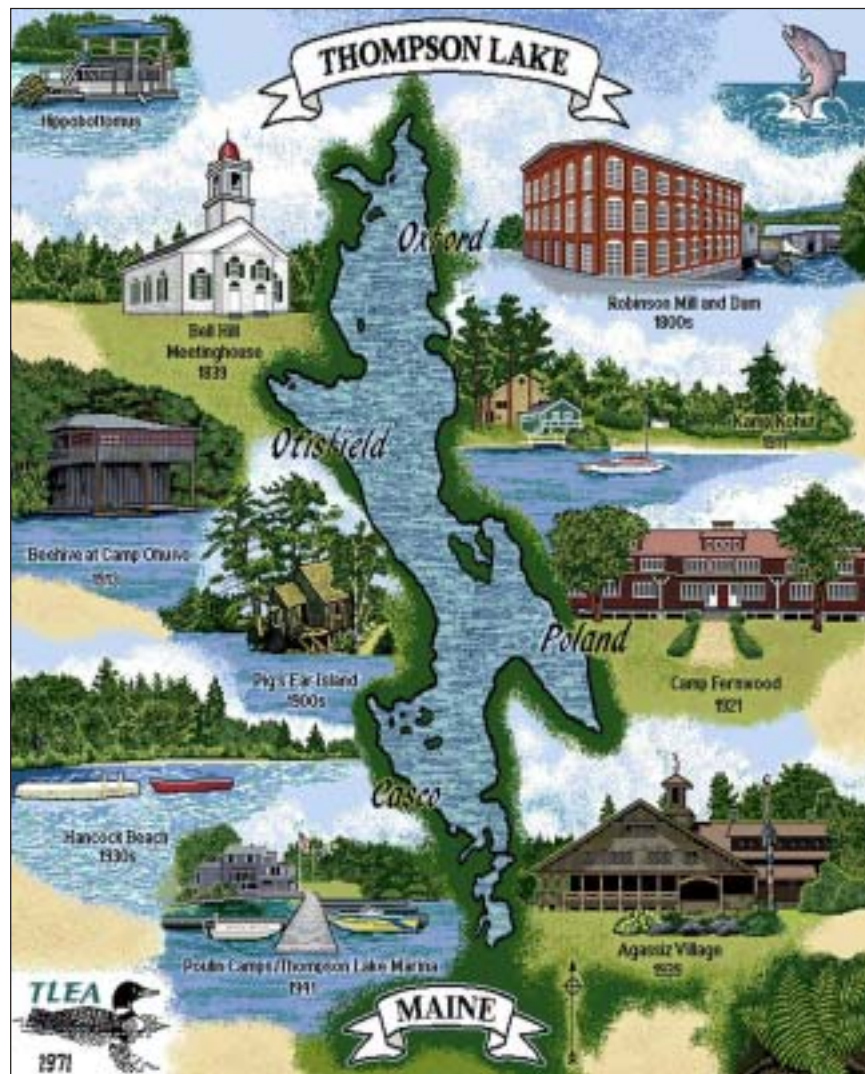


The THOMPSON LAKE

OBSERVER

Spring 2011

Issue No. 163



The Thompson Lake Throw, now available. See details on page 3!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The last page of this *Observer* is a memorial to Chris Pottle, TLEA's faithful treasurer who died unexpectedly on February 15. While we are still coping with this great loss, we are gratified that Barry Jorve, who was a TLEA director and membership chairman a year or two ago, has agreed to help out again by serving as interim treasurer.

We hope you all had a healthy and happy winter. We enjoyed all our snow, which came with some bitter cold and wind. But our neighbors to the South fared worse than we did..Now we begin to think about ice out, open water, kayaks, sailboats, motor boats, and swimming.

As you know from previous *Observers*, TLEA is extremely involved combating the twin menaces of milfoil mitigation and nonpoint source pollution. I also have been involved in the Town of Poland as a strong environmentalist, serving both as Chair of the Planning Board and as a member of the Conservation Commission. People around town like to joke, "Just start a chain saw and Sue will be over to check it out."

We're now facing some new problems affecting the lakes, not just invasive plants like milfoil and hydrilla, but now Chinese snails and non-native fish. TLEA is trying to stay aware of all these other things, new and old, that cause water quality to deteriorate.

As the Indians say, "Treat the earth well, it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children." We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors but borrow it from our children. We are merely custodians! So as lake dwellers we must do everything in our power to maintain its quality for the future.

