

Summer 2015

Issue No. 176

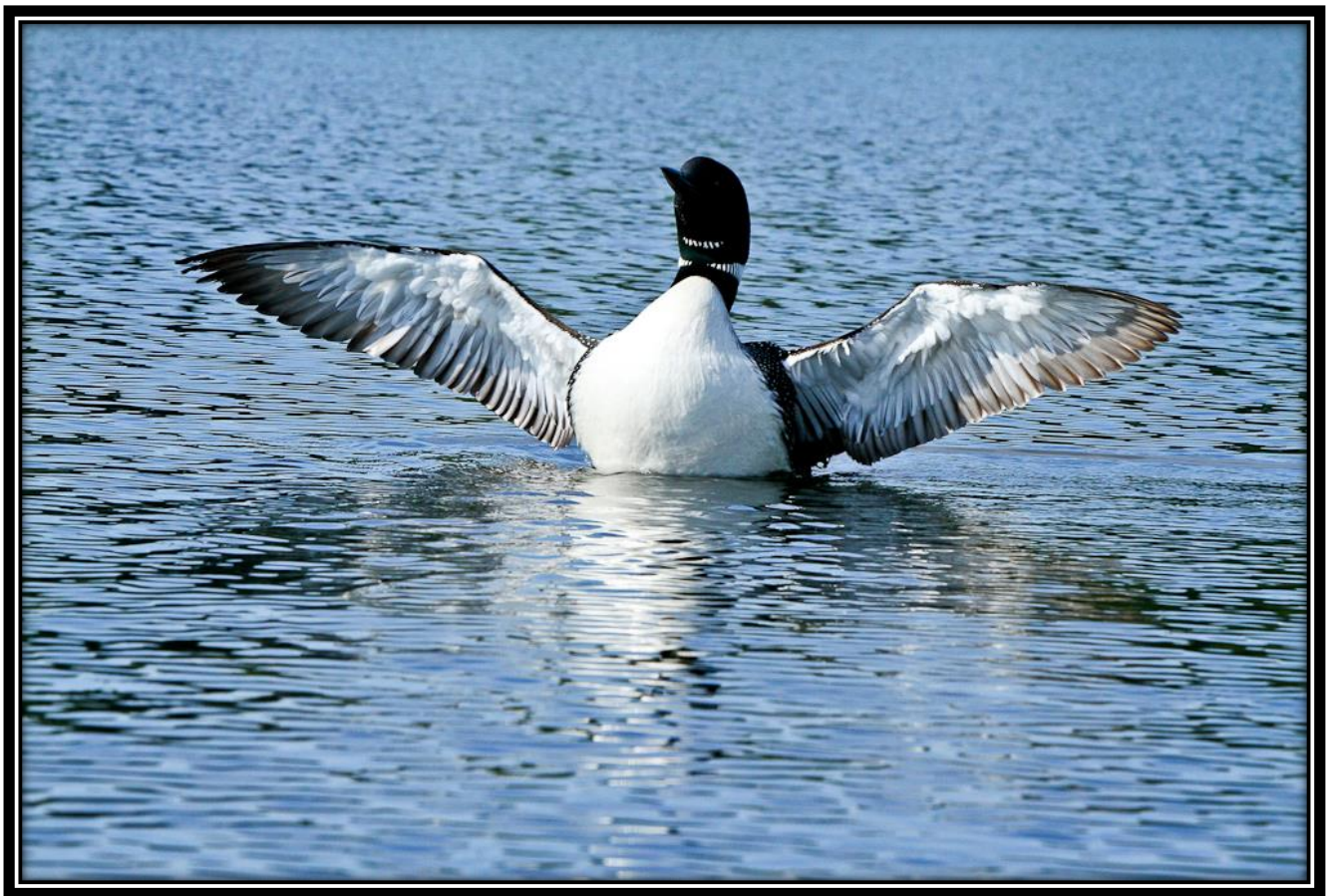


Photo by Carol Hancock

I am so glad its summer!

DON'T FORGET: *TLEA Annual Meeting*, August 1

Annual Meeting

The Thompson Lake Environmental Association 2015 Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, August 1, 9:00 AM** at the Oxford Recreational Hall which is on the corner of King Street and State Rt. 121. Make sure you put this on your calendar as it will be a great opportunity to hear about environmental issues affecting the lake and what TLEA is doing about them. It is also a chance to have your voice heard if you have a question or concern regarding the lake. We will have a slate of informative speakers and there will be TLEA merchandise for sale. Election of board members will be part of this meeting.

The following board members are up for re-election: Karen Brown, Kathy Cain, Sue Ellis, Pete Laverdiere, Dan Porter, Jade Doyle, Rosemary Nicklaus and Sharon Rice.

