

# Basin, David & Tilton Ponds Association

[www.bdtpa.org](http://www.bdtpa.org)

NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2022

## Water Level On David Pond

Liz Hicks

David Pond experienced unprecedented high water this Spring. BDTPA president Joe Fitzpatrick called an informational meeting with Town Manager Mark Robinson and members on May 14. Mr. Robinson spoke about beaver eradication on Tilton Pond last November and sought to dispel rumors that the town was causing the recent high water on David Pond. He assured the group that the town has done nothing since to account for increased water levels.

Residents reported substantial accumulations of debris near the outlet dam. Members speculated that

beaver activity in the area of our outlet dam could be to blame. Beaver activity was subsequently confirmed. The BDTPA board recruited and certified a cadre of volunteers to remove some of the beaver debris in accordance with our agreement with the DEP to maintain the dam. Eight volunteers showed up on Saturday morning on May 21<sup>st</sup> accompanied by our consultant David Rocque to remove debris in order to increase the flow of water through the dam. They successfully restored the lake to normal water levels. Our consultant and long time residents agree that the beavers are likely to persist.

Permanent solutions are under discussion. BDTPA needs volunteers willing to work on dam maintenance. Interested members, particularly those who are not senior citizens, should contact Joe Fitzpatrick. ([president@bdtpa.org](mailto:president@bdtpa.org)).

NO ONE should be adding or removing material from the outlet dam without express permission from the BDTPA board.

To view a history of BDTPA's work on the David Pond Water Level, to review our data or to join the Pond association visit <http://bdtpa.org>.

## Message From the President

I hope this communication finds you well. It has been a long and challenging year and I think we all could use some peaceful time on the ponds to remember why we truly appreciate this little slice of Maine. There are lots of things happening on and around our ponds and you can read the newsletter to get the details on different issues of interest to association members. Mostly I just wanted to say that over the past year I have seen our small community come together and relate to each other in a healthier way. People are caring about people; and during the challenging times in which we live it is important to remember what the

word "neighbor" truly means. Being a neighbor and part of a community means that we care about each other and watch out for each other and ultimately come together for the common good of all. So as I welcome you to enjoy another beautiful summer on the ponds I would ask that we all remember what makes our small community so special, namely, caring about each other and truly appreciating the magic of the nature that surrounds us every day.

Be Well,

Joe Fitzpatrick  
BDTP Assoc. President

## Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will take place at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Fayette Central School Gymnasium.

# Boat Wakes

Liz Hicks

## *For our motor boating friends and neighbors*

David and Tilton Ponds are relatively shallow and relatively warm bodies of water. They are particularly vulnerable to damage from boat wakes:

- Wakes stir up sediment, releasing phosphorous, causing turbidity, and feeding algal growth.
- Boat wakes stir up aquatic plants causing them to spread.
- Improperly drained ballast water not decontaminated between water bodies can also lead to the spread of aquatic plants.
- Loons nest close to the shoreline. Boat wakes have been responsible for drowning their nests.

### *What you should know:*

- **HEADWAY SPEED** is the minimum speed required for forward movement. In other words, proceed **AS SLOWLY AS YOU CAN GO**.
- Headway speed is mandatory within 200 feet of the shore.
- **NO CIRCLING** in open water is allowed either as these movements also create wakes and other problems.
- Buoys are reminders to reduce to headway speed

See this handy map of all the places you must use headway speed to navigate the ponds:

Here's a link to Maine boating regulations:  
<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf>

### *What can you do:*

- Talk to you neighbors when you see them making boat wakes.
- Be sure your children and guests obey the law.
- When your best efforts do not yield results call and report the offending boat. Photos and video evidence are helpful. Try to capture the registration number You can report speeding boats by calling 800-452-4664.

