



East Pond News

SUMMER 2012 VOL XV NO 1

“Plant Paddle” Scheduled for June 30th

On June 30th Maggie Shannon, Executive Director of Maine COLA, and Toni Pied, Milfoil Program Director for the BRCA, will lead a “Plant Paddle” program on East Pond.

A “Plant Paddle” is an informal introduction to learning about native and invasive plants that may be found in a water body. Anyone interested in learning more about East Pond’s aquatic plants is welcome to attend.

The “Plant Paddle” is scheduled to begin at 8AM at the public boat launch site off East Pond Road and will last about 4 hours. Bring your own kayak or canoe and life jacket and join the fun and learning. Participants will receive a set of plant identification cards that will help to identify invasive species. More cards can be added as they become available.

This event will be a great opportunity to determine if you would like to get further training in order to become a certified Plant Patroller and join the East Pond Association’s effort to spot invasive plants before they have a chance to become established in our lake. •

Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) Action Team

By Ted Hesson

BRCA schedules paid summer employees to watch over our lake during weekdays until mid afternoon and all day on weekend days and holidays. CBI volunteers fill in the schedule so there is someone at the ramp all day for the entire summer season.

We are currently outpacing our 2011 schedule for CBI volunteers at the landing. This year we have been fortunate in getting our schedule nearly filled already. If you are interested in helping in the effort I can be reached at 617-510-8483 or tedhesson@earthlink.net.

“Thank you” to the paid employees and the many CBI volunteers. You are the first line of defense in helping prevent the introduction of invasive plants into East Pond. •

East Pond Dam Action Team

By Gordon Woods

The East Pond Dam action team is in charge of the operation and control over the water level in East Pond. We strive to keep the water at the optimal level to prevent undo erosion to our banks. The dam is located at the end of the Serpentine in Smithfield and discharges its water into North Pond. One of the problems encountered is that of beavers trying to stop the flow of water out of the pond. We have to spend a lot of time and effort clearing debris out of the spillway. It is surprising how fast the beavers can stop or slow down the water through the dam. We monitor the condition of the dam at least weekly when the gates are open. Our action team is comprised of volunteers who donate their time to help with its operation. The team members are Dave Ducret, Ted Hesson, Rob Jones and Gordon Woods. •

President’s Message

*What will the Summer of 2012
Bring to East Pond,
Or What Will YOU Bring
to East Pond in 2012?*

The summer of 2010 brought the longest algae bloom we can remember as well as a vast amount of growth of some of our native aquatic plants. Certainly not one we want repeated. 2011 saw some of the best water clarity in recent years. Secchi disk readings were at the bottom of the deep spot for much of the summer. Let’s do that again! We don’t know what 2012 will bring to us. More perch have been removed, ice out was the earliest on record, April was, at least for the first three weeks, dry and warm, and so far May has been cool and damp. The lake is clear at this point. Which of the many variables will determine water quality this year?

Perhaps, rather than focusing on the variables we can’t control, we can double our efforts to do what is good for East Pond - things we can control. We can add more plants to our buffer strips, or establish buffers where they are needed. We can make sure our camp roads are maintained in a way that prevents run off. We can add a rain

(Continued on page 3)

Invasive Plant Patrol Action Team

By Gordon Woods

The Invasive Plant Patrol Action Team of East Pond consists of volunteers who have had training to identify unwanted species of plants that could be found growing in our lake. The plant patrollers go out on the lake during the warmer months and scan our shorelines. So far we have been very fortunate in not finding any invasive plants. However, there have been a couple of times that very alert courtesy boat inspectors have found dangerous plants on boats being launched into our pond and which were removed before any damage was done.

Last year the teams got together many times and were able to inspect a good portion of East Pond and the Serpentine area. It takes a lot of time and effort for these members to cover our shoreline. This year there is a plant patrol scheduled for June 30th, and there will be other patrols scheduled during the summer months. An early discovery of an infestation makes for a much easier eradication.

