



**Sebec Lake Association**  
**PO Box 303**  
**Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426**



## Sebec Lake Association Newsletter

*Spring / Summer 2013*

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### **Annual Meeting**

- *Saturday July 13, 2013 7pm*
- *Mayo Regional Hospital, Piscataquis Room*
- [www.sebedlakeassoc.com](http://www.sebedlakeassoc.com)



We were all deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Barbara Merrill last October. Barb always supported the SLA mission of protecting and preserving Sebec Lake, encouraging property owners and visitors to be safe and to be diligent in not allowing invasive plants or invasive fish species to enter the water. Barb wanted to keep Sebec healthy and vibrant for future generations. We will miss her very much. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barb's husband Tim, and to their family Hayden & Sheila, Ross & Oliver and grandchildren Mason & Carter.

Many activities will be held during the summer again this year.....see page 4 for a list of dates and locations. A new event this year will be the Piscataquis Heritage Hot Air Balloon Festival to be held May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be hot air balloon rides, tethered balloon rides, evening glows, entertainment, lots of food, ultralites, skydivers and more.

Check out <http://piscataquisballoonfestival.org> or Google 'Piscataquis Heritage Hot Air Balloon Festival' for more information.

The past few years Steve Marson, owner of Central Pyrotechnics, has contributed \$3000 to the Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming Committee in order to support the Sebec Lake fireworks. This year he will not be able to contribute as planned. Therefore, more than ever, we need your help to keep this tradition going. The Sebec Lake Association is a \$1000 major contributor to the fireworks. If you enjoy the Sebec Lake Fireworks and wish to see it continue, please donate generously.

Thanks, in advance, for your support!

If you have visited other lakes and are bringing your kayaks, canoes, motor boats, PDFs, oars, trailers or other items, to Sebec Lake, please remember to check thoroughly for any plant material. Remove the vegetation and clean your items thoroughly before putting them in Sebec Lake.

We all need to work together to protect and preserve this beautiful resource!!

Looking forward to seeing you on Sebec and at the annual SLA meeting July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Brian Woodworth

Sebec Lake Association, President

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### Sebec Lake Association Treasurer

**P.O. Box 303, Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426**

First/Last Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Property Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Property City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Property Map# \_\_\_\_\_ Lot# \_\_\_\_\_ (Can be found on tax bill)

Year Lake Property acquired: \_\_\_\_\_ (Helps determine if property has changed owner since our last tax record update.)

Lake Property Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

To make sure all parties/all properties get membership credit:

Do you have more than one lake property? Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you share ownership?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (we hope to be emailing newsletters eventually): \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU for your support of the Sebec Lake Association!

**Sebec Lake Association Website**

[www.sebeclakeassoc.com](http://www.sebeclakeassoc.com)

**Sebec Lake Association Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, July 13, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

Mayo Regional Hospital – Piscataquis Room

**Sebec Lake Association Officers & Directors**

- |                                  |                                 |  |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| President – Brian Woodworth      | (Cell: 207-217-0962)            | <a href="mailto:president@sebeclakeassoc.com">president@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Vice President – Rick Page       |                                 | <a href="mailto:vp@sebeclakeassoc.com">vp@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>                 |
| Treasurer – Jennifer Stewart     |                                 | <a href="mailto:treasurer@sebeclakeassoc.com">treasurer@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Recording Secretary – Janet Hall | (Newsletters & Data Manager)    | <a href="mailto:secretary@sebeclakeassoc.com">secretary@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director – Gary Soucy            | (Website Manager)               | <a href="mailto:director1@sebeclakeassoc.com">director1@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director – Bob Hall              | (Water Level & Quality Monitor) | <a href="mailto:director2@sebeclakeassoc.com">director2@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director – Elaine Page           |                                 | <a href="mailto:director3@sebeclakeassoc.com">director3@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director – Don Page              |                                 | <a href="mailto:director4@sebeclakeassoc.com">director4@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director – Peter Chase           | (Stakeholder Contact)           | <a href="mailto:director5@sebeclakeassoc.com">director5@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director – Norman Hill           |                                 | <a href="mailto:director6@sebeclakeassoc.com">director6@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director – Dean Meffe            |                                 | <a href="mailto:director7@sebeclakeassoc.com">director7@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director – Marie Woodbrey        |                                 | <a href="mailto:director8@sebeclakeassoc.com">director8@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director – Vic Woodbrey          |                                 | <a href="mailto:director9@sebeclakeassoc.com">director9@sebeclakeassoc.com</a>   |
| Director - Maurice Marden        | (Ampersand (dam) & DEP Liaison) | <a href="mailto:director10@sebeclakeassoc.com">director10@sebeclakeassoc.com</a> |
| Director - Rudy Davis            |                                 | <a href="mailto:director11@sebeclakeassoc.com">director11@sebeclakeassoc.com</a> |
| Director - Renee Rawinski        |                                 | <a href="mailto:director12@sebeclakeassoc.com">director12@sebeclakeassoc.com</a> |

