



The Sebec Lake Current

The Official Newsletter of The Sebec Lake Association

Spring 2025

**Annual
Sebec Lake
Association
Meeting
July 12th,
9:00 AM**

At

**Central Hall
Kacey Weber,
County Soil and
Water
Conservation
District.**

**Guest Speaker
See page 12!**

In this issue:

- News regarding Lake Health
- 2025 Maine new outdoor laws
- Love at Greeley's Landing

And lots more!



- ♦ Fuel and Oil ♦ Snacks
- ♦ Dock Spaces and Moorings
- ♦ Gastron and MirroCraft Boats
- ♦ Floe Aluminum Docks and Lifts ♦ Boat Rental
- ♦ Montego Bay Pontoons ♦ EZ Dock Floating Docks
- ♦ Used Automobiles ♦ Propane and Accessories
- ♦ 20lb Tank Exchanges ♦ Beer, Wine, Soda, Ice
- ♦ Pizza, Sandwiches, Ice Cream ♦ Fishing Bait
- ♦ Tackle ♦ Sebec Lake Apparel and Gifts

Thank you for a great 2024!

Looking forward to seeing you again in 2025!

Store: 207-564-2165

www.TimMerrillAndCo.com

Marina: 207-564-2617

www.BoatSebecLake.com

SEBEC VILLAGE MARINE AND CABINS



SERVICES

- Cabin rentals
- Pontoon Boat rentals
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Boating
- Walking
- Trail Access



CONTACT US

668 Sebec Village Road
Sebec, ME 04481
(603) 340-4364 or (207) 564-8610
sebecvillagemarine@gmail.com

sebecvillagemarineandcabins.com



2025 President's Message

Sebec Lake Association

Rudy Davis, President
Sebec Lake Association

I can't wait! Only a few more weeks before Camp is open and we are back on Sebec!!

It's been an eventful year for the Lake Association. Our focus on intensifying efforts to protect the lake from invasive threats, as shared in last year's Newsletter, made excellent progress last year. As part of that effort, you've hopefully noted our use of email communication to provide updates and alerts about important legislative and environmental issues, such as the Floating Camps issue, that would affect the lake and quality of life on it. A special thanks to those of you who took action with local and state legislators following our emails....your voice is being heard.

The Lake Smart program, presented at the 2024 annual meeting, was taken advantage of by over half of the camp owners present at the meeting. Since this program teaches simple and easy ways to mitigate chemical runoff into the lake, we hope to have even more camp owners schedule a review this summer through the Soil and Water Conservation District for Piscataquis County. Plan to attend the annual meeting July 12, 2025, 9:00 AM at Central Hall to learn more.

The Plant Paddle held last August was exceptionally well attended despite chilly weather, and we now have many more people trained to monitor the lake for invasive aquatic plants. Information on how to schedule a Plant Paddle for your area of the lake for summer 2025 is found later in The Current.

In follow up to that event, the Association has scheduled a live Plant ID session, at which known invasive plants will be available for examination along with healthy plants so that method of differentiation can be learned. That session will take place at Monson Gymnasium on August 13th, from 1 - 4pm. Pre-registration is required, and you can do

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

so at: <https://sebeclakeassoc.org>.

As you can see, it's another important summer for us all in terms of Preserving and Protecting. None of these activities are possible without the full and strong support of membership. While we've grown our membership in the past few years, less than 30% of camp owners are members. If you are not a member, please consider joining. It's the best \$20 you can spend to protect your lake. In that regard, a big thank you to all of you who are members— you are the best and are very much appreciated! And, if you'd like to get more involved, we have the need for volunteers to help with the variety of programs we are undertaking.

On a personal, note, this is my last President's Letter, as I am stepping aside from the role. It has been an honor to serve over these past 8 years, and I hope I am leaving the post with the Association stronger, smarter and better poised to Protect and Preserve. Sebec is a treasure. We MUST work....together....to keep it that way.

Finally, please support the local businesses that advertise in The Current and on our website. They also are vital to the health of the lake, the community, and thus to you.

I hope to see you at the annual meeting!

Rudy Davis, President
Sebec Lake Association





22 North St Dover-Foxcroft
207-564-3246

Visit our other locations
Trenton-Unity-Searsport

Your Full Service Grocery Store

Hannaford Products, Quality & Pricing

"Big enough to serve you, small enough to know you"

Fresh Meat & Seafood~ Deli~ Bakery~ Local Produce
Liquor~ ATM~ Lottery~ Propane Exchange~ Ice
Healthy & Beauty~ and so much more!

Shop N Save Even More
With Our

New 10 day flyer breaking every Friday

Senior Discount- Tuesdays Save 5%

Monthly in store Specials



Edwards Brothers Rewards
New with Buoy Local
earn 1% on your entire purchase

www.edwardsbrotherssupermarket.com

Lake Health

Aquatic Invasive Plants

Hugh Johnston

Sebec Lake Association, Lake Environment

Lake Health: Why the Littoral Zone Matters

The littoral zone is part of a body of water, such as a lake, river, or ocean, that is close to the shore. It's characterized by shallow water where sunlight can penetrate all the way to the bottom, allowing aquatic plants to grow.

The Role of Native Aquatic Plants

Native aquatic plants are the cornerstone of a healthy lake ecosystem. They provide shelter and sustenance for fish, invertebrates, amphibians, waterfowl, and mammals. Even Maine's state mammal, the moose, finds these plants to be a nutritious snack. These plants offer more than just food; they also stabilize shorelines, produce oxygen, and reduce sediment dispersion—essential functions for preserving the fragile balance of a lake environment.

