



Sebec Lake Association Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2015



- ◆ Fuel and Oil ◆ Snacks
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- ◆ Glastron and MirroCraft Boats
- ◆ Floe Aluminum Docks and Lifts ◆ Boat Rental
- ◆ Montego Bay Pontoons ◆ EZ Dock Floating Docks
- ◆ Used Automobiles ◆ Propane and Accessories
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- ◆ Pizza, Sandwiches, Ice Cream ◆ Fishing Bait
- ◆ Tackle ◆ Sebec Lake Apparel and Gifts

Thank you all for a great 2014.

We hope to see you again in 2015!

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Annual Meeting

Saturday July 11, 2015 9:30am @ Mayo Regional Hospital, Piscataquis Room

www.sebeclakeassoc.com

President's Message - Sebec Lake Associatin - 2015

At this writing (early February) we are covered in quite a few feet of snow and hunkered down in cold, cold temperatures. The snowmobile trails are in excellent condition. The ice boaters and ice fishermen are having a great winter. We are, however, looking forward to Spring and the warmer weather when we can get the boats and water toys out.

Please take a look at the articles in this newsletter concerning invasive plants. Many Maine lakes are already infested. We are truly proactive in our mission of 'Protecting & Preserving' Sebec Lake. Please volunteer to help us with this

mission. Contact Director Rudy Davis or President Brian Woodworth for more

information (contact info on the back of this newsletter).

Our **annual Sebec Lake Association meeting** will be held **Saturday, July 11, 2015** at Mayo Regional Hospital Piscataquis Room. Please note this will be a **9:30 a.m. morning meeting**. The board of directors will meet at 8:00 a.m. before the membership meeting. Tim Obrey, IFW Biologist, will be speaking on the stakeholders fish management at Sebec Lake.

The Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming Parade and the Hot Air Balloon Festival will not be held this year due to lack of enough volunteers to effectively make these events possible. We hope to bring both of these very popular events back in future years.

The 2015, seventh annual, Sebec Lake Fireworks will be held on the evening of Saturday, August 1st, providing we have enough donations. The cost for this event is between \$10,000 and \$12,000 dollars so please donate to this wonderful display. Due to the fact there will be no parade August 1st we intend to ramp up activities at the beach during the day. Come out to Sebec Lakejoin in food, fun & fireworks!

I am sad to report that Carl & Vicki Brackett have sold their businesses of AMB Signs and Foxcroft Printers. Carl has produced and printed our SLA Newsletter for many years. Our newsletter is an extremely time consuming and expensive venture and Carl has done a wonderful job in making our newsletter look great and keeping the cost to bare bones. Carl has been very generous to the SLA and other organizations in our community. He was awarded the Piscataquis County 'Business of the Year' award in 2014. Thanks Carl & Vicki for your years of dedicated service to our community. Now you'll have more time to spend at your camp at Sebec Lake!!!

Daniel Moore is the new owner of AMB Signs & Foxcroft Printers.....stop in a visit with Dan and please support his businesses in the future.

Have a wonderful 2015 at Sebec Lake.....see you at the annual meeting and fireworks!

Brian Woodworth

Sebec Lake Association, President

2014 Lake Report - Bob Hall

We continue to regularly monitor our Lake characteristics including water clarity, lake level and, periodically, phosphorus concentration.

Lake Clarity. The water clarity in Sebec Lake continues to be very good. During the past 2014 season (Jun-Oct) the Secchi depth clarity readings were in the range of 20.3 to 24.6 feet, and averaged 23.2 feet. The average of readings over the last seventeen years is 23.9 feet. Higher Secchi reading depths indicate clearer water. Lower readings indicate turbid or colored water. Clarity is affected by algae, soil particles, and other materials suspended in the water. Secchi readings are primarily used as an indicator of algal abundance and general lake productivity. Although it is only an indicator, Secchi disk depth is the simplest and one of the most effective tools for estimating a lake's productivity.

Lake Level. For the most part the lake level during the May-early Oct, 2014 period was held at the high expectation level ("norm") of 322.8 feet (above sea level). The lake did rise to one foot above the "norm" on July 7th. In April, prior to the replacement of the splash boards, the lake level rose by 6.5 feet in ten days, reaching 325.74 feet on April 17th. During that time the average rate at which water was leaving the lake at the dam was 2100 cubic feet per second.

Phosphorus Concentration. Phosphorus is in living things and soil, but when too much enters a lake, it disrupts the balance of life. When additional phosphorus gets washed into lakes, the algae grow out of control (algal bloom, -water turns green) reducing the visibility or clarity of the water. 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 5-10 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.

