

Flying Pond Improvement Association

VOL 4 NO 1

Celebrating Sixty-Three Years Of Protecting Our Lake

WINTER 2023

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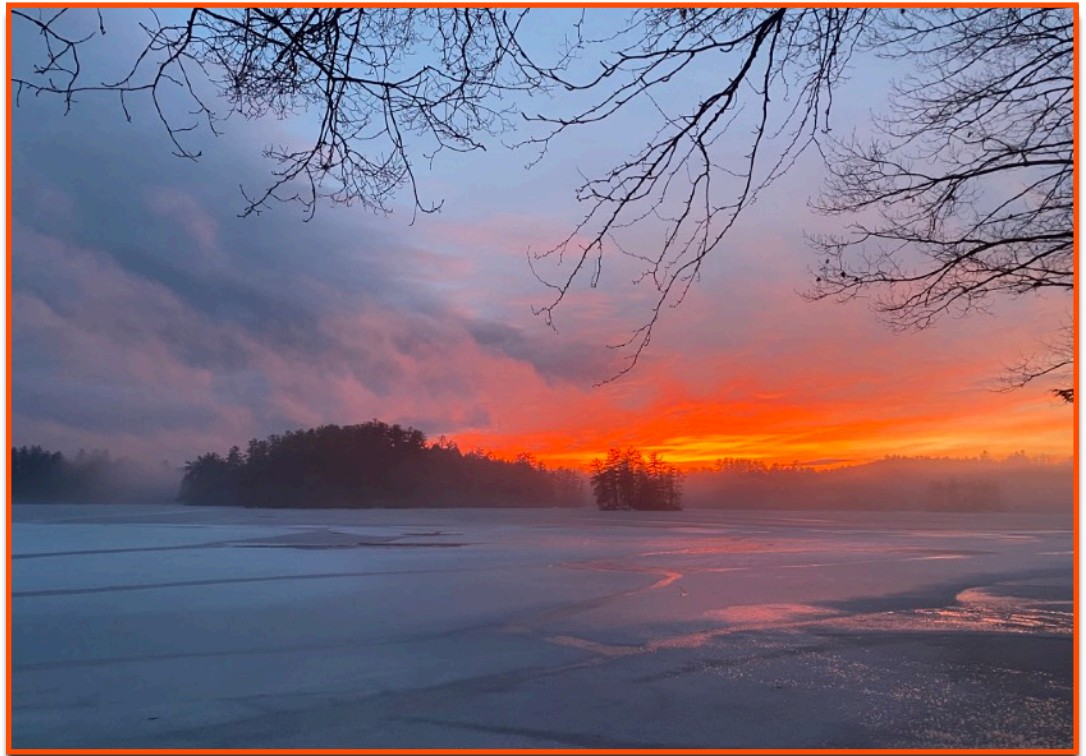
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'Unsettled' —Cover Photo by David Gifford

Winter Life on Flying Pond —by Alice Olson

Life has been quiet on Flying Pond this year, at least from our perspective. At first it was warm and wet, with no opportunities to skate. The lake froze late this year. We were always waiting for some activity so we might have a sense when it would be safe to venture out ourselves. But then, there was the incident on Ridgely's Island, where fishermen broke through the ice and called 911. Vehicles of all sorts arrived from everywhere within minutes and there was a happy ending to that story.

One lone ice shack sits outside our window and we do see occasional use there. And there are one or two others farther out that we can see. However, fishermen seem to be pulling their gear on sleds, not snowmobiles. Personally, I haven't seen or heard one on the lake yet. And no tracks that encourage me to get my cross country skis out to follow. When I gaze out the window early over my morning coffee, I have seen a group of deer cross in front of our house on their way to the Roe's. I have seen two large eagles swooping and surveying the lake, diving to claim a fish strewn by that small ice shack, or just, sitting, *continued pg 3*



'Gone Fishing' —by Jon Olson

FPIA President's Message — *Looking Forward To Spring*

I started thinking about a short column exactly one month ago. I was going to opine about my feelings on the -18° BELOW ZERO weather that day and how much I admire my many snowbird friends for leaving it all behind. Somehow a full month of Maine winter has flown by, and as I write today, we are getting a good snowstorm (well, some think it's good). So far, we have 10" in Mount Vernon.

