

# Sabbathday Lake News

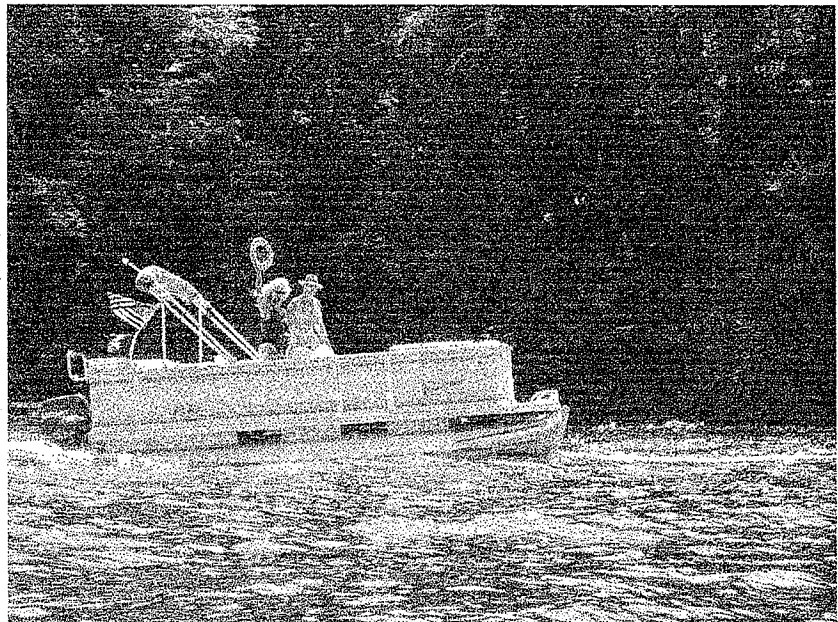
November 2004

## In My View

Mike Cloutier, President  
Sabbathday Lake Association

Greetings from the Sabbathday Lake Association. This summer's weather proved to be a challenge during the early part of season, however it finished up nicely. As usual September and October have been beautiful on the lake this year. We had two interesting association meetings this year. One dealt with the growing problem of invasive fish (see additional story by Ellie Fellers) and the other dealt with the water quality testing and their results at Sabbathday Lake. Scott Williams did his usual masterful job of explaining the complexity of monitoring water at the lake in a fashion that we could all understand. Based on his evaluation the lake is holding its own. Indicators showed improvements in some areas and declines in others. These are long term testing procedures and need to be continued. At least it indicates that our actions to stop non-point source pollution and surface water run off have been helping. Bottom line, we should all be looking for opportunities around our properties to prevent

# 2004 BOAT PARADE



**Jennifer and Carl enjoying the sun, wind and summer in the Second Annual Boat Parade**

photo by Paula Gauthier

both of these occurrences. If you like to learn more about ways to protect our precious lakes, check out this web site, [www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org](http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org). It's full of great information.

Our Association meetings are a great place to keep abreast of lake related issues and they are a wonderful way to see old friends

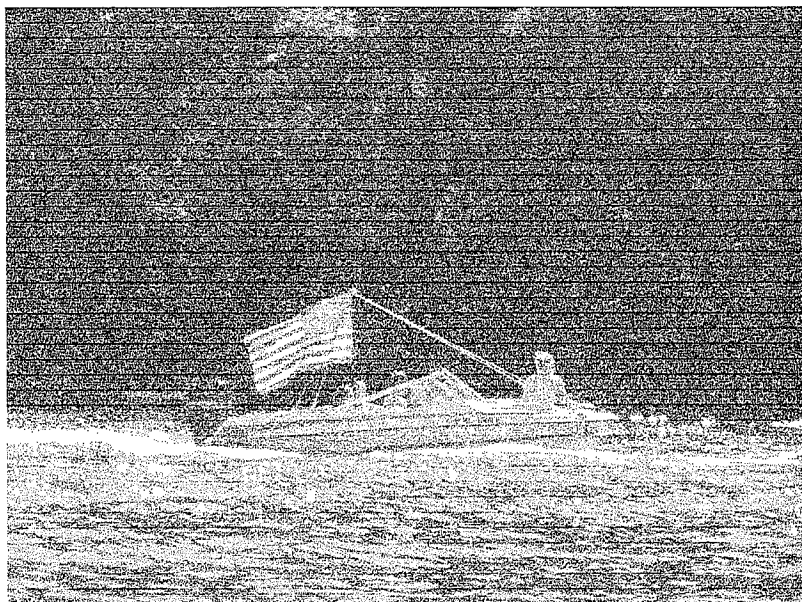
and meet new members as well. The potluck suppers that precede the meeting provide a place to sample various tasty delights and do some very enjoyable socializing as well. So, mark your calendars now and plan on attending the meetings. They will be on July 13 and August 10<sup>th</sup> 2005, the second Wednesdays of each month. I'll see you there.

