

Sabbathday Lake News

November 2001

On the Water

Matt Johnson, President,
Sabbathday Lake Association

Another summer at Sabbathday Lake, and what a beauty it was. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did. I'd like to welcome the new members to the association and the return of Don O'Malley to the Board of Directors. Don was the first president of the Lake Association when it was formed 26 years ago.

At our first meeting in July, about 30 people heard a very informative presentation on Invasive Aquatic Plants by Scott Williams. A lively discussion afterwards led to the formation of a Milfoil Committee, headed by Rick Fortier, to address this very serious threat to the lake.

In August, Board members each went door to door in their lake sections to invite people to join the association who we may have missed through our mailings. They were also spreading the word on invasive aquatic plants to shorefront owners. We have nearly 80 members in the association this year.

The Water Quality report has not been completed yet, since data collection just ended last week.

See **WATER**, page 2



Tubing: George Johnson hitches a ride on a hot August day

MILFOIL MENACE

LAKE ASSOCIATION RESPONDS TO ECO-THREAT

by Richard Fortier

Widespread awareness and prevention may be our best hope in fighting an unprecedented threat to the beauty and recreational enjoyment of Sabbathday Lake. Invasive aquatic plants, if allowed to gain a foothold in Sabbathday Lake, could spread rapidly, clogging waterfronts, spoiling swimming, boating and fishing and damaging shorefront property values.

Eurasian milfoil has already infested lakes in every state except Utah and Maine. It poses the most serious potential for ecological

catastrophe. Other invasive plants already infest many nearby lakes in Maine, including Lake Auburn, Sebago and Thompson Lakes. These plants are spread from lake to lake as hitchhikers on boats, trailers and fishing gear. Once a lake is infested there is no known cure. Control efforts are unpleasant, cumbersome and costly.

Members attending the July meeting of the Lake Association saw slides and data highlighting the alarming consequences to lakes already invaded in other New England states. State biologist, see **MILFOIL**, page 2

MILFOIL

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Scott Williams also brought a sample of variable leaf milfoil.

Maine government has responded to this threat with a new law which is the toughest in the nation. It is now illegal to transport, knowingly or unknowingly, any plant material by boat or trailer on any Maine roads. Boaters found doing so face fines up to \$2500. Beginning in 2002, all motorized watercraft on inland waters must display a lake and river protection sticker costing \$10 for boats registered in-state and \$20 for boats registered elsewhere. Stickers will be available wherever boats are registered or fishing licences are sold. Fees will be used to help fund a multi-pronged initiative of prevention, including the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program.

The Sabbathday Lake Association has responded by forming a committee to address the problem. Committee members have worked with the Officers and Directors to assure that all property owners on the lake are informed. Volunteers met with a representative of the Lakes and Environmental Association for training on how to monitor boat launch sites. Lake Association President Matt Johnson and others have had dialogue with Jeff and Sandra Parshall, owners of Barefoot Beach. They have been eager to help. They have posted signs at the boat ramp, have conducted some boat inspections and have distributed flyers about milfoil and the new law.

The Association plans four major initiatives that are either in place or under consideration at this time:

1) Education of all property owners, especially those who have private boat launching sites. This includes reminding everyone that, whenever they take boating vacations or day trips to other lakes, it is essential that they carefully inspect and clean their boat and trailer before re-launching into Sabbathday.

2) An ongoing plan to continually supply educational flyers about Maine's tough new law to the Town Office, where boats are registered, and to nearby outlets that sell fishing licences.

3) Further discussions and planning for how best to assure inspection of as many boats as possible at the time they are launched into our lake. Committee volunteers did some inspections this past summer, but it is unclear whether this approach will be practical,

effective or sustainable over the long term. There have been suggestions for the Association to explore potential solutions further with the Parshalls, and to consider applying for public or private grant money to assist in this project.

4) An effort to monitor lake water to spot and identify any invasive water plants before they spread and become established in our lake. Mike Cloutier attended a training workshop at the Portland Water District, and the Association has voted to purchase special monitoring gear for Mike and others to use.

The Sabbathday Lake Association continues to grapple with how best to respond to the risk posed by invasive water plants. Additional volunteers and more ideas are being sought both now and for next season.



WATER

Continued from page 1

Just looking at water clarity (by Secchi Disc), Scott informs me that it was a good season for the lake. Complete results of dissolved oxygen, phosphorous and chlorophyll-a are pending. The town continues to support our efforts to monitor water quality and has funded nearly two thirds of the cost for the testing. Our new treasurer, Ann Gauthier, reports that we have enough funds to pay for the balance.

