

**MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT TO TOWN OF NEW LONDON
2016**

Messer Pond Protective Association (MPPA) is a volunteer-based community association and 501(c)(3) corporation with the purpose of overseeing the well-being of Messer Pond and its surrounding watershed which encompasses 1,422 acres. In 2016 MPPA had over 100 members living on the pond or in the watershed.

MPPA's primary mission is to ensure that Messer Pond remains clear and healthy for the benefit of future generations. The 2016 season continued our participation in three major water protection programs: lake hosting, weed watching, and water testing. Monitoring the pond's health in this way has allowed Messer Pond to remain free of invasive species.

Lake hosting involves performing boat and trailer inspections and providing educational material to the boaters and fishermen who come to enjoy Messer Pond. While volunteers fill in during the weekdays, the weekend is covered by paid hosts who are funded through grants. The MPPA wishes to thank the Town of New London and the New Hampshire Lakes Association for their generous support.

Volunteers perform water sampling and weed watching on the Messer Pond throughout the boating season. These activities are done in conjunction with NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) and the LSPA lab at Colby-Sawyer College.

2016 Highlights:

- The Messer Pond Watershed Management Plan that the association commissioned in 2013 was completed as planned in March. The Plan was submitted and accepted by the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). The success of this multi-year effort was the result of the support and commitment of the members of the MPPA and the many hours of volunteer time that were given. A copy of the Plan is available on our web-site: www.messerpond.org.
- With the completion of the Plan, the Association was able to close out the two grants that the MPPA was awarded to help finance this effort. The MPPA would like to thank the NHDES and the State Conservation Committee (Moose Plate) for their backing.
- Over the past year, we have met with officials from the Town of New London, the Planning Board and the Conservation Committee to review the findings and analysis from the Plan and discuss possible opportunities to act on the proposed recommendations. Based on these discussions, the MPPA applied and was approved for a \$10,000 Watershed Assistance Grant from the NHDES. We want to thank everyone for their time, comments and suggestions.
- On the regional level, the completion of the Plan offered the opportunity to reach out to other protective associations to discuss our pond's biology and the issues affecting water quality in the environment. To that end, we met with several lake associations in September to identify common issues and opportunities to partner to address these concerns.

- “Messer Pond Clean-Up Day” was held in the Spring to clean out culverts on the roads surrounding the pond, freeing them of accumulated leaves, sand and debris.
- As part of the “Keep New London Presentable” initiative, MPPA volunteers performed trash pick-up monthly throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons. As well as the roads around the pond, the membership maintains portions of County Road and Bog Road that are in the Messer Pond watershed.
- The association again arranged septic system pump-outs and well water testing with local firms for the membership at a discount.

Plans for 2017:

- Continue all water protective programs: lake hosting, weed watching, water testing.
- Educational outreach to all households in the Messer Pond watershed through informative newsletter mailing regarding use of pesticides and fertilizers, discount offer on septic pumping, and other ways to maintain water quality.
- With the completion of the Messer Pond Watershed Management Plan and development of the proposed Best Management Practices, the association will continue to work with the state and local officials to implement those recommendations.
- Complete the requirements for the 319h Watershed Assistance grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services.

Messer Pond Protective Association is proud of its many dedicated members who participate in our various work projects, educational efforts and social activities. We look forward to continuing our tradition of water protection efforts for the benefit of all who enjoy our pond.

Respectfully submitted,

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION