



# THE LOON

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NO. 1

*Tim's Cove Property Owners Association*

APRIL, 1993

TIM'S COVE LIBRARY: Yes, starting this summer, those of you who wish to do some reading and would like to check out a book of your choice may do so at a library that Janet Smith has established at her home at 20 South Cove Rd. Shelves have been stocked with books and magazines. More will be added as donations of material can be acquired. Please watch the bulletin board for information about the procedures, times open etc. Thank you, Janet.

NEW ARRIVAL: There is a new and interesting addition to the Sebec Shores community. The unnumbered piece of land, approximately 3 acres, on the east side of the Tim's Cove Rd., starting at Bennett Brook has been acquired by the University of Maine Foundation, Bangor, ME. At this writing I have no information as to what the Foundation plans are for utilizing this property. We welcome Amos Orcutt, VP. and his associates to the community at 11 Tim's Cove Rd.

GUILFORD ROAD-JAMES RIVER TIMBER COMPANY: Several members of the Board established contact with the James River Timber Co. (successor to Diamond) to discuss our relationship and to solicit their assistance towards maintaining the access road. We are indebted to Steve and Wayne Smith for acting as intermediaries in setting up and participating in a very successful meeting. As a result the General Manager and their Chief of Road Maintenance spent a full morning walking the entire length of the road advising us on what we should do to improve the road in such a way that would appreciably minimize the damage caused by water run off, the major contributor to the road deterioration. A more complete report will be given at the annual meeting.

ROAD USE SURVEY: The 1992 Annual Meeting directed that a utilization survey be made of the Guilford portion of our access road. Consequently, a survey was taken by the Board in an attempt to establish the volume of traffic at various times of the year. Additionally, we sought to obtain a feeling from the membership concerning increasing the membership fee should the need be apparent. This decision, of course would be made by the membership at a duly called meeting.

To report the full results would take more space than is available. A brief summary indicates that approximately 50% of those surveyed (46% of the membership) use the road to some degree in the spring and winter. 74% in the fall and 96% in the summer. When in residence 85% use it several times a week, 15% daily. This usage would remain the same whether or not the road was significantly improved. 80% said they would support an increase in the membership fee for road maintenance purposes, if needed, 15% said "no". The average stated increase was \$58 over the current amount. When asked about a surcharge for those who use the road in the spring i.e. mud season, 20% said "yes" with an average amount of \$71.88, 28% said "no". 52% did not address the question.

A complete copy of the survey and results will be posted on the bulletin board. If you would like a copy, let me know at 997-3242.

SEBEC LAKE WINTER 1992-93: Those of you who are not in or about Sebec Lake during the winter may be interested to know that as of early March there was something in the order of 3' to 4' of snow. A low temperature in February of -40, and many nights of -20 or so. Lots of ice on the lake. Let's hope for a slow run-off and no floods.



THE NATURE CORNER: There are a suprising number of fern varieties in Maine and in our immediate area and that provides an opportunity for an interesting hobby. Many of them look pretty much the same, but they are not. There is a small pocket-sized paper-backed booklet, about 4"x6" that makes the identification procedure very easy and rather quick. Called "FERN FINDER" and sells for about \$2.50. Some of you might be interested in pursuing this interesting subject. I have a copy of the booklet if you would like to look at it and can help you get one if it is not available at a local bookstore.

There are a good number of warbler species that nest here in the Sebec Shores area. As a species warblers are quite small. Being insect eaters, they usually feed in the foliage, some high in the trees, others low in the underbrush, some in between. Consequently, they are not the easiest to find and observe. Each warbler species has its own distinctive song or call which gives us a good chance to locate them when they are actively feeding in the dense foliage and to get a view of them with our binoculars.

Two very common species, each with an easily recognized song are the COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (not to be confused with the yellow throated warbler) and the NORTHERN PARULA. They will be singing in earnest from May into July, hence a good time to find them

The Common Yellowthroat inhabits the bushes and brushy areas, staying low, seldom going more than 8 to 10 feet above ground. The male bird is the more distinctively marked with a broad black mask across the eyes (the bandit bird), yellow throat and breast, the back and wings being dark olive. Their song appears to be saying "witchity, witchity, witchity, witch". Easily recognized. It is a ground nester. Listen and look for it along the lakeshore where there is good undergrowth or in bushy areas in open ground raspberry patches, etc. Packards has had one every year in the dry brookbed by the footbridge in front of the main farmhouse.

The Northern Parula is one of the smallest of the warbler species, 4½". It feeds high in the trees and hence about the best way to locate it is to listen for its song- a buzzy trill, ending with an abrupt zip. Hard to describe, but once heard, easily remembered. Blue-gray above, with a distinctive yellowish-green upper back, two bold white wingbars, white eye-ring broken by a black line running through the eye. Throat bright yellow. The nest is made from the tree lichen "old man's beard" (Usnea). The nest hangs from a tree branch, the bottom looking very much like a tennis ball.

Anyone interested in hearing the songs of these two birds, or others, are welcome to listen to the tapes that I have, Just let me know.

911 NUMBERS: Another reminder to those who have not done so to please post your new street address number at the head of your driveway in a highly visible spot. Without that number posted an emergency vehicle will not be able to come to your assistance when needed. BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY. If you need an aluminum square I have one for you. 997-3242.

MEMBERSHIP FEE: Attached is your membership fee notice for 1993. We strongly urge you to please send in your check prior to May 30. The Board of Directors will meet on that date and will initiate the plans for the necessary road work to be done. Paying your fee now, rather than waiting for the annual meeting, will greatly help the board to do what is necessary to everyone's benefit. Please act now before you forget it. Many thanks.

SAFETY FIRST: Again, a plea for a safe visit when you are at the lake. One thing that is a concern of some of us is the reckless riding of RVs on the road by some of the young children. It may look safe because there is no traffic in view, but control can easily be lost and good chance of someone being seriously injured. Do what you can to avoid this possibility.

Board of Directors Meeting; Sunday May 30, 1993 at 10:00 AM

Annual Meeting: Sunday July 4, 1993 at 10:00 AM

Both meetings at the Snyder's, 164 S. Cove Rd.

Editor: JHB