Invasive Plants. We have received reports of suspicious plants in the lake from both camp owners and visitors. The VLMP-trained SLA Plant Patrol members have identified the samples as native species; all have been sent to the VLMP for positive id (at no charge to SLA); VLMP deemed our identification correct.

Ice Out. The annual Ice out date has been determined for Sebec Lake since 1879, and is also determined for several other Maine Lakes. Ice-out for Sebec Lake is defined as the date the lake becomes navigable from Packard Landing to Sebec Village. 2014 was a particularly cold winter for Maine and, correspondingly, the Ice out date for Sebec Lake was May 4th @ 4:45 p.m. The average Ice-out date for the last ten years is April 22nd. Since 1879 the average Ice-out date is April 29th. During that time the earliest Ice out date was April 3rd in 2010; the latest, May 15th in 1972.

Did you know...

Are you researching the origins of your camp? There are historical society buildings in three of our lake towns with lots of memorabilia, historic town records, photos and artifacts? All are run by knowledgeable volunteers in each community and love visitors!

In **Dover-Foxcroft**, the Historical Society was founded in 1964 and the memorabilia is housed in the Observer 'Flat Iron' building on Union Square. It is open on Monday-Saturday, 10-5 or 10-7 depending on the day.

The **Sebec** Historical Society was formed in 1967 when a small group of Sebec citizens came together with the idea of preserving early town artifacts and recording the stories, anecdotes and histories that make Sebec unique. The artifacts are housed in the old Harriman School on the North Rd.

In **Bowerbank**, historical artifacts and town records are housed in the old one-room school house near the Fire House. Hours are limited to the summer season, M W F 10-12.

Another gem displaying photos and artifacts is the **Bear's House Museum**, run by Tim Merrill. It contains many old photos and histories of camps around the lake; you just might be able to find your camp picture there! The Museum is located in a small log cabin at Greeley's Landing just before the boat launch. There is no admission charge. Call for hours/information: (207) 564-2165

The **Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District** is participating in a year-round program that is working to get rid of all lead-based fishing tackle in the state of Maine. This program is called the **Loon and Lead Tackle Exchange Program**. As you may know, loons can be poisoned by ingesting lead-based fishing tackle, which quickly leads to illness or death. This program set up so that anyone can stop by the PCSWCD's office at 42 Engdahl Drive, Dover-Foxcroft, ME with their lead-based tackle and exchange it for **FREE** with **lead-free, loon-safe NEW tackle!** For more information about this program, contact the staff at the PCSWCD at 207-564-2321 ext. 3. Happy fishing!

Look for information about the Sebec Lake Association in the Eastern Gazette this summer.



Denise Buzzelli
Executive Director
Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce
1033 South St.
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
(207) 564-7533



www.piscataquischamber.com

Have you seen Foam on the Lake?

This fall we received a report of a large 'island' of foam on the lake near Seymour Cove, which led us to check possible causes. The appearance of foam, also called **spume**, can be alarming, however it usually results from natural causes.

Foam is caused by surfactants which lower the surface tension of a liquid, making the water surface foam more easily. Surfactants include soaps and detergents as well as organic materials released during plant decomposition. Wind and waves agitate the surfactant on the water, causing air bubbles which result in foam buildup, which often accumulate along the shoreline. Foam is usually white, but can be brown/tan when caused by decomposition. Natural foam often smells 'earthy' or 'fishy', while that caused by pollution has a 'perfumy' or 'soapy' odor. Natural foam is usually short lived, breaking down quickly when wind/wave action ceases, while pollutant foam is more persistent and cannot easily be brushed apart.

A simple test to determine whether the foam is natural or from pollutants is the 'shake test.' In a medium sized container (.5-1 quart) shake a sample of spumous water. Natural foam will dissipate upon agitation, while foam from detergents will generally increase.

Natural foam is usually harmless, as approximately 1% of the foam is surfactants, while 99% is water and air. If you see excess foam and are concerned, try the 'shake' test. If the foam does not dissipate, take a sample and call an SLA director (see SLA website) to report it.

For further information, see the article used for the above information:
<http://www.lakepanachecampers.com/Foaming%20Water.pdf> .

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Invasive Plant Patrol Initiative

The SLA believes it imperative to create and implement a plan to address a critical threat to the health of our lake...**invasive species**. At the top of the list of the threat are invasive plants, such as Eurasian Milfoil and Hydrilla.

