

Flying Pond Improvement Association

VOL 1 NO 3

Celebrating Sixty Years of Protecting Our Lake

SUMMER 2020

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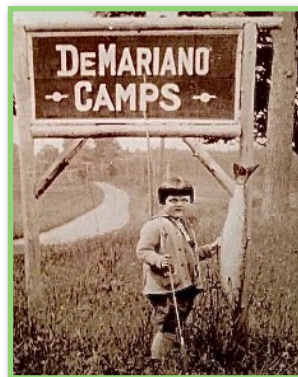


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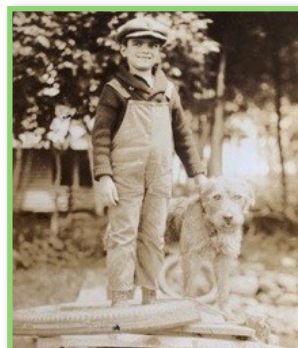


'Color Photo on a Black and White Day' —cover photo by Kate Schwab

The History of DeMariano Road —by Nancy Hemphill



"Dee" DeMariano, Pat's daughter approx. 1923



Ed DeMariano, Pat's son approx. 1923

Those of us who live on DeMariano Road in Mt. Vernon frequently encounter confusion about the name of the road and how to spell it. Often, we add "Fire Road V-3" so a delivery driver can find it. Here is the story of how this idyllic camp road came to be.

Brothers Theodoro ("Ted") Gabriello DeMariano and Pasquale ("Pat") Gabriello DeMariano emigrated from Italy to Boston in 1913; the boys were 19 and 15 at the time. Over time both brothers became cooks, and Pat eventually became chef at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Rooftop Restaurant.

After service in the US Army during WWI, Pat returned to Boston to be near his brother Ted. Eventually, they had money in the bank; and they were ready to leave the big city.

A newspaper ad listing a farm for sale in Mt Vernon, Maine caught Pat's eye. The property included a circa-1850 farmhouse on —cont. pg. 3

FPIA Annual Meeting

Due to Covid-19, the Annual Meeting had to be held a bit differently this year. It was conducted both in-person (at the Vienna Fire Department/Community Center parking area and lawn) and via ZOOM. About 20 people attended in person, and another 12 online. The minutes can be viewed on the FPIA website. Here are some of the highlights:

WATER QUALITY

The overall water quality and the clarity is particularly good, with visibility of between 16.4 and 22 feet, reports Brian Canwell, the FPIA Board member who tests the lake monthly. His full report is posted on the website.



'Quiet Cove' —photo by Nancy Hemphill

THE DAM

Our dam is currently in good shape, says Dean Sciaraffa, FPIA Board member who oversees the periodic inspection of dam. Other nearby lakes aren't so fortunate: the dam on Torsey Pond needs repair, and the Wings Mill dam that contains Long Pond is being rebuilt. We are working to build our "dam fund" so that we are better prepared when the inevitable need arises.

FINANCES

There is about \$26,000 in the "dam fund" and about \$7,700 in the checking account. Members are asked to pay their dues (increased to \$60 per year) and to add their email addresses. Information regarding dues and online payments are now available on our website. Please reach out to your neighbors, asking them to join too.

FISHING REPORT

Fishing Czar and FPIA Board member Gary Courtelyou reports that the fishing is great, especially for bass, and because of the good water quality, the State continues to stock the pond with salmon, brown trout and brook trout. For example, the Department of Inland Fisheries added 200, ten-inch brook trout on April 14. A schedule of the stocking may be found at: https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/current_stocking_report.pdf

INVASIVE PLANT PATROL

Debbie Roe and other volunteers continue their important work to check our lake for invasive weeds. Here are Debbie Roe and Meryl Araps on August 7, looking for bad plants and great news, they did not see any. Their gear was paid for by FPIA members.



Deb Roe and Meryl Araps inspecting the plants

Please contact Debbie at 908.910.3688 if:

- You see a troublesome plant, note its location and report it.
- You would like to find out more about joining the Invasive Plant Patrol.