Thanks to all those who have volunteered time and energy to the stewardship of the lake. Anyone looking out on the lake and seeing so much wildlife and so many people enjoying the water in so many ways, will feel that it is well worth the effort.

Everyone have a good winter and I'll look forward to seeing you next year on the water.

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS OF THE SABBATHDAY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Ellie Fellers

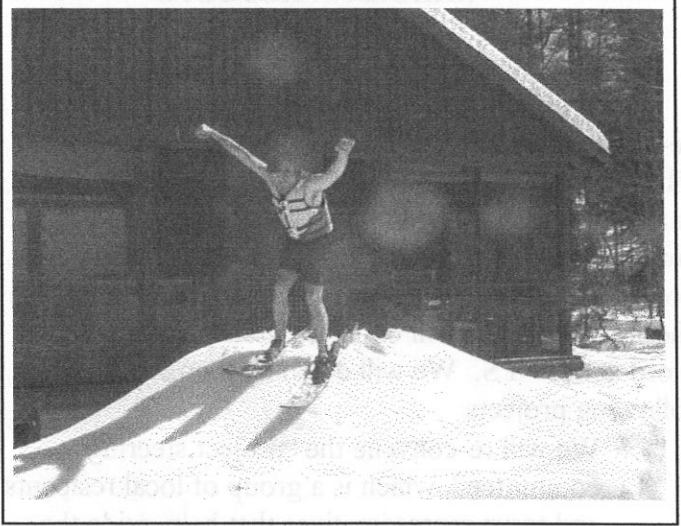
The heart of Sabbathday Lake Association is pumped by the help from it's members. Four members recently stepped down from various duties after serving with dedication and loyalty.

Thank you Celine and Tom Jannarone for your constant support to the efforts of keeping membership rosters intact, collecting dues and mailing newsletters in a timely fashion. Your combined energy as a team and belief in the lake association's role in protecting the lake's health is balanced with spending quality time living on the lake year-round.

Tom Driscoll stepped down from his Director's slot. He served as editor of the association's newsletter, giving his talents to assembling and organizing the information sent to members. Tom performed this task diligently when his busy life allowed him to take the time to give helping provide an information highway to members. Thanks to you, Tom.

Leonard Daley also completed his several terms as director on the SLA. Leonard worked hard on the watershed study of Sabbathday Lake in conjunction with other partners that included the town's planning board and water resource committees. Leonard served as commander in chief of water testing at one time for clarity readings for several seasons and helped float town officials and others to view the lake from the water on his comfortable party boat. Many thanks, Leonard.

Thank you all for serving your terms to help strengthen the SLA.



Tom Driscoll on water skis in March, 2001

NEW GRANT TO ADDRESS EROSION PROJECTS

Notes from Jeff Brink

As many of you know, the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) worked with local residents, the Town of New Gloucester and Poland, and the Sabbathday Lake Association in recent years to help reduce the nonpoint source (NPS) pollution problems affecting Sabbathday Lake. NPS and the phosphorus that it carries can result in algal blooms, obnoxious odors, and reduced property values in affected lakes. The District and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and US EPA are trying to help protect Sabbathday Lake from these impacts. Through the last grant, we installed eight demonstration sites around the lake and provided technical assistance to 27 local landowners.

Last spring, we applied for and received a second grant to further combat NPS in the watershed. Funds from this new grant become available this year in

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EROSION PROJECTS

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October, and as a result, the District will be re-initiating its efforts in the watershed at that time. The project will last through 2003. The new project, referred to as the "Sabbathday Lake Water Quality Improvement Project", will fund on-the-ground construction that will fix erosion and runoff sources in the watershed and will continue to help spread the word about NPS. We will do so by focusing on the following projects:

We will re-convene the "project steering committee", which is a group of local residents and town representatives that help guide the project. The steering committee helps to organize workshops and events, and makes the decision on which projects will receive funding. We will provide funds to share the cost of installation of conservation projects throughout the watershed. About \$40,000 will be available to help landowners or road associations fix eroding driveways, camp roads and shorelines and solve other drainage problems.

In the summer of 2002, we will hire a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), which is a group of local young people that will install conservation projects on any property within the watershed. The grant will pay for the YCC labor expenses in exchange for the landowner or road association paying for the cost of materials.

We will continue to provide technical assistance to people interested in getting advice on solving erosion problems on their own property. Also, we will hold educational workshops to let watershed residents get involved in hands-on conservation.

