Flying Pond Improvement Association

VOL 3 NO 1

Celebrating Sixty-Two Years Of Protecting Our Lake

WINTER 2022

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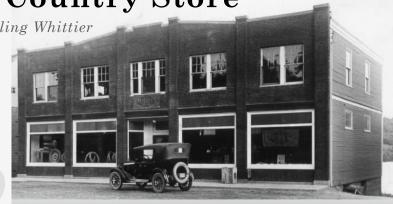


'Fire and Ice' —Cover Photo by Bill Huot

The Old Country Store

-by Millie Flewelling Whittier

Growing up in the 1960s in a small town meant everyone knew everyone...



Mt. Vernon Country Store —provided by Henry Gilman

That was sure true when I was a teenager and living up over Lew's Country Store. My parents, Lew and Ruth Flewelling, were an important part of the community and at that time people did most of their shopping locally. The store not only was well stocked with groceries, fresh meat, sliced cheese from the round cheddar block, clothing, tools and gas, but it also gave the "Locals" a place to meet and get caught up on local news. The store's small lunch counter, where I worked after school and on weekends during my high school years, was a busy social place from early morning to closing.

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Living in Mount Vernon year-round, I like to think of my summer friends as snowbirds. I know some of you only go as far south as New Jersey, but you're still snowbirds to me. But to my 'real' snowbird friends, I hope you are reading this newsletter while your toes are firmly planted in the warm sand. Here in Mount Vernon, I can assure you that we are only warming our toes by getting them as close to the wood stove as we can possibly bear.

Meanwhile, I want to tell you about a wintery dog's-eye view and two courtesy boat inspectors (CBI). To give you a little background, Remi French is one of Flying Pond's courtesy boat inspectors and has been a CBI for 30 Mile Watershed for some years now. When Remi went off to college, Shari and I fostered her dog Mika, an Australian cattle dog (ACDs are also known as Blue Heelers). To this day, Mika is still a frequent visitor to our camp and Remi holds the title of 'surrogate daughter'.

The other day, Remi and her pal, Maggie Stokes (another awesome 30-Mile CBI) decided to take their dogs, Mika and Pilot, on a frozen lake hike. They started out at the boat launch and headed around the point of Demariano Road then straight across toward our cottage on Russ Point.



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Mika has spent a LOT of time enjoying our camp. ACDs are not technically water dogs, but Mika LOVES the water. When they got to Russ Point, Mika suddenly realized this was camp. She had never experienced this snowy dog's-eye view before, probably because I lack the ambition that Maggie and Remi possess for winter fun! Little Mika went charging up the path to see who might be at camp. To Mika's disappointment, as you may expect, camp was both held in abeyance by the mice and quite frozen in for the winter.

At the risk of Remi and Maggie thinking this is a 'dad comment' and you may think it's rather like an 'interruption by the Talking Heads in the middle of a Peter, Paul, and Mary PBS fundraiser show'... NOW would be a great time to visit the FPIA web page and make an extra donation to help us continue funding the courtesy boat inspections and other important programs. See you in the spring!

Paul Crockett - President, FPIA

To make a charitable donation for the Courtesy Boat Inspection & other important programs visit <u>fpia.weebly.com</u> & click the donate button & choose 'General Fund' from the dropdown menu.

The Dam News —by Dean Sciaraffa On the surface, our dam is a pretty simple structure. It is a block on concrete that holds water back and keeps our pond full. In reality, the job our dam does is much more complex. It is easy to keep water from going through the dam, however the pond water is relentlessly trying to find a way through, both over and under. When problems are small and visible we can fix them before they get too big. The dilemma that constantly perplexes lake board members across the state is water finding its way under the dam as there is no way of detecting it until it happens.