The Threat of Invasive Species

Invasive aquatic plants, with 15 documented species threatening Northeast lakes, disrupt this balance. Whether rooted, floating, or both, these plants overpower native species, transforming ecosystems. They often arrive unnoticed, hitching rides on boats, animals, or even unsuspecting visitors. Invasive plants can reproduce from fragments, seeds, or root systems, and once established, they are nearly impossible—and prohibitively expensive—to remove.

(Continued on page 10)

North & Southeats



Southern Flair - Northern Attitude

75 Railroad Ave., Brownville Junction, ME 207-965-6119



*Local family owned
Call for hours & menu
details
207.965.6119*

Bears Den

LOG CABIN MOTEL
RESTAURANT & TAVERN



73 North St., PO Box 277
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
207-564-8755 | 207-564-8733 (restaurant)

- ✓ Located directly on ITS 82 with easy access to the Trail system for Snowmobiling, Biking & ATV's
- ✓ Walking Distance to the Downtown Area and Piscataquis River
- ✓ 4 Miles to Beautiful Sebec Lake with Public Boat Launch and Beach Area Available
- ✓ Fantastic Hunting and Fishing. A Golf Course is nearby
- ✓ 6 Newly Constructed LOG CABINS with all the amenities. One is Handicap Accessible and another even has a Hot Tub!
- ✓ RESTAURANT is open 7 days a week, offering Home Style Cooking and Daily Specials. Well Known in the area for our Prime Rib and Seafood.
- ✓ TAVERN Offers Karaoke every Thursday Night . . . Maine's Best Rock n' Roll Bands on the Weekends
- ✓ Our Guests receive a Free Baby Bear Breakfast & Pay No Cover Charge in the Tavern

(Continued from page 10)

learn more, contact Katherine at katherine.weber@piscataquisswcd.org.

Monitoring Water Quality

On Wednesday, June 18, the Association will host a water quality training session led by Lake Stewards of Maine. This program trains volunteers to monitor lake transparency throughout the summer, providing critical data to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Christopher Smith's decade of service as a water quality monitor has been invaluable, and more volunteers are needed to continue this vital work. Interested? Contact Hugh Johnston via the SLA website.

DOVER
True Value[®]
START RIGHT. START HERE.SM

Proudly Supports The
Sebec Lake Association



**BUILDING MATERIALS
PAINT
HARDWARE
TOOLS
LAWN & GARDEN**



**SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
PELLETS
HOUSEWARES
PLUMBING
ELECTRICAL**



**69 East Main St.
Dover-Foxcroft**

**(207) 564-2274
www.dovertruevalue.com**

(Continued from page 6)

Community Action: The First Line of Defense

Preventing the spread of invasive plants requires vigilance from everyone who enjoys and benefits from the lake environment. Public engagement is vital for early detection, as recognizing and reporting suspicious plants can make all the difference.

Get Involved:

- **Plant Paddle at Peaks-Kenny State Park:** Last summer, Lake Stewards of Maine hosted an educational event to teach residents how to survey the littoral zone and identify plants.
- **Live Plant ID Session:** This summer, local conservancy groups will host a hands-on session at Monson Gym on Wednesday, August 13, from 1–4 pm. Participants will learn to identify 15 invasive aquatic plants. To register, visit <https://sebeclakeassoc.org>.

With over 50 miles of shoreline, monitoring Sebec Lake's littoral zone is a daunting task for a handful of volunteers. Community involvement is crucial. If you're interested in joining a network of "citizen scientists," reach out to Hugh Johnston through the Sebec Lake Association website for guidance.

Lake Smart: Protecting Water Quality

Last summer, Katherine Weber of the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District conducted 20 Lake Smart evaluations. These evaluations help property owners identify simple ways to reduce pollutants, such as soil erosion, which threaten water quality and can lead to harmful algal blooms. To schedule an evaluation or

(Continued on page 8)



20 East Main St.
Dover Foxcroft
(207)564-8943
CenterTheatre.org

Open 7 days a week with movies, private rentals, live theater, concerts, comedy, and more!!



Now with two theaters providing twice as much fun on a rainy summer day or any day of the week!



Private rentals start at just \$85

The Maine Whoopie Pie Festival
Saturday, June 14th
at the Piscataquis Valley Fairgrounds!



Sebec Lake Association

Annual Meeting, July 12, 2025

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held at the Central Hall Commons, 152 East Main Street, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, on Saturday, July 12th at 9:00 a.m.

We will have as our guest speaker Katherine Weber, Executive Director, Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District. Topic: The LakeSmart Program: Learn to play an active role in protecting and improving Sebec's water quality with simple, mindful solutions you can implement at your Camp!

Be sure to check the Sebec Lake Association website (www.SebecLakeAssoc.org) under "Announcements" for the latest annual meeting information.

We look forward to seeing **you** there!



THE LAKESHORE HOUSE
Pub & Lodge

Open for lunch and dinner Wednesday thru Sunday
Open Mic Night, Thursdays 5-8 pm
Summer music Sundays, 3-6 pm Memorial Day thru October
See us on Facebook & Instagram
Please, come join us.

(207) 997-7069 thelakeshorehouse.com
9 Tenney Hill Road, Monson, ME 04464



Land Surveying
Construction Layout
Elevation Studies and Certificates
Letters of Map Amendment
Land Use Consultation and Permitting

We are a multi-disciplinary surveying and land use consulting firm with over 40 years of business experience. Our staff includes key personnel who have over 80 years of related experience. Our staff consists of Licensed Professional Land Surveyors, Field Technicians, CAD Operators, and Office Personnel, who are also very experienced and trained in all aspects of surveying and land management with the most up-to-date technology.

