



On the Water

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fall 2003

"We otter have clean water"

Join the *Friends* today and help to:

Save Our Shed

See what's inside!

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Did you know....

The earth's freshwater comes from:

- 69%: Permanent arctic polar caps & glaciers
- 30%: Groundwater aquifers
- .8%: Permafrost
- .4%: Surface & atmospheric water — 67% of which is contained by our lakes.

Source: National Geographic, Sept '02

MEMBERSHIP SKYROCKETS!!

Now stands at 1350 strong!!

At the end of 2002, membership in the *Friends* stood at 71. Recognizing that increasing awareness to the issues facing the Cobbossee Watershed was critical to success, the Board of Directors eliminated membership fees to build a constituency. Has it worked?

AND HOW!!

In just nine short months, membership has exploded from 71 to 1350 members!



AmeriCorps volunteers Deb Prager & Justin Lim flank OTTER captain Ryan Howes with customers Lily & Jackson Snider (& Tubby) on Cobbossee Lake.



Friends Executive Director Bob Moore addresses the Four Town Watershed Association at its Annual Meeting held on July 12 at Peacock Beach on Pleasant Pond.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Increasing visibility of both the organization and the issues has been instrumental in building the membership — which ultimately leads to action. Our members have confirmed what we believed when the *Friends* mission was established — that a constituency of committed individuals can make a difference.

Where the members came from

2003 Manchester Lions Home & Garden Show



- 382 — OTTER: 10 weeks on Maranacook, Annabessacook, Cobbossee, Pleasant Pond, Cobbossee Stream, Woodbury Pond, Sand Pond & Buker Pond .
- 185 — Trade Shows & Open Houses → Boat Show, Sportsman Show, Manchester Lions Home & Garden Show, Clark Marine, DR Struck Landscape.

- 134 — Lake Associations
- 82 — Civic Organizations & Clubs
- 56 — Postcard Series
- 54 — Cocktail Fundraiser
- 26 — July 4th 5K Road Race

AmeriCorps & the Friends – A Wonderful Partnership

From the Executive Director's Desk:

It's hard to find the right words to express to you — our members — the impact that a group of young men and women from across the USA had on the *Friends* organization through our association this past summer.

Earlier this year, the *Friends* Program Committee hoped to establish a "Conservation Corp" - a group that would perform erosion control and shoreline stabilization work to help reduce phosphorus and sediment run-off that degrade the quality of our waters.

Though we knew that similar programs had been implemented elsewhere, it appeared that it would take a minor miracle to get it in place in our second year of existence.

Having been made aware of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) by a former Corps member, we

applied to staff a team that would assist our efforts in three areas: Conservation Corps work dealing with erosion and run-off, Courtesy Boat Inspections dealing with invasive plants, and assisting with the OTTER, the *Friends* outreach vessel selling ice cream throughout the CW.

A minor miracle did occur — in the name of AmeriCorps. The *Friends* are deeply indebted to the AmeriCorps program...and particularly these remarkable young adults that came from all across the country to help protect our Cobbossee Watershed. One *Friends* member that was fortunate enough to meet the team this summer stated it best when she said, "They truly represent a wonderful scoop of America!"

"Words just can't express what a wonderful job that was done by the AmeriCorps "kids". What a terrific team! The results speak for themselves."

Robin & Angela Salvatore
Cobbossee Lake

The Eagle 2 Team - Who are they and where are they from?



THE EAGLE 2 TEAM

(Back, L-R) Anna Norstedt, Eau Claire, WI; Ben Maki, St. Joseph, MI; Erika Smithson, Cedar City, UT; Jessica Buchholz, Salem, OR; Mike Siegel, Hollister, CA; Team Leader — Emily Fissel, Seattle, WA

(Front, L-R) Deb Prager, Sebasatopol, CA; Justin Lim, Newberg, OR; Erin Mahoney, Wau-paca, WI; Katie Liermann, Perry, NY

"The young people worked very hard and did a super job. We are so pleased with this program. Thanks to everyone for all they did."

Joseph & Gloria Thiboutot
Pleasant Pond

What exactly did they do??

In ten memorable weeks, what our AmeriCorps friends accomplished was nothing short of spectacular!

Conservation Corps:

- 4,356' (.83 miles) of shoreline protected.
- 31 projects completed on: Cobbossee, Maranacook, Pleasant Pond, Cochnewagon, Little Purgatory, Woodbury Pond and Cobbossee Stream.
- 713 tons of rip-rap (rock) placed.
- 539 shrubs and plants planted, along with 149 yards of mulch placed.

"Mil-Foiler": Provided over 200 man-hours in staffing the following boat launches in July & August: Cobbossee — East Winthrop & Monmouth, Woodbury Pond, Annabessacook & Maranacook — Winthrop & Readfield.

