



On the Water

Volume 2, Issue 1

Summer 2003

"We otter have clean water"

Join the *Friends of the Cobbossee* today and help

Save Our Shed

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Did you know?????

The Cobbossee Watershed covers 217 square miles - from Torsey Lake in Mt. Vernon to Pleasant Pond in Richmond - before draining into the Kennebec River through Cobbossee Stream in Gardiner - 28 bodies of water in all.

"Slow the Flow?"

Conservation Corps to the Rescue!

The *Friends* are pleased to announce a new program called "***Slow the Flow***".

Building off successful programs offered in the China and Belgrade Lake regions, 2 Corps teams will provide labor **at no cost** to property owners within the CW on projects dealing with erosion control & shoreline stabilization, helping to reduce phosphorous run-off that contribute to algae blooms.

Corps members will be staffed by a 12-person delegation of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps - young adults from all over the USA that sign on for a 10 month service commitment. The *Friends*

were successful in detailing the severe environmental and economic threats that degraded water quality would have on the Kennebec Valley region. Although most **point** source pollution has been eliminated (raw sewerage, factory discharge, etc.), **non-point source pollution (NPS)** is the major contributor to green algae blooms on the lakes. NPS pollution derives from poor camp road maintenance, lack of "buffer" zones (shrubs, plants, etc) that slow the flow of run-off before entering the water, and the use of fertilizers containing phosphorous.

Rick Blackwell, a Senior at Wake Forest University,

and Drew Foley, a Senior at Unity College will oversee the program — consulting with homeowners on options, estimating, ordering & coordinating material delivery, securing the necessary permits, and scheduling the workforce.

FREE DESIGN & BUILD services will be provided for all approved projects within the CW. The *Friends* will handle all of the details - property owners (including businesses) pay for the cost of materials only. **Call 621-4100 today or email us @ mail@watershedfriends.com** to have your property looked at and how you can help to "***Slow the Flow***".

Return of the "OTTER"

The OTTER, the *Friends* popular Ice Cream Boat, returns for its second summer serving residents of the Cobbossee Watershed.

Debuting last summer, the OTTER was a huge hit with lake residents, while

at the same time providing useful information to lake residents and users on how to lessen the threats of algae blooms and invasive plants like Milfoil & Hydrilla. This summer's coverage will include 5 lakes, Wed-Sun, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

For a complete schedule, please see Page 4.

Ryan Howes, a Senior at Unity College will skipper the OTTER. Clark Marine continues its generous support as a primary sponsor, with Hershey's supplying this years ice cream.

Friend's Membership Gains Steam!!

At the beginning of 2003, the *Friends* membership stood at 71. Though encouraged with the first year of operation, the *Friends* Board of Directors knew that in order to truly have an impact on preserving the waters of the CW, they needed to "Build An Army". The Board made what some felt was a radical decision - **elimination of all membership fees!**

Friends President Jay Snider on eliminating membership fees: "In order to be successful in our mission, no one organization or individual can go it alone. By driving membership, we



John Hinkley (center) of West Gardiner, was the winner of an Old Town kayak donated by Clark Marine of Manchester to benefit the *Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed's* membership drive. Rob Brown of Clark Marine (left) congratulates Hinkley, as *Friends* Executive director Bob Moore looks on. Hinkley's winning entry was selected from over 3,000 entries that were submitted by individuals attending The Augusta Boat Show, The Maine Sportsman Show and the Manchester Lion's Home & Garden Show held this spring at the Augusta Civic Center. (Photo date: 4/10/03)

can greatly increase awareness, so our members themselves will become activists for positive change."

Board members Ernie Hannon, Elaine Fuller and Milt Wright assisted Executive Director Bob Moore in discussing watershed issues with hundreds of visitors at (3) trade shows and open houses at held at Clark Marine & D.R. Struck Landscape Nursery.

As of mid-June 2003, *Friends* membership has passed **500!** Says Moore, "Our sights are set on 1,000 members by the end of this summer."

"Lake Bits"

Company Store On-Line!