The History of DeMariano Road *continued*

Pond Road (now Rt. 41), a barn, eight or nine “fish camps” on the lake, and almost the entire Flying Pond peninsula, up to the Vienna Town line - about 1.5 miles off shore frontage.

Pat and Ted hopped on the Boston & Maine Railroad immediately. Disembarking at Readfield Depot, they walked 11 miles on dirt roads to see the farm. On May 5, 1921, they bought the place for \$1,900.

Local artist Klir A. Beck helped the brothers enlarge the farmhouse by raising the roof. Beck also added artistic touches to the fish camps, which bore names such as “Seminole”, “Rest Haven”, “Whispering Pines” and “Lookout”.

Guests staying at the DeMariano Fish Camps would be provided with a picnic lunch, but would gather together for dinner at the main house. In the 1950s, a tearoom was added to the hotel and it was renamed “Sundial Manor”.

In the mid-1960s, Ted DeMariano was persuaded to sell most of the property. His nephew Edward, who had spent his childhood summers on the lake with his parents, bought a lot on the Southernmost edge of the property and built a home for his family there. The lakefront sites sold quickly, and the camp road became known as DeMariano Road. Today there are 34 homes on the road, including all of the original fish camps, although many have been modified.

Many thanks to Elaine DeMariano Smerlas and Elaine Dillof for this story and photos.



The original Farmhouse on Hwy 41



1950's the Farmhouse became The Sundial Manor



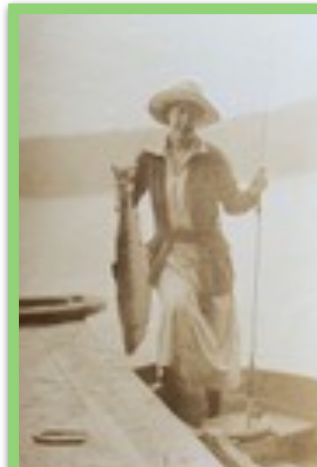
The original Sundial Tea Room sign



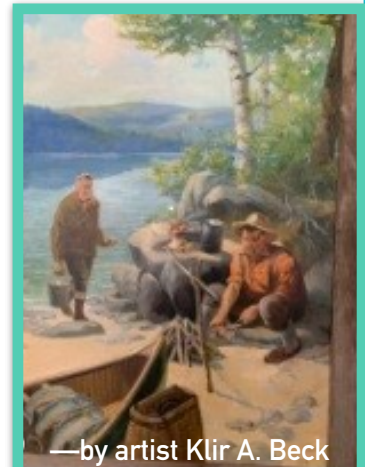
Original Hwy 41 sign



Cooking something good!



The catch of the day!

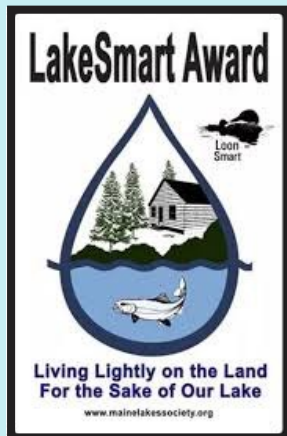


—by artist Klir A. Beck

Painting of Uncle Ted & Ed

LakeSmart Program

30 Mile is a regional coordinator of LakeSmart, a statewide program led by the Maine Lakes Society. This education and reward program helps lakefront homeowners manage their properties in ways that are lake-friendly and protect water quality. The program is free, non-regulatory, and voluntary.



HOW DOES IT WORK ?

First, a homeowner requests a free site visit. Trained volunteers then perform a property assessment to help homeowners understand what is working well and what could be improved. Homeowners receive individualized suggestions for keeping pollutants in stormwater and septic systems out of lake waters. Sites that score well earn the coveted LakeSmart Award and distinctive signs that can be posted at the waterfront and driveway, identifying the homes of good stewards and illustrating what lake-friendly living looks like.

30 Mile currently works with volunteer teams on Androscoggin Lake, David Pond, Lovejoy Pond and Parker Pond. We hope to soon have teams that cover every lake and pond in our watershed, including Flying Pond.

