

Linda.Lacroix@Legislature.Maine.gov

To: Members of the Joint Standing Committee of the IF&W

From: Kay Johnson, President, Friends of Wilson Pond Area, Inc.

RE: LD56

Date: January 28, 2019

Attachments: 1. Data Final 2. Newsletter

At the request of members of the Friends of Wilson Pond Area, Inc. (FWPA), a small land trust in Greenville, Maine, a survey was sent via USPS to 270 people that encompassed all property owners and members of FWPA in early November. The survey was conducted to determine if they were in favor OR not in favor of prohibiting PWC (jet skis) on Upper and Lower Wilson Ponds. Along with responses from property owners and members of FWPA, responses from relatives of property owners, guests and visitors are also included in the survey data. Respondents could choose to respond via email, USPS or with the online Survey Monkey. The Rum Ridge Association survey was responded to by USPS only.

Attached is the expanded data (*Attachment:Data Final*) and below is a summary of the collected data:

- 79% of all property owners and Friends members are **in favor of prohibiting** Personal Water Craft.
- 70 % of all respondents (which includes property owners, members of FWPA, relatives of property owners, guests, and visitors) are **in favor of prohibiting** Personal Watercraft on Wilson Ponds.

In the survey responses stated concerns about safety, loud noise, excessive speed, disturbance of loons and other waterfowl, and the use of PWC close to shore in areas where propeller driven motorboats cannot travel. They expressed a deep concern for the safety of swimmers, snorkelers, kayakers, canoers, other boaters, and waterfowl, especially loons who cannot quickly fly away. Wilson Ponds have many inlets, coves, narrows and several islands that can restrict visibility. A PWC encountering such hazards at a high speed may not see swimmers, snorkelers, other water craft, both non-motorized and motorized, and waterfowl in time to avoid them. As has been reported in various studies, Personal Water Craft have higher accident and injury rates than any other watercraft. They disturb the reproduction of waterfowl that nest near the water's edge by traveling into areas where traditional propeller driven boats cannot go. PWC are designed for speed, jumping wakes, quick rapid turns. They present a unique concern due to their lack of maneuverability. They are also unique for the relatively high pitch engines and irregular "beat" sounds made when leaving the water and "whomp" upon re-entering. This makes their noise more offensive and apparent.

The Wilson Ponds have long been known to locals, property owners, guests and visitors as a beautiful, scenic, peaceful and serene place to fish, kayak, canoe and recreate.

To live its mission and accomplish its goals, (*Attachment:Newsletter*) FWPA undertook the task of doing the survey and bringing this issue to the legislature with the support of Representative

Paul Stearns. Our mission and goals are closely aligned with other local organizations that are working to promote economic development opportunities in the area while protecting the natural beauty and resources of the area. As stated on their website, The Moosehead Lake Region Economic Development Corporation views the Moosehead Region, to be *“the next North American destination for nature-based tourism” “ideal destination to recharge and reboot amid pristine solitude and vast wilderness” “you will be transfixed and forever changed.”* Similarly, The Destination Moosehead Lake (formerly Chamber of Commerce) states it this way on their website, *“unspoiled wilderness, solitude, and pristine beauty” “THE place for adventurers, free spirits, and artisans looking for solitude in an unspoiled woodland.”*

Safety Issues

Why Are There So Many PWC Accidents?

Source: BoatUS 2018 www.boatus.com/seaworthy/swpwc.asp

Injuries

According to the US Coast Guard, PWC's are involved in 30% of all reported boating accidents and 36% of all boating injuries. PWC collisions result in more injuries and deaths than any other type of PWC accident. And, unlike all other types of boats, PWC operators are more likely to die from blunt force trauma than from drowning.

Most often, riders strike another boat due to inattention, excessive speed, or loss of control. The collisions typically throw the rider and passengers off the boat, often resulting in broken limbs, sometimes from simply striking the water at high speed. Broken teeth and noses are common injuries after being in a collision, usually after striking steering bars.

Other injuries are caused by falling from a PWC, most often due to wake jumping or making sudden turns. Falling from a PWC is made more dangerous when other boats, typically other PWCs, are operating nearby; after jumping a wake, a rider in Florida was thrown from his PWC and then struck by his friend who couldn't see him in the water as he rushed to his aid.

