

Sabbathday Lake News  
44 Lake View Drive  
New Gloucester, ME 04260



WHAT  
A  
GREAT  
YEAR!  
TWO  
EAGLETS  
AND  
OUR  
FIRST  
LOON  
CHICK!

Look how our eaglets and loonlet grew up! Mom and dad did a fantastic job raising these little babies!  
Thank you Sharon Scannell for documenting their success!

Summer/Fall 2023

# Sabbathday Lake News



Photo by Sharon Scannell



As we roll into the fall season on the lake, one can reflect on a summer that had several unusual surprises. There was a lot of wet weather and many of us experienced flooding of docks and shorelines that persisted into September. We had our first successful loon nest in many years. The birds decided to ignore the floating loon nesting island offered by our volunteers and Maine Audubon, and made good on the nearby shoreline using a nest of their own making. As the determined pair raised the chick, they put on a show for many of our bird watching members as they offered swimming, diving, and fishing classes and defended the young bird from numerous encounters with our resident bald eagles. The Maine Lakes Look Out for Loons presentation on loon behavior at our August meeting was like icing on the cake. See the links on the SDLA website if you want to check out some of their very well-done information pamphlets on loons.

There were several new boating laws that were enacted this year. Check out Eric's article (page 7) containing some important details that everyone should know about. The Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources also published a new boaters guide in 2023 with a bounty of good information on boating rules, safety, and navigation. The link can be found on the SDLA website.

Our Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program continued the never-ending battle against the spread of invasive plants again this season. Between our student CBI and volunteers, we were able to have eyes watching the Outlet Beach ramp for nearly all the time periods on our calendar. And there were an increasing number of our members who showed interest in helping out. Special thanks to Lillian Nayder, Paula Gauthier, Anne Maurice, Braydon Fitch, Mike Cloutier, Craig Doremus, Varun Avasthi, Bob Klotz, and the Outlet Beach for offering their time.

The Sabbathday Lake Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) surveyed the lake again this year. Based on my own experience using kayak and polarized glasses as well as mask and snorkel, the searching was much more challenging. Water clarity, or lack thereof due to the rain events, made the searching difficult. The only option was to do the best we could. Other lake associations reported the same situation on their lakes. See Mike's reporting on page 4.

(continued on page 2)

It was great to see some new faces at our meetings and have some more people express interest to join the organization. The board has been pondering ways to involve our youth realizing their importance to the future of the association and the lake. We hope to have a hands-on youth day event in 2024 where we invite young people to gather and learn about the CBI, IPP, and lake conservation.

Thanks again to all of our members for joining and being part of the association.

Chris Ricardi, President



# Sabbathday Lake Association

Membership Application

Annual Membership Dues are \$15.00 per Household  
Membership Year is January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>

New Membership  Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership applications and annual dues can be sent to:

Sabbathday Lake Association  
Attn: Anne Maurice  
10 Cushman Drive  
New Gloucester, ME 04260

Make checks payable to: Sabbathday Lake Association  
Additional Donations Welcome!!!

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- PROTECTION OF THE SABBATHDAY LAKE WATERSHED
- WATER QUALITY MONITORING
- ANNUAL INVASIVE PLANT SURVEY
- SOCIAL GATHERINGS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS
- LOTS OF LAKE NEWS



### 2023-2024

#### Board of Directors

(Term expires in parentheses)

Chris Ricardi, President (2025)  
Vice President: Vacant  
Ruth York, Secretary (2025)  
Anne Maurice, Treasurer (2026)

Lori Allen (2025)  
Mike Cloutier (2026)  
Craig Doremus (2026)  
Cheryl Fortier (2024)  
Paula Gauthier (2026)  
Eric Rohrbach (2024)  
Melissa True (2024)  
Brother Arnold Hadd (permanent)



THAT'S A BIG NEST!

