

BASIN, DAVID & TILTON PONDS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2023

ANNUAL MEETING

The BDTPA annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday August 5th at 10:00 A.M. at Fayette Central School. Before approving minutes from last year's meeting, read the pending draft at: <http://bdtpa.org/meetings.html>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope the budding spring is treating you well and the pending summer is all you hope it to be. Life on a pond in Maine is a special thing, one I hope we are all grateful for. Like many of the recent years, a lot is happening on Basin, David, and Tilton Ponds, all of it exciting and rewarding. The articles in this newsletter reflect many of those activities and how we all can be involved in supporting our ponds and a high quality of life for all of us who love them deeply.

Topics such as the water level, water quality, boating etiquette, land use, and wildlife health are important to all of us and what bring us together as members of BDTPA. Building on the good works and stewardship of the previous BDTPA officers and trustees, I would encourage us all to approach these topics and any other challenges we face this year with the same spirit of cooperation and partnership that has served this community so well over the last several years and is the hallmark of healthy communities everywhere.

Mostly, though, I would encourage us all to enjoy what we have here on Basin, David, and Tilton Ponds and to take care of those things with an intentional, long-term vision, to preserve this special slice of the world for our (and others') enjoyment for many years to come.

Thank you. Take care.

Stephen Smith-Erb

BDTPA President

THE BEAVER DECEIVER

Every spring the water level increases on David Pond. This is due to snow melting and the usual increase in rainfall in the spring months. In the spring of 2022, the level of the pond was extremely high. This level was within 1 inch of over topping Deer Lane. This was a potential public safety issue. The wetlands behind my garage were encroaching on my garage. The stream that flows into David Pond near Hemlock Lane was flowing in reverse, out of David Pond and into the wetlands north of Hemlock Lane. All low laying areas around the pond were flooded. Something was wrong.

When checking the outlet of the pond, it was found that beavers had built a dam 80 to 100 feet wide and 12 to 18 inches high. Water was flowing both over and around this dam. The water flow around the dam was eroding areas that were never exposed to water flow. I contacted Joe Fitzpatrick concerning this issue and he arranged a meeting with a hydrologist. I also contacted the game warden to discuss remediation. We began removal of the center section of the beaver dam covering the 12 foot wide rock pile at the stream. Every day, a group of our members would go to the outlet and remove the beaver debris that was put in place each night. This continued daily for over a month. We continued removal throughout the summer as needed. When the level of the pond receded, the beaver slowed down - as did we. The water level ultimately lowered 21 inches. This level remained at the same level from June to September. Those that worked on the beaver dam gained both respect and disdain for these creatures.

Beaver have created a major problem throughout the state of Maine. They have negatively impacted humans in many areas, flooding homes, roads, farmland, and woodlots. They flood low lying areas, not by accident, but by design. The flooding kills larger trees in the flooded area allowing sunlight in and allowing smaller brush to grow that are the beaver's food source. We, unfortunately, may be observing tree die off in low lying areas around David Pond due to the excessive water levels we had for a few months. An example of this can be observed at the intersection of

Norcross Pond Road and Chesterville Ridge Road on the north side of the road.

After many discussions with the game warden and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, I found that there are basically two solutions to beaver problems - lethal and non-lethal. Lethal being trapping or shooting. We have permission to use lethal measures at any time of year. This is a temporary solution until new beaver move in, which they will. Non-lethal can include live trapping and relocation. Over 80 percent do not survive relocation. The other non-lethal options are beaver deceivers.

Most beaver deceivers are used where the beavers dam a waterway, such as a road culvert (Jackman's Mill Road), or a stream where water levels on both sides should be equal. This is usually accomplished by placing a culvert with the upstream side encircled with 6-inch fencing so the beaver cannot plug it up. I have used various designs with limited success throughout Fayette. I researched many designs of deceivers and found only one that seemed to fit our needs at the outlet.

The beaver deceiver that was built and put in place in the beginning of August works like many vanity sinks in your home. Most vanity sinks have drain holes near the upper edge of the sink. If you or the kids leave the water on with drain closed it will allow the water to drain out before it overflows, preventing your home from being flooded.



The beaver deceiver is a 20-foot by 12-inch black PVC culvert with a 6-foot by 15-inch piece of culvert attached to it to form a tee. The ends of the tee are blocked

completely with PVC plank and stainless screws. The bottom of the tee, the water side, has nine 4-inch round holes drilled in it to equal the area of the 12-inch culvert. The tee is suspended on a steel rack that is placed approximately 15 feet into the pond in deeper water. The tee portion can be adjusted to different heights. The other end of the culvert is inset into the rock pile. A 5-foot extension was added to reduce the height of the discharge end to reduce erosion. Beavers are attracted to the sound of running water and dam it up. This design removes that attractant. The initial volume of outflow from the downstream end of the culvert was 7.5 gallons per minute. That volume would take 762 days to lower the pond 1 inch. The concept of this device is that as the elevation of the pond increases, the volume of discharge increases through the culvert.



This design may or may not help control the water elevations due to beaver. This spring we need to reevaluate all aspects of this device and modify placement, elevation, and any unforeseen issues that we observe. We need to be proactive this year rather than reactive.

The beavers appear to be active again at the outlet site. They have started placing more debris on the rock pile as of April 18, 2023. There are many active lodges on David Pond. While beavers can be fascinating animals to observe, please be aware they are wild animals and do carry diseases such as Giardia, Tularemia, and Rabies. Observe from a distance.