It's not easy to think about summer fun on the pond, but it is a good time to ponder projects at camp for this summer. If you're like me, you have what we call deferred maintenance issues that may need attention "one of these days." Maybe someday they will invent self-painting homes.

Here's a tip that may be more apropos next fall. Have you ever wondered why metal things rust in your unheated camp? It's because the place is

closed and unheated all winter. Condensation forms easily under those conditions. Maybe a good project for this summer would be to install a ventilation fan of some sort to bring in fresh air and exhaust stale air. Just a thought.

Anyway, despite the winter weather of March 4th, which incidentally is the only date on the calendar that is also a full sentence when you say it out loud, I join you in looking forward to an awesome spring, summer, and fall of 2023. You may want to wait until after mud season to come "upta camp" this year. I think today's storm guarantees a "good" mud season. But please join us in feeding the ravenous black flies this year. They are always appreciative of your return to Maine in May.

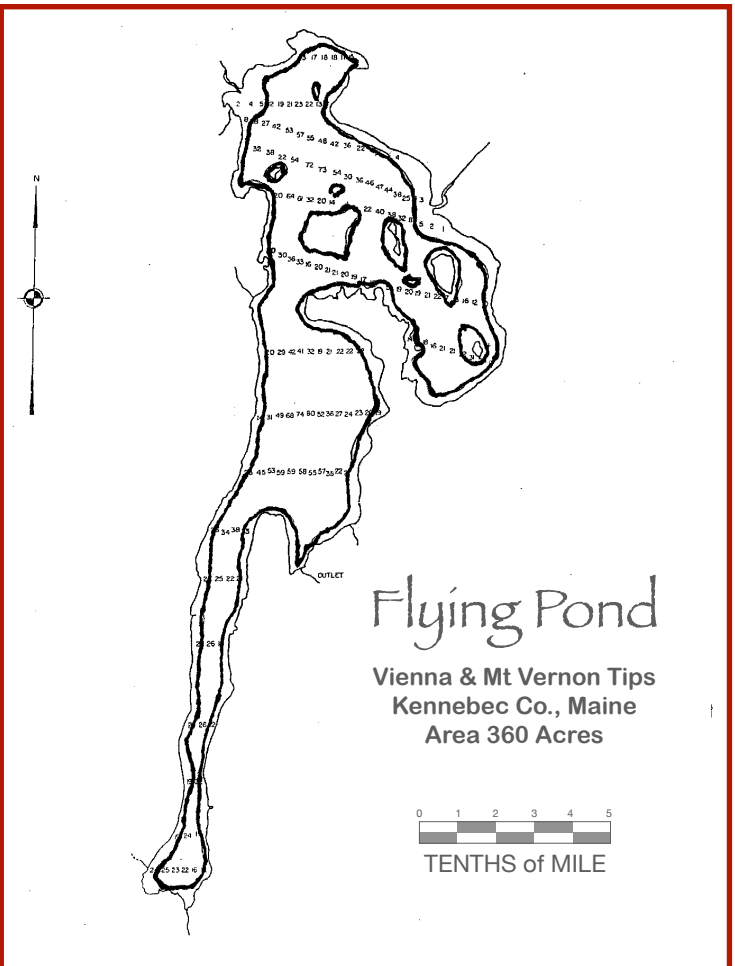
See you in the spring!!

Paul Crockett —*President, FPIA*



The Dam News —*by Dean Sciaraffa*

People have asked me in the past, "What would happen if the dam completely washed out?" The simple answer is that Flying Pond would still exist. Flying Pond was a pond before the first dam was built in the 1800s and would still be a pond without the dam. The difference would be that the pond would be about six feet shallower than it is now. Six feet does not sound like a lot when the deepest part of Flying Pond is 80 feet, however the size or area of the pond would be significantly smaller. Areas of the pond that are currently six feet deep or less would be shoreline. There would be more high spots and bigger islands. Some of the areas between the islands on the north end of the lake would be impossible to navigate and the narrows on the south end of the lake would be narrower. This map is my rough illustration of what Flying Pond would look like if it was six feet lower. This isn't based on an actual survey but an estimate based on a Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife map. The bottom line is that the dam is important to maintaining the pond that we all enjoy. The things that we do to maintain the dam today will help to keep Flying Pond looking the same for future generations.