**Emergency Numbers**

Mayo Regional Hospital.....	207-564-8401	Dover-Foxcroft Police.....	207-564-8021
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**Merrill Marina**

Sebec Lake, Dover-Foxcroft, Me.    207-564-2617    207-564-2165



The Sebec Lake Association lost a great friend and supporter last October when Barbara Merrill passed away suddenly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family . This is the obituary notice that appeared shortly after her passing:

Barbara J. Merrill, 65, beloved wife of Tim Merrill, passed away October 24, 2012, at Mayo Regional Hospital, Dover-Foxcroft. She was born May 6, 1947 in Dover-Foxcroft, the daughter of Henry Burleigh and Hesta (Clark) Maynard. Barbara and Tim met in the fifth grade and she sat in front of him all through their school years. Shortly after high school they decided they should be together a little longer so they married and spent 45 more wonderful years together, with Barbara still in the lead. They owned and operated Park Grocery, Tim Merrill and Co., Merrill Propane, and Merrill's Marina at Sebec Lake for many years. Barbara also spent countless hours helping create the Bears House Museum. She is survived by her husband, Tim, of Dover-Foxcroft; her mother, Hesta Maynard of Sebec; three sons, Hayden Merrill and Sheila Bragg and their sons, Mason and Carter, all of Bowerbank, Ross Merrill of Dover-Foxcroft, and Oliver Merrill of Homer City, PA; a brother, Michael Maynard of Sebec; three sisters, Rebecca Maynard of Princeton, NJ, Kitty Maynard of Camden, and Penelope Villavicencio of Sebec; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother, Henry. Messages of condolence and memories may be expressed at [www.laryfuneralhome.com](http://www.laryfuneralhome.com).



## Mark your calendars for these summer events

The **Annual Meeting** of the Sebec Lake Association is scheduled for Saturday, July 13, 2013 at 7p.m. in the Piscataquis Room of Mayo Regional Hospital. We hope to have Tim Obrey, Maine State Biologist there to update us on the state of Sebec Lake. The Board of Directors will meet prior to the Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Parking and entrance is at the rear of the Hospital.

The first annual **Piscataquis Heritage Hot Air Balloon Festival** will be held from May 31 through June 2 in Dover-Foxcroft, sponsored by the Kiwanis & Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce. In addition to Hot Air Balloons, the Festival will host local artisans and businesses from small town Maine and Piscataquis County. The Chamber has requests for places to stay; if you are interested in renting your camp, contact the Chamber at 207-564-7533.

Celebrate the taste of Maine's Favorite Dessert at the **2013 Maine Whoopie Pie Festival** on Saturday June 22, 10a.m to 4p.m in downtown Dover-Foxcroft. Dozens of bakers with thousands of Whoopie Pies will be on hand. Sample, purchase and enjoy this uniquely Maine delicacy. Come for the Whoopie Pies, but stay all day to enjoy live music, food, arts and crafts, vendors, and fun activities for the whole family!

**Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming** and the very popular **Fireworks** display on Sebec Lake are scheduled for Saturday, August 3rd. The theme is 'New Beginnings'. Please note that the Fireworks display is dependent on enough money being raised. Please be generous when asked to contribute to this amazing celebration. The Sebec Lake Association has contributed \$1000 to the Fireworks Fund.

Other events on the calendar: The **Sebec Village July 4<sup>th</sup> parade** and other celebration events, the **Piscataquis River Festival** in Guilford on July 27<sup>th</sup>, the **Dover-Foxcroft Kiwanis Auction** is July 25, 26, & 27 and the **126<sup>th</sup> Annual Piscataquis Valley Fair** Aug 22 through 25.

Please support these local events! They are all lots of fun and many support local causes.