These two species of invasive plant, which can effectively take over and 'kill' the lake, are now just a two hour drive away from Sebec. They are present in the Belgrade lakes, and continue their migration northward and eastward from other infestations. How does this happen? Fragments of these invaders arrive on boats, trailers, fishing equipment, PWCs, canoes, kayaks, waders, skis, tubes and even kids' toys. Belgrade Lakes is believed to have been infested by Duck decoys. Plant fragments survive even the harsh extremes of winter, and can remain dormant for many months, both in and out of water. It takes vigilance and a commitment from Camp owners to keep them at bay. It means a **monitoring team** needs to be formed, not just to patrol the areas of highest infestation risk, e.g. launches and marinas, but to respond to any Camp owner who finds a suspicious plants at their lakefront.

SLA, as many of you know, has been the tip of the spear in protecting Sebec Lake from a variety of threats over the years. We've depended on the volunteerism and membership support to perform this function. And now we need your help as much as ever.

SLA has formulated plans to create an **Invasive Plant Patrol team**. The team will perform several key functions:

The IPP team, working in conjunction with the State and local governments, will design and place additional educational signage about invasive species at all launches and marinas. Education is our best preventive measure.

Survey the lake shore zones, creating a map of what is currently growing where. Beginning this summer, the survey will begin at the marinas and boat launches. Over the next 3 – 4 years, the IPP team's goal is to have completed the entire shoreline.

The IPP team will be trained in rapid response to any report of a 'potential' invasive plant, so that we can safely and effectively 'trap' it and send it off for official analysis without risking further spreading.

The creation and activation of this team is no easy task, and it needs your help.

What you can do:

First and foremost, **volunteer to be on the IPP team.** If you'd like to volunteer, contact SLA President Brian Woodworth at 207-217-0962 or Board member Rudy Davis at 978-204-6799.

Second, volunteer your kayak or canoe to the effort for a few hours every now and then.

Third, make a dedicated **financial contribution** to the effort. The team will need equipment: logs, view scopes, maps, identification books, specialized rakes, etc.

Fourth, if you are not a member of SLA, **join.** Annual dues are only \$15.00, and the return – protection of your lakeside asset – is immense.

Finally, become educated about this threat, and make sure the equipment and 'toys' you put in the water, or that any visitors may put in the water, are **appropriately washed, cleaned and inspected** prior to going in.

The SLA believes it is critical not to underestimate the threat these invasive species pose to our Lake. If you'd like to see what an infestation looks like, go to the SLA website and view the VLMP video on the Home page.

It's not a pretty picture. So, please consider getting involved. See you in a few months. Until then, stay warm wherever you are! Rudy Davis



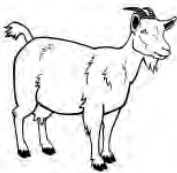
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Sebec Lake Association: What do we do?

The Sebec Lake Association continues to keep protection of our lake as our top priority. We are initiating an Invasive Plant Patrol group to search and map our shoreline, recording native plant species' locations and checking for invasive plants. This plan starts this summer and we need your help. Please see the **Invasive Plant Patrol Initiative** article on another page of the Newsletter.

At our Annual meeting last year, it was apparent that SLA needs more members. As of this writing, our 2015 membership stands at 205 members out of 876 property owners, **less than 25%** of potential members. In 2013, SLA passed out flyers describing our mission at various businesses in the area, and town offices to encourage folks to join our organization; in summer 2014 we initiated a pilot program for door-to-door visitations by our directors to camps on their roads, handing out the flyers and talking with neighbors. What we realize is that we need the help of camp owners to **talk about SLA, what we do, and to encourage membership.**

Our dues continue to be **\$15 per year**, and if we can get a higher percentage of camp owners to join, we won't be facing further financial problems. Our costs include mailing newsletters to every camp owner (multiple copies if more than one owner), website hosting fees, and now, with the IPP, costs for equipment to do the shoreline mapping. At the annual meeting, it was decided because our financial situation was heading in the wrong direction, we would have to cut our donation for Homecoming fireworks in half to \$500, as well as cutting by 75% our support of VLMP for the services they provide to us, including free classes and training for Lake volunteers including Plant identification, training classes, water clarity testing support, training and equipment.

We welcome anyone with an interest in Sebec Lake who supports our mission to **Preserve and Protect** as members! **Joining is easy:** mail the form in this newsletter or go to our website (www.sebeclakeassoc.com) and click on 'Click here to Join Now or Renew your membership' to pay by check or by PayPal. Remember, joining SLA will keep us going... consider membership an 'insurance policy' to help keep your property values up: the top thing that potential lake property owners want is clear, clean water for swimming, boating and fishing. If we lose that, no one will want to join the Sebec Lake community.

Please go to our website and watch the VLMP video on the home page to see what we could be up against if Sebec Lake gets 'invaded.'

