



# MESSER PONDERINGS

The Newsletter for the Messer Pond Protective Association

Vol. XI, No. 2, December 2007

## **12th ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday, July 28, 2007**

*by Betty Brown, Secretary*

This year's annual meeting was again quite successful and participation of association members was wonderful. We had more than 60 attendees at the meeting. All arrived in anticipation of hearing NHDES Limnologist Amy Smagula's presentation and most certainly were impressed with her informative talk on our watershed. During the business meeting, brief reports were given by all directors. The Membership then voted on their officers and directors for the year 2007/08, consisting of President Bob Brown, Vice President Nancy Stetson, Treasurer Jean-Pierre Paquette, Secretary Betty Brown and Directors Terri Bingham, Scott Brown, Bruce Stetson and Barbara Troxell. Vice President Brian Wicenski along with Directors Bob Crane and Jacalyn Parcels are stepping down this year. The president and membership, with a round of applause, thanked these members for their accomplishments while serving on the board. There was a very good discussion of the board's recommendation that MPPA vote on the important issue of having a Messer Pond Watershed Evaluation conducted by Charles Hirshberg of CLD Consulting Engineers. After much discussion, comments and good suggestions by MPPA members, both votes were overwhelmingly passed by the membership. Thank you all for your interest and support! Stay tuned.

A very special thank you goes to Jeanne and Dale Conly for their generous gift to the association of a new and portable P. A. System. Your gift has already made a huge difference in this annual meeting. It has made it possible for all members to hear and take part in the discussion of all issues. Our hats are off to you!

Association member Myke Simon suggested that pond residents, especially those close to the water, consider planting blueberry bushes on their property to serve as a buffer. Another suggestion was made by member Fred Kaufman, that perhaps the Board should again look into

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## **MESSER POND WATERSHED SURVEY**

*by Bob Brown, President*

At the MPPA Annual Meeting in July, the Membership voted in strong support of the Board's recommendation that MPPA contract with CLD Consulting Engineers to have an engineering survey conducted of the Messer Pond Watershed. CLD is an engineering company with vast local experience and knowledge.

At present, CLD is working on assembling a Watershed Study that will address concerns associated with various impacts on the Messer Pond Ecosystem. This study looks at the entire watershed area and highlights those areas that either do, or have the potential to, significantly impact Messer Pond. The study will address environmentally sensitive approaches to the use and maintenance of gravel roads and options to improve the stability and reduce the impact from road runoff. Some of these approaches relate to working with the Town of New London employing techniques to reduce erosion along roadways within the watershed, and developing maintenance procedures that address erosion problems.

While at present there is generally great awareness respective to the inflow from Interstate 89 and Forest Acres Road crossings, the study will address all tributaries, including the West end of the Pond (County Road), which may be the most significant in terms of volume. This inlet services parts of Burpee Hill, Farwell Lane, County Road, lands adjacent to Columbus Avenue, Knights Hill, Fieldstone Lane and more.

CLD has been working with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to assess the impact of feeder streams and their associated watershed area as they flow into the pond. NHDES has presented the MPPA with a proposal for additional sampling to further identify and isolate stream flow impacts based on a meeting and site investigation with NHDES representatives in October.

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## MPPA DIRECTORY

### Officers

Robert (Bob) Brown	President <i>mppa.nl@gmail.com</i>
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Elizabeth (Betty) Brown	Secretary <i>lbrown1@tds.net</i>

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Scott Brown	Water Safety & Fish/Wildlife <i>sbrown@tds.net</i>
Bruce Stetson	Watershed Issues <i>bstetson@madsgizmos.com</i>
Barbara Troxell	Education & Activities <i>bstrox@comcast.net</i>

### Lake Hosts

Terri Bingham, <i>Point Person</i>	
Betty Brown	Nancy Stetson
Bob Brown	Conor Thompson
Bruce Stetson	Dylan Thompson

### Weed Watchers

Terri Bingham, <i>Chairperson</i>	
Gordon Bingham	Laura Shucart
Les Brown	Bruce Stetson
Jim Byrne	Nancy Stetson
Dick Cavallaro	Jeff Troxell
Dick Denise	Frank Voellmann
Pat Harris	Janie Webster
Jack Hughes	

### Water Quality Monitoring & Testing

John Harris, <i>Lead Monitor</i>	
Bill Shucart	
Bruce Stetson	

### Messer Ponderings

Volume XI, No. 2, December 2007	
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### Messer Pond Protective Association

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

This has been a busy year for MPPA with the addition of new activities and educational programs to help us further protect the Pond. Thank you to all those members who have either volunteered their time or participated in the many events during the year.

As of early November, we are 128 members strong, representing 54 families. Several of our newer residents joined the association this year. We also welcome back those families who have decided to renew their membership following an inactive period. Welcome to all! We look forward to 100% participation in the coming year.

