

THE THOMPSON LAKE
OBSERVER

Summer 2018

Issue No. 185



Placement of Benthic Barriers at Pine Point (Photo by Alex Bernardy)

DON'T FORGET: TLEA Annual Meeting, August 4

Annual Meeting

The Thompson Lake Environmental Association 2018 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 4 from 9:00- 11:00. This will be at the Oxford Recreational Center at the intersection of Rt. 121 and King Street, Oxford. This is your chance to hear about the 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 about the lake. We will have elections for board members, a 50/50 raffle and plenty of baked goods and refreshments.

Our key note speaker will be Ken Caprio of the Portland US Coast Guard station. Ken will speak about the role of the Coast Guard in monitoring and providing safety for our Maine lakes. He will talk on a variety of topics; including safety rules that apply to lakes and the ocean, collaboration of the Coast Guard with the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife agency and how lakes are monitored and patrolled. There will be a question and answer session after the talk. This should be an informative and interesting talk. Don't miss it!

The following names have been placed in nomination for re-election to the TLEA board (terms to 2020): Peggy Dorf, Dean Plaisted, Paul Rausch, Stan Tetenman, Ron Armontrout, Marcia Matuska, KC Putnam, and Tim Worden. Elections for the following positions will also be held: **Co-Presidents**- Kathy Cain and Marcia Matuska, **Treasurer**- Jade Doyle, **Secretary**- Karen Brown.

This meeting is always informative and a great way to meet some of your fellow lake residents. We look forward to seeing you there.

Milfoil Removal Update

(Submitted by crew chief Alex Bernardy)

The milfoil season has begun and we are excited to share our progress thus far:

We have made many improvements on our Pine Point project from last season. We have acquired and installed new tarps this spring, doubling the size of coverage compared to last year. The existing section of tarps has been pulled and the population of milfoil beneath has been treated. The tarps have been moved to the adjacent section of milfoil in the cove. We are performing weekly inspections of the area for new growth caused by fragmentation.

We have also begun to replace the old sections of the burlap boat channel at Pine Point that are decomposing. As we place the new sections of burlap we are monitoring and removing any new milfoil growth. The section of the Point between the boat channel and property owner's docks has been dredged and scanned for any regrowth from the previous year. Our efforts are continuing to move towards the mouth of the cove.

The population in the areas of Edwards and Otisfield cove has returned to a more natural state this season. We frequently return to the area to pull and remove any new growth.

The levels in Hancock and the small cove across from Pismo beach have been decreased to a low priority project. We continue to return weekly and oversee the growth but are optimistic about the future for these two areas.

Lastly, the population of milfoil along the shoreline between Pismo beach and the Robinson dam is being monitored and pulled on a weekly basis. Our main focus of efforts at this time is balanced between this section and Pine Point.

Water Quality on Thompson

Ron Armontrout reports that our Secchi disc readings for water quality have been good this year. In mid-June there was a lot of pollen in the lake and the reading was 8.6 meters. By July 10 the reading had improved to 9.58. These readings are directly related to water quality; especially algae growth and secondarily, oxygen levels. Our readings remain some of the best in the state for lakes, something we should be proud of and maintain.

If you are reading this and you are not a dues paying member of TLEA, join up! Only about a half our property owners on the lake are members, although we all reap the benefits of these environmental programs. If you are a member, please talk us up at your neighborhood get togethers and road association meetings. We need your support! Membership forms can be obtained through the TLEA Website at www.thompsonlake.org or call 207 539-4535.

Youth Conservation Corp

(Submitted by TLEA Co-President Marcia Matuska)

YCC is going full steam this season. Tim Tardiff, our new coordinator is leading a crew of 4 eager Oxford Hills High School students. We got a somewhat late start

to the season because of the snow this past winter; our season began on June 19th. Despite this the crew has already placed riprap on 2 different properties protecting 126 feet of shoreline from further erosion and they have installed 4 box culverts, significantly decreasing runoff into the lake.

Remember, runoff into the lake is the main source of pollution and the main cause of decreased clarity. Every measure we take to decrease runoff, no matter how small, pays off in dividends in keeping the lake healthy.

