

Porter Lake Association

NEWSLETTER

Strong and New Vineyard, ME

Summer 2020

Noel Jones, Editor

Bean Supper Cancelled!!

Because of Covid-19 it was decided, reluctantly, to cancel the 51st Bean Supper at Porter Lake. PLA President Dave Baston said that “We looked at the possibility of a take-out bean supper but honestly the best part of the supper is talking with and meeting people in this lake community.”

Swim Program Cancelled for 2020

Swim lessons are also cancelled this summer due to the Covid virus. The program has been growing over the last five years to over 25 to 30 swimmers under the leadership of the Rutigliano family, with the support of the Town of Strong and with the work of Gene Ranger raking the beach.

Next PLA Meeting on August 22

The PLA Directors will meet on Saturday, August 22, at 8:00 a.m. at the New Vineyard library parking lot. Other members are welcome. Bring a chair and a mask.

Protecting the Clarity and Health of Porter Lake

Porter Lake is still clean and clear. However, neglecting the condition of lake property can drastically

change water quality. Increased erosion and run-off into the lake carrying many contaminants, affects the lake environment and causing unsightly algae blooms

The water clarity of Porter Lake is being watched and guarded by activity of the Porter Lake Association in at least four ways. The **Lake Smart Program** helps lake owners to understand and address conditions of their property that affects water quality. There are 120 camps on Porter Lake and the possibility of serious pollution, is high if people don't manage their lake-side properties. Asking **Lake Smart** to help you evaluate your property and its effect on the lake is free, easy, voluntary, and locally available. The **Lake Smart Program** is the major initiative (other than legislation) for Lake Associations and Societies to help lakes clean. Porter Lake has two trained evaluators to help property owners conduct Lake Smart evaluation--Peter and Lucia Swallow. Contact them at lwsallow@gmail.com or phone them at 684-3125.

Another initiative of the PLA helps us understand the lake environment is The PLA **Water Quality Committee** established last year to monitor the water quality of Porter Lake on an ongoing basis. Committee members include Hal Hutchins, Holly Higgins, Karl Knight, Peter and Lucia Swallow, Ann and Alden Wattles. For 20 years, Alden

and Ann have been monitoring the clarity of the lake and tracking ice-in and ice-out dates and sending data to the Lake Stewards of Maine and the Maine DEP. It was decided it was important to add both dissolved oxygen (DO) and water temperature profiles to this data. DO levels and temperature determine what aquatic life can survive in a lake. For example, trout and salmon require a lot of oxygen, hornpout and eels need much less.

Although we assume our lake is healthy, we don't know and can't track possibly harmful changes without ongoing sampling. Every lake is unique. One of our goals is to determine what is normal for Porter Lake. The Lake Stewards of Maine will train and certify unpaid volunteers to do the testing, repair monitoring equipment and manage the data gathered. The data gathered becomes part of Maine's DEP records of Maine lakes water quality.

Ann and Alden Wattles are certified for Water Clarity sampling and Hal has completed one class towards certification on DO testing and is scheduled for a Water Clarity class in July. The Franklin Savings Bank made a substantial gift to the PLA to purchase equipment and training; however the PLA needs an additional \$300. Donations should be sent to Monica Rooney, PLA Treasurer (see below). Be sure to make a notation that it is for the Water Quality Program. Please consider volunteering to be trained as part of this team.

A third way Porter Lake is protected is through the **Volunteer Boat Inspection** which helps guard against the introduction of unwanted plants and organisms into the lake. The PLA received a \$700 grant from the State of Maine to support the boat Inspection program. We have hired one paid person covering the boat launch from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. But we need volunteers to provide inspections on other days and for weekend afternoons. Getting grants for this program depends on the number of volunteers who participate. An excellent video at the Maine Lakes Association web site (mainelakesociety.org) or call (207) -495-2301 about being a courtesy boat inspector.

The fourth way that Porter Lake is guarded is to establish a strong **Porter Lake Association**. All the activities explained in this **Newsletter** depend on people: some who take leadership, many who assist with extensive or small tasks, and all who continue their membership, make donations to for special needs and who understand and support the Association. Please use the application form below to renew/begin your membership.

Island Clean-Up and Restoration

The ownership of the Island was given to the PLA for public use under the guardianship of the PLA. The Island Preservation Committee currently includes Dave Baston, Alden Wattles, Steve Godin, Eddie Adams and grandson, Frank D., and others. Early inspection of the island led to busy work days. Dead trees cut down and pieces stacked beside fire pits; wooden steps replaced to redirect foot traffic on the dirt and reduce erosion. The overall cleanliness of the island and outhouse was good. Please use the Island but read and obey the posted signs.

Meet the Current Officers of the PLA

The 2020 Officers of the PLA Board are hard at work managing the logistics of growing the Association and moving it forward in tricky times. Here is a quick introduction to the sometimes mysterious people behind the tough job of running a community organization. Hopefully, next time you see Dave, Bob, Monica, Lucia, or Steve they will feel a little more familiar....

President **Dave Baston** was born in Farmington and now resides in Carver, Massachusetts. His summer days as a youth were spent with his grandparents in Strong and at the Porter Lake through young-adulthood. The lake is full of great memories for Dave (he even proposed to his wife there!) Clear water. Rolling hills. Blue sky and good people. What else could a kid from the country ask for?"

Vice President **Bob Rutigliano** has been serving the PLA for the past six years. He has been coming to the lake for 32 years. Two years ago, Bob and his wife Lee moved to Maine permanently from New York. They now reside year round in the remodeled house/camp that Lee's parents built in the late 1960's. Bob extends an invitation (this really is a four seasons paradise!) to anyone interested in joining the local snowmobile club. Contact Bob (rrutigliano@msn.com) via email or house phone: 652-2231. If interested

Treasurer **Monica Rooney** Monica has been treasurer of the PLA for over 20 years! Originally from Farmington, Monica grew up in Massachusetts and currently resides in Plaistow, NH with husband Hugh and three children, Blake, Brooke and Spencer, who are all in college. The family enjoys "snowmobiling, snow skiing, boating and all sorts of water sports." Monica's parents had roots in the area, so she grew up "enjoying the lake, taking swim lessons, and has fond memories of bean suppers.

Secretary, **Lucia Swallow** and husband Peter moved to the Farmington area in 1971. Lucia grew up in the Finger Lakes of New York state and she dreamed of returning to "lake life," a dream that came true in 1985 when she and Peter built their log cabin on Porter Lake. Lucia taught swim lessons and helped manage the swim

program in the 1970's"many good memories and friendships !"

Communications Coordinator **Steve Godin** is helping organize communications for the PLA using different formats. Thanks to Steve, 80 families can be regularly updated about PLA activities. Born, raised, and currently living in Worcester Massachusetts, Steve and his wife bought their camp on Porter Lake in 1989 Steve spent 20 years in the Marine Corps and retired in 1994. Then taught high school in Worcester for 20 years retiring in 2015. "Since then I've been at Rosie's beck and call!"

Loons at Porter Lake and in Maine

Two loon chicks hatched on the north shore of Porter, but one died. One loon chick was sighted on the south shore. Overall, the loon population in Maine is growing. No eaglets were raised on the island this year.

Ice-in and Ice-out

Ice in in 2019 was recorded at December . Ice-out was listed as May 2020.

Please enroll me for ____ *Family Membership (\$20.*

And/or... Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Name (please print) _____

Permanent address _____

Summer address _____

E-mail _____

Signature _____

I ____ do NOT need or I ____ would like i

Mail completed form to: Monica Rooney, PLA Treasu

