

**THREE MILE POND
ASSOCIATION**

on the web at:
www.threemilepond.org
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please send your email address to tmpa@threemilepond.org

The Pond Gazette

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2008

President's Message

Springtime in Maine! Finally... I don't know about you, but I enjoy the change of seasons here more than any other place in this country. Don't get me wrong, this past winter has been fun—snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice-fishing... But, I was glad to finally see the ice gone from the pond! Now it's on to Mud Season!

Your association has been working over this past winter. We've met with other pond associations, attended town budget meetings, and have been considering many ideas and potential projects for the coming year for continuous improvement here on the pond.

As part of the China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA), we are

very fortunate to have the use of their Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to do projects like complimentary boat inspections, rip-rapping, and other erosion control projects. CRLA and YCC are currently looking for projects for the upcoming summer season, so please let us know if you may have a potential project.

Also, we are making plans now for the Annual Meeting on June 21. Please let your pond neighbors know about the meeting! You can read more elsewhere in this newsletter.

To our current members, thank you for supporting our association. We need your support, your input and your ideas for keeping our pond an invaluable resource. If you're not yet part

of our association, I urge you to consider becoming a member. Dues are reasonable and you owe it to yourself and your family to be a part of this great group of people who truly care about the place we call home, whether that home is a summer vacation camp or a year-round residence.

I hope to see you at the annual meeting, and if we haven't met yet, please make sure you see me there and say hello!

If you have any comments, questions or just want to say "hi" feel free to drop me an email or call.

Keith



Annual Meeting—June 21, 2008

**ATTENTION:
LANDOWNERS in
Three Mile Pond Watershed**

The Annual Meeting of Three Mile Pond Association will be held on **SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2008 at 10:00am at Fox Glen Snowmobile Club** on Weeks Mills Road, Augusta.

We will serve coffee and goodies starting at 9:00am. There will be

a **family cookout** immediately following the meeting with hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks provided. If you can, please bring a side dish or salad (last name A—M), or dessert (last name N—Z) if possible.

Our featured speaker will be **Mr. Nate Gray** from the Maine Department of Marine Resources, who will give a presentation about the use of alewives to

control algae. Please RSVP and let us know if you plan on attending by calling Keith at 207.445.2038 or emailing to tmpa@threemilepond.org.

Please plan to attend. Membership is open to all landowners in the watershed and anyone concerned with preserving this wonderful resource we call Three Mile Pond!

TMP Water Quality and Alewives

TMPA has been investigating using alewives as a means to control algae and improve TMP water quality. Alewives, a member of the herring family, are anadromous (sea-run) fish that spend the majority of their life at sea but return to freshwater to spawn. Alewives have co-evolved and co-existed with other native fish and wildlife in Maine's streams, rivers, ponds and lakes for thousands of years.

Every May and June, adult alewives, guided by their sense of smell, migrate upstream from the ocean to rivers, streams, ponds and lakes to spawn. Spawning occurs in ponds and lakes or the quiet backwaters of rivers and streams. Some males return to freshwater when they are three years old. Females usually return when they are four or five years old. One female alewife can produce somewhere between 60,000 to 100,000 eggs, but only a few eggs survive to the juvenile stage, and sometimes only as few as three juveniles survive to adulthood. Although some adults die after spawning, the majority of adults make their way back to the ocean shortly after spawning – and many return the following spring to spawn again. During their downstream migration, adult alewives feed primarily on zooplankton. Once hatched, juvenile alewives remain in freshwater lakes and ponds where they also feed on zooplankton. Juvenile alewives grow anywhere between one to six inches, depending on the productivity of the lake. From mid-July through October, juveniles migrate downstream to the ocean where they grow to adulthood.

Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) studies in more than a dozen Maine lakes with natural or reintroduced runs of alewives have not shown water quality decline that can be attributed to alewives, according to Barry Mower, a fisheries biologist and water quality specialist. It is well-substantiated that the major factor causing algae blooms in our lakes is the introduction of phosphorus.

There are many sources of phosphorus in our lakes -- and most are directly linked to residential development. When adult alewives migrate into a freshwater pond or lake, there is an influx of phosphorus to the lake. However, the majority of the spawning alewives return to the ocean, taking phosphorus with them. Additionally, young alewives that grow in freshwater ponds and lakes incorporate phosphorus from lakes into their bodies. That phosphorus is removed when the young migrate to the ocean. Water quality studies were coordinated by Maine DEP in the 1970s on Little Pond in Damariscotta, additional studies were coordinated by Maine DEP, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources (DMR) and Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) on Lake George in Canaan in the 1990s, and supplementary water quality studies have been conducted in half a dozen other Maine lakes and ponds with restored alewives. All of the studies have found that when alewives are restored, there is either no change or a minor net **decrease** in total lake phosphorus. In fact, data from Maine points to good water quality on lakes with healthy alewife populations. To name only a

few, those lakes include Nequasset Lake in Woolwich, Damariscotta Lake in Nobleboro and Jefferson, Alamoosook Lake in East Orland, and Gardiner Lake in East Machias. A little further afield in southeastern Massachusetts, the Assawompsett Ponds host the largest alewife population in New England (two million adult alewives this past spring).