Submitted by John Andrews, 20 Deer Lane, Fayette

SOME ACTIVITIES IN MAINE THIS SUMMER

This area is well-located to pursue activities in the summer from Rangeley to the coast. Here are some updates from last year and a few new suggestions.

Theater

The **Lakewood Theater** in Madison is offering nine plays this year, beginning in May and running into September. The plays include “Catch Me If You Can,” “Half Time,” and “Hope and Gravity.” Dinner before the play is available at the Lakewood Inn Restaurant (reservations recommended).

The **Theater at Monmouth** line-up includes classics, such as “Richard II” and an updated “The Iliad” to “family friendly” “Tall Tales Twice Told” and “HMS Pinafore.”

The four musicals at the **Maine State Music Theater** in Brunswick this summer are “Titanic,” “The Buddy Holly Story,” “9 to 5,” and “Something Rotten,” and plays for children include “Rapunzel” and “3 Little Pigs.” The concert series this summer offers tributes to Dolly Parton, the Beatles, and Elvis. The theater is on the Bowdoin College campus. Some of the more notable graduates of Bowdoin include Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wordsworth Longfellow, Franklin Pierce, Robert Peary, and Joshua Chamberlain. The campus contains a Museum of Art and the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum. Across the street from the campus is the Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum (although, as of this writing, it is closed temporarily).

Plays at the **Lewiston-Auburn Little Community Theater** this summer include “Picasso a the Lapin Agile,” “Matilda, Jr.,” and “The Little Mermaid.”

Music

I just discovered that **Augusta has a Symphony Orchestra**. The next concert is on May 21 at 3 PM at the South Parish Congregational Church. It is free with donations gratefully accepted. I don’t know if they offer any concerts in the summer but you can check their website.

The **Snow Pond Center for the Arts** in Sidney offer several concerts in the summer and have music camps. As of now, the only concert they have listed is Michael Front and Spearhead in July, but I’m sure they will have more. I have been to several there over the years and saw LeAnn Rimes last year. You sit under the stars and listen to the music, and there are also local vendors with snacks and drinks.

Waterville offers **Waterville Rocks**, a “FREE family-friendly concert series” in the summer.

Of course, **Portland** has many concerts in the summer if you want to travel that far.

Restaurants

Sandy and I discovered **Tuck’s**, a bar/restaurant in Farmington with a variety of craft beers and good sandwiches. It is on the corner of Main and Broadway.

Also, in Farmington, the **Homestead Restaurant** has changed its menu and decor. They have new choices for breakfast as well as lunch and dinner.

I recommended the **Cloud 9** restaurant in Augusta last year, but as of this writing they are only open for breakfast and brunch on Saturday and Sunday.

Another note is that **Gifford’s** is open in Waterville and Farmington, but because of a fire last winter, they are not serving their own ice cream. I think it is still good but Sandy is not happy with the maple walnut!

From the last newsletter, I would still recommend **Opa** in Waterville, **Mosher’s Seafood** in Farmington, **Sarah’s** in Wiscasset, **Erika’s Seafood** in Harpswell, and **Muscongus Bay Lobster** in Round Top.

Other

An interesting site close to David Pond is the **Washburn Norlands Living History Center** in Livermore. It is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10-4. I have never been but am planning on a visit this summer. My sister has visited and said that is definitely worth a trip. Here is a short description from their website:

Norlands is a 400-acre estate which includes a stately Victorian country mansion with farmer’s cottage, a gothic-style granite library, a Universalist meetinghouse, a one-room schoolhouse, and an expanse of picturesque working farmland. Come spend a day in 19th century in Maine with us!

From the last newsletter, I would still recommend **Coastal Maine Botanical Garden** in Boothbay Harbor. There are also several boat rides offered in Boothbay Harbor - one includes a trip to an island for a lobster feed (called a clam bake on the website). On Tripadvisor, the **Cabbage Island Clam Bake** is listed as a “Travelers Choice 2022” with five stars for 500+ reviews. As a child growing up on the coast, those are the boat trips we would take.

Again, from the last newsletter, the drive to the **Height of Land** near Rangeley is always beautiful. Another great ride is to see the water falls in Maine. If you go online and enter map of Maine waterfalls, you will be amazed at the number and there is even a waterfall loop map. For example, **Screw Auger Falls** is 23 feet and you can also swim in the resulting swimming holes.

Submitted by Gail Rioux

If you have questions call 207-512-0414 or riouxga@gmail.com

WATER QUALITY

Water quality monitoring is done on David and Basin, biweekly between May and September by the 30 mile team and volunteers.

Basin pond is 33 acres with a mean depth of 42 ft and a maximum depth of 106 ft. David Pond is 302 acres with a mean depth of 15 ft and a maximum depth of Ponds.

The shallow depth of David and Tilton Ponds predispose them to increased plant growth due to the littoral zone (where sunlight reaches the bottom), reaching far into the ponds.

The 2022 water quality report is done by Whitney Baker of 30 mile and will hopefully be available this spring. More information will be presented at the annual meeting. Stay tuned.

LakeSmart

The LakeSmart team did two evaluations on Rocky Lane last season. Both properties were nicely LakeSmart. We were invited to a wonderful gathering and were pleased to meet more of our neighbors. Such fun.

Please contact the team for a LakeSmart evaluation. It is purely educational, nonregulatory, and free of charge. Do keep us busy as keeping runoff from entering the water is for the benefit of our Ponds.

Email debbiecayer@gmail.com

Do it today!

Submitted by Deb Cayer