

Upstream & Downstream

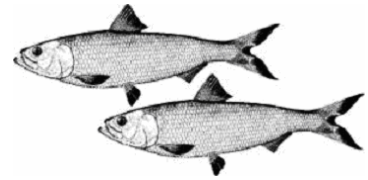
Newsletter of the Sebasticook River Watershed Association

Fall 2006



Current Projects

SRWA Assists with Alewife Migration Study



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Alewives are an important migratory fish that is native to the Sebasticook River watershed. Every spring vast schools of adult alewives navigate the ocean and the lower Kennebec River to spawn in the watershed. 2006 marked the first time in over 100 years that new fishways at the Benton Falls and Burnham dams were operational, allowing sea-run fish to freely ascend the main stem of the Sebasticook from Winslow. Prior to this year, it was necessary to trap alewives and truck them to spawning grounds.

The SRWA partnered with Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) on a pilot study designed to better understand the fish migration.

The study will measure the number of alewives migrating upstream and correlate environmental conditions to how long the migration takes to various spawning destinations. According to the counters, nearly 46,000 alewives passed the Fort Halifax Dam in Winslow and about 23,000 fish passed the Burnham dam. Abnormal high river flows due to May and June rains curtailed some of the migration, so studies will be continued in 2007. Many thanks to the SRWA members who helped on this project. If you would like more information, or are interested in volunteering for the study program next year, please contact Brandon Kulik at: Brandon.Kulik@KleinschmidtUSA.com.

SRWA Calendar

SRWA Annual Meeting ~

October 22, 2006
2:00 pm
Sebasticook Valley
Community Center -
Newport

MOFGA Common Ground Fair ~

September 22 - 24, 2006
All Day
MOFGA Fair Grounds - Unity

Water Quality Of Sebasticook Lake Is Improving

For many decades Sebasticook Lake in Newport has experienced severe algae blooms. Some of the lake restoration measures undertaken by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and others for the last three decades include the removal of two point sources discharges above the lake, application of Best Management Practices to reduce pollution that originates from runoff, and the annual drawdown of Sebasticook Lake in late summer to flush bottom sediments.

Water quality monitoring has recently indicated that the lake may finally be recovering. Secchi depth readings which measure water transparency and provide an indication of the amount of phytoplankton or floating algae in lakes showed that 2006 was the first summer in many decades that the lake has not experienced a nuisance bloom. To all of those who made this possible, thank you!

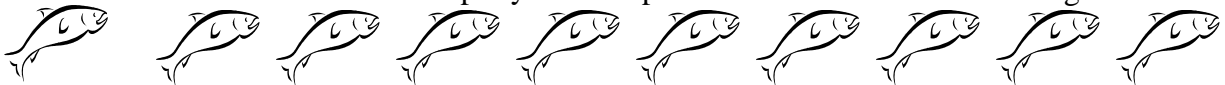
Invasive Aquatics – A Growing Concern

Migration of invasive plant species such as Eurasian milfoil from other states pose a severe threat to Maine lakes. These plants rapidly become prolific

within an affected lake to the extent where recreation activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing, are no longer enjoyable. Most of the states south of Maine have problems with these nuisance plants to some degree and there is an ongoing effort to stop the spread of these plants to Maine.

The invasion of non-native species are not limited plants, but also are an issue for insects and other invertebrates, and vertebrate species such as fish.

Please join us for our invasive species presentations at SRWA's annual meeting on Oct. 22.



The Presidents Corner More Changes for SRWA

by Paul Mitnik

It is with regret that I announce that I am planning to resign from the Board. I have been considering this difficult decision for several months and there were many considerations, including taking the time to enjoy many of the interests and hobbies I planned during retirement. I hope to continue my involvement with SRWA in the future and I plan to stay on to year's end to allow the SRWA to elect another President and allow for a smooth transition. I thank all of the members of the Board for their hard work and dedication and look forward to connecting with you in the future.