- Betty Brown, Secretary

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Dale and Jeanne Conly for your generous gift of the P.A. System

Herb Spencer for the removal of litter up and down Bog Road

Special thanks to all MPPA volunteers for their help in various ways on many activities and projects during the year. The list is too long to mention all the names here. However, you know who you are. Keep up the good work for the health of our beautiful pond.

Building and setting out duck boxes  
Writing for program assistance from the State  
Writing of reports to the Town and State  
Weed Watchers  
Providing additional underwater viewers for weed watchers  
Lake Hosts  
Making and painting road signs requested by the Town for Lake Host Program  
Printing of the newsletter  
Providing transportation to State educational programs  
Water Quality Monitors  
Initiating new contacts with DES on water quality and land issues  
Contributing to our Capital Reserve Fund  
Good suggestions by members for keeping the water in pristine condition  
Providing photographs for our newsletters, website and calendars  
Provider of Tee-shirts  
4th of July Barbecue  
Annual Meeting Picnic  
Refreshments for August Wells and Well Water Program  
Regatta  
Ladies Fall Luncheon  
Winter Wine and Cheese Party  
Winter Carnival/February Fun Day (upcoming!)

If, by chance, you are not one of the volunteers of activities mentioned above, perhaps you will be this coming year!!

- Betty Brown, Secretary

## 12th ANNUAL MEETING

- Continued from page 1 -

the possibility of changing our tax status since we are having more educational/scientific type programs than we've had in the past. President Bob Brown indicated that this suggestion would be discussed at the board's next meeting.

Free samples of pond-safe dishwasher soap, ECOVER, were provided by the Board in order to promote awareness and pond stewardship. Hope you tried it and were happy with its performance. For those of you who did not pick up a sample, ECOVER and similar eco-friendly products can be purchased at 14 Carrots and the Co-op.

Anne Wustrow and her committee (Joan Nutter, Laura Shucart, Allison Wustrow and all helpers) did a wonderful job on the picnic. The table centerpieces were beautiful works of art! Thanks to all the MPPA cooks, each and every one of you. The food and conversation was enjoyed by all! Please save the date of July 26, 2008, for the next annual meeting.

- Betty Brown, Secretary

## MESSER POND WATERSHED SURVEY

- Continued from page 1 -

We were unaware at the time that NHDES would be charging the MPPA additional fees to implement this sampling program. The proposed program requires a detailed plan so that the scope and benefits can be fully understood, as well as investigating possible funding sources.

Based on comments received from MPPA members and Messer Pond residents in response to the Messer Pond Watershed Evaluation questionnaire, CLD is also putting together information on techniques and practices that a homeowner can incorporate to help reduce and minimize impacts to the pond.

MPPA board representatives met with CLD in November to discuss components of the study and some initial findings. We anticipate completing the final Watershed Study Report in early 2008. Copies will be made available to the MPPA membership in electronic and/or hard copy form after final approval.

-Bob Brown, President

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### Anne Wustrow writes:

We are saddened to inform you of the recent passing of my father, Robert Laffan. My parents owned the house on Forest Acres Road for 31 years and enjoyed many summer and fall days in the quiet environs of the pond. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, four children, Robert Laffan, Anne (David) Wustrow, Denise Laffan and Kath Laffan, as well as five grandchildren.

On a happier note, my son, John Wustrow, has accepted a position as a Sports Writer for the Claremont (NH) Eagle Times. He started his position in October after receiving a degree in Sports Communication from Indiana University. He is one of three writers covering the high school sports beat. So we now have even more reason to head to New London and enjoy our time on the pond.

**Congratulations, John Wustrow**, on your new position with the Claremont Eagle Times. We look forward with interest to your coverage of the high school area sports.

**George and Margaret Martens** became full time New London residents in October. We are so pleased to have them here to enjoy year round programs and activities.

**Dr. and Mrs. John P. Weaver (Donna)** of Northborough, MA are the new owners of the home of the late Pam Low at 38 Beaver Point. Please give them a warm welcome to the neighborhood should you see them during their New London visits.

Congratulations to **Dick Denise** on your retirement from Oracle Corporation on December 31st! Now you can spend more time enjoying the pond and your beautiful house (thank you for hosting the 2007 Wine & Cheese Party!)

**Frank King** will be retiring on March 28th from Shanklin Corp. of Ayer, MA after 37 years of service. Congratulations, Frank! We look forward to seeing more of Frank and Beverly on Messer Pond this year.

The **Harris Family** is hosting exchange student, **Kout El-Sherbiny** from Cairo, Egypt. She is a senior at Kearsarge Regional High School, plays Varsity Basketball and will graduate in June. Kout will return to Cairo to attend Business University. Please welcome Kout to Messer Pond!

## DIDN'T WE HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER?!

by Barbara Troxell, Education & Activities Director

The first social event of the summer was the **4th of July Barbecue** at the island. Thanks to all who helped - Rick Aseltine, Derek and Debbie Hunt, Dick and Glenda Cavallaro, Bruce and Nancy Stetson, Marie Rossachaj, Jeff and Barb Troxell. The brats were great and a sellout again! It was wonderful to see so many people (about 50 adults and children) swim or boat out to spend some time with their neighbors. Harrison Roberts headed up the fishing derby and his expertise was greatly appreciated.