## More from Mike Cloutier

### Some notes about ongoing activities

We also took a vote to spend the money needed to initiate the changes to the by-laws that will result in the association becoming a 501(c)(3) organization. We have been seeking this goal for a couple of years and this should be completed for next year.

The second annual boat parade was held in August and we had 5 boats participate. The participants enjoyed the ride and the spectators where thrilled as well. Why not consider participating next year? It's a great way to enjoy the lake for a couple of hours. This year's weather was perfect as well.



The web site is being developed and we should have it up and running by our spring newsletter.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors and volunteers who worked so hard this summer on all the events and projects. Without these folks the Sabbathday Lake Association would not exist. Special thanks go to Lori Fowler who coordinated the Youth Conservation Corps projects and Matt Johnson for coordinating the volunteer Milfoil Inspection program. Both took a lot of time and effort. Also, thank

### Dan Cruz and friends in boat parade photo by Paula Gauthier

We introduced the sale of the Sabbathday Lake Tee shirt, which was designed and manufactured by local artist Marie Reimensnyder of New Gloucester.

The shirts were such a big hit that we are sold out for the year. They had been on sale at both Association meetings and at the Shaker Society store.

Hopefully we will continue to offer these shirts for the 2005 season.

you Cheryl Fortier for putting out our excellent newsletters.

I hope everyone will try to volunteer or participate in some form next year. Everyone has something to offer which will truly make this organization the best that it can be.

I wish all of you and your families a safe and joy filled holiday season and I will be looking for you on the lake this winter.

Warmest Regards

## Update for the Milfoil Committee

Invasive aquatic plants continue to be a major source of concern for lakes throughout the state. A recent report from the Maine Congress of Lakes Association describes the interception of two invasive plants this summer at boat ramps on Sebago Lake by careful boat inspectors. Furthermore, Eurasian Milfoil, never seen in Maine lakes before, was intercepted off a boat from Rhode Island, preparing to be launched on Great Pond. It is believed that when a lake first gets infested with a prolific plant, the increased cover (hiding places for fish from predators) makes the fishing better, attracting all kinds of anglers. These same fishermen may then inadvertently transport the plant fragments on their boats and trailers when they come to vacation in our waters. Eventually, the invasive plants grow so thick there isn't enough light or oxygen for fish or other plants to survive, passage by boats and people can become impossible, and the lake (or parts of it) become a swamp.

