so much of the water around the perimeter is less than 10 feet deep, including popular gathering places at the Bearcamp River and Long Sands. But that impression is wrong.

In fact the big lake actually has the highest average depth of any part of the lake system. At an average depth of 28 feet it beats Broad Bay by a nose – or actually by a foot. So much for conventional wisdom.

In comparison, the average depth of upper Danforth Pond (confusingly labeled Middle

*Continued on page 2*

## LOOKING FOR DEEP SPOTS? MAPS CAN HELP



**Leavitt Bay is the focus of one of 400 bathymetric maps produced by the state. The maps for Ossipee Lake and vicinity are now posted on the Alliance's website. Map: N.H. Fish & Game**

*Continued from page 1*

Danforth on the State map) is 15 feet and in Berry Bay it's 12 feet.

The part of the lake with the lowest average depth is Leavitt Bay, at 11 feet. Not that you would call Leavitt Bay shallow, however, especially since its deep spot, located in front of Camp Marist near the channel to Berry Bay, is 42 feet.

### **Bathymetry**

Creating maps that measure the depth and contour of lakes, called bathymetry, is part of an ongoing process at Fish & Game that has resulted in more than 400 maps to date.

The information, which is gathered by a N.H. Department of Environmental Services survey crew, is important for the water quality tests the Alliance and other area groups conduct annually; a process that requires collecting samples from the lake's deepest spots.

For years, water quality monitors relied on word of mouth from previous monitors and fishermen on how to find the deep spots.

The state's maps, which also list each lake's fish species, make finding the deep spots easier - but you don't have to be a water quality monitor to enjoy looking at them.

### **How Deep?**

Out on the big lake, when you get away from the shallow perimeter the water drops off rapidly. At a point almost directly in the middle of the lake you can dive to a depth of 61 feet.

Broad Bay, however, is deeper still. Its deep spot is in precisely in the center of the bay, southwest of the northern end of Bay Point Road. At that location you can plunge to a depth of 73 feet.

What will you find at the bottom? Other than frigid water, there's no telling. From Deer Cove to Huckins Pond to Ossipee River, Broad Bay's deep spot is the lake's deepest.

But perhaps not so deep statewide. Putting our lake in perspective is the state's fifth largest body of water, Newfound Lake, located in the Hebron-Bristol area.

In Newfound Lake, 73 feet is the *average* depth of the water. Its deep spot is 182 feet below the surface, making it one of the deepest deep spots in the state.

### **How Big?**

The State's maps also calculate the size of lakes and ponds, and here again there are a few surprises for those who think they know the facts.

If you consider Freedom's Loon Lake to be small, think again. At 188 acres it's bigger than Leavitt Bay (176 acres) and Berry Bay (145 acres). On the other hand, you can fit two Loon Lakes into Broad Bay, whose 464 acres of water make it the lake's second largest body of water.

The largest lake? Ossipee Lake proper, of course, with 3,249 acres of water according to the map. It's the big lake indeed.

### **OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT:**

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## ALLIANCE PROGRAMS MARK FIVE YEARS

*Continued from page 1*

"If it affects the lake, you'll hear about it from us first," Smith said, "thanks to the hundreds of financial contributors and volunteers who have helped make the Alliance a success."

Smith also pointed to the work of the lake's boat ramp owners, whose participation in the Alliance's milfoil boater education program has prevented a new infestation of invasive weeds since the initiative began three years ago.

This summer Alliance members will be working on a comprehensive lake management plan, a new State requirement for obtaining milfoil removal funds, according to the group's co-founder Susan Marks.

"The availability of state funds for milfoil removal is hit or miss, but if there is money

available it's our job to get some of it for our lake," Marks said.

She and Smith also cited the Lake Representatives Forum as one of the group's most important accomplishments. The forum includes businesses and property owner groups from all parts of the lake and is held every two years.