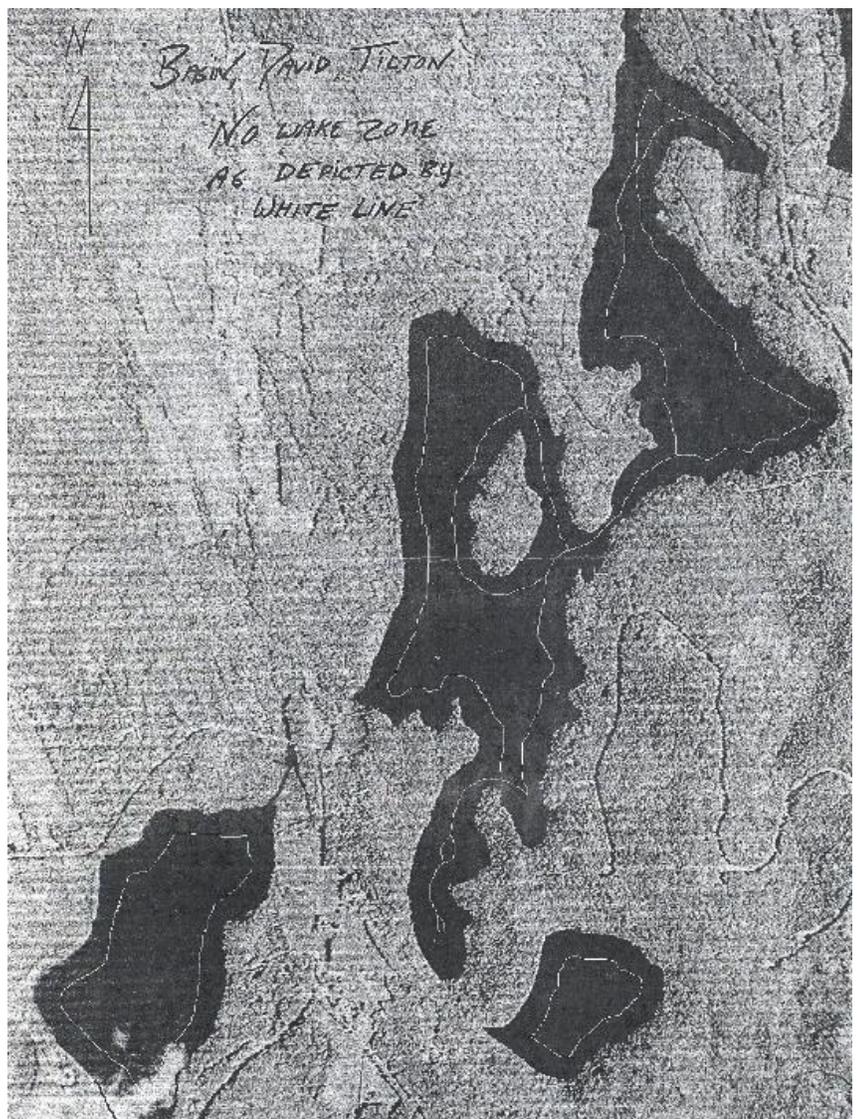


Figure 1 200 foot no wake zone for the three ponds



# Water Quality on David Pond

*Deb Cayer*

Our water quality data collection is done by the program director of the 30 Mile River Watershed association, Whitney Baker with the help of volunteers. It is summarized here.

For a complete and very informative report please check out ([30mileriver.org](http://30mileriver.org)) click on "Our Impact", Water Quality Monitoring, and David and Basin ponds.

In 2021 our average clarity in David measured by Secchi disk (SDT) was 6.3m. With a period spanning 39 years and measurements in 17 of those years, our historical average clarity was 5.7m. The Maine lakes average is 4.8m.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) is a critical indicator of the health of the lake system. A good supply of oxygen in the water column is essential for fish and other aquatic species. Loss of oxygen may indicate a stressed and changing ecosystem. Severe oxygen loss ( $DO < 2\text{ppm}$ , aka "anoxia") was documented in David in June at 11m and as the season progressed this zone of anoxic water grew to 7m and persisted through September. Understanding the pattern and extent of oxygen loss in deep waters is important to understanding changes between the years and throughout a single season, and is particularly concerning for David Pond because it may be more vulnerable to internal phosphorus loading due to its unique sediment chemistry.

Phosphorus is the nutrient that most influences the growth of algae in lakes. Small increases in phosphorus can cause substantial increases in algal growth. Nine samples were collected in 2021 between June and September. The range was 5ppb-8ppb with an average of 7ppb. Generally speaking, in-lake phosphorus concentrations (epilimnetic samples) less than 10-12 ppb are ideal. Lakes with in-lake phosphorus concentrations of 13 ppb or more are able to sustain algal blooms, and blooms become frequent as in-lake average concentrations approach 20 ppb. Historically,

the annual average in-lake phosphorus concentration in David Pond has ranged from 6 ppb (1982, 2016, and 2017) to 10 ppb (2020) with a historical average annual concentration of 7 ppb.

