



# Allen Pond Improvement Association

## Newsletter

Fall 2011

- **Message from the APIA President** - The APIA wants to thank all of our members for their support in 2011 and all that attended our annual meeting in July. We had a good meeting with one of the best attendance ever. As I mentioned in the past, an Association is only as good as its members so without you the APIA is nothing. If you and your family own property on Allen Pond or if you are interested in protecting this beautiful natural resource in Greene, please help us and get involved. We need each and everyone to become more involved. If you are not a current member, please fill out the attached form and pay your dues for starters. If you have extra time and would like to become more involved, please let us know.
- The APIA is committed to making our community a wonderful, friendly, and safe neighborhood. We all need to help; the APIA cannot do this without each and everyone one of you. Be considerate of your neighbors and help everyone on Allen Pond find peace and tranquility at their homes and camps. Please help us make Allen Pond a better place. Summer was awesome and we hope you all enjoyed Allen Pond, your homes or camps with your family and friends. Allen Pond is a wonderful place to be and with your help, we can even make it even better.
- Scott Williams, Aquatic Biologist completed a baseline test of Allen Pond in August 2011. A report on the results per Scott will be sent to the APIA in early spring. Results will be available to members as soon as we receive them.
- Ideas, the APIA is always open to new ideas to improve what we do to make things better for our neighbors. Please send your ideas to the APIA in writing. All good ideas will be brought up at the next annual meeting.
- [www.allenpond.com](http://www.allenpond.com) Please visit our website - Brett Bisesti, APIA Treasurer, Allen Pond property owner and a student at Bentley University, is doing a great job keeping it up to date. Brett and the APIA are open to good ideas to improve our website. The APIA looks forward to your input. If you see Brett please thank him for his help on our website.
- Don't forget to enter your photos on the 2011-2012 Photo Contest. See the attached for details.
- Maine Boating and Safety Manuals are available at the Town Office or you can call me or anyone on the APIA list on page 5 and we will see you get a copy ASAP. Playing it safe will keep your family and friends safe and insure problem free fun. Please know the laws, wear the life jackets, and think safe at all times. Please make sure your visitors know the laws by sharing the Maine Boating and Safety Manuals with them. Knowing the laws will help you enjoy all Maine waters. Thank you in advance for being responsible. Watch for the 2012 Spring Adult Ed planned "Boating Safety" courses at Leavitt in Turner.
- Please stay safe this winter and do not venture out on thin ice. Snowmobiling on Maine's rivers and lakes can be very dangerous so please play it safe. Please see enclosed safety tips.
- The APIA is wishing you and your family Happy Holidays.
- By Suzanne Rousseau

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## 2011 APIA Photo Contest

- Photos must be scenic and taken on or from Allen Pond.
- Please put name, address, Tel#, date and location on back of photo
- Photo must be taken between July 17, 2011 and June 17, 2012
- Photo Size 3X5 or 4X6
- No pictures of individual where you can see their faces will be accepted
- Picture of animals, eagles, loons, sunset or sunrise will be great
- Must be a member in good standing to be eligible for prizes
- Four photos per member only one winning photo per member
- Photos must be post marked on or before June 17, 2012
- Any photo received after this date will not be accepted.
- Winning photos will be added to our website and may be used in future Newsletters and/or promotional
- Photos will not be returned
- Contest open to amateur photographers only
- Members will vote and pick the winning photos from the photos submitted and posted at the 2012 Annual Meeting
- Please join in the fun and let's take some beautiful pictures of our beautiful neighborhood...

### Prizes

- 1st Place – \$100.00 & 4 – Grocery Bags
- 2nd Place – \$ 50.00 & 4 – Grocery Bags
- 3rd Place – \$ 25.00 & 4 - Grocery Bags