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.

FP Winter Ice Fishing Report —by Jason Seiders

Flying Pond supports robust populations of both largemouth and smallmouth bass. Many folks (anglers and non-anglers) think that bass are native to Maine, but this isn't the case. Bass were introduced into Maine in the late 1800's, so they're certainly not a newcomer! We manage bass as a sportfish in southern and central Maine, but we discourage their presence in the northern areas of the state. When introduced into new waters, especially those with native brook trout, bass can prey upon brook trout and compete for food and habitat. The bass fishery in Flying Pond "flies under the radar" in terms of its quality; many bass anglers aren't aware of the quality-sized fish there. Flying Pond is home to some huge largemouth (6+ pounds) and smallmouth bass (4+ pounds). Great water quality and an abundant forage base contribute to a very healthy bass population.

The month of March typically means a "ringing of the dinner bell" for adult bass. They become much more active and feed aggressively in anticipation of spawning season. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass make nests in which they lay eggs and guard their young. The male bass remains around the nest until the juveniles are ready to fend for themselves, which is one of the reasons that bass are so successful as a species. The male doesn't actively feed during this time, though he will be very aggressive and fight off any invader that might seek a meal of juvenile bass. Whether you're angling in the spring or just out for a boat ride or a paddle, look for bass nests in May and June. Smallmouth bass nests will appear as bright circles in gravel substrate, usually in 5-8 feet of water. Largemouth bass nests will appear as a bright circle in organic (mucky) substrate in 3-8 feet of water. If you look closely you'll likely see the male bass guarding the young. If you catch and release a bass that's guarding a nest, he'll immediately find his way back to continue his job.



'EJ & Big Bad Bass' —by Audra Knightly

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



'Winter Folly' —by Jon Olson

Winter Life on Flying Pond —feature story cont.

waiting. One morning I saw Pilot pulling Maggie pell mell across the lake. Most days I see our neighbor Stew walking his dog Pilot up Demariano Rd, while Maggie is at school. It is quiet here, very quiet.

But, it is not all inactivity. Three camps/houses on our road are under active construction or renovation. Snow and sand trucks arrive at the appropriate times, and Fed X, UPS and USPS are regular visitors. OH-there go that group of deer again-6 of them-this time from Roe's towards the point!

