



Newsletter

Spring 2016

From your President: In order to best reach our goals at the MWA we aim to raise awareness through education. Increasing accessibility to articles about the preservation of our watershed is key to our success. One avenue we have been focusing on to increase awareness and accessibility is our website. For example, after a very mild winter and an early Spring we had the earliest “ICE OUT” ever called. Our website has links to articles explaining what this means for our lakes and what we need to consider to become a better steward of the watershed. Paul Leeper and Jamie Bloomquist have been working on updating and improving our website to be more user friendly for our community, to both find articles about different environmental pressures, and easily donate to MWA with a PayPal button. This new look should be coming out soon! Make sure to check it out and let us know if you have any suggestions.

I also wanted to say a special thank you to all our volunteers!

Ed Libby did an outstanding job heading up the LakeSmart Program last year and will continue to this year.

All the water monitors who spent several hours taking bacteria samples and getting them to Maine Water every week.

The volunteer courtesy boat inspectors, and all the advocates for our waters!

Be safe, have fun, and enjoy the watershed!

Maureen Flanagan, President Tel.-207-785-2153 Email- maureen@vikinglumber.com

Exec. Director Report: Hi folks, the peepers have been singing, the toads are beginning to sing, and the light green new leaves are popping all over the watershed. We’re gearing up for a busy summer in the Watershed. The Student Watershed Stewards program will be training area students about threats to our watershed and ways to combat those threats. They will be learning to identify invasive plants, inspecting boats and trailers at the boatramps, and collecting water quality data in the lake and pond.

Our Partners-in-Monitoring volunteers will once again be testing bacteria levels around the watershed. Weekly results will be posted on our website.

Would you like to join the LakeSmart Program to learn how to manage your home and yard to protect our water quality? Contact Coordinator– Ed Libby edlibby4@gmail.com

Tell your friends, Susan Gallo of Maine Audubon will be talking at our Annual Meeting (July 12th, 7:00PM at Bishopswood Camp) about Loons! All are welcome. Your MWA will also be sponsoring a Aquatic Bug Hunt this summer (See Upcoming Events, Pg2). This will be a great opportunity for children and adults to learn how to find, identify and catch aquatic bugs and how they fit into the larger lake ecosystem.

See you on the water!

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

Upcoming Events-

Protecting the Megunticook Watershed: June 7 7:00 PM Camden Library Ex. Dir. Paul Leeper will give an illustrated talk on “Protecting the Megunticook Watershed” about the Megunticook Watershed Association’s LakeSmart and Watershed Stewards Programs

Megunticook Watershed Assoc. Annual Meeting: July 12th 2016 at 7:00 PM

Bishopswood Susan Gallo of Maine Audubon will talk about the Loons. Hope to see you all there!

Aquatic Bug Hunt: July 30th 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Rt. 105, Bog Bridge Boat Ramp

Great for kids, bring waders or wading sneakers and swimsuits!

COASTAL MOUNTAIN LAND TRUST Programs www.coastalmountains.org

Butterflies, Dragonflies, and Other Insects Walk: July 2 10:00am-12:00pm

Coastal Mountains Nature Program Head of Tide Preserve, 99 Doak Rd, Belfast, ME 04915.

Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms Walk: August 6, 10:00am-12:00pm

Coastal Mountains Nature Program (McLellan-Poor Preserve, Northport) Leader: David Porter.

MERRYSRING NATURE CENTERS Programs <http://www.merryspring.org>

Guided Nature Walk: July 7th 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Tree Identification Walk: July 21st 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Bug Safari: August 4th 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

BAY CHAMBERS CONCERTS PRESENTS: Music on the Lake, August 19th 6:00PM

Slavic Soul Party! NYC’s official #1 brass band for BalkanSoul GypsyFunk. This 9-piece band will perform an unprecedented, **free** musical happening on Megunticook Lake off of Beaucaire Ave. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Come by boat! Don’t miss it! <http://www.baychamberconcerts.org/> (207) 236-2823

Interested in Volunteering? Your MWA has plenty of opportunities including:

Courtesy Boat Inspectors– Inspect boats and trailers for invasive plants.

LakeSmart Screeners– 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, to name a few.

Partners-in-Monitoring- Volunteer to take water samples to test for bacteria levels.

For more information contact Paul Leeper 207-592-8540 Email: paul@megunticook.org

MWA Officers

President - Maureen Flanagan

207-785-2153; maureen@vikinglumber.com

1st Vice President - Dody Urquia

207-829-8302; urquiad@aol.com

Secretary - Wendy Wickenden

207-236-3745; wendyllynnwick@gmail.com

Treasurer– Sarah Marriner

207-596-9008; smarriner80@gmail.com

MWA Staff

Exec. Director - Paul Leeper

207-592-8540; paul@megunticook.org

Lake Warden –Dale Dougherty 207-390-0030;

lakewarden@megunticook.org

Asst. Lake Warden– Justin Twitchell

207-975-1721; jtwitchell@knoxcountymaine.gov

Interested in serving on the MWA Board of Directors, or helping out on a committee?

please contact Paul Leeper or one of the Board officers.

Check us out at
www.megunticook.org and on Facebook

Please don’t forget your dues!

There is a **yellow dues card** and **envelope** included with this newsletter, for your 2015-2016 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!

Treasurer's Report: Another year has begun in the watershed and we are busy working on this year's budget. This past year we ended the year with 300 members, up 5 members from the previous year. We are happy to report, even with some unexpected boat repairs and maintenance, we were able to end the year on a positive note.

Membership dues and contributions are what sustain the watershed, without everyone's continued support we would be unable to do all the work that we do to protect this valuable resource for everyone to enjoy.