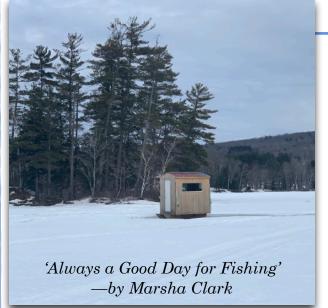
Every spring, just after the ice goes out of the lake, and we will organize a team to find a solution.

I hold my breath and walk over the dam looking for signs of water leaking under it. Little whirlpools on the pond side of the dam or bubbles emanating from the calm water on the downstream side are sure signs we have a problem.

Major repairs were performed in 2015 and since then our dam has been winning its battle with the water. However, eventually the water will win, but hopefully not in the near future. At that time, we all will be faced with finding a solution to the matter and a leak detected early will not be overwhelming.

If anyone sees signs of a leak, like little whirlpools or bubbles, report it to a FPIA board member asap and we will organize a team to find a solution.

A top priority of the Flying Pond Improvement Association is to maintain the Flying Pond dam. Your support through membership and donations help assure that we will be ready to repair or even replace the dam when that time comes.



Ice Fishing Report -by Jason Seiders

Flying Pond remains one of my favorites in the region just an awesome spot. The salmon looked nice - growth and condition are still good. The brown trout are still growing to trophy size and older ages. We had one that was too large for our scales; probably weighed 8 pounds or so. The smelt population is tremendous and that fuels the entire cold water fishery.

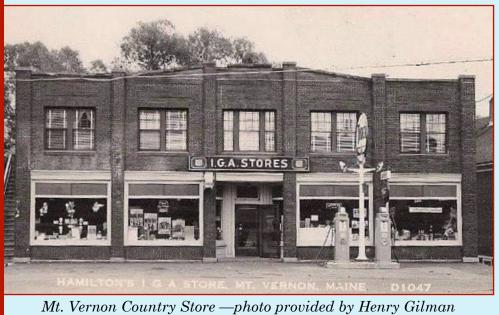
One interesting note. Otters are notorious for plaguing us when we net in the fall, and they can appear on any lake. We had one on Flying that made us end our sampling; it wouldn't leave us alone. Otters will enter a trapnet and kill every fish in the net. They won't eat every fish, but they will leave none alive. Mr. Otter got his share of salmon and trout twice and we left before he could get anymore!

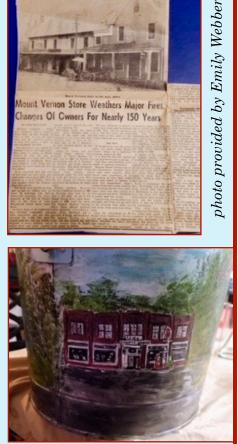
Jason Seiders is the Fisheries Resource Supervisor at Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Fisheries Division.

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The Old Country Store -continued

In November 1967 a fire started in the old elevator shaft in the store, leaving our apartment destroyed and much water damage to the store. Our family was wondering if it was worth rebuilding, but that question was answered quickly. The town folks got together, put a new roof on the store and did everything they could to make it possible to open the store again. The store was not just a place to shop, but a community necessity. There is nothing else quite like good friends in a small town.





Painting by Barbara Gilman

Special thanks to Millie Whittier for writing this edition's feature article. Do you have something to share? We would love to publish your stories, too! Please let us know if you are interested!

Invasive Milfoil & the Algal Bloom on Androscoggin Lake

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-by Whitney Baker and Lidie Robbins, 30 Mile River Watershed Association

Flying Pond is beloved for its water, wildlife and beauty. It's a place where memories are made swimming, paddling, boating, fishing, skating and much more. We would like to believe that it will be that way forever, but the truth is, Flying Pond is fragile — much more fragile than most realize.

Maine's lakes may look healthy from a distance, but many are approaching – or have already passed — a tipping point where they are no longer able to maintain the delicate balance.

Over the past year, we have seen nearby Androscoggin Lake hit with a double threat: an infestation of invasive milfoil and an algal bloom that turned the lake green. Androscoggin Lake is the last lake in the 30 Mile River chain, just a few lakes down from Flying Pond.