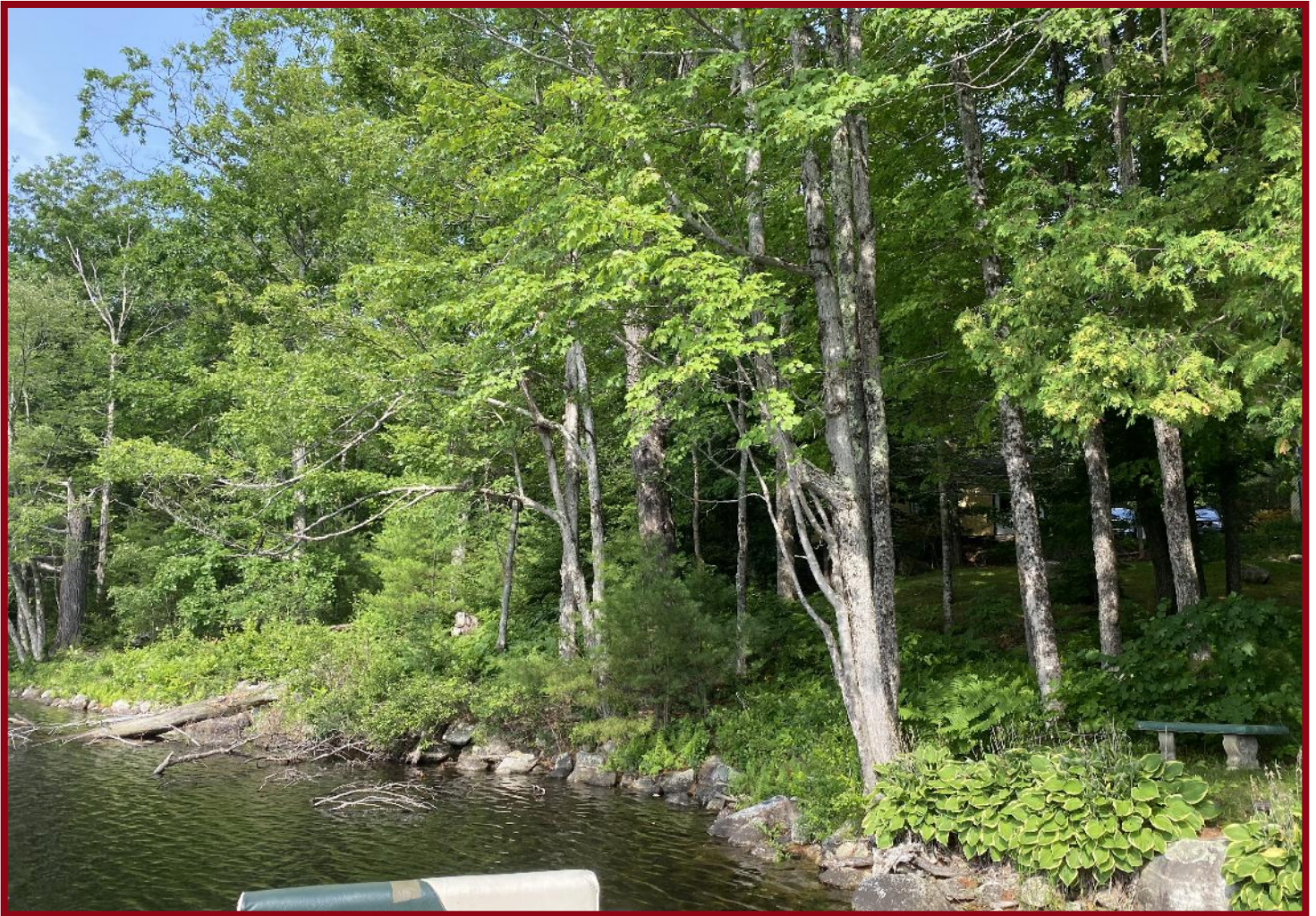
Everyone heard of the Arctic Cold snap we had here. The temperature at our house was -17F with a wind chill of -43F. Our pipes were frozen even before we went to bed. The next couple of days we spent holding hairdryers, pulling out wet mouse infested insulation, and calling a plumber to fix a split pipe. It didn't take long to have life "back to normal" here. Outside there are always branches to pick up after heavy snow and winds, and neighbors' roofs to check on. We survived that one, and now we plan to stock up on sand for this next round of rain which may put us back into a deep freeze.

Special thanks to Alice Olsen 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!



The View - Is Yours Hurting The Lake?

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



This LakeSmart property on Flying Pond has a healthy buffer that protects the lake by slowing and absorbing rain and stormwater from uphill areas; it has multiple layers of native vegetation, and is at least 10' deep across the entire shorefront.

Living with a waterfront view is just one way that lakefront residents feel close and connected to their lake. Although the view is meant to celebrate the magical place you call camp (or, for the lucky ones, “home”), what if you found out that your lake view was hurting the lake you most admire?

The vegetation on your shoreline (aka the “shoreline buffer”) is the last line of defense in protecting the lake from polluted stormwater runoff. Buffers with many tiers of vegetation (ground covers, shrubs, trees) provide the most

protection. Multiple tiers of vegetation intercept more rain, and the deep roots of native plants help absorb rainwater and extract phosphorus and other pollutants. Maine Lakes’ LakeSmart program recommends that all landowners work to maintain a shoreline buffer that:

- slows and absorbs rain and stormwater from uphill areas
- has multiple layers of native vegetation
- is at least 10’ deep across your entire developed shorefront

The View - Is Yours Hurting The Lake? — continued *30 Mile River*

Remember that trees do not live forever. Are you nurturing the next generation of big trees on your shoreline? If not, make sure you are allowing the saplings in the understory of your shoreline buffer to grow and mature -- one day these will take the place of the largest trees currently growing on your lakefront.

When maintaining your shorefront view, it's important to follow Maine's Shoreland Zoning rules to make sure you are protecting the lake and shoreland habitats. The habitat surrounding our lakes and streams is critical to the health of the greater lake ecosystem. Functioning shoreline zones not only protect water quality, but also the wildlife that live in and around the lake. In fact, more animals can

be found in shoreland habitats than in any other habitat type in Maine; hundreds of species depend on shoreland zones for survival. We humans are also attracted to the lakefront, but as populations grow and development around the lake increases, natural shoreland habitat is decreasing.

