

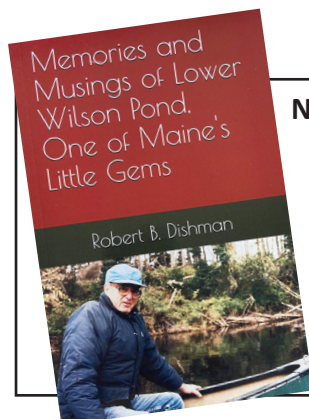
From the President...

THE GOOD NEWS

- Summer is almost here!
- 30th Anniversary of Friends of Wilson Ponds!
- 30th Anniversary car stickers are available!
- First Courtesy Boat Inspection program on Lower Wilson Pond starting Memorial Day. See page 4.
- Annual Meeting on July 10 may be in-person!
- Membership Drive underway!
- Water Quality Monitors on both ponds. See page 5.
- Invasive Plant Surveys of portions of both ponds by trained citizen volunteers scheduled!
- Campsite improvements include picnic tables and information boxes!
- Friends Communication Committee is launching us into the 21st century by setting up Constant Contact.

MORE NEWS

- LUPC seeking input into rezoning of the Plum Creek Development Plan! This includes 150+ acres on Upper Wilson Pond. Your input invited. See page 6.
- \$135 million dollar plan to develop Moosehead Lake Ski Area (Formerly Squaw Mountain) and surrounding areas. Go to skibigsquaw.com.
- Crafts Landing Park is being created by the Moosehead Region Economic Development Corporation. FMI: mooseheadlakeedc.com/news



Now Available on Amazon.com

All proceeds from the sale of *"Memories and Musings of Lower Wilson Pond, One of Maine's Little Gems"* will go to Friends of Wilson Ponds.

Thank you!!



Campsite Excitement

FOWPA maintains five rustic campsites on the easement land. Each is located on the shore of Lower Wilson Pond and available to the public on a first-there basis. We were pleased to receive letter and donation from S. Edward Gardella stating that he and his family have been staying at our campsites for many years. He also volunteered to help with campsite maintenance.

The Board of Directors formally named the campsites at their April 2021 meeting. The names are Birch Point, Gravel Bluff, Blueberry Island, The Cliffs (locally known as Acapulco), and Rum Cove. Signs will be placed on each campsite this summer-thanks to Peg Phillips and Dot Lamson for overseeing this project.

New, replacement, picnic tables will be constructed and placed on four campsites thanks to Pat Shafer and Ralph Johnson. All five camp sites have picnic tables. Information boxes produced by Norm Lamonde will also be placed on four campsites.

Thanks to Mike DiCaprio for volunteering to do campsite maintenance again this year.

Going Green with email newsletters

Please consider the eMail version of the FOWPA newsletter! We will be creating an email version of this same information. By choosing to get the newsletter via email, you reduce our carbon footprint and help the environment.

Simply go to FOWPA.org and click on the eNewsletter sign up.

FWPA Mission and Goals

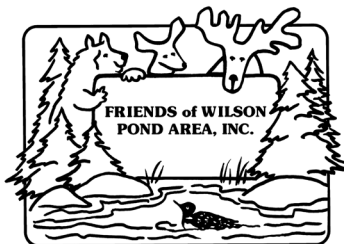
In 1991 the Friends of Wilson Pond Area acquired a conservation easement along the eastern and southern shores of Lower Wilson Pond. This easement guarantees no development within 500 feet of the pond along nearly 3 miles of the shore, thereby conserving 150 acres.

Our Mission

To protect and conserve Upper and Lower Wilson Ponds and their surrounding areas for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Our Goals

- Preserve biological diversity and ecological integrity of the area.
- Preserve soil, air and water quality.
- Preserve scenic vistas and the quietness of the area.
- Fulfill the responsibilities required by the current conservation easement.
- Promote public education pertaining to land conservation and ecological topics.
- Work with landowners and other organizations in the preservation of land.
- Seek funding and support for educational programs and land conservation.



BECOME A MEMBER or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Membership is \$10 per family per year.

