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send your email address to [tmpa@threemilepond.org](mailto:tmpa@threemilepond.org)

## THREE MILE POND ASSOCIATION

on the web at:  
[www.threemilepond.org](http://www.threemilepond.org)  
email: [tmpa@threemilepond.org](mailto:tmpa@threemilepond.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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King Road:  
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Three Mile Pond Road:  
Londa Dennett

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Pierce's Point Road:  
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Park Lane:  
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Fire Road 70:  
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# The Pond Gazette

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## President's Message

Hmmm... where to begin. Ok, a little about me. I was a flatlander all my life, until two years ago when my wife convinced me to take a trip to Three Mile Pond to spend a few days at her uncle Warren's place on the Casey road. Little did I know that I would find heaven on earth when I got there! And even more amazing, Warren's next door neighbor's were selling their place. So with a leap of faith, we bought the place, put our house in Ohio up for sale, and became Mainers.

I found a great job with the university here, and settled in for my first winter in Maine last fall. Now being from Ohio, winter isn't something I particularly looked forward to in the past. It was always damp, depressing slush for most of the winter, with little to do but stare out the

window, waiting for spring. But to my surprise, winter in Maine is a welcome change. First, it is a relief from the mosquitoes! And there is so much to do— cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice fishing—wow, life is great in Maine.

I soon realized that to help do my part in protecting this wonderful environment we have here on Three Mile Pond I needed to be involved. With Seth deciding to step down as president of the association, I welcomed the chance to get involved. Our association was the most logical place. My pledge to you, the members of the association, is that I will work hard for you and do everything possible to preserve, protect and promote this beautiful natural resource we call home - Three Mile Pond.

Ok, so enough about me, let's talk about the pond. We had our annual meeting at Fox Glen Snowmobile Club on June 30. The meeting was well attended. It is great to see that we have an association that is growing, is concerned about the pond, and has so many members who are just plain fun to be around!

So if you have any comments, questions or just want to say "hi" feel free to email me. Keith



## Boat Launch Update

Repairs to the boat launch and road are now complete. According to Thomas Linscott, of the Maine Department of Conservation, Boating Facilities Division, the project included reconstruction of the access road and parking area, including a new gravel surface, culverts and ditching. The concrete plank boat ramp was replaced with a newer ice-resistant concrete panel design, handicap accessible float

system, handicap parking and a concrete pad to accommodate a portable handicap accessible toilet.

The repairs were done under the direction of the Maine Department of Conservation. The contractor, N.F. Luce, was complete with all work in about two weeks.

The launch and rest area are now under the control of the

town of Vassalboro, which has plans to add an area adjacent to the launch for swimming. There has been considerable concern among our members that this may be detrimental to our pond. Our board hopes to meet with town representatives in the near future to express our concerns and attempt to work together with the town in managing Three Mile Pond's natural resource.

# How You Can Protect Our Pond

It has been shown that shorefront property value is determined by water quality. Improve water quality and property values rise; degrade water quality and property values decline. A property on Three Mile Pond is a valuable asset. Take time to learn how to protect your investment by protecting water quality. Here are five suggestions that can help maintain your investment:

1. **Avoid all phosphorus containing fertilizers.** Phosphorus drives the algae bloom.
2. **Improve your shorefront buffer strip.** Lawns allow more soil runoff than natural vegetation. Try not cutting the 10 feet of lawn closest to the lake or ask for a buffer strip consultation from the China Region Lake Alliance.
3. **Have your shorefront septic system holding tank pumped every 2 - 3 years.** This improves the life of your system.
4. **Form a camp road association to better maintain your road.** A well-maintained road is less likely to erode and contribute phosphorus to the pond. The TMPA has information on how to do this.
5. **Join the Three Mile Pond Association and help us work to protect water quality.** Your tax deductible contribution will be used to continue water quality protection work.