Handling Characteristics

The claim files show that nearly 70% of PWC collisions are with another vessel, the majority of which are other PWCs. Like other boats, PWC's don't have brakes and can take up to 300 feet to stop at 60 mph. PWC's have several handling characteristics that make them completely different from most boats. One of the most common types of collisions is caused by PWC's inherent lack of steering whenever water isn't being shot out of the stern. There is no rudder. Some newer models have devices that assist off-throttle steering, but the boats still have very limited low-speed maneuverability and nearly no maneuverability at high speeds when the throttle is suddenly closed. A study by the state of Florida showed that accidents due to lack of off-throttle steering is the second most common type.

PWC Speed Cap?

Excessive speed is blamed for many PWC accidents. Several years ago, at the USCG's request, most manufactures of PWCs agreed to a speed cap of 65 mph. Phil Cappel, chief of the USCG Recreational Boating Product Assurance Division, said the "gentlemen's agreement" has no teeth. The USCG has tested several PWCs and, despite the fact, that horsepower is rising (the original Kawasaki Jet Ski had an output of 32 hp while the most powerful on today's market has an astounding 315 hp. Some manufacturers don't feel they should honor the speed limitation.

From the advertising of two jet ski manufacturers, it is apparent that the "gentlemen's agreement" has no teeth.

Source: *The information below is from the printed advertisements and advertising videos:*

Kawasaki is advertising the Kawasaki Jet Ski Ultra 310X as follows:

With 310hp on tap, the 1,498cc engine fed by the Digital Fuel Injection (DFI®) system is the reigning king of thrust and the basis for an open-water, race-winning powerplant. Its crown is the high-tech Eaton TVS-series supercharger, which adds exhilarating yet linear power – exactly what hardcore performance enthusiasts would expect from a Kawasaki Jet Ski watercraft. Kawasaki Jet Ski Ultra 310X advertises the fastest jet ski at 127mph with a 310 hp engine.

The 2019 Yamaha FXCruiser SVHO advertises a top speed of 70mph with a 250 hp engine.

Noise

According to the National Pollution Clearinghouse, PWC have unique operational characteristics (e.g., constantly leaving and re-entering the water, persistent changes in speed hence noise level and pitch, repetitive smacking of PWC hulls against the water, tendency to circle in one spot for long times) that make their noise more annoying than that of other motorized vehicles. From the FWPA survey comments, this was a big issue. It is clear from the survey conducted that people come to the Wilson Ponds to enjoy the quiet, hear the call of the loons, quietly watch other waterfowl, birds and wildlife, such as the elusive mink.

Why is jet ski noise annoying?

Source: www.nonoise.org

1. Minus the muffling effect of the water, the jet ski engine's exhaust is much louder, typically by 15 dBA. As a result, *an airborne jet ski has the same noise impact on a listener at the water's edge as an in-water jet ski 8 times closer.*
2. Each time the jet ski re-enters the water, it smacks the surface with an explosive "whomp" — sometimes with a series of them.
3. Leaving the water is central to the fun of jet skiing; for many jet skiers, the ultimate thrill is to take to the air and bounce off the water repeatedly. But jet skis don't have to deliberately jump to leave the water. Because of the short hull, a jet ski ridden fast on even a slightly choppy surface will lift out of the water naturally, eliminating the water's sound-muffling action and creating that jarring "whomp."

4. The direct noise-amplifying effect of leaving and re-entering the water is compounded by the variable nature of the noise. Rapidly varying noise is much more annoying than constant noise, as decades of psycho-acoustics research have established. A varying noise commands the hearer's continuous attention, making it especially bothersome. This phenomenon has been largely overlooked in the jet ski controversy.

We have found that only— restricting usage — holds real promise for significantly reducing jet ski noise costs in a region or nationwide.

Jet Ski Impact on Loons

Noise impact on breeding, nesting, and chick raising of loons and other waterfowl.

Source: *Testimony Presented in Support of Senate Bill 106 by the Loon Preservation Committee of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire: Impacts of Boats and Personal Watercraft on Loons and other Waterbirds in New Hampshire.*

“All personal watercraft, no matter what their capacity, differ from conventional motorboats in their design use and effects on wildlife and the environment (Burger 1998; Chin 1998). PWC's have the potential to disrupt nesting loons and other waterbirds in a number of ways. Although the wakes of personal watercraft are not as large as those of conventional motorboats, they can cause significant damage because PWC's can closely approach nests and shorelines at high speed. Several research papers have documented washouts of loon nests and other waterbird nests from personal watercraft wakes, and the destruction of nest and eggs overrun by PWC's (Maine Audubon Society 1997; Burger 1998; Bouffard 1982 and Snow 1988 in Chin 1998). Loud and fast-moving personal watercraft can cause a traumatic noise and visual disturbance near a nest, prompting incubating birds to abandon their nests and exposing eggs to chilling, overheating or predation.”

