Flying Pond Improvement Association

VOL 2 NO 3

Celebrating Sixty-One Years of Protecting Our Lake

SPRING 2021

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'Daffodils' – Photo by Claudia Gifford

Houseboat Use On Maine Lakes Feature story by - Todd Hempbill



In recent years, the use of houseboats on Maine streams, lakes and ponds has increased. In a 2019 Kennebec Journal article <u>centralmaine.com/2019/02/20/belgradeto-look-at-drafting-a-house-boat-ordinance</u>, a spokesman for the Maine Municipal Association was quoted as saying that houseboats mooring on lakes is a trend in the South that is starting to be seen in Maine.

Maine boating laws require that all boat moorings on inland waterways must be

within 200 feet of shore. Maine also prohibits the discharge from watercraft of waste into the inland waters of the State and require houseboats to include permanent waste disposal systems. But otherwise, most regulation of the operation and mooring of boats on streams, lakes and ponds is controlled by the local municipalities in which a body of water lies. In response to property owner complaints about the increase in houseboat owners mooring overnight in front of their homes, area municipalities are beginning to address this issue. Most recently, after two years of discussion, the Town of Belgrade enacted a Mooring Regulations Ordinance on March 21, 2021, which included a prohibition on the overnight mooring of houseboats on its streams and great ponds (defined as having over 10 acres of surface area), which would include Great Pond and Long Pond. See <u>townofbelgrade.com/moorings/ordinance</u>.

FPIA President's Message — Greetings from the Pond!

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As a year-round Mount Vernon resident, I can report that we had a mild winter this year. We did, however, have a short but vicious mud season. So, do not be surprised if your camp road needs a bit more gravel this year!

We have held off on the spring letter/dues reminder pending the ever-changing Covid-19 gathering guidelines. Last year's annual meeting worked out well with both the outside in-person and Zoom options. For this year, I have reserved BOTH the Mount Vernon Community Center and the Vienna Community Room. Both places now have Internet for doing Zoom and depending on the inside gathering rules by July, we may opt for the larger space of the Mt Vernon Community Center for the meeting on July 10th at 6:30PM and on Zoom.

Please stay tuned for the final determination of meeting location and mark your calendars for the time. We will get a local posting out and will post the Zoom link on the FPIA website, which is at <u>fpia.weebly.com</u>. It will be emailed to you, too.

Speaking of dues, I would like to remind folks that the current \$60 annual dues is for our 2021 fiscal year which began on 7/1/20 and ends 6/30/21. Many of you have already made your annual donation and we very much appreciate that! I am not anticipating changing the dues, but that is not officially set until the 2021 annual meeting. We have been accepting dues and additional charitable donations via our PayPal account since we last met. While there is a small transaction fee for the FPIA, we know our members are enjoying the ease of use in making your donations. Cindy Ripley, who manages the web-stuff added a convenient checkbox to help you help us cover the transaction fee – thanks Cindy! You will find that PayPal link on the website as well.

of dam condition, water quality, invasive plant patrol, fishing, election of a few board members and the officers' reports. On behalf of the FPIA board, I want to let everyone know that we have asked 30 Mile River Watershed Association to take the lead for us on the water quality monitoring. We have been impressed with their consistency in sampling and reporting of the data via easily accessible web sites.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual FPIA meeting on July 10th 6:30 PM. Dues are tax-deductible and, feel free to donate more than the \$60 dues as we are building a dam improvement fund for the future. One final note about the time of the annual meeting. Some folks have suggested that we have a daytime meeting. We may consider that for next year and welcome your feedback on that idea. Send us comments via the website. Also, we are mostly using Email and the website to communicate with members now. So, please let us know your Email address if it has changed or you have not yet shared that. I promise we will not sell, rent or otherwise abuse that information.

I want to remind folks that there are opportunities to help keep our pond beautiful by volunteering for courtesy boat inspections, taking the water quality testers out to the sample points, etc. We will also continue to focus on the annual lake survey for invasive species of plants. Incidentally, invasive milfoil has now been found in our chain of lakes on Androscoggin (downstream). Again, our website is at <u>fpia.weebly.com</u> and_the 30 Mile River Watershed Association website at <u>30mileriver.org</u>.

Paul Crockett — President, FPIA *PS. The tick population is insane this year!!!!!*

This year's meeting will have the standard agenda items

The FPIA board would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest FPIA members. Thank you & we look forward to meeting all of you. An additional thanks goes out to our faithful "longer term" members as it has been an unusual & difficult year. We appreciate your continued support!