The Invasive Plant Patrol Action Team consists of Gordon Woods, Mel Croft, Rob Jones and Ted Hesson. •



Roads To Ruin?

Camp Roads are Maine's #1 Lake Enemy

By Maggie Shannon, Executive Director, Maine COLA

Driving through fields and woods to the lake, don't we all keep an eye cocked for glimpses of light between the trees, searching the flash of blue that signals journey's end? We may be so focused on our destination we notice the road beneath our wheels just enough to stay on it and avoid wildlife and the occasional puddle.

Hold it! It's time for all of us to stop and examine these familiar routes. Mild mannered as they may seem, camp roads are Maine's Lake Enemy #1. Experts estimate camp roads contribute between 60% and 85% of all nutrient loading in our watersheds! Nutrient loading is technical talk for too much soil getting into our waters, enriching them and fast-forwarding lakes into decline.

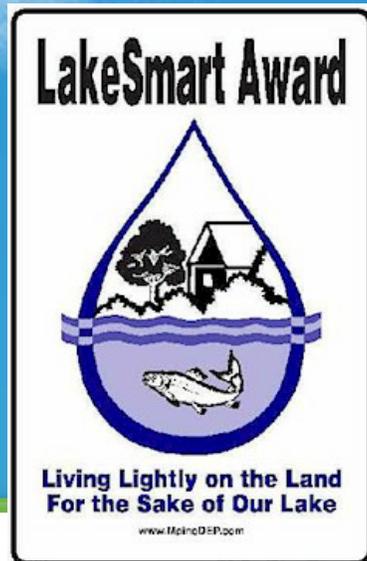
As the lowest portion of the landscape, lakes are catch basins for water funneled from their watersheds. Roads cut across and into the landscape, disturbing gentle, natural drainage patterns. Poorly built and maintained roads channel rainwater, increasing its speed and ability to lift and hold onto soil particles as it flushes lakeward. The end results are loss of desirable shoreline, obnoxious algal blooms, lowered levels of dissolved oxygen, and diminished lake and property values. The *(Continued on page 3)*

The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Lake Trust

By Mel Croft, Courtesy BRCA website

The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) is dedicated to conserving the lands, water quality, and natural heritage of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Founded in 1988, this grassroots group has grown into a combined land trust and lake trust with over 1200 members, dedicated to protecting the watershed through land conservation, watershed management and protection, education and outreach, and implementation of conservation projects. The BRCA works with area lake associations, state and town governments and agencies, other conservation groups, and private landowners to preserve the area's natural resources and maintain public access for low-impact recreational activities like hiking, fishing, hunting, canoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Our Lake Trust is a strategic alliance of the five lake associations in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed and oversees the Milfoil Committee, which administers the courtesy boat inspection program that inspected over 10,000 boats the summer of 2009 at seven public boat ramps to prevent the spread of invasive plants. The Lake Trust also includes the BRCA Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) that has completed over 600 erosion control projects in the past 14 years and the Watershed program that has performed water quality surveys of all seven of the Belgrade Lakes. The *(Continued on page 4)*



It's LakeSmart Season

By Mel Croft

The snow is gone, mud season is a distant nightmare, and soon you'll be enjoying beautiful long days on the lakes soaking up the sun in blissful happiness. How could life get any better? Unfortunately, lurking beneath the water is the microscopic equivalent of the Creature from the Black Lagoon: algae! Once conditions are right, the algae devour the phosphorus in our lakes, much of which is contributed from human activity. When these tiny plants feast, the blue water takes on a green tint and can even resemble pea soup if enough phosphorus is available. What can we do to prevent this? Isn't there a magical pill we can drop in the water to make it all better?

Unfortunately, there's no quick fix, but there are steps we can take, and one of the best of them is LakeSmart. LakeSmart is a program that offers FREE opportunities for homeowners to learn how to manage their home and yard to improve water quality in their lake and maintain the value of their shore-front property.