Largest SRWA Donation To Date

The SRWA Board is happy to announce that we have received a substantial cash donation from Bill and Lorna Trauth. Bill and Lorna are the long-time owners and stewards of an ecologically significant parcel on the north shore of Great Moose Lake, which has been the focus of SRWA land conservation efforts for several years. Though they recently sold a large portion of their land, the Trauths retained important shoreline acreage and undoubtedly will continue to be good stewards of this land, which is home to several rare, threatened and endangered species and exemplary habitat types. We welcome Bill and Lorna Trauth as our newest "lifetime" members!

Events

SRWA Annual Meeting October 22, 2006 at 2:00 pm Sebasticook Valley Community Center ~ Newport

The Sebasticook River Watershed Association will hold their annual meeting in 2006 on October 22 at 2:00 at the Sebasticook Valley Community Center in Newport at 81 North St. The forum for the annual meeting will be invasive species. There will be three speakers that will discuss invasive species in Maine and the Sebasticook River Watershed. SRWA member Dr David Halliwell will discuss invasive fish species. There will be someone from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to discuss invasive plant species in lakes. SRWA member Matt Scott will discuss an invasive crayfish species that has been found within the Sebasticook Watershed.

Prior to the annual meeting, there will be a field tour of a stream channel and riparian buffer restoration project of a site on the Sebasticook River near the Community Center where a dam has recently been removed. Board members of the SRWA will show interested people this site and explain our involvement in the project. If you wish to attend the field tour, please meet in the Community Center parking lot a 1:00 PM.

People who attend the annual meeting will automatically receive one ticket for a drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate from LL Bean. Additional chances for the LL Bean certificate can be purchased at the annual meeting for \$1. There will also be a silent auction of various items. The drawing for the kayak raffle will also be undertaken. Raffle tickets for the Old Town Otter kayak, paddle, and a PFD can still be purchased for

\$1 each or 6 for \$5 and will also be available at the annual meeting. Please contact Paul Mitnik at 923-3758 if you wish to purchase tickets.

There will be a discussion of SRWA activities undertaken or in progress for 2006, and volunteer opportunities to serve on our Board or various committees will be discussed. We would like to hear from our members. What would you like SRWA to be involved in? Please attend. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to your participation!

Volunteer Opportunities

Alewife Migration Monitoring

The Maine Department of Marine Resources will be monitoring the upstream progress of the run with the assistance of the SRWA during the 2007 alewife spawning season. If you would like to get involved, contact Brandon Kulik via email at info@sebasticookriver.org.

Board/Committee Members

SRWA Board of Directors is still looking for members. If you know of good candidates or would like to join, please contact Paul Mitnik, SRWA President, via email at info@sebasticookriver.org.

***For more information, check out:
www.sebasticookriver.org***

Watershed Almanac

Three of the reported five breeding sites, and approximately 60% of the nesting population, for the endangered Black Tern are located within the Sebasticook River watershed: Carlton Pond (Troy), Douglas Pond (Palmyra), Great Moose Lake (Harmony section).



Sebasticook
River
Watershed
Association

First-class
Postage
Required

Sebasticook River Watershed Association
PO Box 486
Unity, Maine 04988-0486

Dedicated to the Stewardship of the Sebasticook River Watershed

Membership Application:

- Student/Senior Citizen - \$5/yr.
- Individual - \$10/yr.
- Family - \$15/yr.*
- Business - \$50/yr.*
- Lifetime (Individual) - \$200
- Lifetime (Family) - \$300*

*I would like to contribute an
additional \$_____*

Please make checks payable to the
**Sebasticook River
Watershed Association**
and mail to the address below.

Sebasticook River
Watershed Association
P.O. Box 486
Unity, Maine
04988-0486

Check out our New Web Page!
www.sebasticookriver.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

*If you would like to vote at our annual
meetings, please provide the name of a
representative for your business or
family: _____

If you are interested in volunteering for any
of our Committees, please indicate below:

- Conservation Committee
- Education and Special Events
- Fundraising and Membership
- Outreach Committee

All contributions are tax deductible under IRS
501 (c) (3) guidelines. We welcome inquiries
about donations of goods, services and land.