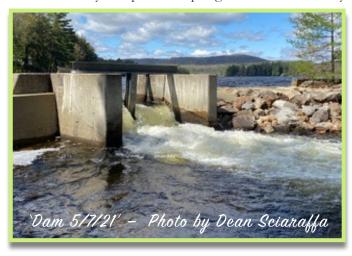
Annual Dues for 2020-2021 Return with your check to: FPIA, PO Box 143 Mount Vernon, ME 04352		
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2385	Address:	
前法职	Email Address:	
FPIA	Check box to receive next year's notice via Email	FPIA
Web Site	Amount: \$ (\$60 dues + any additional tax deductible donation)	Pay Online

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Flying Pond Dam Report

By — Dean Sciaraffa, FPLA Board member and dam expert

After the ice goes out of the lake in the spring, I always do a thorough inspection of the dam. There is a brief period of time that I hold my breath until I confirm there aren't any whirlpools on the upstream side of the dam that would indicate water leaking under the dam. It is the same feeling I have when I turn the water on at my camp in the spring and I listen for any



Houseboat Use On Maine Lakes continued

This issue has arisen at least once on Flying Pond. In September 2020, Pincushion Island on the north end of the Pond (in what is known to many as Ministers' Cove) was for sale. The Town of Vienna's Planning Board received an inquiry from a prospective buyer as to whether they could moor a houseboat next to the island for overnight use if they bought the property. An existing landowner on the lake expressed concerns to the Planning Board about this request, citing the potential environmental impact and increased traffic to and from the island. However, because Vienna has no ordinance regulating the mooring of houseboats, she was told that her only options were to (1) request that the Town enact such an ordinance, or (2) buy the property. She ultimately chose the latter course, resolving the issue for now.

As a practical matter, the mooring of a houseboat on Flying Pond may be unlikely regardless of whether or not there is a local ordinance? The public landing may be too steep to load a houseboat onto the pond. Further, there is no marina on Flying Pond with a pump-out station to remove houseboat sewage, making water that may be leaking from the pipes. Many of you may know the experience.

I am happy to report there are not any leaks at the dam and the emergency repairs we completed in 2015 are performing as expected. The physical condition of our dam is excellent. That is to say, the parts of the dam we can see are in great shape. As I have said to all of you many times, the underground parts of the dam that we cannot see are in good shape today, but we have no way of knowing how long they will remain in that condition. Water is always trying to find a way downhill. As humans, we can hold water back for a period of time, but eventually the water will win and we will need to fix the method we are using to hold it back. You can be confident that our little dam is in excellent shape and we are prepared as an association to react if and when any problems arise.

The one thing we always need is money. You can see from the financial report our dam repair fund is fairly stagnant. With the cost of construction rising every day, we are actually loosing ground. If you can do so, please try to help us pad the dam repair fund with a little extra money every year. We appreciate your support and look forward to many years together at our beloved lake.



Lake Houseboat - photo from everypixel

it difficult for any boat owner to comply with Maine wastewater discharge laws.

However, any property owner wishing to pursue a mooring ordinance on Flying Pond may want to contact the Board of Selectman of the town where their home is located. Flying Pond is abutted by the Towns of Vienna and Mount Vernon. Information regarding Vienna Town Government can be found at <u>viennamaine.org</u>.

Information regarding Mount Vernon Town Government can be found at <u>mtvernonme.org</u>

Todd Hemphill is a retired North Carolina attorney. He and his wife Nancy have a camp on Demariano Road.

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Resources For Healthy Lands & Lakes — A Five Part Series

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Kennebec Land Trust, 30 Mile River, 7 Lakes Alliance, Maine Lakes and Lake Stewards of Maine

30 Mile River Watershed Part Two — Feature by Nancy Hemphill

The Flying Pond Improvement Association is one of 8 lake associations that belong to the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, along with 7 local towns and villages and several local conservation groups. The watershed extends roughly from Vienna's Kimball Pond, south beyond Androscoggin Lake in Wayne, comprising more than 20 lakes, ponds and connecting streams.