Ever wish you could wear a sweat-shirt sporting the *Friends* logo? Now you can! The *Friends* have partnered with an on-line merchandiser of over 40 items promoting our organization. Visit the following web address, pick your items and follow instructions.

www.cafeshops.com/friendsofthewater

Proceeds support our programs!



Friends Board members Milt Wright & Elaine Fuller with the Honorable Governor John Baldacci at the 2003 Maine Sportsman's Show, held March 28-30 in Augusta.

Volunteer Opportunities - like to help out but not sure where to start? Assistance is needed with the 5K Road Race, MIL-FOILER program, office support & other needs.

Needs List - Old boat(s) for use as rock barges, computer, desks, what-have-you? All gifts are tax-deductible!

Call 621-4100 or email

mail@watershedfriends.com

"Friends on the 4th" 5K Road Race



The first annual "*Friends on the 4th*" 5K Road Race will be held on July 4th at 8:00 a.m. in Winthrop. Beginning and ending at Norcross Point, most of the course follows the eastern shoreline of Maranacook Lake.

Sponsored by Kennebec Savings Bank and G&E Roofing, the event is open to all runners, joggers and walkers of all ages. Other contributors to the event include GameDay Athletic, Coca-Cola,

PFG-NorthCenter, Bagel Mania, Adept Screen Printing & Graphics, American Awards, Brown Signs and the Winthrop American Legion.

Pre-register by contacting the *Friends* office for an application. Registration is \$12 for those that pre-register by June 27 & includes T-Shirt. Registration on Race Day is \$15, no T-Shirt.

Before you barbecue, start the 4th off with a bang with a run/jog/walk!

"MIL-FOILER" Program Announced

The *Friends* and CWD jointly announce the **Mil-Foiler** program, created in response to the escalating threat of invasive aquatic plants throughout the CW. *Variable-leaf milfoil*, a non-native species to ME, already exists in Pleasant Pond and parts of Cobbossee Stream. This past fall, *Hydrilla*, perhaps the most aggressive of invasive plants, was confirmed within Pickerel Pond in Limerick, ME. It now covers 60% of the lake where depths are 6' or less! The state of ME recently applied a herbicide and is considering other aggres-

sive procedures to prevent its spread to other parts of the state. The **Mil-Foiler** program has several components that focus on educating lake users. Critical to the success of the program is the **successful recruitment of volunteers** to staff boat launches throughout the CW. While Maine has the strongest protective legislation in the U.S., our lakes will not escape infestation without broad-based, long-term support from the lake community.

Components of the program include:

- Direct mail campaign (see below)
- Specialized training workshops:
 - Courtesy Boat Inspections – 90 minute introduction, offered by the CWD. Participants receive a free complimentary T-Shirt.
 - Invasive Plant Patrol – more advanced program, scheduled from 10 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., August 2 @ Camp Bearnstow on Parker Pond, MT. Vernon.
- Boat Launch Staffing – All lake users & lovers in general - **Volunteers needed!** Please help by calling **621-4100 TODAY!!**

Friends, Maine DEP & YMCA Camp of Maine team up on "Slow the Flow" Kids Play Day

On July 24, the *Friends*, Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the YMCA Camp of ME will host an educational workshop for 200+ children entering grades 4-8 from 9:30 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. in East Winthrop.

The interactive workshop is known as "**Slow the Flow" Kids Play Day.**

Christine Smith, DEP; Meghan Kreider, Maine Conservation Corps;

YMCA Executive Director John Bennett and *Friends* Executive Director Bob Moore are planning hands-on activity stations such as:

- "Watershed Model"– a 3-dimensional model depicting a lakeside community.
- "Just Passing Through"- A running & tagging game showing first-hand how vegetation slows

down and filters the flow of water entering lakes, streams & rivers.

- Sand Castle Contest – Teams compete with an erosion "twist".

Children will also print their own T-Shirts depicting the day's events. Staff will be provided by AmeriCorps NCCC (working for the *Friends* this summer), YMCA Camp staff, and employees from the Maine DEP.

