



Alamoosook Lake Association Winter 2023 Newsletter

ICE report from John Greenman

It's Sunday, January 22nd! After several false calls, we're confident that the projected cold nighttime temperatures will keep the lake closed now! We'll see...

In 2019, it also took 3 tries for ice-in to be declared "IN", after a couple of "open and closed" periods. It was a 16 degree F (with bitter wind) blue-sky day!

This year, as in the past, thanks to Fred, Chip, Gina, Joe, Denise at the Hatchery for their reporting.

Here's some recent history:

	ICE IN	ICE OUT
2017-18	12/16/2017	4/15/2018
2018-19	11/20/2018	4/16/2019
2020-21	1/11/2021	3/29/2021
2021-22	12/24/2021	4/2/2022
2022-23	1/22/2023	??/??/2023

Take a look at this year's reports on the LSM ice-tracking map...at:

<https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/volunteer-programs-tools/ice-in-ice-out-tracking/ice-in-ice-out-tracking-map/>

Scroll down to the map and zoom in to Alamoosook Lake.

Greetings from winter on the lake! Although until recently we really wondered if winter would ever arrive. Yes, we have gotten snow several times this week but still not enough ice to enjoy the lake yet. We really should have started an "ice in" contest. I don't know if there has been ice completely covering the lake yet or not. It's been looking more like boating season. Our hope is colder temps in the next few weeks will bring us a decent amount of ice to have some fun in February. We plan on building our ice carousel (if the ice cooperates) the weekend of February 24th. Please feel free to swing by and help with the ice auger and chain saw process. Our shacks will be warm and the beer will be cold.

Since the ice hasn't been here the fishermen haven't either so it is quiet. We are taking advantage of the GPMT trails hiking without the need for grippers or tall boots. We were able to take a short spin around our neighborhood a couple days ago on our snowmobiles to check nearby camps to be sure that no trees were down and all is safe and sound.

We did want to mention a month or so ago we were outside taking advantage of a nice afternoon sitting around our fire pit. We noticed a vehicle drive into The Walton camp rather slowly. After checking with Pete to be sure it wasn't their care taker, we did a walk around their houses. Mark discovered someone had tried to force open their bulk head and had ripped open a

Meeting Dates for 2023:
June 27
August 22



package that had been left on the front steps. (They were unsuccessful getting the bulkhead open but also saw that we saw they were there). So be aware of a burgundy SUV if it is where it's not supposed to be. We are keeping an eye out.

Happy New Year to all and hope to see you out on the lake this winter season!
~Kelly and Mark Sawyer
(check the FaceBook page for a video)

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a note from the president and an update on GPMCT from Carl Derian
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From the President:

I hope the new year finds you in good health, happy and surviving the winter. I also hope that 2023 will be a bit less “eventful” than 2022. This past year the lake and the association have had a number of issues that the association will continue to explore solutions for the benefit of the lake, and those that enjoy the Alamoosook watershed.

One of the issues we have faced this year is the Milfoil. Katie Greenman’s article explains the current status, but I wanted to make all aware of the great job the Milfoil Response Team as well as the Alamoosook All Clear team, has done in trying to determine the exact plant residing in the lake and working with various agencies (DEP, LSM,...) to set a course moving forward. We need volunteers for the AACT to help survey the lake. For more information or to volunteer for AACT contact Katie Greenman, at 207-735-7552.

The dam committee, Joe Giard, Chip Stubbs and Matt Ball, have been working with AIM, the owners of the Alamoosook and Toddy Dams, to see the steps taken by AIM to comply with Maine Emergency Management Association’s “hazardous” report on both dams in 2021. Corrective actions were to be done by January 1 2023. The Toddy Pond Lake Association has hired a lawyer and written to MEMA to seek immediate remedy. The Dam Committee continues to have a good relationship with the local decision maker at AIM and looks forward to seeing AIM remedy the deficiencies in a timely manner. If either dam fails our beautiful lake will be forever changed.