Most of the money which FPIA contributes to "30 Mile" each year goes to pay for Flying Pond's courtesy boat inspectors, who are hired and paid by 30 Mile. This year, FPIA will also have 30 Mile conduct twice-monthly water quality tests. Some of the testing will be done by 30 Mile itself; other tests will be conducted by a state lab. Results will be posted at the website of Lake Stewards of Maine. This will enable Flying Pond residents to view comprehensive data about our lake over time, and in comparison to other bodies of water.

What does the 30 Mile River Watershed Association do for Us?

- Courtesy boat inspections
- Professional water quality testing; data analysis; comparison and reporting
- Invasive plant patrol training and surveying support
- Coordinating invasive plant removal on Androscoggin Lake
- Remediation projects to prevent erosion on shorefront properties and roads

- Regional coordinator for the LakeSmart program
- Road management for towns, including training, technical assistance, planning, & securing state, federal & foundation grants
- Watershed surveys
- Environmental advocacy & education
- Youth Conservation Corps (cancelled in 2020 & 2021 due to Covid; hopefully back in 2022)

FP has two representatives on 30 Mile's Board. For info. visit <u>30mileriver.org</u> or contact Nancy Hemphill or Cindy Ripley.

Invasive Plant Patrol We do not have an update on the variable milfoil found on Androscoggin Lake at this time, however we will relay information as it becomes available. As you know we have our own inspection team here on Flying Pond. A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers on Plant Patrol! Each summer the team inspects the lake for suspicious plants. Would you like to help protect our lake? Volunteering is not difficult as most areas can be inspected in one day per year or less. It is fun and a great day of camaraderie on the lake! If you are interested please contact Deb Roe at lendebroe@gmail.com or 207-293-4220 for more information.

Did You Know?

Freshwater mussels can live to be 100 years old!

These bivalved mollusks are valuable indicators of water quality and ecosystem health. What animal splits their shells and eats them? It's not just one culprit, there are many! Guilty parties include: seagulls, eagles, Canadian geese, ducks, raccoons, muskrat, mink, skunks, beavers, otters, snapping turtles and fish.



Flying Pond Now Has A Lake Smart Team Feature by - Cindy Ripley

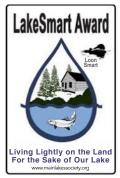
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It is no secret that we love our pond. We love the water, peace and quiet, loon calls at night, the fun, recreation, family gatherings and the memories. Some families have enjoyed Flying Pond for generations, while some families are just beginning to create that legacy. Whatever your experience, Flying Pond holds a very special place in our collective hearts.

We can help assure that the quality of the water, the shorefronts, and our property values remain strong. Can you imagine not being able to see to the bottom of the lake near the shore? Not hearing the loons or seeing other wildlife in and on the pond? Stormwater and erosion that drains into the pond carries phosphorus, found naturally in the soil and in fertilizers, as well as other nutrients. This overload disturbs the natural chemistry of the water leading to problems such as algae blooms, fish kills, and loss of water quality. This could eventually impact our activities, and our property values.

The good news is that Flying Pond has a Lake Smart team starting this summer! Many thanks to Steve Trehu and Diane Araps for jumping on board the new FPIA LakeSmart team! This is a new venture for us, but it's been in existence on other Maine lakes since 2003. The three of us will be training together with Maine Lakes in June. Once trained, we will be able to share what we have learned and work with you to assess your property with possible strategies to help keep pollutants and stormwater out of Flying Pond. Consider learning more about how you can make a difference to keep the pond healthy. The assessment is free and completely voluntary. You will be given recommendations, information, and help in finding any resources you might need.

Each assessment is individual, based on a checklist of best practices. The decision of whether or not to act on



any of the recommendations will be entirely up to you. Homeowners may choose to make some changes themselves, or they may ask the Youth Conservation Corps to provide the labor. While that program is still on hiatus due to the pandemic, we anticipate it will be back in action in 2022.

When your property scores well in all categories and all criteria are met, you will be given the prestigious "LakeSmart Award" including signs for you to post at the roadside and waterfront.

My grandmother always told me that, "Many hands make light work". Each of us can make the work light to help preserve this special place for the next generation of memory makers.

More information is available at <u>lakes.me/lakesmart</u>. Interested? Questions? We would love to hear from you!

Contact us at flyingpond@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you on the pond!



Zebra Mussels - Photo from Getty Images

Zebra Mussels — Friend or Foe?