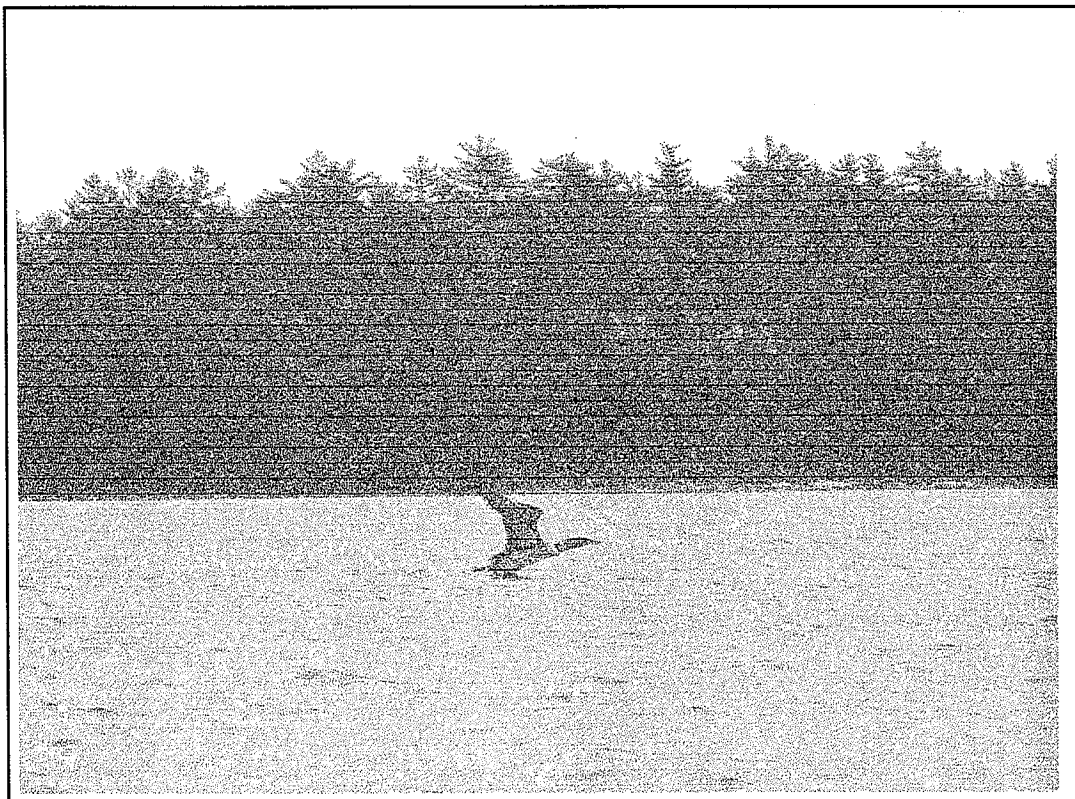
To prevent this from happening to Sabbathday Lake, we have

tried to educate and inform the lake community by having the directors visit shorefront homes with pamphlets and including some pertinent information on the membership dues form. We also had a courtesy boat inspection program at the Barefoot Beach boat ramp this summer. Thanks to Dennis Foley, Ernie Cobb, Rick Fortier and Mike Cloutier for volunteering their weekend mornings to the cause. Special thanks are due to Margo Cook, for supporting the Lake Association and for her help in monitoring the boats coming onto the lake and doing at least 113 boat inspections! This work was supported by \$700 in grant

money received from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Two members of the Board, Cheryl Fortier and Janet Lambert, have attended workshops on identifying invasive aquatic plants.

Thus far, no invasive plants have been detected in Sabbathday Lake. Our best chance to keep it that way is to make sure everyone knows about it and to continue the courtesy boat inspections for the uninformed and the indifferent. Any other suggestions on how we should address this issue are welcome.

Matt Johnson



**A Loon Taking Off**

photo by Paula Gauthier

# MAINE LAKES THREATENED BY ILLEGALLY STOCKED FISH

JULY 14, 2004 - ANNUAL MEETING

by Ellie Fellers

Fish species not native to Maine's Lakes are becoming a threat to native species including Sabbathday Lake's cold water trout fishery, members of the Sabbathday Lake Association were told at the July annual meeting. Fisheries Biologist Francis Brautigam of Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife addressed roughly 40 attending the group's annual meeting at the Sabbathday Lake Grange. A link exists between invasive plants and illegal fish stocking that are both threatening Maine's prestigious trout and salmon fishery and water quality. And, the illegal fish stockings limit food and space and may depress or altogether displace desirable native trout and salmon species.

Sabbathday Lake's trout fishery could be threatened by white pike, large mouth bass, crappie, cusk, for example. Illegal stocking of private and public waters represents one of the largest threats facing fisheries managers and traditional anglers. Without the support and cooperation of the angling public in addressing this invasion, said Brautigam, this invasion will cause many popular stocking and management programs to be destroyed.