The Alliance recently announced it is looking for a volunteer to become the group's Wildlife Coordinator. The Coordinator will be responsible for gathering and writing news about wildlife in the area, on and off the lake, for the Alliance's website and newsletter.

"Think of it as a Smart Report on wildlife," Smith said, referring to Bob Smart's popular Alliance reports on lake life. Those interested in the Wildlife Coordinator role should contact the group by sending an email to [info@ossiipelake.org](mailto:info@ossiipelake.org).

## ALLIANCE AND WARD'S SUPPORT LAKE HOSTS

**OSSIPEE** — The Lake Host program will return to Ossipee's public boat ramp on Pequawket Trail for a third year thanks to matching funds from Ossipee Lake Alliance and Ward's Boat Shop in Center Ossipee.

The Lake Host program increases boater awareness of milfoil and other destructive plants by offering on-site boater education and boat and trailer inspections on Memorial Day weekend and weekends from July 4 through Labor Day.

The cost to implement the program in 2008 - estimated at \$5,375 for this location - will be supported by a \$2,500 NH Lakes Association grant. Ossipee Lake Alliance and Ward's Boat Shop of Center Ossipee each donated \$450, and additional funding will come from the Town of Ossipee.

The funds cover the fee for the program supervisor and other program expenses. UNH stu-

dent Nick Paquette will return as supervisor of the program under the direction of Jean Hansen and Warren Walker of the Ossipee Conservation Commission.

Mature high school and college students will be hired to work at the Ossipee ramp. During the week boaters will complete a voluntary sign-in process at the town information kiosk at the Pequawket Trail site.

In 2008, more than 250 Lake Hosts will staff 82 public access ramps on 66 New Hampshire Lakes and Ponds to educate boaters about exotic invasive plants. You can help by remembering to inspect your boat and trailer every time you enter or leave a lake or pond.

For more information or to contribute, call Jean Hansen at (603) 986-6646. Students interested in applying to become a Lake Host should call the same number.

## THIS SUMMER, GO FISH

**FREEDOM** — You've spent a lot of time watching fishermen drift slowly past your dock in a boat with a line in the water. Why not make this the year you join them?

Start with a license, required for anyone between 16 to 68 years old. Residents pay \$35, non-residents pay \$55, and the whole transaction can be done online at [www.fishnh.com](http://www.fishnh.com).

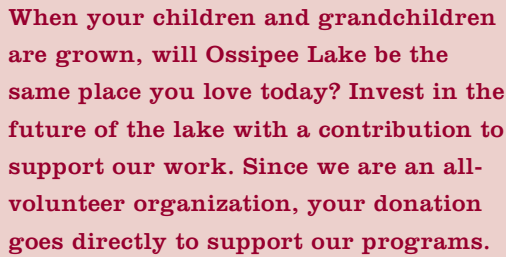
The big lake and bays are on the state's list of recommended sites for landlocked salmon, an ocean fish that became trapped in inland lakes years ago and is now stocked around the area. In summer they're usually found 40 feet below

the surface, where it's cold. The N.H. Fish & Game website has instructions on how to catch them along with other useful information including 'catch and release' guidance and weekly fishing reports.



You can also find brook and rainbow trout in the big lake and bays, along with bass in large mouth and small mouth varieties. Danforth Pond is known for bass, yellow perch and pickerel, and Loon Lake has trout, bass and horned pout.

Still need help? The Fish & Game site can direct you to one of the two state-licensed fishing guides in our area.



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Ossipee Lake Alliance is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit New Hampshire corporation.



Through our website, newsletters and email news reports we have you covered for state and local news affecting your lake investment. Whether it's water quality, new legislation or a flood, you'll hear about it first from us.

Keeping milfoil out of the lake is the goal of our Exotic Species Program, a partnership with the owners of more than 30 public and private boat ramps. Since the program began three years ago, there hasn't been a new infestation on the lake.

Who decides what the Alliance's priorities should be this year – or next year or for the years to come? Our Lake Reps, the individuals who represent the lake's businesses and property owners at our semi-annual meeting. From Berry Bay to Danforth Pond to Deer Cove, every part of the lake now has a voice.