Key Times for Loon Reproduction-Memorial Day and 4th of July

Loons build their nests near the shore around the Memorial Day holiday. Wave action from PWC can wash out nests and cause a breeding failure. In the event of a nest washout, loon pairs can nest again around the 4th of July which is another time that PWC's are often on Wilson Ponds. If the first nesting was successful, young chicks find themselves vulnerable as they are tiny and out on the water with their parents. A third nesting is rare and often results in chicks not being mature enough to make the necessary fall migration south.

Pollution

While PWC can be equipped with 4 stroke engines, it is not a requirement and there are advantages to the owners of the 2-stroke engine (less expensive engines and lighter weight). An average two hour “thrill ride” on a 2 stroke PWC can dump between 3 and 4 gallons of gas and oil into the water. However, both 2 and 4 stroke engines emit pollutants into the water and while most float on top of the water, they have been proven to have a negative effect upon aquatic plants and animals. Aquatic plants and animals have specific requirements for light, temperature, pH level, and more, and toxins from petroleum products have disastrous effects on the ability of wildlife to survive and thrive. It should be noted that all motorized watercraft

(except electric) emit pollutants into the water. Fish, waterfowl, and other marine animals depend upon aquatic plants and animals for food and negative effects on their food supply also affects them.

A Good Example

<http://abcnews.go.com/WHT/story?id=130323>

For the first time in years this pristine alpine lake tucked beneath Mount Shasta in Northern California is quiet, serene and pollution free. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area has banned jet skis from Whiskeytown Lake because “people just got tired of Jet Skis and wanted them off the lake.”

Whiskeytown is one of 21 national parks in the process of banning personal watercraft. A conflict between beachgoers, sailboaters and other visiting the 3,200-acre lake had been growing in recent years, and the National Park Service decided enough was enough. Those visiting the tranquil spot are ecstatic. Those who ride the fast and highly maneuverable watercraft are not too upset that they’ve been banned. A few miles up Interstate 5 is Lake Shasta which is 10 times larger than Whiskeytown, still welcomes Jet Skiers.

Jet Skis are welcome on Moosehead Lake a mere 4 miles away from Wilson Ponds and 31 times larger (75,471 acres) than the combination of Upper and Lower Wilson Ponds (2,401 acres).

Thank you for your service as a Maine legislator. It is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kay Johnson, President
Friends of Wilson Pond Area, Inc.
kayorkjohnson@gmail.com
207-749-3598

FRIENDS OF WILSON POND SURVEY									
REGARDING THE USE OF JET SKIS									
Fall 2018									
Property Owners & FWPA Members					Relatives and Visitor/Guests				
Survey Monkey data:									
Prohibit	Yes	No	Total	Prohibit %	Yes	No	Total	Prohibit %	
Total	64	31	95		21	33	54		149
USPS and E-Mail data:									
Total	58	2	60		2	0	2		62
Rum Ridge Homeowners Association data:									
Total	18	4	22						22
	140	37	177	79%	23	33	56	70%	233



FALL-WINTER- SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017-2018

FWPA Mission and Goals

In 1991 the Friends of Wilson Pond Area acquired a conservation easement along the eastern and southern shores of Lower Wilson Pond. This easement guarantees no development within 500 feet of the pond along nearly 3 miles of the shore, thereby conserving 150 acres.

Our Mission

The mission of the Friends of Wilson Pond Area is to protect and conserve Upper and Lower Wilson Ponds and their surrounding areas for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Our Goals

- *Preserve biological diversity and ecological integrity of the area.
- *Preserve soil, air and water quality.
- *Preserve scenic vistas and the quietness of the area.
- *Fulfill the responsibilities required by the current conservation easement.
- *Promote public education pertaining to land conservation and ecological topics.
- *Work with landowners and other organizations in the preservation of land.
- *Seek funding and support for educational programs and land conservation.

from your President.....

Summer 2018 is nearly here!

Our Franklin C. McIver scholarships to the Teen Wilderness Expedition will be awarded soon. Our **Annual Meeting** will be on July 14th at the home of Ruth, Stefan, & Brandon Ganey. The meeting begins at 10 am and will be followed by lunch and a social time.