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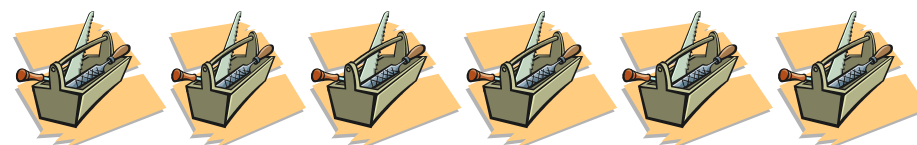
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## A short History of Deer Crossing, Bowerbank, ME

Jennifer Rogers and Marcia Langston

It was around 1937 that our parents' best friends decided to build a camp on Great Pond in the Belgrades. To our Dad, Harold Lloyd, it was a great idea, except for one problem - he was a schoolteacher caught between The Great Depression and a looming world war. His father-in-law, Oscar Haase, on the other hand, might



like the idea enough to finance it. So Dad shared his idea for a summer retreat and Grandpa and Grandma loved it. The story goes that they wanted something remote, even further north than Waterville (all parties were living in Connecticut). Grandpa began looking for land and lo and behold, saw an ad in the New York Times for acreage on the shores of Sebec Lake, Bowerbank, Maine! Dad and Grandpa drove up from CT (it took 2 days) and met with Andy Moore, a farmer selling off land that we were told was part of a Revolutionary War grant to his ancestors. The long and short of it is that Andy made his sale, our Dad had blueprints drawn for a log camp, a road was cut down through the woods to access the land (now Peterson Road), and building began. Deer Crossing was built by local men, largely from trees cut from the road and property. A beautiful fieldstone fireplace was built by Peter Nicholas, a Native American from the area. We always had indoor plumbing though we flushed with a pail of well water, heated water on the stove for washing dishes and ourselves, had no electricity until the 1950s, and used to wash our clothes in the lake. We two sisters watched Peterson's Lodge being built. Once we asked our Dad for some beer and ran up the road with it to give it to the Peterson brothers. It just about exploded when they opened the bottles; unfortunately, they got very little.

Deer Crossing has been my family's summer home since 1939, only missing a war year when gas was rationed. My sister, Marcia Langston, and I count ourselves very fortunate. We learned at some point that Grandpa had sold a cottage on the Connecticut shore to build Deer Crossing (so named because it is at the narrowest part of the lake just west of Little Pine Island and the deer would swim across the lake at that point). It might not have been the wisest investment he ever made financially, but it certainly was the best for us, providing years of magical summers and priceless memories. We recall the log booms which always seemed to get stuck in front of our camp, Carrie Wyman running the country store in the village, fried clams at Greeley's Landing, the 4th of July celebrations in Sebec, put on by the Wymans, countless country auctions, Roy's and Kitchens in Dover, Robert Hall's and Jenkins Antiques. As they say, the value of such memories: priceless!



### Did you know...

✦ This year we will be sending out only one Newsletter mailing using first class postage. For two years, we have used bulk mail for cost savings, but undeliverable bulk mail is not returned to us. Address corrections are not made and mail continues to be sent to outdated addresses. We would like to send our Newsletter via email, but only 30% of property owners have provided an email. Email addresses will **NEVER** be shared with any third party

✦ There is now a **Fisheries Management Plan** for Sebec Lake. Tim Obrey, IFW Biologist, brought together a group of people with an interest in Sebec Lake to create the plan. You can find it on the website under **Sebec Lake**. Be sure to read Tim's article about the plan elsewhere in the Newsletter.

✦ In addition to boats and trailers, other watercraft that have been on any other bodies of water must be **checked for plant debris, thoroughly washed and dried** before putting them in the lake. This includes kayaks, canoes, PWCs, tubes, etc. Many Maine lakes and ponds have **invasive plants** near shorelines and boat launches and we need to be vigilant to keep them out of Sebec. Be sure to spread the word to your guests!

✦ Fish from other bodies of water should **NEVER** be released into Sebec Lake. This includes lakes, ponds, rivers and, of course, fish tanks. Past discussions have concentrated on fish **ladders**, but invasive species or unhealthy fish can be introduced to the lake by individuals as well.

High concentrations of **phosphorous** leads to algae bloom (see Bob Hall's **State of the Lake** report). Higher levels of phosphorous, found in fertilizers and detergents, are a result of storm runoff. The trees and vegetation along the shorefront mitigate the runoff. Shorefront rock removal, lawns, paths and cutting of trees make runoff worse. We can decrease the amount of phosphorous that enters the lake by following the state and local rules related to waterfront environments.



