



On the Water

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2004

"We otter have clean water"

Join the *Friends* today and help to:

Save Our Shed

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Stuff You 'otter' Know

- Maine has over 6,000 lakes & over 32,000 miles of streams & rivers
- Over 66% of all residents use them; recreational use is > 12M days/year
- Lakes supply drinking water to over 50% of the state's population
- Over 65,000 annually attend youth camps located on Maine lakes
- Lakes contribute \$2.8 Billion/year to Maine's total economic activity
- 60% of all municipal revenues in ME come from property taxes; Readfield derives 25% of its tax base from Maranacook Lake shore property
- Water clarity is #1 item that affects people's enjoyment of lakes

"A Healthy Ecology is the basis for a Healthy Economy"

- Rep. Claudine Schneider

A "Pleasant" (Pond) Ending!! *Friends assist with Beal Farm Project*

In the true spirit of 'partnering', a significant source of pollution to Pleasant Pond has been dramatically reduced. For years, the open manure pit at Richard Beal's farm in Litchfield fed phosphorous and other nutrients directly into Pleasant Pond. Cutting through red tape and bringing all of the parties to the table, the *Friends* helped to facilitate the project to be completed in just two months — after it had been approved way back in 1995!

After a USDA grant associated with the Agricultural Conservation Program was approved in 1995, the project encountered numerous setbacks over the years. The Four Town Watershed Association kept at it though - "We have been working for years to try to pull this together", said Mary MacMaster, FTWA President. "We are so grateful to Bob Moore and the *Friends* for helping to bring this project to completion."



BEFORE – w/ Pleasant Pond visible in the background



AFTER – the new walls and roof will lessen run-off



On February 3 partners associated with the Beal Farm project got together to celebrate the results of their efforts. In just 2 months, the project was completed after languishing "on the books" since 1995, with funding for the project due to expire in September of 2004.

Celebrating the new structure are (L-R): Richard Beal, farm owner; Ron Desrosiers, National Resource Conservation Services; Andy Douglas, general contractor; Mary MacMaster, President of the Four Towns Watershed Association; Steve Lund, carpenter; Guy Piper, Kennebec County Farm Services Agency, and Friends of the Cobossee Watershed Executive Director Bob Moore. Not present: Steve McGee, Jack Downs.

The OTTER – Returning soon to water's near you!

The OTTER, the *Friends* highly successful outreach vessel, returns in 2004 for the 3rd consecutive summer.

Plans include expanded coverage — from 4 lakes in 2002 — to 8 last year



The OTTER being greeted as it pulls up to dock

- to 10 lakes and streams in 2004.

“Last year we were able to expand to the Tacoma Lakes and Cobbossee Stream; this year we hope to add both the Narrows and parts of the Berry-Dexter-Wilson chain”, says Bob Moore, Executive Director.

Last year, the OTTER signed up nearly 400 members and provided information (and ice cream) to thousands more on those hot summer days.

Clark Marine will once again be a major sponsor of the OTTER, and an ice cream sponsor is still being courted.

The OTTER was featured for its

novel approach to outreach in the winter issue of the Maine DEP’s “Non-Point Source Times” - to view the article, please see our website or contact our office for a copy.



The OTTER entertained young and old at last years Old Halloween Days Parade, July 19.

1'st Annual Support Appeal Results – WOW!!

Development Chair Jeff Timm reports that the *Friends* 1st Annual Support Appeal was a resounding success.

“Our members have responded tremendously to what the *Friends* are doing. Just as our membership has exploded nearly 2,000% in the past year (now over 1400 members!), the number of contributors also skyrocketed from 35 in 2002 to 200 this year.



Support from our members help fund programs like “SLOW-THE-FLOW”

“Annual Support is a critical component of our funding mix”, says Timm, “but we realize that people will only contribute if they believe that their money is being used effectively. The approach we take is to put every contributed dollar to areas that have the greatest impact — namely raising the level of awareness through the programs and projects we offer. On behalf of the Board of Directors - **“Thank You!”**”

New Friends Web Site to Debut

Visitors to www.watershedfriends.com (the *Friends* web site) currently receive the message that “the site is being redesigned—check back soon.”

“Can we afford clean water? Can we afford rivers and lakes and streams and oceans which continue to make life possible on this planet? Can we afford life itself?... These questions answer themselves.”

Senator Edmund Muskie, in support of the Clean Water Act, 1972

A technology assessment funded by a grant from the Unity Foundation (www.unityfdn.org) recommended that upgrading of the *Friends* web site was the number one technological priority to assist our membership building and capacity-building initiatives.

The new site, being designed by Michael Richard of Saintstorm Graphic Media, will be informative, colorful and fun to use.

Schedules of programs and events, on-

line registration and helpful links to other sites are just a few of the new features that will provide members and visitors with significant benefits over the current site.

The new site plans to be up and running in mid-March. Check it out!

“If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in Water.”

Loren Eiseley, *The Immense Journey*, 1957

TADPOLE PATROL - "Summer School" with the Friends

Though details are being worked out, the *Friends* plan to offer a unique method of learning about watershed quality this summer — while aboard the OTTER!

The program, dubbed TADPOLE PATROL, will be open to entering 5th and 6th grade students from the Cobbossee Watershed and surrounding areas.

Just as the OTTER travels every week to a different water body, TADPOLE PATROL will come to you. Tentative plans call for the program to operate on Wednesday's, Thursday's and Friday's

from 9:00 am — noon, accommodating 8-10 youngsters each day.