FWPA volunteers will count loons on Upper on Lower Wilson Ponds in the Annual Audubon Loon Count on July 21st. FWPA will sponsor an **Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) Paddle** on Lower Wilson Pond on August 18th at 9 AM and **Courtesy Boat Inspection Training** (see page 3 for more information). Although the Mike DiCaprio has agreed to care for our campsites again this year. The GPS coordinates for the Rum Mountain Trail have been determined (see page 2). Please visit our booth at Forest Heritage Days on Saturday, August 11th, and at the International Fly-In on Saturday, September 8th.



Jack-in-the-Pulpits
Outer Scammon Road

Many thanks to Jan Santerre who attended Courtesy Boat Inspection Training in March which qualified us for the DEP Grant.

**BECOME A MEMBER or
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is \$10 per family per year. We gratefully receive donations in any amount for our Stewardship Program.

Please complete the information below and return with your check made out to the Friends of Wilson Pond Area.

THANK YOU

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Dues \$10 _____ Donation: \$100 _____ \$50 _____
\$25 _____ Other \$ _____

Please send to:
Ruth Ganev, Treasurer
Friends of Wilson Pond Area
PO Box 454
Greenville, ME 04441

Please indicate below if you would like to receive your Newsletters via e mail. This saves trees and postage.

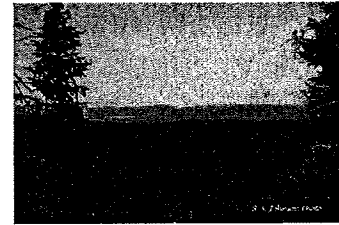
_____ E-mail Delivery Please
_____ NEW MEMBER
_____ RENEWING MEMBER

Comments and Suggestions:

Rum Mountain Mysteries

Mystery of Rum Mountain Trailhead Solved

Johnson and Breton, two intrepid men, braved the heavy winds and cool temperatures to determine the GPS coordinates for the trailhead. They are Latitude 45.4837, Longitude 69.5064. Despite rough water they were able to snap a photo of the small branches that also mark the trailhead on the shore.



Allan Ryder is responsible for the trail markings. Most of the trail is on Weyerhaeuser land, so please respect their generosity in allowing the trail to be created and used by all. The trail has been informally named "The Knight Ryder Trail" and you will understand this when you see the surprise at the top. Happy Climbing!



**Karin Tilberg
named Executive Director
of Forest Society of Maine**

"I am very grateful to be named the new executive director of Forest Society of Maine," stated Tilberg, "I am dedicated to building on the strong foundation created by my predecessor and inspiring conservation leader, Alan Hutchinson. This new role will give me the chance to further the mission of the Forest Society of Maine, and to reach out to all who have a connection to Maine's North Woods -whether it be through land ownership, work, recreation, or pure enjoyment."
Karin was involved in the acquisition of our Lower Wilson Pond easement in 1991 and has been a faithful supporter of FWPA over the years. Congratulations and Thank You!

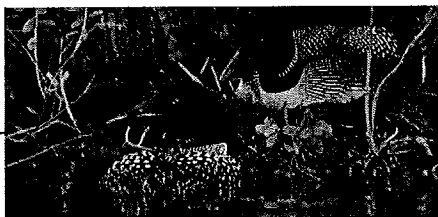
Discover the Benefits of Land Conservation

Friends of Wilson Pond Area (FWPA) is a local land trust that works closely with The Forest Society of Maine and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, whose support was critical to the accomplishment of the 1991 FWPA conservation easement. We can help land owners understand the process of conservation and decide if land conservation might work for them. **Large acreage is not a requirement to place land in conservation. The two most common ways to conserve land are to gift or sell it to a land trust organization, or to gift or sell a conservation easement.**

As you consider the future, please think about how conservation could benefit you and the region's future. FWPA is ready to provide information about land conservation. Please contact us.