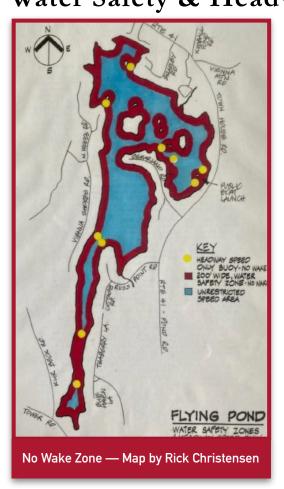
We have mussels that wildlife love and need here on Flying Pond. Did you know that not *all* mussels belong in the state of Maine? Some mussels - as well as many other non-native species - can overrun native species and cause huge problems with the balance of the ecosystem.

In March 2021, Maine Dept of Inland Fish and Wildlife reported that Zebra Mussels, a "highly invasive and prolific species" were found in moss balls sold in pet stores across the country. If these mussels are released into the wild where they don't belong, they can quickly take over the niche of native mussels, causing tremendous problems!

The rule of thumb here is to never release ANY living thing into the wild without knowing if it is native. For more information about Zebra Mussels and how to dispose of moss balls properly to prevent this problem, please visit the MDIFW News article: <u>maine.gov/ifw/news-events</u>.

Ten Ways to Slow or Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species in Maine visit: Maine Dept of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, National Invasive Species Awareness Week February 2021: <u>maine.gov/dacf/about/news</u>.

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With summer drawing near the Flying Pond Improvement Association needs your help in protecting the quality of our lake concerning the headway speed only in Water Safety Zones. Headway speed is the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the vessel. A Water Safety Zone is defined as the area of water within 200 feet of any shoreline, whether the shoreline of the mainland or an island.

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There are 10 locations on Flying Pond where control buoys are placed to mark specific Water Safety Zones and the absence of a control buoy does not mean that a particular location is not considered a Water Safety Zone. It is unlawful to operate a vessel greater than headway speed while within 200 feet of any shoreline, and operators must consider the effect of their boat's wake on shorelines, waterfront piers and floats.

For the benefit of those who enjoy our beautiful pond, it is our hope that all boaters become familiar with these areas and make a sincere effort to comply with the state regulations. We all rely upon the awareness of others, and their willingness to cooperate with these regulations, to ensure the quality of our pond is preserved.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife publishes a booklet entitled <u>The Boater's Guide to Maine Boating Laws and</u> <u>Responsibilities</u>. Copies of this booklet are available at both the Vienna and Mt. Vernon Town Halls. All property owners are encouraged to obtain one and become familiar the guidelines.

Protect your asset by becoming familiar with Water Safety Zone regulations and encouraging cooperation by family members, guests, and other boaters utilizing the public launch ramp. If you witness noncompliant boating feel free to contact the Game Warden.

Concerned About Unsafe Boating Activity Or Wildlife Harassment? Contact the Maine Game Warden's office if you see something disturbing: 1-800.452.4664. For additional information visit <u>maine.gov/ifw/warden-service.</u>

'The Buoys Are Back In Town' As you may know, several of our "SLOW NO WAKE" buoys have been damaged or lost over the past few years. The buoys are important reminders to boaters to slow down, both to protect the shoreline from erosion and to make areas safer for swimmers. They also help protect other boaters and the loons on the pond. FPIA Board member Chad Dwelley has found a source for replacement buoys from the state, at the below-market price of \$60 each. Chad and Randy Oakley (who graciously stores them in his garage over the winter) will be installing the buoys in late May. Many thanks to Chad and Randy.

Did You Know Common Loons are protected by state and federal laws prohibiting harassment of wildlife?

On Flying Pond we have had loon eggs hatch, but none have survived to adulthood in recent years. Eagles, turtles, skunks, raccoons, and human disturbance can all be deadly. PLEASE help our loons as much as you can by being respectful. Loons need plenty of room without being disturbed. Enjoy them - but keep a safe distance. It makes sense and it's the law. For more information about the law or to report violations, contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at (207)287-8000.



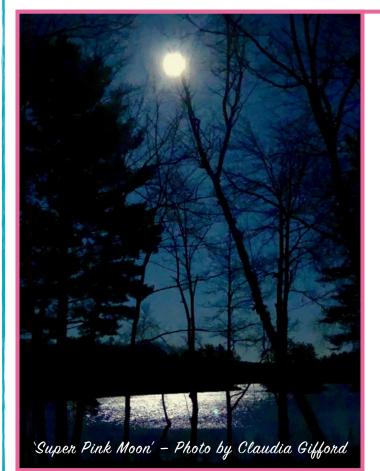
2020 Nesting Loon' – Photo by Gary Cortelyou

FLYING POND SUMMER SKY WATCH

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Lights Off, Heads Up & Binoculars out! — by Diane Araps

There will be an abundance of amazing celestial activity to gaze upon this summer! So at nightfall turn off the porch lights, head outdoors and look skyward toward Flying Pond's own sensational planetarium! Here are just a few of events for summer 2021.