LakeSmart looks at 4 aspects of lakefront properties and rates them for how well they keep phosphorus from getting into the lake. This evaluation is done by trained volunteers who look at 1) Driveway and Parking Areas, 2) Structures (buildings) and Septic Systems, 3) Yard, Recreation, and Footpaths, and 4) Shore-front and Beach Areas. Properties that score well in all four categories receive the coveted LakeSmart Award, but homeowners are also recognized if their homes qualify in 1, 2, or 3 categories.

(Continued on page 8)

(Roads to Ruin, Cont'd from page 2) insidious and relentless process delivers Death by 1,000 Cuts to our lakes -- day by day, year by year, and storm by storm. Most camp roads are primitive. Many in use today were laid out in the 30's, 40's and 50's with aid of little more than crosscut saw, pick axe and dump truck. Few have been rebuilt since then. Meanwhile, our use of them has changed and escalated. We drive more miles in bigger vehicles today, and there are many more of us, owning more cars per family unit, and using camp roads for extended periods, if not year round.

There are a lot of these roads, too. A surprising 65%, or about 44,500 miles of all Maine roads are private. (Numbers based on a Maine Roads GIS Dataset last updated in April, 2002.) Not all private roads run down to lakes, but many do. They are such a huge threat to surface waters that Norm Marcotte of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) wonders how we'll beat "the tremendous continuing challenge

(Continued on page 9)

Visit us on the web!
<http://www.EastPond.org>

(President's, Cont'd from page 1)

garden to capture water coming off driveways or our roofs. We can look for invasive plants in the water in front of our own property. We can volunteer a few hours to inspect boats at the public landing or at least make sure all of our own boats or those of guests are thoroughly inspected before launching.

If you are interested in any of the above activities, the East Pond Association can help. We have members who can provide information, guide you to additional information, show you examples of best practices, and generally offer encouragement. We are not alone in the effort. The new Maine Lakes Resource Center in Belgrade Lakes Village also has information and many best practices in place at their location. Worth a visit this summer. And, if you are a point and click researcher, here are some web resources:

www.eastpond.org
www.maineola.org
www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org

We can speculate about what variables will most affect East Pond in any given year all we want. Speculation, though, won't change the outcome. We can make a contribution to the future of East Pond each summer by doing something, no matter on what scale, to reduce our negative impacts on the lake. That may be the best thing to change the outcome for the better.

Rob Jones,
 President, East Pond Association •



“
*Deep in the sun-searched growths the dragonfly
 Hangs like a blue thread loosened from the sky.*
 Dante Gabriel Rossetti "Silent Noon"
 ”

Rain Gardens Are A Beautiful Way to Reduce Runoff

By Mary Gilbertson, PWD

When it rains, we usually think about it, if we think about it at all, like the children's saying – rain, rain go away. But we don't often think about what that really means.

Where, exactly, is "away?"

Roofs, parking lots, driveways, and roads are all structures that prevent rain water from soaking into the ground. That water becomes stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff picks up fertilizers, soil, oil, and other pollutants and carries them to our streams, rivers, and lakes. On top of all this, running water is hungry water, and stormwater erodes our soils.

Here's one reason why we have this problem: When people build houses they design them to get rid of water as quickly as possible. We use the principle of collecting water, concentrating the flow, and conveying it quickly off the property.

Did you know that during a 1 inch rainstorm, about 500 gallons of water runs off a typical roof? Where does this go? You guessed it – it becomes stormwater runoff, and can carry pollutants to our lakes and streams.

The good news is, we can all do things on our own property to reduce the cumulative impact of stormwater runoff. And one solution, elegant in its simplicity is a rain garden. A rain garden is a slightly depressed garden full of native plants where rainwater and snowmelt can soak into the ground, replenishing groundwater and protecting our surface water.

Rain gardens are easy and inexpensive to install and maintain. They are flexible in size, shape and appearance, and can fit in almost any landscape and lifestyle.