*"Sauerkraut with that brat?" Server Derek Hunt, Assemblers Barb & Jeff Troxell and Chef Rick Aseltine worked hard to keep up with demand on July 4th.*



*Cassidy and Brandy with Mom, Laura Lewis, daughter of Sandy and Bob Brown, enjoyed a Fourth of July barbecue picnic on one of the few flat spots on Blueberry Island.*

The **Annual Meeting** on July 28th was highlighted by a talk on our watershed by Amy Smagula from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). The committee reports of the MPPA Board were given, much food was consumed, and the important issue of funding a watershed study was discussed and favorably approved. The Lodge at Colby- Sawyer College once again provided a wonderful venue for this event. The young people enjoyed the game room that was adjacent to the meeting area. Many thanks to Anne Wustrow and her committee for all the preparations.

On August 22nd, an educational presentation by Mr. Bernie Lucey of NHDES was co-sponsored by Colby-Sawyer College and the MPPA. Over 45 people were in attendance to hear about **Wells and Well Water**. Testing of our home water supplies was recommended and Mr. Lucey provided an excellent supply of information that we could take home with us. The information included design details for both dug wells and bedrock wells plus data on typical contaminants for both well types, how to test for them and how to correct for them. For those who were unable to attend the presentation the information on well types can be found on the NHDES website, <http://des.nh.gov/dwg.htm>, Fact Sheets WD-DWGB-1-2 and WD-DWGB-1-4. The information on water quality testing can be found at [http://des.nh.gov/well\\_testing.htm](http://des.nh.gov/well_testing.htm). The New London town hall also has water quality test bottles and test procedures available. This event was held in the new Curtis L. Ivey Science Center at Colby-Sawyer and the involvement of the college, especially by Professor Laura Alexander, was greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who provided refreshments for the event.



*Mr. Bernie Lucey of NHDES fielded many questions concerning Dug Wells and Bedrock (Artesian) Wells. Due to the lack of state regulations for private well water quality, Mr. Lucey strongly recommends that homeowners perform water quality testing to check for contaminants. Many contaminants have no taste, odor or color.*

The **Annual Regatta** was held on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend and the weather was spectacular! The theme was The Movies and awards were presented on the Red Carpet. The Oscar-esque statuettes were a great touch. Judges (the envelope please) were David Webster, Terri Bingham and Dick Aseltine. The fun on the water was continued at the après-regatta party. Thanks to the Hunts and the Websters for the use of their property to stage this event. The Greenawalts did a fantastic job again of organizing this event. They have volunteered to do it next year and the theme will be Children's Books.



And the 2007 Oscar Winners are:

Best Drama

The Wustrows for Cast Away

Best Overall

The Lester Browns for Thomas the Tank Engine

Best Set Design

The HARRISES for The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Best Documentary

The SIMONS for An Inconvenient Truth

Best Supporting Actress

Barb Troxell for Moby Dick

Best Child Actor

Finn Brown for Thomas the Tank Engine

Best Costumes

The Greenawalts for Star Wars

Best Tube

Dave Wustrow for Cast Away

Best Book Made into a Movie

David Simon Bobrowich for Harry Potter

Best Supporting Actor

Beijing Bobby for An Inconvenient Truth

Best Animal Actor

Hunter Harris as Aslan for The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Best Special Effects

The Stetsons for Jaws



## DIDN'T WE HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER?

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The annual **Ladies Fall Luncheon** was held at the Colonial Farm Inn on October 19th and attended by 16 ladies of the MPPA. The food was fabulous and the conversation stimulating and constant! It was a great opportunity to better get to know some of our neighbors.



From left clockwise: Pat Harris, Lynn Lovett, Joan Ferlan, Glenda Cavallaro, Jeanne Conly, Debbie Hunt, Marie Rossachaj and Terri Bingham



From left: Linda Smith, Betty Brown, Sandy Brown and Margaret Martens



From left clockwise: Margaret Martens, Trish Roberts, Marie Rossachaj, Terri Bingham, Barbara Troxell and Glenda Cavallaro



From left clockwise: Marie Rossachaj, Terri Bingham, Barbara Troxell, Beverly King and Pat Harris



The **Winter Wine and Cheese Party** was held at the beautiful home of Rody and Dick Denise on Saturday, December 8th. The turnout was excellent - much wine and cheese was consumed! Thank you, Rody and Dick, for volunteering to host this annual event.

Derek Hunt and Jeff Troxell have volunteered to organize a **February Fun Day** on February 17th with Dog Sledding as the main event! Please see the enclosed insert for details.