### Send Photos to:

APIA,  
PO Box 6,  
Greene, ME 04236

Photos must be received by: June 17, 2012



## Snowmobile Safety Tips:

### Snowmobile Safety Tips by Robin Healey

- Ride Sober** - A high percentage of snowmobile fatalities and injuries are the direct result of someone's irresponsible use of alcohol. Don't drink and ride. Don't let anyone else in your group drink and ride.
- Be Aware Of Conditions** - Early season ice conditions remain questionable. Snowfall can insulate thin ice and slow the freezing process. Snow levels may vary on the trails. Objects may be covered or barely hidden. Ride accordingly.
- Stay off roads and on trails** - Early in the season, it is tempting to ride on roadways. Don't do it. It is illegal and it puts both snowmobilers and automobile drivers in danger.
- Ride At A Reasonable Speed** - Speed limits are determined by existing conditions. If you can't control your sled safely at the speed you are going, you are going too fast. You are not only threatening your safety, but the safety of others around you. Slow down.
- Use Hand Signals** - The use of a simple set of hand signals on the trails keeps traffic orderly and predictable. These signals inform other sledders of your actions. Know them and use them.
- Ride Defensively** - You can do everything right, but still encounter a rider who is doing everything wrong. By riding defensively, you will be prepared to respond and avoid a dangerous situation.
- Ride to the Right** - Just like driving a car. It is required by law that a snowmobiler operate to the right of center on the trail when approaching or navigating a curve, corner, grade or hill. Stay to the right, even on straight-aways
- Take a Friend** Don't snowmobile alone. Not only is snowmobiling more fun with family and friends, it's safer too!
- File A Plan** Airplane pilots and boaters file flight and float plans, respectively, so that others know where to look if they're overdue. "Snow plans" describing your machine and your planned route can be time- and life-savers. Leave only with your family or friends. Like those who file travel plans, always let your family and friends know you're back or have arrived at your destination. No one likes needless searches.
- A Good Turn** Other snowmobilers and car drivers need to know what you're up to. Remember the basic hand signals:
  - Left Turn:** left arm extended straight out
  - Right Turn:** left arm out, forearm raised, with elbow at 90-degree angle
  - Stop:** left arm raised straight up
  - Slow:** left arm out and angled toward ground





## Bottle Drives

If you have bottles and cans to donate and would like them picked up please call anyone of the APIA Officers or Ward Directors and we will arrange to pick them up at a suitable time.

You can also drop them at Green Horn Bottle Redemption on Rte 106 in Leeds and have them put your donation on the APIA account.

Bottle donations can also be made at the annual meeting in July.

We appreciate all donations.

Thank you for your support

## APIA Grocery Bag Sale

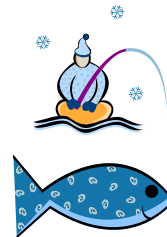
We have plenty of our grocery bags left for Sale. **“Special Price of \$2.50 per bag”** while they last. In the news, we will start having to pay for grocery bags every week at all grocery stores soon. Help eliminate plastic and paper bags from our landfill and buy recycled, reusable, and durable grocery bags. Remember they make an awesome

Christmas Gift for family and friends.

To get yours please call any Officer or Ward Director and they will be happy to help you or you can call Sue at 946-5390 or Monita 946-3800.



- **ICE FISHING TIPS AND TIDBITS** by Monita Gagnon
- Last week I was asked by a friend about ice fishing I've been a resident of Maine all my life and grew up seeing this activity being done every winter, so it was surprising to run into someone who didn't know anything about this amazing winter pastime. Here are some of the things that I shared with him.
- Ice fishing is taking fresh water fish during the ice fishing season through man made openings in the ice by the use of ice fishing implements such as traps, jig sticks, rod in hand or hand lines. An ice shack may also be used to offer the comfort of warmth and protection from the cold winter wind and elements. There are various things that can be used to catch fish; a few of these being worms, lures and small bait fish. Children over 16 and adults need fishing licenses in order to ice fish. These can be purchased on line or at your local town office as well as at some bait shops.
- In Androscoggin County the ice fishing season begins on December 1st, and lasts until April 30th. Dates vary in some locations and for some game fish, so be sure you check your rule book. These may be obtained at your town office. Before anybody ventures out onto any lake or pond it must be determined that the ice is thick enough to hold a person's weight safely. You should check the ice by using an ice chisel or ice auger. You could also check with your local bait shop about known thin ice areas on the lake or pond you are planning to fish on.
- The following is a good guide to follow before going out onto the ice:
- **General Ice Thickness Guidelines - For New, Clear Ice Only:**
- 2" or less - **STAY OFF**
- 4" May allow ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5" often allows for Snowmobile or ATV travel
- 8" - 12" of good ice will support most cars or small pickups
- 12" - 15" will likely hold a Medium sized truck.
- Remember that these thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe. A fun fishing trip could end in tragedy so be sure and be safe.
- When ice fishing at Allen Pond, you could catch a variety of fish. These include, but are not limited to brown trout, brook trout, rainbow smelt, small and large mouth bass, yellow perch, chain pickerel, minnows, golden shiners, white suckers, hornpout, sunfish, banded killifish and American eel.
- Why not try it this winter with your family and friends. It is a great way to spend a nice weekend and you will love the excitement of catching a "big" one. And don't forget to bring your camera to capture the moment.