**CONTACT US FOR ALL YOUR SURVEYING
NEEDS ON SEBEC LAKE AND BEYOND**

www.sackettandbrake.com

Dover-Foxcroft
(207)659-3642

Skowhegan
(207)474-6223




@SBSurveyDF

*Stutzman's
Farm Stand*

Brick Oven Cafe

(207) 564-8596

891 Doughty Hill Rd
Sangerville, Maine

Follow us 



Stutzman's Farm Stand and Brick Oven Cafe

Your local place for:

seasonal fresh-picked fruit, produce, and delicious baked goods.

Try our Wood Fired Brick Oven Cafe for the best made-from-scratch pizzas, salad and dessert buffet.

Memories of the public beach

Dennis Lyford

Growing Up in the 1950's and going to the public beach at Sebec Lake was a different experience than it is today.

First of all, the beach was more popular. I remember weekday afternoons when there would be 50 or more folks on the beach and on weekends there might be over 100. I can recall some occasions when the parking lot would be filled and we were turned away.

I remember the beach being covered with families spread out on blankets, mothers working on their summer tans and toddlers playing at the water edge with their plastic buckets.

Slightly older kids would run in and out of the water with their swim fins and goggles and older kids swimming out in the deeper water, all under watch of the lifeguard in the tower.

I also recall trips to the great snack bar on the beach.

If you were in the 7-8 grade or older and you wanted to go to the beach, all you had to do was go to the corner of North and Park Street and wait at the mailbox and people going to the lake would stop to give you a ride.

The return trip was just as easy, all you had to do was wait across the street from the skating rink and people going back into town would stop and pick you up.

The main feature of the beach for kids was the pier that we used for jumping off or diving into the lake. Some people today might question the safety of kids using the pier. Unfortunately, they were correct. After one child suffered a broken neck while diving into the lake the pier was discontinued.

As a child I have great memories of going to the beach and all the fun we used to have at the lake.



BEAR POINT MARINA CABINS~CAMPGROUND~RESTAURANT WWW.SEBECLAKEVACATIONS.COM

Store with beer, wine, ice,
ice cream, candy & souvenirs

Cabins Available
RV and Campsites

Gas at dock

Full Service Restaurant

Eat In/Take out

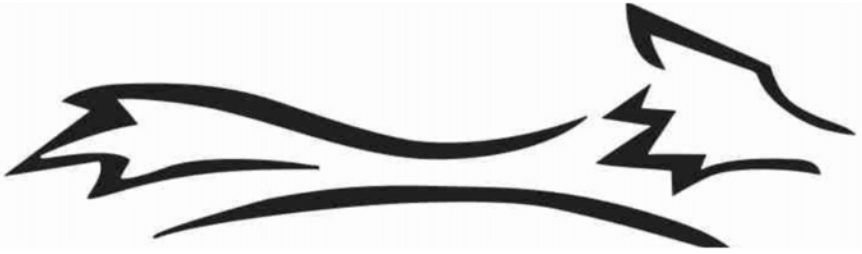
Brick oven pizza, Seafood
& Daily specials

Propane

bearpointcamps@gmail.com

(207)-564-3135

[Facebook/BearPointMarina](https://www.facebook.com/BearPointMarina)



FOXCROFT GOLF CLUB

84 FOXCROFT CENTER RD.

DOVER-FOXCROFT, ME

04426

foxcroftgolfclub.com
(207)564-8887

Like us on Facebook



Open Monday - Thursday 9 am - 4 pm.

Always open by appointment.

dexterprintllc@gmail.com

Love at Greeley's Landing

Cherie Stitham White

In the summer of 1939, my mother-in-law Priscilla Hathorn White was home from her freshman year at Colby, spending time at the house on Pine Street in Dover-Foxcroft and at the Runnals camp at the very end of Cotton Brook Road. At that time, the county had many town baseball teams that drew huge crowds to games. Various businesses sponsored them. There were local men who played, but also some athletes from "away". One was Noman Robert White who hailed from Reading, Massachusetts. He was a standout high school and college athlete and had signed that winter with the Boston Bees. However, he was not picked up that spring, and found himself in Dover-Foxcroft playing for the Sebec Lakers. Priscilla's grandfather Clair Runnals, the president of CMP was one of the sponsors. Priscilla met Norm and they started dating. The short version of the story is they married right after Pearl Harbor; he spent three and a half years in the Pacific, returning as an Army Captain. She then taught middle school while he attended Colby. He became the baseball coach at Foxcroft Academy in 1953 taking them to their first State Championship in 1954.

When she died in 2010, my husband Bob and I worked at cleaning out the Pine Street home. We eventually found over 1000 letters from 1939 to October of 1945. Over the pandemic, I collated and digitized them. In one letter, after they were married, she asks if he remembers the first time he kissed her. In a later letter he replies, "Of course, we were in the parking lot of Coy's Dance Hall."

Coy's Dance Hall was originally Coy's Pavillion built in 1923 by Harry Coy. My parents talked about going there in the '50s for square dances. People of my generation remember it as Sebec Lake Rollerland owned by Frank and Virgie Allen. They bought it in 1946 and transformed it into a roller skating rink. During my adolescence and early teens, it was the place to be on summer nights. It was open three nights a week and two afternoons. Some of us could keep our skates in our own metal skate boxes behind the skate rental window and their very

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

handsome son Billy would give them to us. There were couple skates, and ladies only skates, and grand-right-and -left skates, men only skates and, Sadie Hawkins skates. It was great fun. In the late 60's it returned to its dance roots with D. J.'s and bands on the weekend . Bangor radio personality Bob Mooney would be there with bands like Jester and the Holiday and The Tornados who featured the Dover boys, Jamie Stanhope, Bobby Lary, Charlie Trottier, and Steve Sawyer. Barbara and Tim Merrill bought it from the Allen's around 1980 and ran it for about fifteen years.