We need volunteers to bring this program to Flying Pond! To learn more, please contact 30 Mile's Executive Director, Lidie Robbins at lidie@30mileriver.org.

To learn more about the statewide program, visit www.lakes.me/lakesmart.

The Loon Count

A nesting pair on Peanut Island produced two eggs. Both hatched, but one chick disappeared quite shortly after birth. The second chick is alive and well and currently the size of a duck. The official Loon Count on July 18 noted seven adult loons and one chick. If you would like to participate in the annual loon count in 2021 feel free to contact Alice Olson: aolson815@gmail.com



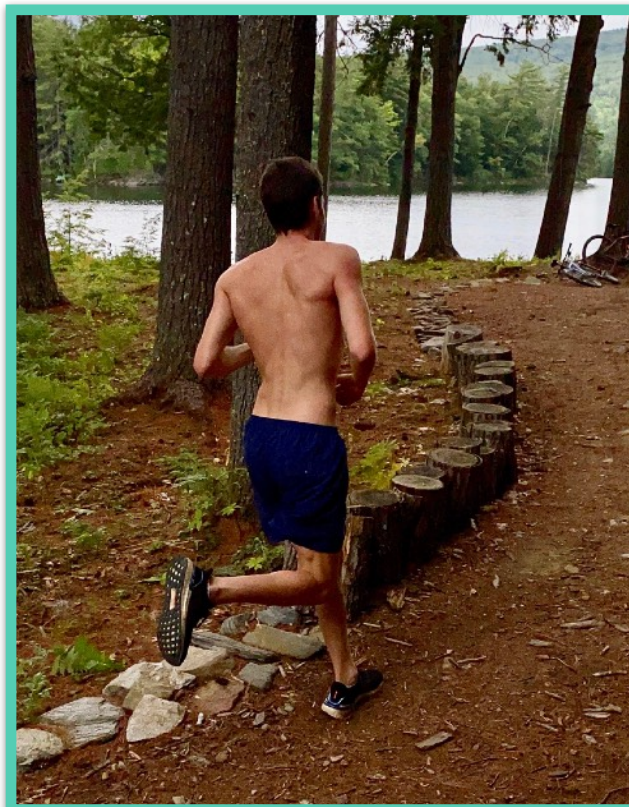
'With Baby... One Morning in Maine' —photo by Diane Araps

Second Annual 'Flying Man Triathlon' Story by Whitney Hetzel

The Hetzel family held their second annual "Flying Man Triathlon" this summer! The race consists of a swim around Big Island, a round trip bike from the lake to the top of Klirbeck Road, a run up Abbott trail and back to the house. John Hetzel posted the fastest time of 50:39 for the event which makes him the reigning champ both years - timing better than three older brothers, an older sister and myself!

There is also a "Flying Half" - a shorter distance which a few of the younger kids, guests and cousins completed this summer. The Flying Half involves a swim between the two peninsulas, followed by both a bike and a run round trip from the lake to the end of Vienna Shores Road.

With all the hilly roads/trails for biking/running and a beautifully calm lake for early morning swims, Flying Pond is a great place to train *and* race! If anyone is interested in trying out their tri-skills for a stab at the Flying Pond Triathlon, let the Hetzels know for summer 2021!



John Hetzel finishing the race

Flying Pond Road Sign Receives A Facelift

Special thanks to all who made this happen: Todd and Nancy Hemphill, Len and Debbie Roe, Paul Crockett, Becky Regan, Bonnie Hemphill and Aaron Paul.



30MRWA Courtesy boat inspector "before" photo 7/17/20



"After" photo, 7/29/2020

Neowise Over Flying Pond

Perspective by *Kyle Schwab*

I have been to many different places; I have seen many wild things. I have captivating stories from various different experiences. I have been to 13 US states and 3 countries. I have been on adventures both big and small. What I haven't seen is something more beautiful than a summer night sky in Mount Vernon Maine. Someone like me who is from New Jersey doesn't get to see stunning stars every night. To paint a picture, when I look at the sky from my back porch in NJ, I see dull, featureless scattered stars. They are so dull because of the bright lights that shut them out from major cities like New York and Philadelphia.