- Barb Troxell, Director,  
Education & Activities



## A WARM THANK YOU TO THE WATER VOLUNTEERS

by Terri Bingham, Water Quality Management Director

A big thank you to all of our faithful volunteer weed watchers, lake hosts, and water quality monitors. Our volunteer weed watchers patrolled and monitored the pond on a monthly basis checking for any invasive plants that could harm our pond and provided many samples to be checked by DES. Fortunately for us, all of our samples were the “good” native plants. Our volunteer lake hosts logged many hours at the Bog Road boat launch participating in our first ever lake host program and providing further protection from invasive plants. Our water quality monitors ensure that our water is tested regularly during the peak summer season and that the results are maintained for comparison and further action should that be necessary. Please check the related watershed articles on this very point. These volunteers provide a valuable service to all of us that live on the pond and deserve special recognition. Many thanks to you all!!!

Weed Watch Volunteers: Dick Denise, Jack Hughes, Laura Shucart, Pat Harris, Terri and Gordon Bingham, Nancy and Bruce Stetson, Jim Byrne, Les Brown, Janie Webster, Jeff Troxell, Dick Cavallaro, and Frank Voellmann

Lake Host Volunteers: Betty Brown, Nancy and Bruce Stetson, Bob Brown, Terri Bingham

Water Quality Monitors: John Harris, with Bruce Stetson and Bill Shucart as assistants

A special thank you to retiring weed watchers Bob and Emma Crane and Jane Landenberger!!!



*Amy Smagula, NHDES Limnologist, provided Weed Watcher training July 6th. She is shown with native milfoil (good vegetation) found in Messer Pond. From left: Amy Smagula, Gordon Bingham, Bruce Stetson, Dick Denise, Frank King, Dick Cavallaro and John Harris.*



*Along the northern shore of Messer Pond a lovely slender spreadwing damselfly clings to a native soft bulrush amongst a grouping of beautiful native rose pogonias (snakemouth orchids). Rushes and other shoreline vegetation are important in reducing the amount of sediment that enters the pond.*

### WANTED - More Weed Watch Volunteers

Do you know how many different plants live in Messer Pond??? Probably more than you might think---17! It is very interesting to go around the pond and try to identify the different types of plants that make their home here. Unfortunately, some of our weed watchers have moved away and some who have “watched” for several years can do it no longer. We would love to have some new volunteers help monitor the pond. It is not time-consuming; we patrol informally in May and June and do more formal watching in July, August, and September. Most importantly it really is fun and provides a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the plant life here on Messer Pond. Helping ensure that our pond stays healthy is so very important. Amy Smagula from the NHDES emphasizes repeatedly that weed watchers are the first line of defense and have saved many a lake from disastrous infestations of invasive plants. I would be more than happy to accompany anyone on his/her maiden “watch” voyage to help with plant identification. If you are interested in helping out in 2008, please call Terri Bingham at 603-526-4202 or email me at [littlecove@tds.net](mailto:littlecove@tds.net).

## MESSER POND'S LAKE HOST PROGRAM PILOT PROGRAM RESULTS AND PLANS FOR 2008

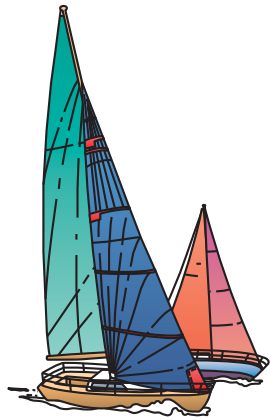
Thanks to our paid and volunteer lake hosts, Messer Pond hosted 60 boats in/out of the pond during the Memorial Day through Labor Day period. This was quite exceptional given the limited hours that we were able to staff our boat launch this past year. Our paid lake hosts worked 144 hours and faithful, dedicated volunteers put in over 200 hours.

Without exception, boaters were very cooperative and supportive of our hosting. They think it is the right thing to do and willingly let us inspect their boats. Those passing down Bog road on bikes, in cars, or jogging/walking also would stop to see what we were doing. All heaped praise on us for protecting this pond with our lake host program. Many in our area, not just those of us who live here, view Messer Pond as a particular jewel that must be preserved. Although we did not staff the launch full time in 2007, our efforts heightened awareness with boaters and, in conjunction with our weed watch monitoring, added further protection against invasive plant species.



Many thanks to our paid lake hosts -- Conor and Dylan Thompson -- and to my fellow hard working volunteers -- Betty Brown, Nancy and Bruce Stetson and Bob Brown -- for their many hours at the launch site. We really made a difference.

A very special thanks to Betty and Les Brown for letting us keep our lake host supplies at their home, providing excellent company during the slow periods and bringing out the best and biggest umbrella in inclement weather. Their hospitality made it so much easier to conduct this program. Thank you, Betty and Les!!!



