

# Island Falls Lakes Association

JANUARY 20, 2020



Happy  
New Year  
From  
Pleasant Pond and  
Mattawamkeag  
Lake



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Dear Members and Friends,

As we enter a new decade we may pause to contemplate what resolutions we have made for the new year and also what longer term resolutions, commitments or goals we have in mind. The IFLA Trustees also collectively engage in this thoughtful process also to plan for our future. We are indeed extremely fortunate that we can carry on our usual activities from year to year because they indicate there are no unusual or alarming developments in our water quality at Pleasant Lake and Mattawamkeag Lake. We can be thankful that the quality of our lakes have not suffered from any long term or traumatic changes that affect water quality and consequently; property values, our ability to enjoy swimming, fishing, boating and the burdensome costs (and uncertainty) of remediation. Many Maine lakes cannot make that same claim, such as China Lake, Cross Lake, Daigle Pond, Great Pond, Sebastcook Lake and many others.

Our good fortune should not be taken for granted. Most property owners are vigilant about the stewardship of their land and want to continue their efforts to keep unwanted pollutants out of our waters. Pollutants are not necessarily foul effluents coming out of a factory sewer pipe. It can be as innocuous as rain water run-off or fertilizer flowing down a driveway.

We will provide more educational materials on non-point source pollution on the IFLA website to help anyone increase their knowledge and awareness of this silent danger. The Lakes Association has also obtained a large supply of used conveyor belt material that can be used to create water diverters on driveways and access roads. There are local contractors who have certified to perform remedial work within the shoreland zone if assistance is required to install these diverters. In addition to diverting run-off from entering our lakes there is a gold mine of information and best practices found within the Lakesmart program. Lakesmart is a free and non-regulatory program designed to help property owners learn how to manage their camp and yard to protect the water quality of their lake. If you plan to keep your property in the family and maximize it's value, your children and grandchildren will thank you for being involved in Lakesmart! The VISION of the Island Falls Lakes Association is 'to have healthy lakes for our communities' by promoting activities that support clean water and Lakesmart is the single most effective tool we can offer to help you do that.

Our association is supported by members, volunteers and businesses. With regards to members, thank you if you are a member and please continue to renew annually. If you are a property owner and not yet a member this is an open invitation to please join. Your \$20 supports the little operating costs we do have and most importantly it is a signal that you are on board with promoting clean water and that you care about that for future generations. Membership dues can now be paid online on the Lakes Association website at [www.islandfallslakesassociation.com](http://www.islandfallslakesassociation.com)

For those interested in learning more about the Lakes Association we have several volunteer opportunities. The Association is always interested in new members to serve as Trustees (the position of Secretary is vacant on the Board of Trustees), we need Lakesmart volunteers to be trained in site evaluation and best practices and volunteer water quality monitors to perform weekly testing for clarity and oxygen content on both lakes. Anyone interested can contact us through the Lakes Assoc. website.

We look forward to seeing you again and to your involvement in 2020.

Respectfully,  
Bob Guerette, President

## 2020 Upcoming Events

|            |                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| July 11-12 | 3rd Annual Fishing Derby and Fish Fry |
| August 2   | Canoe/Kayak Race on Pleasant Pond     |
| August 4   | Lobster/Steak Dinner Annual Meeting   |
| August 15  | Paddle on Mattawamkeag                |

Check out all of the details and much more at:

[www.IslandFallsLakesAssociation.com](http://www.IslandFallsLakesAssociation.com)

# Fishing Derby 2019

We had a hardy group of fishermen registered 70 fish - 28 from Mattawamkeag Lake and 42 from Pleasant Pond.

All the fish caught by the 75 Derby Participants were generously donated for the "Fish Fry Dinner". In addition to the Cash Prizes, this year's Raffle was expanded to 18 items. The "Catch of the Day" Fish Fry Dinner and the "Whoopee Pie Bar" was the highlight of the evening dinner. We are very grateful to our business sponsors and community volunteers.



# Canoe/Kayak Race 2019

On Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, we sponsored our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Around-the-Pond Canoe/Kayak Races at Birch Point. The paddlers raised money for the Southern Aroostook Community High School's Dollars for Scholars program. The IFLA will award \$250 in Scholarships at graduation in June. The IFLA would like to thank all the paddlers who came out on that beautiful afternoon as well as its members who donated their time for the event. We would also like to thank Elaine Small and her Dollars for Scholars volunteers for providing grilled hotdogs and treats for all the paddlers and workers and the IFLA Board for providing sweets.