Eaglet Banding Team photo by Bill Morrison

Go to this link for the current chart of lakes with invasive species. If you see anything suspicious, carefully collect it and put it in baggie. Contact Mike Cloutier at mhcloutier48@gmail.com or stewards@lakestewardsme.org  
<https://mainelakes.org/invasives/invasive-aquatic-plants-in-maine/>

## AN UPDATE ON MAINE BOATING LAWS

Eric Rohrbach

Because Maine Lakes are constantly under threat by the introduction of invasive plants, fish, and diseases that threaten the wellbeing of native flora and fauna, a new law took effect this year that all boaters need to be aware of. Effective June 16, 2023, before entering and when preparing to leave a body of water, all boaters are required to remove the hull drain plug, as well as drain any bailers, live wells, or ballast tanks to encourage drainage of areas containing harmful materials (excluding live bait containers). This practice must be done in an area where none of the drained water will enter any inland body of water.

Also, to promote boater safety and education, beginning January 1, 2024, anyone born on or after January 1, 1999 cannot operate a motorboat with 25 (or greater) horsepower on inland or territorial waters unless that person is 12 years of age or older AND has completed a boater safety or education course. This course teaches boaters how to operate a boat, boater safety, how to prepare for emergencies, and preventing the spread of invasive species, and may be taken in person or online.

For more information on these laws, visit the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries website at [www.maine.gov/ifw](http://www.maine.gov/ifw)



Photo by Sharon Scannell



The Driscoll Clan taken by Sharon Scannell



Please send your lake news, stories, photos and corrections to the Editor. Please identify your photos and where they were taken on the lake and we will publish with your permission.

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Special thanks to the newsletter team for volunteering to prepare and mail this to our members. Cheryl Fortier, Diantha Grant, Anne Maurice, Paula Gauthier and Nancy Thomas.

The Sabbathday Lake Association has a website with information on ways to protect our lake, old newsletters, ways to volunteer and events. It takes all of us to work and to protect our most valuable resource.

[www.sabbathdaylakeassoc.org](http://www.sabbathdaylakeassoc.org)



### Expanding Your Knowledge of New Gloucester: Information from 2023-24 Tax Commitment

John Salisbury

The 2023-24 New Gloucester tax commitment provides a wealth of information about the Town. The commitment amounts to a snapshot taken once each year of property holdings, valuations, tax exemptions and other information across the community.

The tax commitment includes landowners that do not pay taxes, like churches, nonprofits and the Town of New Gloucester itself, and also shows acreage in Tree Growth, for example, that is taxed as productive woodland rather than at its higher fair market value.

Bulleted below are a series of facts gleaned from the most recent tax commitment, with particular emphasis on the Sabbathday Lake area because of its role in the Town’s property and tax mix.

#### Sabbathday Lake Assessment information

There are 309 acres of **assessed** land on Sabbathday Lake valued at \$27.2 million.

Property values on Sabbathday Lake represent **8% of the total real estate value** of New Gloucester, \$48.3 million of total town valuation of \$625.7 million

There are 203 lots on Sabbathday Lake

9 properties on the Lake have a net assessment more than \$500,000

23 properties a net assessment of more than \$400,000

33 properties have a net assessment of more than \$300,000

\$1.7 million is the assessment of the highest individual owner net assessment

\$245,000+ is the average net assessment of all lake property owners

There are \$1.4 million of homestead and veterans property tax exemptions of persons who are permanent residents on the Lake. The tax exemptions represent 3% of the total Sabbathday Lake assessed values

The Shakers’ Conservation Easement includes approximately 5,000 feet – nearly a mile - of shoreline on the northeast side of Sabbathday Lake, 19 percent of the total.

The 2023-24 tax commitment spreadsheet and tax maps are available on the Town of New Gloucester website.

The link for the tax commitment is: [2023-2024 New Gloucester Tax Commitment - Tax Commitments - New Gloucester, Maine](#)

The goal of this article is to help all New Gloucester residents become better informed about the Town. Data in the tax commitment can be invaluable both for shaping Town policies and decision-making and for gaining a clear and accurate picture of the Town.

### GOING LOONey! By Eric Rohrbach

A lot of us on the lake have been calling the summer of 2023 the "Summer That Wasn't". The weather just wouldn't seem to cooperate throughout the entire season. If it wasn't as hot and muggy as the inside of a dog's mouth, it was just constantly pouring. However, the silver lining is that since this led to less boat traffic, the loon pair was successful in hatching their chick despite nesting on one of the most popular swimming spots on the lake!