### 2008 LAKE HOSTING PROGRAM

The Board plans to apply for grants from the New Hampshire Lakes Association and the Town of New London to staff the boat launch for the 2008 season. Based on our experience in 2007, it is clear that additional hours at the launch are necessary to monitor more of the boat traffic using our pond. While we “hosted” (i.e., checked) 60 boats in 2007, more than 60 boats voluntarily signed our boat launch sign-in log during hours when the launch was not staffed. As we all know, we do not achieve 100% adherence to our voluntary log, meaning that even more boats were actually on the pond during the non-staffed hours. It takes only one boat to wreak havoc on a water body. Many of you may have read articles in the various area newspapers about ponds and lakes in New Hampshire that were closed due to excessive E.coli bacteria, exotic milfoil infestations, or the new “baddie,” didymo, a.k.a. “rock snot.” We warned many of the fishermen using our pond about this new invasive microscopic algae which travels easily on a fisherman's clothing, gear and boats. Many of these articles are being added to our web page. If you have a chance, take a look at some of these articles. They emphasize the seriousness and danger of the invasive plant situation.

Because we want to plan well in advance of the 2008 season, we invite anyone interested in serving as a paid or volunteer lake host to contact Terri Bingham. Paid lake hosts must be at least 18 years old, although exceptional 17-year olds may also serve. It is a very convenient job and will pay at least \$10 per hour. We plan on hiring more than one paid lake host. Most grants require a match of cash or volunteer cash-equivalent hours to qualify for a grant award. More volunteers for this effort would be much appreciated. There will be no minimum number of hours that have to be committed by volunteers and we will be working with the New Hampshire Lakes Association to facilitate on-pond training. Having hosted at the launch site myself over the 2007 season, I can tell you that it is a very gratifying experience that provides a wonderful opportunity to do something beneficial for the pond, meet some very nice people and steal some quiet time to read or enjoy the beautiful wildlife right there at the launch.

Thank you for your continued support!

*Terri Bingham*  
*Water Quality Management Director*



## MEET THE MUSSELS

By Scott Brown, Fish, Wildlife & Water Safety Director



Worldwide there are nearly 1,000 species of freshwater mussels. North America supports approximately 300 species, of these, 72% are considered to be endangered, threatened, or of special concern. At present, approximately 40 species of freshwater mussels are found in New England. Two species are found in Messer Pond:



COMMON NAME: EASTERN ELLIPTIO  
SCIENTIFIC NAME: ELLIPTIO COMPLANATA  
SHAPE: TRAPEZOIDAL, COMPACT  
OUTER COLOR: DARK BROWN OR BLACK  
INNER COLOR: PINKISH-PURPLE  
SIZE: MEDIUM TO LARGE, UP TO 4.8 INCHES  
HOST FISH: YELLOW PERCH  
SIMILAR SPECIES: GIANT FLOATER,  
SIMILAR SIZE & EXTERNAL APPEARANCE  
WHERE: AT THE MOUTH AND IN THE LAKES



COMMON NAME: EASTERN FLOATER  
SCIENTIFIC NAME: PYGANODON CATARACTA  
SHAPE: ELLIPTICAL  
OUTER COLOR: BROWN TO GREEN, BRIGHT GOLD  
INNER COLOR: WHITE, LIGHT BLUE  
SIZE: MEDIUM, UP TO 3.6 INCHES  
HOST FISH: WHITE SUCKER, PUMPKINSEED, CARP  
SIMILAR SPECIES: EASTERN LAMPMUSSEL,  
SIMILAR SIZE, RAY FORMATION & COLOR  
WHERE: IN THE LAKES

Freshwater mussels belong to Unionidae, a family of mollusks, and are related to clams, snails, slugs, and even squid. Messer Pond is predominantly filled with eastern elliptio as it is usually the dominant species when it shares its habitat with another. The eastern elliptio uses the yellow perch as its host where the eastern floater uses the pumpkinseed and white sucker (remember our 2007 Fish Survey).

Host, you say? I guess this would be the time to tell you the Story of Mr. and Mrs. Mussel.

Reproduction in freshwater mussels seems to leave much to chance. The female carries thousands of eggs in her gills, which are used as brood pouches. If a nearby male releases sperm, the eggs are fertilized internally as the sperm-laden water passes through the female's gills. After 2-3 weeks, the eggs hatch into larvae, called "glochidia." The female then releases the glochidia back into the water where they must attach themselves to the gills of a host fish, but not just any fish will do; each mussel species requires specific host fish species. At the end of the parasitic stage, the juvenile mussels detach themselves from their hosts, leaving the fish unharmed, and sink to the bottom of the pond where they continue to develop - if they find suitable bottom habitat. Mussels can reproduce at three years old. Some of the larger species live for 20 to 100 years.

### Why Are Freshwater Mussels in So Much Trouble?

Over the last 300 years, human-induced changes have precipitated the decline of freshwater mussels around the globe. The construction of dams changed the way rivers flowed, altered how and when they flooded, and affected how much silt and sand they carried. As silt was trapped behind dams, mussels and fish-spawning grounds got buried. What's more, the dams blocked the upstream passage of the mussels' host fish.

Dredging, logging, farming and development activities have also caused problems by increasing surface runoff and erosion, and altering water chemistry and water temperatures. In urban and rural landscapes, runoff carries not only sediments, but also pesticides, lawn fertilizers, road salt, oil and other pollutants.