Thanks to our efforts, State officials are working with the lake community to protect our unique natural and wildlife resources. Most especially that includes balancing preservation and recreation at historic Ossipee Lake Natural Area, an effort that has gained support from around the region.

No one knew what milfoil was when it entered the lake more than a decade ago, but everyone now knows how expensive it is to control. We helped establish the first town funds to pay for invasive weed control, and each year we work with State officials to ensure that when milfoil control money is available, Ossipee Lake is on the list.

**WITH YOUR HELP, WE'RE 5 FOR 5!**



**Campers at Camp Wakuta on Shawtown Pond, the boys camp founded and operated by teacher and pastor George Davidson. The camp operated from 1951 to 1967. Photo courtesy of Rick Davidson**

## A HISTORY OF CAMP WAKUTA, FREEDOM NH

**By George T. Davidson, Jr.**

*This article, part of our series on the history of the lake and its surroundings, was written in 1987 and is courtesy of the Freedom Historical Society.*

The thought that some day I might start a boys camp somewhere in New Hampshire was born in the summer of 1942, as I prepared to enter the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

I had just completed three great years as a teacher-coach at Kennett High School in Conway, and I was leaving the school for military service, uncertain what the future held in store for me, wondering if I would be able to return to Conway after the War, or if I would return to Winchester High School as a teacher-coach.

Mr. Quinn, the Winchester Supt. of Schools at the time, had suggested that I get in touch with him upon my return from military service, and this I planned to do.

Since 1930, I had been attending Camp Toltecs in Weston, Conn., first as a camper and then as a counselor, culminating in the position of head counselor in the summer of 1941.

This camp usually spent at least two weeks each summer at Camp Tecumseh on Moultonboro Neck, and as a result of my summer experiences here in the state of New Hampshire I must admit that I fell in love with the state and all of its beauty, and I was determined that I would like to live in New Hampshire, and to settle in the state permanently if it could possibly be worked out.

During my senior year at Bowdoin, while working in the college office, I let Dean Paul Nixon know that I would love to have a position as a teacher-coach in either Maine, New Hampshire, or Vermont.

As it turned out, I was offered positions at Ver-

mont Academy in Vermont and Edward Little High School in Auburn, Maine, but after a year at graduate school in Columbia University, I accepted the offer of Supt. John Fuller in the Conway Schools to come to Kennett in the fall of 1939.

By the summer of 1942, war with Japan and Germany was a reality, and like most young men in America, I joined the armed forces of my country, not knowing what the future held in store for me, not knowing whether or not I would be one of the fortunate ones to survive the war.

I took my basic training in the U. S. Army Air Corps in Miami Beach, Florida, and after serving for a few months as a Staff Sergeant stationed at Gulfport Air Base, Gulfport, Miss., I returned in January of 1943 to Miami Beach and attended Officer Candidate School of the Air Corps, graduating with a commission as a 2nd Lt.

During the next two years I was stationed at Gulfport again, and at Truax Air Base in Madison, Wisconsin, finally arriving overseas as the war was winding down in Tinian in the Marianas in the late summer of 1946.

In the fall of 1944, Sept. 30th to be exact, in Conway, N.H., I was married to Frances Ray of Auburn, Maine, a graduate of Bates College, who was head of the English Dept. at Kennett. Fran joined me at Truax Field in Wisconsin until I was transferred overseas.

The war ended on Sept. 2nd, 1945 with the surrender of the Japanese in Tokyo Bay, but I was destined to remain on Tinian throughout the winter of 1945-46. It was during this tour of duty on Tinian that I dreamed of building a boys camp in New Hampshire.

*Continued on page 7*

## GREAT TO LOOK AT FROM THE LAKE, EVEN BETTER TO HIKE

By Ed Parsons

*Courtesy of the Conway Daily Sun*

**TUFTONBORO** — Mount Shaw, 2,990 feet, is the highest mountain in the circular Ossipee Range. For many years, the rustic 3.5 mile Mount Shaw Trail has been ascended by hikers from Route 171 in Tuftonboro.