The brown tail moth is our newest, obnoxious, invasive pest. In the caterpillar stage they are even more devastating to the environment. A local forester, Jake Meier, is working with other lake associations and community groups in the eradication of this pest. To be effective we need a volunteer to be the point person for Alamoosook Lake. Please let me know if you are interested in helping this important issue. (tadvanleer@gmail.com).

The CBI initiative continues to thrive under Charlie Dodge. Boat inspections continue to protect the lake and educate boaters. Charlie always needs volunteers. Please contact him if interested.

Commodore Chip Stubbs and Lisa Deweese who head up the social committee have established a tradition of Tuesday night appetizers and libations on the lake. We hope the tradition continues this upcoming summer along with paddles and party along the lake. Fred Blodgett continues to head up the loon count which is another nice lake tradition.

I look forward to seeing you this spring. Let’s all have a great 2023.

Kindest regards,

Tad

To my fellow Alamoosook Lake camp owners.

Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust is looking forward to another great year. Our committees are hard at work planning various social events, hikes, and educational events for 2023. As always if you wish to get involved with the Trust, we are continually looking to our small community for volunteers and resources. Don’t be bashful!

Many of you who are already members of the Trust may have seen our fall appeal letter. From that letter we’ve raised over \$47,000 with an additional board match of \$10,000. If you gave to this appeal, thank you, it is truly appreciated.

2022 was an incredibly active year for the Trust. You probably know the Trust purchased the west side of the Dead River, consisting of 355 acres of land and over 7000’ of Dead River frontage. The Dead River is a State of Maine priority area for Wild Brook trout and is designated Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat. The property also has two large wetlands on the National Wetland Inventory.

It is with great pleasure that we can now say that both sides of the Dead River will never be developed, and the surrounding land will be preserved in perpetuity. Simply an amazing accomplishment.

Additionally, the Trust just closed on 183 acres on Hothole Mountain. (Northwest side of the Wildlands). This property includes the summits of Hothole Mountain and Condon Hill, as well as a 5-acre blueberry field. Plus, the ITS 107-snowmobile trail crosses the property.

And lastly, and as part of our effort to foster conservation and community involvement with Bucksport and Verona, the Joost Family Preserve, consisting of 20 acres and a half mile of shoreline of the eastern channel of Verona Island was generously donated to the Trust at the end of 2021

Our conservation efforts also included Timber Stand Improvement, thinning about 90 acres, reducing population of diseased beech, and encouraging growth of other species. In 2022 the Trust was named the Hancock County Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year; for 2023, we were named Maine State Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. The award recognizes the Trust’s commitment to the rehabilitation of the land, including 1300 acres of non-commercial thinning and numerous road and stream-crossing projects completed. Plus, the sponsorship of numerous events, both for professionals and for the local community to educate and inform people about sustainable forest management of the Maine Tree Farm Program. And finally, many thanks to the volunteers and their efforts, donations, and partnership with the National Resources Service (NRCS) to accomplish this award.

(cont’d on p.3)



In 2022 we completed the extension of the Capstone Multi use trail adding .8 miles, plus replacing a legacy culvert with a new 18'-foot bridge on the Dead River Road. This allows fish passage and reduces erosion.

Regarding our Capital campaign, with many generous donors, anonymous matches, foundations and grants, I'm delighted to say we are extraordinarily close to achieving goal. Again, many thanks to those on Alamoosook Lake who have contributed.

If you wish to visit our new office, we are in the same building as Verona Wine and Design restaurant near the Dairy Port. Come in and pay us a visit!

I hope to see you all on the lake or GPMCT trails this summer!

If you would like to share other ideas or suggestions about social events volunteering or trust initiatives, please email me at carld@greatpondtrust.org or cderian@campalamoosook.com

Regards,
Carl Derian
GPMCT Board President

Update! The Tale of Alamoosook Milfoil: The Unfortunately, Fortunately Version

Looking back on 2022 and the Invasive Milfoil Response effort, the storytelling pattern of “unfortunately”, “fortunately” with alternating twists of fate comes to mind. Here is the progression as known to date of this complicated and mysterious story.

