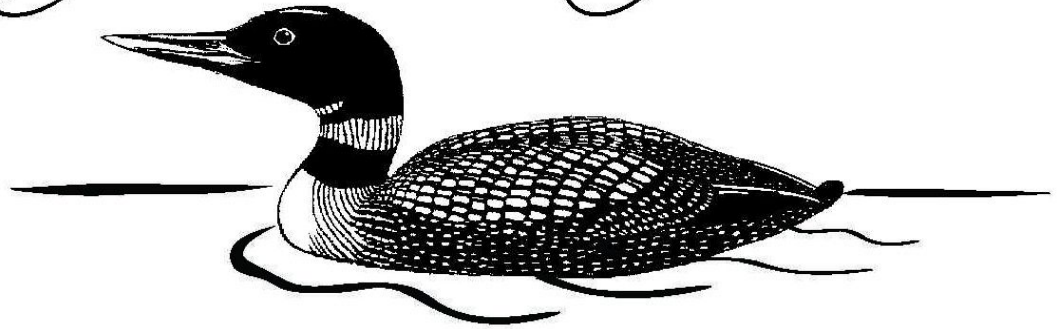


Embden Pond



Embden Pond Association

Spring 2017

President's Message by Ernie Falcone

Greetings from Embden Pond! It's official: we had ice-out on Saturday, April 29. The ice floated out, a fishing boat appeared, and two loons landed in front of our house -- all within minutes. I love it!!

We had an awesome winter on the pond. Lots of snow. Snowmobiling was great. The trails around the pond were always in terrific shape. I would like to send out a big "thank you" to the Embden Travelers Snowmobile Club for the fine job they did grooming. I always took it for granted that the trails got groomed, but I hadn't put much thought into *how* it was done. Well, this year I found out. I spent some time helping and found out just what it takes. It's not just jumping on a sled and pulling a drag around. You work very hard. Our trail master and his crew do an outstanding job. Please support them with membership as those dollars go toward equipment replacement and fuel.

What a difference a few months makes. The last time I wrote to you, I was concerned, as everyone else was, with the water level in the pond. All I heard was that it had never been so low. Now I can tell you I don't think I have ever seen it this high after ice-out. I actually found my paddle boat, which is stored on a platform, floating in my boat house. In other water-related news, we are still trying to contact our state representative to discuss the fish hatchery water usage, but as of this date, we have not received a response.

Our executive board has been busy this winter with projects to make our association better and more helpful to the camp owners and homeowners on the pond. We have been researching new depth/fishing maps and other merchandise that may be of interest to some members. Included in this newsletter are some tips on getting "buff." No, not you, but the buffer zones on your property. We

thought we would pass on some useful information to all property owners. Please take your time reading the information on buffer zones and treating your lawns. Little things done right really help keep the lake as pristine as it is. After all, that is the #1 job of the Embden Pond Association.

I would like to introduce a classified section for members to use on our website. All you need to do is send in your information via our “contact us and classified” page on the Embden Pond Association website, and we will post it. I think it will be a great way to sell those items we have in our garages and sheds that we do not use anymore. Think about it -- you can sell your boat and never have to put it on your trailer to deliver it. It will also a good way to meet your neighbors on the pond.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will notice a business membership page. Please support the businesses that help support us. If you rent your camp to others, it might be a good idea to leave the newsletter around so your guests can see some of the local happenings in and around the Embden area.

As I mentioned last fall, we have been working on creating a remembrance for Henry Hinman. We will be installing a granite bench next to the spillway Henry and Ellen worked so hard to have constructed. The ceremony will take place at the spillway on July 4 at 11:30 a.m. Please try to attend as I'm sure it would mean a lot to Henry and Ellen's family.

Our “Welcome Back to the Lake” breakfast is also on July 4 at the Embden Community Center from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. You can also pick up your boating safety handbook while you are there. Following the breakfast will be the dedication of the granite bench, and then the boat parade will start at Mullins Cove at 1:00 p.m. Let's make this year's parade the biggest ever. It's so much fun; give it a try. I also hope to see everyone at the annual meeting/picnic, which will be held at the Millers' camp (2547 Embden Pond Rd.) on August 5. The rain date is August 6 at noon.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and ideas on anything related to Embden Pond. I look forward to a **Fun, Happy, Healthy** and **Safe** summer season.

