

Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association, Inc. April 2016



**P.O. BOX 370
EAST BROOKFIELD, MA 01515
WWW.QQLA.ORG**

Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association, Inc.

Officers

President - Don Taft
Vice President - Bill Seabourne
Treasurer- Mary Lou Knight
Corresponding Secretary- Vacant Position
Recording Secretary- Judy Nielsen

Board of Directors

Brookfield

Mary Lou Knight
Annette Lazili
Peter Levine
Beverly Lund
Don Taft

East Brookfield

Scott Peckins
Sue Sardi
Bill Seabourne
Carrol Yorzyk
Dan LaPorte
Cindy LaPorte
Randy Weiss

Sturbridge

Brian McCleary
Judy Nielsen
Skip Nielsen
Margaret Noyes
Howard Ser
Marita Tasse
Doug Vizard

2016 Calendar

MAY 7	LAKE CLEAN UP NORTH AND SOUTH PONDS
MAY 28	PICNIC AT SOUTH POND BEACH
JULY 3	BOAT PARADE
JULY/AUGUST	SATURDAY NIGHT RAFT UPS
AUGUST 21	ANNUAL MEETING BREAKFAST AT CAMP FRANK A. DAY
SEPTEMBER 3	LABOR DAY WEEKEND ILLUMINATION NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 10	CANOE KAYAK POKER RUN ON NORTH AND SOUTH PONDS

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.

Welcome Packages

If you know of a new property owner on North or South Pond please contact us and we will get them a QQLA Welcome Package.



E-mail!

Contact Us

Fundraising

Email: seabbill@yahoo.com

Environmental Concerns

Email: dtaft9492@verizon.net

Membership/Newsletter

Email: marylou_knight@yahoo.com

Bill Seabourne

Tel: 508-867-9074

Don Taft

Tel: 508-637-1458

Mary Lou Knight

Tel: 508-637-1458



Cover photo by Randy Weiss

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President's Report

From Don Taft

Here we are in early spring, waiting for summer fun and thankful for a very easy winter. It's time to get the boats ready, put the dock in, till the garden and spruce up the yard. Wow, I'm getting tired already, just thinking about it. So, clean off those grills and break out the sun screen, summer fun will soon be here!

Membership: We have several new neighbors and some new QQLA members. Please, introduce yourself to your new neighbors and make them feel welcome. We also look forward to getting together with our summer residents who will be back soon. There are 222 lakeside properties around the two ponds. As of the writing of this newsletter, QQLA has a total membership of 105 families for 2016. If you haven't sent in your membership dues its not too late.

2016 Weed Treatment Plan: QQLA has signed a contract with ESS for 2016 invasive weed treatments. The plan includes mapping each lake in the May/June timeframe, to determine the specific area needs for treatment. The actual treatments will be done in late June.

SWWTP: QQLA has signed a contract with an environmental attorney to assist with legal support for the re-permitting process for the SWWTP. We have asked him to write official notice to MA DEP and US EPA requesting a schedule for issuance of the draft and a formal request for a public hearing. Based on recent communications, it would appear that MA DEP and US EPA may be hearing and acting on some of our concerns and issues about the plant.

Coalition of Lakes and Ponds (COLAP): Will be holding their annual meeting on **May 20 & 21** at a new location in Marlboro this year. This is always a event filled with good information . If interested in attending, let us know or go onto their MACOLPA Website.

Free Safe Boating Course—Offered by SLAC: The May session is full but check the SLAC (MACOLAP) website. The next course date is June 4 and the location is Camp Frank A. Day. Go to WWW.Mass.gov to register for the safe boating course (search for safe boating course—Sturbridge).

Blue Trail: Keith Davies of Chicopee 4 River Watershed (CR4) has been working hard on and coordinating efforts for a Quaboag River Blue Trail (for canoes, kayaks and any other paddle craft). He has developed a very nice Blue Trail map and will continue with water quality monitoring again in 2016. Watch for future updates and events from Keith.

Boat Ramp and Beach Trash Barrels: Trash barrels are in place at each pond. For the first time we had the trash containers in place throughout the off season months and we will use them through the summer months.

Lake Rd Bridge and Flow Barrier: The replacement of the Lake Rd bridge and flow barrier are included on the MA DOT budget for replacement in FY19. I have been in contact with the design engineer Pare Engineering. QQLA has provided them with design information about the flow barrier and the original construction plans from Rodney Hunt Inc. I met with the engineer on Wednesday April 6th.

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Why a “Flow Barrier”

Lake Quaboag (North Pond) and Lake Quacumquasit (South Pond) are connected at the bridge on Shore Road near the South Pond Beach. Water normally flows under the bridge FROM South Pond INTO North Pond. Attached to this bridge is the “FLOW BARRIER” that was installed in 1991. This barrier is manually raised or lowered as needed to help prevent ‘Backflow’ into South Pond.

