

Forest Lake News



2010 Summer Supplement

Association Officers

Karen Hall	President	657-6933
Tina LeBlanc	Vice President	829-6950
Ralph Ludington	Treasurer	829-5217
Nancy Heyner	Secretary	829-6757

Our Mission

The Forest Lake Association endeavors to maintain the quality of the lake water, along with the quality of life within the watershed. The association also endeavors to improve the feeling of community for a lake watershed shared by four towns.

See the Forest Lake website (www.ForestLakeMaine.com) for back issues of this newsletter. If you have items of interest for future newsletters or for the website, email ForestLakeNews@aol.com or call Karen Hall, 657-6933.

Dues

Don't forget to pay your dues! An annual household membership (June 1st through May 31st) costs only \$25.00. Membership dues are used to pay for water quality testing, annual meetings, newsletter printing, and grant-related expenses.

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday — July 17th – 8:00 a.m.
Coffee and Continental Breakfast
Raffle, Door Prizes, Pie Auction
Save the Date!

Annual Meeting Agenda

8-8:30 (a.m.)	Coffee/Continental Breakfast
8:30	Welcome (Karen Hall, FLA President)
8:40	Secretary & Treasurer's Reports (Nancy Heyner, Ralph Ludington)
8:45	Water Quality Report (Bob Heyner)
9:00	Safety Report (Ed Keenan)
9:15	YCC Site Coordination (Amiee Howson Wills)
9:25	50-50 Drawing/Auction
9:40	Plant Patrol Report (Jim Gameros, Karen Hall, Ed Keenan)
10:10	Membership Voting/Election
10:15	Pie Auction
10:30(ish)	Meeting Adjourned



Pie Auction!

**Please bring your favorite pie
(or cake or cookies) to the
annual meeting for our auction.**

Election

Trustees

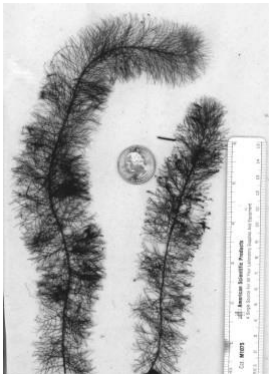
Ralph Ludington, trustee, 3-year term
John Gorham, trustee, 3-year term
Greg Shultz, alternate, 3-year term
Paula Curcio, alternate, (1-year term to finish seat vacated by Denise Tanguay)
Call to the floor for volunteers to serve as alternates.

Slate of Officers

President: Karen Hall
Vice-President: Ed Keenan
Treasurer: Ralph Ludington
Secretary: Nancy Heyner

Message from Karen Hall, FLA president and newsletter editor:

I'm sitting at my computer this morning, scrambling to finish up the summer supplement newsletter (which was supposed to go out six days ago!) and sweating like crazy in this 90-degree heat. This has been a busy year for the FLA board members, so scrambling and sweating are par for the course. If you attend the annual meeting on July 17, you'll get a full update on board and association activities. You'll also get a chance to bid on some fabulous pies at the auction.



The issue of greatest concern to the board (and to all lake-dwellers) is still our population of native milfoils. At our spring inspection, we saw a lot of plant die-back, so we thought we were looking pretty good. Now, however, we're seeing a lot of new growth emerging from the dead plants. Included in this newsletter issue is a copy of the

updated depths map for the lake (many thanks to Jim Gameros for his depth-finder work). Please take some time to read the accompanying text to learn what you should know about milfoil, plant surveys, and littoral zones. Please also talk about this stuff with your neighbors. A friend of mine was at Allen's last week, getting his usual cup of morning coffee, and he stepped into a heated discussion of the "milfoil issue" on Forest Lake. He's a very reliable guy, and what he reported back to me was pretty disturbing.... Apparently the coffee talk that morning was that the lake association board had their heads up their proverbial you-know-whats and that the plants in the lake were NOT milfoil and that this particular group of fishermen were going to drive their boats right through the areas marked off with buoys and do their fishing there anyway.

What can I say to that? Well, if you've read past newsletter issues (or gone to our website at ForestLakeMaine.com), then you already know that the plants in question were identified by three state agencies and two independent laboratories (using DNA analysis) as low water and farwell's milfoil. You also know that these are native species in Maine, not the hybrid or non-natives that other lakes are dealing with, but that they are not native to our lake (they first showed up here, *we think*, about four years ago—that's our guess based on plant surveys), so they are behaving like an invasive species.