If you've been following the 30 Mile newsletter, you have heard about the effort that went into locating and removing the invasive milfoil last summer. 30 Mile has worked closely with Androscoggin's Lake association and with Maine DEP to fight it as hard as we can. We made great progress throughout the summer with plant we found, but in October these survey efforts came to a halt because we could no longer see the plants; the lake had turned green with an algal bloom.

The bloom began in late August, when the water clarity was reduced to just under 3 meters. Clarity continued to decline and by mid-September, there were localized algal blooms in some areas of the lake. Clarity continued to decline to under 2 meters by the end of September. This met the threshold for being classified by the Maine DEP as a lake-wide nuisance algal bloom,

What To Do On Flying Pond

Both an algal bloom and an infestation of invasive plants could threaten Flying Pond if we are not careful. We cannot be complacent. We must continue with boat inspections – not only at the public launch, but every time a boat or equipment that has been in another lake enters anywhere on Flying Pond. In addition to FPIA's annual volunteer aquatic plant survey, we must all keep a close watch on plants growing in the lake. Androscoggin may be milfoil-free again someday, but only because we discovered it early and took immediate action.

the first in Androscoggin since 1999. The bloom continued to get worse into mid-October.

This bloom is very concerning and 30 Mile has been working closely with the lake association and the Maine DEP since August to monitor it and identify next steps. What caused the bloom? Our current understanding is that the bloom was caused by phosphorus loading from the surrounding watershed as a result of all of last summer's rain. Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plant growth that occurs naturally in soil and organic material. Too much phosphorus entering the lake causes excess algae growth. The watershed areas of most concern are along the Dead River, which this summer flowed into the lake instead of into the Androscoggin River due to several unusual factors. To reduce phosphorus we must address the runoff throughout the watershed and especially from high-export areas.



To prevent an algal bloom, we must greatly reduce the phosphorus flowing into the lake. Septic systems must be functioning properly and pumped regularly. Polluted stormwater runoff needs to be prevented from entering the lake, by every landowner doing their part to be sure that soil is not eroding off their property – from roads, driveways, paths, lawns, and more. We need to keep as many trees and shrubs, and as little lawn, growing around the lake as possible. Invite FPIA's LakeSmart team to your property for a free evaluation and to learn more about how you can improve your property for the benefit of Flying Pond. <u>30mileriver.org</u> for more information.

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Resources For Healthy Lands & Lakes — A Five Part Series

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

7 Lakes Alliance Part Three __by Nancy Hemphill

7 Lakes Alliance's non-profit mission is to conserve the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes region for all. 7 Lakes works throughout the entire watershed, which includes North Pond, East Pond, McGrath Pond, Salmon Lake, Messalonskee Lake, Great Pond and Long Pond. 7 Lakes' watershed borders Flying Pond's watershed (30 Mile River) on the East; the two are separated by the Kennebec Highlands, which run through Mt. Vernon, Vienna and Rome. In 2017, the 30 year-old Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance and the Maine Lakes Resource Center joined together to become the 7 Lakes Alliance.

7 Lakes is both a watershed research and conservation entity and a certified land trust. With both sides of the coin, its watershed conservation strategy includes land and habitat conservation, water quality science and protection, public access for recreation, education and science, health, and support for a sustainable natural resource-driven economy. Through an interdisciplinary collaboration with Colby College, they monitor, analyze, develop and implement recommendations to protect and restore water quality throughout the Belgrade Lakes.

Like 30 Mile, 7 Lakes works with lake

Looking Out The Window -by Jon Olson

As is my morning habit, soon after I get up, I heat up a cup of tea, grab some toast, and sit at our breakfast nook which overlooks DeMariano Road. I just sit and look while Alice is immersed in the day's news, checking emails and giving me weather details. She wonders how I can just sit and "do nothing."