We gratefully receive donations in any amount for our Stewardship Program. Please complete the information below and return with your check made out to the "Friends of Wilson Pond Area."
THANK YOU

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues: \$10

Donation: ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 Other \$ _____

Please send to
Treasurer
Friends of Wilson Pond Area
PO Box 454
Greenville, ME 04441

Please indicate below if you would like to receive your Newsletters via e mail. This saves trees and postage.

☐ E-mail Delivery Please

☐ NEW MEMBER

☐ RENEWING MEMBER

Comments and Suggestions: _____



Loons begin a full body molt (minus their wings) in the late summer and early fall, prior to migration. The black and white breeding plumage of adult loons in summer is replaced by the gray-brown of winter. This process typically begins at the base of the bill and spreads across the head and over the upper back. The process of molting can extend through migration on into December.

Common Loons Molting

Last November, I took a kayak adventure on Lower Wilson Pond. It was a summer like day and dead calm. I thought the objects on the water were leaves but upon closer inspection there were feathers-feathers everywhere! The loons were molting! What a wonderful experience.

Banding records show that loons often return to the same lake each year. However, mates probably do not winter or migrate together but return to the same lake independently. Loons do occasionally switch mates and seem to be more attached to their lake than to each other.

As winter approaches Maine's loons have short migratory routes, spending winters along the Maine coast, while loons that breed in the central US migrate to the Gulf of Mexico. Most people in Maine are familiar with the wail of the Common Loon.

As winter gives way to spring, loons bide their time on open waters, waiting for the right moment to return to breeding areas. In years of late ice-out, loons have been observed doing flyovers inspecting the lake country, but with no place to land. These birds likely retreat to await another exploratory flight. In early ice-out years, we rarely hear about loons showing up earlier than expected. They have a schedule, an internal clock, an ingrained time table for spring migration.

Male loons nesting in Maine tend to stay off the Maine coast during winter, while their female counterparts venture further south and winter from Cape Cod to Chincoteague, MD. Is this a strategy that enables the males the earliest possible return to their breeding lakes?

--Kay Johnson, FOWPA Board President

Loon Count 2020

The third Saturday in July in the early morning an intrepid team of members of Friends paddle out onto the Upper and Lower Ponds to count the loons. In 2020, they reported 8 adults counted on the Upper Pond, and between 11-18 adults and 1 chick on the Lower Pond. This effort is statewide and coordinated by the Maine Audubon Society. **On July 17th, the 2021 loon count will proceed.** Volunteers are welcome and can sign up at the Annual Meeting.

Courtesy Boat Inspection: A First in the Moosehead Region

Fueled by a \$1,400 DEP Grant received by Friends of Wilson Ponds, Memorial Day weekend will mark the first ever Courtesy Boat Inspection initiative in the Moosehead region. Volunteers will be at the public boat launch on Lower Wilson Pond ready to inspect watercraft for invasive aquatic species. They will be on the lookout for Maine's currently known invasive aquatic plants—Variable Leaf Milfoil (the most frequent invasive in Maine), Curly Leaf Pondweed. European Frog's Bit, European Naiad, Hydrilla, and Eurasian Water Milfoil, plus the invasive Zebra Mussels.

Inspection is a courtesy and boaters must give for permission for their boat to be inspected.

Courtesy Boat Inspectors:

- Show boaters how to inspect boats and equipment for plant fragments
- Discuss with boaters how invasive aquatic plants spread
- Urge boaters to inspect before and after every launch
- Provide information about invasive plants
- Articulate Maine law regarding the transport of these plants

The most common aquatic invasive plant in Maine is variable water milfoil. It is an extremely well-adapted plant and able to thrive in a wide variety of conditions. Variable water milfoil is a submersed aquatic plant with branching stems emerging from dense, spreading roots. Feather-divided leaves are arranged in densely packed whorls. Variable water milfoil is not native to New England but is present in Maine and all New England.



Ivana Radovanovic, CBI pilot program in 2020

It is helpful for swimmers, boaters, and those who live on waterfront property to become acquainted with the native aquatic plants and if one notices something unusual to investigate. Friends of Wilson Ponds has an emergency Invasive Plant Patrol team who will come and investigate. Please contact Kay Johnson by text or call at 207-749-3598 or email kayorkjohnson@gmail.com

For more information and a map showing the water bodies in Maine infected with invasive aquatic plants go to www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives. The Shaw Library has several resources available about aquatic plants both native and invasive.