In the summer of 1963, I took the Red Cross Senior Life Saving Training with Barry Thomas, the life guard at the Municipal Beach. Our lessons occurred after we had all taught at the Kiwanis Swim Program in the morning. A very handsome Bob White was also in the class. That August he asked me on our first date....roller skating! His mother who was my English teacher (and his too) drove us down for the evening. For some reason though, we walked home. We threaded our way in the dark on the Low Road (what my family called the old road that runs through the woods parallel to the current Cotton Brook Road which we called, of course, the High Road).

We were much younger than his parents were in 1939 and I know he didn't kiss me. But I'm pretty sure we held hands going down the path.

Organizing my in-laws' letters was a great experience. The references to wartime shortages and daily events were fascinating. But I think I smiled the most when I realized that Bob and his father both started a lovely romance at Coy's Pavilion.

I always accused Bob of not taking me skating again, as I was better than he was. (Certainly the only athletic endeavor in which I surpassed him). After all, I was runner-up to Miss Rollerland in 1960. If you see me this summer, I'll tell you who beat me !

With fondest memories of a youth spent on Sebec Lake,
Cherie Stitham White

ACDelco

THE BOSS
SNOWPLOW
Sold & Serviced

ROWELL'S
CAR WASH
SALES & SERVICE
GARAGE

191 E. Main Street, Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426

207-564-3434

www.rowellsgarage.com



In Memory of...

Since 2016, the SLA has received over \$7050 in donations in memory of family and friends who loved Sebec Lake.

In 2024, Donations totaling \$2410 from 30 individuals were received in memory of Bobby Adams, Vance & Laura Pratt, David Newton, Bob Dreves, Bob Simpson, Mike Cheney, Lawrence Davee, Roberta Fitzgerald, Timothy G. Morrill, Norm & Cleo Hill, Guy Vanzo, Blanche & Oscar Haase, Helen & Harold Lloyd, Bill & Frances Glover, Roland Holt, Hal Winters, Stubb Foss, Eli J Olson, John Lowe, Mary Lou Clark, William Therriault, Donald P Jones, and Barbara Doore Goodwin.

(Continued on page 21)

We are grateful to those families who suggest donations to the Sebec Lake Association as a way to honor family and friends who loved Sebec Lake. Thank you all for your donations!

These funds help us continue the Sebec Lake Association mission to Preserve and Protect our wonderful resource that is Sebec Lake. Donations are a great way to honor friends and family who loved the lake. You can make a donation by check or on the SLA website via PayPal. Be sure to include the names of the honoree and their family for our records.

The Sebec Lake Association is a 501-C-3 not for profit organization. Contributions made to the Association are tax deductible.

Things you can do to be loon-friendly

From the Audubon Society

- Obey the no-wake law within 200 feet of shore, and 300 feet for wake boats, no less than 15 ft deep water.
- Use lead-free tackle (good alternatives are made of steel, tin, and bismuth).
- Dispose of fishing line so it does not get tangled up in a loon's feet or bill.
- If you live on a lake, use phosphorus-free fertilizer and plant shrubs as a buffer along the shoreline to reduce run-off.
- If you see a loon on a nest, keep your distance and watch with binoculars.
- Keep garbage out of reach of loon egg predators, like skunks and raccoons.



The latest addition to The Sebec Lake Current portfolio of Sebec Lake centric license plates. Thank you!

In Memoriam

Dorothy “Dot” Blanchard

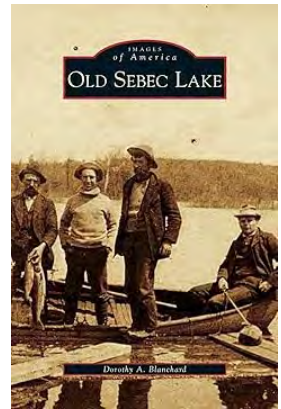
Dorothy Blanchard, 85, passed away on October 1, 2024, in Falmouth, surrounded by her family. Dorothy was born on May 19, 1939, in Dover-Foxcroft, daughter of the late Robert and Margaret (Bentley) Anderson.

Dot is probably best known around Sebec Lake as the author of “Old Sebec Lake” (pictured). Arguably the most popular and enjoyable publication about Sebec Lake.

Dot was born and raised in Dover-Foxcroft, ME, and graduated from Foxcroft Academy in 1957. She attended University of Maine graduating high honors with BA in history.

Dot loved the outdoors and spent many childhood summers on Sebec Lake mostly at her camp in Tim’s Cove. She was an avid hiker, backpacker, kayaker and canoeist. She hiked all the 4,000-foot mountains in ME and NH, twice - once in her 70s.