OTTER: Daily staff support providing outreach and information.

Other: Met with numerous organizations, conducted major food drive, completed several other civic projects.

"What a great program; it would not have happened if it were not for such dedicated workers! Thank you a million times!

Deborah Mailhot
Cochnewagon

"A Picture is Worth a 1000 Words"



Installing buffer plantings & rip-rap on Maranacook Lake



Joint demonstration buffer planting with the Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District at Norcross Point.



"We need a bigger wheelbarrow!!"

**" The team stayed on for an extra 2-3 weeks to fit our project in. We are so grateful! Their work will help the environment and stream for many years to come."
Lyn Traver
Cobbossee Stream**

The media helped spread the spirit of AmeriCorps. Here the team poses for the Capital Weekly on Maranacook.



Senators Ken Blais & Sharon Treat recognize AmeriCorps for their efforts with a Legislative Sentiment.

**" Thank you so much for this wonderful program. We cannot express how thankful we are to have had expert erosion control work completed by these wonderful young men and women."
Mary Lou & Nelly Gamage
Woodbury Pond**



Laying geo-textile fabric before placing rock on Pleasant Pond.



Using the "Rock Barge" to transport 45 tons of rock across Cobbossee Stream.



Spreading 48 yards of "Slope-Stabilizing" mulch at Pilgrim Lodge on Cobbossee.

THE OTTER – a hit once again!!

The OTTER completed a 2nd successful summer, speaking with thousands of lake users and signing up nearly 400 new members. Expanding to the Tacoma Lakes this year, the OTTER also made appearances in Augusta's 4th of July Parade, Old Hollowell Days Parade and Gardiner Days.



↑ Captain Ryan Howes and AmeriCorps deckhands wave campers aboard at the "Slow the Flow" Play Day at the YMCA camp on Lake Cobbossee.

← AmeriCorps and *Friends* Executive Director Bob Moore prior to the Old Hollowell Days Parade.

The *Friends* can not say thank you enough to the wonderful folks at **Clark Marine**, who's generous support includes maintaining the OTTER and moving it to a new body of water every week. In addition, Clark also helped to secure, repair and transport a rock barge used on "Slow the Flow" projects.

Thanks go out as well to members that "hosted" the OTTER, providing docking facilities and electricity for our freezers.

Also, thanks to the support from Hershey's Ice Cream, which provided the ice cream enjoyed by thousands.

ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

Development Chair Jeff Timm has announced that the *Friends* first Annual Support Campaign will be conducted during the month of November.

"We are very pleased with the overwhelming response that our members and the public have provided us on the programs, projects and special events that were conducted this past summer. Programs such as "Slow the

Flow", Mil-Foiler and the OTTER have had a major impact in the growth of our membership and the increased awareness to the issues we face," said Timm.

"At the same time, the Board is well aware that in order to assure our future sustainability, we need to continue expanding our funding sources beyond major donors such as the Unity Foundation, Snider Family

Foundations, Bildner Family Foundation and the Ryan Family Foundation. Timm added, "The Board has made it quite clear that annual support solicitation will be limited to one — and only one — appeal each year."

A separate mailing for the Annual Appeal will occur in early November. Any donor who has previously contributed to the *Friends* already this year will not be part of the mailing.

1st Annual "Friends on the 4th" 5K attracts 97 entries



On a beautiful Friday morning on July 4th, runners from ages 6 - 71 participated in the 1st Annual "Friends on the 4th" 5K Road Race along the shores of Maranacook Lake, beginning and ending at Norcross Point in Winthrop.

Nick Scott of Monmouth was the overall winner with a time of 17:37 and Valerie Abradi of Lisbon was the 1st

female finisher with a time of 24:16.

The *Friends* would like to extend particular thanks to major sponsor **Kennebec Savings Bank**, and contributors G&E Roofing, GameDay Athletic, Coca-Cola, PFG-NorthCenter, Bagel-Mania, American Awards, Adept Screen Printing, Amber Ruby & the Winthrop American Legion. Thanks as well to all volunteers for their efforts, especially Pete Marczak and Taylor Harmon for their assistance.



Max Hodd Wells, of Readfield, finishes 21st overall with a time of 22:13. At age 12, Max was one of the youngest runners.

More "Slow the Flow"

It's clear that without the assistance provided by our team from Ameri-Corps, this years "Slow the Flow" program would have been hard pressed to get off the ground. The "Slow the Flow" program is a partnership whereby the *Friends* provide Design & Build services to waterfront property owners, in order to lessen erosion and run-off that pollute our waters. Property owners pay the cost of all materials.

Several other components were just as critical in the success the program experienced in its first year.

