

MOLASSES POND LAKE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023

10:30AM

Eastbrook Community Center

Please plan on attending. Know anyone who wants to learn about MPLA? Invite them to join us. Guests are always welcome.



What's in a Name

Have you wondered how Molasses Pond got its name? It seems there are two schools of thought on this. The most popular is that it was named after Molly Molasses, a member of the Penobscot Nation. She was a businesswoman, selling animal skins, baskets and other art work, and was known as a healer. Later in life she sold photographs of herself in various poses, wearing her traditional Penobscot peaked cap, trade silver, wampum collar, beaver fur top hat and checkered coat.



Molly was a lifelong partner to John Neptune, Lt. Governor of the Penobscot Nation from 1816-1865. He was the father of Molly's four children. Molly Molasses defied her gender role. She survived during a period in American life when women were subject to their fathers and their husbands. Although it was never easy to make her way in a patriarchal society without a husband, she rose to the challenge and survived Maine's harsh physical and social climate.

The other suggestion is that the pond is reputed to be so-named due to a series of canoes that sank to the bottom due to being overfilled with molasses and maple sugar syrup (which was harvested from trees on Sugar Hill) being sent down the lake to Scammons Pond and from there through the Macomber Mill marshes to other lakes towards Hog Bay.

Submitted by Maureen Deis

Contribute to the success of the Molasses Pond Lake Association - GET INVOLVED!

For more information on committees and what you can do to help, contact mplaboard@gmail.com

Daffodowndilly

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbor:
"Winter is Dead."



A.A. Milne

Free Fishing Weekend!



Cast a line during the weekend of June 3-4, 2023. On these days, any person (except those whose license has been suspended or revoked) may fish without a license. All other laws and regulations apply on these days. Great time to grab a family member or friend and try your luck on the pond. Or take Dad for an early Father's Day fishing adventure!

Submitted by Colleen Mitchell

Trash Pickup: Tuesday

These items are acceptable waste for our weekly dumpster pickups:

- Tires (including large truck tires)
- Carpet (including rugs)
- Plastic items with your weekly household trash

Items NOT acceptable for weekly trash:

- Electronic Waste to include television sets, computers, monitors and accessories

* If Tuesday is a holiday, trash will be picked up the next business day.

Ice Out



By the time you read this article, one of the most exciting days of the year on the Pond may have already occurred – Ice Out! Since the Pond completely froze over last fall, the frozen surface has reflected beautiful moonlight, the rising

sun at the dawn of each new day, and varying textures and colors of the snow layered or blowing throughout the winter. On some weekends, the Pond is a vast playground for people fishing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, skating, or just happy children playing with pets. At other times, the pond is quiet and free of any activity except for the creaking, cracking, and other distinctive sounds of the ever-changing ice that reminds us that our favorite body of water is alive and there for us.

Most recently we are fortunate to have lengthening daylight hours: the sun is a little higher in the sky, and tiny cracks in the ice give way to small ribbons of water around the edge of the pond that eventually connect to form growing areas of open water. Our amazement with ice so thick that a vehicle may be supported shifts to thoughts of the loons returning to keep us company at night, and quiet, beautiful summer days on the pond that we wish could last forever.

In terms of when Ice-Out actually occurs, my father, John Quine, always reminded me that the typical date is usually around April 15th. He knew this because of his lifelong love and connection with the pond, but also without realizing it, the Quine/Carter outhouse wall has somehow become the authoritative, most widely respected source for historical reference information for past Ice-Out dates on the pond!

If anyone reading this can help fill in missing dates, following are the dates we know:

YEAR DATE: 1927 Apr. 17; 1928 Apr. 17; 1929 Apr. 19; 1930 Apr. 11; 1932 Apr. 13; 1939 May 3; 1942 Apr. 13; 1946 Apr. 7; 1960 Apr. 21; 1961 May 1; 1962 Apr. 11; 1963 Apr. 28; 1964 Apr. 18; 1965 Apr. 16; 1966 Apr. 15; 1967 Apr. 29; 1968 Apr. 10; 1969 Apr. 22; 1970 Apr. 18; 1971 May 1; 1972 Apr. 28; 1981 Mar. 28; 1983 Mar. 30; 1990 Apr. 12; 1993 Apr. 17; 1994 Apr. 16; 2022

Despite some versions of what officially marks the beginning of Spring: opening day of baseball, the Spring equinox, the change away from daylight savings time, etc. – for lovers of Molasses Pond, the more promising start of Spring is Ice-Out!