Summer Sky Events —

June 10: Ring of Fire Annular Solar Eclipse: A slightly smaller looking moon will cross in front of the sun, although it will not completely cover it. Instead a sunlit "annulus" or ring will remain around the edge. It is often referred to as the "penny-nickel-effect" with the nickel equaling the sun and the penny, the moon. At sunrise in New England, along with southern portions of Ontario and Quebec the sun will appear like a crescent with cusps pointed upward. <u>space.com/39231-top-skymatching-events-this-year</u>

August 11 & 12 - Perseids meteor shower: The Old Faithful of August appears as Earth travels through a cloud of debris trailing behind the comet Swift–Tuttle. This creates a flutter of shooting stars, up to 60 per hour, in the sky as small meteors burn in our upper atmosphere. This year the Perseids shower promises to be spectacular in the dark sky as it will align with an early setting slim crescent moon. Set your sight towards the constellation Perseus after 10pm for the light show! *nationalgeographic.com/science/article/ten-spectacular-stargazing-events*

August 18: Mars-Mercury conjunction: This event may be a little difficult to view as it will occur near the setting sun. However it will be worth fetching the

telescope or at least the binoculars and finding a clearing toward the horizon in the West as the sun sets. Mercury will appear as the brighter of the two if you are fortunate enough to catch the close encounter between the 'swift planet' and the 'red planet'. <u>nationalgeographic.com/science/article/ten-spectacular-stargazing-events</u>

Summer Full Moons

June 24: Strawberry Moon This moon rises at 8:52pm in the Southeast. June's full moon is named after the strawberry harvest. It is also known as the rose moon and the hot moon for the beginning of the summer heat.

July 23: Buck Moon Look toward the Southeast for it to rise at 8:30pm. This moon is named for the buck's antlers which are shed and begin to grow back each July. To others it is known as the thunder moon for the many storms which occur this month. And some refer to it as the hay moon due to the harvest.

August 22: Sturgeon Moon This moon will rise at 8:11pm in the East. The Full Sturgeon Moon gets its name from northeastern native American tribes who realized that this is the best time to catch sturgeons, a type of fish. It has also been called the green corn moon, the grain moon and the red moon for the color it appears in the summer haze. (*rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/what-are-names-full-moons-throughout-year*)

Moonrise & Moonset Calculator: <u>almanac.com/astronomy/moon-rise-and-set/zipcode/04352/2021</u>

ANNOUNCEMENTS AROUND THE POND

Independence Day Fireworks

The town of Mt. Vernon annual fireworks display are scheduled for Saturday, July 3rd, at the town beach on Minnehonk Lake. FPIA will update through email, as weather and public health conditions may change.

This year also marks the Bicentennial of Maine Statehood - there will be live music performed by a great local band and a spectacular fireworks show put on by Central Maine Pyrotechnics. Donations to help fund the event checks can be written to 'Mount Vernon Community Partnership Corporation' and sent to:

Janet Roderick, Treasurer of the CPC 1027 Watson Pond Rd., Rome, ME 04963



'Boat Parade!' 2020 - Photo by Gary Cortelyou

Annual FP Boat Parade

Sunday morning, July 4th, invites you to bring your red, white and blue and motor over to the east side of Big Island around 10am. Dockside spectators feel free to show off your RW&B spirit as well!

Summer Arts & Crafts Fair

The fair will be held on the Mount Vernon Town Beach - Saturday, July 17th. If you are an artisan, crafter or have something to sell or would like to participate, contact Leslie Grenier at lwg929@gmail.com.

The Paddle Trek Is Back!

The 2021 Paddle Trek will launch from the Town Beach and span part or all the way to Wayne and Tubby's Ice Cream - Saturday, July 31st. Details are still in the works and updated information will be posted at <u>30mileriver.org/news-events/annual-paddle-trek</u>.