Unfortunately: in February 2022, Roberta Hill of LSM called Katie with the DNA results of a suspicious plant sample collected by our diligent Charleyne in September of 2021. It appeared we were faced with invasive variable water-milfoil, the first found in a Hancock County lake.

Fortunately: The Alamoosook Invasive Milfoil Response Team was formed immediately with Roberta's leadership. All reps from local and state agencies and orgs joined ALA reps from AACT and CBI to enthusiastically take necessary actions to notify, educate, recruit, and train before the summer season.

U: Alamoosook was now on the DEP's “Infested Lakes” list for 2022, but we didn't know the extent of “infestation”.

F: the Maine DEP dive team visited on May 19th to do initial assessment around Birdsacre Island. Was this an isolated colony of variable water-milfoil scientifically known as *M. heterophyllum*?

U: without an exact location for the 2021 sample (no buoys or coordinates used then) we were relying on fluid memory.

F: diver Denise Blanchette was able to grab some samples for testing and all proved to be native species.

U: we were faced with the prospect of fully surveying the entire Alamoosook shoreline to greater depths for milfoil colonies, both invasive and native. It was daunting!

F: experienced cartographers and “UberIPPers” Ross & Bunny Westcott from Panther Pond created new survey sector maps for Alamoosook using Google Earth and IF&W maps.

U: we'd need more volunteers to cover more sectors more thoroughly!

F: some new volunteers (Gina, Mark & Kelly, Lisa & Joey and some expert “UberIPPers” like Lucy Leaf, Bunny Westcott, Mark Whiting & Keith Williams strengthened AACT. Gina and Mim took the training required for certification. Mark & Kelly joined them and other AACT and IPPers from other lakes at LSM's Plant Paddle in July.

U: getting team members together for orientation was a challenge and emails inadequate for explaining procedures.

F: Roberta Hill our invasive plant guru came on June 14th to lead some of us AACTers and Toddy Ponders in full coverage and deeper water survey techniques. Later she addressed our “infested” status at the ALA membership meeting, complimented

our strong organization, and shared how LSM and others were available to support Association efforts in mitigation. Mark Whiting of HCSWCD also attended as our local aquatic plant expert.

U: We lacked enough scopes and tools to collect from deeper water and mark locations.

F: Anne and friends, Charleyne and John Greenman, joined Katie in assembling kayak scopes, weed weasels and buoys. As was to happen several times during the summer, Chip came to the rescue! Not only did he tow boats, but he also accompanied paddlers, loaned equipment, and led UberIPPers up Dead River.

U: in early July, two samples, collected close to Birdsacre by Charleyne and Katie, tested as *M. heterophyllum* (invasive). Confirmation seemed real not a fluke. In July plants from 5 additional locations were sampled and sent for testing.

F: All of these 5 tested native. In October after retesting using a different method, the St. Joseph's College lab showed that the two 2022 samples previously said to be invasive were also actually NATIVE alternate flowered milfoil. COULD WE BE REMOVED FROM "THE INFESTED LAKES" LIST?

U: DEP concurred with the lab biologist that the 2021 sample still seemed suspicious with potential for hybridization. Alamoosook stays on the list for 2023!

F: after the DEP returned in late September to extract a crateful of fast growing alternate-flowered milfoil as a precaution, samples from the same plant were sent to two labs for comparison. They tested native.

U: questions remain about the actual location of the first sample collected, the methodology used at the two labs, how to identify a hybrid milfoil, why we don't see emergent flower spikes. It's all complicated and fascinating at the same time.

F: strict sampling & testing protocol will be enacted by our team in 2023!