If you want to fish in the areas marked by buoys, be my guest. Chances are, you'll have a great time. Fish LOVE milfoil. Here's my request (and please pass this along): anchor your boat on the outskirts of the plant colony so that your motor doesn't rip up chunks of plant material (which will spread across the lake and form new colonies) and when you reel in, take any plant material that you catch on your line and lures (and you will!) home with you and throw it in your trash. Please DON'T toss it overboard. Remember, we're trying to keep this stuff from spreading (if you want to see what a mess it can create, look at the cove colony). If you overhear a conversation like the one above, please step in and speak up. This is a small, fragile lake, and all of us need to be good stewards.

Another issue of concern, and this is a very personal one for me, are the number of boats and jetskis that simply ignore Maine safety regulations. The law is headway speed only unless further than 200 feet from shore (or the shoreline of the islands). Obviously, if you measure that distance on Forest Lake, the area for boating is very, very limited, so most people "bend" that rule a bit. Couple that with ignoring of the law that requires jetskis to stop operating an hour before sunset, and we've got some hazardous shore waters. I swim nearly every day along the northeast shoreline. I usually swim 50-60 feet off shore, mostly to avoid weedy patches and docks and moorings, and usually in the evening when the boat traffic has calmed down. I can't tell you how many times in the past four weeks, I've nearly been decapitated by a jetski (or, sometimes, a boat—although that's more rare), even though I make a point to splash quite a bit when I know a watercraft is approaching (or sometimes I stop swimming and just bob in the water, waving my arms in the air). I've been swimming this lake for years, so I'm pretty savvy about saving myself, but on any given evening, there are dozens of kids in the water, sometimes close to shore, sometimes out a bit. So please review the safety regs, abide by them, and if you see someone breaking the law, please stop them.



I could continue to harp on other issues of safety, or pollution, or just plain courtesy, but I need to get off the soapbox and go water my tomato plants. Thank you, thank you, thank you a million times over to everyone who practices good lake stewardship and, of course, to all of the board members for their many volunteer hours and the money that comes out of their own pockets for gas and travel to various meetings and trainings. Despite an explosion of development and population on the lake and in our watershed, Forest Lake is pretty clean and healthy and safe. That's an accomplishment that takes a committed community effort.

Minutes from the Forest Lake Associated Annual Meeting July 2009

The Forest Lake Association held its annual meeting on July 18, 2009. Sixty members were in attendance. Lorraine Mastrangelo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. She welcomed everyone, then made **several short announcements**. The first was about a shoreland zoning ordinance change by the town of Gray, which has instituted a permit requirement for docks. Lorraine passed around copies of the new requirements and told property owners to call the town office if they have questions. (This state-imposed regulation limits dock width to six feet unless “grandfathered.” Owners must prove grandfathered docks were installed with necessary permits. Any dock installed in the past thirty years must have a permit; provide dock size and location and pay a one-time fee of \$25 to the town.) Next she reminded the group that the Youth Conservation Corps is still available for projects, so if property owners have a buffer or erosion control project that they would like addressed, they should contact Betty Williams at Cumberland Soil and Water. She also said that Skillins is generously continuing its Buffer Benefits program, and cards for this are available from Betty Williams as well. Finally, she reminded the group that this year we changed the format of the newsletter to include advertising, and because the advertisers are all local, we should make every effort to support them and thank them for patronage. By selling ads, we have been able to raise funds to pay for newsletter printing and postage. She also pointed out that Denise Tanguay from All Star Graphics had designed hats and t-shirts with the Forest Lake logo on the front and a map of the lake on the back with eco-friendly activities and that the hats and shirts would be for sale with all profits going to the lake association. Denise said that she had order forms on the tables for anyone who wanted to order a hat or shirt.

Ralph Ludington gave the **treasurer’s report** next. Ralph distributed a sheet of our financial information to all in attendance. We have \$1,612.05 in our treasury. Report was accepted as read.

Nancy Heyner, for the **secretary’s report**, referred the group to the minutes from the annual meeting that were printed in the newsletter summer supplement. Karen Hall apologized for the delayed delivery of some of the newsletters and indicated that she had extra copies for those who needed one. The group accepted the minutes as written.

Bob Heyner gave the **water quality report**. According to Bob, Secchi Disk readings show average visibility of 15 feet. E-Coli testing: We test ten spots per year, five done early and five later on. For swimming, the state allows 235 parts per 1000. Our results were: 4...2...5...4...6 (5 spots tested). In other words, the lake is very safe for swimming. It is NOT safe for drinking. Dissolved Oxygen report was normal—no problems there.