Fish that have been moved from its native habitat to a new location even nearby cause significant harm to the new environment, said Brautigam who works out of the Gray office. For example a 47 percent increase of bass that existed in 1980 in 17 water bodies by the year 2000 increased to 613 lakes and ponds. And, northern pike that were only in nine water bodies in the 1980s are now in 30 lakes this year.

Black crappie in 1985 was found in 13 water bodies has increased 392 percent and is found in 64 lakes by 2000. New fish species recently discovered include rock bass in the Androscoggin, channel catfish and white catfish and muskellunge and carp in the Kennebec River.

Egg production is high among these populations. For example, brook trout lay 100-5000 eggs while northern pike average 32,000 and white perch 71,000 eggs.

In response to this growing threat, new emergency legislation was adopted increasing penalties up to \$10,000 for stocking without a permit or even for those found in possession of live fish, excluding bait fish without necessary permits.

Operation Game Thief (1-800-253-7887) under the jurisdiction of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife offers a \$2000 reward for information leading to the apprehension of anyone responsible for illegal introduction of fish into any Maine water. Recreational fishing is worth \$300 million in Maine, said Brautigam. Be vigilant and report suspicious activity to Operation Game Thief.

## **HUMAN INTEREST STORIES**

We've got lots of informational stories in our newsletter. How about sending something newsworthy about wildlife or observations around the lake? Just email your photos or stories to [cfortier@maine.rr.com](mailto:cfortier@maine.rr.com).



## MEMBERSHIP

Our goal is to reach 100 members for 2004. So far we have 77. Do you know if you paid your dues this year? If not, feel free to check with our friendly treasurer, Anne Maurice, 207-926-4732. How about giving a gift membership?

### Sabbathday Lake Association Annual Membership Dues 2004

AMOUNT: \$15

Additional donations welcome!

Please send annual dues to: Anne Maurice, 10 Cushman Drive  
NEW GLOUCESTER, ME 04260

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SABBATHDAY LAKE ASSOCIATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ MAILING \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### Benefits of belonging to the Association:

- ◆ News about what's happening around the lake
- ◆ Social gatherings to meet your neighbors
- ◆ Water quality testing
- ◆ Environmental Improvement Activities

## RR YCC

contributed by Lori Fowler

This year the Royal River Youth Conservation Corps consisted of Duncan Fowler, Nate Reimensnyder, Mary Cloutier, Dan Cruz, Caly Doran, David Miklovich, and Nate Johnson. Team leader was Moriah Bedard and Technical Director was Betty Williams. They completed 20 erosion control and pollution prevention projects in the Royal River Watershed. Nine of these projects

were on Sabbathday Lake. This is our third season for the Youth Conservation Corps. YCC has been expanded to include all of the Royal River watershed. We obtained funding from DEP, grants, and the town of New Gloucester. The team does the work and the land owner pays for the materials. If you have a site you would like to be worked on you may contact the Friends of the Royal River at 847-9399. We are always looking for funding so if you would like to contribute or know of a source please also contact the Friends of the Royal River. This enthusiastic group of young people are becoming great stewards for the lake and its health.

# Sabbathday Lake News

44 Lake View Drive, New Gloucester ME 04260

## Sabbathday Lake News

The Newsletter of the  
Sabbathday Lake Association

*Please send your lake-related news contributions to the Editor*  
by email to Cheryl Fortier, [cfortier@maine.rr.com](mailto:cfortier@maine.rr.com)

### **SABBATHDAY LAKE ASSOCIATION**

#### Board of Directors

<b>Mike Cloutier</b>	President	782-9720	<b>Paula Gauthier</b>	Director	926-5853
<b>Don O'Malley</b>	Vice President	926-4214	<b>Janet Lambert</b>	Director	926-4069
<b>Lori Fowler</b>	Secretary	926-3356	<b>Brother Wayne Smith</b>	Director	926-4865
<b>Anne Maurice</b>	Treasurer	926-4732	<b>Chris Ricardi</b>	Director	926-3721
<b>Matt Johnson</b>	Director	926-5233	<b>Cheryl Fortier</b>	Director	926-3168