The Sebec Lake Current newsletter reached out to one of her sons, Peter Blanchard, for a memory. Here it is:



“On New Year’s Eve, 1972 we snowmobiled in our camp (towing a dog sled with all the needed supplies), since the town of Guilford stops plowing the Sebec Shores Road at the cemetery. There was a trail in on the unplowed road, and there was easily 4’ of snow by then. When we got to camp, it was mid afternoon, hovering around zero. First thing Mum did was open up the camp, all doors and windows, and Dad and I built a fire in the big woodstove. By supper time, it was past 50 degrees inside, so we could take our snowsuits off. A few hours later, people starting showing up on their snowmobiles, Nana and Gramp Anderson, Bob and Ruth Weatherbee, and some other Dover-Foxcroft friends, about a dozen people. By late that night, it was 70 degrees inside, lots of card playing, a few rum and cokes, and the inevitable Happy New Year. Mum went outside, said the thermometer read -36 degrees, one of the coldest days ever in Maine history. But all was warm and merry inside at Old Landing Point. Only someone who knew and loved the lake, only someone who had fortitude as strong as Maine granite, would attempt such a trip, and with kids! But that was my mother, Dot Blanchard. A Sebec Laker to the core.”

I TELL YOU WHAT,

DOVER AUDIOLOGY.P.A. IS WHERE YOU
GET YOUR HEARING AIDS!

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT HEAR-
ING THEN.....

HEARING TESTS, PURCHASING HEARING
AIDS, SERVICING HEARING AIDS IS
OUR THING!

IN THE AREA FOR OVER 17 YEARS AND
GOING STRONG. YOU HAVE TO COME
TO BY TO SAY "HELLO"!

859 WEST MAIN

DOVER-FOXCROFT, MAINE 04426

TELEPHONE 564 3337

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

DOVERAUDIOLOGYCENTER.COM



Ed's Taxi & Delivery Service
207-717-6473
Home Base - Dover-Foxcroft

PROTECT THE LAKE WITH LAKESMART!



FREE!

VOLUNTARY

LOW-COST, EASY SOLUTIONS!

**PCSWCD Serves as a Resource Hub for
Maine Lake's program LakeSmart!**

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY CONTACT:



Kacey Weber
katherine.weber@piscataquisswcd.org
207-564-2321 ext. 3

How We Found Our Sebec Lake Camp

Richard Swett

When Caroline and I arrived in Dover- Foxcroft, on July 4, 1979, one of the first things we did was to inquire about how one might find camps that were for sale on Sebec Lake.

Since I was working at the hospital and frequently going back and forth at all hours, we needed to find a place that was fairly close to town. Local realtors suggested camps that could be accessed by the Greeley's Landing Road, but said that none were presently available.

A friend suggested that we should wait until October, when the water level was lowered significantly, allowing people to walk along the shoreline. That way we could take a look at the camps in that area, and perhaps see a for sale sign. When we walked along the shoreline, we saw several camps that appeared to be the type we were looking for, but no for sale signs.

However, several weeks later, when I was raking the lawn at the house we had rented in town, a gentleman drove into the driveway, introduced himself, and said he had heard we were looking for a camp. That was our first example of how fast news travels in a small town. We went out and looked at the camp, and, lo and behold, it was one of the camps we had admired. We purchased it, and have been happy Sebec Lake summer residents ever since.



Original watercolor by Vaughn Fuller is in color.
Can be viewed in color on the SLA sebsite;

Moosehead Lake Region Fishing Report

Tim Obrey

Regional Fisheries Supervisor at Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

I've mentioned in previous fishing reports that we developed a management plan for Moosehead Lake back in the 1990s with the assistance from a public stakeholder's group. The plan includes objectives for catch rates, angler use, growth, etc. These indices are good indicators of the quality of the lake's fishery.

There's always room for improvement but it really seems like the fishery is firing on all cylinders right now. For the most part, we are meeting or exceeding our objectives across the board. Catch rates for our three major gamefish are good and we are seeing some quality-sized fish every week of the fishing season.

We are encouraging anglers to harvest more of the smaller togue that they catch. Since we've dropped the regulations back to the 5-fish limit from the no size or bag limit, we've seen an increase in the voluntary release rate for those togue under 18 inches. We're not at the point where we can justify going back to no size or bag on those fish because that will result in a significant purge. It worked great in 2008-10 when we had a large surplus of small togue that had been building for about 20 years. We're not at that level now, but there are some surplus fish. Think of it as preventative medicine. We just want to encourage anglers to take a few more of those smaller togue that they are catching and can harvest legally under the current regulations.

For those anglers that frequent the lake in the winter, you know we are out there every weekend gathering catch data, length and weight data, occasionally taking advantage of your BBQ, and yes, the ever-popular fish cleaning service. We remove stomachs from fish that are not frozen so we can examine the contents in the lab. This is one of the methods we use to track smelt abundance. We have decades of data for comparison. Currently, our smelt population is very strong. This is good news for the immediate future for bigger, fatter

(Continued on page 28)

fish.

This past November, we were again out on the lake checking on the shore-spawning sites for those massive brook trout. We were very pleased to see all the previously identified sites occupied with these big fish. It's truly impressive. We saw one male brook trout with an old radio tag. This fish would have been tagged in the fall of 2020 and is still returning to his old stomping grounds. He is likely a very old fish. The closure of the Lily Bay area combined with the lake-wide protective slot limit has ensured these big trout will be around for a long time.

There is one area that has our attention and that is the wild brook trout fishery in the lake and the rivers. While we still see plenty of those big trophy brook trout in the lake, there was a decline in catch rates overall for brook trout in 2022 and 2023. The catch rates rebounded in 2024, but it bears watching. The brook trout catch rates in the lake have fluctuated greatly in the past and they did bounce back this year. But we've also seen a decline in the Roach River brook trout catch rates over the past four years and that is uncommon. The brook trout fishery has been consistently good in the river.

