

On the Water

Volume 4, Issue 2

Summer 2005

"We otter have clean water"

Join the *Friends* today and help to:

Save Our Shed

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Check our Web Site

Don't forget, you can see our entire summer schedule and register for programs by going to: www.watershedfriends.com



"On the Water" is printed on recycled paper.

BRING ON SUMMER!

More Programs Mean Our Busiest Summer Yet!



The ever popular TADPOLE PATROL returns this summer aboard the OTTER. Captain Cory True and Education Coordinator Sarah Rodgers have a whole new program in store for area 3rd and 4th graders. This free program, sponsored by Kennebec Savings Bank, fills up fast - make sure to reserve your spot by using the registration form enclosed.

Despite the record-breaking rainy weather of this past spring, summer is nearly upon us - really!! The OTTER, the *Friends* outreach and ice cream vessel, returns for the 4th straight summer, increasing its appearances to area lakes and other events. Old program favorites including "Slow-the-Flow" and "Slow-the-Flow PlayDays", new offerings like "LakeSmart - Start", and expanded components of our "Mil-Foiler" program are offered to all residents, visitors and friends of the Cobbossee Watershed. FMI on all of the programs and workshops that are being offered this summer, check out the inside of this issue, call our offices at 621-4100, or go to our web site at: www.watershedfriends.com to see all that's going on- when, where and how to register.

"Slow-the-Flow" (l) & "Slow-the-Flow PlayDays" (r) return for the 3rd straight year.



Protect Your Backyard When Opening the Cottage

By: William Laflamme, Maine DEP

After a long Maine winter, it's that time of year again when the earth starts to warm and the lakes shed their icy coats. Soon it will be time to have fun in the sun; swimming, boating and fishing at your summer retreat. But first there is much work to be done - the cottage needs to be prepared for the season, waterlines need to be hooked up, docks need to be installed and boats need to be launched.

When going through this yearly ritual, it is important to consider possible impacts to waterbodies and the surrounding environment from these activities. After all, one of the main reasons you go to the cottage is to enjoy the area's unspoiled beauty.

With regard to repair and maintenance to your retreat's buildings and grounds, care needs to be taken when using cleaning agents, paints and stains. Use natural products like baking soda and lemon juice when cleaning. More information on making your own cleaning products from less harmful materials can be found at www.gristmagazine.com

When using paints and stains, consider using earth tone colors so that buildings and other structures will blend better with the natural shoreline. Paint or stain docks away from the lake, and allow at least 14 days of drying time before putting them in the water. Make sure to clean brushes, etc. away from the water to prevent materials from washing into the lake.

This may be a surprise to you but when cleaning up winter debris on the property, **DON'T** rake up the duff layer of leaves and pine needles. These act like a sponge and filter, and help prevent pollutants from getting into the lake. As a cottage owner it is one of the best things

you can do to protect lake water quality!

Check the shoreline and other areas of the property for soil erosion. These areas can be stabilized with vegetation or rock riprap. To get expert advice on what you can do, contact the *Friends* office for a free, on-site visit as part of their "LakeSmart - Start!" and "Slow-the-Flow" programs. If more than minor maintenance and repair is required, or if structural measures are necessary, they can guide you to other resources including local code enforcement, Maine DEP, or Soil & Water Conservation District personnel for additional help.

With regard to your septic system, check the leach field for any breakouts, and consider having the tank pumped if it has not been pumped in the last 3 years. A properly functioning septic system prevents harmful pollutants from getting into the lake.

When preparing your boat for another season make sure to dispose of drained lubricating oils at a recycling facility, or bring it to your local dealer for disposal. Wash the boat away from the water - preferably at a commercial car wash. Check to make sure that the boat, trailer and other equipment are free of any hitchhiking plants and ensure that the motor is tuned properly.

Following these simple rules when opening up your cottage will go far in protecting the natural resources you so enjoy as a cottage owner. We all must work together to ensure that our natural resources remain in good condition for future generations.



AmeriCorps NCCC (and "Slow-the-Flow") are Back!

Local "Youth Conservation Corps" Join Forces w/ National Volunteer Group

For the third consecutive summer, the Friends have been awarded a project team from the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) - Perry Point, MD campus. Once again, 10-12 young adults from across the United States will arrive in the Cobboossee Watershed around June 20 for eight weeks.

"Typically, project requests to AmeriCorps NCCC receive funding for just one year," says *Friends* Executive Director Bob Moore. "After being awarded a team in both 2003 and 2004, we appealed to AmeriCorps for one

more year of assistance, in order to begin transitioning our popular "Slow-the-Flow" program for the future," added Moore. "Fortunately, they said yes!"

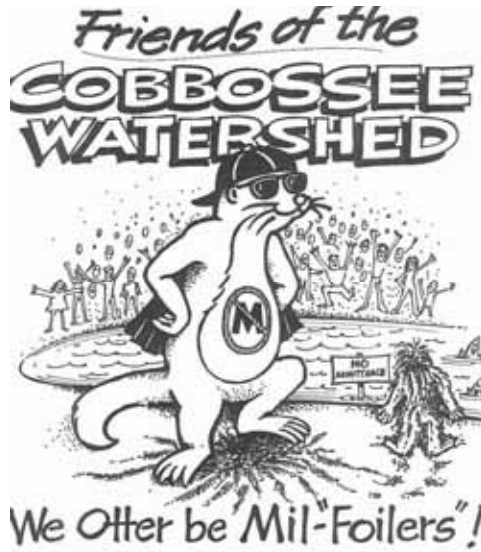
In 2005, the Friends will be supplementing NCCC efforts by adding a 6-person team comprised of local high school and college students, with initial funding provided by a Federal 319 grant secured by the Kennebec County SWCD. Project requests are currently being accepted. FMI, contact Program Director Crystal Hitchings at 621-4100 or mail@watershedfriends.com

"Mil-Foiler" Program Needs You!