*Submitted by Cathy Carter
Photo by Lynda Ryder*

Dates and Events

- Every Saturday, 8:00am-10:00am: Coffee Social at Eastbrook Community Building
- **Eastbrook Days:** July 15, 2023

For more information on town activities, see website:

<https://www.eastbrookme.com>

Old Grange Hall



It's the end of an era. I suspect we all have many memories of the pancake breakfasts and baked bean suppers that were held there. We will miss them.

Built in 1905, the hall fell into disrepair in recent years. The Town of Eastbrook decided to purchase it with plans to demolish the hall and use the land for community events.

As we turn onto Sugar Hill Road from Eastbrook Road, it will seem strange to see an empty lot where once stood the Eastbrook Grange.

*** As noted by Rose Wingo, this year April 12, 2023 marked Ice-Out.**

Lake Friendly Living

4 Steps to Make a Difference:

1. Manage Runoff

When thinking about your landscaping, be sure to consider where the water goes directly after leaving your lawn. Consider using rain gardens, berms or other natural depressions.

2. Preserve Vegetation

Think about using buffers to limit erosion near shorelines and consider planting wildflowers, native grasses, shrubs and other appropriate plants.

3. Maintain Septic Tanks

Be sure to do routine maintenance and checks on septic tanks. A good rule of thumb is to have them pumped every 3 years.

4. Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species

Check boats, motors and trailers for AIS. If you have traveled elsewhere with your boat, be sure to completely decontaminate your boat/trailer.

Submitted by Colleen Mitchell

Cell Phone Drop?



Help track poor coverage areas and dead zones. Go to the below website to designate areas where you experience no coverage, gaps in coverage or poor coverage with your current cell phone provider. It only takes 30 seconds to complete the 3 question survey.

<https://www.cellcoveragemapping.com>

This newsletter is a collaborative effort by the members of the Education & Outreach Committee: Maureen Deis, Beth Boulter, Colleen Mitchell and Lynda Ryder. We welcome your comments and suggestions: hackmatak16@hotmail.com

And a sincere thank you to Genevieve Choate for her heart-warming article on the Common Loon.

The Common Loon

*By Genevieve Choate
age 12*



I participated in a class presented by the Schoodic Institute. The program was all about Loons! The presenter began by introducing the Common Loon, saying we probably

all knew them as beautiful black and white birds with red eyes. But there is so much more we can learn about loons. What I learned is that loons with brown coloring are immature, meaning they are young and have not gotten their adult coat yet. The presenter told me that there are many species of loons, which I did not know. I learned they have predators like the bald eagle and the mink. The mink likes to take the eggs. Speaking of eggs, the Common Loon only has about 2 eggs per year and she sits on the nest for around 28 days. Loons grow up to 17 pounds and reach up to 30 years old. They migrate inland about once a year. They also molt into a different color once a year and may not be recognized. Their diet consists of crawfish, crab, and fish. They swallow pebbles to help with digestion because the shells of crawfish and crab are hard to digest and the rocks help to grind them up! The Common Loon has many different sounding calls to help them communicate with other loons. Some calls tell each other if there is danger. If you are near the pond you can often hear them. The loon cannot walk on land because its legs are too far back. This causes them to take a while to fly, but when they do get in the air they can reach speeds up to 20 miles per hour. The Common Loon has two major problems. The first is boats. Boats are the cause of many loon deaths. If we are not careful, we could kill a loon. From this knowledge I have decided I will take great care and be careful to save loons in every way I can. Lastly, lead sinkers are the leading cause of Common Loons' deaths. Unless the sinker is more than 2.5" in length, it is illegal to use them. We should use non-lead fishing tackle to help save the loons!



Will you help?

Local Flora



Trillium - Red Trillium (also known as Stinking Benjamins referring to its "wet dog" odor) and Painted Trillium bloom in early spring and can be found in deciduous mixed forests, particularly where there are beech trees. The Red Trillium is dark red in color and the Painted Trillium is white with a maroon, dark pink-colored center. Trilliums prefer rich, acidic soil that is moderately moist and drains well. Look for trilliums along the edges of wooded areas, in sunny spots under trees and in moist ditches in April and May.

Jack in the Pulpit is found in damp rich deciduous woods before the trees leaf out. It is so named because it looks like a tiny minister preaching from a pulpit. The "pulpit" is called the spathe and "jack" the minister is called the spadix. The pulpit is usually bright green with maroon/purplish stripes and stem.