At the same time, we've seen an increase in the smallmouth bass catch rates in the lake, especially in the Spencer Bay area. Coincidence? Perhaps. We'll have to see what our staffing levels are like next fall, but it may be time for a status check and operate the weir on the Roach River this September and maybe Socatean Stream in the near future to compare the runs with past results. In the meantime, there is no size or bag limit on smallmouth bass in the lake. They are an illegally introduced invasive fish. We encourage anglers to remove each and every one of them from the state's largest wild brook trout lake. We'll never fully eliminate bass through angler harvest, but you may save a few wild brook trout fry cruising the shoreline after hatching in the spring.

Tim Obrey

For an article on **“Inside the plan to protect Moosehead Lake from a destructive invasive fish”**, please see: <https://observer-me.com/2025/03/22/featured/inside-the-plan-to-protect-moosehead-lake-from-a-destructive-invasive-fish/>



**The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society
Invites you to visit our website:**

dover-foxcrofthistoricalsociety.org

**All are welcome at our museums,
meetings and special events.**

**Bob's Sugarhouse
252 East Main Street
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426**



**(207) 564-2145; (207) 717-3337
Bob@mainemaplesyrup.com
www.mainemaplesyrup.com**

**Open: 10a.m.—5p.m. Monday—Saturday
or by appointment**

**PURE MAINE MAPLE SYRUP & MAPLE PRODUCTS
Unique Glass Bottles, Large Assortment of Maple Products
Custom Gift Baskets & Made in Maine Products**

WE SHIP WORLDWIDE!!!

*joining is
easy as
1,2,3!
visit
piscataquischamber.com/membership-center*

*It's Time
TO TAKE
YOUR
BUSINESS
TO THE
Next Level*

**PISCATAQUIS
COUNTY**

**chamber
MEMBERSHIP**

**Piscataquis
Chamber of Commerce**

Sebec Lake Water Level, 2024

Data & chart provided by Mike McCormack

A few years ago, or maybe more, when a drought affected the summer plans of many, there was a lot of talk about the level of the lake. It was not a surprise that without rain the level of the lake was down. Way down. The question was: "How far down?"

Mike McCormack rose to the challenge and installed a ruler into the lake and aimed one of his web cams at it, then broadcast that information to the world through his website SebecLake.net.

Since that summer Mike has raised the level of accuracy significantly by constructing a higher resolution gauge. (see picture). As

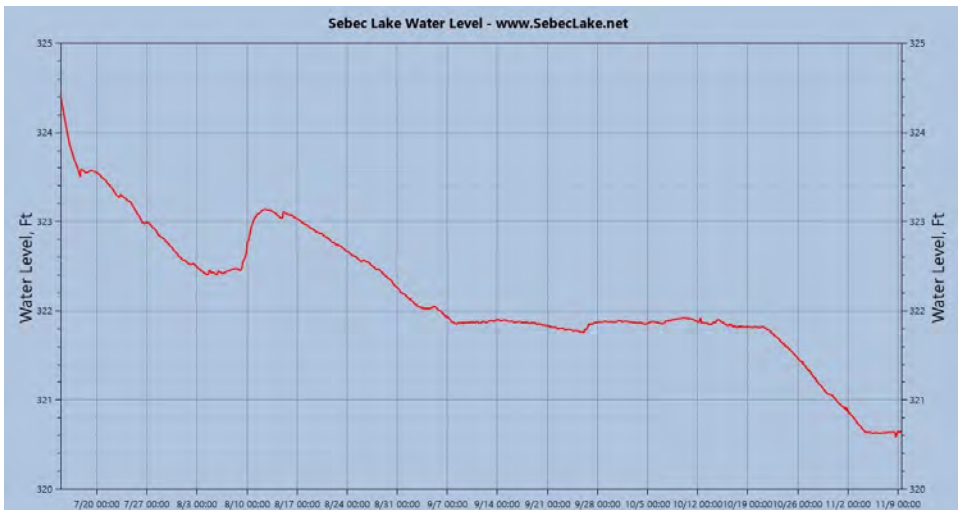


can be seen in the chart below the accuracy is amazing. So while the graph may appear to take large swings, the lake level does not change much at all.

But in the end, at some point, there is always going to be a large rainfall or a drought.

Thanks Mike!

Water Level from July 15, 2024 to November 9, 2024



We love personal stories: ‘What brought you to Sebec Lake?’

Based on the Fall 2022 Tax Commitment Lists from the four towns with property on Sebec Lake, many properties have been purchased by new owners with local addresses but many are from around the country. For those of you who are new owners, welcome to Sebec Lake! We would love to hear how you decided to purchase property on the lake.

For most of us, we visited Sebec, staying with family in their camps or renting camps for the family summer vacation. Some of us were Mainers, many from other New England states, and lots of folks who drove or flew from all across the country. We all have memories: long car rides, driving through the night (back in the ‘old days’), across the country, and day or weekend visits from nearby towns. We came to fish, swim, explore the woods, take boat rides. As children, it was a magical place because we were free to be on our own....

We’d love to hear your stories; we’ve published several in past newsletters (you can read them on the SLA website, sebeclakeassoc.org) about childhood memories and the history of homes built in the last century using wood from the lot on which they were built... Photos are welcome!



MAINE FOREST SERVICE NEW OPEN BURNING LAWS

AS OF OCTOBER 25, 2023

Do you enjoy having recreational campfires at your residence, camp or vacation home? The most common cause of wildfires in Maine are fires that are too large or left unattended and escape. A new law has been enacted to reduce the chance of an escaped fire. It defines the size of a recreational campfire and the need for a burn permit for larger outdoor fires. The new law also makes it unlawful for burning outdoors during a red flag warning.