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# MEET THE MUSSELS

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## Mussels are Good for Messer Pond

Freshwater mussels have an interesting and complex biology. From their position in the pond bottom, these filter feeders pump water through hollow gills (also used for respiration) that filter out and retain microscopic algae (including algae blooms) and organic debris. It is important not to break this symbiotic bond with mussels and the rest of the pond. Dredging or disturbing the pond's bottom could kill off our pond's mussels and indirectly create a pond full of algae and other plant life, killing our fish and other aquatic life. Many water sources have faced this after dam or bridge construction. Mussels do not like sudden change and being a bottom feeder, do not do well with contaminants. Fortunately eastern elliptio is among the hardiest of the species. The fact that we have an abundance of mussels is typically viewed as a good sign.

While on the subject of food, many have asked if you can eat these mussels. The American Indians did, but this writer would not, as I think our palates have changed in a few hundred years. N.H. Fish and Game recommends that residents do not eat freshwater mussels. Not all mussels are good. Many introduce mussels to troubled types of mussels are a huge important to note, not all are. (Dreissena polymorpha) and (Dreissena bugensis) are a England lakes. While these that can live in about any their high reproductive potential and corresponding filtration rates, they can easily take over the pond killing other aquatic life. For this reason, only trained biologists should migrate mussels (or any marine life) from water source to water source.



## In Closing

Although no one likes walking on the beach and stepping on mussels, they are an essential part of our ecosystem supporting marine life, reducing algae blooms and probably the biggest contributor to water clarity. One has to wonder what our pond would be like without mussels, or, if there would be a pond; so the mussels are welcome on my beach any time.

## Mussel Facts

Due to "Red Tide" (an algae bloom that infects mussels causing serious illness or death), American Indians lived by the rule to never eat mussels during a month that does not end in the letter "R."

From the late 1800's - 1940's, mussels were collected for making pearl buttons.

From the 1950's to the present, mussel shells have been used for seeding cultured pearls in Japan. Export of freshwater mussels remains a multi-million dollar industry.

Freshwater mussels are an integral part of aquatic ecosystems. They serve as an important food source for fish, many mammals and some birds.

Mussels are sensitive to water pollutants; their scarcity may be a gauge of poor water quality.

Biomedical researchers study the cancer resistivity of unionid tissue.

Individual mussels can filter as much as 0.5 to 1.25 Gallons of water per hour.

A single female mussel can produce 100,000 to 10,000,000 eggs.

- Scott Brown, Fish, Wildlife & Water Safety Director

## SNOW'S BOG ROAD DEVELOPMENT aka "Rocky Ridge"

Snow Building and Construction obtained final approval from the State and Town in July and shortly thereafter, began cutting for the quarter mile dead end road. If by chance you walked the road prior to grading, you know why it's called Rocky Ridge.

All seven lots are in excess of 4 acres, even though the four waterfront lots are in the town's 2 acre zoning area. The first 200 feet from the pond will be conservation area and houses must be 300 feet from the water (versus town and state



*View from Bog Road, October 7th, 2007*



*View from last lot, facing Messer Pond, October 7th, 2007*

requirements of 50 feet). The large cleared area along Bog Road will be a fire pond (a possible ice skating area). While the new road appears excessively wide, it was necessary to comply with the town's regulations for road width, plus drainage area on both sides. The seven lots are priced from \$220,000 to \$350,000. Lot #5, the last lot on the upper right side of the road has already been sold, with construction slated to start once access is available.

*- Fred Kaufman, MPPA Member*

## AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST



Please join ASLPT.



MPPA and 35 homeowners on our Pond are members of the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT), the Kearsarge-Sunapee Region's very active Land Conservation Trust. (See [www.ausbonsargent.org](http://www.ausbonsargent.org)).

ASLPT'S mission is to "preserve and protect the rural character of the Region for public benefit through conservation easements, education and partnerships."

As of this date, the Trust has 89 projects with 4890 acres in 12 towns surrounding and including New London under "conservation easements." Some easements protect the Messer Pond watershed. ASLPT has a two year backlog of 26 projects to consider for "conservation easements" and is increasing its staff of land conservation specialists to reduce that case load. 90% of ASLPT'S operating income comes from its over 1000 members like you, who help keep this Region so rural and beautiful and the ASLPT mission alive.

Please consider joining MPPA and others by becoming a member of the ASLPT. The memberships start at \$50 and an application can be downloaded on the ASLPT Website or by calling Sue Andrews at ASLPT at (603) 526-6555.

Help Protect our Region - Now & Forever.

