



Newsletter

Fall 2019

From your President:

Fall and winter is upon us in the watershed, the trees have lost their vivid color and the air is crisp—boats and docks are being hauled, and cottages closed up for winter months. Now it is time for all winter activities on the Lake - so get the snowmobiles, cross country skis, ice boats and ice fishing traps ready!

We had a wonderful year celebrating the 50th anniversary of the watershed. It was wonderful to see many attend and it certainly looked like everyone enjoyed the music by JUST TEACHERS on a gorgeous August day. Rumor has it Just Teachers had just as much fun as we all did! A huge thank you to all involved in pulling the concert together!

This has been said many times before but, as before, it's worth saying again: I know we all want to maintain this valuable resource so it will be here for generations to come. It takes an involved community to achieve the goal of maintaining a healthy watershed. ~ what happens within a watershed, whether natural or caused by humans, effects the water quality and health of that watershed. Please join the MWA, and support important work of educating the community and fostering good stewardship. We need your support! As a non profit we are looking for sponsors to help fund our Watershed Stewards program. This is an invaluable program that educates area youth and protects our lakes and ponds. Our Stewards monitor incoming boats all of all kinds at the boat ramps to make sure that invasive species do not enter our watershed. Also, please encourage friends and family to become members and contribute so we can continue to grow this program.

We had a great annual meeting July with Paul helping us all understand the 'Brown Tail Moth' situation. This is a big concern for all us and what treatments are available. Check our website for up to date information.

Be on the look out for our float in the Christmas-by-the-Sea Parade. We will also have a table near French and Brawn so stop by and say hi!

We are always looking for volunteers to be on the board and get involved - if you are interested please email me or Paul Leeper.

Enjoy the Winter *Dody Urquia Email urquiad@aol.com*

Treasurer's Report:

Winter has sure come in as a lion this year with the cold temps and early ice formation in the coves and inlets. As of the half way mark of our fiscal year Membership seems to be holding steady compared to last year. However, there has been a slight increase in contributions. Overall, we are showing a slight decrease in our net income due increased payroll and some miscellaneous boat expenses. We strongly encourage anyone who has not renewed their membership to please do so.

At this point in the year we are well within our budget and hope to be able to continue to keep the budget balanced as we work diligently on reducing expenses and streamlining the best we can. We recently updated our banking to be able to do online bill pay as well as direct deposits for employees going forward. In addition to this we now have the capability to receive direct contributions via ACH. If anyone is interested in doing this going forward, please reach out to me via email for instructions.

Happy Holidays! *Sarah Marriner, Treasurer smarriner80@gmail.com*

Browntail Moth Informational Session-Thursday, December 12 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Camden Library-

The Coastal Mountains Nature Program will present a Browntail Moth Informational Session at the Camden Library, Thursday, December 12 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

The presenter will be Tom Schmeelk, an Entomologist with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry through the Maine Forest Service Insect & Disease Lab. His info session will include an overview of the moth’s biology, history in Maine, and updates on current browntail range/ areas at risk. Tom is a respected leader in his field whose talk on this important health issue promises to be standing room only.

Megunticook Watershed Association 50 year Anniversary Yeti Drinkware for Sale!

Order Forms are enclosed in this newsletter. These are great gift ideas for MWAers! Please note: These can be picked up at Viking Lumber stores in Lincolnville, Belfast, or Warren. No shipping available but we will gladly hold on to them to arrange a drop off location.

Hope to see you at the Camden-by-the-Sea Parade! Watch for our float!

IMPORTANT!!!

Do we have your current e-mail address, mailing address and phone number?

We need current e-mail addresses, mailing addresses, and phone numbers for all members. We have a number of old addresses, e-mails, and phone numbers.

Emergency notices and seasonal updates are sent by e-mail making the importance of having them current crucial. MWA does not sell or share its e-mail or mailing lists. **Forward all information to Paul Leeper: paul@megunticook.org or 207-592-8540. Thanks!**

Interested in Volunteering? Your MWA is looking for LakeSmart Screeners!

Help us protect the water quality in the Watershed. The MWA is looking to expand our LakeSmart program in 2019. We need at least 2 volunteers to help us evaluate properties. Learn how to assess properties to reduce run-off and erosion. Learn which native plants to use in landscaping, how to make a rain garden, and how to divert driveway water to keep the gravel on the road and not in the lake. If you are interested please contact Paul Leeper at paul@megunticook.org. Training will be in June or July of next year.

<p>MWA Officers President - Dody Urquia urquiad@aol.com Vice President - Hillary Jackson 207-975-5060; hillaryhope1@yahoo.com Secretary - Wendy Wickenden 207-236-3745; wendylynnwick@gmail.com Treasurer- Sarah Marriner 207-596-9008; smarriner80@gmail.com</p>	<p>Interested in serving on the MWA Board of Directors, or helping out on a committee? please contact Paul Leeper or one of the Board of officers. paul@megunticook.org</p>
<p>MWA Staff Exec. Director - Paul Leeper 207-592-8540; paul@megunticook.org Lake Warden -Dale Dougherty 207-390-0030; lakewardens@megunticook.org Asst. Lake Warden- Justin Twitchell 207-975-1721; jtwitchell@knoxcountymaine.gov</p>	<p>Check us out at www.megunticook.org and on Facebook</p> <p>Please don't forget your dues! If there is a yellow dues card and envelope included with this newsletter, it is for your 2019-2020 dues. Please send in your membership check today. If you are not a member please consider joining and/or making a donation at this time. We need everyone's continued support!</p>