As far as we know, this is the first chick hatched here since we have been keeping track, which is very exciting for everyone. It has been amazing watching the chick grow and learn all summer. I was fortunate to sit in a kayak for 15 minutes a few weeks ago and watch one of the parents teaching the chick to fish, it was an absolutely amazing thing to experience. Thank you to all who have helped the loons this summer!

Note: Although our lady loon laid two eggs, only one hatched. The second egg was removed ten days after the hatching and delivered to the Bio-Diversity Institute in Portland for mercury testing. They test the eggs over the winter and we have asked for a report. Mercury levels are an indication of how much mercury is in the fish loons eat.



Loon egg photo by Diantha and Mama Loon and Loon Chick photos by Sharon Scannell



# IPP (INVASIVE PLANT PATROL) FALL UPDATE

The Sabbathday Lake Association IPP Team (SLIPPers) is at it again this year. As I speak, we are in the process of doing our twelfth (12) lake survey. It's been a challenging year for many teams. Several new infestations have been found, along with the identification of 4 new invasive plants found in our state. This along with the rainy weather and historic highwater levels in our lakes has added to the difficulty in seeing and identifying plants. On the bright side, we have two individuals that have expressed interest in joining the IPP team. I invite and encourage others to come forward and join in on the fun! With the addition of several new invasives to our lakes here in Maine, the work of our dedicated IPP team cannot be overstated.

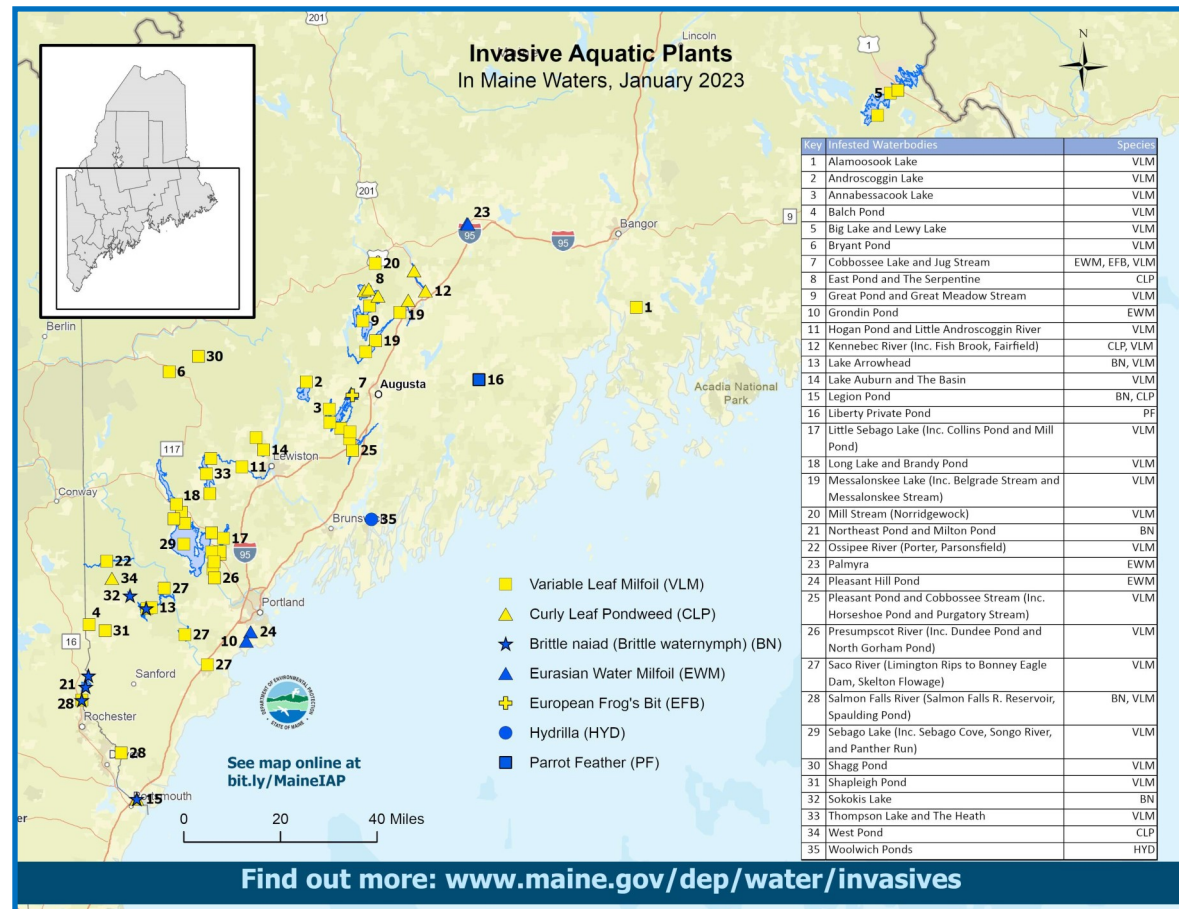
The threat of invasive plants entering this lake is very real and would be physically and financially devastating. I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in this activity to give me a call or drop us a note and we can discuss how you can get involved with the Sabbathday Lake IPP. We will always need interested, concerned and involved association members to pitch in and do their share. Keep in mind that the best way to deal with invasive species is to prevent them from becoming established in the first place. The continued good health of Sabbathday Lake is depending on you.