Maine's Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act requires municipalities to adopt land use regulations for all areas within the shoreland zone. Shoreland zoning ordinances include limitations for the disturbance, cutting, or removal of vegetation within 100 feet of a lake, and 75 feet of streams and wetlands. Here are some of the general guidelines for clearing vegetation in the shoreline buffer zone:

- Openings in buffer vegetation that have naturalized with woody vegetation cannot be re-cleared.
- No structures are allowed within the shoreline buffer area. This includes storage buildings, boat houses, patios, decks, tents, and portions of dock extending above the normal high-water line.
- Legally existing non-conforming cleared openings may be maintained, but shall not be enlarged.
- Pruning the lower 1/3 of branches of a tree is allowed.
- Existing vegetation less than 3 feet in height (including ground cover, leaf litter, and the natural forest duff layer) CANNOT be cut, covered, or removed, except to provide for a footpath.
- A winding footpath should be no more than 6 feet wide. The path should be meandering, so runoff is more likely to be trapped by vegetation and natural depressions within the buffer.
- No openings in the forest canopy may exceed 250 square feet.

Please note that some municipalities have established ordinances that are even more restrictive than the state requirements, so you should always consult with your local code enforcement officer (CEO) before you begin any clearing or cutting of vegetation in the shoreland zone.

To learn more about how to establish or improve your vegetated shoreline buffer:

Protect Your Pond (Vegetated Buffer) – Maine Lakes

The Buffer Handbook – Maine DEP/US EPA

Common Shrubs for Central Maine Shorelines – Maine Lakes

Lakes Like Less Lawn – Portland Water District

Landscaping at the Water's Edge - NH Extension

Hosting your local LakeSmart team is a great way to learn more about how you can manage your property to protect the lake. For more information, or to request a visit by your LakeSmart team, visit 30 Mile's LakeSmart webpage: 30mileriver.org/lakesmart

The Continued Fight Against Milfoil on Androscoggin Lake

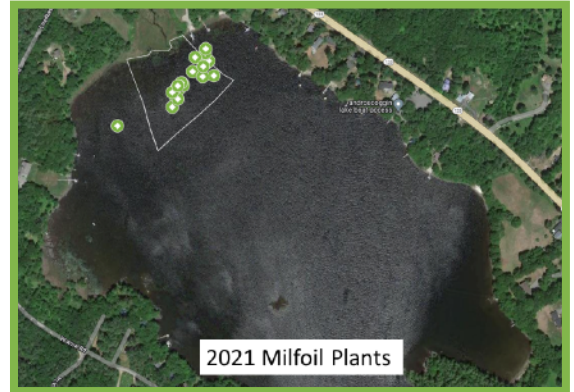
by Whitney Baker & Lidie Robbins
30 Mile River Watershed Association



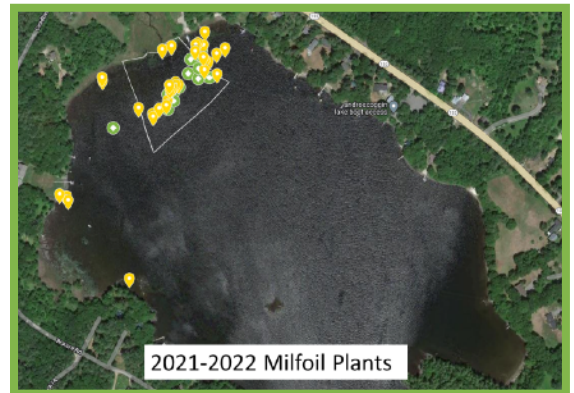
From May through October of 2022, 30 Mile’s staff worked hard to get rid of the invasive variable milfoil in Androscoggin Lake. During our second full season of this effort, our work entailed weekly surveys of the infested area (and beyond), marking each individual milfoil plant, and removing them by hand - working with a trained SCUBA diver. Our work in 2021, the first year, went well, but ended sooner than planned due to the algal bloom. As a result, plants had more time to grow, and in May and June this year we found more milfoil than before, covering a larger area of the cove. (2022 plants are shown in yellow here).