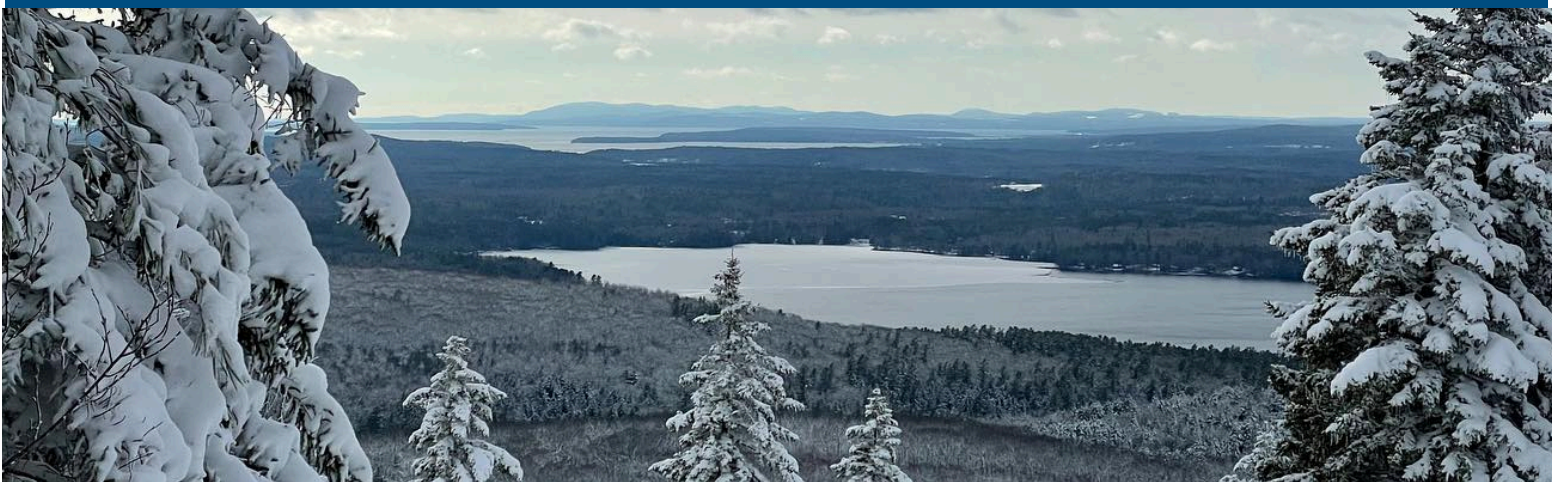
U: with a renewed attempt to cover the entire shoreline to adequate depths more volunteers are needed. We need a greater turn-out to avoid a burn-out!

F: I (Katie) am still coordinating and welcome you in whatever capacity you can offer to the 2023 season AACT survey effort. Contact me at 207-735-7552 or kgreenman@gwi.net



Please send your dues for 2023—you can use the PayPal button on the website or send a check for \$20 to Box 464, Orland 04472. Your dues are tax deductible, and increasing the amount benefits all our programs.

A bill is in the legislature to fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund. Katie and John Greenman were among those presenting testimony. Rep. Ron Russell was present. Katie's statement may be found on page 5



In support of LD 164: An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

Voting to Fund the existing Lake Restoration and Protection Fund now and in the future is the only way Maine will stay ahead of the increasing threats to water quality. We understand that the Fund is primarily designed to address the needs of Impaired and Threatened Lakes, to restore the lakes with worst water quality and to protect others from becoming impaired. But we know that the needs for restoration and protection go beyond phosphorus levels.

This Fund is crucial, but so is adequate support for the Department of Environmental Protection so they have the staffing and resources to respond to the growing demand for their services across the State. It's of little benefit to list lakes as "Impaired" or "Threatened" and not have the funds to take action.

My husband and I are fortunate to live on the shores of Alamoosook Lake. We are volunteer stewards as part of the Alamoosook Lake Association. In 2022 Alamoosook joined 169 other lakes on the "Threatened Lakes" list, but we've learned that when the lists are updated Alamoosook will be moved to the "Impaired" list, primarily because of delayed efforts by the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery to mitigate phosphorus levels in its effluent to meet DEP standards. We would be in much worse shape if our shallow lake didn't flush seven times a year.