Well, my "do nothing" has had large payoffs. One morning last summer, I spotted a large moose meandering past the Zackers' camp. Later in the fall, there was a deer hesitantly looking for food. And then, just last week, while we are now in the dead of winter, I saw a plane landing on the lake! Meanwhile, Alice types away, planning her day's activities.

After breakfast, I retreat to a recently

associations, the state, towns and individuals on programs to remove and control invasive plants, conduct Courtesy Boat Inspections, run a Youth Conservation Corps, coordinate LakeSmart,



leverage federal erosion control funds, and to protect water quality, habitat, economic and recreational opportunities through easements and acquisitions of key lands.

7 Lakes provides education and science opportunities for all ages, hosts stewardship days, hikes, trainings and interpretive field trips, and provides access for low impact recreation, such hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. Recent initiatives include new and improved hiking trails in Belgrade Lakes and Rome, including the extension of the The Mountain trail toward Mt. Phillip and the acquisition of the Allens blueberry lands, including on Vienna Mountain, for inclusion in the Kennebec Highlands. Trail maps, information and programming are available at their headquarters in the Village of Belgrade Lakes Village, or online at- <u>7lakesalliance.org</u>.

renovated reading room which has a large window overlooking "our" side of the lake. More rewards await me there. As soon as Flying Pond freezes, ice fishermen appear. One morning, I took pleasure in seeing a young family enjoy the winter pond together. After they wandered away, two large eagles slowly appeared to devour pickerel they left behind. And, most recently, on a day when snow was swirling around causing minimal view, I saw our neighbor Maggie Stokes fly by on a dogsled, pulled by her beloved husky, Pilot.

Looking out the window is one of the many joys I have living here in Mt Vernon, on DeMariano Road and Flying Pond.

Thank you Jon for this story which delightfully reminds us to slow down and enjoy 'doing nothing'.

FLYING POND SPRING SKY WATCH

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

How to watch a meteor shower: The Spring sky will not disappoint our celestial fans with two meteor showers ready to appear! The optimal time to observe a meteor shower is between midnight and pre-dawn as you will be located on the leading side of the Earth witnessing the comet debris hurl toward you like rain hitting a windshield. To catch a perspective of longer meteor trails it is best to keep a wide periphery on the sky and not look directly at the radiant. It is recommended to look approximately 45 degrees from the radiant. So take a chance, venture out in the wee hours of the morning, get comfortable, gaze at the sky, practice patience and enjoy.

March 20 - March Equinox: In the Northern Hemisphere the March equinox is the vernal (spring) equinox. The equinox exists at an exact moment in time when the Sun enters an imaginary line in the sky (celestial equator) above Earth's Equator from south to north. Earth's axis is perpendicular to the Sun's rays creating close to equal day and night. Derived from Latin, 'Aequus', meaning equal, and 'nox', meaning night. Something to look forward to... say goodbye to winter and hello to Spring!

April 5 - Mars/Saturn Conjunction: Set your alarm for 5:30 AM and search low in the southeastern sky as the 'God of War meets Lord of the Rings'. Mars will move

less than .4 degrees just below Saturn and together they will lend a magnificent brightness of yellow-white and orange. Magnificent Venus will accompany them just prior to sunrise!



Image credit: SkySafari app

April 16-25 - The Lyrids Meteor Shower: April's 'shooting stars' are a result of dust particle remains from the comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher. The Lyrids is considered an average shower producing approximately 20 meteors/ hour, with the peak occurring between the 21st and the 23rd and the best viewing after midnight. The meteors can be seen anywhere in the night sky however they radiate from the bright star Vega in the constellation Lyra. The waning moon may inhibit viewing some of the fainter meteors. The Lyrids are worth a look as it tends to have surges bringing up to 100 meteors/hour.



Comet in north-northwest sky —Image credit: SkySafari app

April 21 - May 5 - Comet C/2021 03: It is predicted that this comet may be bright enough to see with the naked eye. Just after sunset search just above the horizon in the north-northwest sky to the right of Mercury.