Karen Hall, Ed Keenan, and James Gameros presented information on the **invasive plant patrol report** and ongoing issue of an aggressive colony of low water-milfoil in the center of the lake. Karen spoke first, explaining that she had brought samples of plant species found in the lake, including tape grass, water naiad, bladderwort, and low water-milfoil, for everyone to compare. She introduced Ed, who coordinates Forest Lake’s invasive plant patrollers (IPP). Ed explained that last summer the IPP spent 70 hours examining plants in the littoral zone. Our goal was to search for invasive species on Maine’s invasive species watchlist (which includes Eurasian milfoil, variable-leaf and hybrid milfoil, European frogbit, water chestnut, hydrilla, curly leaf pondweed, parrot feather, and fanwort). We found none of those species, but we did identify a dense colony of native low water-milfoil in the center of the lake. This colony had previously been mis-identified as bladderwort, but last summer Jim reported its rapid growth and said that he suspected the plant was actually milfoil. Karen, Ed, and Jim examined samples and tentatively identified the plant as a native low water-milfoil, then confirmed this identification through the Maine Center for Invasive and Aquatic Plants in Auburn. (Note: low water-milfoil looks very similar to other native plants like young bladderwort.) [NOTE: LATER IN THE SUMMER, DNA TESTING CONFIRMED LOW WATER-MILFOIL.] This summer, in response to even more rapid growth of the plant colony, Ed, Karen, and Jim have been in contact with state agencies and experts to discuss its growth pattern and possible control methods.

Jim then showed the group a video that he had filmed showing orange buoys marking the shallowest areas of the low water-milfoil growth. He explained that because the growth is so thick, if a skier or tuber were to fall into it, he or she might be in danger of getting tangled and drowning. He also showed how close the milfoil is to the surface and asked that boaters and fishermen please stay out of the area because at this point we don’t know how frequently the plant will propagate from fragments. Boats traveling through the colony will shear off fragments, and anchors from boats fishing in the area will pull up fragments.

Questions from the floor included whether or not we would be taking measures to “eradicate” the plant like invasive milfoils. Ed, Jim, and Karen explained that because it is a native species, it is protected by state law. If they apply for and get a permit (Permit by Rule), property owners can clear a ten-foot wide swath in front of their property for access, but otherwise it should be left alone. Karen suggested that we will ask for samples to be DNA tested, which is typically what is done to identify invasive milfoils, just to make sure we’re dealing with a pure species and not a hybrid. She said that the size/length of the

milfoil isn't the "norm" for low water, so we're going to be cautious. Jim said that Karen Hahnel and John McPhedran from Maine DEP will be on the lake next week and that we'll have more answers then.

Elections were held next. Nancy Heyner conducted the **election**. Results were as follows: Karen Hall, President; Tina LeBlanc, Vice-President; Ralph Ludington, Treasurer; Nancy Heyner, Secretary; Jim Gameros, Trustee; Jennifer Hughes, Alternate Trustee. There will be a number of trustee openings at the annual meeting in 2010, so if you are interested in being involved, please speak up.

Raffles were very successful this year! We added a 50/50 raffle, which was also great. If you would like to donate a raffle item for the 2010 meeting, please contact Nancy at nheyner@maine.rr.com. The Door Prize item was a \$15.00 gift card donated from the Bru-Thru Coffee Hut located at the corner of Blackstrap and Route 100. For the first time, we had a Pie Auction, which by itself raised \$160.00 alone! The highest bid item went for \$26.00, an apple pie donated by Joe Earley. Many thanks to those who made pies, cakes and cookies and to everyone who bid on them!