*- David Webster, MPPA Member, ASLPT Member*

## BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND NEW HAMPSHIRE WATERSHED CONFERENCE 2007

MPPA Board Members Bob Brown, Betty Brown, Terri Bingham, Bruce and Nancy Stetson attended the NH Watershed Conference in Concord on November 17th. The event, sponsored by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA) and New Hampshire Rivers Council (NHRC), consisted of a series of informational sessions and workshops all relating to the protection of NH Watersheds. The topics included: The Importance of Volunteer Programs and Partnerships in Watershed Protection, Newfound Watershed Master Plan - An Early Report from the Front, The Economic Cost of Declining Water Quality in New Hampshire, Culvert Ops - Continuity Assessment of the Ashuelot River Watershed, Stay Out of Jail - Legal Requirements for Dummies!, Water Quality Impacts in the Suburbanized Lamprey River Basin, Designing Stronger Projects and Proposals for Water Resource Protection, Working with Innovative Land Use Controls - The Nuts and Bolts of a Conservation Subdivision Ordinance plus several others.

The sessions were 1-2 hours long and provided a good overview of each topic. The Board made new contacts and came away with some valuable information to help with the ultimate development of our Messer Pond Watershed Management Plan. For more information on the sessions, go to <http://www.des.nh.gov/WMB/WatershedConference/2007/index.html>

Of particular interest, nearby Newfound Lake Region Association is currently developing a Watershed Master Plan. " 'Every Acre Counts: The Newfound Watershed Master Plan' is a multi-year, leading-edge master planning program for the entire watershed. Due to be completed by late 2009, the primary goal of this project is to unite the nine towns touched by the watershed to create cohesive and effective strategies that balance future growth with natural resource protection...In the year 2020, we envision a watershed where quality of life and economic vitality are fostered by stewardship and sustainable use of the watershed's natural resources, land uses and development are balanced with conservation, and maintaining water quality is central to the efforts of the nine watershed communities." For details go to: <http://www.newfoundlake.org/home.html>



### PROPER CARE/MAINTENANCE OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM *Frequently Asked Questions*

- Nancy Stetson, VP



#### What Maintenance Is Needed?

Both the septic tank and the drainfield must be properly maintained. With conscientious maintenance, the system should work correctly for many years. Such maintenance begins with water use and waste disposal habits. Since your family will determine which materials enter the system, you should establish rules for proper use and maintenance.

The suggestions outlined below will save you anguish and money when applied to most conventional systems. More sophisticated systems require additional maintenance, possibly at much greater cost. Also, recent rule changes now require owners of some alternative septic systems and community septic systems to hire a certified operator to maintain their systems. For more information about these requirements, contact your local health department. (*Donald Bent, Ph.D., New London Health Officer, 526-4761*)

#### Tips for Maintaining Your Septic System



1. Do not put too much water into the septic system; typical water use is about 50 gallons per day for each person in the family.
2. Do not add materials (chemicals, sanitary napkins, applicators, and so on) other than domestic wastewater.
3. Restrict the use of your garbage disposal.
4. Do not pour grease or cooking oils down the sink drain.
5. Make a diagram showing the location of your tank drainfield and repair area.
6. Install a watertight concrete riser over the septic tank to simplify access.
7. Periodically have the solids pumped out of the septic tank.
8. Maintain adequate vegetative cover over the drainfield.
9. Keep surface waters away from the tank and drainfield.
10. Keep automobiles and heavy equipment off the system.
11. Do not plan any building additions, pools, driveways or other construction work near the septic system or the repair area.

# PROPER CARE/MAINTENANCE OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM - *Frequently Asked Questions*

~ Continued from previous page ~

## Will I need to pump the tank?



After a few years, the solids that accumulate in the septic tank should be pumped out and disposed of at an approved location. If not removed, these solids will eventually overflow, accumulate in the drainfield and clog the pores (openings) in the soil.

This blockage severely damages the drainfield. While some clogging of soil pores slowly occurs even in a properly functioning system, excess solids from a poorly maintained tank can completely close all soil pores so that no wastewater can flow into the soil. The sewage effluent will then either back up into the house or flow across the ground surface over the drainfield. If this happens, you may need to construct a new drainfield on a different part of your lot. Pumping the septic tank after the soil drainfield has become completely clogged will not rejuvenate the system. It will provide only a few days relieve until the tank fills up again.

## How will I know when to pump the tank?



The frequency with which you will need to pump depends on three variables: the size of your tank, the volume of your wastewater and the solids content of your wastewater.

If you are unsure about when to have the tank pumped, observe the yearly rate of solids accumulation. The tank should be pumped if the sludge layer has built up to within 25 to 33 percent of the liquid capacity of the tank. Therefore, a typical 1,000 gallon tank with a 4-foot liquid capacity should be pumped when the solids are 1-foot thick in the bottom of the tank.

If the tank is not easily accessible, you may wish to inspect and pump it according to the frequency guidelines in Table 1:

**Table 1. Estimated Septic Tank Inspection and Pumping Frequency in Years, Tank Size (gallons), Number of People Using the System**

Number of Users:	1	2	4	6	8
Tank Size (Gallons)	Frequency (in Years)				
900	11	5	2	1	<1
1000	12	6	3	2	1
1250	16	8	3	2	1
1500	19	9	4	3	2

Source: Adapted from “Estimated Septic Tank Pumping Frequency,” by Karen Mancl, 1984. Journal of Environmental Engineering. Vol. 110.