When I am in Maine standing on my dock out on the water on a clear night and look up, *I am amazed*. The stars twinkle like you wouldn't believe; it feels as if I am closer to them than I was in Jersey. The stars seem like they have multiplied and are all clustered together making them flicker. You can see all the different constellations, and if you are lucky you can even spot passing satellites or shooting stars. This summer I had the opportunity to bring some of my college friends to our lake cabin. It is important to note that none of them have ever been to Maine before. When I took them out on the dock at night they were in awe. They couldn't believe this is what the stars should look like when you look up at them. They were so fascinated by them that after looking up for so long their necks began to cramp.



Comet Neowise —photo from free images

While we were there for the week, we had the privilege to see comet Neowise. We were especially lucky to view it from Flying Pond as it was so bright and unmistakable. Comet Neowise looks like a beaming star that has a narrow tail treading behind it. The interesting thing about this comet is its orbital period is every 6,766 years. My friends were in absolute shock between the stars, shooting stars, passing satellites and comet Neowise. They felt honored to witness this all happen right above us because most people may never have the opportunity. After seeing their reactions, I began to appreciate the night sky even more because I am one of the lucky ones who is able to see the stars from Mount Vernon every summer. Unfortunately talking about the summer night sky in Maine doesn't give it justice. You can't capture the stars beauty in a picture or a drawing. You can only understand what I am talking about if, and only if you see it for yourself. *Sincerely, A Jersey Boy*



FPIA Postcards Have Been Delivered

Did you receive a postcard of a Flying Pond sunrise recently? It was designed by Diane Araps, who volunteered to create the postcard to further inform our lake area residents about the FPIA and its purpose. If you did not receive a postcard, it can be downloaded from fpia.weebly.com. You can check out Diane's work at artillusstudio.com.

Thanks to all volunteers for helping to deliver postcards!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AROUND THE POND

4th of July Lake Parade

Each year boats decorated with flags and bunting, gather on the East side of Big Island mid morning. Once organized, the festive red, white and blue flotilla tootles around the perimeter of the lake. This year was no different as participants and onlookers enjoyed the parade — it was a big success!



'Boat Parade' —photo by Nancy Hemphill

Engagement on Flying Pond

The August sky was perfect and so was the distant hiding place around the bend with a camera and a zoom lens for this romantic shot of Peter Hetzel proposing to his now-fiance, Brecken Ingram! Congratulations to the happy couple!



The August sky was perfect and so was the distant hiding place around the bend with a camera and a zoom lens for this romantic shot of Peter Hetzel proposing to his now-fiance, Brecken Ingram! Congratulations to the happy couple!

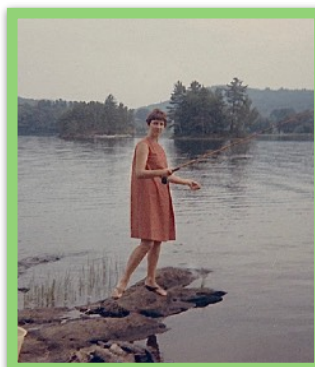


'She Said Yes' —photos by Anne Hetzel

Sixty Year Anniversary

Meryl and Lee Araps celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past June. Of these sixty years, fifty-five were spent vacationing on Flying Pond! From 1965-1971 they enjoyed summer visits on the Mt. Vernon side of the lake at Robertson's point and fell in love with this little mountain lake. In 1972 they built their own camp on Vienna Shores and have spent many memorable summers since.