Throughout the 2022 season, ending in October, we successfully removed all invasive milfoil plants found. Over the winter, we will be working with staff at the Maine DEP to evaluate our progress and make plans for next year’s work.

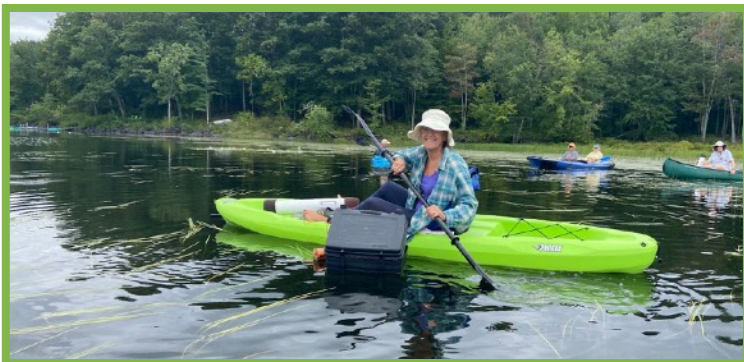
Another critical part of this effort is surveying the rest of the lake for potential spread. Androscoggin Lake Association’s volunteer team spent many hours surveying all summer. No invasives were found in other parts of the lake.



2021 Invasive plant aerial of Androscoggin Lake



2021 Invasive plant aerial of Androscoggin Lake



Trained IPP volunteer, Linda Gatti-Fyler surveys Androscoggin for milfoil



30 Mile staff member, Brynne Robbins, emptying net containing milfoil removed by diver



Trained divers prepare to remove milfoil plants

FLYING POND'S YOUNG WRITER'S COVE

Winter On Flying Pond 2022-2023 —by EJ Knightly age 11

Winters in Mt. Vernon and Vienna, Maine are magical especially when the snow falls and when the ice forms. The activities you can do in winter are amazing and there aren't a lot of people up at the lake in the winter. Some of the many activities are sledding, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, ice fishing and ice skating. I love all of them. But there is a lot more you can do.

I typically spend my February break from school in Maine. During that week my friends Zach, Drew, Cody and I along with my cousins love ice skating up and down the frozen lake. We ice skate to where our friends' houses are. This year we started playing hockey on the pond, it was a lot of fun.

I love ice fishing, so every morning my dad and I go set up tip-ups on the lake and we sit by a campfire on land or around our solo stove on the ice. A few years ago, I caught a 24-inch salmon. This year we caught a brook trout and a couple salmon. We cooked them over the campfire and ate them for lunch.

The frozen lake is also good for snowmobiling when there's enough snow covering the ice. I like riding the snowmobiles on the ice with my friends. We spend most weekends in Maine because we enjoy going out for rides. My Uncle Kurt is a great guide on the trails. My favorite spot to go to is the lookout at Blueberry Hill where we can see Great and Long ponds. When my family and I go snowmobiling we normally leave in the morning and sometimes don't get back until late afternoon. We like to stop somewhere along the way for breakfast or lunch like the Sunset Grill in Belgrade. We normally do about 15 - 25 miles but sometimes more.

In the winter my friends and I go sledding. At my house there is a big hill going down to the lake. Sometimes the hill is very fast. The hill has some obstacles like trees we have to navigate around. We love it! When we go sledding there we always start sweating as we climb back up.

One time, my friend Sam and his family from North Carolina came up to the lake. We went



'EJ & trout?' —by Audra Knightly

sledding, ice skating and snowmobiling at our two houses. We also did some ice fishing and had a great time.

As you can see, Flying Pond is a magical place in the winter. I hope some of you will be inspired to come and enjoy the beautiful lake for yourselves. I hope you've enjoyed my article about Flying Pond in the winter.

Special thanks to EJ Knightly for his submission to the **Flying Pond's Young Writer's Cove!** We are thrilled to publish his 'Winter On Flying Pond' 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.*

Broadband Grant Awarded to Vienna —by Jim Anderberg

Affordable, high speed, Internet access will be available to all homes in Vienna. On January 20th the Maine Connectivity Authority approved our \$2,229,396 request for assistance in building a community owned fiber-to-the-home network. This will cover 85% of the estimated \$2.7 million dollar project. The remainder will be covered by reserve account funds and a bond that will be paid off by revenues from subscription fees. There will be no tax impact from this.