It is a quirk of the shapes and sizes of these ponds, and their associated watersheds that certain rain events cause the ‘lower’ North Pond to have its level rise higher than the level in the normally ‘upstream’ South Pond. This is due to the radical difference in the size of each watershed: South Pond watershed is about 1.8 square miles whereas North Pond’s watershed is over 76 square miles! The result of a heavy rain is for South Pond’s level to ‘crest’ quickly, +/- 12 hours after a rainfall; North Pond’s level takes +/- 50 hours to peak, at which time backflow into South Pond may result.

Backflow would not be much of a concern if it not for the water contaminants found in North (but not in South) Pond, namely Phosphorus and other chemicals, plus invasive weed species. The sources of these contaminants is a different discussion. Data developed between 1985 and 1990 plus more recent data from a Mass DEP study supports the decision to install the flow barrier. Links to this detailed data are found on our website: ‘QQLA.org’

An additional cause for concern relates to the ‘retention time’ of the water in each pond. South Pond is 225 acres, its average depth is just over 30 feet. North Pond is twice as large at 540 acres, but only 1/5th as deep (6.6 feet on average), so it actually holds considerably less water volume. The retention time of the water in North Pond is only 12 days on average. Conversely south pond’s retention time is 1.46 YEARS – 40 times longer! It therefore makes sense to prevent backflow conditions in the first place, hence the flow barrier.

QQLA volunteer members participate with the town of E. Brookfield in both monitoring flow conditions and in the operation of the barrier.

NEXT TIME: Notes on how the Flow Barrier is actually operated.

-- Randy Weiss, Don Taft & Doug Vizard

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IN MEMORIAM—Anne Mathieu

Anne Mathieu, a long-time member of QQLA and the QQLA Board of Directors passed away unexpectedly on December 30th, 2015 while visiting her son in Florida.

For those of you who never met Anne, she was a hard working, dependable, thoughtful and creative person. A definite asset to QQLA.

Anne seemed to be everywhere—helping organize QQLA's education booth at the Apple Country Fair—informing her condo community on Quaboag Street of our activities—member of the Brookfield Historical Society, Garden Club, Food Bank volunteer and helper at the Candelight Eve luminaries on Christmas Eve. The Town of Brookfield was blessed to have her participation on so many committees. Those friends will miss her as will the QQLA community.

Since the inception of the Kayak/Canoe Poker run, Anne assisted in getting participants' information together, setting up and registering paddlers, and recording poker hands on the day of the event. Bev Lund, who chairs the event, will need a capable pair of hands (or two) to fill Anne's place.

Anne was very involved with her family and they will miss her spirit in their lives.

Thank you, Anne, for your dedication to family, community and to QQLA.



A Request from Camp Frank A. Day

In an effort to bolster our program and give our campers the best summer possible, Camp Frank A. Day is seeking donations.

If anyone has any of the following equipment or materials in good shape and would like to see them put to use for the benefit of children in our camp, please contact Camp Director Zac Broomfield at Zacb@wsymca.org.

Camp Day is seeking tennis rackets, billiards equipment, badminton sets, Golf Putters, board games and puzzles, books for our library, working box fans, bookcases in good repair, end tables in good repair, terrariums, International Flags, musical instruments such as guitars or drums as well as canoe and kayaking paddles.

Our camp is always looking to put good equipment to good use! If you have any of the items listed above or something else you think might benefit the camp, please use the email above to contact Camp Director Zac Broomfield. Our campers, staff and I thank you for your support and good will!

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PHOSPHOROUS-CONTAINING FERTILIZERS ILLEGAL

Indiscriminant use of fertilizers has arguably been the single biggest contribution to the degradation of water quality in North and South Ponds. In particular, the application of phosphorous-containing fertilizers has seriously contributed to noxious weeds, algae and silt production in the entire watershed. The State of Massachusetts has recently responded with a law regulating the use of fertilizer. The law clearly distinguishes between agricultural (use on field crops) and non-agricultural (lawns) restrictions.

The new law is a clearly written 10-page document that is a must-read. Since the QQLA readership is mostly non-farm residents that might have a lawn, the following excerpts of the law apply to you.

General:

330 CMR 31.00: PLANT NUTRIENT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND AND LAND NOT USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

330 CMR 31.00 establishes limitations on the application of plant nutrients to lawns and non-agricultural turf to prevent these non-point source pollutants from entering the surface and groundwater resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These state-wide limitations on plant nutrient applications will enhance the ability of municipalities to maximize the credits provided in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. 330 CMR 31.00 further ensure that plant nutrients are applied to agricultural land in an effective manner to provide sufficient nutrients for plant growth while minimizing the impacts of the nutrients on water resources in order to protect human health and the environment. 330 CMR 31.03 and 31.04 shall not be enforced until six months after June 5, 2015 in order for the Department to provide appropriate educational and technical assistance to the agricultural operations subject to 330 CMR 31.00.