Rick Blackwell, a Senior at Wake Forest University brought the knowledge and experience to get things rolling in May, before leaving for ROTC duty in early July.

A more than capable replacement was found in Drew Foley, a Senior at Unity College, who also interned with the Cobbossee Watershed District

Drew's responsibilities included the planning and scheduling of the 31 projects completed by the Corps this summer. In addition to spending his mornings with the CWD, the afternoons and evenings that Drew spent meeting with

customers, providing recommendations, filing permits with the DEP and coordinating material deliveries with suppliers left little time for much else.

Another 50+ landowners over and above the completed projects have requested assistance to date. We are in hopes to continue the program next year and for years to come — our plans are to visit all sites and review our findings with landowners before next summer.

For more information on the "Slow the Flow" program, please contact the *Friends* offices.

"SLOW THE FLOW" Play Day a HIT!!

On July 24, the *Friends* & Maine Department of Environmental Protection hosted an educational workshop for over 200 campers at the YMCA Camp of ME in East Winthrop.

The workshop was coordinated by Christine Smith of the DEP and Meghan Kreider of the ME Conservation Corps. YMCA Executive Director John Bennett and camp staff, along with members of the *Friends*, Ameri-Corps, DEP staff and the Cobbossee Watershed District, staffed five inter-



active stations that the campers participated in and rotated through.

One station involved the campers swimming out to pontoon boats (including the OTTER) to test & monitor water quality.

All of the participants received and created their own "Slow the Flow" T-shirt, sponsored by Gardiner Savings Institution.

Cocktail Fundraiser - Great place, great food, great music... GREAT CAUSE!



← Over 100 members gathered in late August at the home of Conrad & Lois Ayotte on Lake Cobbossee. The gorgeous grounds and view were complimented by the wonderful food supplied by Capers Catering and the great music provided by Pat Colwell & the Soul Sensations.

100% of all contributions went to support programs and projects offered by the *Friends*, as all out-of-pocket costs were underwritten by the Jay & Terry Snider Foundation.

→ *Friends* Board member and band member Ken Smith thanks *Friends* President Jay Snider for his vision and philanthropy in helping to bring about the *Friends*.



FRIENDS MISSION STATEMENT

A not-for-profit group of concerned citizens supporting efforts to protect and improve the water quality of the 28 lakes and streams comprising the Cobbossee Watershed.

Our goal will be achieved by enacting programs and projects to do the following:

- Promote public awareness of water quality issues.
- Educate the public about strategies to protect water quality.
- Enlist citizen, community and municipal involvement.
- Support programs and projects offered by the *Friends*, the Cobbossee Watershed District & other lake associations within the watershed.
- Achieve our goal of making a difference in the protection of this vital natural resource.

Board of Directors

Jay Snider, President	Doug Grant
Conrad Ayotte, VP	Mark Johnston
H. Allen Ryan, VP	Rick Smart
Jeff Timm, Treasurer	Craig Snider
Ken Smith, Secretary	Bill Sprague, Jr.
Ken Blais	Betty Stephens
Rob Brown	Robin Struck
Jodi Federle	Warren Winslow
David Flanagan	Milt Wright
Elaine Fuller	Darryl Zeleniak

Bob Moore, Executive Director



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THANK YOU!!

The *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed* would like to make special note of the support it has received, and the resulting partnership formed with the Unity Foundation.

This dynamic organization was established as a public grant-making foundation in 2000 by the late Bert G. Clifford of Unity, ME, who's wish was to help build the "capacity" of well-managed nonprofit organizations.

The Unity Foundation's guiding principle remains the same today — supporting high-performance, mission-driven nonprofits. The *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed* owes much of our existence to the faith demonstrated by the Unity Foundation in the potential of our organization, and the purpose of our mission.

On the Water is published four times a year for members of the *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed*.

For more information, or if you would like to submit an article or news item for publication, please contact Bob Moore via phone, email or postal mail.

The *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed* is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Maine corporation. All contributions and donated services are deductible to the fullest extent of the tax laws. Individuals and businesses wishing to contribute to the *Friends*, please contact our offices.

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!! Contact our offices to become a *Friend* today.

TO OUR MEMBERS:

The wonderful events of this past summer would not have been possible without the generous support provided by the many businesses, associations, civic organizations, clubs and individuals that value the Cobbossee Watershed.

Whether you hosted our team of AmeriCorps or the OT-TER... whether you provided volunteer assistance in staffing a boat launch or special event... whether you sponsored a program, event or function — OUR SINCERE THANKS.

The *Friends of the Cobbossee* remains committed to making a difference in the protection of this vital natural resource. An active membership is critical to sustaining our mission. If you have any ideas or thoughts that you would like to communicate, or if you have a desire to volunteer your services, please contact our offices at:

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