Boat Decals \$2.00 each

Visit our Web Site

[www.sebeclakeassoc.com](http://www.sebeclakeassoc.com)

**2012 State of Lake Report**

Sebec Lake environmental characteristics including water clarity, lake level and phosphorus concentration data are collected on a regular basis. The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) provides us with the training necessary to gather the data for water clarity and total phosphorus. The mission of VLMP is to provide protection for the nearly 6,000 lakes in Maine through the acquisition and collection of scientific data, and to raise public awareness about the extraordinary ecological, aesthetic and economic value provided by Maine's lakes.

Lake Clarity. The water clarity in Sebec Lake continues to be very good. During the 2012 season (Jul-Sep) the clarity readings were observed in the range from 6.3 to 7.0 meters, somewhat lower than the 7.3 meters average, characteristic of this period. Lower clarity readings were observed throughout the state of Maine and were attributed to the excessive run-off amounts following several large rain events that occurred during the May-October period.

Lake Level. For the most part, the lake level during the May-Oct 2012 period was held at the high expectation level ("norm") of 322.8 feet (above sea level). However, the lake did rise to 1.1 feet above the "norm" following a rain storm in the middle of May, twice after separate June storms to levels of 1.2 feet and 2.3 feet above the "norm", and following the very heavy storm at the end of October to 2.6 feet above the "norm". David Lockwood, of Seymour Cove, reported that the lake rose over 25 inches in 48 hours during that storm event – the highest rise rate he had ever seen. All four events were anticipated before they occurred and the gates at the dam in Sebec Village were fully opened. Unfortunately, the voluminous amounts of water were more than the turbine and sluice gates could pass, leading to the excessively elevated lake levels. Once again in the late November 2011 to April 2012 period, the Ampersand Hydro folks operated the dam in a manner that kept the lake level from rising excessively during the snow melt run-off that occurs in the early spring. To do this requires the splashboards be removed in the late Fall (after allowing the lake level to drop to a point that allows safe access to them), and reinstalled again in the spring (after the lake level has again dropped following the snow melt run-off to a point that allows safe access).

Phosphorus Concentration. In September 2012, water samples were taken from near Greeley's Landing and where Wilson Stream enters the lake and submitted for the analysis of phosphorus concentration data. The readings were 5 ppb (parts per billion) at Greeley's and 7 ppb at the Wilson Stream site. These both are very good values as they relate to the health of the lake. Lakes having a phosphorus concentration less than 20 ppb are considered healthy.

Phosphorus is in living things and soil, but when too much enters a lake it can be problematic.. Phosphorus is like "junk food" for algae (microscopic plants). When additional phosphorus gets washed into lakes, the algae grow out of control (algal bloom - water turns green) reducing the clarity of the water. When the algae die, they fall to the bottom, decompose, and deplete oxygen in the process. There are two serious consequences of oxygen depletion: (1) loss of oxygen kills the cold water species such as trout and salmon living near the bottom; (2) the loss of oxygen causes a chemical change to occur in lake sediment that frees additional phosphorus to feed the bloom.

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**2012 State of Lake Report Continued**

The largest source of phosphorus to Maine lakes is from storm water runoff from camp roads (and town roads), and from residential development. Runoff from these areas may contain from 5 to 10 times as much phosphorus as runoff from natural forested areas. That is why the most effective way to control the export of phosphorus to lakes is to maintain vegetated "buffers" between developed areas and the lake.

Septic systems may also contribute phosphorus to lakes, but if a system has been properly designed and maintained, the amount of phosphorus that leaves the leach field should be minimal.

Most modern soaps and detergents do not contain phosphorus. However, fertilizers do and they can be a significant source to lakes. Generally speaking, lawns don't require fertilizer. A much safer and lake-friendly alternative is to apply lime. Lime causes nutrients that are in the soil to be released to the grass, having the same greening effect as using a fertilizer, but with a much lower impact on water quality. Lime is not a threat to lakes.

Oxygen Concentration (DO). DO levels were last recorded for Sebec Lake in 2002 at intermittent levels down to 45m (147 feet). The DO readings ranged from 8.2 ppm (parts per million) to 10.2 ppm. Oxygen levels below 5 ppm stress some cold water fish and may eliminate or reduce habitat for sensitive cold water species.