Embden Pond's Annual Fifth-grade Essay Challenge by Janine Leach

Once again, this year two high school recruits and I visited the fifth-grade classrooms throughout MSAD #74. Melanie Clark, Bailey Dunphy, and I had the opportunity to spend time in each class chatting with the students and discussing the importance of keeping our lakes and ponds clean now and in the future. We challenged each of the students to create an essay about memories made at the lake. We will gather their writings the first week of June, and then several committee members will read the essays and award bicycles to the top picks from each class at the final awards assembly.

Embden Pond Mission Statement

The mission of this association shall be to promote the protection and enhancement of Embden Pond's water quality and to preserve its ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic value.

***Fact:** [EM-den] is a town in Somerset County, incorporated on June 22, 1804 from the unorganized township of T1R2, W.K.R.

Embden Pond Shorefront Buffers by Mike Whitmore

One of the biggest threats to clear and clean water is storm water runoff into the pond. Storm water runoff carries soil, chemicals, and debris into the pond, causing phosphorus buildup and poison and garbage contamination. The results include growth of plants along the shoreline, decreased oxygen, and unclean water. An example of excess soil and phosphorous runoff that caused plant growth which spoiled a shorefront on Embden can be seen in the photo of the northwest corner of the pond (top of next page). I remember when this area was not full of plants.



The best way to prevent runoff is to leave the shorefront in its natural state with a canopy of trees, lower bushes, and some “duff” to cover the ground. Duff is leaves, sticks, and other natural materials that cover the land. If the natural cover is gone, then a replacement should be planted. Grass does not do the job. Instead, you should plant native trees, bushes and ground cover as wide as you can. Let it grow, and leave the duff. If you need more information, search the web. The Maine.gov buffer handbook is a good source of information. Remember: If we all work together, we can keep Embden Pond clean and weed-free for future generations. **Let’s all buff up.**

Grass fertilizer and weed poisons

“None” is the only answer for how much poison, like Roundup, and how much grass fertilizer you should use near the pond. If you absolutely must use a fertilizer, it should be phosphorous-free. You can tell it’s phosphorus free by checking the three numbers on bags of dry fertilizer and bottles of liquid fertilizer. The middle number is the phosphorous number; it should be 0. Liquid fertilizer is better than dry as it goes into the ground and is less likely to wash into the pond. No fertilizer should be used within 25 feet of water. You can buy phosphorous-free fertilizers at most stores that sell grass fertilizers. Agway and Home Depot carry it.

Recreational Opportunities in the Embden Area

Diadema Golf Club, North Anson: 635-3060	Colby College Art Museum, Waterville: 859-5600
Lakewood Theatre, Madison: 858-4282	Lakewood Golf Club, Madison: 474-5955
Gifford’s mini-golf and ice-cream, Skowhegan	Skowhegan Drive-In
The Strand Movie Theatre, Skowhegan	Embden Community Center
White Water Rafting Adventures (North Country River and North Country Rafting)	

Membership by Kathy Falcone

WELCOME, Spring and Summer! And welcome to all Embden Pond residents! What a glorious place to have spent the snowy winter or to be returning to now. As membership chairperson, I am excited to report that there are currently more than 100 families who have paid the 2017 dues. There are several new members that I am hoping to meet at the Welcome Back Breakfast on July 4. We have many members who live in Maine, and we also have members from Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, California, Indiana, Maryland, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire. Obviously, this is a wonderful place that people want to visit! Thank you all for your support. As you know from the president's report, there are many projects and events that your membership helps EPA support. Our dues are paid yearly from January 1 – December 31. The current membership list is available for viewing on the EPA website. Please refer to it if you are not sure that you have paid for this year, or call me (566-5560) with any questions. You can also check at the July 4 breakfast. Please do stop by and say hello as you enter. Again, thank you for all your support. I hope you all have fun this summer and enjoy this beautiful pond.

Upcoming Embden Pond Association Dates

July 4

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. -- "Welcome Back to the Lake" breakfast at the Embden Community Center. Merchandise will be available. Donations are welcome. Bring your visiting friends and family with you.

11:30 a.m. -- Dedication of the granite bench at the boat launch in honor of Henry and Ellen Hinman.