In 2002, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) purchased 5,500 acres of the Castle in the Clouds and environs, including the summit and western flank of Mount Shaw, and the nearby lower summit known as Bald Knob.

Trails to these peaks have remained rustic. There is no trail sign at the bottom of either, yet the trailheads are easily found, and the trails are popular and fairly easy to follow. Last Saturday, I took an afternoon hike up the Mount Shaw Trail for the first time.

I had climbed the mountain many times before from the east, from the center of the Ossipee Range, either on the snowmobile trail or a scratchy bushwhack from the southeast.

I was aware of the well-made old roads on the western flank, made early in the last century for the Plant estate, later to become Castle in the Clouds. On the summit itself, one of these grassy roads from the west loops around dense stunted spruce, and offers fantastic views into the heart of the White Mountains.

It can be a nice situation when a summit is owned by a conservation trust. A little selective clearing of encroaching spruce has allowed them to open up the pre-existing summit views, making them outstanding. Also, temporary trail signs have been placed at many trail junctions high on the mountain. These not only offer all trail options, but interesting descriptions as well.

On Saturday I arrived after midday at the trailhead for Mount Shaw. To get there from Conway, I drove south to West Ossipee and took a right on Route 25. In Moultonboro, across from the airport (where there is a sign for scenic flights), I took a left on Route 109.

When that route veered to the right, I went straight on Route 171, and in 3.9 miles from

that junction, just after Sodom Road on the right, I parked at the trail parking lot on the left. There were a few cars there - hikers who had started at a more reasonable hour for an eight-mile hike. But I was looking forward to descending in the slanting evening light of a beautiful spring day.

The lower trail soon joined the shady Field Brook. This lower section is on private property, but hikers have always been welcome to cross it. There are red paint marks on trees, but care must still be taken not to divert on the wrong side-road. If a choice presents itself, stick to the brook. You pass some striking waterfalls, and soon cross into LRCT land. The



road becomes a rocky, steep trail, as you wind your way up the side of Mount Shaw.

Descending hikers passed me, and I had the mountain to myself. In 2.5 miles, I intersected with

an old carriage road and took a right on it.

Not all the roads on Mount Shaw were built by Plant. Way back in the 1880s and '90s, another Massachusetts industrialist named B.F. Shaw also built some roads in the Ossipee Range. It would be interesting to find out which ones.

Hiking up the grassy road was relaxing after the steep trail. In 2.7 miles, I took a short side road to the right, three tenths of a mile out to an overlook knob called Black Snout that had a great view of Lake Winnepesaukee.

One could imagine 100 years ago or so, taking an evening carriage ride out the smooth grassy road, and winding up Black Snout to the lookout. Soon I was back on the main road to the summit of Shaw and reached it in another eight tenths of a mile. The wide view spread from the western Whites around to the north, and finally to the rocky summit of the lowly Mount Canaan, just below Mount Shaw to the south. I sat and ate a late lunch.

The hike down in the late afternoon light was the best part. Almost to my car, the low sun backlit the pastel leaves of spring, and Field Brook murmured its approval.

*This article originally appeared in the Conway Daily Sun in May 2006. Columnist Ed Parsons can be reached at mtsanddrivers@yahoo.com.*

## GEORGE DAVIDSON REMEMBERS CAMP WAKUTA

*Continued from previous page*

Mr. Ellis W. McKeen, who was serving as Principal of Kennett High School in Conway, wrote to me in the winter of 1945-46 and asked if I would like to return to Kennett as school principal as soon as I was able to get back home.

Mr. McKeen who was principal of Kennett since the fall of 1923, the year the school started, was interested in relinquishing his duties as school principal, and he was thoughtful enough to offer the position to me, if the Conway School Board agreed.