Of Particular Relevance:

31.05: Requirements for the Application of Nutrients to Land Not Used for Agricultural Purposes

(1) No person may purchase and apply, or authorize any person, by way of service contract or other arrangement, to apply any Phosphorus Containing Fertilizer on Lawn or Non-agricultural Turf, except when:

- (a) a Soil Test taken not more than three years before the application indicates that additional phosphorus is needed for growth of that Lawn or Non-agricultural Turf; or
- (b) the Phosphorus Containing Fertilizer is used to establish new Lawn or Non-agricultural Turf on bare ground or as part of renovation of a Lawn or Non-agricultural Turf area. The use of phosphorus for the purposes of establishing a new Lawn or Non-agricultural Turf area is limited to the first growing season.

Purchase Regulations:

31.08: Retailer Requirements

Any retailer who sells, or offers for sale, Phosphorus Containing Fertilizer shall:

- (a) display the product separately from non-phosphorus Plant Nutrients; and
- (b) post in a location where Phosphorus Containing Fertilizer is displayed a clearly visible sign, at least 11" x 17" in dimension, which reads as follows: "PHOSPHORUS RUNOFF POSES A THREAT TO WATER QUALITY. THEREFORE, UNDER MASSACHUSETTS LAW, PHOSPHORUS CONTAINING FERTILIZER MAY ONLY BE APPLIED TO LAWN OR NON-AGRICULTURAL TURF WHEN (I) A SOIL TEST INDICATES THAT ADDITIONAL PHOSPHORUS IS NEEDED FOR THE GROWTH OF THAT LAWN OR NON-AGRICULTURAL TURF; OR (II) IS USED FOR NEWLY ESTABLISHED LAWN OR NON-AGRICULTURAL TURF DURING THE FIRST GROWING SEASON."

Yes, It's a Real Law:

31.09: Enforcement; Assessment of Civil Penalty

(1) The Department may impose a fine on a person who violates any provision of 330 CMR 31.08 as follows:

- (a) not more than \$250 for a first violation, a penalty of not more than \$500 for a second violation, and \$1,000 for a third or subsequent violation; and
- (b) each day a violation occurs under 330 CMR 31.09 is a separate violation.

Doug Vizard, QQLA 30Mar16

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Save the Date! May 28th QQLA Spring Picnic



The 2016 annual QQLA Spring Picnic will be held at the South Pond Beach on Saturday May 28th from 11:00 AM—12:30 PM.

QQLA will supply soda, hamburgers and hot dogs. We encourage members to bring side dishes, snacks or desserts to share.

Come enjoy the spring weather and meet old and new friends and neighbors!

Cousin George's Ranch Style Beans from Bill Seabourne

Ingredients:

3 cans baked beans	.75 lb bacon
1 can black beans	2 red bell peppers
2 cans butter beans (drained)	.75 cup brown sugar
2 cans cannellini beans (drained)	.25 cup white sugar
1 can red kidney beans (drained)	.25 cup molasses
1 large Vidalia onion	.75 cup ketchup
1.5 lb ground beef (lean)	1 tsp dry mustard



Chop & sauté onion & peppers with bacon cut into .75" pieces. Mix sugars, molasses, mustard & ketchup in bowl. Put beans in crockpot with sauce. Add onions, peppers and bacon with drippings to pot. Brown ground beef, drain and add to pot. Cook for 1 hour plus on low in crockpot

Conservation Commission (ConCom) Guidelines

QQLA would like to remind lake residents that each of the three towns around the ponds have Conservation Commissions (ConCom).

All ConCom's have jurisdiction and regulations concerning activities within 50 and 100 feet around wetlands areas. If you are planning on doing any work in or around your property that is within those zones, you should check with your town ConCom to be sure that you are in compliance with their requirements.



It is better to get approval first to avoid paying a fine later.

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Save the Date! Lakes Cleanup Day—Saturday, May 7!

Crews will meet at 9:00 AM at the boat ramps at North and South Ponds. We will break up into work areas around each pond and will pick up trash and debris and leave it along the roadside for collection. The whole activity will be completed by noon.



QQLA will provide, nitrile gloves, trash bags, a limited number of safety vests, and will haul all trash to the Brookfield transfer station.

If you want to clean up around your street before Saturday let us know where you will be working and we will coordinate getting bags and pickup.

If you can not help on Saturday please feel free to pick up anytime during the week prior and we will pick up the bags on Saturday.

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Lake Association, Inc.
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QQLA Friends and Sponsors

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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 **WW.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.