2021 5K Loon Lap

Run or walk around scenic Minnehonk Lake - Sunday, August 8th. This year you can participate either in person OR virtually. Business sponsors and supporters are much appreciated, for information visit <u>facebook.com/mtvloonlap.</u> Follow FB for updated information.

Third Annual Flying Man And Flying Half Triathlon

The triathlon tentatively is planned for mid July. Adults and children of all ages are welcome to join in on the fun. The two triathlons to choose from are:

- 'Flying Man'— 3/4 mile swim, 4 mile bike ride and 1 mile run.
- 'Flying Half'— 1/4 mile swim, 1 mile bike ride and 1 mile run.

If you are interested in joining the fun by competing or cheering during the race contact Whitney Hetzel for specific information: whitney.hetzel@gmail.com.



From The FPIA Newsletter Editors We would like to thank all of the writers and photographers who participated with this spring newsletter! The summer newsletter is scheduled to come out around the end of August and we would love to hear from you! Please send photos with captions to diane@artillusstudio.com & stories/ announcements to flyingpond@gmail.com. — *Diane Araps, Nancy Hemphill & Cindy Ripley*

Spring Photo Gallery

Fishing buddies, Thatcher Landry and Vincent Rungi posing with the bass Thatcher caught off the dock! **>>** Photo by Matt Rungi



'Lady Slippers' – Photo by Marsha Clark



What do you look forward to every spring

"Oreen" pat Onion

"Getting out on the water" - anonymous

"Matching everything green up and lose the mud season

brown." - Doug Baston

" Seeing the docks go in all over the pond! "

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fpia.weebly.com





"Ready to Launch" – Photo by Claudia Gifford

"When we hang out our name sign on the tree at the beginning of the driveway." — Jeff Kestenbaum What is the one thing that says "We're here" when you arrive or open up camp in the spring

"Black Flies" - Doug Baston

" as we turn onto klir beck road with still 2 more miles to go, at this very first glimpse of flying pond... we have already arrived!" — Diane Araps

"When THE clean-up from the winter storms begins!" — Kathy Schwab

"Our arrival is usually noted within the hour by a visit from one or more loons. So nice of them to be Flying Pond's unofficial Welcome Wagon!" — Claudia Roe Gifford



Spring Cleaning' – Photos by Kathy Schwab

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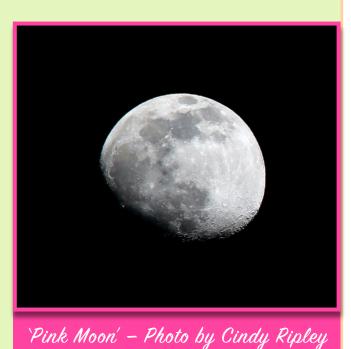
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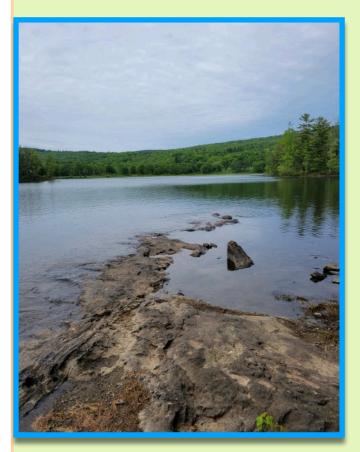
What signals to you that spring has **2** arrived on Flying Pond

"Iceout & Loons" - Gary Cortelyou

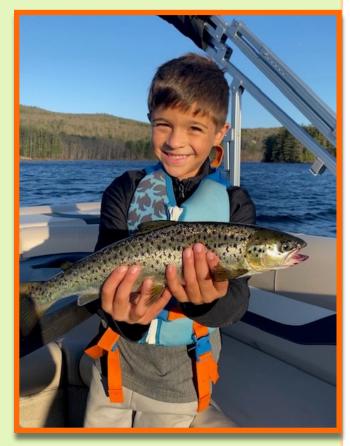
"Hearing the peepers at dusk" -Doug Baston

"Some birds, a rare boat, and of course iceout!" - Pat Omion





'Rocky Point' - Photo by Kathy Schawb



'Trolling Catch' – Photo by Matt Rungi



'Trillium In Bloom'

May 12, 2021 – Photo by Stephen Trehu

'A calm morning on Flying Pond after ice-out'

April 2021 – Photo by Matt Rungi





'Ice Cubes along the shore means that the ice will all be going out soon'

April 2021 – Photo by Cindy Ripley

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