



# On the Water

Volume 3, Issue 2

Summer 2004

**"We otter have clean water"**

Join the *Friends* today and help to:

**Save Our Shed**

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## Stuff You 'Otter' Know

- The United States spends \$137 BILLION dollars per year to fight all types of invasive species - which includes aquatic plants.
- Florida spends over \$20M annually just to fight Hydrilla.
- Eurasian Milfoil was first discovered in 1942 in Washington, DC. Maine is one of only three states that has not been subject to its devastating effects.
- The State of California once tried PAVING the bottom of a lake to eradicate hydrilla.
- Just a small piece of one invasive plant can infest an entire lake.
- Over 10,000 Courtesy Boat Inspections were conducted last summer by volunteers across ME.

## Summer Programs Heat Up!

Summer is almost upon us - and the *Friends* once again have a host of programs and events ready to offer residents, visitors and friends of the Cobbossee Watershed.

Check out the inside of this issue, along with the special insert for our 2nd annual "Friends on the 4th" 5K and the new TADPOLE PATROL program, or go to our web site at [www.watershedfriends.com](http://www.watershedfriends.com) to see all that's going on - when, where and how to register. Certain programs tend to fill fast so.....**Don't Delay!**



The ever popular OTTER returns for its 3rd summer with a new twist. In addition to selling Ice Cream afternoons and early evenings, the OTTER will become a "floating classroom" Wednesday - Friday mornings for 5th & 6th graders with our TADPOLE PATROL program.

## MEET SABRINA LITTON



An AmeriCorps volunteer, Sabrina is the *Friends* Program Director for both the **Slow-the-Flow** and **Mil-Foiler** programs this summer.

Hailing from San Francisco, Sabrina attended high school in Sweden, graduated last spring from UC-Davis with a degree in Environmental Science, and will be attending Oregon State in September for her graduate work.

Call Sabrina at 621-4100 today to get valuable erosion control advice for your property, or to learn more about becoming a **Mil-Foiler**.

# Litchfield Conservation Commission

## A good "Friend" to the Cobbossee Watershed

Anyone who says that a small group of concerned citizens can't make a difference hasn't met members of the Litchfield Conservation Commission (LCC), chaired by Judy Bourget.

Begun in 2001 after town members voted for a Comprehensive Plan in 2000, LCC members have volunteered countless hours to help preserve Litchfield's natural resources, including waters of the Cobbossee Watershed.

Recently, two members of the LCC played a major part in separate but equally important conservation measures. Diane Clay, LCC's Secretary, chaired a sub-committee that built loon nests for both Buker and Woodbury Ponds. The sub-committee included 5th grader Maggie Sabine, who joined the effort because, "I like to listen to the loons."

Nelson "Nelly" Gamage, Vice-Chair of the LCC, is a strong advocate for maintaining roads so that erosion run-off is held in check to area lakes. Nelly's tireless efforts led him to apply for a grant with the Maine D.O.T. to repair a stretch of the Hallowell Road that has had numerous washouts over the years to Woodbury Pond.



"Nelly" Gamage stands next to a washed out section of the Hallowell Road between Purgatory Village and Route 126 that is a significant source of run-off to Woodbury Pond.

Nelly's deep concern for the lakes and environment led him to apply for a grant with the Maine DOT for remediation.

Students of Charlena Beganny's class at the Carrie Ricker School in Litchfield gather with members of the Maine B.A.S.S. Federation and Litchfield Conservation Commission prior to building one of the loon nests scheduled for launching on Buker Pond on June 11.



## 2004 Annual Support Campaign Underway

Development Chair Jeff Timm has announced that the 2004 Annual Support Campaign is underway as the summer season begins.

"Last year's inaugural campaign was a tremendous success, and demonstrated the support our members and friends have for us to continue providing programs and completing projects that are a real benefit to the Cobbossee Watershed," said Timm.

Whereas the 2003 campaign was held in the fall, this year's appeal will start in June to better coincide with the height of the *Friends* activities.

"The Board of Directors felt that the timing of the campaign made more sense to begin in the early summer," said Timm, "when all of our seasonal friends return, the waters are at their busiest, and all of our programs

are in full swing. This summer will be our busiest yet, and just as our membership continues to grow, our operational needs that support new programs and the expansion of existing ones continue to grow as well."

A separate mailing will occur later in June regarding this year's appeal. Last year, more than 175 new supporters contributed to the *Friends* as compared to 2002.

## Camp Road Workshop Offered

### Have Your Site Receive "FREE" On-Site Advice

Did you know that one of the most significant sources of erosion and pollution to the lakes are poorly maintained Camp Roads? Do you belong to a Road Association but know little about the organization other than the annual bill you contribute to every year for items like grading and plowing? What if you could learn more about how your road can be improved with recommendations from an expert... while at the same time helping out the nearby lakes and streams?

The *Friends* are offering a Camp Road Workshop & Training Session on Saturday, August 7 at a site to be determined - YOUR ROAD COULD BE THE DEMONSTRATION SITE!