1:00 p.m. -- The annual boat parade begins at Mullins Cove. Whether you are riding in a boat or watching from shore, this event is a blast!

August 5 (rain date of August 6) Annual association barbecue and meeting, which is free to all members. More details to come.

Officers

President: Ernie Falcone Vice President: Greg Trefethen
Secretary: Jeanette Kimball Treasurer: Janine Leach

Board Members

Kathy Falcone Anne Trefethen Ruth Blake Brainard Tripp Kerry Kimball

Committee Chairpersons

*Invasive Plant: Mike Whitmore *Membership: Kathy Falcone *Merchandise: Anne Trefethen
*Public Relations: Jennifer & Dave Lachapelle *Safety: Mark Tibbetts
*Special Events: Greg Trefethen *Water Quality: Doug Sears

Important phone numbers

*Emergency: 911

*Maine Warden service/State Police: 1-800-452-4664

*Animal Control: 635-2852

*CMP: 696-1000, 1-800-750-4000

*Sheriff: 474-9591

*Code Enforcement: 474-4515

*E.P.A. Pres. Ernie Falcone: 566-5560

Musings of an Old Maineah by Brainard Tripp

“The Road”

In the summer of 1945, the east shore of Embden Pond was a far different place than what we see today. My perspective on local changes spans the seventy-two years since I was seven years old. We did not come from far away; we lived just down the river in Norridgewock. The odometer on my father’s 1937 Pontiac told us it was twenty-two miles, but the roads were a far cry from the roads we have today. By modern standards, the old ones were not too good. The road from Norridgewock to Madison wound through what is now Sophie Mae Lane and the Father Rasle Road, by the cemetery, then past the monument, through the pines, up the steep hill and over the railroad tracks to Old Point Avenue. The River Road from Anson to North Anson was the same route as it is now but rough and narrow. Once in North Anson, we always got to the east shore via the Fahi Pond Road. From Norridgewock to the Embden town line by the Dickey Farm on the Fahi Pond Road, the roads were paved (or “tarred,” as we used to say). At that point, a broad, well-maintained gravel road continued on to the “four corners” at Cross Town Road. I remember that it was on this stretch of well-graded gravel that my mother, who never had a driver’s license but reserved the right to tell my father how to drive, once shrieked, “My God, Maurice! You’re going 45!” Once we were at the four corners, a left turn put us on the then-called “Ford Hill Road,” where the hills were higher and the dips were lower than they are now. The next 500 yards or so, through a dip that was swampy and often muddy, led to a right turn at the giant old pine tree that marked the start of the East Shore Road, then called “Cove Road.” (As a silly aside, from the time we got electricity in 1952 until 2003, the address on the monthly camp electricity bill was “Cove Road.” In 2003, I asked that it be changed to East Shore Road on my bill.) Cove Road came rightly by its name as it only went as far as Mullins Cove.

Starting at Mullins Cove, which was the end of the town-maintained road, access to the lots farther up the east shore traversed the private property of several land owners. This was on a primitive two-wheel track known as a “tote road,” created solely for the purpose of removing forest products such as pulpwood and sawtimber from the forest along the eastern slope of Dunbar Hill. Travel over this road was seasonal and situational, as well as perilous to a vehicle’s undercarriage. (As another silly aside, it is laughable to see on our camp deed the extensive number of words it took to describe “the right to pass and repass” over a list of various privately owned lands. Our “new” town road has eliminated the need for that). Few people that I knew in 1945 had trucks, and 4-wheel drive was not widely available. Later, in 1947, one lot owner did have one of the first civilian Jeeps available to the public. Most families drove sedans with three-speed transmissions, and although ground clearance on those old cars was higher than it is on cars today, there was always a rock (or two) that was higher and needed to be avoided if possible. On more than one occasion, ad-hoc work parties of camp owners gathered with pick axes, spades, and crowbars to remove offending rocks.