The Friends "Mil-Foiler" Program helps combat the devastating effects of non-native Invasive Aquatic Plants (IAP) such as MILFOIL & HYDRILLA. Program Director Stefany Gregoire is coordinating several initiatives this year including:

Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) :

Prevention is the 1st stage in keeping these nasty invaders out, and our goal this year is to train 150 volunteer CBI's and conduct 5,000 inspections at public boat launches within the CW. Training lasts just 1 hour, with CBI shifts being 2 hours in length each.



Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) - For those who want to learn how to identify IAP's from native plants, the Friends and the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (MCIAP) will be hosting a **free** IPP workshop on August 10, from 3:00p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the YMCA Camp of Maine.

Plant Removal - Pleasant Pond - tentatively scheduled for August, volunteers are needed to assist divers in removing Variable-Leaf Milfoil at the Thorofare Road Boat Launch site.

FMI, please contact Stefany at 621-4100 or mail@watershedfriends.com

New Programs, New Faces, New Offices

Individual, Business and AmeriCorps support make it all possible!



51 Sewall Street, Augusta is the new home of the Friends, including "Mil-Foiler" Program Director Stefany Gregoire (L) & "Slow-the-Flow" Program Director Crystal Hitchings (R), seasonal full-time AmeriCorps volunteers funded through the Training Resource Center in Portland and the Maine Commission for Community Service.



January, 2003

The Friends, having just completed their first summer of existence in 2002, begin the 2003 year with one employee, operating out of a one-room office. Though the organization had some significant achievements that first year (including the launching of the OTTER, the Friends "Ice Cream" and Outreach pontoon boat), membership stood at 71 members.

Fast forward two years!

Entering the 2005 summer season, program offerings have exploded, dozens of projects have been completed (with tangible results!), and our membership now exceeds **3,000!** To support our member and program growth, in March we relocated our offices to 51 Sewall Street, Augusta, which provides sufficient workspace to meet our permanent, seasonal and volunteer staff needs for the foreseeable future.

None of our growth would have been possible without the interest and support of you - our members. Hundreds of you have also made a financial commitment, including major donors: Unity Foundation, L.L. Bean, the Snider, Bildner, Ryan, Lowenstein, Jacobs, Barnes, Gannett, Goldberg, McCarthy and Timm family's; local businesses: J.S. McCarthy Printers, Kennebec Savings Bank, Clark Marine, Transco Office Solutions, DR Struck Landscape Nursery, Vallee Real Estate, Charlie's Motor Mall, G&E Roofing and Gardiner Savings Institution; associations and agencies: AmeriCorps NCCC, the Maine Commission for Community Services, the Training Resource Center, the State YMCA Camp of Maine, the Maine DEP and the Kennebec County SWCD.

OUR SUCCESS IS YOUR SUCCESS -

TO ALL OF YOU, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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, *Exec. 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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www.watershedfriends.com

OTTER Hosts Needed!! Several openings remain to host our boat, the OTTER, during the evening. Dock space & electricity required. To be a part of this widely recognized outreach effort, please contact our offices.

AmeriCorps Housing Needed!! Once again, housing for 10-12 young adults is needed from June 20 - August 17. If you know of a facility that can accommodate these wonderful volunteers, please contact our offices.

'Where's the "OTTER" at?' & other events

June 23 - 26	Cobbosseecontee Lake	July 21 - 24	Tacoma Lakes
June 25	Family Day in Capitol Park	July 23	Concert on Lake - Cobbossee
June 25	Maine COLA Annual Meeting	July 28, 29, 31	Cobbosseecontee Lake
June 29	PlayDay-YMCA Camp of ME	July 29	PlayDay - Manchester Rec.
June 30 - July 3	Cobbosseecontee Lake	July 30	Wilson Pond
July 2	Torsey Pond Annual Meeting	July 30	Berry/Dexter/Wilson Ann Mtg
July 4	"Friends on the 4th" 5K	Aug 3	PlayDay - Camp KV for Kids
July 4	Augusta Parade	Aug 4 - 7	Maranacook Lake
July 4	Winthrop Fireworks	Aug 10	IPP Workshop - YMCA Camp
July 4, 7 - 10	Maranacook Lake	Aug 11 - 14	Annabessacook Lake
July 10	Four Towns Annual Meeting	August 17	Annual Cocktail Fundraiser
July 10	Tacoma LIS Annual Meeting	Aug 18 - 21	Tacoma Lakes
July 10	Maranacook LA Annual Mtg	August 20	Woodbury Pond Fireworks
July 14 - 17	Pleasant/Cobbossee Stream	August 20	Annabessacook LIA Ann. Mtg.
July 16	Old Hallowell Days Parade	Aug 25 - 28	Cobbosseecontee Lake
July 17	CYC Annual Meeting	Aug 27	Historical Society Tour