

Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association, Inc.

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Vice President - Bill Seabourne
Treasurer- Pat Seabourne
Corresponding Secretary- Vacant Position
Recording Secretary- Judy Nielsen

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Howard Ser
Marita Tasse
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2015 Calendar

AUGUST	SATURDAY NIGHT RAFT UPS
AUGUST 16	ANNUAL MEETING AND BREAKFAST
SEPTEMBER 5	LABOR DAY WEEKEND ILLUMINATION NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 12	CANOE KAYAK POKER RUN

Board of Directors Meetings

Board meetings are open to all QQLA members and we encourage you to attend. Please check with any Board member to verify the date, time and location of the next Board meeting.

Anyone interested in serving on the QQLA Board of Directors or on a committee please contact Don Taft or any Board Member.



QQLA SPONSORS/FRIENDS

A "Friend and Sponsor" business would have a business card advertisement in the three (3) QQLA newsletters - that are sent out to 250 families around both North and South Ponds. Your business card will appear on our **WWW.QQLA.ORG** website with a direct link to your business. The cost for becoming a "Friend and Sponsor" is fifty dollars (\$50.00) for one year.

If you want to participate or have any questions please feel free to contact Don Taft, at dtaft9492@verizon.net or 508-637-1458.



Contact Us

Membership / Fundraising

Email: seapat@yahoo.com

Environmental Concerns

Email: dtaft9492@verizon.net

Newsletter

Email: dtaft9492@verizon.net

Bill or Pat Seabourne

Tel: 508-867-9074

Don Taft

Tel: 508-637-1458

Mary Lou Knight Tel:

508-637-1458



Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association, Inc.

Birdwatching on North and South Ponds

By Nancy Cormier, with contribution from Mark Lynch & Sheila Carroll

Lakes Quaboag and Quacumquasit, known to the locals as North and South Pond, contain some of the best bird watching spots throughout the seasons. The two lakes are connected and provide a diverse habitat for both songbirds and waterfowl.

Quaboag/North Pond is a 531-acre pond with an average depth of 7 feet. It is a wonderful area to search for migrating ducks. Mergansers, Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Ring-necked Ducks and Ruddy Ducks are commonly seen on the pond. Occasionally you may also see Black Scoters.

Gulls are often seen on Quaboag. Ring-billed Gulls are the most abundant but you can also see Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. If you are watching the gulls make sure to look for the rarities. Occasionally Iceland, Bonaparte's, and Lesser-black Backed Gulls have also been sighted on the pond.

Bald Eagles are a common occurrence in the area and on both ponds throughout the seasons. The eagles have nested on Quaboag a number of times over the years and the local population continues to climb. State Ornithologist Andrew Vitz states that there are eagles breeding at six bodies of water in Central Massachusetts, including one pair on Quaboag Pond.

Sometimes one only has to look up to spot an eagle and such was the case one morning while scanning the pond. There were two men fishing in a boat just off shore, while above them an Osprey was looking for a fish of its own. Unbeknownst to the men in the boat, the Osprey dove down and snatched itself a large fish, and then a Bald Eagle came along and chased the Osprey causing it to drop the fish, which the Bald Eagle quickly scooped up and carried away. Mind you this happened 3 times while the two men were watching their fishing lines in the water. They never once looked up or noticed the Osprey/Eagle fish battle going on above their heads, even with a dozen of us standing on the shore with binoculars staring at them. Sometimes you just have to look up!

Grebes and Loons can also be found on Quaboag in the spring and fall. Great Egret are occasionally seen during the summer. We have also seen an American Bittern near the parking lot.

By mid summer when the water is low and the edge has become muddy it becomes the perfect habitat for shorebirds. You can usually find Least Sandpipers and Greater Yellowlegs. While these birds are the most commonly seen, it's always wise to scan the area as you may find something unusual.

There have been some uncommon birds seen on Quaboag over the years, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Jaeger, and Sooty Tern to name a few.

Quacumquasit/South Pond is a 218-acre lake with an average depth of 32.5 feet. Quacumquasit connects to Quaboag at its northern end. Quacumquasit is an interesting area to look for ducks in the fall and winter as sections of the southern end of Quacumquasit stay open well into December and a variety of species can be found there. Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pied Billed Grebe, Cormorants, Red tailed Hawks and Osprey have been seen here. There have been rarities over the years such as a wintering Northern Pintail and a flock of Tundra Swans.

The best spot to search the pond can be found at the paved parking lot and boat launch. You can usually find shorebirds along the edges near the parking lot. In the spring you can expect to see swallows, Tree and Barn Swallows being the most abundant, but Bank, Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows have also been seen here.

There is also a Wildlife Management area near the pond and it is a good place to look for sparrows and blackbirds. During migration you can find Yellow Warbler, Towhee, Canada Goose, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler,, Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Woodcock, and Gnatcatcher to name a few.

No matter which of the Ponds you are visiting there is sure to be an abundance of wildlife, you just have to take the time to look. The named birds are the ones which are less frequently seen, but it's always a treat to see the more common ones - the Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, the dabbling Mallard ducks and the usual variety of birds - Baltimore Orioles, Cardinals, Catbirds, Rose breasted Grosbeaks, House Wrens, Carolina Wrens, flycatchers, Phoebes, Downy, Hairy and Red Bellied Woodpeckers, etc. Pileated woodpeckers are occasionally seen and heard with their loud machine gun hammering! And, of course, owls are heard hooting at night.

Nancy Cormier is one of the owners of **The Bird Store and More** in Sturbridge

Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association, Inc.

Mary Jo Sanguily 1938-2015

from Carrol Yorzyk



Mary Jo and family lived some summers and winters at the end of Lane 6 on South Pond. She and her husband Manuel bought the Ungerer property next to Jordans.

Over the years I was impressed with Jo's dedication to her Catholic faith, that held her through the growing years of her family. Her strong work ethic, retiring one month before she and Manuel moved to Florida. Her love of family and friends and the desire to help others. Jo was an end of life nurse at the Calvary Hospital in Terrytown, New York.

"Spending several months a year on South Pond, which she loved, was her plan." Jo, my best friend of 54 years died in a Florida hospital after an acute illness.

From the President

Can it be true? Are we really halfway thru summer?

Life on the lakes provides so much fun and many things to do! I'm retired, why don't I have enough time to do them all? I certainly enjoy the things that I get to do and I hope that you do also. Friends, family, neighbors cookouts, boating and fishing, it doesn't matter what the weather does - **almost!**

Between us, Mary Lou and I have owned 13 houses. We would buy one fix it up and look for another. We moved so much that my daughter said that we should name our house "For A While". That trend seems to have stopped, and I don't think that it has much to do with our age. Rather it is the fact that we have found our niche here at the lake. **We are home! ENJOY this place with us!**

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Free Safe Boating Course—Offered by SLAC

The Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee (SLAC) is offering a free safe boating course on Saturday September 19 at the Southbridge Savings Bank Community Room on Route 20 (200 Charlton Road) in Sturbridge.

The one day course starts promptly at 8:00 AM and runs until 4:30 PM. Participants should bring lunch...snacks and drinks will be provided. Advance registration is required for this course. You may register on-line at www.Mass.gov (search for safe boating course—Sturbridge).



QQLA ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 AT CAMP FRANK A. DAY

Pancake Breakfast at 10:00 AM followed by Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

Featured Speaker will be Bob McKnight.

Camp Frank A. Day counselors will provide supervised games for children during the meeting.



Quaboag Quacumquasit
Lake Association, Inc.
PO Box 370
East Brookfield, MA 01515

QQLA Boat Parade July 4, 2015



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