We are excited to announce that we have added a PayPal feature on our website, www.megunticook.org for both new and current members who wish to purchase or renew a yearly membership online. This feature offers a secure, quick and easy way to renew your membership and make contributions anytime online.

We wish to thank you all for your continued support. I hope everyone has a great summer and is able to get out and enjoy the water.

Sarah Marriner, Treasurer smarriner80@gmail.com

Lake Warden's Report #1: Hello everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you all happy, healthy, and eager to get on the water this coming summer. The mild winter and warm spring has set the tone for a wonderful summer ahead, one which I hope will make cherished memories for you and your families.

Effective June 1st Dale Dougherty will take over as Lake Warden and I will become the assistant Lake Warden. Dale will be your eyes and ears this summer and he comes to us with a great deal of experience and local knowledge that we hope will serve you well. If you see Dale out on the water, say hello and get to know him. I will still be around and filling in as needed, assisting Dale.

My time as Lake Warden was very special to me and I can't describe in words how thankful and grateful I am to have had the opportunity to serve you in that capacity. Be safe, enjoy your summer, and Dale and I hope to see you on the water...

Assistant Lake Warden Justin Twitchell Tel. 207-975-1721 E-mail: jtwitchell@knoxcountymaine.gov

Lake Warden's Report #2: Hello, my name is Dale Dougherty. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to be your new lake warden. I am a native of, and live in, Camden. I have worked around boats and floats on both salt and fresh water for most of my life. I hope to see you all soon around the lake, pond, and river. First off, I would like to thank Justin for showing me the watershed and the warden's responsibilities. I've learned a great deal from him about the waters and the local wildlife.

Now that spring is here there is more activity in the watershed; floats are getting set up, shutters are being taken off, and boats put at the docks. The boat launching ramps and floats are now setup at both Camden locations. Megunticook Rowing has been busy getting ready to go in Barrett's Cove. Camden Parks and Rec. has cleaned up the Swimming Beach getting it ready for summer season. Things are looking good.

The lake water temp as of 5/23/2016 was 61°F, GREAT FISHING TEMP, CHILLY FOR SWIMMING, so be careful out on the lake. Need a boating law book? I have those and more on the patrol boat. Just give me a WAVE!

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

Camp Bishopswood upgrades septic system: Camp Bishopswood is undergoing a \$250,000 septic project after the pumping station at the camp failed in the middle of the 2015 camping season. Executive Director Michael Douglass says, "This is a big project for a little camp that is the fifth-most-affordable camp in the state of Maine". Douglass said the system was outdated, so it was decided to install a high-end system that would last for years to come and also protect Megunticook Lake. "It is our duty to protect the lake and protect the environment," Douglass said. "We teach that lesson to the kids, so we put our wallet where our mouth is, so to speak. The project is currently about \$40,000 short and camp officials are seeking to raise the additional funds. To donate to the camp's septic campaign, email Douglass at mike@campbishopswood.org or Camp Bishopswood 98 Bishopswood Rd. Hope, ME 04847

Noises, on and off and on and off, etc.....
Jeremiah might have been a bullfrog, but unlike him, most, no, make that all, of the bullfrogs I have ever heard have all requested a “jug o rum” instead of wine, mighty fine or not. They must have some great parties at night at the edges of the lake!



All kidding aside, bullfrogs are typically heard during the summer when you can be kept awake at night if you happen to live close to an area where they set up camp. And, perhaps to make matters worse, when one starts its sonorous deep-throated calling, all the other bullfrogs in the neighborhood add their voices to the chorus which then, all of a sudden stops. And then you lie there waiting for it to start all over again. The golden silence lasts not long. They also have three types of calls - for territory definition, for advertising for females, and ones specific to pre-combat between competing males. The great naturalist Bernd Heinrich was drawn into a swamp at midnight by such a ‘fiendish cacophony’ wondering if it was typical in times of the dinosaurs. In fact, it was the voice of an amphibian that first was heard in the air of the early earth, the only other sounds being made by insects. It is speculated that the sound of the combined bullfrog calls travels farther than a single one and could attract female frogs from a wider area than more than a single garumphing male. The silence might be a time to listen for other bullfrog calls or just a time out to rest. And of course the main reason for the chorus is because it’s time to mate.

Frogs of all kinds mate in the water. Their eggs, which have no protective shell, are fertilized as they are released, the female frog held in position by the male during the mating process which is called amplexus. Eggs, which can number about 20,000 per release, then become part of the food web as they can be gobbled up by aquatic insects and fish. Or not - some fish and other would-be predators find the taste of both eggs and larvae off-putting. Not so the adult. There are numerous predators including birds such as herons and kingfishers, otters, and of course, humans. Frogs legs! Taste like chicken?

Other tidbits from bullfrogdom: They have tiny teeth for grasping but it’s the tongue that is the primary food capturing implement; that and a strong jaw. And they are pretty much omnivorous predators themselves - prey items include insects including aquatic ones, fish and tadpoles, but also (gulp) birds, bats and rodents. Adult female bullfrogs (who are not referred to as cowfrogs; a cow frog, however, is another name for a leopard frog!) are larger than the male - can weigh a pound or more and can live up to 10 years. The males are territorial, keeping a distance of about 10-20 feet from other competitors, and form ‘choruses’, what else could they be called, groupings that are flexible in their members, continuously forming and breaking up. Although the males remain in breeding form for two to three months, the females are only interested and receptive for only one night. Puts a new spin on Night of the Iguana... er, Bullfrog.

Amy Campbell

IMPORTANT!!!

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

We need current mailing and e-mail addresses and phone numbers of 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.**