## Membership in TMPA

The Three Mile Pond Association (TMPA) is interested in identifying and establishing contact with all shorefront property owners and those interested in the Three Mile Pond watershed for the purpose of communication, fact-finding, and the sharing and voicing of concerns and opinions relating to our pond and its environs. Your input is valued and needed. The best decisions to be made for the good of Three Mile Pond for the present and into the future can only be accomplished

if all adjacent owners know the facts and have a voice. In order to accomplish this TMPA needs to be able to identify the owners and have a way to contact them. This works best if there is also a camp road captain to act as direct camp contact for the residents of each road. If you have email, please notify us of your current name, address and contact info at [tmpa@threemilepond.org](mailto:tmpa@threemilepond.org).

### Membership Dues:

Standard Member: \$20.00

Become a **President's Club Member**: \$150 (This year includes a beautiful limited-edition, numbered, wooden, hand carved duck made by our own board member, George Gunning.

Additional donations are greatly appreciated.

Checks should be made payable to:

**Three Mile Pond Association  
P.O. Box 2531  
Augusta, ME 04330**

Please join the Three Mile Pond Association!  
Thank you for your concern and support.



## About CRLA

The China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA) is the umbrella organization made of the China Lake, Three Mile Pond, Webber Pond and Three Cornered Pond Associations, the Kennebec Water District and the Towns of China, Vassalboro and Windsor. It is through the CRLA that the erosion control projects and other lake and pond related projects are coordinated. The CRLA is now partnering with the Kennebec County Soils and Water Conservation District (KCSWCD) for engineering and other technical advice. The CRLA recently announced that Paul Mitnick is working for the organization in a part-time capacity. Paul spent his career with the D.E.P. and now besides working with the CRLA works for the town of Vassalboro as their Code Enforcement Officer. Paul is a great addition to the CRLA and will be a great help around the four lake area.

This past year, CRLA did many erosion control projects in the

Three Mile Pond area under a D.E.P. grant received in 2005. A new grant has been received so there will again be cost share money available going forward.

In addition to grant financed projects, town money is used to offset the cost of work that is done. Work done by the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is paid for through town funds.

If you have an erosion issue on your shorefront property or anywhere in the Three Mile Pond watershed please send an email to: [tmpa@threemilepond.org](mailto:tmpa@threemilepond.org)

## Marker Buoys and Liability

At the October board meeting of Three Mile Pond Association, the board discussed whether or not to put marker buoys in the pond to denote rocks, low areas and other possible hazards. A past decision was to NOT put any marker buoys in the pond, due to the liability involved. We feel a clarification of this decision for our membership is necessary.

The Maine Department of Conservation, Department of Parks and Lands: Boating Facilities regulations states:

*“A lake association that has obtained a permit from the Department of Conservation to place navigational aid markers in great ponds is not liable for personal injury, property damage or death caused by placement or maintenance of those navigational aid markers, provided that*

*the lake association has placed or maintained the markers in conformance with the terms and conditions of the permit.”*

This regulation also states:

*“Inspection - All permitted waterway markers shall be maintained in proper condition and location, or be replaced or removed. **The organization shall inspect the location and condition of markers regularly, at least every three (3) weeks**, to assure they are in position, and keep a record of these verifications. Failure to keep written verifications shall be sufficient reason for the cancellation of this permit and removal of markers.”*

Unfortunately, TMPA does not have the human resources at its disposal to “inspect the location and condition of markers regularly, at least every three (3) weeks” which would then make us liable in the event of an accident involving an unmarked or improperly marked hazard, and open us up to potential litigation. Hopefully at some future point, we might have adequate participation within TMPA’s membership to staff this endeavor.

For more information visit the D.O.C’s website at:

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/boating/navaids.htm#Regulations>



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**For now, for the future - it's up to us  
to protect and preserve our pond.**

**Three Mile Pond Association exists to preserve, protect and promote the benefits of a beautiful, clean pond for all to enjoy.**

**Membership is open to and encouraged for all landowners abutting Three Mile Pond. But we also welcome all who have an interest in maintaining the quality of life that being “on the pond” affords, whether you’re a nearby resident or far-away vacationer. If you would like to become a member of our association please contact us by email or write us at our Post Office box address.**



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