**Annual Loon Count
July 21, 2018**

**FWPA Volunteers will count on
Upper and Lower Wilson Ponds**



YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS

FWPA, with support from the Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program, is working to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic plants into our lakes, ponds, rivers and streams in Moosehead region. The GOOD NEWS is that Moosehead Lake, Sawyer Pond, and a portion of Lower Wilson Pond have been surveyed and no invasive aquatic plants have been found. *However, it is important to remain very vigilant. To accomplish this task, we encourage people who visit, fish, boat, camp and/or swim in our waters to be aware of the native aquatic plants and report anything suspicious.*

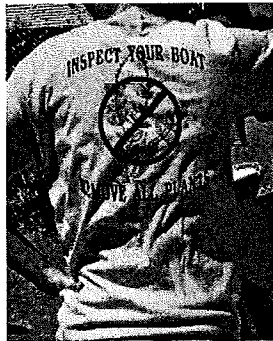
Opportunities to Learn about Native and Invasive Aquatic Plants

The *Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) Paddle Workshop* is a three hour “on the water workshop” to acquaint people with aquatic plants and will be lead by the experts from the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. The Paddle will be held on Lower Wilson Pond on **August 18, 2018** from 9 AM to Noon at the Johnsons’, 35 Johnson Road, Greenville. All ages are welcome! The goal of this introductory program is to expand the number of trained eyes out on Maine lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. The *Courtesy Boat Inspection Training* begins at 11 AM and concludes at 1 PM. Although the programs overlap, one can attend both offerings. Volunteers are needed to make this important prevention program a reality.

Friends received a grant from the DEP to initialize the Courtesy Boat Inspection program in Greenville.

The Paddle and Boat Inspection Training are **FREE**, and so are the Snacks and Beverages provided by FWPA. **REGISTRATION is REQUIRED.**

To Register online go to www.mainevlmp.org or call 207-783-7733.



Courtesy Boat Inspectors:

- Discuss with boaters how invasive aquatic plants spread
- Show boaters how to inspect boats and equipment for plant fragments
- Urge boaters to inspect before and after every launch
- Distribute information about invasive plants
- Articulate Maine law regarding the transport of these plants

Protecting Our Waters from Invasive Aquatic Plants

The best way for everyone to help in preventing invasive species from invading bodies of water is to become familiar with aquatic plants in the places you live and/or visit and be aware and report when something new appears.

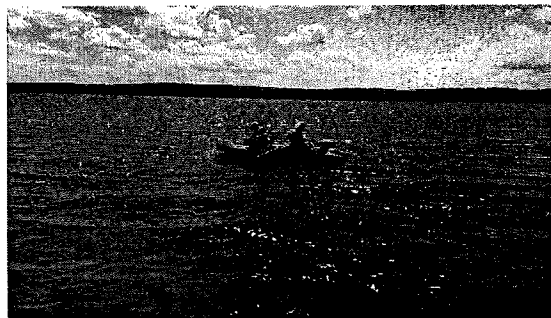
If you have a concern about the presence of an aquatic plant, you may:

- ◆ Go to the *Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program Website* www.mainevlmp.org
- ◆ Go to the Shaw Public Library— an aquatic plant guide book and waterproof flip charts are both available for borrowing.

STILL UNCERTAIN? Contact the Local Emergency Invasive Plant Patrol Team by calling or texting Kay Johnson at 207-749-3598.

2017 IPP Survey of Lower Wilson Pond

Our ongoing survey of Lower Wilson Pond for invasive aquatic plants was accomplished in 2017 by MVLMP experts, Dennis Roberge and Keith Williams. Dennis gets right in the water and dives down to get a closer look at the plants. No aquatic invaders were found by Keith and Dennis! Thank you very much for your work on behalf of FWPA.



Ralph Johnson photo
Dennis Roberge and Keith Williams surveying for aquatic invaders on Lower Wilson Pond.

**Summer Fun & Learning Opportunities
Greater Moosehead Region
2018**

June

- 22 Katahdin's First Cruise of 2018
- 23 Moosehead Artisan Show
- 24 CA Dean Bike & Boat Event
- 27 Eveleth-Crafts House Opens for Tours
- 29 Love Moosehead Weekend
- 29 Rock N Roll Cruise on the Katahdin
- 30 Moosehead Lake Artisan Village Grand Opening
- 30 Shaw Library presents author, Aislinn Sarnacki, to discuss her book, *Maine Hikes Off the Beaten Path*

July

- 1 Woodsman's Breakfast
- 4 Craft Fair, Fireworks, Fireworks Cruise, Parade
- 6-7 Antique & Classic Boat Show
- 7 - Wilson Pond-West Shore Assn. Annual Meeting
- 11-13 Maine Woods Explorers Programs Begin
- 13-15 Introduction to Mountain Biking
- 14 FWPA Annual Meeting
- 15 Brunch Cruise aboard the Katahdin
- 17-19 Teen Wilderness Expedition
- 18-20 Thoreau-Wabanaki Trail Festival
- 20-22 Yoga Retreat
- 21 Annual Loon Count
- 27 1950's Poodle Hop
- 28 Wilson Pond Association Annual Meeting
- 28 Rum Ridge Association Meeting
- 28 Trakside Antique Show