Mark your calendars for these summer events....

The **Annual Meeting** of the Sebec Lake Association is scheduled for Saturday, July 11 at **9:30 a.m.** in the Piscataquis Room of Mayo Regional Hospital. The meeting will be preceded by the Board meeting at 8 a.m. Note that this is a **CHANGE of TIME** to the **MORNING**. It was suggested that a morning meeting would be more convenient for those with weekend plans. Parking and entrance is at the rear of the Hospital.

Maine Whoopie Pie Festival is on Saturday June 27, 10 - 4 in downtown Dover-Foxcroft. Sample, purchase and enjoy this uniquely Maine delicacy. See *mainewhoopiefestival.com* for details.

Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming and Fireworks display on the lake are scheduled for Saturday, August 1. 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 \$500 to the Fireworks Fund.

Other events on the calendar:

- ✦ **Maple Breakfast** - Sunday March 22 7-10 at Foxcroft Academy
- ✦ **Kiwanis River Race** - Saturday April 25; registration 8-9:30 a.m.; start at 10 a.m. at the Athletic field in Guilford, finish line in D-F
- ✦ **Sebec Village** July 4th parade and other events ending with evening **Fire works**; May 16th - **Bean Supper** 4:30-6 p.m.; August 15th - **All-you-can-eat breakfast and Silent Auction** 8-10:30 a.m.
- ✦ **D-F Kiwanis Auction** - July 23, 24 & 25; Thurs, Fri 6-9, Sat 4-9
- ✦ **Piscataquis River Festival** - July 25 - Guilford - Parade and events start 9 a.m; Fireworks at 9 p.m.
- ✦ **128th Piscataquis Valley Fair** – August 20, 21, 22, 23.

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

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Sebec Lake: Wild Landlocked Salmon Survey – Tim Obrey, IFW Biologist

Last September, we installed the IFW fish weir on Wilson Stream, a tributary to Sebec Lake, one of the original homes to landlocked salmon in the State. Wilson Stream provides the majority of the total natural reproduction to the lake. It is an arduous trip for adult salmon returning to the stream to spawn. A long deadwater extends from the lake upstream to Earley's Falls. There are actually two sets of falls here, and the first set is a serious impediment to salmon. The falls is only about 5 or 6 feet in total height but the majority of the stream flow passes through a narrow channel making the falls difficult to ascend. A compounding factor is the lake level. If the lake is too low, an additional obstacle is created just below the falls. A heavy rain event in September can effectively end the spawning run for the year.

Our objectives were several: First, to handle a large number of adult salmon to gather basic age and growth data and second, to evaluate the success of salmon passing the falls. We knew from past work that flows in excess of 100 cubic feet per second would limit passage. But we really didn't know what percent of fish actually made it over the falls and we wanted to try to fine-tune the appropriate flows to target in the fall. We also wanted to know if the fish that were successful at passing the falls had distinct characteristics from the overall run. For example, were larger fish better equipped to pass the falls, or maybe smaller, more streamlined fish?

The study included setting up our weir upstream of the two falls to capture all the fish that were successful passing the obstacles. Site selection was key and there was only one spot to set the weir. Thanks to the Bayerdorffers, we were able to set up and access the site. In addition to the weir, we had a special trapnet build just for this project. The net was 6 feet tall and had a wing that was over 300 feet long. We were able to set this net downstream of the falls and block off the majority of the stream channel and live trap salmon as they entered the stream. In other studies we would mark the fish with a fin clip or insert a tag in the body cavity, but we did not want to do anything to these fish that might impede passage at the falls so we purchased a special tagging kit to mark the fish with a dye that wouldn't hinder their movements.

We handled 67 salmon below the falls and 70% exceeded 14 inches. Seven percent were over 18 inches long. They were a little skinny compared to our objectives for the lake. We tagged all of the fish netted during the course of September. We only captured 8 salmon above the falls in our weir, and 7 of them decided to show up on the last day as we were preparing to remove the weir. Of the 8 salmon caught upstream only 2 were marked. The fish captured above the falls were typical of the fish handled below the falls in size and shape, but they represented just 3% of the total number marked. That's not a very good success rate despite having favorable conditions. We have more work to do!