Chlorophyll is found in plants including algae. This measurement done 5 times in 2021 is used to estimate the algae population in a lake. David's 2021 average was 4.4. Maine lakes average is 5.4.

10 years of consecutive data collection is needed to determine trends over time. The 30 mile program will continue to collect and analyze the data which will help our lake community address water quality concerns.

The next steps for the preservation of the water quality in David pond.

1. To continue bi-weekly monitoring by the 30 mile May through September.
2. To step up LakeSmart programming on David, providing education to shorefront owners about polluted stormwater runoff, phosphorus, and the effect that development in the watershed can have on the water quality.
3. Work with the 30 mile to review a list of priority sites identified in the 2011 watershed survey, and identify next steps.

Please take the time to fully understand the water quality data on the 30 mile site for both David and Basin ponds. Education is a powerful tool in taking action, and we all must take action to preserve the water quality in our ponds.

Please contact Deb Cayer ([debbiecayer@gmail.com](mailto:debbiecayer@gmail.com)) for a lakesmart evaluation.

# Loon Fun Facts

*Liz Hicks*

Like many young birds, juvenile loons leave mom and dad leave at about 12 weeks. The parents head off on migration in the fall, leaving juveniles to gather into flocks for their own journey a few weeks later. Once the juveniles reach coastal waters on the ocean, they stay there for the next two years. In the third year they return north to start their own families.

What should you do if you find an abandoned chick, eggs, or a dead or injured loon?

Don't touch it or remove it. Call...

- The Warden Service at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: 207.287.8000.
- Avian Haven, an excellent rehab facility that can answer questions about sick or injured loons and provide guidance on what to do: 207.382.6761.
- Biologists from Biodiversity Research Institute are sometimes out trapping loons and may be able to assist if it is convenient to their work site: 207.839.7600.

To report sightings of dead loons to inland fisheries and wildlife 207-287-8000. Also to reat service to loons by reporting any loon deaths. Necropsies ("autopsies") of loon carcasses can provide vital information about the cause of death, which is essential for tracking threats to loons on Maine lakes and targeting loon conservation efforts. Please take photos of the loon, note the location, whether the loon has colored or silver bands on its legs, and if there are any other clues as to what caused the loon's death--this is all very

important information in determining what may have happened--and what might be done in the future to prevent such deaths.

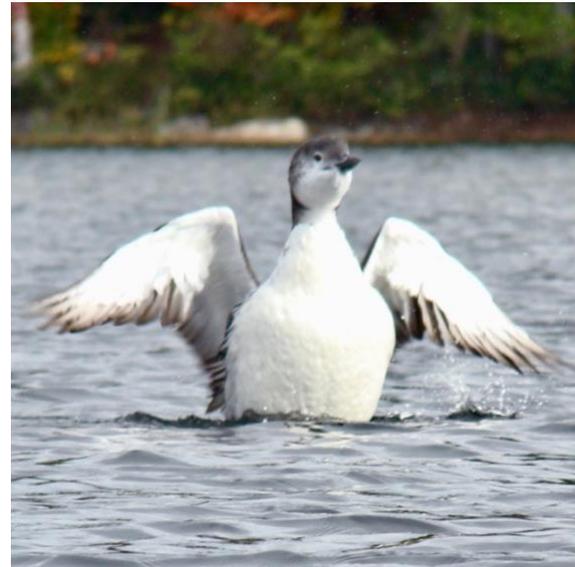
Do not attempt to touch or collect the dead loon. There are diseases, like Avian Influenza, that can be spread through touch and/or contamination via clothes. For your own safety, and the safety of other birds, please allow DIFW or BRI handle collection and transportation.

## ***If you find a loon egg...***

Please leave it. Egg collection is not allowed under state law. You may be trying to do a good thing, but mistakes can and have been made. Don't risk being responsible for a loon pair's nest failure. Instead, please take a photo and mark the location. Send the photo, location information, and any information you have as to the approximate date and cause or suspected cause of the floating egg or nest abandonment to Maine Audubon at: [conserve@maineaudubon.org](mailto:conserve@maineaudubon.org).

## ***Audobon Loon Count***

"On the morning of the third Saturday of July each year, over 1,000 volunteers venture onto lakes and ponds across the state to count loons. The observations recorded by our community scientist volunteers provide an excellent "snapshot" of Maine's loon population." Learn more at <https://maineaudubon.org> (search for loon count).