During the spring mud season, after heavy summer rains, and after early fall snow, travel was dubious at best. Winter travel was not advised, although intrepid ice fishermen would brave the

plowed portions, often finding the hard-packed snow better going than the rutted summer versions of the roads. A brief description of the ride from “the cove” to our place at the foot of the big hill illustrates the quality of our access in early times. Going past Mullins Cove, the road took a turn towards the lake from the present road and up a steep little hill and over a giant piece of ledge that bore many marks from contact with motor vehicles. From there, the road was reasonably level, and it opened into what was called the Mullin Farm. Abandoned fields, orchards, stone walls and buildings marked this relatively open area that went along for several hundred yards. Where Winter Drive turns off to the right today, there was a wide open field from which the lake could be seen. Before leaving the field and heading into what I called “the grove,” travelers encountered a dip in the road where years later my father slid off the road during a summer downpour.

Through the grove, a stand of hardwoods snaked along the road, turning toward the lake and leading to “the big hill,” which was really two hills with a dip in the middle and a 90-degree turn at the top, which featured a very steep cliff-like bank on the lake side. Going down was usually easy, but coming up was another matter. With considerable road improvement and today’s vehicles, the hill is a breeze. But in 1945, the one-lane road, combined with poor traction, required that you get “a run for it” at the bottom, usually in second gear. If you lost momentum before the top, you needed to perform a double-clutching maneuver to go into first gear and grind over the top and around the sharp turn, all the while hoping you were not going to meet another car coming in. At any point on the road, you could have a problem if you met another car. At some points, it was possible to squeeze two cars by, but at other spots, one car had to back up to a wide place and let the other car pass. These “confrontations” were usually cordial, and the driver who was the skilled “backer-upper” would back up and let the other pass. There was no road rage in those days, just a mild irritation at times.

Today, the road is the place where people walk, jog, and meet to talk. So it was in those days, too, but I never saw anyone running unless someone was chasing them! The talk on the road often opened with, “How many times ya hit?” (like rocks in the road). At times we would walk down to the end of the road to pick berries. The road ended where the Humphrey camp is today. As the years went by, the town, usually at the request of property owners, would extend the road a little farther up the lake until it was possible to drive completely around the lake. That all ended sometime around 1952 when the bridge over Witham Brook washed out and was never replaced. Concerning the roads around Embden Pond, we can truly say, “You’ve come a long way baby.”

Embden Pond Water Quality by Doug Sears

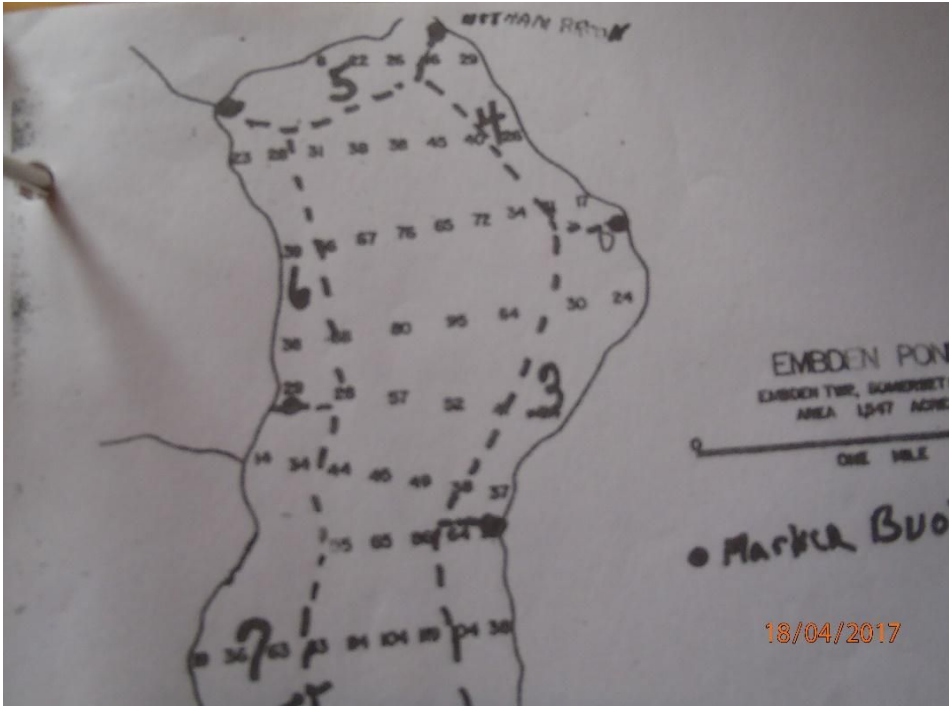
2016 Data

	Low	High	Average	40+year Avg.	State Avg.
Transparency (Ft.)	34.4	38.8	35.9	31 +/-	17 +/-

Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	Depth (Ft.)	Temperature (F)	DO (ppm)
July 5, 2016	0	75	9.3
	34	52	12.7
	151	45	12.9

In 2016, Embden’s dissolved oxygen was very high -- between 8.0-13.1 (ppm) -- depending on water temperature and depth. A DO content of 5 ppm or better is needed to support freshwater fish. For additional information go to the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program website (VLMP@Mainevlmp.org).