August

- 8 Old Fashioned Box Lunch Auction
- 11-12 Forest Heritage Days (Visit FWPA Booth)
- 18 FWPA IPP Paddle & Courtesy Boat Inspection Training.
- 18 Annual Celebration & Mooseburger BBQ
- 19 Brunch Cruise aboard the Katahdin
- 23 Forrest Whitman Memorial Golf Tournament

September

- 2 Labor Day Cruise aboard Katahdin
- 6-9 International Seaplane Fly-In & Fly-In 5K (Visit FWPA Booth)
- 29 Head of the Lake Cruise on the Katahdin

October

- 7 Columbus Day Cruise aboard the Katahdin

Many other events are happening in our region. Please visit the websites below for more information.

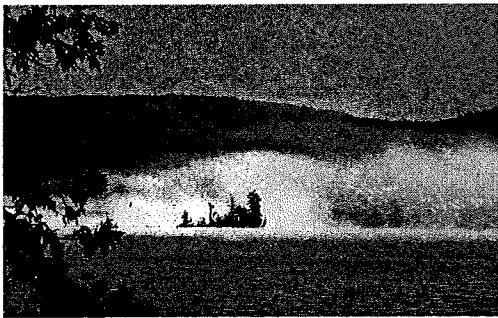
- www.mooseheadhistory.org
- www.katahdincruises.org
- www.nrecmoosehead.org
- www.fsmaine.org
- www.mainevlmp.org
- www.destinationmooseheadlake.com
- www.rockwoodonmoosehead.org

Congratulations NREC

The Natural Resource Education Center At Moosehead is a 2018 recipient of the Bangor Savings Bank "Community Matters More" grant. NREC will use the funds to support their six week summer Maine Woods Explorers youth program which takes kids fishing, kayaking, canoeing, shooting, and more. NREC also operates the Visitor's Center with the new fire tower, organizes the annual Moosehead Lake Togue Derby with Ricky Craven, the Thoreau Wabanaki Trail Festival, and more. Registration is now open for the Maine Woods Explorers programs. To register online go to their website www.nrecmoosehead.org.



The Franklin C. McIver Scholarships for the Teen Wilderness Expedition were established at the 2017 Annual Meeting of FWPA



View from the McIver camp of a small island, Blue Ridge, and the morning fog

The McIver camp at Upper Wilson Pond was Frank's place for solitude and reflection; a place where he could watch the sun rise up from behind Elephant Mountain with his dog, Molly, at his side; sit under the stars with his wife to look at the moon over Blue Ridge, and listen to the coyotes off in the distance, and the calls of the loons. Camp was also a place where he could spend more time with his sister, Lanie, reminiscing about their younger days growing up together, and with her husband, Deane, with whom he had a close bond.

Whenever the grandchildren were there, breaking any silence with laughter, he always took time and had patience for instructing them in the ways of camp life, untangling fish lines from tree branches, taking them exploring, looking for moose, and boating down to see the eagle's nest. He also often reminded them that where they left footprints on the beach, Native Americans once did the same. He instilled in his grandchildren a reverence for nature and the importance of preserving it. As a board member and past president of The Friends of Wilson Pond and the Wilson Pond Association, Frank was committed to helping maintain and preserve the pristine presence of that entire area. Over the years, he planted some 2,000 trees in the vicinity of Upper Wilson and often checked on their growth while on his walks, marveling at the huge stand that had filled-in an unused gravel pit, which he referred to as The Tree Farm.

written by Frank's family

STILL TIME TO REGISTER TEEN WILDERNESS EXPEDITION

The Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) has opened registration for a youth program that offers something for everyone! Our annual Teen Wilderness Expedition is a 3-day, 2-night adventure at the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)'s impressive Gorman Chairback Lodge. This year's expedition will run from Tuesday, July 17th through Thursday, July 19th

Now in its 5th year, this program provides a summertime trip that's new and exciting each year for the youth who loves the outdoors and the youth who has little experience in the outdoors. Both will have fun, feel comfortable participating and learn a lot about our natural world and about themselves.