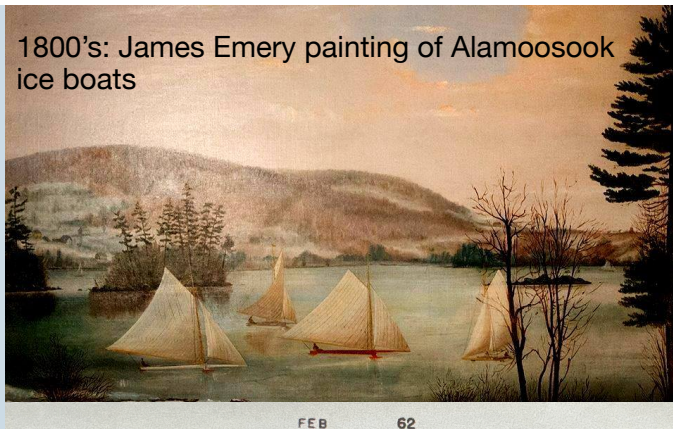
Also in 2022 Alamoosook was placed on the DEP's list of "Infested Lakes" due to a 2021 suspicious plant sample testing positive for an invasive milfoil. The DEP Invasive Aquatic Species and Dive Team became significant members of our Response Team and aided our efforts to assess the extent of infestation, evaluate samples, and extract suspicious colonies. We will continue to rely on their guidance and expertise as we develop a management plan and pursue more testing to resolve the mystery we currently face--a possible hybrid. Our challenging situation is multiplied across the State.

All of us are here today because we understand the importance of being good stewards of our environment. Financially, the value of Maine's lakes and ponds can be viewed through the lens of tourism and property taxes, but Nature-ally, we envision the mental health value of these scenic resources, recognize our obligation to protect all watersheds as sacred to our existence, and understand the necessity of educating future generations in their restoration and protection.

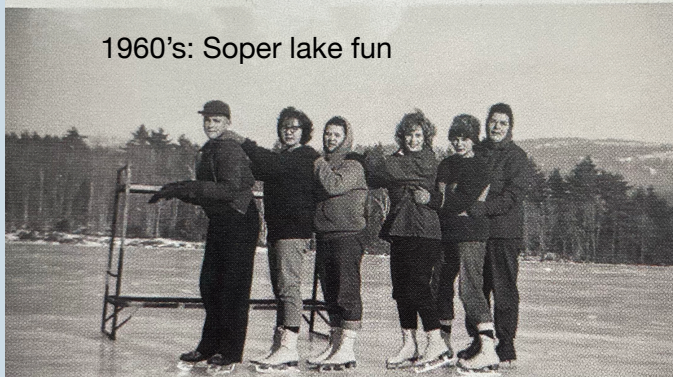
We urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 164 for the sake of our treasured Maine lakes now and for future generations to come.

Katie and John Greenman, Orland, Maine
to read more testimony, go to:
<https://legislature.maine.gov/bills/testimony.html#>

1800's: James Emery painting of Alamoosook ice boats



1960's: Soper lake fun



1990's: Winter Weekend, Billy and Sara Buck



2015 FrozenFest: The Quinzey (Fred Blodgett, creator)



So many years of Alamoosook
Winter Fun

Have a cozy, safe winter.



photo by John Bennett

A blanket of dry fluffy snow, sparkling in the sunshine greeted me this morning. It was pure magic. Snow drifted off the pines in graceful waves of powder. The sun warmed and melted my freshly shoveled dooryard but not for long. The temperature dropped by early afternoon, the forewarning of a frigid week ahead. Low of 1 degree expected overnight with -20 Friday night and high of 1 on Sat. May all be warm and safe.

~Amy Thompson