A hearty thank you to all who have joined as members and those of you who have supported the milfoil mitigation project. If you have neighbors or friends who have not joined, we urge you to solicit their membership. Lake protection may be expensive, but it is far cheaper than restoring a polluted and damaged lake.

Sue Ellis, Co-President

ORDER YOUR THOMPSON LAKE THROW TODAY

The Thompson Lake Environmental Association proudly presents...The Thompson Lake Throw, as shown on the first page of this newsletter. We are now taking orders for late spring and summer delivery.

Featuring landmarks of Thompson Lake and its four towns (Oxford, Poland, Casco, and Otisfield), this unique custom-designed throw makes a colorful (and warm) accent for a chair, sofa, bed, table, or wall. It is a gift that is sure to become a treasured heirloom.

Measuring 50" x 70", and woven in full color, the throw is 100% cotton and machine washable. It is fringed on all four sides.

ORDER TODAY!

QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
	\$50.00	\$

Payment **MUST** accompany order. Make checks payable to TLEA. Purchasers will be notified by phone or mail when throws are available for pick-up.

Send order form and payment to:

*Kathy Cain
37 Black Island Road
Oxford, ME 04270*

If necessary, throws may be shipped for an additional charge of \$10 per throw.

If you have any questions, contact Kathy at 207-539-9122

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY:
STATE, ZIP:
PHONE:
EMAIL (optional):

ATTENTION: PROPERTY OWNERS!

Do you own property in Otisfield that drains to Thompson Lake? Would you like assistance with erosion control on your property? If you answered “yes” to these questions, *have we got a deal for you!* TLEA has two programs that can help...**but 2011 is the last year these programs will be offered.**

First, TLEA is pleased to offer **FREE** technical assistance to property owners. We call it a “**Thompson Lake Tune-Up**”. How does it work? Let’s say you have a troublesome erosion problem. Just call or email us to request a **Thompson Lake Tune-Up** and we’ll send an erosion control expert to visit with you - onsite and at your convenience - to offer suggestions. Sometimes, a fresh set of eyeballs looking at a problem is all you need to figure out a solution. **Remember...there’s no cost to you for a Thompson Lake Tune-Up.**

But that’s not all! TLEA has an additional program that will pay you **up to \$300** to help install erosion control measures on your property. You simply need to match TLEA’s contribution by providing at least \$300 worth of cash, supplies, and/or volunteer labor. Otisfield landowners are eligible.

We call this a **Residential Matching Grant**. These grants are perfect to help you fix small residential erosion problems - like driveways or roof runoff - that, cumulatively, can have a **BIG** impact on the lake.

Thompson Lake Tune-Ups and *Residential Matching Grants* are offered on a first come-first served basis, so call or email TLEA **now** to reserve yours for this season. No enforcement is involved...we’re simply trying to protect Thompson Lake from the scourge of soil erosion... **And we need everyone’s cooperation!**

For more information, contact Jeff Stern, Project Coordinator, at 207-583-2723, email address: sternjm@hotmail.com. Or you can visit the TLEA website at www.thompsonlake.org.

Thompson Lake Tune-Ups and *Residential Matching Grants* are made available through the 2-year Thompson Lake Watershed Improvement Project - Phase III, Otisfield, which started in 2010. Funding for this project, in part, was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Section 319 grants are administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA.

TECH WIZARDS SEEK VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST STUDENTS

[Jane Fahey, Principal of Paris Elementary School and a resident of Thompson Lake, attended a recent Directors meeting to share information about a grant partnership with the Maine 4-H Camp at Bryant Pond.]

Fifth graders at Paris Elementary School will soon be the recipients of special programming provided through the 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond. The school has been selected as one of two in the area to participate in a program called "TECH WIZARDS" that will combine technology, mentoring, and community service as a means to bring unique learning opportunities for the rest of this year. The project will continue as students turn into sixth graders next fall.



Paris Elementary School students working on their robot: Left to right are Dawson Stevens, Cameron Bancroft, and Cayla Sugars.

Each Monday morning, beginning in March, adult mentors will meet with students. The initial project will combine science, technology, engineering, and math to help students make real life connections to their learning. Through carefully crafted lessons that integrate key aspects of the literacy, math, writing, and science curriculum, each mentor group will build an underwater robot called a Sea Perch. Each robot is fitted with a video camera. These remote control vehicles will be used to survey the bottom of area lakes in search of the invasive species, milfoil. Fifth graders will try out their robots in test runs at Bryant Pond in May. Eventually, student-made robots could be used to assist with the Lake Monitoring Program on Thompson Lake!