WANTED: Courtesy Boat Inspector Volunteers

Perform courtesy inspections of boats at the Lower Wilson Pond public launch on weekends starting Memorial Day through Labor Day. Volunteers may perform inspections for as few or as many hours as they wish. Training is essential and may be accomplished two ways—online on May 4 at 5 pm or at the Lower Wilson Pond public boat launch by arriving 45 minutes before inspections begin. For more information or to register for online training or training at the boat launch, please contact Kay Johnson via e mail at kayorkjohnson@gmail.com

Water Quality Monitoring at Upper and Lower Wilson Ponds

Dot Lamson (Lower) and Abe Barker (Upper) have volunteered again this year to do the water quality testing every two weeks during open water. Thanks to them! They are trained citizen scientists water quality monitors.

What is turbidity and how is it measured?

Turbidity is the cloudiness or haziness of a fluid. Materials that cause water to be turbid include clay, silt, very tiny inorganic and organic matter, algae, dissolved colored organic compounds, and plankton and other microscopic organisms. The higher the intensity of scattered light, the higher the turbidity. The measurement of turbidity is a key test of water quality.

Measuring turbidity is done with a Secchi disk and a depth measuring tape. When the disk is no longer visible, Dot and Abe will note the depth. The greater depth at which the disk can be seen indicates less turbidity. They send this information to the Lake Stewards of Maine. Check out the recorded information at lakestewardsofmaine.org

Generally, the Upper Pond has greater turbidity than the Lower Pond because the Upper Pond acts as a settling pond for the Lower Pond. The clarity of the Upper Pond is average and the Lower Pond is above average. Seasonal variation is common.

Carbon Sequestration and Maine's Climate Council

What is carbon sequestration? Trees take in carbon dioxide (CO²) and return the oxygen (O²) to the atmosphere, keeping the carbon as a component of their cells.

In December, the Maine Climate Council, a panel convened by Gov. Janet Mills to create a plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045, called for the formation of a group to develop a voluntary forest carbon program. If implemented, the program would provide financial incentives for the State's 86,000 woodland owners with between 10 and 10,000 acres to "increase carbon storage in Maine's forests" while "maintaining current timber harvest levels." Mills, via executive order, formed a 15-member task force to address issues facing small landowners on this matter.

Dark Sky Initiative

The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument received the International Dark Sky Sanctuary designation. This designation is the second of its kind in the National Park Service and distinguishes the monument for the exceptional quality of its naturally dark night skies. Katahdin Woods and Waters is the first International Dark Sky Place certified in New England!

AMC is working to achieve [International Dark-Sky Association \(IDA\)](#) [Park status](#) in the Maine Woods, which would protect the nearly 75,000 acres from light pollution and seek to attract astronomy lovers from around the world. If the designation is granted, AMC's Maine Woods would be the first Dark Sky Park in New England. This initiative is supported by Destination Moosehead Lake, the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council, and Friends of Wilson Ponds.

AMC's efforts to become an International Dark Sky Park has also laid the groundwork for the town of Greenville, Maine to become a Dark Sky Community.

Realizing the value of being able to see the night sky, the town of Greenville has retrofitted 181 of their streetlights with dark sky-compliant fixtures, which redirect the light away from the sky and toward the ground, minimizing light pollution.

AMC is currently working with the Greenville school system to help retrofit outdoor lighting on their entire campus. AMC has also partnered with the North Maine Woods Association to change all their gatehouse lighting and will be providing dark sky educational material for anyone passing through Greenville on their way to Gorman Chairback and Little Lyford Lodge and Cabins.

Friends of Wilson Ponds supports the dark sky initiative and especially encourages camp owners around the Wilson Ponds to install and retrofit current lighting with IDA approved lighting. Norm Lamonde is chair of the Dark Sky Initiative Committee for Friends of Wilson Ponds.

For more information: darksky.org.



