

## SUMMER 2006 REPORT OF THE THREE MILE POND ASSOCIATION

The past year has been very exciting in the life of the Pond Association. We started last summer with our annual meeting and have met on a monthly basis since then and feel like we are really making good progress on ways to improve the Pond.

To begin, let me take this opportunity to say a big “thank you” to Dan Dubord who served for the last 13 years as President of the Association. He has worked diligently on our behalf and we strive to continue his efforts. I would also like to say thank you to all the past directors and officers of the Association for all their hard work over the years. None of the items we are working on now would be possible without the organization they have established.

The annual meeting last year was held on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the Fox Glen Snowmobile Club. There were approximately 60 people in attendance. President Dan Dubord opened the meeting by asking everyone to check and update their addresses on the list on the table. He welcomed everyone and thanked Kim Sweetser for all her efforts with the mailing list and signs which he attributed the high attendance.

Jennifer McLain spoke and gave an explanation of the “319 Initiative” which covers Three Mile Pond, China Lake and Webber Pond. The program is operated through DEP with grant money coming from the Federal government. The program helps landowners with sites that need to be fixed to help stop non-point source pollution into the ponds. This grant is \$1500 per site matched by the landowner. She also discussed the “Lake Smart” programs being run by DEP and that the grant money for that has been established for the next 2 years.

Reb Manthey, Executive Director, China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA) spoke and explained some of the sources of run off of nutrients into the lakes and what can be done to improve the Pond. She discussed various ideas that had been presented and their affects. She also discussed taking part in school trips for the elementary school and providing boats for that.

Other options were brought up and discussed – flushing, dredging, alum, copper sulfate, etc. all items need to be investigated and discussed

Other business:

\$1000 approved to be given to CRLA

\$2000 approved to pay 2 people to inspect boats at the boat launch for milfoil – Reb to get participants

Need directors and road captains – 14 roads and need 12 directors – 4 from each town (see list of directors/road captains below)

Nominated, voted and approved the following officers – Seth Sweetser, President – Kim Sweetser – Treasurer/Secretary, Dan Dubord – Clerk

Directors will choose a Vice President

Treasurer’s report – presented and approved

Voted and accepted to have yearly meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June

Seth to get Directors together for a meeting to discuss plans for the Pond

Meeting closed

Directors:

Vassalboro:

Mike Warren – King Road  
Londa Dennett – Three Mile Pond Road  
Joy Eon – Park Lane  
Kim Sweetser – Park Lane

Windsor:

Dan Dubord – Pierce's Point Road  
George Gunning – Cunningham Road  
Paul Breton – Casey Road  
David Graber – Park Lane

China:

Tony Pileggi – Fire Road 75  
Dan Irish – Fire Road 70

After the annual meeting Seth Sweetser contacted the directors and scheduled a planning meeting for August 21, 2005. At that meeting some goals were discussed and approved for the Association to get more people excited and involved.

The goals were as follows:

Establish a network of the road captains to get information to the residents of their road  
Review membership and dues and ways to get people involved  
Plan a major gathering of all landowners to kick off the focus on getting rid of the algae  
Convene a Board of Directors and meet regularly (1 per month for 1 hour) to develop a plan of attack on the algae  
Identify an action, as part of a plan that can be accomplished next summer

At the next meeting, Mike warren presented a brief history and biology of the algae. Seth Sweetser outlined a proposed plan of action developed by the Steering Committee –

The Board discussed –

- 1) Removing the perch that feed on the algae
- 2) Adding treatments made by Bioworld Products
- 3) Adding organisms that eat algae
- 4) Reducing phosphorus carried into the Pond through TM-9
- 5) Reducing external sources of the phosphorus through road and property runoff

To carry out this plan, the Board organized 2 committees as follows;

- 1) Research, Development and Implementation – Chair: Mike Warren, Tony Pileggi, Tom Whittaker
- 2) Marketing Committee – (this will include membership, fund-raising, road captain organization and communication) Chair: Seth Sweetser, Kim Sweetser, Julie Sipser, Londa Dennett, George Banks

Also – at this meeting Virgil Carmicheal was elected Vice President.