This federal grant is being provided by the Juvenile Justice Program, which is funding projects to help engage our nation's youth in learning projects that promote future life success. We are in need of **adult volunteers** who would like to work with a small group of children. No experience or special knowledge is needed. If you have the time and interest, please contact Lyndsey Smith at Bryant Pond, 207-665-2507, or Jane Fahey at 207-744-0318.



Sue Ellis discovered this barred owl perched close to her home.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Win the Throw Contest Winners: TLEA is pleased to announce that we have a winner in the contest for a free Lake Thompson throw. If you remember, in the Winter issue of the *Observer* we promised to conduct a drawing for all those who paid their membership dues before February 15. The membership committee came up with 301 members who did so and did a random drawing to determine the winner. The winner turned out to be - ta-da - Dennis and Susan LaRosee, faithful TLEA members from Westford, Massachusetts, who spend their summers on Sand Island Lane in Otisfield. Congratulations, Dennis and Susan. We hope you enjoy the beautiful throw!

Congratulations to Jeff Stern, of Fiddlehead Environmental Consulting in Harrison, well known to many of us through his years of consulting with TLEA on matters of erosion control. Recently Jeff received some high praise for his work from Norm Marcotte, Nonpoint Source Coordinator of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection. Norm emailed Jeff the following accolade: "Congratulations for the very successful field season last year reducing sediment loading to Thompson Lake. Your excellence (skilled project management) is showing." TLEA is pretty proud, too!

Agassiz Village Day, formerly known as **Lake Day**, is now scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, according to coordinator Sandy Roderick. This is the day that elementary school students from area schools get to spend at a lakeside environment, learning from a variety of projects and teaching stations that cover a variety of environmental lessons, from soil erosion and invasive plants to hybrid cars. The **Hey You Cruise** that traditionally follows will launch on Wednesday, June 8 this year. Volunteers are always needed for these two events. If you can help, give Sandy a call at 539-2697 or email her at sandra_roderick@sad17.k.12.me.us.

Annual Meeting of TLEA will be held on Saturday, August 6, at the Oxford Recreation Hall, starting at 9 a.m. As usual, directors will be elected or re-elected for 2-year terms. The directors up for re-election are Karen Brown, Kathy Cain, Tony Caggiano, Pete Laverdiere, Sharon Rice, Tom Ray, Jean Hankins, Marcia Pottle, and Sandy Roderick. Also, in accordance with TLEA's by-laws, members will be asked to approve the action taken by the directors in appointing Barry Jorve as director and interim treasurer to replace Chris Pottle, who died in February. More details about the annual meeting will be forthcoming in the summer *Observer*.

The TLEA Office will be open for visitors this summer on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9 – 1 p.m. It will not be open on August 6, the day of the Annual Meeting.



Director Bob Tracy recently discovered this snow bird in Otisfield Cove.

YCC SUMMER HELP REQUEST

I am interested in having my property evaluated for a Thompson Lake Youth Conservation erosion control project. Please contact me!

Name _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____

Address on Lake _____

Home Tel. _____ Lake Tel. _____

Email _____

Location of property _____

Nature of problem _____

Mail to: YCC Coordinator, TLEA, P. O. Box 25, Oxford, ME 04270

DEP OFFERS FREE WORKSHOPS ON FORMING A ROAD ASSOCIATION AND DEVELOPING A ROAD MAINTENANCE PLAN

Free workshops are coming up on how to form a road association, sponsored by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. One is scheduled for Friday, June 10, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Jeff's Catering, East/West Industrial Park, 15 Littlefield Way, in Brewer. The other is being held on Friday, June 24, same time, Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade. The DEP is also offering free technical assistance to a limited number of road associations on proper road maintenance. For more information on these, or to register to attend the workshops, contact Kristin Feindel at Kristin.B.Feindel@maine.gov or 207-287-5586.

For information on the free technical assistance, contact Kathy Hoppe at Kathy.M.Hoppe@Maine.gov or 207-760-3134.