A rain garden is typically 1/3 the size of the drainage area, and bowl shaped with a center [*\(Continued on page 6\)*](#)

Spotlight on Nature: Dragonflies

By Donna Dombrowski

I have always viewed dragonflies as beautiful mystical creatures, but I have never bothered until now to find out about them. Because dragonflies live on East Pond, and its streams, marshes, and wet lands, they are very familiar to all of us and worth learning about. Also, I have noticed that lately they are the subject of many beautiful art forms such as jewelry designs and also decorative motifs on fabrics and home furnishings. Their iridescent beauty is compelling to artists who have used them in their paintings. They appear in Zuni pottery, Hopi rock art and on Pueblo necklaces. But I'll bet you know very little about them. [*\(Continued on page 7\)*](#)

[*\(Lake Trust, Cont'd from page 2\)*](#) Watershed program has worked with the Maine DEP and the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District to develop and implement watershed-based plans to improve water quality.

The BRCA Education and Outreach Committee develops programs designed to highlight the linkages between the land use and water quality. Programs include public lectures, guided hikes, canoe trips, nature walks, bird watching trips, etc.

The Belgrade Lakes Watershed, including East Pond, faces threats from accelerating development pressure, invasive species, erosion, and other damage caused by overuse. Once opportunities to protect our lakes and lands are gone they cannot be reclaimed, but by joining the BRCA you can help seize conservation opportunities and meet these challenges.

The BRCA Lake Trust has three objectives: improve and maintain water quality in the lakes of the Belgrade Watershed, build the capacity of lake associations; and create public support and funding for water quality restoration and stewardship of the lakes. [*\(Continued on page 5\)*](#)

Back In The Day: A Short History of the Hillhouse

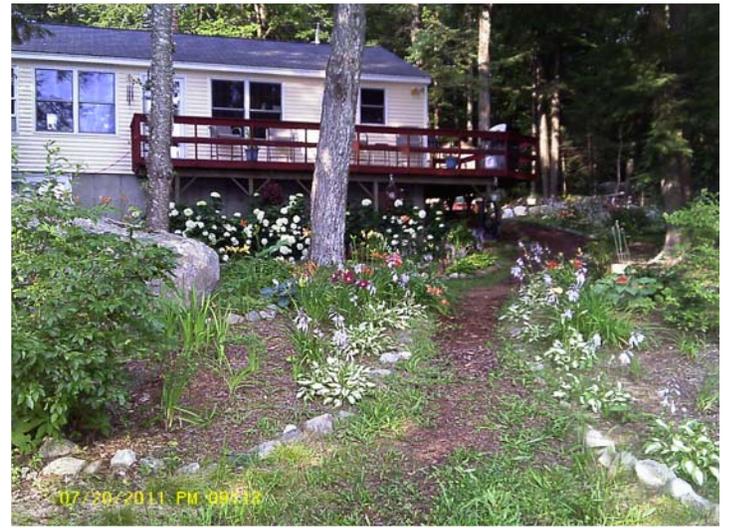
(a.k.a. Brandt's Bat House on
East Pond Road

By John Brandt

Traveling along East Pond Road, I am sure you have seen the large white house and barn that sit directly across from Lakeridge Manor. The following attempts to capture the essence of this wonderful old Smithfield fixture. Some liberties have been taken, so don't expect that every detail is verifiable. In fact, much of it is family lore.

I'm told the first section of the house was built by a farmer around 1880. The property consisted of 200 acres of woodland that would later become Camp Somerset, Camp Lakeridge and the Hillhouse. The primary crops were wood for building, food for the table (both shot and grown), and logs for the fire. Those first years saw a one-room house built on the site of the house's present main staircase and living room. It was heated by a fireplace and served by a two-holer in the backyard.

As the farmer's family grew, so did the house. First there was the extension of the dining room and kitchen. Then they added the upstairs bedrooms. And, of course, the barn had to be built to house the new wagon and two black Percheron plow horses. As the kids grew *(Continued on page 6)*



The Road to LakeSmart

By Joe and Cindy Reese

Last summer, Joe and I decided to contact East Pond's LakeSmart coordinator (Mel Croft) and see if our property had "the right stuff." For more than ten years serving as the East Pond Association's President, I had talked the talk. Now we would find out if we also had walked the walk. Have we indeed "*lived lightly*" on the lake we love?