When complete, Vienna will own the network and lease operations out to Axiom Technologies, an internet service provider based in Machias, Maine. Just as the town of Vienna owns and repairs our roads we will also own and maintain the fiber optic network. And just as we contract out for snow plowing in the winter we will contract with an Internet service provider to operate the network. With our community-owned network, there will be no need to rely on big internet service providers that may prioritize their profits over the needs of the community. If Axiom Technologies fails to meet our agreed upon standards of operation we will be free to find another company that will.

Construction of the fiber network is estimated to begin in the fall of 2023. A lot depends on how long it will take for the “make-ready” process whereby every pole is examined to make sure they are prepared for connecting our fiber cable. Once the “make-ready” process is complete construction can begin. Around that time Axiom will be offering pre-subscriptions which will qualify you for a free installation. Construction is estimated to take around 4 months.

A \$60/month subscription to this service will not only improve your internet connection by more than 10 times you currently have, but also a portion of that fee is returned to Vienna to help with ongoing maintenance and operations.

To stay informed of our progress be sure to periodically check out the broadband section of the Vienna web site: (https://viennamaine.org/Broadband_committee)

You can also request to be placed on our mailing list where we periodically send out updates of our progress.



'Ice Fishing' —by Jon Olsen

❄️ ❄️ ❄️ *Did You Know?* ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Ice fishing is the fourth most popular winter activity, following sledding, snowmobiling and ice skating. Almost half of all fish that are caught during ice fishing season are kept, compared to only about one-third during open water season. jackscharterservice.com/ice-fishing-facts

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 spring, wherever you may be! — *Diane Araps, Nancy Hemphill & Cindy Ripley*