By definition, a "recreational campfire" means an outdoor fire that is used for cooking, personal warmth, light or ceremonial or aesthetic purposes and that is not a part of debris disposal (AKA burning brush). A residential fire contained within an outdoor fireplace also falls into this category.

ACCORDING TO SEC. 4. 12 MRSA §9324, SUB-§:

A person who kindles or uses a recreational campfire **may not allow the recreational campfire to exceed 3 feet in diameter on the ground at the base of the fire or 3 feet in height.** If the fire exceeds that size, then a burn permit is required. These burn permits can be obtained without cost at www.maineburnpermit.com or from your local fire dept.



The Community Wildfire Defense Grant program is now available to help communities reduce wildfire risk near homes.

Community Wildfire Defense Grant | US Forest Service (usda.gov)

FMI, please call 207-287-4989
or email Maine.forestrangers@maine.gov.



2025 Maine new laws related to outdoor recreation

New laws impacting boaters, paddlers, anglers, and any other watercraft users.

Piscataquis Observer • December 28, 2024 By Julie Harris, Bangor Daily News Staff

Money for trail systems, airboat noise limits and a push to fight aquatic invasive species are among the Maine Legislature's 2024 decisions that will affect your outdoor experience in 2025.

Here are the new laws affecting some of the outdoor sports:

Boating

Emergency legislation established legal noise limits for airboats, which the state defined as a flat-bottomed watercraft with an aircraft-type propeller that uses either a plane or automotive engine to power it.

The state's new wake boat and wakesurfing law went into effect over the summer too, restricting boat speeds and closeness to shore in order to prevent damage to shorelines and the wildlife, such as loons, that live there. LD2284/HP 1472 stipulates that motorboats serving wakesurfers or surfboarders stay in water 15 feet or deeper and go no closer to shore than 300 feet. Violation fines are no more than \$100.

Although numbers of violations were unavailable, there generally is an educational period in which wardens inform violators about the new law before they start handing out citations, according to Mark Latti, spokesperson for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This law did not go into effect until mid-July, well into the boating season.

Invasive species

Boaters are required to not only be aware of potential plant

(Continued on page 34)

New law impacting boaters *(Continued from page 33)*

fragments that might carry an invasive species from one body of water to another, but also to make sure all water is drained from the boat, except bait wells, when leaving one lake, pond or river and going to another.

In 2024, the Legislature took that a step further, requiring the departments of marine patrol and inland fisheries and wildlife to work together to prevent invasive species from getting into clean waters from dams and fishways in particular.

The new law says the two departments are not allowed to make changes, particularly at the Medway dam on the Penobscot River or the Brown's Mills dam in Dover-Foxcroft on the Piscataquis River, without notifying the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in writing.

A second bill addressed funding, by increasing the cost of invasive species prevention and control stickers for inland watercraft from \$15 in 2024 to \$25 in 2025 and \$35 in 2028. The allocation from those fees to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund reduces from 80 percent to 70 percent, and to the Lake and River Protection Fund increases from 20 percent to 30 percent beginning Jan. 1, 2025.

The fees for boat registrations are going up too by \$10 in all classes. It will cost \$40 in 2025 to register a boat with a 10 horsepower or less motor and \$50 in 2028. A tidal waters only registration will remain at \$15. It will be \$45 in 2025 for boats with a motor more than 10 horsepower up to 50 horsepower and \$55 in 2028. Tidal only registrations will remain at \$20. For more than 50 horsepower to 115 horsepower motors, it will cost \$51 in 2025 and \$61 in 2028. Tidal only registrations will remain at \$26. Allocations of the fees will be the same as the invasive aquatic species stickers.

For personal watercraft and motors more than 115 horsepower, the registration fee will increase \$10 to \$59 in 2025 and \$69 in 2028. Registration for tidal waters only will remain at \$34.

Fees for nonresidents who purchase lake and river

protection stickers for boats and personal watercraft in Maine, and residents and nonresidents who buy them for seaplanes, will see an increase as well. In 2025, the fee will be \$60, with \$1 of that going to the agent who sells the sticker, and \$75 in 2028, with \$1 going to the agent. Fee allocation percentages will be the same as the others.

Fishing

Beginning on Sept. 1, 2024, it became illegal to sell lead jigs weighing an ounce or less or measuring 2 1/2 inches or less, but on Sept. 1, 2026, it will be illegal to use such jigs. Lead sinkers were banned from sale and use in 2013, and it was made illegal to sell or use bare lead jigs in 2016. You may still own them, even though it will be illegal to use them. Fines for violations will be from \$100 to \$500.

Snowmobile and ATV trails

The governor signed LD2276 in April, updating the allocations of approximately \$5.7 million in non-recreational vehicle gas tax money primarily between snowmobiling and all terrain vehicle riding for the first time since 2001. It provides additional funding to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands' Snowmobile Trail Fund and ATV Recreational Management Funds, and less funding to DIF&W.

The new allocations will be effective for the upcoming snowmobile and ATV seasons.



Central Maine Smiles
The Way Dentistry Should Be

Hillary S. Caruso, DDS, MAGD
MASTER IN THE ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

Daniel L. Steinke, DDS MAGD
MASTER IN THE ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY

(207) 564-3455
info@centralmainesmile.com

5 Winter Street
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
www.centralmainesmile.com

2025 Events of Local Interest

April

April 26 51st Annual Kiwanis Piscataquis River Race, Guilford to Dover-Foxcroft

May

May 3 Annual Kiwanis Bike Rodeo - PACC/Kiwanis Park, Dover-Foxcroft

May 3 Top Working, Fruit Tree Workshop, Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District

May 9 New England contra dance, Central Hall Commons, 7-10 pm.
Live music by "Some Reel People"

May 17 Bird Walk, Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District

June

June 12 Mushroom Identification Workshop, 1;30PM Thompson Free Library & Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District

June 13 New England contra dance, See May 9th.