May 4-5 - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower: This meteor shower will radiate from the constellation Aquarius. Created by dust particles left by comet Halley this shower has been visible since ancient times. The waxing crescent moon will make an exit around midnight leaving a blanket of darkness for the show. Considered an above average shower, it will throw approximately 30 meteors/ hour at the peak on May 4th and 5th. Be on the lookout toward the eastern horizon an hour or two prior to dawn for a chance to observe from Flying Pond.

May 16 - Total Lunar Eclipse: Earth will pass directly between our sun and moon. The Moon will observe all of Earth's sunrises and sunsets simultaneously as the sunlight seeps around the edges of the Earth. From planet Earth, we will witness a beautiful 'Full Blood Flower Moon'.



Spring Full Moons March 18 - Worm Moon April 16 - Pink Moon May 16 - Flower Moon

earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/earthskys-meteor-shower-guide timeanddate.com/astronomy/moon/full-moon-names

seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2022 space.com/39231-top-skywatching-events-this-year

FLYING POND'S YOUNG WRITER'S COVE

My Flying Pond Winter Experience —by Charlie Huot, age 12

I love Flying Pond and I have a lot of favorite things to do on Flying Pond. My favorite winter thing to do is ice fishing! Ice fishing is really fun for me because we get to run to flags. On Flying Pond the fish sizes are bigger than other ponds I fish, they bite more and they fight harder! For example, on New Year's Day I caught a 1.25-pound yellow perch! That is a big perch. Last summer I was catching yellow perch, that were quite a bit smaller. My Nanny loves to eat them, she said the meat is sweet and super yummy. Here's a fun fact about ice fishing. Ice fishing dates back to 2000 years ago according to Keith Worrall (2019).

Here are the tools you need in order to ice fish. A small rod with a small reel or a tip up flag trap, a lure or live bait, and an ice auger or chisel to get through the ice. According to Wikipedia the 1st improvement of the ice auger was in 1873. An auger is used for drilling holes in the ice, so you can set your ice fishing traps in the water. The best kind of bait to use for live bait is shiners, or smelt. You can get them right by Flying Pond at Backwoods Bait. I like going to Backwoods Bait for many reasons, for example I like how friendly the



'Charlie Huot with Yellow Perch' — photo by Lori Huot

man who works there is, how the shop is his basement, and how many fish they have and the good price they are. I like to use live bait because for me it is more fun because the fish bite more often.

You can use a tip up flag trap to fish also. With a tip up flag trap, when a fish bites your line, and it takes off swimming, the reel spins and hits a clip that is holding the flag down. That clip turns and releases the flag which goes up. Someone will normally see it and yell "flag" and run to it, then everyone else comes. I honestly like to use a tip up more, because it is easier for me, and you can sit in a warm heated tent when you are using a tip up and look through the window to see if there are flags. When you are using a rod, you have to sit outside in the snow and the freezing cold wind, and jig.

Ice fishing lures look different than normal fishing lures. Normal fishing lures are cast out and reeled in, and with ice fishing, you normally have to use a jig. To jig, you lift the rod slowly up and don't bring the lure out of the water, and slowly put it back down. You repeat that process until they bite.

For me a good ice fishing spot, is right in front of our camp because we catch some big fish in front of our camp. Another good thing about being in front of our camp is if we get cold, we can go inside to warm up a little bit as long as we go back out soon.

If you have an ice fishing hut, you can stay warm in there, and you can stay out overnight. Most people, if they have a big fishing hut, can cut a hole in the ice in the hut, and jig from inside of it. And some people do that. I have noticed that a lot of people do not, they set traps up outside around their hut, they see the flag and run to them.

My favorite snack for ice fishing is either a bag of beef jerky, or chips and a black raspberry smash Brisk iced tea or a Moxie. Mt Vernon Variety has all the best snacks. *This is my winter experience*.