Editor's note: Here's a comment sent into Marcia from a lake property owner: "Tim and the kids were fantastic. They worked so hard even on one of the hot muggy days. The job they did looks great and we are so grateful. We had several old white pines that were in danger of being undercut by the erosion and I feel confident they have done a wonderful job in halting that erosion. I tried to get others to use the youth group and several saw their work and indicated they would entertain using them. Thanks again for the wonderful work." Way to go Tim and the YCC crew.

Courtesy Boat Inspections

(Submitted by TLEA Co-President Marcia Matuska)

Courtesy Boat Inspectors are on duty again this year. We are staffing the Thompson Lake Marina, Pismo Beach launch and the Landing. We have not been staffing Robinson's Marina this year. There is construction going on there and not as much traffic.

As of July 12th, 5 plant fragments have been removed from boats leaving the lake. Two were Variable Leaf Milfoil (invasive), one was native Marigold and one was native Pipewort. The last has not yet been identified. Plants have been removed at all three ramps.

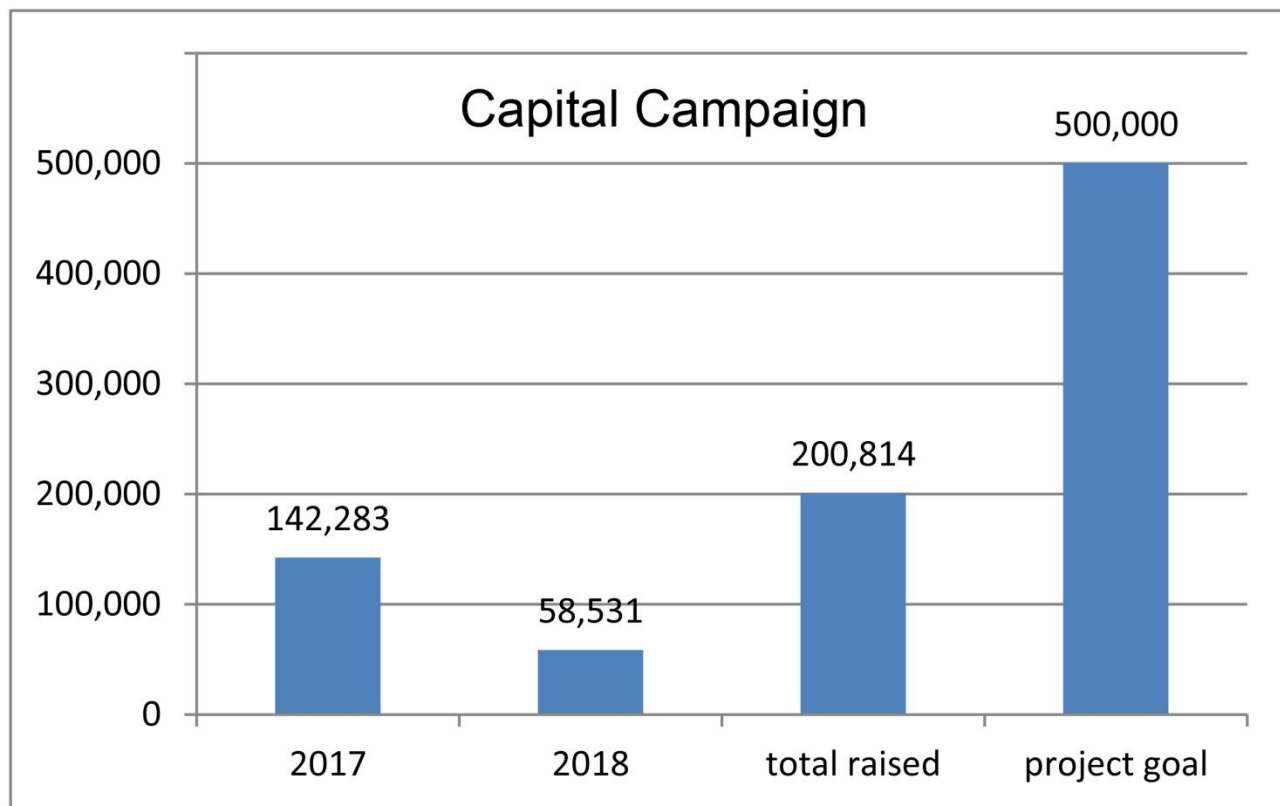
Compared to other states, Maine has relatively few invasive water plants. The Courtesy Boat Inspection program is designed to keep our lakes from infestation with new invasives and to prevent the spread of those we already have. Thompson Lake has the invasive plant Variable Leaf Milfoil.