Don't miss the chance to hear from Clyde Walton, well-known lake activist and a former landscape architect with the Maine DOT, who has generously offered to head up this free workshop. If you're interested in nominating your road or would like to attend, please contact the *Friends*.

## "Spotter" the Otter wins out!

With nearly 150 entries from children 12 & under, Todd Snider, age 9 of Bryn Mawr, PA and Monmouth, ME submitted the sole winning entry in the *Friends* "Name the Otter" contest. Although "Cobby", "Oscar", "Ollie" and "Harry Otter" were a few of the entries that drew support, "Spotter the Otter" ended up being the unanimous choice of the *Friends* Executive Committee.

For his winning entry, Todd will receive a free kayak complete with gear provided by Clark Marine. Congratulations Todd!

## More Stuff You "otter" Know

### "STF" PLAYDAYS RETURN

The 2003 "Slow-the-Flow" PlayDay held at the State YMCA Camp proved so popular that the *Friends* & ME DEP will host "PlayDays" at (4) sites this summer. Thanks to the sponsorship of **Gardiner Savings** and **G&E Roofing**, nearly 500 children will enjoy a full-day of hands-on water quality activities. This year's sites include Camp KV for Kids, Gardiner Boys/Girls Club, Pilgrim Lodge and the State YMCA Camp.



State Y campers work with AmeriCorps "Mr." Mike Siegel @ last year's PlayDay.

### INVASIVE PLANT PATROL & LAKESMART - "Take the next step"

Have you taken advantage of the *Friends* Slow-the-Flow or Mil-Foiler programs and want to learn even more? Check out the Maine Center for Aquatic Invasive Plants on how to become a "Plant Patroller"- web: [www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org](http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org) or by call 783-7733. Find out how to earn the Maine DEP's "LakeSmart" award by implementing landscape practices for your property that help to protect the water by calling (800) 452-1942.

## MORE PROGRAM NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

### SLOW-THE-FLOW (and AmeriCorps!) RETURN

Following up on last year's sensational success, the *Friends* are pleased to announce that the "Slow-the-Flow" program returns in 2004. Like last year, the *Friends* were successful in a grant application to the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, who will be back in Maine around July 6.

"I'm not sure if we can duplicate the results achieved last year, but we'll sure be trying," says Executive Director Bob Moore. "Having Sabrina (Litton) with us since April has allowed us to meet with even more people who are looking for advice on measures they can take to lessen erosion and pollutants from their property that cloud the water and contribute to algae blooms." Though most of the projects have been selected for this summer, Moore advises anyone interested to call the *Friends* to qualify and receive helpful advice now.

### MIL-FOILER 'CBI' TRAINING TAKES OFF!

As of June 12, training provided by the *Friends* has resulted in over 50 individuals being certified as Courtesy Boat Inspector's (CBIs).

Program Director Sabrina Litton states, "The mailing sent to members and others resulted in a tremendous response for the 6 workshops offered. State officials have stated that volunteer boat inspections are the best defense against further infestations. I can not thank the number of people enough who are donating their time to help protect this wonderful area resource." Contact Sabrina today on how you can become a "Mil-Foiler".



## 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

Jay Snider, President	Mark Johnston
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Bob Moore, Executive Director	

*On the Water* is published three 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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## The "OTTER" Schedule & Other Events

June 19	Gardiner Days & Fireworks	July 17	Old Hallowell Days Parade
June 23 - 27	Cobbosseecontee Lake	July 21 - 25	Cobbosseecontee Lake
June 26	Family Day in Capitol Park	July 28 - Aug 1	Maranacook Lake
June 30 - July 4	Maranacook Lake	July 31	Berry/Dexter/Wilson Ann Mtg
July 4	"Friends on the 4th" 5K	Aug 4 - 6	Pleasant/Cobbossee Stream
July 4	Augusta Parade	Aug 7 - 8	Upper Narrows
July 4	Winthrop Fireworks	Aug 11 - 15	Annabessacook Lake
July 7 - 11	Pleasant/Cobbossee Stream	Aug 14	ALIA Annual Meeting
July 10	Four Towns Annual Meeting	Aug 18 - 22	Tacoma Lakes
July 10	TLIA Annual Meeting	Aug 18	Annual Cocktail Fundraiser
July 11	CYC Annual Meeting	Aug 21	Woodbury Pond Fireworks
July 14 - 18	Tacoma Lakes	Aug 25 - 29	Cobbosseecontee Lake

## HOSTS NEEDED - AmeriCorps & OTTER!!

- With a team of AmeriCorps returning to work for us for the second straight year, we are in need of housing for 10 young adults who will be with us from July 6 through August 19. Sleeping, bathing and cooking facilities needed. If last year's team is representative of what tomorrow's citizens will be, we are great shape!
- Several openings also remain to host our boat, the OTTER, at night - dock space & electricity is all that is needed.

If you can help with either of these needs, please contact the *Friends* offices today.