As the winter and spring months progressed, these committees met each month and also met monthly as a Board to discuss the progress each had made.

Here is a brief summary of what has been accomplished by each committee:

### **Research and Development – Mike Warren, Chair**

Over the last nine months, three members of the Three Mile Pond Executive Committee have been researching ways to improve the water quality in our Pond. The Committee has adopted a multi-pronged approach concerning our algae problem including continuing to address watershed problems, exploring biomanipulation, using natural products, and flushing the lake during bloom time. In terms of watershed problems, the Board would like to work with all local road associations to address erosion. In addition, we have applied for grants through the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District to address problem areas that have been identified.

Biomanipulation may also be a partial solution for our Pond. This would involve altering unwanted fish populations in the pond that may contribute to the algae problem. The white perch is a non-native species that has overpopulated the Pond. Its young consume the zooplankton in the pond, which in turn feed on the algae. A number of studies have shown that manipulating the populations of unwanted fish species can lead to improvement in water quality. We have also looked into the use of natural products like barley bales or extract in lowering phosphorus levels. These products may be suited for areas that contribute high levels of phosphorus in the Pond. Finally we have consulted with Roy Bouchard, from DEP, in re-establishing and using the old dam to flush the lake during blooms. We would try to maintain the water level at early summer level until bloom time (usually August) and then lower the lake level two to three feet. This would flush the top layer of the pond which has the highest concentration of the blue-green algae. The use of the dam would not raise or lower water levels from what is the normal early summer lake level.

### **Marketing Committee – Seth Sweetser, Chair**

Over the last year, we have met as a committee not only to discuss what needs to be done about the algae problem, but our focus was on how to get more landowners involved and to raise awareness and action from the landowners. Many of the options involved in improving our Pond involve action by all landowners, our Committee is trying to seek ways to bring these things to the attention of the landowners as well as to think of ways to raise funds to carry out the solutions. We discussed dues and whether they should be increased, we concluded that we would keep the annual dues the same but raise the President's Club participation to \$150, which would include receiving a wooden hand carved loon.

We continue to work on the mailing list and discussed getting information out to the landowners. On this front, we have a new email address just for the Pond Association and also discussed the establishment of a web site. The email has been established but we are bringing the web site approval to the annual meeting. We also discussed ways to get together and meet all our neighbors – a possible picnic, etc.

Some of the other items we discussed were –  
ways to get people involved

finding monitors for the boat launch to look for invasive plants on incoming boats  
putting in and placement of the bouys and the liability involved

designing and offering T-shirts for sale and other fund raising ideas  
seeking volunteers to ferry kids on school class trips in June each year

As you can see, the Board has been busy and we will discuss all these items further at the annual meeting. I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work over the past year and for their commitment to making our Pond better for all landowners.

The Board has set up an agenda for the annual meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> as follows:

Thank you to past President, Dan Dubord  
CRLA representatives, Reb Manthey and Jon Van Bourg will summarize what they are doing  
Research and Development committee will give an update  
Roy Bouchard, from DEP, will discuss the dam and flushing  
Election of Officers  
Road captain discussion and solicit volunteers for roads not covered yet  
Discuss dues, President's club participation including additional donations  
Inform people of the situation with the bouys  
Ask for volunteers for monitoring of invasive plants at the boat launch  
Ask for volunteers for help ferry school kids  
New Business and Questions

This year we will again meet at the Fox Glen Snowmobile Club and will start at 9:30 for coffee and goodies with the meeting to follow at 10 am. PLEASE tell everyone on your road about the meeting, signs will be posted at the end of each main camp road with meeting information. We would like to see as many people there as possible. Also, in compiling the mailing list we are trying to get everyone's email address and also the road that the camp is located. Please email this information to [threemilepond@fairpoint.net](mailto:threemilepond@fairpoint.net) even if you think we have it – this way we will be able to confirm or update your information.

Thanking you advance for your interest and involvement in making our Pond great!!!!

See you at the meeting!!

Seth Sweetser  
President