Hopefully we'll have a completed a Level 3 (complete lake) survey again this year, however I have not received all the survey forms as of this writing. I will be working on the forms this fall and will summarize my findings in the spring newsletter.

Have a terrific winter!

Regards,

Mike Cloutier, IPP Team Coordinator



# Shorefront Friendly-living Practices



Prevent soil erosion. Dirt/soil is the number one pollutant to Maine's waters so keep it under cover - covered by grass, shrubs and trees so the rain doesn't have a chance to get at it and move it. Use thick mulch or stone paths if traffic is too heavy to allow grass to grow. Erosion is of such concern that the Maine legislature passed the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law (Erosion Control Law) which requires everyone to prevent erosion from occurring, for projects of all sizes.

The Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), which is administered by the Maine DEP, specifically prohibits sand being brought in from off-site to replenish an existing beach or create a new beach. **It is illegal to add sand to a beach area.**

Properly maintain Camp (unpaved) roads which are often a major source of pollution. Reduce fertilizer use. Applying too much fertilizer or applying it at the wrong time can create a problem. Capture stormwater runoff by using nature's own filtration system. Plant ribbons of trees, shrubs and/or groundcover to intercept and infiltrate runoff.

Direct water from roofs and driveways into a stable vegetated area where the dirt can get trapped and the water can soak in.

Maintain your septic system. Pump your system's tank every two to three years. Systems are made to be pumped out periodically to keep the solids in the tank from being carried into the leach bed where it clogs the pipes and soils creating a malfunction.

Pick up after pets. Pet waste should be disposed of in the garbage or a pet waste composter. Use practical and easy-to-follow yard care conservation practices to help protect your water resource.

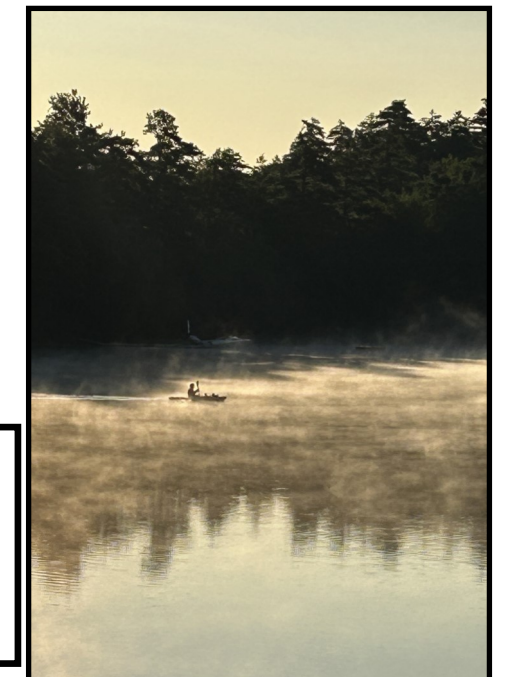
Opening and closing the camp. Things to consider and steps to take when opening a camp in the spring and closing a camp for the winter.

Outdoor home heating oil tanks. Protecting your oil tank from leaks and spills.



Full Moon on August 30th and morning lake smoke with a kayaker on September.

Photos by Judy Gunn



"This lake exceeds anything I ever beheld in beauty."

Percy Bysshe Shelley