Flying Pond Winter Wonderland - 2023 Photo Gallery



'Bob Snowshoeing' —by Pat Thompson

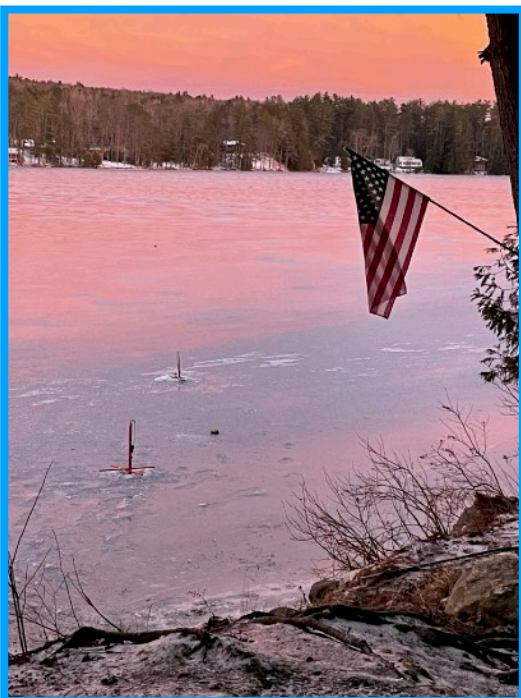


*'Pat Enjoying The Beauty Of Winter'
—by Bob Thompson*

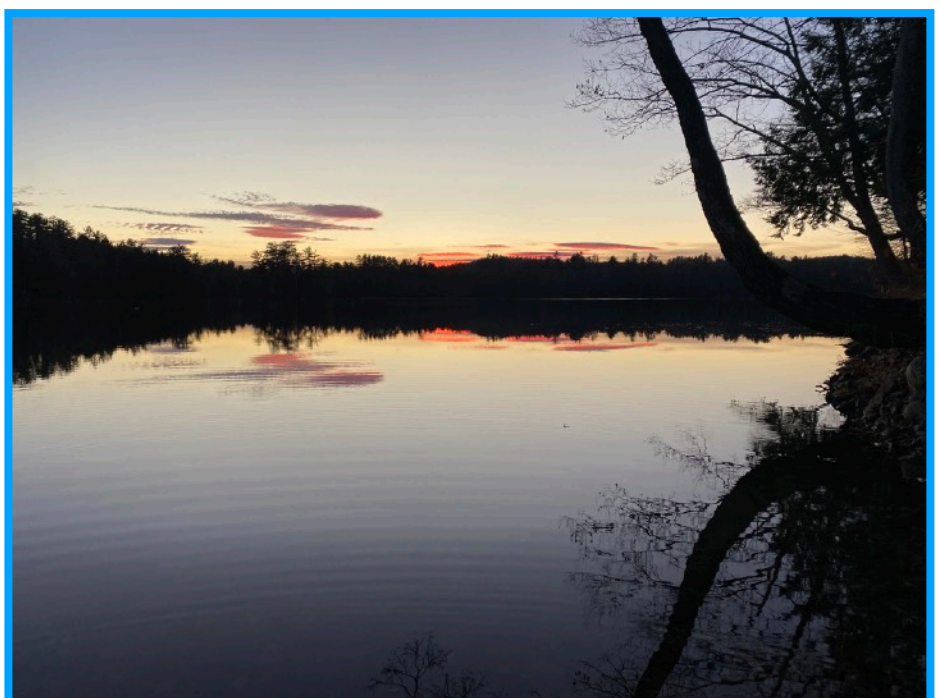


*'Stalking Eagle Hoping For A Meal'
—by Pat Thompson*

Real winter weekend on Flying Pond! Pat and Bob Thompson enjoyed snowshoeing and exploring! We saw an eagle watching the ice fishing and hoping for a meal! —Pat Thompson



'Fishing At Sunset' —by Audra Knightly



'Serene' —by David Gifford

Flying Pond Winter Wonderland - 2023 Photo Gallery

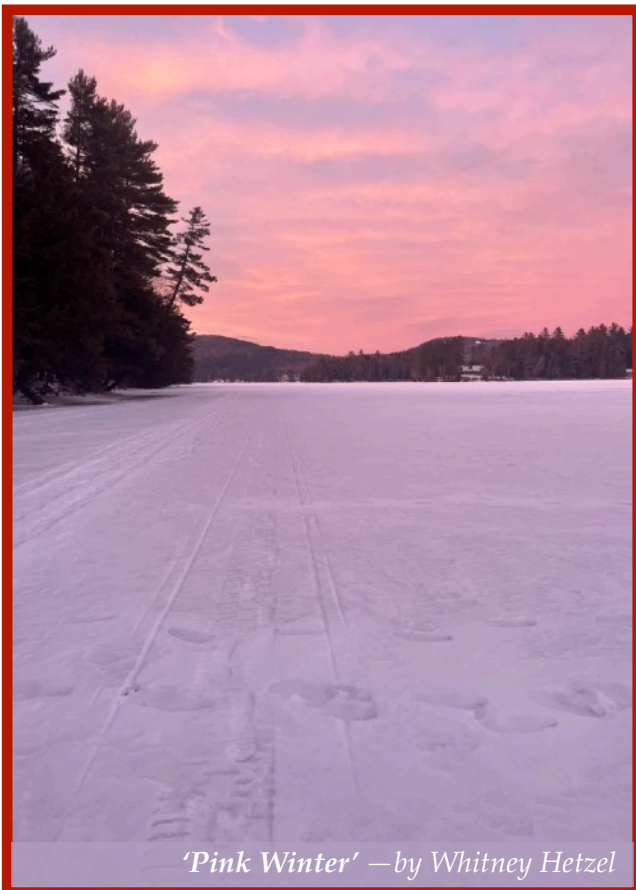


'Solitary Foliage On The Rocks' —by Peter Goffin



'Snow Moon' —by Audra Knightly

The Sights



'Pink Winter' —by Whitney Hetzel



'Unsafe Ice' —by Peter Goffin

Flying Pond Winter Wonderland - 2023 Photo Gallery



'ICE-olation' —by Jon Olsen



'Mama & The Moon' —by C.C. Hetzel

On The Ice



'Stuck In Ice Traffic Jam' —by Peter Goffin



'Pat Snowshoeing On The Pond' —by Bob Thompson

Flying Pond Winter Wonderland - 2023 Photo Gallery



'Guyott Family Tradition'



'A Boy And His Dog'

Annual cousins' weekend tradition which started over 40 years ago on Flying Pond with our grandfather, our fathers and our cousins. We now carry on the Guyott family tradition with our children. — Audra Knightly



'Cousins'



'Cousin Snowmobile Ride To Blueberry Hill'