June 14 Maine Whoopie Pie Festival, Piscataquis Valley Fairgrounds, Dover-Foxcroft

July

July 3 Sebec - Food and Fireworks at sunset 5:00-10:00 pm.

NOTE: Sebec Reading Room needs volunteers for all events; to volunteer, call Barbara Mauzy @207.564.3232

July 4 Sebec 9:30 Parade
10:45 Chicken & Ribs BBQ, Whoopie Pies, Bake Sale
11:00 Canoe Race

July 11 New England contra dance, See May 9th.

July 12 Sebec Lake Association Annual Meeting, Central Hall Commons 9:00am

July 11-13 Annual Town Wide Yard Sale, Guilford

July 15,16 & 17 Teen Wilderness Expedition, Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District

July 19 Sebec - Ice Cream Social and Pie Sale

July 25, 26, 27 75th Annual Dover-Foxcroft Kiwanis Auction at Pisc.

(Continued on page 37)

(Continued from page 36)

Valley Fairgrounds

July 26 Piscataquis River Festival, Guilford (unknown, tba)

August

August 2 Pan Storm in concert at the Thompson Free Library Pavilion

August 2 Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming Celebration (unknown, tba)

August 8 New England contra dance, See May 9th.

August 9 Foraging at Williamsburg Forest, Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District

August 9 Maine Red Hot Dog Festival, Dexter, Maine

August 13 Plant ID Session; 1pm @ Monson Gym, 38 Greenville Rd, Monson; registration on SLA website/newsletter

August 16 Sebec All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast and Silent Auction (dependent on volunteers)

August 16 Owen Kennedy & Sap Line, Central Hall Commons, Traditional music and dance from the southern Appalachians to the Celtic Countries and Canada

August 21-24 138th Annual Piscataquis Valley Fair, Dover-Foxcroft

September

September 12 New England contra dance, See May 9th.

September 14 Cider Pressing, Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District

September 27 Annual Harvest Fair, Guilford Historical Society

September 27, 26 Women's Chainsaw Workshop Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District

December

December 6 Hometown Holiday Event, see:
<https://www.piscataquischamber.com>

Check for updates on these websites and Facebook:

- Kiwanis Club of Dover-Foxcroft;
- Town of Dover-Foxcroft
- Guilford Historical Society;
- Town of Guilford;
- Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce, Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District

Contact List

SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE - www.sebeclakeassoc.org

SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD

President -- Rudy Davis

Vice President - Dave McDermott

Secretary/Treasurer – Debra Stallings

Director - Janet Hall (Webmaster / Database)

Lake Environment—Hugh Johnston

Director - Norman Hill

Director - Nick Swett (Facebook Editor)

Director - Brian Hall

Director - Cindy Woodworth

Director - Drew Daubenspeck (Newsletter Editor)

Director - Ellen McDermott

Director - Ian White

If you have a question, comment or suggestion about The Current content, you can email our Board members via the Sebec Lake Association website (www.sebeclakeassoc.org). Click on Lake Association on the blue banner, then on “Board” on the green banner. Click on a name to send an email. We look forward to hearing from you!

Community Numbers/Information (If you have an emergency call 911!)

Northern Light Mayo Hospital	207-564-4260
Maine State Police	207-866-2121
Piscataquis County Sheriff	207-564-3304
Dover-Foxcroft Police	207-564-8021
EMS Ambulance	911
Physician Referral Service	207-564-1224
Pine Tree Hospice	207-802-8078
Bowerbank Fire Department	207-564-3535
Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department	207-564-2310
Sebec Fire Department	207-564-2090
Willimantic Fire (Provided by Guilford)	207-876-2202

Dover-Foxcroft Transfer Station & Recycling Center

Monday Wednesday Friday - 9-5. Saturday - 8-4

Willimantic Transfer Station & Recycling Center

Wednesday & Saturday 8 - 4

To pay your dues for 2025 and support the Sebec Lake association:

Online: Go to SebecLakeAssoc.org, click on Dues/Donations/Store, and pay your dues and make a donation with a credit card via PayPal. Then click on Membership and complete the form.

Pay By Mail: Please indicate individual payments:

Annual Dues (\$20) \$ _____
Donation to General Fund: \$ _____
Donation to IPP: \$ _____
Donation 'In Memory Of': \$ _____ Name(s): _____
TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT \$ _____

Complete the form below & mail it with a check for the total amount to:
Sebec Lake Association Treasurer
P.O. Box 303 Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426

The Sebec Lake Association is a 501-C-3 not for profit organization.
Contributions made to the Association are tax deductible.

First/Last Name(s): _____
[] Check here if NO demographic information for you has changed.
Otherwise, please complete the following (Please print):
Home Street Address: _____
Home City/State/Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____

For Lake Property owners:
Lake Property Street Address: _____
Lake Property Town: _____
Year Lake Property acquired: _____ Are you a new owner? Y/N: ___
Lake Property Map# _____ Lot# _____ (if new owner)
Lake Phone: _____
Number of properties: ____
Do you share ownership?
Name(s): _____

Email(s) _____

We only use emails to convey important SLA information.
The Sebec Lake Association will NOT share/sell your email addresses.



Sebec Lake Association

P.O. Box 303

Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426