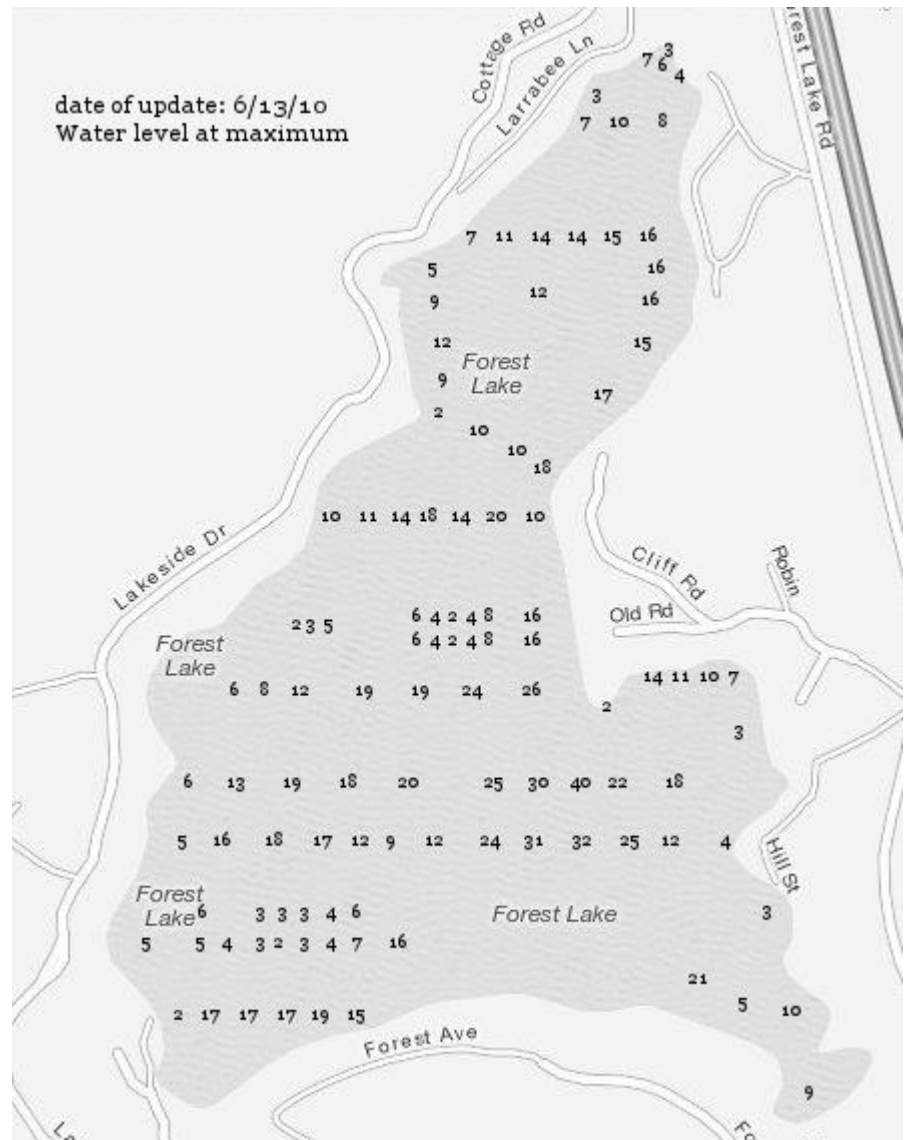
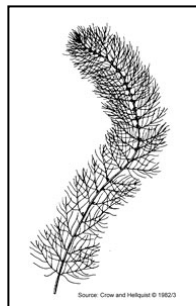
Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Plant Patrol: What YOU Can Do!

Please look over this updated map of depths in Forest Lake. Because of our successful efforts at improving water clarity, the littoral zone (the area in which plant growth occurs because sunlight can penetrate) has expanded to include depths up to 15 feet. This means that most of the northern part of the lake can support plant life, as can, a significant portion of the southern lake near Copp's beach.

This is a LOT of area for plant patrollers to cover in their annual survey! What you can do... during this summer, put on your snorkel, mask, and fins, and try diving down to look at plant life in the littoral zone in front of your home. If you see any colonies of the bottle-brush shaped milfoil, contact Ed Keenan, 657-6463.

If you would like to become a plant patroller, Ed can help you to sign up for VLMP training.



PROUD TO BE AN FLA MEMBER

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All Star Graphics will have Forest Lake t-shirts and sweatshirts available at the annual meeting; however, if you would like to order a specific size or color in advance, please call or email Denise several weeks prior to the meeting.

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WOW!

Your advertisement could be here!

FLA's newsletter is delivered to 320 households in the Forest Lake watershed district three times annually (May, July, December).

Business Card (2" wide x 3" long):

- 1 issue / \$40
- 2 issues / \$70
- 3 issues / \$100

Some assistance is available for AD design.
Interested? Contact ForestLakeNews@aol.com

Forest Lake Association
PO Box 793
Gray, ME 04039

2010/2011 Membership
Dues and Information

Yes, I'd like to do my part by becoming a current member of the Forest Lake Association.
(Dues year runs June 1st through May 31st)

Name(s) _____ (one household is one membership)

Mailing Address _____

___ My check for \$25.00 made out to "Forest Lake Association" is enclosed

___ I am interested in being contacted in regards to special projects

___ I am interested in being considered for the Board of Trustees (3 year position) at
the annual meeting

Phone number _____

------(cut here to return membership)-----

Forest Lake Association
PO Box 793
Gray, ME 04039