Star Flower is a dainty woodland plant that often lives together with False Lily-of-the-Valley. They grow in large colonies throughout the Maine woods. The plant's leaves are arranged in a whorl, with five to nine pointed lance-shaped leaves. From the center of the whorl, one to three delicate half-inch stemmed snow-white nodding flowers emerge. The white flower petals are pointed and also number between five to nine. There is a golden stamen for each petal, which shows up clearly against the backdrop of the white petals.

Marsh Marigold is a bold, bright, and happy plant. It is a member of the buttercup family and is found along streams, swamps, and other wetlands, sometimes right in flowing water. Its flowers are a bright, waxy, and shiny yellow from ½ to 1 ½ inches across. They grow in clumps and can reach from 6-24 inches high. Its leaves are also waxy and very shiny, with a dark rich green color. They are usually heart-shaped, with a notch at the stems, which are hollow. The plant is also called cowslip here in New England, probably because the raw plant is toxic to cattle and humans.



Lady's Slipper - Maine has four species of lady's slippers: pink lady's slipper, yellow lady's slipper, ram's head lady's slipper and showy lady's slipper. Of the basis. These flowers are found along Maine stalk amidst several 7" oval-shaped leaves at but occasionally are pure white. The flowers species. Blooming from May to June, they are and bogs. These flowers do not transplant due



four species, the last two are rare on a state-wide hiking trails. A single flower is perched on a 12" the base. The veins in the flower are usually pink can be pink, white or yellow depending on the found in the woods, especially under pine trees to their dependence on the local soil composition.



"False" Lily-of-the-valley (also called Canada Mayflower) thrives in damp, mossy and slightly acidic woods. The plant has two or sometimes three leaves that are 3"-4" long, pointed and heart shaped. Its small, star-shaped white flower clusters around a single stalk.

Skunk cabbage grows in swampy areas and is often seen on our roadsides. The first signs of this plant shoot up a greenish to maroon color "spathe" or hook-like shoot that is open on one side. Hidden inside the hood is a light-yellow flower head.



COMPLIANCE & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

With summer approaching, let's keep these things in mind as we spend time at the pond! After the winter season, our properties can need some TLC. Thinking of adding a deck? Does your driveway need work? As you take care of your property, let's take care of the pond!

| VEGETATION | EXCAVATION WORK | IMPROVEMENTS |
|---|---|--|
| <p><i>Maintaining a vegetation buffer zone along MolassesPond is necessary to ensure water quality</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a buffer strip of vegetation that extends 100 ft inland from the high water mark • Do not clear an opening greater than 250 sq. ft. in the forest canopy • A path can be cut to access the shoreline given it is winding, not in a straight line, and does not exceed 6 ft in width • Be sure to leave existing vegetation that is 3 ft high or smaller, including all ground cover • Selective cutting within this buffer strip is allowed provided that a well-distributed stand of trees and other natural vegetation is maintained <p><i>Submitted by Jason Choate, Chair</i></p> | <p><i>Limiting ground work helps control soil erosion, limits run off and protects aquatic life</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filling and earth moving of less than 10 cubic yards in a limited residential zone is allowed without a permit • Filling and earth moving of greater than 10 cubic yards in a limited residential zone requires a permit • For any work in Stream and Resource Protection areas, consult with town for proper approval • If you are not sure what zone you are in, consult the map located at the town office • Please temporarily or permanently stabilize all exposed ground within 1 week by utilizing rip rap, sod, seed, mulch, hay bales and silt fences • To create least potential for erosion have any earth work match the topography of your land and avoid high cuts or fills by following the natural contours as often as possible | <p><i>Wisely planning any type of development conserves shore cover and the natural beauty</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new principal and accessory structures must be setback a minimum of 100 ft from the high water mark • Expansion of any portion of a structure within 25 ft of the high water mark is prohibited <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ for structures less than 75 ft away - the max combined total may not be expanded to a size greater than 1,000 sq ft or 30% larger than the footprint that existed on Jan 1, 1989 ◦ for structures less than 100 ft away- the total may not be expanded to a size greater than 1,500 sq ft or 30% larger than a footprint that existed on Jan 1, 1989 • Only one dock/wharf or similar structure can be constructed on a single lot, except when a single lot contains at least twice the minimum shore frontage |