Happy Anniversary to *Merylee!*

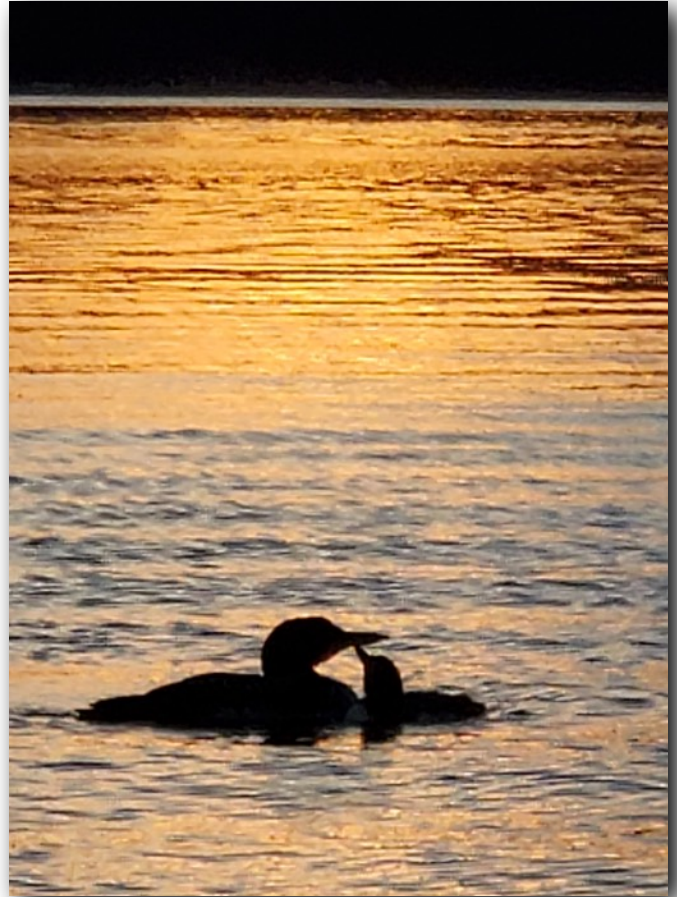


'1965 Merylee on Flying Pond' —photos by the Robertsons

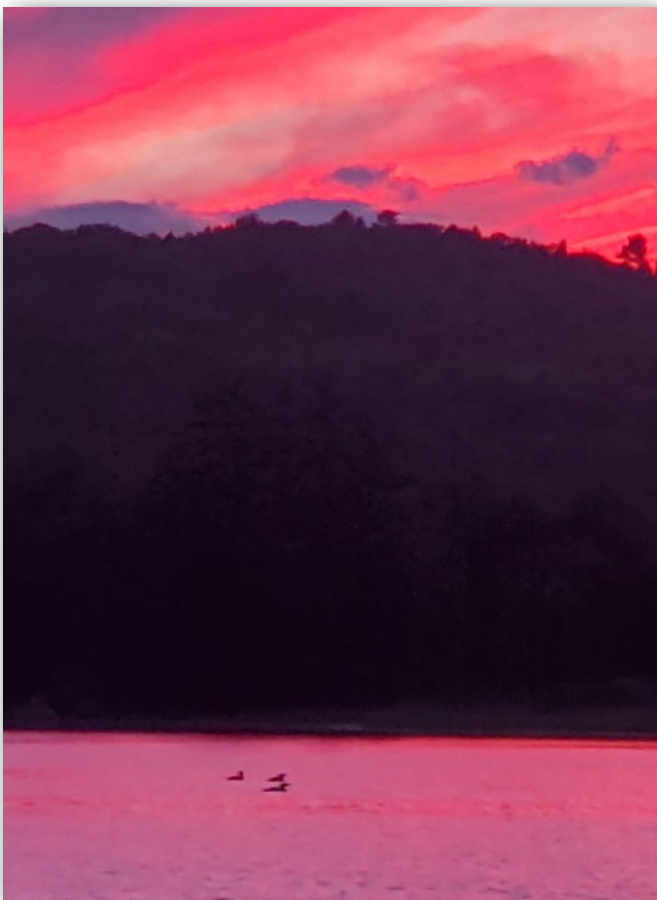
PHOTO GALLERY - SUMMER 2020



'Bald Eagle' —by Nancy Turner



'Mom Feeding Baby' —by Nancy Turner



'Loons at Sunset' —by Nancy Turner



'Storm's A Coming' —by Nancy Hemphill

Thanks to all our contributors for fantastic material in this edition!

If you have a story, a photo, an announcement or something interesting for the 2020 fall edition please contact Nancy Hemphill via email: nancy.h.hemphill@gmail.com.