- **Why you need to support the APIA by paying your annual dues**
- APIA is required by law to stay financially sound to maintain funds to make any necessary repairs to the Dam **at all times**.
- Pay for water quality testing done every 3 to 5 years and annual clarity testing done by Katie and Jim.
- To keep you notified, paying for stamps, paper, and other supplies needed to operate our association and inform our members of all important issues
- Postings and newsletter cost.
- Pay for state filings charges
- PO Box cost etc.
- Donation to COLA and other organizations that support lake association in Maine.
- To support fundraising programs
- Giving back to members through things like a Photo contest etc.
- Have necessary funds needed to qualify for matching funds on future grants once moneys become available again to the APIA.
- **Important facts to remember** - we are a volunteer association and no one is paid. If you can not volunteer please at least support the APIA with your \$10.00 per person per year dues. A lot of work goes on all year to do the APIA business and to keep you informed. By paying your annual dues, you will be providing helpful support to the APIA. Your support is very important and needed. Please help us protect Allen Pond.
- **From the 2008 By-laws (Purpose)**
- **The purposes of said association shall be (1) to oversee the needs of the Dam on Allen Pond. (2) To assume responsibility for the overall well-being of Allen Pond with particular emphasis on its ecological health and esthetic values, and (3) to encourage and support safe water activities and to preserve, enhance and protect the advantages of Allen Pond and its environment.**

### **Dam Report:**

- Thank you to the Dam Committee Chairman and all the volunteers that worked on their scheduled weeks to keep the Fish Gate clean and free of debris. This has been very helpful and appears to be working out great. What an awesome TEAM. Great Job everyone.
- Water levels were good this summer per Bob Beckey, Dam Keeper and Frank Hogan, Dam Committee Chairman. The Dam gate seal leak made it difficult to maintain constant water levels in dry times. A repair to the seal on the dam is scheduled to be done in the next few weeks. An attempt to repair a small leak on the back side of the dam is also scheduled. Water levels will drawdown to lower than normal levels to make the repairs. This is a good time to clean your shore lines. Once the repairs are complete, the Dam gate will be closed to return the Pond to the appropriate water level.

**A Bit of History on the Allen Pond Dam** - Before the 1800's the first shingles sawed in Maine were made at the shingle mill put up by Willard Bridgham on the old Beriah Sampson Privilege at the outlet of Allen pond. In the later 1800's under the Bridgham Mill Privilege they were deeded the rights to draw water from Allen Pond to thresh grain and grind apples in their season. APIA does not have a copy of the earlier deed dated before 1886 when the dam and parcel of land was owned by Manson Rose – May 12th 1886 Roto Swain purchased the dam and land from Manson Rose for \$150 – November 24, 1923 the dam and land was conveyed to Alton Thomas for \$1.00 and other valuable considerations - October 28, 1930 it was conveyed to Central Maine Securities Corp and then conveyed to CMP on July 31, 1935 - The Allen Pond Dam was purchased by the APIA for \$1.00 and other valuable considerations on Dec 19th 1961 from CMP. Based on current documents dated 1886 in hand the dam is well over 125 years old. By Suzanne Rousseau

# Allen Pond Improvement Association Newsletter

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## News:

- \*July 4th, 2012 Summer Activities-Contact Frank Hogan at 754-4641
- \*Baseline Water Quality monitoring report by Scott Williams results will be ready this spring.
- \*Boat Safety Course will be offered through MSAD#52 Adult Ed. Watch for the flyer coming this spring.
- \*For those wishing to help others in need, donate to your local non-profit organizations. Women's Club of Greene 946-5750 or Greene Baptist Church Food Pantry 946-5505. Donations of all kinds needed. (cash, gift cards, clothing, food, etc)
- \*Check out the APIA website at [www.allenpond.com](http://www.allenpond.com)
- \*Have a safe, healthy and happy winter

## JOIN THE ASSOCIATION AND HELP PROTECT THE POND!

### Officers

President: Suzanne Rousseau 946-5390  
Vice Pres: Robin Healey 946-7600  
Treasurer: Brett Bisesti 212-7690  
Secretary: Monita Gagnon 946-3800

Dam Keeper: Bob Beckey 946-5073  
Dam Chairperson: Frank Hogan 754-4641

### Ward Directors:

Ward 1 Frank Hogan 754-4641  
Ward 2 Linda Liberty 577-0187  
Ward 3 Dave Iannotti 946-7208  
Ward 4 Carol Buzzell 946-7746  
Ward 5 Mark Randall 946-5108

### Newsletter Committee:

Carol Buzzell, Newsletter Editor  
Suzanne Rousseau, Monita Gagnon & Robin Healey

## Allen Pond Improvement Association

Send check payable to: **APIA - PO Box 6 - Greene Maine, 04236**



Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Clearly

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Clearly

*Annual Dues Form - \$10.00 per member*

*Additional Donations are Appreciated*