Going into this process we knew it would be a great opportunity to get an objective evaluation of how our lifestyle on East Pond was impacting the lake. Though we have always been conscientious and certainly well informed, we still had a bit of concern that we might have missed an important detail along the way. Mel made an appointment and stopped by one afternoon. There was an interview and a chance to showcase improvements and obtain suggestions for areas of concern. Mel thoroughly walked the property with us, took pictures, and made recommendations for some minor improvements. It was a relaxed, enjoyable experience. Mel submitted our information to the DEP and we found out a short time later our property did indeed qualify for the LakeSmart designation.

The good news is that the LakeSmart program is designed to assist property owners as they strive to protect the lakes. It is not punitive or judgmental. There is no "Big Brother" watching or potential concern about violations; rather it is informative and supportive. Furthermore, whether you obtain the LakeSmart designation or not, the information it gives you is incredibly valuable if you want to protect your lake. There is no further obligation or requirement and the evaluation is free.

So this summer we will proudly display the LakeSmart signs that declare,

The Reese's truly are "living lightly on the land for the sake of the lake". •

(Lake Trust, Cont'd from page 4) So what can you do?

Have your lakefront property evaluated to see if it is LakeSmart (see LakeSmart article on page 3 in this newsletter). Or ask our YCC Director Clark Freeman (495-6039) to take a look at your property for recommendations on how to make it more lake friendly. You pay for only materials; labor is free courtesy of the YCC!

Inspect your boat prior to launching it into any lake to ensure there are no plant fragments on your boat. All of the public boat launches in *(Continued on page 6)*



(Rain Gardens, Cont'd from page 4) 4-8 inches deeper than the surrounding area. More water loving plants are placed in the center lowest portion of the rain garden, and more dry-tolerant plants around the edges.

Ideally, native perennials and shrubs should be used. Native plants are going to survive better in our environment, and do not require excessive fertilizer or pesticides. Furthermore, the roots of native perennials and shrubs extend down a few feet into the soil, while turf grass roots only grow down the same depth as the plant leaves are allowed to grow tall--just a few inches.

Maintenance is low, about the same as for any non-native perennial garden: they need to be weeded when young and watered until the plants are established.

Visiting existing rain gardens can give you an idea of the diversity of possibilities that exist. Rain gardens have been installed throughout the state – contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, or the DEP to find a rain garden near you.

Hopefully this encourages you to plant a rain garden! It is one thing that each of us can do to help protect our surface waters, replenish our groundwater, and add some beauty around our homes. It's not so overwhelming when you realize that each one of us can make a difference. A lot of little actions really do add up to lot in terms of protecting the health of our lakes! •

(Lake Trust, Cont'd from page 5) the Belgrade Lakes, including East Pond, have paid or volunteer boat inspectors for peak times during the summer. But we don't have adequate funds to pay inspectors for all the hours that we are at risk. So you can make a donation to our Invasive Plant fund to pay more inspectors, or you can volunteer to be a Courtesy Boat Inspector. Training is free and takes only an hour or so. Contact Ted Hesson at 617-510-8483 or tedhesson@earthlink.net if you're interested.

In addition to these BRCA run programs, members of the Lake Trust meet every other month, with representatives from all 5 lake associations in attendance, including BRCA and Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA) members, to share lessons learned and best practices. I chair the Lake Trust, therefore Rob Jones allows me to represent East Pond Association. Jerry Tipper, an original Lake Trust member also attends. If you have questions about the health of East Pond, please send them to me, Rob Jones, or Jerry Tipper. •

(Hillhouse, Cont'd from page 5)

up and moved away, the farmer and his wife grew tired of fighting the Maine climate. The house, with its many additions, was just too big for them to take care of. So the farmer took out an ad in the Wall Street Journal. The year was 1926.