*Figure 2 Common Loon on David Pond*

# Some Maine in the Summer Time Activities in This Area and Beyond

Gail Rioux

The Fayette, Mt. Vernon area is well-located to pursue activities in the summer from Rangeley to the coast. Following are a few suggestions.

## *Theater*

- Locally, the Lakewood Theater in Madison offers ten plays beginning in May and continuing into September. Most of the actors are local and the offerings varied. In addition, there is a lovely restaurant associated with the theater. The Lakewood Inn Restaurant recommends reservations so you can enjoy your meal and make it to the show on time.
- The theme for the Monmouth Theater this year is “It’s Greek and Roman to Me!” The plays are “modern applications and classic takes on original plays and myths.”
- If you want to go further afield, the Maine State Music Theatre in Brunswick offers professional actors in four Broadway musicals, a concert series and a Theatre for Young Audiences series.
- Finally, there is the Lewiston-Auburn Community Little Theater that offers plays and musicals for adults and children during the summer.

## *Restaurants*

- There are a limited number of restaurants in this area. I like the Cushnoc Brewing Company in Augusta, the Village Inn in Belgrade, and the Cloud 9 Restaurant in Augusta. Also, there are several good spots in Waterville, such as Opa and the Proper Pig.
- Mosher’s Seafood on the way to Farmington offers good lobster rolls and fish. And, don’t forget to get your ice cream fix at Giffords in Farmington, Waterville, or Skowhegan.
- On the coast, the restaurant I would recommend for lobster is Muscongus Bay Lobster in Round Top. Right across the road is the Round Top Lobster Coop. Your choice! According to Google, these are 1 1/2 hours away. Two other places on the coast, I would recommend are Sarah’s in Wiscasset and Erika’s Seafood in Harpswell. If you haven’t been to Bailey Island, gone over the Cribstoner Bridge, and seen Mackerel Cove, you are missing out!

Another fun activity on the coast is the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden in Boothbay Harbor where you can see the huge trolls.

If you want a spectacular ride in the fall, drive to Rangeley and the Height of Land nearby. However, the ride and view in the summer are well worth the drive. There are also some nice places to eat in Rangeley in the summer and fall. Most of the town closes in the winter.

If you want more information about the places I have mentioned or anywhere else in Maine, please email or call me. I have traveled most of the state and grew up in Cumberland and Freeport.

My email is [riouxga@gmail.com](mailto:riouxga@gmail.com) and phone is 207-512-041.



# Message From the Treasurer

Dear friends and neighbors,

We have several new home owners and pond association members this year. We welcome you all and thank you for your interest, input and support.

At last year's BDTPA meeting the membership voted to increase the annual dues to \$30. Our fiscal year begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

You may mail your dues to:

Monique Longtin  
330 Shore Road,  
Fayettee, ME 04349

Many people choose to pay their dues at the annual meeting and you may certainly choose to do that. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 6th at 10:00am at Fayette Central School in the Gymnasium.

Your dues go to support activities that keep our ponds pristine, safe and healthy. In addition to our own efforts your membership money supports 30 Mile Watershed, Lake Stewards of Maine and Maine Lakes Society. Another sum goes to supporting mailings and reproducing the newsletter. (We can reduce mailing costs if everyone would keep their email addresses up to date,)

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

Yours truly,  
Monique Longtin

# BDTPA.ORG

If you haven't visited our web site, please take the opportunity to explore it at <http://bdtpa.org/>

On the site you can:

- Join BDTPA
- Read out the latest news
- Find out about water quality issues
- Check out water levels on David Pond
- Learn about next meeting
- Read minutes from previous meetings
- Access documents such as our bylaws
- Update your contact information
- Link to other local resources
- See photos and videos of the three ponds

Send comments and suggestions to

[webmaster@bdtpa.org](mailto:webmaster@bdtpa.org)

# BDTPA

## Administration

### *Board*

President Joe Fitzpatrick

Vice-President Tom Jenkins

Treasurer Monique Longtin

Secretary Ellen Smith-Erb

### *Trustees*

John Andrews

Gail Rioux

Susan French Smith

Email BDTPA administration - [admin@bdtpa.org](mailto:admin@bdtpa.org)

Email BDTPA board - [board@bdtpa.org](mailto:board@bdtpa.org)

More contact options at <http://bdtpa.org>

## Newsletter Team

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Liz Hicks

Gail Rioux

Richard Hicks

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