At the beautiful Gorman Chairback Lodge, They will bunk in cozy cabins along the shore of Long Pond, enjoy great food and snacks at the main lodge. The fun-packed schedule of activities all take place on the Gorman Chairback campus and trails. They will be guided through activities by PCSWCD staff, AMC staff, naturalists, resource professionals and skilled volunteers with experience working in these fields.

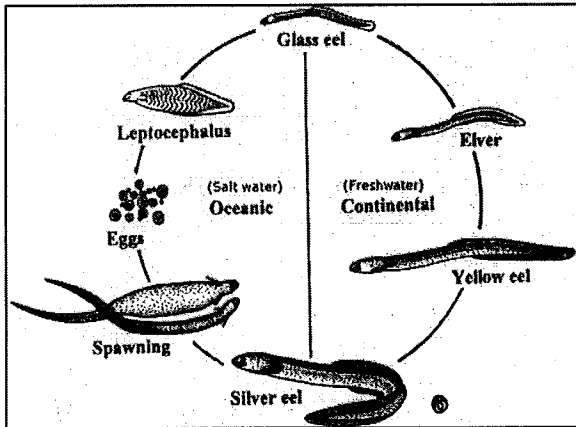
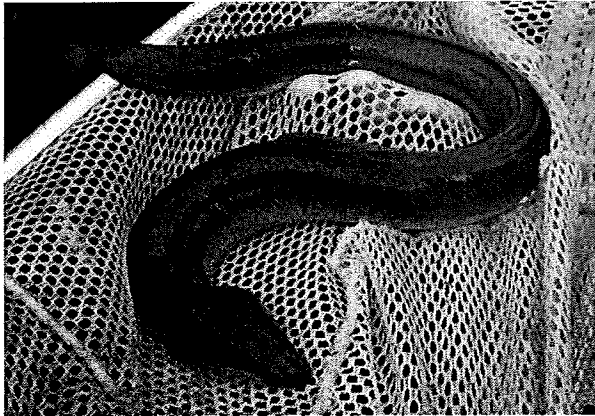
The Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District is very proud of this program and looks forward to sharing this experience with youth interested in trying something new this summer! If you have a teenager between the ages of 12 and 16 who would like to join us for this awesome outdoor adventure, please contact the PCSWCD for registration information at 564-2321 ext. 3, info@piscataquisswcd.org, stop by our office at 42 Engdahl Drive, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426 or register online www.piscataquisswcd.org.

Mysterious Fish in Our Deepes

The American eel, resident of the east coast of North America, is very secretive and mysterious! Folks who see an eel often exclaim "I have lived here for years and had no idea eels were even in my pond." Even though they look and move more like a snake than a fish, they are just as much a fish as a lake trout. Although they are present in many lakes and ponds, including Wilson Ponds, not many people know much about them, where they came from, or how they got into their pond. American Eels are catadromous, meaning they are born in saltwater but grow up in freshwater. They are born in the Atlantic Ocean, thousands of miles away in the Sargasso Sea which lies between the British West Indies and The Azores. Populations from the east coast of the U.S. reproduce at the same time and place as the European Eel. Adult eels are assumed to die after spawning because adults have never been seen returning to the mainland.

Baby eels are called leptocephali and look a lot like the leaf of a willow tree. They begin their return journey riding along the Gulf Stream currents. After about a year, they transform into 'glass eels' during their transition between the ocean and freshwater. Their skin is transparent, and you can even see their gills and heart inside of them! Once back in freshwater, glass eels begin to turn into yellow eels. They can be found anywhere that water flows to the ocean from Canada to the Mississippi, and even in South Dakota. Imagine swimming from the Sargasso to Wilson Ponds!

Young eels can move over land and around small barriers, like dams, when the land is wet to a suitable place to grow up, like in our Wilson Ponds. Adult eels spend 5 or more years in freshwater and can reach up to 40 inches in size, with females growing much larger than the males. Some larger eels have been found to be up to 40 years old! During the day they stay hidden from sight in deep, dark areas, only coming out at night to feed. They feed on bottom living animals, like worms, clams, other mollusks, crustaceans, and small fish. Then one spring, yellow eels color will turn to silver, and leave the ponds and streams where they grew up, and head back to the same place in the Sargasso Sea where they were born. If you have ever seen an eel in your lake or pond, you are lucky. If you happen to catch one, try not to drop it in your boat. Their scales are very small, smooth and slimy. If you do drop one, good luck! *Tim Obrey of IF&W in Greenville verifies the presence of the American eel in our ponds.*