Postcard Mailings Launched to help Save Our Shed



Photo used for Postcard #1, mailed to 15,000 CW residents on June 5. Five different postcards will be mailed every two weeks through July.

A direct mail campaign to 15,000 residents of the Cobbossee Watershed is now underway. The threat of invasive plants such as *Milfoil* and *Hydrilla* is

here now – and the *Friends* hope that this effort will raise awareness and action as to the dangers the CW faces.

Each resident within the CW will receive a different postcard (5 in all) every two weeks beginning on June 5, which illustrate *Milfoil* and *Hydrilla* at its worst.

Special thanks go to J.S. McCarthy Printers for their generous support in funding this program.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can make a difference. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed

A not-for-profit group of concerned citizens supporting efforts to protect and improve the water quality of the 28 lakes and streams comprising the Cobbossee Watershed.

Our goal will be achieved by enacting programs and projects to do the following:

- Promote public awareness of water quality issues.
- Educate the public about strategies to protect water quality.
- Enlist citizen, community and municipal involvement.
- Support programs and projects offered by the *Friends*, the Cobbossee Watershed District & other lake associations within the watershed.
- Achieve our goal of making a difference in the protection of this vital natural resource.

On the Water is published four times a year for members 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 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. Individuals and businesses wishing to contribute to the *Friends*, please contact our offices.

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!!
Contact our offices to become a *Friend* today.



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Elaine Fuller	Warren Winslow
Doug Grant	Milt Wright
Ernie Hannon	Darryl Zeleniak

- Bob Moore, Executive Director

Calendar of Events

Thanks to the following individuals
& businesses for your support!

OTTER SCHEDULE

6/25 – 6/29: Cobbossee
7/02 – 7/06: Maranacook* (So. End)
7/09 – 7/13: Pleasant Pond
7/16 – 7/20: Annabessacook
7/23 – 7/27: Cobbossee
7/30 – 8/03: Maranacook
8/06 – 8/10: Pleasant Pond
8/13 – 8/17: Annabessacook*
8/20 – 8/24: Tacoma Lakes*
8/27 – 9/01: Cobbossee*

* **Host's needed!!** - Would you like to host the OTTER this summer? All we need is a place to dock and extension cord for our freezers. You (& guests) will be treated to a Lakeside welcoming cruise on the 1'st night of the OTTER's stay. Be the envy of your neighbors. Call 621-4100 today!

OTHER EVENTS

6/26 *Friends* Board meeting, 4 PM
7/04 5K Race, Norcross Pt., Winthrop
7/12 Four Towns W/S Assn. Ann. Mtg.
7/22 CYC Annual Mtg., Augusta CC
7/24 Kids Play Day, State YMCA Camp
8/02 Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop, Camp Bearnstow, Mt. Vernon
8/03 Four Towns Boat Parade
8/16 Annabessacook LIA Ann. Mtg.
8/20 *Friends* Cocktail Party
9/18 *Friends* Annual Meeting, 4PM

For additional information on any events listed, please contact the *Friends* at 621-4100 or email at:
mail@watershedfriends.com

Allen & Joan Bildner	Peter & Andrea Myette
John & Charlene Bridge	Allen & Dianne Ryan
John Christie	Don & Martha Sage
Steve & Laurel Coleman	Mr. & Mrs. Robin Salvatore
Sheila Comerford & Stephen Gove	Dr. Bob & Melinda Shelton
Dana & Patricia Connors	Ken & Mary Smith
Dr. William & Ann Dollhopf	Craig Snider
Jodi & Tom Federle	Jerome & Elaine Snider
Cliff Fletcher	Lindy Lou Snider
Elaine Fuller	Andrew & Tina Escoll
Al & Natalie Graceffa	Ed Snider
Ernie & Jo Ann Hannon	Jay & Terry Snider
Mark & Judy Johnston	Theresa Spontak
John Lacasse	Hugh & Betty Stephens
Priscilla Lee	Dan & Priscilla Stevens
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Christopher Marston	Milt Wright
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Bob & Susan Moore	Brown Signs
Clark Marine	Lakeside Motel Marina
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