2017 Invasive Plant Survey



The 2017 Invasive Plant Survey needs your help. We have 10 of the 12 sections covered by Embden Pond residents, but we need people willing to survey sections 4 and 6. Section 4 is on the east shore on the north end of the pond, and section 6 is on the west shore on the north end of the pond. (See map.) The survey can be done anytime between mid-July and the end of September. It only takes a few hours per year. I will supply all the materials you will need, and I will assist you

while you do your first survey. The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) will be offering workshops around the state this summer. Those who attend will learn how to identify invasive plants. I urge anyone interested to go to the workshop and get certified to be a plant patroller. Check VLMP's website for locations, dates, and times. You can register for a workshop online. In June I will be distributing the materials required for the survey to all the Embden residence owners who have signed up for a section. Please contact me, Mike Whitmore, by phone (566-0531) or by email (mrwhit4@hotmail.com) if you are interested in taking ownership of a section or have any questions.

Public Relations by Jennifer and David Lachapelle

Please visit our website and Facebook pages to read all about Embden Pond and the Association.



Website: Embden Pond Association

Facebook: Embden Pond Association

E-mail: embdenpondassociation@gmail.com

Our mailing address: P.O. Box 208,
North Anson, ME 04958

Area Community Events

Kingfield Days (July 14-16)

Skowhegan State Fair (August 10-19)

Madison/Anson Days (August 24-27)

Recreational Opportunities in the Embden Area

Diadema Golf Club, North Anson: 635-3060 Colby College Art Museum, Waterville: 859-5600
Lakewood Theatre, Madison: 858-4282 Lakewood Golf Club, Madison: 474-5955
Gifford's mini-golf and ice-cream, Skowhegan Skowhegan Drive-In
The Strand Movie Theatre, Skowhegan Embden Community Center
White Water Rafting Adventures (North Country River and North Country Rafting)

***Education Appreciation Week:** Kathy Falcone and Janine Leach delivered juice, muffins, and donuts to all the MSAD #74 schools for Education Appreciation Week.

Business association members



Taylor's Drug Store
2 Old Point Ave
Madison, ME 04950



Michele LeBlanc, Owner
Ph: (207) 696-3935
Fax: (207) 696-0827



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Diadema Golf Course : 419 New Portland Rd. (on Route 16) North Anson, ME 04958,
phone: 207-635-306 web site: www.diademagolf.com We have a 9 hole golf course,
driving range, golf lessons, lunch: 11:00am- 3:00pm daily, and banquet facilities
(weddings, birthdays, various functions).

Merchandise by Janine Leach

We still have a large selection of t-shirts and sweatshirts. We are looking into new maps of the lake, wine glasses, and coffee mugs that will all be available for purchase in the near future. They make wonderful gifts for just about any celebration. Merchandise will be for sale at the Fourth of July breakfast.

Embden Pond Membership (E.P.A.) form--2017

A yearly membership is \$25.00. Yearly dues cover the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. There is also a place on the form to make donations if you so wish. Please mail the membership form to Embden Pond Association, Box 208, North Anson, Maine 04958.

Name(s): _____

Mailing address: _____ **Camp address (if applicable):**

City / State: _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone number(s):**

Are you a year-round resident? ___yes___no **New membership**___ **Renewal** _____

Change in address? _____

***I/we would like to donate \$ _____ to the Will Hayes Water Quality Fund. This fund is used expressly for the lake water quality testing.**

***I/we would like to donate \$ _____ to the Invasive Plant Program. This fund money is for expenses involved in the invasive plant search program on the lake.**

***I/we would like to donate \$ _____ to the Embden Pond Association in general. This money will be used for general yearly expenses.**