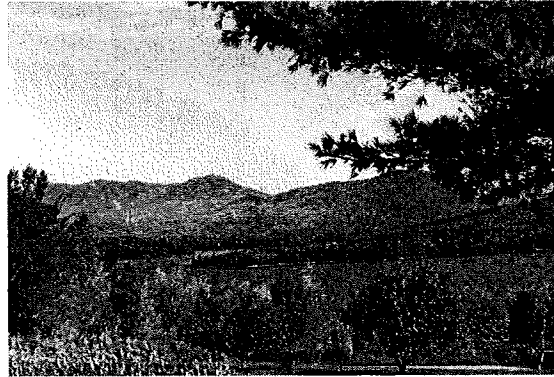
SAVE THE DATE and REGISTER
THE IPP PADDLE and COURTESY BOAT INSPECTION WORKSHOP
August 18, 2018
IPP Paddle goes from 9 AM until Noon
Courtesy Boat Inspection begins at 11 AM - 1 PM
IPP Paddle is for all ages!
Boat Inspection Workshop for age 14+
Registration information on Page 3

Farewell to Loren M. Wood



Loren M. Wood departed this life on May 21, 2017. Loren, his wife, Sally, and their family made many visits to their home on Lower Wilson Pond. Family members continue to enjoy returning to Wilson Pond. Loren and Sally co-founded the Kelsey Arboretum in Boxford, MA. Loren published a book about Harlan P. Kelsey, an early 20th century landscape architect, entitled *Beautiful Land of Sky: John Muir's Forgotten Eastern Counterpart, Harlan P. Kelsey*.

Farewell to Edwin S. Walden



Ed lived most of his life overlooking Wilson Pond and departed this life on November 23, 2017. Ed's signature appears on the Articles of Incorporation of The Friends of Wilson Ponds. There will be a celebration of his life at the Walden Farm at noon on June 24, 2018. All are welcome to join family and friends. Hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. will be provided. There will be a time for memories and storytelling after lunch.

AN ALL CALL FOR CAMP HISTORIES and STORIES

I just finished reading *Dick Folsom: Bush Pilot, A Legend Reflects* by Jake Morrel. It inspired me to send out an "all call" for Wilson Ponds Camp Histories and Stories. Although it may not seem possible that enough time has passed so that you and your "camp" have a history, please think again. It may be intriguing to find out what went on at your camp when it was built and owned by someone before you. Your camp log may, like mine, contain many years of writings and sharings that contain the humor, joy and sorrow of family and friends. So now I must respond to the "all call" and begin capturing 33+ years of my own camp history and include childhood memories dating back to the late 1940's at the Bement, Champeon, Muzzy and Folsom camps. Happy Summer capturing memories and making new ones!

FIVE RUSTIC CAMPSITES ON FWPA CONSERVATION LAND

Friends of Wilson Ponds offers five rustic campsites accessible only by water on a first-come basis. They are all on the shore of Lower Wilson Pond. We appreciate our campers respecting the carry-in, carry-out, "no trace left behind" aspect of these gorgeous spots. Come swim, fish, boat and relax! Happy Summer! Note that a Fire Permit may be required for a campfire. Check our website for details about procuring a permit www.fowpa.org.

Friends of Wilson Pond Area

Board of Directors

2017-18

President

Kay Johnson
kayyorkjohnson@gmail.com
207-749-3598

Vice President

Jan Santerre

Secretary

Cheryl Brown

Treasurer

Ruth Ganev

Directors

Elizabeth Peltier
Karen McFarland
Hilary Worthen
Chris Reardon
Norm Lamonde
Patterson Shafer
Josh Shoemaker
Christine Conrad

ANNUAL MEETING
Friends of Wilson Ponds
July 14, 2018

Annual Meeting at 10am
Lunch and Social Time will follow the meeting
at the Ganev home on Upper Wilson Pond
44 Muzzy Camp Road, Greenville

All are welcome!

Thanks for your help!

Ralph Johnson—Newsletter and Photos
Mike DiCaprio—Campsites Work
Max Hall & Chris Conrad—Web Site Work
Ruth Ganev — FaceBook & Website
Dot Lamson — Lower Pond Water Quality Monitoring
Proofreaders—Newsletter



TO:

Wilson Ponds
A MAINE LAND TRUST



Friends of Wilson Ponds
PO Box 454
Greenville, Maine 04441