Joe Bernstein, a New York City businessman was interested and bought the land with its farm house and barn. Joe was looking for a place to put the money he had invested in the stock market. He had this uneasy feeling about the future of Wall Street, a good instinct in the late 1920's. Family lore suggests that the selling price for the 200 acres, lakefront, house and barn was in the neighborhood of \$10,000. The year was 1927.

After the Bernsteins spent a summer or two in Smithfield and saw how truly lovely it was, they decided to start a summer business as an annual two-month change of pace from the New York scene. They began planning and ultimately built two camps. Camp Somerset became one of the best known girl's camps in New York City. Camp Lakeridge was a camp for adults, mostly catering to the visiting parents of Somerset girls. Both gained reputations for their warm nurturing atmosphere and great food. Lakeridge was run by one Bernstein sister, Sandy Leiken, and her husband, Dr. Ned Leiken. Somerset was run by the other sister, Dorothy Markle, and the senior Bernsteins. Retired Colonel Joseph Markle, Dorothy's husband and my Uncle Joe, continued his lawyering in New York City and came up to fish weekends in July and for the month of August. Both camps were successful through the war years and into the fifties. But then the social dynamic of camping changed and *(Continued on page 7)*

(Hillhouse, Cont'd from page 6)

the Bernsteins, who were getting on in years, decided to sell the camps. Fortunately for us, they retained ownership of the farmhouse and the barn, with its accompanying woodland and lake access.

Through the 1950's, 60's and 70's, the farm house, dubbed the Hillhouse (for the New Haven high school some of the family attended), and its multi-purpose barn, were the site of an elegant garden wedding, numerous high level military conferences, the vetting of several presidential and supreme court candidates, endless social encounters, and countless fishing trips. For decades the parade of visitors, both personal and professional, started on July 4th and continued through Labor Day.

Structurally Hillhouse underwent a metamorphosis in the early 1950's. It finally had its plumbing and heating upgraded. Landscaping was done, giving the property an estate-like look. The two Bernstein sisters and their husbands spent summers working at the camps, entertaining and enjoying Maine from 1948 until the death of the last member of the extended family, our Uncle Joe, in 1989. The house then passed on to me, his nephew, and Connie Brandt Bentley, his niece, as a bequest.

We made some necessary structural and cosmetic improvements in 1989 and 1990. This included the removal of the rotting south wing that had served as the maid's quarters, updating the electrical and plumbing systems, and adding a spacious wrap-around porch. Then it underwent yet another landscaping overhaul. The barn, home for a persistent colony of bats that has given the house it's new moniker, was electrified and later jacked up to accommodate *(Continued on page 9)*



(Dragonflies, Cont'd from page 4) Perhaps you've been told they are dangerous and sinister. In European culture, people view them as evil and even in our own Southern United States, they are called "snake doctor" because of a folk belief that dragonflies follow snakes around and stitch them back if they are injured. The name "dragonfly" has its source in the myth that dragonflies were once dragons. However, naturalists will tell you these myths are based on ignorance, because dragonflies cannot sting and will not bite or attack you. The reality is that dragonflies are valuable predators that eat mosquitoes, flies, bees, ants, and wasps. This is really beneficial for lake dwellers that have to deal with these insects - mosquitoes and wasps in particular. And here's the really interesting thing. A dragonfly can live for close to 6 years, but only two months of that lifespan is as the adult dragonfly we are so familiar with.

The adult male and female dragonflies mate while they are flying in the air. The impregnated female will lay her eggs on a plant in the water or, if she can't find a suitable plant, she will just drop them into the water. Once the dragonfly eggs hatch, the nymphs emerge. They look like little alien creatures with humps on their backs where their wings will eventually grow. The nymphs live in water while they grow and develop into dragonflies. This portion of their life cycle can take up to four years.

Once the nymph is fully grown, and the weather is right, it will metamorphose into a dragonfly by crawling out of the water up the stem of a plant. The nymph will shed its skin onto the stem. Perhaps you have found such a skin. It is called the exuvia and can stay on the stem for a long time after the dragonfly has emerged.