'Just waiting for that flag to pop up' —photo by Marsha Clark

Special thanks to Charlie Huot for writing the first **Flying Pond's Young Writer's Cove** article! We are thrilled to publish his 'Winter Experience' story! Do you have a young writer? The FPIA spring newsletter is scheduled to come out near the end of May and we would love to hear from another young person! *If you are 18 or under consider submitting your story to: flyingpond@gmail.com.*

ALWAYS AN ADVENTURE ON FLYING POND

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'Mainers can find fun on the lake anytime of year'



-photo by Valerie Gifford

Mya Rungi, Vincent Rungi, Thatcher Landry, & Teagan Landry Enjoying a fun time snowmobiling and ice fishing on New Years Day'



-photo by Matt Rungi

Did You Know?

It seems odd that snow is seen as white since it is just a bunch of ice crystals clinging together. We have all seen ice and we can agree that it is translucent and colorless. So why does snow appear white? Well, let's start with how we see color in general.



SNOW IS NOT *Actually* **WHITE**

Color is simply a combination of the frequencies of light it reflects off an object. When wavelengths of light strike an object, and no color is absorbed and all colors are reflected equally we see white. Ice is not transparent so light cannot pass through it in a straight path. It is translucent therefore light enters and exits in a different path. And since a single snowflake is comprised of many tiny facets of ice crystals this light is scattered and bounced around until it is reflected out. Since no light is absorbed all the color wavelengths escape lending the *appearance* of white. The snow will sparkle the more the light spectrum bounces from facet to facet.

If the ice crystals are going to absorb any of the scattered light it will have preference toward the red spectrum thereby reflecting the blue spectrum. This is why you see a blue tint in deep footprints in the snow.

science.howstuffworks.com/nature/climate-weather/atmospheric & mentalfloss.com/article/61089/15-incredibly-cool-facts-about-snow

First Responders

We would like to take a moment to send a huge 'shout out' to our first responders. With so many additional challenges to our health these days, it is even more necessary to have excellence only a phone call away.

Whether or not you have needed emergency services in Vienna and/or Mt Vernon, chances are good that you are aware how to reach them. There is such a feeling of comfort and security knowing that they are ready around the clock 'just in case'.

So, to our first responders, we know and greatly appreciate that you are ready to help at a moment's notice! Thank you for training regularly and giving your time in order to be ready in our time of need. We are grateful for your dedication, expertise and compassion!

We also would like to thank our Health Officer Dr. Daniel Onion as well as the many community members who support our health and emergency services in Mt. Vernon and Vienna.

Broadband And Vienna

Fast, reliable and affordable Internet access (broadband) has become an essential in daily life and will only be more so in the future. Broadband is not available in Vienna and the only Internet option(s) are about 1/10 the minimum speed the federal government defines as broadband.

For nearly three years a small committee of Vienna residents has pursued how we might secure broadband. Sign up for mailing list, see updated information and slides from the informational meeting held on Feb 15th on the Vienna website home page at viennamaine.org.



Broadband and voter action is scheduled on the Warrant at the March 11 and 12 Town Meeting.

Questions regarding Vienna Broadband? Contact: Jim Anderberg 207-293-2673 Tom Jewett 207-242-7612 Ed Lawless 207-671-7204

jim.anderberg@gmail.com tomi@mainetalk.com lawcomm@fairpoint.net

Opening Camp While Protecting the Lake —by Marsha Clark

As winter winds down, many of us begin to think about heading back to camp. For most, this will mean opening up our camp for the summer. According to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection there are several steps you can take to protect our lake when opening your camp. Here are some ideas:

- Raking Do not rake up the decomposing leaves and Dock Painting Painting should be done well away pine needles. This layer acts as a sponge to prevent possible pollutants from entering the lake.
- Erosion Walk along entire property and shoreline to see if there has been any erosion over the winter. Minor erosion • can be corrected with plantings and/or rocks.
- Septic System Check the leach field, looking for standing wastewater. This could be a sign that the septic system/leach field is failing. When was the last time you . had the septic tank pumped? It is recommended that the system be pumped every 4-5 years for seasonal properties.
- from the lake and dried for two weeks before putting a dock or float in the water. Clean brushes away from the lake.
- **Boats** Wash your boat away from the lake. Check for invasive plants that may have hung on the boat or trailer. After changing the oil, dispose of the oil at a recycling facility.
 - Cleaning Products Natural cleaning products such as baking soda and lemon juice are good for the environment and the lake.