**Child (9 and Under):**

- 1st Place Autumn Jerernev (6)
- 2nd Place Abigail Farnsworth (13)
- 3rd Place Carolyn Malone (18)
- 4th Place Tyler Boyer (5)
- 5th Place Colton Kepbart (19)

**Male Kayak (under 40):**

- 1st Place Jeremy Barrows (9)

**Male Kayak (over 40):**

- 1st Place Bob Smith (8)

**Tandem Kayak:**

- 1st Place Bob and Aimee Guerette (12)

**Junior/Senior Canoe:**

- 1st Place Peter Blood and Jamie Deroiser (11)

**Female Kayak:**

- 1st Place Kara Pettyjohn (1)
- 2nd Place Lynn Pettyjohn (4)
- 3rd Place Amy Sharpnack (16)
- 4th Place Heather Boyer (2)

**Female Doubles Canoe:**

- 1st Place Amanda Pankratz and Kim Green (7)

The Island Falls Lakes Association Annual Meeting was held July 30, 2019 at the Island Falls Snowmobile Club. Members and guests enjoyed a lobster or steak dinner cooked by Trustee Jeff Wingate and his helpers. President Bob Guerette presented a brief overview of the past year activities and members approved the minutes of last years' meeting and the slate of officers for the coming year. It should be noted that there is one unfilled vacancy on the Board and the position of Secretary is open for anyone who possesses good organizational skills and wants to help the Association achieve its goals.

Here are highlights of the evening:

Bob recognized Sherry Pettyjohn for her decade of service as Secretary and also outgoing Trustee Steve Edwards for his many years of service on the Board and as Past President.

Sherry Pettyjohn presented a report of the water quality testing data gathered by herself and Trustee Bill Schenk. The presentation included graphs illustrating stable water clarity in both lakes. She reference the oxygen content necessary to maintain a fishery and noted continued good readings at Pleasant Lake at all depths. She also spoke of the challenges of preventing phosphorus runoff, which can feed algal blooms if not kept at low levels.

Trustee Esther Harte announced the winning names of the Name the Islands contest, which will now be known as the "Doc and Artie Islands" in honor of Doc Daniels and Artie Smith, who pioneered water quality testing on our 2 lakes, back in the early 1970s.

Sherry Pettyjohn announced that 2 properties on Pleasant and 2 properties on Mattawamkeag had achieved the gold standard Lakesmart award for their efforts at minimizing their impact on the environment. Recipients were John Byron, Esther Harte, Jeff Wingate and Richard Armstrong.

Regional Fisheries Biologist Kevin Dunham spoke about the various sampling techniques employed by the department for population management and the overall strategy for implementing those techniques. To cap off the evening with a little comedy and fun our friend and supporter Tony Bowers conducted a live auction of items all donated by members of the Association.



## What is LakeSmart?

LakeSmart is an education and reward program that assists lake-front homeowners manage landscapes in ways that protect water quality and property values.

## 2019 LakeSmart Award Recipients



Esther Harte  
John Byron  
Dick Armstrong  
Jeff Wingate

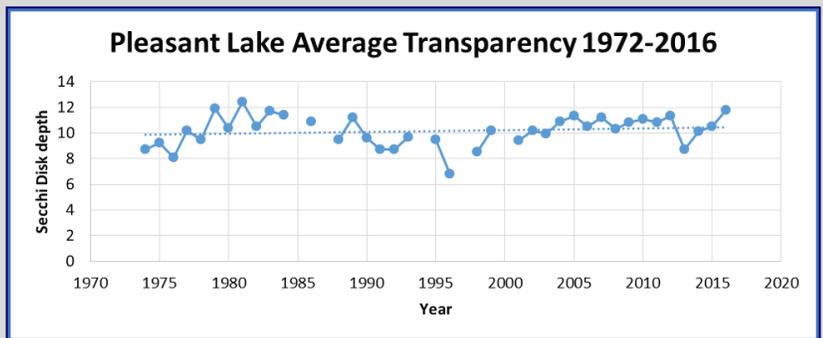
## How Can I Participate?