From the time they get out of their eggs as little nymphs, baby dragonflies seek out food. They especially like mosquito larva but will eat just about anything that moves under the water, even tiny fish and tadpoles. They have an appendage on their head that they use as a spear to catch newly born fry. They are extremely fast swimmers and use their anal opening to eject water in a jet propulsion action. Sometimes they will get out of the water to capture a prey.

When they become adult dragonflies, their quest for food does not change. The adult uses the basket formed by its legs to catch insects while flying. Its choice of food includes gnats, mayflies, flies, mosquitoes, bees, and other small flying insects. It always catches whatever it targets because it only needs to flap its wings a mere 30 times a minute compared to a mosquito's 600 times a minute and the housefly's 1000 times per minute. Because of its lower *(Continued on page 8)*



*(LakeSmart Season,
Cont'd from page 3)*

We hope to spread the LakeSmart program all around the lake, and so we invite you to sign up for a free check-up. Participation in LakeSmart is voluntary, so if you do request a property evaluation, you'll have no obligation to do anything further. But, if there are areas for improvement and you'd like to work on them, we'll partner with you to help address the issues. Most "fixes" can be done over time and with do-it-yourself techniques, but the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) Youth Conservation Corps is another great option; they provide free labor and homeowners only pay for materials. We can also recommend landscape professionals.

Give me a call at 362-5340 if you'd like a LakeSmart evaluation. Look for LakeSmart signs around the lake which advertise those properties that have been deemed LakeSmart. There are already 20 LakeSmart properties on East Pond. If the opportunity presents itself, take time to talk to those property owners to get their assessment of the LakeSmart process.

It's not a magic pill, but it's the next best thing! •



Become a fan of
East Pond Association
on Facebook!

(Dragonflies, Cont'd from page 7) energy speed capability, very few insects can escape its basket shaped grabbing limbs. Once caught, the insect is crushed into a gooey mass by the dragonfly's powerful mandibles.

Oh, oh! I said some scary words – powerful mandibles. Does that mean dragonflies bite, you are wondering? Well, given that they belong to the order Odonata which is Greek for tooth, I'd have to say yes. Their powerful mandibles bite and crunch their prey. Do they bite humans? I would still have to say yes, but only if you caught one and carelessly held it in your hand in such a way that its mouth touches your skin. Even then, smaller varieties would not be able to break your skin. Many people are afraid of dragonflies, thinking that they are harmful and menacing. The fact is that dragonflies are not poisonous and have no stinger despite the appearance of their long abdomen. If you think about it, have you ever been attacked by a dragonfly?

In closing, here are some more interesting dragonfly facts. Worldwide, dragonflies and damselflies (also members of the odonata order) include more than 5,000 individual species. They are ancient insects and have existed on Planet Earth for approximately 300 million years. Today, they look very much like they did in "dinosaur times," though they have gotten smaller since then. The largest dragonfly fossil ever found, and also one of the earliest, had a wingspan of nearly three feet. That makes it the largest flying insect in known history.

One of the most distinguishing features of dragonflies is their eyes. They have large compound eyes with many facets or sides. Because of their multifaceted eyes, the adult dragonfly can see nearly 360 degrees around it at all times. Also, dragonflies are among the fastest insects. Some of the faster species can fly upward of 30 miles per hour. Their four wings allow them to move forward, sideways, backward, and hover in place.

So, the next time you see one of these extraordinary insects, take a moment to appreciate it for its beauty and its benefit to you. When it sits for a moment on your kayak or canoe, admire its iridescent colors and marvel at its incredible maneuvering capabilities. Then remember how it helps to control pests. Finally, check out the website www.dragonfly-site.com to read more about the dragonfly. •



(Hillhouse, Cont'd from page 7)

a cement floor. The house became brighter and infinitely more approachable. It is the consummate summer house.