KATHY CAIN'S RECIPE FOR MAINE WHOOPIE PIES

[Yielding to popular demand, we're sharing Co-President Kathy Cain's prized recipe that many of us have enjoyed at directors meetings and other TLEA events]

3 cups flour
1 teas. salt
1 teas. baking powder
1 teas. baking soda
2 tbs. cinnamon
1 tbs. ground cloves
2 cups packed dark brown sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
3 cups pumpkin puree, chilled
2 large eggs
1 teas. vanilla extract

Filling:

1 8-oz. block cream cheese
3 cups confec. sugar
½ cup butter, softened
1 teas. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350. In large bowl, whisk first 7 ingredients. In another bowl, whisk brown sugar and oil until combined, either by hand or with mixer. Add pumpkin puree and whisk together. Add eggs and vanilla and whisk until well combined. Sprinkle flour mixture over pumpkin and whisk until fully blended. Using small ice cream scoop, drop heaping tablespoon of dough onto lightly greased baking sheet about 1-inch apart. Bake 11-13 minutes (longer for larger cookies) until cookies start to crack and a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool.

Filling: With electric mixer, beat butter until smooth. Add confectioner's sugar and vanilla and beat until smooth. Assemble the whoopie pies with completely cooled cookies with 1 heaping tablespoon of filling. Slightly press cookies together so filling spreads to the edges. Chill about 30 minutes before serving. These freeze well. Enjoy!

PROPOSED LEGISLATION CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL RULES

As this newsletter was being put together in late March, TLEA received notices that the State of Maine is considering new legislation to modify some of the present environmental regulations in the state. Such legislation constitutes part of the package of proposals advocated by Governor Paul LePage to reform the amount of regulatory red tape in the state and make it a more business-friendly state.

State Senator Lois Snowe-Mello of Poland has introduced LD 219, an act to amend the laws governing shoreland zoning. The proposed new law reduces the width of land subject to shoreland zoning and land use controls from 250 feet to 75 feet from the normal high-water edge of any great pond. The shoreland zoning rules were originally enacted in the 1970s for a number of reasons, including these: to “further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions; to prevent and control water pollution; to protect fish spawning grounds, aquatic life, bird and other wildlife habitat; to control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; and to conserve shore cover, and visual as well as actual points of access to inland and coastal waters.”

The Natural Resources Council of Maine, which opposes this bill, believes that reducing the shoreland zone to 75 feet would reduce the size of buffers throughout the state: “This would increase pollution, increase the number of Maine lakes with summer algal blooms, reduce property values (which have been directly tied to water quality [and clarity]), reduce protection of important wildlife habitat, and harm the character and recreational uses of Maine’s waterways.”

Secondly, Senator Collins of York has introduced LD 434 that would essentially exempt all wetlands from the protection afforded by shoreland zoning laws. The wording of the bill does so by exempting “nonoriginal wetlands”, and by broadening the definition of nonoriginal wetlands to read “wetlands that are created as a result of artificial or natural obstructions or barriers.”

Several Maine groups oppose these bills, including Lakes Environmental Association, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and the Maine Congress of Lake Associations. TLEA’s directors suggest that TLEA members who are legal residents of Maine may wish to contact their state legislator expressing their opinions either for or against these pending bills.

IN MEMORIAM CHRIS POTTLE



Photo by Bob Tracy.

Chris Pottle, a long-term director and treasurer of Thompson Lake Environmental Association, died unexpectedly on February 15, 2011. He was 79. From childhood, he developed an abiding love for Thompson Lake. He spent summers in Oxford and Otisfield where he and numerous cousins camped, sailed, fished, and enjoyed the rustic life of Camp Loseekum. The lake was never far from his thoughts, and he returned often throughout the years.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Chris earned a B.Eng. degree in Electrical Engineering from Yale and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois. In the late 1950s, Chris was a Fulbright Scholar at the Max Planck Institute in Munich, Germany, where he met his future wife, Marcia Suthon, also a Fulbright scholar. They married in 1961, and produced two sons and a daughter.

After earning his Ph.D., Chris joined the faculty at Cornell University where he taught Electrical Engineering until he retired in 1998. Upon his retirement, Chris and Marcia moved to Oxford, his mother's family home for generations. He assumed leading roles in the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Maine Council of Churches, Maine Interfaith Power and Light, and Thompson Lake Environmental Association.

Chris began his long service as a TLEA director in 1996. In 1997 he accepted the added role of treasurer. At TLEA, he had a direct hand in protecting the lake by expertly managing the organization's finances. Fellow directors credit him with giving crucial support to TLEA's investment in its pontoon boat, the Hippobottomus, and otherwise supporting the initiative to eliminate milfoil from the lake. Never afraid to tackle problems personally, Chris participated in three recent erosion surveys and was also a faithful Volunteer Lake Monitor. TLEA will miss his thoughtfulness, expertise, and loyalty.

Visit our website at:
www.thompsonlake.org

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