It's free! Just contact us on our [website](#). He or she will come to your home, evaluate its ability to prevent run-off and inputs of pollution, and report back to you. During the evaluation you will be able to walk the property with the volunteer and you'll be given information on how to capture and infiltrate storm water. LakeSmart is entirely voluntary, so you are free to take some of the recommended actions or not – it's completely up to you.

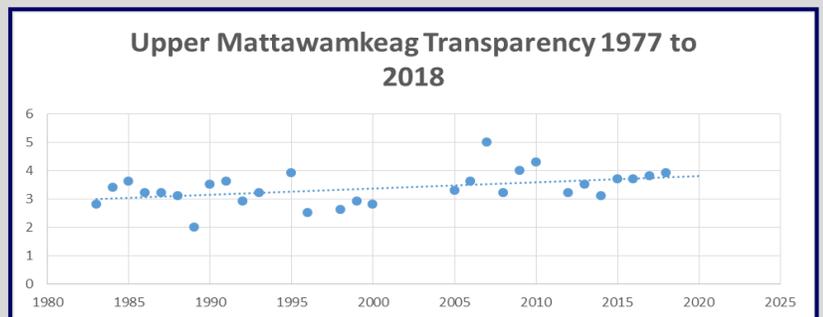


### Water Quality Report

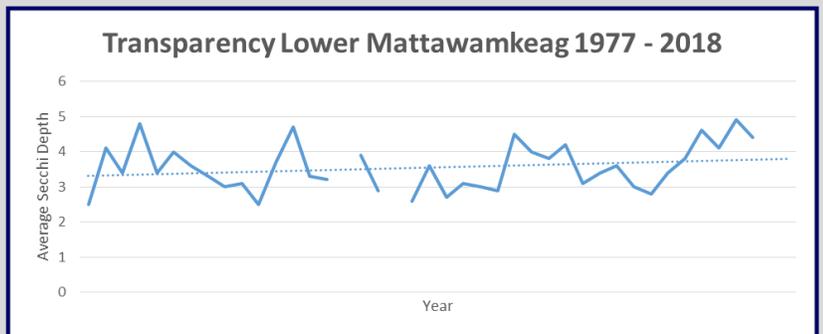
Water clarity in **Pleasant Pond** last year was very good. Pleasant Lake had an average Secchi reading of 11 meters. That means we can see clearly to a depth of 11 meters or about 37 feet. It also means light is available for photosynthetic organisms to a depth of 22 meters (74 feet), deeper than the deep hole off Barker Rocks! Essentially then, light can reach all parts of the bottom of Pleasant Lake. An average of 11 meters as a Secchi depth is also an improvement from the average readings for the last several years. We have not seen a reading of 11 m since the 1980's. For comparison purposes, the deepest (or best) Secchi average is 12.4 from 1981; the shallowest (worst) is 6.8 from 1996. Secchi transparency is usually highest in the spring (more light for photosynthetic plants and more oxygen for fish) and decreases throughout the summer as algae grow and rains carry debris into the water.



**Upper Mattawamkeag** Lake had an average Secchi depth of about 4 meters. It has been averaging less than 3 meters for the last several years. The best clarity for the upper basin was 3.9 meters in 1995; the lowest was 2.0 meters in 1989. The presence of tannic acid coloring the water is of course an issue for clarity in all of Mattawamkeag, as well as the huge watershed with increased development, logging efforts, and nutrients from agriculture and lawns.



**Lower Mattawamkeag** had an average Secchi depth of 4.4 meters. The lowest clarity was 2.5 in 1989; the best was 4.8 in 1981 or 4.7 in 1991. We are holding at about 4 m this summer. Again, clarity decreases in September and October. It is normal for that to happen, however, due to increased algal growth.



#### The Annual Election of Trustees:

- Esther Harte (2020)
- Debra Dwyer (2020)
- Darlene Porter (2020)
- Jeff Wingate (2020)
- Bill Schenk (2021)
- Sherry Pettyjohn (2021)
- Candace Rupley (2022)
- Sue Burgos (2022)
- Vacancy (2022)

#### Slate of Officers Elected for 2020

- President: Bob Guerette (2021)
- Vice President: Gary Pankratz (2021)
- Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: Gary McCue (2022)

Please renew your annual membership!

Mail \$20 to:

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04747

Pay Online:

[www.IslandFallsLakesAssociation.com](http://www.IslandFallsLakesAssociation.com)