The *Friends* are actively recruiting an Education Coordinator to plan the curriculum and conduct



The OTTER will double as a "floating classroom" for this year's TADPOLE PATROL Program

the program—a perfect summer job for an educator or water enthusiast ([see the back page of this newsletter for a job description](#)).

LEA and MLCI have provided assistance with similar type programs already being conducted, and sponsorship of the program is being sought out.

The final schedule and registration forms will be available in the near future — both on line at our web site or by contacting our office.

Learning has never been such fun

More Stuff You 'OTTER' Know

Though the waters are still frozen and snow covers much of the ground, plans, programs and events for 2004 are heating up. In addition to the OTTER and TADPOLE PATROL, here's what's on tap for this summer:

- SLOW-THE-FLOW — This popular program for landowners who wish to control erosion and lessen run-off returns for a 2nd year. Plans call for adding (1) crew consisting of local high school students, complimented by our an-

tipated return of AmeriCorps.

- MIL-FOILER — With the increasing threat of invasive plants, the *Friends* hope to build an 'army' of volunteers to support inspections and education efforts. In addition, we are hopeful to construct a boat wash station for Pleasant Pond & Cobbossee Stream users, the only known areas within the Cobbossee Watershed where variable leaf milfoil is present.

- S-T-F PlayDays — last year, over 200 youth participated in a full day of fun activities dealing with water quality. Plans for 2004 are to host (3) separate PlayDays at different sites within the CW.
- "Friends on the 4th" 5K — With nearly 100 entries in our 1st year, this summer's race returns on July 4th, once again along the shores of Maranacook Lake.

News From Our Partners

In addition to the support we receive from the many individuals, businesses and foundations, we have also formed wonderful partnerships with other lake associations, agencies and municipalities. Here's some news from a few:

COBBOSSEE WATERSHED DISTRICT

The CWD has had a busy job winter managing water levels as a result of high precipitation last fall. Other news:

- *TDML (phosphorous loading—Total Daily Maximum Load) studies for Annabessacook & Little Cobbossee Lakes and Pleasant & Upper Narrows Ponds continue.
- *Maranacook Lake Watershed Management Plan — data gathering for this project to start this spring.
- *Jock Stream study and monitoring completed w/KCSWCD.
- *Annual meeting — May 18 @ Winthrop Middle School

For more information on these projects, contact the District offices at 377-2234.

KC SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Kennebec and Somerset County districts have joined up for this year's Annual Tree & Shrub Sale. A variety of trees, shrubs and other plants are available at a significant savings to help residents begin a buffer, attract wildlife or just spruce up the yard.

Order forms are available by calling 622-7847 x3 or via their website: www.kcswcd.org Deadline for orders is March 22, with pick up dates of April 30 in Skowhegan or May 1 in either Augusta or Winslow.

The District is once again holding a Trout Sale for those who wish to stock their private pond. If interested, please contact the District office or web site FMI.

FRIENDS MISSION STATEMENT

"To protect & improve the 28 Lakes & Streams
of the Cobbossee Watershed"

OBJECTIVES

- Promote public awareness of water quality issues
- Educate the public about strategies to protect water quality
- Enlist citizen, community and municipal involvement
- Support initiatives by agencies and related lake associations benefiting the Cobbossee Watershed
- Conduct programs and projects to achieve our goals

Board of Directors

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Bob Moore, Executive Director

On the Water is published four times a year for members and friends 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 Executive Director 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.

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!!

Contact our offices to become a Friend today.



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JOB OPPORTUNITIES—HELP WANTED!!

CONSERVATION CORPS DIRECTOR

The *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (Friends)* are looking for an individual to fill (1) full-time AmeriCorps Member position for a period of approximately six months, beginning around the end of March and ending around the end of August, 2004.

This position will be funded through the Community Resource Corps Program, part of the Training Resource Center. The individual chosen will help develop and deliver existing programs offered by the *Friends*, help the *Friends* expand youth and volunteer service opportunities, and provide outreach assistance to benefit the organization and the community. The primary focus of the position will be the directing of (3) 6-person "teams" of individuals that perform a variety of erosion control and shoreline stabilization work throughout the 217 square-mile Cobbossee Watershed. In addition, the successful candidate will oversee the *Friends* MIL-FOILER program, including the building of a volunteer base to staff boat launches throughout the Cobbossee Watershed.

To apply, please visit the AmeriCorps website at: <https://recruit.cns.gov/index.asp> and follow the instructions; or mail, fax or email resume & cover letter of interest to our offices: ATTN: Bob Moore. Applications for this Corps position are being accepted until March 12.

EDUCATION COORDINATOR / OTTER CAPTAIN

The *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed* operate a 20' pontoon boat (the "OTTER") on various bodies of water within the CW during the summer months. For 2004, an educational component is being added for entering 5th & 6th graders, TADPOLE PATROL.

Plans are to host 8-10 youth for TADPOLE PATROL on Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9:00 a.m.—noon, then operate the OTTER from noon to approximately 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays — Sundays.

The educational component (TADPOLE PATROL) will include curriculum development and the procuring of the necessary materials, tooling and supplies. The outreach component will require navigating the OTTER as it operates as an Ice Cream Boat, while more importantly providing education and advice to area lake users on what they can do to improve water quality.

This position will be from early June through the end of August. Consideration will be given to split the function into two separate positions, if the right candidate(s) are found & the needs of the organization are met. To apply: mail, fax or email resume and cover letter of interest to our offices: ATTN: Bob Moore. Applications for this staff position are being accepted until May 1.