Years ago, a Maine folk singer started a summer concert in our hometown with a discussion about living in Maine. He said that people who visit in the summer shouldn't even think about calling themselves Mainers. This is something the residents of the Bat House have never done. The thing we've learned about Maine is that there are few places on Earth more beautiful. As I write this, it's 7:00 a.m. I'm on the porch listening to the loons and looking out over a one by three mile mirror that is East Pond. It is simply a flawless morning. The sun's just clearing the trees over the woodlot as a crow breaks the morning silence. It's going to be another great day at Brandt's Bat House in Smithfield, Maine. Now if I could just get that moose to show up for my wife Kathy.... •

This is the first in what we hope will be a continuing series of histories from around East Pond. We hope you enjoy it. We welcome any of our readers to submit their stories for inclusion in future newsletters. They can be mailed to David Jackson, 83 Loon Lane, Smithfield, ME 04978 or e-mailed to eastpondme@gmail.com.

(Roads to Ruin, Cont'd from page 3)

Maine faces trying to prevent our "car habitat" from degrading our "aquatic habitat".

Now that we've met the enemy and discovered it is us, what are we to do about it?

COLA Recommends:

- Form a Road Association. The brand new "Guide to Forming Road Associations" from the York, Kennebec, Cumberland and Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's) will tell you everything you need to know. It is available from your local SWCD. This concise handbook comes with a companion CD containing templates for incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status as well as samples of agreements, easements and meeting notices.
http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/road_association_guide.pdf
<http://maineswcids.org/locations.htm>
- Use DEP Certified Contractors for rebuilding and maintaining your camp road. Certification involves training in erosion control and application of Best Management Practices (BMP's) and must be renewed every 2 years.
- Get a copy of the Camp Road Maintenance Manual, Kennebec County SWCD, available from DEP's regional centers: Augusta 207-287-2111; Bangor 207-941-4570; Portland 207-822-6300; Presque Isle 207-764-0477 or online at:
http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/camp/road/gravel_road_manual.pdf
- Research the services available from your local SWCD. Ask if they will be providing a 'Gravel Road Workshop' in your area. As experts in water protection, these folks can often provide free consultations.
- Be aware that in Maine as of July, 2005, chronic erosion sites in At-risk Watersheds will be illegal. This means camp roads which regularly channel runoff into At-Risk Lakes could be subject to penalty. The law, known as the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law, will apply to all Maine watersheds in July, 2010. (See "What is the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law?" at http://maineforestry.net/erosion_sed_control_law_short.htm)

Whatever changes have taken place in our world since the halcyon days when essayist EB White wrote "Once More to the Lake," we continue to share the famous writer's bias, "...from then on none of us ever thought there was any place in the world like that lake in Maine."

Let's keep it that way. •

East Pond Association

c/o Donna Dombrowski
30 Wildlife Lane
Smithfield, ME 04978

Address Service Requested

East Pond Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 21, 10 AM
Smithfield Town Office, Rte 8
Bar-b-que Lunch to Follow

The East Pond News is published yearly to provide residents and friends with the latest news. It is sent free of charge to any interested party as a service of the East Pond Association.

Comments, suggestions for articles, and photos are welcome and can be sent to the editors:

Donna Dombrowski ym30wild@tds.net
Rob Jones rjmoxie8@gmail.com

Join the East Pond Association

Membership is open to all individuals and organizations.
Send your name and address with a check to:

Dave Jackson, Treasurer, EPA,
83 Loon Lane, Smithfield, ME 04978

Individual: \$15 - Family: \$30 - Supporting: \$50
Commercial: \$76 - Benefactor: \$100

<http://www.EastPond.org>

The East Pond Association

Officers

President: Rob Jones
V. President: Edie Cornwall
Secretary: Donna Dombrowski
Treasurers: Dave Jackson

Board of Directors

Terms Expiring 2012

Donna Dombrowski
Ted Hesson
Gordon Woods

Terms Expiring 2013

Edie/Ed Cornwall
David Ducret
Melissa Evers
Michele Joly
Rob Jones
Cindy Reese
Jerry Tipper

Terms Expiring 2014

Mel Croft
David Jackson
Peter/Jane Redmond