The following officers will be up for re-election: **Co- Presidents:** Kathy Cain and Marcia Matuska **Treasurer:** Jade Doyle **Secretary:** Karen Brown

Rumor has it that there will be homemade baked goods and coffee as well. Come and learn about the lake and meet your neighbors!

Here are some of the activities TLEA will be doing this summer:

Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI)

The CBI program is gearing up for another season. We will have 4 inspectors who will monitor the 3 public boat launches (Pismo beach, the Landing and the Casco launch) serving Thompson lake. The inspectors are trained to check for invasive species on boats or trailers that are entering or leaving the lake. They also educate the boat owners on how to detect and avoid transportation of invasive plants. Last year this crew performed 1,082 watercraft inspections and detected 5 invasive plants. All it takes is one plant to cause an outbreak.

The inspectors this year are: Bill Mazariego is a first year inspector and is a junior at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School (OHCHS).

Kate Cambell is back for another year. She is a graduate of OHCHS and will be attending Southern Maine Community College in the fall.

Dave McVety is an Otisfield resident who serves on many town committees. He has been a CBI inspector for over 5 years. Dave leads a family commitment to the lake, his sons work with our director Scott Bernardy on the Hippobottomus extracting milfoil from the lake.

Jenni Null of Naples has been a CBI inspector since 2010. She is a music teacher at Lakes Region High School. Jenni is a mentor to the incoming inspectors.

Check out the TLEA Website for photos of our inspectors. If you see them at a launch give them a smile and let them know you appreciate the hard work they do protecting the lake.

Youth Conservation Corp (YCC)

Once again our Youth Conservation Corp is preparing for erosion control projects around the lake. The YCC workers this year are: Drew McLaren who will be leading a crew of Erin Cleary, Nick McNelly, and Noh Noh. All the workers are from the local area and were on the job in 2014. They started their work the week of June 15 and will be available until mid-August. If you have a problem with soil erosion or unfettered run off into the lake (boat ramps and driveways are common examples), consider giving the YCC a call to see what they can do for you.

319 Grant

This project is funded through the Clean Water Act, Section 319 and is coordinated by the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District. The goal of this project is to provide cost-share funds and engineering assistance to address water quality impacts within the Towns of Casco and Poland to reduce erosion and export of sediment and phosphorus into Thompson Lake. This project also supports TLEA's Youth Conservation Corps erosion control projects along our watershed. If you wish to improve an erosion site in the towns of Poland

or Casco that affects Thompson Lake please contact **Heather True of CCSWCD** at **207-892-4700** or htrue@cumberlandswcd.org to obtain free-of-charge recommendations and possible monetary cost-share assistance.

Milfoil Mitigation

The “Hippobottomus” pontoon boat is in the water and it’s crew is hard at work scouring the lake for milfoil. This year Scott Bernardy will direct a complete survey of the lake (“search and destroy”) to develop and plan for milfoil mitigation in the future. Last year the milfoil team pulled 11,600 lbs. of milfoil out of the lake and laid down 50,000 square feet of tarp on growing milfoil.

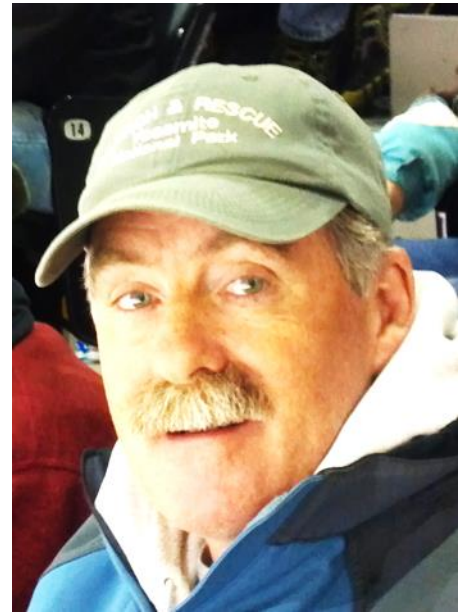
Meet Your Directors

Rosemary Nicklaus grew up in Williston Park, NY on Long Island and lived in New York until 2013. She and her husband Jerry have owned land on Lunts Point in Oxford since 2003, but moved here as full time residents in 2013. She has spent 35 years working in Laboratory medicine and BioResearch. She currently works for IDEXX Laboratories as a BioResearch Product Manager.

“In 2003 when my husband and I first came upon Thompson Lake we were immediately taken in by its natural beauty and peaceful surroundings. We knew this was the place we wanted to make our home, Rosemary said. ” When I was a part time resident, I came to appreciate the phenomenal work that TLEA does and how dedicated and committed the volunteers are. Now as a full time resident, I felt it was time to give something back to my community by serving as a volunteer. I continue to be impressed by the caliber of the people working to maintain and preserve the natural beauty of Thompson Lake”.

