

Minutes of the August 10, 2015 Meeting of the Swan Lake Association

The Swan Lake Association met at Swan Lake State Park at 5:30 P.M. for our annual barbeque meeting. Many thanks to Helen and Lee Robinson, who assumed responsibility for all the cooking, and others who helped them with set-up and clean-up and food contributions.

President Marty Stout convened the meeting at 6:20 P.M., with +/- 40 people in attendance. Our Treasurer, Bill Baxter, was unable to attend. In his absence, Marty asked that members pay their dues immediately if they haven't already done so.

The Secretary's Report for the July meeting is posted to the SLA website.

Marty announced that the dam owners, "the Nicks" were unable to attend because of some maintenance issues. They sent apologies for their absence; also for letting the level of the Lake down so much early in the summer because of their inexperience. They promised to be more attentive next year.

Our speaker for the evening was Chris Dyer, our local Game Warden. He reported a high population of bald eagles, resulting in diminished loon and mallard populations. The official loon count for Swan Lake this year was lower than last: 6 this year vs. 14 in 2014. Later informal observations reported sighting 9 at one time; also a mother with chick was seen; two loons fighting; and one dead loon being "guarded" by another. Marty and Peggy Stout will include this information in the report they send to Maine Audubon. Norm Stern had a dead osprey on his waterfront, which Chris came and removed. Chris, whose territory covers twelve towns, including all those around the Lake and some as far south as Damariscotta, noted the male loon's propensity/necessity of competing for territory. DIF&W will return to Swan Lake this year to check population numbers.

Chris also reported on the fish stocking: brook trout (9 – 12 inches) were stocked in the Goose River at the Smart Rd; in the pool just below the dam; and in the Lake. A wilder strain has been introduced, 500 of which weren't caught. Bait fish are not stocked: Swan Lake has smelt and lake jumpers in large numbers. Some spawning of bait fish is occurring near bars rather than in tributaries because of low water.

Fewer problems related to boat launching have been reported, perhaps because Game Wardens are emphasizing the education aspect of their responsibilities. A question was posed about the threat of fireworks to wildlife, loons in particular. Chris noted the 10 P.M. curfew for fireworks, but had no information on whether fireworks threatened any wildlife. He did warn against feeding eagles, because this encourages them to prey on domestic animals.

Win Hood had spoken with "the Nicks" regarding the construction of a spillway at the dam site. The Federal government has pronounced the dam "OK"; meanwhile, "the Nicks" have four years for this construction project, for which they currently do not have funds. However, they did not respond to Marty's 2014 overtures to raise money for this project. Dan Horton noted that CEO David Scofield has new flood zone maps, which can be obtained at the Town Hall.

The 50/50 donation totaled \$84. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Kerrigan, Secretary