Your local health department should be able to tell you the size of your tank. When inspecting the tank, check the sanitary tee or the outlet baffle to be sure that it has not broken off and dropped into the tank. Also, be sure to have both compartments of the tank pumped.

If the septic system is not used very often (as in an infrequently used vacation home with a correctly sized tank), it will probably not need to be pumped as frequently as indicated in the table. If you use a garbage disposal, the tank may need to be pumped more frequently. After a few inspections, you should be able to adjust the schedule according to the rate at which solids accumulate.

*(Please Note: New London Health Officer, Don Bent, advises that septic tank pump outs should be every 3 years or 1 year if in a sensitive area, such as uphill from a nearby lake or pond.)*

## What should not be put into the septic system?



Make sure you are aware of the types and amounts of extra waste materials that are poured down the drain. Limiting the use of your garbage disposal will minimize the flow of excess solids to your tank. Garbage disposals usually double the amount of solids added to the tank.

Do not pour cooking greases, oils and fats down the drain. Grease hardens in the septic tank and accumulates until it clogs the inlet or outlet. Grease poured down the drain with hot water may flow through the septic tank and clog soil pores completely.

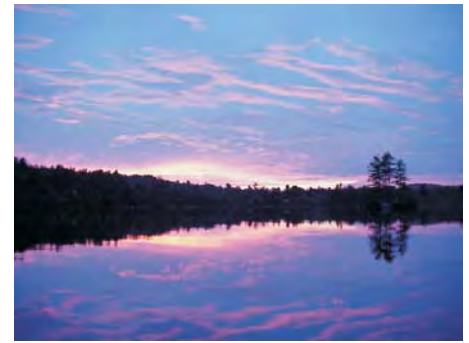
Pesticides, paints, paint thinners, solvents, disinfectants, poisons and other household chemicals should not be dumped down the drain into a septic system because they may kill soil microorganisms that help purify the sewage. Also, some organic chemicals will flow untreated through the septic tank and the soil, thus contaminating the underlying groundwater.

- Bob Brown, President



**FIRST MESSER POND CALENDAR IS A GREAT SUCCESS!**

“On Messer Pond 2008” is a calendar comprised of digital photos taken by Messer Pond residents and families. It was completed at the end of November and sold at the Wine & Cheese Winter Gathering. We sold 50 calendars! Please thank our local amateur photographers: Rick Aseltine (son of Dick and Marie Aseltine), Gordon Bingham, Betty Brown, Steve King (son of Frank and Beverly King) and Nancy Stetson. We are planning for a 2009 calendar to be available a bit earlier this year. Start taking photos! *(Note: High resolution digital photos will produce the best results.)*



*Cover by Rick Aseltine*



*January by Gordon Bingham*



*February by Betty Brown*



*March by Gordon Bingham*



*April by Betty Brown*



*May by Gordon Bingham*



*June by Steve King*



*July by Nancy Stetson*



*August by Nancy Stetson*



*September by Nancy Stetson*



*October by Nancy Stetson*



*November by Gordon Bingham*



*December by Nancy Stetson*

**NEW MESSER POND TEE-SHIRTS AVAILABLE**

Several new Messer Pond tee-shirt designs are now available in addition to the original Messer Pond logo design. The new designs are based on photos submitted for the calendar. In addition to the designs shown below any of the above calendar photos may be used. Tee colors: white, royal blue, light blue, red, yellow, green, pink, gray and black. Sizes: Youth S, M, L and Adult S, M, L, XL, 2XL and 3XL. Cost: \$15 each. To order please see our website or contact Betty Brown at 526-6352 or [lbrown1@tds.net](mailto:lbrown1@tds.net). There are also beautiful Messer Pond notecards available, 8 for \$10.



*Blue Sunset*



*Pink Sunset*



*Logo*



*Notecards*



*Loons*



*Heron*

**Thank you for your support!**

**TREASURER'S REPORT FALL 2007**  
**November 24, 2007**

After taking a look at the enclosed Balance Sheet, let me report that we have \$1,650.00 left to pay on the Watershed Study. A quick update on accounting shows that we will have \$2,855.00 in assets left after this expenditure.

As a follow-up to a question brought up at the Annual Meeting, I am looking at a possible change to the association's tax status. I am currently talking with a CPA. I will be speaking to other similar groups to assess how we are similar and different to see how this plays into our status. Also, I have a call into the Secretary of State's office to see how this will affect our reporting procedures and any changes that we will incur monetarily.

Respectfully, J.P. Paquette, Treasurer

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**Balance Sheet**  
As of November 24, 2007

	<u>Nov 24, 07</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
MPPA Checking	<u>26.31</u>
Total Checking/Savings	26.31
Other Current Assets	
A G Edwards Investments	<u>4,506.46</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>4,506.46</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>4,532.77</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>4,532.77</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	5,720.75
3900 · Retained Earnings	1,033.43
Net Income	<u>-2,221.41</u>
Total Equity	<u>4,532.77</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>4,532.77</u></b>