So, if you are interested in receiving financial or technical help with solving drainage problems on your property, or if you are interested in volunteering for workshops or committees, give Jeff Brinck at the District a call at 839-7839 ext 110 or e-mail at jeff-brinck@me.nacdnet.org. We've already got a list of landowners signed up for assistance, so call soon to get your name added to the list. Thanks to the members of the Sabbathday Lake Association and we look forward to continuing or work with you in the future!

NEW GLOUCESTER ZONING ORDINANCE: LAKE DISTRICT

by Ellie Fellers

In the past year, the New Gloucester Planning Board has approved applications dealing with the construction of a new single family home; deck requests; additions and accessory buildings on lots located on Sabbathday Lake.

Since its creation in 1976, New Gloucester's Zoning Ordinance has been revised and amended several times to compliment the town's Comprehensive Plan. The current zoning ordinance approved by voters in the town implements land use policies and seeks a balance between competing desires to develop land and to preserve land. The ordinance seeks to preserve the existing character of the Town, with its historic villages, clean ponds, safe drinking water, rural nature and feeling of openness.

Official zoning maps are on file at the town hall. The Lake District is governed by uses permitted subject to site plan review. That means an application must be filed for approval and review before the seven member volunteer Planning Board. Meetings are held every two weeks. The Lake District under site plan review includes the following requests: facilities or uses for educational, scientific or nature interpretation purposes; public parks and outdoor recreation areas; timber harvesting, subject to performance standards; piers, docks bridges, and uses projecting into water bodies on a permanent or temporary basis. Also in the Lake District: essential services (school, fire station, for example); excavation and other mining activities; animal husbandry, single family dwellings; two family dwellings; multiplex, limited to four units per building; conversion of seasonal dwellings to year round dwellings; bed and breakfast establishments; road construction; filling and earth moving; accessory uses or structures and uses similar to permitted uses. The town's Code Enforcement Officer, William Parquette and Town Planner, James Isaacson administer applications for specific building requests in the Lake District. If you are considering expanding your cottage or changing it to a year round dwelling or harvesting trees on your land, contact the town's administrative staff first at 926-4126 for any questions regarding changes to your property.

RESTRICTIONS ON YOUR LAKE PROPERTY

Tom Shupp talks with Bill Parquette

Sabbathday Lake property owners are caught in the continuous conflict between individual rights and social rights - keeping the lake healthy so all can enjoy it versus the owners' enjoyment of their lots.

Whether we like it or not there are restrictions on lake property. According to the Town Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Parquette, and the Town Zoning Ordinance, ignorance or blatant disregard of the following could result in a fine:

1. TIMBER HARVESTING:

The shoreland zone (SZ) extends 250' from the mean high water mark of Sabbathday Lake. Within that strip there are different requirements for setbacks:

- a. Resource protection area (RP) - no timber harvesting within 75' of the highwater mark except to remove safety hazards. (RP is only near lake entry of Mosquito Brook)
- b. In the SZ but not in RP - cannot cut more than 40% of the total volume of trees (4" or more in diameter measured 4 1/2' above ground level) in any 10-year period.
- c. Within 100' of the highwater mark - no clearcut openings are permitted and ground cover shall be maintained.
- d. From 100' to 250' from the highwater mark - no single clearcut opening greater than 10,000' in the forest canopy is permitted. Where openings exceed 5,000', they shall be at least 500' apart.
- e. Beyond 100' from the lake - Openings for homes, garages, driveways, septic systems, etc. may be up to 25% of the lot area or 10,000', whichever is greatest.
- f. Cleared openings in existence prior to 1989 may be legally maintained.

- g. A winding path, not exceeding 6' in width may be cleared for water access.

2. CONSTRUCTION

- a. Within 100' of the highwater mark - Any structure or any portion of a structure within 100' may be expanded by not more than 30% of its floor area or volume during the lifetime of the structure. The 30% includes decks as well as living area. The structure may not expand toward the water unless 100' or more from the water.
- b. Beyond 100' of the highwater mark - any type or size structures may be built subject to site plan review and approval of the Planning Board.
- c. Existing structures within 100' - foundations constructed beneath an existing structure is not considered an expansion of the structure (with some exceptions).
- d. Replacing a structure - a structure may be reconstructed or replaced as long as the new structure meets the required setbacks to the greatest practical extent.

These are only some of the basics, and if you feel that there may be any chance of a conflict between what you want to do with your property and the Zoning Ordinance, call Bill Parquette, the Town Code enforcement Officer.

When asked what he looks for when inspecting the shorefront from a boat, Bill replied: "There are many things that can occur within the first 200-300' back from the water that one would not see except from the water. Things like new construction with or without a permit, placement of a structure or addition that is different than what was approved, illegal docks or boathouses, construction of a beach, retaining walls, illegal tree cutting, dredging, etc., but mostly for the pleasant company and beauty of the lake."