For more information on opening and closing your camp check out: maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/camp/openclose.htm and for specific questions call: Augusta (Central Maine Regional Office): 207-287-7688; 800-452-1942

From The FPIA Newsletter Editors We are so excited to share this Winter Newsletter with you all. One of our goals has been to continue increasing participation from YOU and others who love Flying Pond. This goal, of course, is driven by the FPIA mission to protect and preserve our pond. We all have a unique view, history and special love for Flying Pond and hope you will consider sharing - or perhaps sharing again! Thank you to all who have submitted to this edition as well as previous ones. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022, wherever you may be! — Diane Araps, Nancy Hemphill & Cindy Ripley

Flying Pond Winter Wonderland - 2022 Photo Gallery

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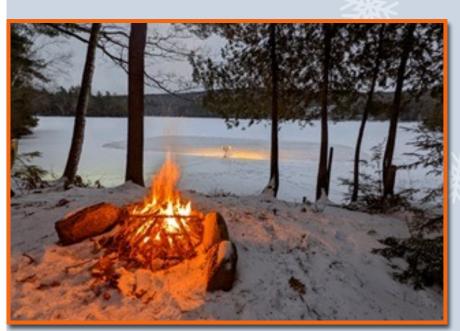
'Skating Time'—by Chad Dwelley



'Ice House To Go'-by Marsha Clark



'Coolest Grandma Ever' —by Matt Rungi Linda Rungi with her grandchildren Mya & Vincent Rungi



'Juxtaposition' — by Bill Huot



'Parallel Lines' —by Nancy Turner

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'Catch Of The Day' —by Katie Dwelley Gavin & Chad Dwelley



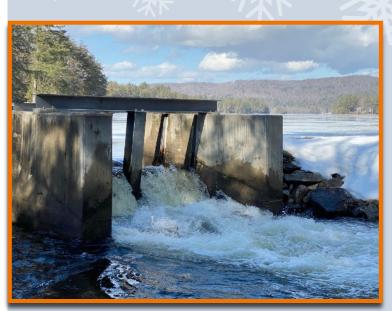
'Room With A View'—by Nancy Turner

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Vanishing Point' —by Linda Rungi



'Wintery Dam' — by Dean Sciaraffa

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'Winter Wonderland' — by Marsha Clark

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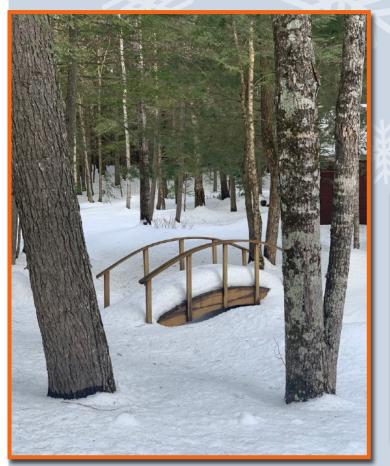
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Flying Pond Winter Wonderland - 2022 Photo Gallery

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'Snowy Spirograph'—by Nancy Turner



'Bridge Over Icy Waters' — by Marsha Clark



'Tour de Flying Pond, Winter Style' —by Karen Kurkjian

When the conditions are right, it is certainly easier to ski around the lake rather than paddle, especially if you pick a day with no wind!

— Karen Kurkjian



'Who Needs Shoes When You Have Skates?' —by Chad Dwelley

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