Invasive Plants. We need to be continually vigilant with regard to invasive plants. Two of the worst of these invasive plants, the submerged Hydrilla and Eurasian watermilfoil, re-sprout annually and quickly grow to the surface in up to 20 feet of water. When invasive plants from other geographic regions (or even from the lake next door) are introduced to a lake they may proliferate rapidly because the factors that control them in their native waters, like disease and competition, may not exist in their new habitat. Once invasive lake plants become established in a lake, they may spread to nearby through natural processes. However, these plants can also be spread when small fragments become attached to boats, motors, trailers, fishing traps, nets, bait buckets, and other human contrivances. When a boat is transported from one lake to another, an attached fragment may break loose, creating the potential for a new population to develop in that lake. The most effective (economic and practical) approach for controlling invasive plants is through prevention or early detection. We need to be well-informed about the ways in which plants spread in order to prevent infestations. If one does occur, early detection can reduce the chances that the plant will spread throughout the lake.

The VLMP has an excellent program that provides training for people to be able to identify invasive plant species. These training sessions last a full day (and are free to participants) and are held at various times and locations in Maine during the spring and summer. With this knowledge, volunteers are equipped to monitor lake plant life along the shorelines and thereby be the watch guard for the continuing safety of our lake from invasive plant species. The Association is working to have a workshop in Summer 2013. Look for an announcement on the website.

### Sebec Lake Fisheries Management Plan

In 2012, Fisheries staff from the Moosehead Lake Region and a group of stakeholders from Sebec Lake worked together to develop a fisheries management plan for the lake. The purpose of this fisheries management plan is to create a document with clear, measurable goals and objectives for the future management of the lake using scientific data as well as public input. This plan was developed using data collected by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for over 50 years at Sebec Lake in conjunction with input from the Sebec Lake Stakeholders group which includes members from the business community, summer and winter anglers, camp owners, and the Sebec Lake Association. The plan contains 3 overarching primary goals for the management of Sebec Lake and specific measureable objectives within each of the goals. Potential problems associated with each objective have been identified along with possible strategies to overcome those problems. No priority was set in the objectives; however, the group felt it is most important to maintain the current fishing opportunities while attempting to reach the objectives. This plan will provide a clear course of action to reach the goals, create an informational document, keep managers and the anglers focused on important goals, and protect the lake from rogue ideas, such as stocking invasive species or other undesirable actions.

You can read the Sebec Lake Fishery Management Plan and view a slide presentation on the Plan at the Sebec Lake Association website under **Sebec Lake**.

Thanks to **Tim Obrey**, Regional Fisheries Biologist, Moosehead Lake Region for submitting this article and bringing together a group of Stakeholders to create the plan.

Sebec Lake Association Stakeholders Contact:  
Peter Chase    director5@sebeclakeassoc.com

### Sebec Lake Association Website Information

All Sebec Lake property owners receive our **Newsletter** at their home address of record. We try to keep the addresses up-to-date based on the home address in the tax records of each town on the lake and forms submitted by the owners. Please let us know if you are not getting our mailings or have a change of address by filling out the form under **Contact Us** on the SLA website, [www.SebecLakeAssoc.com](http://www.SebecLakeAssoc.com).

Check out our website for **Announcements** of upcoming events and other timely information. The topics are listed on the right hand side of the homepage.

Thanks to Gary Soucy, our Webmaster, in addition to **paying your dues** via PayPal, you can now make **donations** in Memory of an individual or to the General Fund as well as purchase Sebec Lake **decals** reminiscent of those created over a decade ago, suitable for boats and cars. The decals are \$2 each, plus \$1 for postage and handling for the entire order. Make sure we have your current mailing address by filling out the address form under **Contact Us**.

If you prefer to order decals by mail, send a note indicating the number of decals wanted with a check for \$2 for each decal, plus \$1 postage and handling for the entire order to **Sebec Lake Association** PO Box 303, D-F, ME 04426. Please mark the envelope 'Decals' for faster service.

You can **list your business** on our website for \$50 per year. Full page ads in our annual spring Newsletter are \$75. Go to the SLA website and click on **Local Businesses**, then on **Get Listed** and fill out the form.


You can see data and graphs related to **Lake Water Levels**, **Water Clarity** and **Water Tests** on our website under **Sebec Lake**.

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