Since joining TLEA, Rosemary has been very active. She is not only a member of the Events and Finance committees, but is also the Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Regarding living on the lake, Rosemary says “over the last years we could only spend limited time here and we dreamed of the day we would not have to go “home” on Sunday. That day finally came and we could not be happier”.

Rosemary Nicklaus



Dan Pontbriand

Daniel Pontbriand has had a love affair with Thompson Lake all his life, from childhood through college and now after retirement. He lives on the East Shore near Camp Fernwood.

Dan grew up in Auburn, Maine and earned his B.S. in Parks and Recreation at the University of Maine. During that time he often spent time at the lake at his family's camp. After a career as a Chief Ranger for the National Park Service he retired in November of 2011 and now resides full time at the lake. Because of his background with land management, his family suggested that he become a director in TLEA.

As a new director, he has already become very active in many areas. His experience in managing a natural resource will be put to good use. He feels that aiding the YCC will be one of the areas that he will become involved.

Dan enjoys skiing, scuba diving, writing, travel, hiking and biking. He loves everything about Thompson Lake, the history, the scenery, the seasons of the year and especially the clean water. Sharing these with his family and friends is particularly rewarding.

Briefly Noted

Loon Count : This will take place on the morning of Saturday, July 18. Contact Peggy Dorf at peggydorf@ymail.com if you would like to help. This count is coordinated through the Maine Audubon Society and is an important tool in maintaining our population of these iconic Maine birds.

Ice out contest : This year's winner is Kathy Sahrbeck who predicted April 23 for ice out. Kathy won \$225.50 for her clairvoyance. The rest (50/50) went to TLEA programs. Be sure to take part in next year's contest so you too can be a winner.

Secchi disc readings : Ron Armontrout reports that the Secchi disc readings for the lake on 5/16 and 5/29 were 6.9 and 8.38 meters. Last year the average was 7.92 (26 feet) This reading is how deep the disc can be seen from the surface and is a good indicator of water quality. This is well above the average reading for Maine lakes.

TLEA Office hours: Starting this summer office hours for TLEA will be by appointment only. If you would like to receive information or literature about the lake, have a question or wish to purchase some merchandise, please call our office telephone, 539- 4535 or Kathy Cain at 539-9122.

Clynck Program: Support TLEA by enjoying your favorite beverage and returning the empties to participating Hannaford stores. You can pick up the green "Clynck" bags at the TLEA office (May- November) or at 37 Black Island Rd (year round). The TLEA label on the bag needs to be scanned at the store when the bottles are returned.

Dining to Donate Returns

Our second round of Dining to Donate will be held at Applebee's restaurant in Oxford on Wednesday, July 14. To join us, download an Applebee's coupon from the TLEA web site and print it out. Then gather some friends (or come alone) and dine at Applebee's from 4:00 to 9:00 PM. 15% of your food tab will be donated to TLEA. See you there!

If you have any comments or input for the Observer please let me know at paulcain@myfairpoint.net.

Margaret Slattery

One of TLEA's most important leaders has died. Margaret Slattery, whose name for many was synonymous with TLEA, passed away on November 13, 2014, in Santa Barbara, California at the age of 92. During her long life, she and husband Ted, who died seven years earlier, made their home in many different places on several continents. One of those places was Megquier Island, in Oxford, where the couple moved after Ted retired from the State Department.

Margaret became a TLEA director in 1987 and editor of The Observer the following year. In 1991, with co-author Joan Madden, she researched, compiled photographs, and wrote The Thompson Lake Book, which serves still as an important source of historical information about the Thompson Lake area. In 1992 she succeeded Ray Potter as president, and during her 7 years in that position worked tirelessly to transform TLEA into a strong environmental group. Among her first initiatives was to move TLEA's headquarters into the former Stanton School in Oxford Village. She then enlisted advice and support from such prominent local environmentalists as Scott Williams, Phebe Hardesty, and DEP authorities. She listened, learned, and became an early advocate of the need to eliminate non-point source pollution, now regarded as the primary cause of lake pollution. In 1993 Margaret supervised a new youth conservation corps, known as the Mountain Valley Job Training Program. This program is the precursor of TLEA's Youth Conservation Corps, established in 2002 and active to this day.

Without doubt, Margaret's contributions over the many years of her involvement helped transform TLEA into the strong, active association it is today. We are much in her debt. (Submitted by Jean Hankins)



Visit our website at:
www.thompsonlake.org

Thompson Lake Environmental Association
P.O. Box 25
Oxford, ME 04270

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