Editor's note: Great work CBI inspectors and Marcia! This program is essential to prevent the further infestation of invasive plant species in Maine lakes. This program works in conjunction with our milfoil removal project to keep Thompson Lake a valuable resource. The inspectors are also available to educate boat owners

on the proper ways to inspect and clean boats, motors and bilges. If you meet an inspector at the launches, make sure you give them a smile and a “Thanks”.

Capital Campaign for Milfoil Removal

The Capital Campaign to fund our project to reduce milfoil in the Pine Point area and mitigate the spread of invasive species throughout the lake was launched in the late summer of 2017. We are happy to say that thanks to the environmental awareness and generosity of many individuals and businesses, we are off to a good start, though we still have a ways to go in our 4 year campaign. Let’s do this! *We still need your support.* Contributions can be sent to TLEA, PO Box 25, Oxford, ME 04270. Thank you to all who have donated or have pledged money to this cause. If you have an outstanding pledge for a donation, please send it in ASAP.



Algae Threat to Maine Lakes

We are very fortunate at Thompson Lake to have low levels of algae in the water and excellent water clarity. This is due, in part, to the efforts of TLEA and responsible property owners. You may have read about or talked to residents of other lakes and ponds that have high algae counts and occasional algal blooms. Some of these algae can be toxic in high densities. This seriously detracts from the attractiveness of the lakes and the surrounding property values. As the climate changes and waters get warmer, this may be more of a problem in the future. This

only re-enforces the importance of our environmental association and programs such as our Youth Conservation Corp.

Have you noticed stringy, filamentous algae that may appear on your shoreline in the late summer? This is sometimes described as appearing like “green cotton candy”. According to our lake biologist Scott Williams, this is a form of “Metphyton algae” that has become more common in Maine in the last 10-15 years. Scott says that he has heard from hundreds of property owners in the past years about this growth of algae. Presently there is little data about this algae and little known about the cause and effect relationship between this algae and lake water quality and watershed activity.

Unlike some forms of planktonic algae; in particular the cyanobacteria which may forms toxins at high levels, the metaphyton algae are not associated with toxins.

If you notice this type of algae growth, Scott encourages us to report this to the Lake Stewards of Maine (www.lakestewardsofmaine.org). Information on how to track and report algae growth can be found on their website. It is important that we learn more about the factors that may be causing a growth of algae in our lakes.

Briefly Noted

Annual Loon Count: was held Saturday, July 21, 7:00-8:00 AM. 10 adult loons and one baby riding mom’s back were seen on Thompson lake.

Dining to Donate: Come out to dinner at Applebee’s in Oxford and raise funds for TLEA. We are looking at the dates of August 21 or 23. A notice will be sent out to membership prior to the event. 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. Have some fun with TLEA members and help a good cause. See you there!

Clynk Program: Don’t forget to support TLEA by donating your used bottles to our Clynk program. The Clynk bags can be picked up at the TLEA office or at 37 Black Island Rd. For more info call the TLEA office at 539-4535

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10 Year Old Swims Across Thompson Lake

On July 4, 2018, 10 year old Ainsley Sahrbeck swam across Thompson Lake from Cobb Cove to Camp Kohut, accompanied by her family in three kayaks and a canoe. Ainsley lives in Riverside, Connecticut with her parents, Jeffrey and Heather Sahrbeck . Ainsley was visiting her grandparents Kathy and Bruce, year-round Maine residents. The Sahrbeck family is very proud of Ainsley!

Congratulations to Ainsley! Who knows, maybe a Bermuda swim or English Cannel crossing is in your future. Remember, if anyone is contemplating a long swim like this, you need to have support boats and a swimming buoy is also advisable.



Ainsley Gets it Done (Photo by Kathy Sahrbeck)

Visit our website:

www.thompsonlake.org

CONTACT TLEA: 207-539-4535

EMAIL: mmtlea@gmail.com

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

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