Exec. Director Report:

Watershed Stewards Program continues to grow in its sixth year. This year we had 6 students go through the program, 4 newbies and 2 returning vets. The program educates students on the environmental threats to the Watershed and teaches them tools to combat those threats. The students learned how to identify invasive plants and animals and staffed the boatramps inspecting watercraft entering and leaving the water. In all, over 1600 inspections were done over the summer; plants were collected off boats but, thankfully, none were identified as invasive. Our stewards also conducted by-weekly water sampling, measuring dissolved oxygen, temperature, and water clarity. This information is vital to detecting long term changes to the watershed water quality.

This program costs are approaching \$10,000 per season. We are currently looking for grant money to sustain this important long term. If you know of an organization that could grant us money for a program such as this please contact me.

Low weekly bacteria levels were found during this past summer on the pond, lake and river. We moved our lab analyses to the Rockland Wastewater lab this year with the closing of the lab at Maine Water. We switched tests from enterococci bacteria to E. coli bacteria (which is the test used at all other freshwater sites in Maine). We ended up with just one high reading at Shirttail Point and subsequent sampling the next day showed low levels again. No swim advisories were issued in the Watershed this past season. Many thanks to all our volunteers, especially Kate Killoran, for conducting this valuable program.

Water levels are currently low in the lake and pond as the Town of Camden gets ready to repair the West Dam. They will be installing a new water control gate and other structural metal. After the repairs are completed the Town will maintain water levels at the normal winter level of 20" to 24" below the spillway.

Our MWA Patrol boat is getting a bit long in the tooth. The engine has over 900 hours and the boat, made of plastic, continues to degrade. Maintenance costs, both in time and money, continue to increase for both the boat and motor. For this reason we are beginning the search for a new boat. This winter Lake Warden Dale and I will be looking at different models and layouts and getting quotes. Stay tuned as we announce our Capital Campaign in the coming months.

Holiday Raffle! We have a Snow Bowl student season's ski pass to raffle off for the holiday season. The student can be a Camden resident or non-resident, in primary, middle, high school, or college. So if you, or someone you know, has a student of any kind that wants to ski, this raffle is for you! Tickets will be on sale at our table outside French & Brawn during the Camden-by-the-Sea Parade Friday, Dec. 6 at 6PM. You can also buy tickets by contacting me (See info below) or contacting any board member. \$5 per ticket, 5 tickets for \$20.

50th anniversary Yetis for sale! There is a order form in this newsletter so you can buy these cool (or hot) insulated cups, tumblers, rambler and bottles. Go to www.megunticook.org and check out the various models and colors. They make great holiday gifts, jes saying!

Exec. Dir. Paul Leeper Tel. 207-592-8540 Email: paul@megunticook.org

Lake Warden's Report: Dale is away on Vacation as of this writing. We will email his fall report when he returns.

Lake Warden Dale Dougherty, Tel. 207-390-0030 E-mail: lakewarden@megunticook.org

Have you ever spotted a spotted sandpiper along the shores of the lake?

Obviously, if you have seen a spotted sandpiper, it is spotted on the spot, but the spots - dark ones on its breast - are only visible in the summer. This active member of the shore-bird clan is common in the northern US, preferring freshwater habitats, especially ones with rocky shorelines. Kind of like us who enjoy living on the lake (in the watershed) in the summer.

If you catch a glimpse of one - and commonly that is all you will see for usually they are single (rarely a pair) and will take off from the water's edge at first threat of a nearing boat - probably it will have been feeding, looking for insects, or small crustaceans or even small fish near the shoreline, darting quickly after its prey. Flying very low over the water with quick stiff wingbeats, it will land nearby, only to repeat similar actions. Binoculars are probably necessary to spot the dots on the breast as you cruise along and might be very faint as fall approaches.

But you don't need extra glasses to see one notable behavior diagnostic for identification: This bird constantly bobs its backside up and down. There are at least two possible explanations: one is that this helps flush out food items from their hiding places. The other is that the pumping action shows possible predators that the bird is alert, healthy and likely to take flight at a moment's notice to avoid any attempted attack. Maybe both help the bird survive better and live to breed.

And here is a surprise that fits with today's social culture. The female breaks with her common role in most bird species. She is bigger, more aggressive, and defends the nest more vigorously than the male who is the stay-at-home-mom version, incubating the eggs and then tending to the young birds on his own. The female might even mate with several males leaving each one to raise babies from eggs she has laid. Both birds build the nest, lining a depression near the water's edge, next to a rotting log overhung with dense foliage for example, with leaves, grasses and sometimes, feathers.



Since the birds are reluctant to nest near people, it's unlikely that there are nesting spotted sandpipers in most parts of the watershed, but you never know.

Watch for these little birds especially in late summer or early fall when migrants come by the watershed on their way south. Their numbers appear to be declining, as is the case with so many birds, so please learn about ways you can help them survive so we can keep spotting them - I find them endearing to watch, teeter tottering along, with or without their spots.

For more information, www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/spotted-sandpiper and https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Spotted_Sandpiper.

Thanks to Don Reimer for additional info.

Amy Campbell