

**ON THE WATER**

by Rick Lundstedt



This season started with exceptionally high water that lasted most of the summer. Last fall's rains and a record wet spring combined to give us unprecedented algae growth in areas that are normally clean. Many camp beaches were fouled with the green "cotton-candy." The resulting debris and silt lasted most of the year, depending on wind direction. The good news was that the high water brought a marked increase in the number of bass beds. This bodes well for future fishing. The lake will need a boost since there is definitely an increase in fishing pressure, both ice and open water. This trend will certainly continue as development in the area is on a significant upswing.

Had an interesting experience while fishing near the campground Labor Day weekend. The water was about 4 feet deep and clear, not much wind, bright and sunny, perfect conditions for sight fishing. I had hooked a small bass and was reeling him in when a larger bass started to follow it. This gal was over five pounds! She didn't seem interested in the foot-long youngster as a meal but was attracted by the commotion. It eventually got bored and swam off. The little guy was released and snuck into the nearby weeds. Mama bass didn't re-appear. A variety of lures and casts were tried but to no avail. I left the area and came back about an hour later. I saturated the spot with multiple casts and lures but it was fruitless. That event in and of itself is mildly interesting. What makes it more noteworthy is that the exact same thing happened in the exact same spot one week later! Unfortunately, the end result was exactly the same.

Didn't get to do much "adventuring" this season but did manage a couple of trips to Dixfield/Canton. Fly rod poppers and Sluggo's worked equally well. That section of the Androscoggin remains solid for great smallmouth fishing, even after the publicity it received from magazine and newspaper articles. Strict bag limits and catch-and-release probably help. Fishermen, fisherwomen, and fishery managers are finally figuring out that a fish in the water is worth WAY more than one in the frying pan!

This June, a group of 9 of us kayaked through the outlet (Winter Brook) with a detour to Mud Pond. The high water made it a nice ride on the way in...but a little dicey getting over the last beaver dam on the return. Russ M. positioned himself on top of the dam and pulled folks safely across. Some of the

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*Kayakers make their way across lake to Cove. The group included Richard Smith, Russ Moat, Scott Steele, Lois Cole, Diane Hinkley-Silva, Ben Webber, Drew Rothfus and Rick Lundstedt.*

**LETTER FROM AN EX-PRESIDENT**

by Babs Shapiro

It's been more than a dozen years since I became President of TLIA and it's been a wonderful, eye-opening, activity-filled span. We've learned not to take our lake's existence lightly, to monitor its oxygen and its clarity, to observe the shoreline for signs of erosion, to buffer, to attend to our septic systems, to search for invasive plants, to become watchful observers of our whole watershed, to question and to alter old habits and practices harmful to Tripp Lake. We've surveyed our watershed and created a long-term plan for our lake's health, erected watershed signs, legally eliminated jet skis from our waters, monitored farms and an egg hatchery, designed TLIA tees, sweats, caps and a lake map, created a 5K road race, and included dozens of new folks in lake activities.



I've used this Newsletter as a connector to the lake community, and people have responded by contributing newsworthy articles and pictures. We're online, thanks to Larry Lee, and receive comments and questions often. This will be my last issue as Editor and I thank all who have helped. I loved gathering information pertinent to our environment (and there's plenty), writing and editing. Wherever I traveled, I found commonalities, such as invasive plants and algal problems. Everyone is fighting irresponsible practices and each of us must tend to that which is closest to us. The teacher in me also seeks out the typo, the misused word, or butchered sentence. Some think it's overdone, but I believe people want the Newsletter to present its best face.

Susan Barry will be helping with this issue and will become its new Editor starting next spring. She currently is Secretary of TLIA and often writes a column for the Newsletter, interviewing someone of interest. Her husband Richard is Treasurer and between them both, hold our Organization together. I know she'll

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