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON ROUTE 26?

ROUTE 26 CORRIDOR FULLY FUNDED

Submitted by Anne Maurice, September 30, 2001

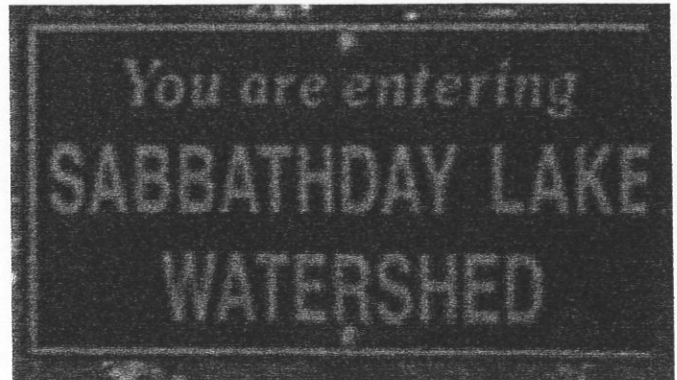
On August 14, 2001, about 75 people gathered at a Maine Department of Transportation public hearing in Poland for an update on the planned reconstruction and refurbishment of Route 26. The Project covers the 5.5 mile corridor starting at the Gray/New Gloucester line and extending to Route 122 in Poland. The described stretch of road will undergo massive roadwork beginning in the spring of 2003. MDOT officials gave a history of the effort to correct the 7 deadly curves going back to 1988. 81 accidents have occurred in the corridor during the last 3 years. 14% of the current traffic is truck volume and current projections estimate that 8000 vehicles per day will travel through the corridor in 2002, increasing to 11,000 vehicles per day in 2020. The changes in the road will decrease the traffic levels on the old part of 26 by 70%.

MDOT contracted with an engineering firm over a year ago. Surveying and geological work has been on-going since then. Negotiations for the four parcels of land needed for the construction are close to completion. The 1st construction contract will be put out to bid in the fall of 2002 and the 2nd contract will go out in the spring of 2003. Two road construction crews will be working on the southern and northern ends of the Project concurrently.

The 1st phase of the Project will be to build the new roadway, and the 2nd phase will be the refurbishment of the old roadway. The southern connector will be near Colebrook road. There will be a culdesac above Pond Road. The road will go back on alignment near Brackett Road and will move to the West around the Shaker Village near Abby Lane. It will then go back on alignment above the Village.

Right and left turn treatment on the new segment of the road will be based on traffic volume. The new roadway will include truck lanes both North and South where the grade indicates a need. The road will be posted at 50 mph and will have safety fencing.

Some parcels of land will be cut in half by the construction. Access to the land will be from old 26



whenever possible. West of new route 26 access will be carefully controlled to avoid the addition of excess exits and entrances which create more safety issues.

Old 26 will be turned back to New Gloucester after the refurbishment is completed. Part of the refurbishment will include paved shoulders. Several participants at the meeting asked the MDOT to consider a bike lane along the corridor. Officials from Gray endorsed an extension of the bike lane beyond the Gray town line.

The Project is fully funded with \$14,500 million. \$10,600 million is for construction and the rest is earmarked for design, land purchase, and other Project activities. After many years of study and analysis, the 5.5 mile corridor changes are finally funded and scheduled for construction. These changes will definitely help the health of Sabbathday Lake and will minimize the environmental risks posed by the excessive traffic, particularly truck traffic, passing near the lake at the Grange Hall passage. Any questions need to be directed to the Maine Department of Transportation.

A plea for dues

Our Sabbathday Lake Association roster of people who have paid their dues is down slightly this year from last year. So if you haven't paid your dues yet, now is a great opportunity. If you're not sure if you're paid up for 2001 or not, Anne Maurice, our new treasurer, won't mind getting a phone call from you to find out. Her number is 926-4732. The money from our dues pays for water testing, some aspects of milfoil monitoring, your newsletter and more.

A note from the editor

Feel free to send contributions, pictures, suggestions, complaints and comments to me at chrfortier@aol.com. That's the best way for me to receive material to add to this newsletter. The more people we hear from, the better.

Sabbathday Lake Association Annual Membership Dues 2001

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:

- ◆ Lots of news about what's happening around the lake
- ◆ Social gatherings to meet your neighbors
- ◆ Donations are tax deductible

Sabbathday Lake News

The Newsletter of the

Sabbathday Lake Association

Please send your lake-related news contributions to the Editor

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