Mr. McKeen had hoped to remain at Kennett as a math teacher, but much to my dismay the Conway School Board did not agree. Mr. McKeen had been an extremely popular headmaster for 24 years, and the Board felt that his presence in the school might hinder me, as I began my responsibilities.

I did not agree with this, but the Board had the last say, and that was the way it worked out. I am sorry that it did because I feel that Mr. McKeen would have liked to have remained at Kennett. Instead, he taught for a few years at Bartlett High School and later became a member of the Conway School Board.

I worked as Vice-Principal at Kennett during the year, 1946-47, taught history, and coached in football, basketball, and baseball, being head coach of baseball, and assistant coach in football and basketball, working with my good friend, Karl Seidenstuecker.

In the fall of 1947, I assumed my duties as Principal of Kennett and remained at this post until June of 1957, a term of ten years as school principal.

One of the requirements that I had to meet was to secure my Master's degree in school administration, which meant that during the next four summers of 1946-1949 I was a student at Boston University School of Education, and thus starting my boy's camp had to be delayed.

However, finally, in the summer of 1951, I made my move to start my boys camp and I purchased a secondhand stake body truck from Frunzi Chevrolet in Conway, and Conway Boys Day Camp came into being.

That summer, and again in the summer of 1952, I had a six-week day camp operation, Mondays through Fridays, with a varied program of athletics, water sports, hiking, and camping being featured.

We played some of the area camps in baseball and other sports, and we did considerable hiking in the mountains, as well as trips into

Maine and Vermont to visit colleges. Nineteen boys were enrolled during that first season, with twenty-one boys comprising the group in 1952.

Richard "PeeWee" French, who was featured in the U.S. Dept. of State film, "Conway Boy," was my assistant that first year, and Bob Evans and Gene Moore were my assistants the second year.

Bob was a graduate of Dartmouth College and teaching-principal at the Center Conway Elementary School, and Gene was a student-athlete at Kennett.

During the first two years of day camp, I was constantly on the look out for a place to permanently locate an overnight camp, but most of the places I was interested in were either not available or the cost of purchasing the properties was just out of reach of my pocketbook.

However, one Saturday night as Fran and I were serving as chaperones at a Kennett Junior Prom, I was talking with Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kimball of Center Ossipee, who were also chaperones. I explained my problem in trying to locate a spot to build my boys' camp.

About a week after this conversation, the Kimballs asked me to meet them at White's Garage in West Ossipee, telling me that they knew a place in Freedom that might be the right spot for my camp.

I hastened to meet them as soon as I had finished church on that Sunday, and they brought me to Shawtown Pond in Freedom, and introduced me to Uncle Burt Huckins who was the owner of over 100 acres surrounding Shawtown Pond, and also involving about a mile of waterfront on nearby Danforth Pond.

I roamed over the wooded area and tried to visualize the camp as I hoped it could be. There was a small cabin on the south shore, but nothing else.

I could see the cabins on the hill where they now stand, the Lodge where it is, and the athletic areas where they now stand. It seemed too good to be true!

Burt Huckins included the shore frontage on Danforth Pond, and this allowed me to sell shore lots there, and thus to eventually pay-off the purchase price and to help build my own camp.

NEXT: In the next issue, Davidson's vision of Camp Wakuta comes to life.

*George Davidson was a teacher, coach, camp operator, sports broadcaster and pastor. He lived in Freedom and died in 2001.*

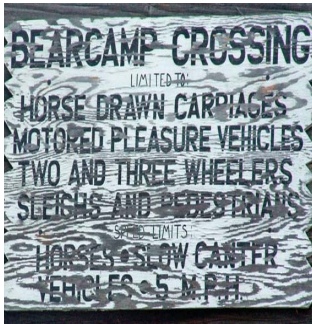
**"The Kimballs asked me to meet them at White's Garage...telling me they knew a place in Freedom that might be the right spot for my camp."**



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**Preserve. Protect. Educate.**