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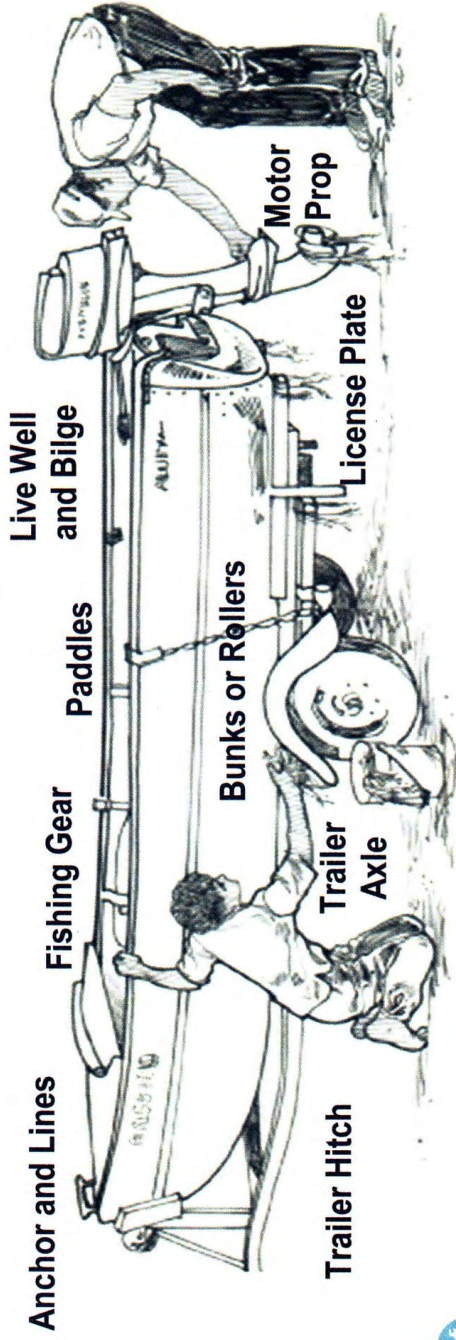
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A message from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Learn more about protecting our waters at www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives

Contacts

Sebec Lake Association Website

www.sebeclakeassoc.com

Sebec Lake Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 11, 2015 @ 9:30 a.m.

Mayo Regional Hospital – Piscataquis Room

Sebec Lake Association Officers & Directors

President – Brian Woodworth (Cell: 207-217-0962) president@sebeclakeassoc.com

Vice President – Rick Page vp@sebeclakeassoc.com

Treasurer – Jennifer Stewart treasurer@sebeclakeassoc.com

Recording Secretary – Janet Hall (Newsletters & Data Manager) secretary@sebeclakeassoc.com

Corresponding Secretary - Cindy Woodworth correspondingsecretary@sebeclakeassoc.com
(Newsletter Ads)

Director – Gary Soucy (Website Manager-Web Ads) director1@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director – Bob Hall (Water Level & Quality Monitor) director2@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director – MJ Sheldon-McKenzie director3@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director – Rudy Davis (Invasive Plant Contact) director4@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director – Peter Chase (Fish Stakeholder Contact) director5@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director – Norman Hill (Fish Stakeholder Contact) director6@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director – Dean Meffe director7@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director – Marie Woodbrey director8@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director – Vic Woodbrey director9@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director - Maurice Marden [Ampersand (dam) & DEP Liaison] director10@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director - Joe Guyotte (D-F Fire Chief & Animal Control) director12@sebeclakeassoc.com

Emergency Numbers

Mayo Regional Hospital (switchboard) 207-564-8401	Bowerbank Fire Department 207-564-3535
Mayo Regional Hospital ED 207-564-4260	Dover-Foxcroft Police 207-564-8021
EMS Ambulance 911	Sheriff's Department.....207-564-3304
Physician Referral Service at MRH.... 207-564-1226	Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department.....207-564-2310
Pine Tree Hospice..... 207-564-4346	Sebec Fire Department 207-564-2090

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Membership Form

Sebec Lake Association membership is open to all with an interest in Sebec Lake!!

**YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A PROPERTY OWNER
TO BE A MEMBER OF SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION!**

To pay your dues for 2015:

Go to www.SebecLakeAssoc.com, click on **Click here to Join Now or Renew your membership**, and pay with a credit card via PayPal. Be sure to fill out the update **Member Info form** under **Contact Us**. Or you can fill out the form below and mail it with a check

for \$15 to:

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: _____

For Lake Property owners:

Lake Property Street Address: _____

Lake Property City/Zip: _____

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

Year Lake Property acquired: _____ Are you a **new** owner? Y/N: _____

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(s): _____

Email (SLA will NEVER share your email):

If you have already paid your dues for 2015, THANK YOU for your support of the Sebec Lake Association!

For Fireworks donation, please send check or money order payable to Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming and send to:

Sheila Bragg

207-564-3328 ext. 1021

48 Morton Avenue, Suite A

Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426