Weigh-In on the Future of the Moosehead Lake Region

The Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) has accepted Weyerhaeuser's request to remove the current zoning as approved in the Plum Creek Concept Plan (PCCP). The LUPC is seeking input from the general public. Of special interest to Friends is the 150+ acres on Upper Wilson Pond. This parcel was to be developed into camp lots under the PCCP. Our wish to conserve this property either by easement or purchase. You may communicate your ideas to the LUPC in several ways:

1. the on-line form at <https://moosehead-lake-region-cgpz-maine.hub.arcgis.com/>
2. attending public meetings this summer,
3. sending comments to Land Use Planning Commission, 18 Elkins Lane, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333

Please Visit the Natural Resources Council of Maine www.nrcm.org for more information.

"Search "Weyerhaeuser"

"A Second Chance for the Moosehead Lake Region" posted Oct. 25. 2019

"Update: What's Happening to the Plum Creek Plan for Moosehead Lake?" posted May 15, 2020

"Protecting the Moosehead Region"

"Your Voice Matters: Preservation of Maine's Iconic Moosehead Lake Region" posted Feb. 1, 2021

Weyerhaeuser acquired Plum Creek in 2015 which included a Concept Plan that:

- put 363,000 acres of their land into conservation easements
- sold 30,000 acres to AMC for protection.
- approved 17,000 acres for development of 2 resorts and 2,000 housing units

Weyerhaeuser has now terminated this plan, giving an opportunity to better design development in the Moosehead area.

NRCM believes that the termination of the plan could present opportunities, but it does not eliminate the possibility of inappropriate development.

NRCM recommends protecting the Lily Bay area (previously zoned for a resort), the west side of Moose Mt. and Blue Ridge south of Rockwood based on their significant scenic and wildlife values. They support keeping development close to Greenville, Rockwood and Jackman to reduce sprawl and protect the natural areas of the region.

Watch for news from the Moosehead Region Futures Committee mooseheadregionfutures.com. They are following the LUPC actions closely. They provide citizen scrutiny of LUPC development applications which is crucial in minimizing adverse impacts to high-value natural areas that define the Moosehead Lake region.

Wilson Pond Reverie

Composed April 1942 by Louis Huston
Dedicated to his friend, Harry Sanders, Jr.
Provided by Carol Driscoll

Wilson Pond lies nestling
Midst the mountains verdant green;
It forms a perfect picture
Of a quiet, restful scene.
Its surface streaked with color,
As the sun sinks in the west,
In tones no artist could achieve,
Tho he's rated the best.
In it's depths, are trout and salmon,
For those who like to fish,
And when they're boiled with bacon,
An appetizing dish!

Now you wander to the hillside,
In the evening's quiet hush,
And hear the partridge drumming,
Mingled with the call of thrush.

There you see that sly old "Reynard",
A-sneakin' down the trail,
I'll bet he had for supper,
A nice fat "cotton tail"!
What's that cross the clearing,
In the moonlight bright and clear?
You're right, my friend, you've guessed it!
It's the graceful "whitetail" deer!
Now the shifting breezes,
Waft your scent into the night,
That head comes up, the "white flag" waves
He's off, in headlong flight!

And now your steps turn campward,
As sleepy-time draws near,
And you seek that restful slumber,
While only forest sounds you hear.
Your mind is filled with rapture,
Dreams of peaceful Wilson Pond,
You feel at last you've found the spot
For which you've always longed!
The rippling waters shimmering,
Neath the moonlight's silvery ray,
It seems a fitting climax,
To the end of a perfect day.

Tim Glidden, president of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, is retiring but leaves with the quote by legal ethicist, Deborah Rhode:

"Enduring satisfaction is most often a byproduct of participating in worthwhile activities that do not have happiness as their primary goal. Ultimate fulfillment comes from a sense of remaining true to core ideals and principles, and of using life for something of value that outlasts it."

I think our founders had that in their vision when they created Friends of Wilson Pond Area, Inc.

Friends of Wilson Pond Area Board of Directors

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Many Thanks

Thank you, Ruth Ganey and Liz Peltier, for your many years of service as Board members of Friends of Wilson Ponds.

In Memory of Kendall Walden

Kendall Walden departed this life on October 19, 2020.



A view of Lower Wilson Pond from the Walden Farm.

Kendall was the son of Alice and Ron Walden. He was a native of Maine, graduated from Greenville High School and Bates College. Kendall enjoyed spending time with family and friends on Wilson Pond. Friends of Wilson Ponds is the grateful recipient of donations in memory of Kendall.