The ten-year study conducted by Maine Dept. of Marine Resources, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection on Lake George in Canaan showed that alewife stocking at the rate of six fish/acre had no detrimental effects on freshwater fish such as smallmouth bass, brown trout, chain pickerel and white perch in terms of size or abundance. Young-of-the year smelt actually grew better in the presence of alewives! A similar study is currently underway in the St. Croix River watershed. Many other lakes in Maine, such as Sabattus Pond and Damariscotta Lake have thriving alewives that co-exist with healthy populations of other fish. The Assawompsett Pond complex in southeastern Massachusetts, which hosts the largest alewife population in New England, offers great fishing. According to local fisherman, the ponds support exceptionally robust populations of largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, white perch, yellow perch, walleye, pickerel, pike, catfish, suckers, and a variety of baitfish.

Also, right next door to us, Webber Pond has seen marked improvement with the use of alewives. According to Frank Richards, President of Webber Pond Association, "... between the drawdown and the restoration of sea run alewives, Webber Pond had no bloom in 2005, a very slight bloom in 2006, and no bloom in 2007. The alewives sequester phosphorus and other nutrients as they grow and then take it with them when they out migrate."

Richards also stated that, "The alewife run extends to Three Mile Pond. Three Mile is getting more nutrients exported today than ever before. Something has been done. ... the alewives are exporting so much phosphorus on Webber that we may eventually experiment with not doing a fall drawdown."

- Some information herein taken from "All About Maine Alewives" an article produced by Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Rivers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- For more info visit:
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/gulfcoastmaine/publications/alewives.htm>

CRLA News

The China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA) is the umbrella organization made up of the China Lake, Three Mile Pond, Webber Pond and Three Cornered Pond Associations, the Kennebec Water District and the Towns of China, Vassalboro and Windsor. It is through the CRLA that erosion control projects and other lake and pond related projects are coordinated. The CRLA also partners with the Kennebec County Soils and Water Conservation District (KCSWCD) for engineering and other technical advice.

CRLA and its appendant body, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), are currently seeking potential projects for the 2008 season.

In 2007, the CRLA did many erosion control projects in the Three Mile Pond area under a D.E.P. grant received in 2005. A new grant has been received so there will again be cost share money available going forward.

In addition to grant financed projects, town money is used to offset the cost of work that is done. Work done by the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is paid for through town funds.

Beginning this year, the CRLA is offering low-interest loans to property owners and road associations for erosion or pollution control projects. These loans would be available for projects that may be of a significant one-time cost, such as road improvements, ditching, etc. and would be repayable over a longer period to help defray up-front costs.

If you believe you may have an erosion or pollution issue on your shorefront property or within the Three Mile Pond watershed and want to see if we can help, email us at tmpa@threemilepond.org or call Keith at 207.445.2038.

How You Can Protect Our Pond

It has been shown that shorefront property value is determined by water quality. Improve water quality and property values rise; degrade water quality and property values decline. A property on Three Mile Pond is a valuable asset. Take time to learn how to protect your investment by protecting water quality. Here are five suggestions that can help maintain your investment:

1. **Avoid all phosphorus containing fertilizers.** Phosphorus drives the algae bloom.
2. **Improve your shorefront buffer strip.** Lawns allow more soil runoff than natural vegetation. Try not cutting the 10 feet of lawn closest to the lake or ask for a free buffer strip consultation from our association.
3. **Have your shorefront septic system holding tank pumped every 2 - 3 years.** This improves the life of your system.
4. **Form a camp road association to better maintain your road.** A well-maintained road is less likely to erode and contribute phosphorus to the pond. The TMPA has information on how to do this.
5. **Join the Three Mile Pond Association and help us work to protect water quality.** Your tax deductible contribution will be used to continue water quality protection work.

Membership in TMPA

The Three Mile Pond Association (TMPA) is interested in identifying and establishing contact with all shorefront and watershed property owners and those interested in the Three Mile Pond watershed for the purpose of communication, fact-finding, and the sharing and voicing of concerns and opinions relating to our pond and its environs. Your input is valued and needed. The best decisions to be made for the good of Three Mile Pond for the present and into the future can only be accomplished if all adjacent owners know the facts and have a voice. In order to accomplish this

TMPA needs to be able to identify the owners and have a way to contact them. This works best if there is also a camp road captain to act as direct camp contact for the residents of each road. If you have email, please notify us of your current name, address and contact info at tmpa@threemilepond.org.

BECOME A MEMBER!
Membership Dues:
Standard Member: \$20.00
President's Club Member: \$150

This year's President's Club members receive a beautiful limited-edition, numbered, wooden, hand carved female mallard duck made by our own board member and master woodcarver, George Gunning.



Additional donations are greatly appreciated.

Checks should be made payable to:
Three Mile Pond Association
P.O. Box 2531
Augusta, ME 04330

Please join the Three Mile Pond Association!
 Thank you for your concern and support.



Three Mile Pond Association

Send all correspondence to:
Three Mile Pond Association
P.O. Box 2531
Augusta, Maine, 04330

e-mail: tmpa@threemilepond.org

For now, for the future - it's up to
us to protect and preserve our
pond.

Three Mile Pond Association exists to preserve, protect and promote the benefits of a beautiful, clean pond for all to enjoy.

Membership is open to and encouraged for all watershed landowners and those abutting Three Mile Pond. But we also welcome all who have an interest in maintaining the quality of life that being "on the pond" affords, whether you're a nearby resident or far-away vacationer. If you would like to become a member of our association please contact us by email or write us at our Post Office box address.



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