



The Sebec Lake Current

The Official Newsletter of The Sebec Lake Association

Spring 2022

**Annual
Sebec Lake
Association
Meeting
July 9, 2022
9:30 AM
Foxcroft
Academy
Field
Grandstands**



- ◆ Fuel and Oil ◆ Snacks
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In this issue:

- New owners of the dam, Page 8
- Lake Level & the Salmon, page 16
- Invasive plant watch, page 3

And lots more!



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President's Message

Sebec Lake Association

At the time of this writing (February), I note that the lake and surrounding area have gone through some of the coldest weather seen in a long time. And snowfall has been pretty good so far. It also appears that the COVID virus is beginning to transition to endemic status. Both good things, let's hope they both prevail into the summer when the lake will come alive once again with those summer activities.

Like the year before, last summer was a tumultuous year. While suffering through the lingering effects of the delta variant, we also experienced one the driest winters on record, leading to a very dry spring and a virtually rain free summer. The end result was a lake level the lowest I've seen in my nearly 40 years at the lake, with barely any flow in the streams and brooks that feed Sebec. Despite a few opinions otherwise, lake level is primarily a function of water in. No snow, no rain, extreme draught conditions meant low water levels. Nothing the dam operators could do about that. Will it be different this year? We hope so.

In that regard, we have been busy getting to know the new owners of the dam and have been holding regular calls with them to discuss lake water level control. Those talks have been fruitful in that we've been able to impart the historical knowledge about the lake, flooding events, draw downs, salmon spawn runs, etc. We've been able to share how the unique hydrodynamics of Sebec, which is a 'canyon' lake, affect water levels. Sebec is different than other lakes, like Sebago, that are 'tub' lakes. We've learned a few things about dam management, current dam conditions, and whether flashboards should stay in or be taken out. By the time you are reading this, we may have a good idea if leaving the boards in, as Dichotomy is doing, and drawing the lake down to the winter level (~318 feet above sea level) will be better management or not. While we admit to some skepticism (clearly voiced to Dichotomy), I also admit that their logic seems sound, and their current approach is in compliance with the operational permit. I hope it's they who get to say 'We told you so.'

The Association continued with other key efforts this past year, limited again by virus related shutdowns and limitations. We continue efforts to measure lake levels via old fashioned geometry at the Bowerbank

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

launch. Our electronic equipment located there has aged beyond further use, and we hope to replace it this year. Having more of you who are not yet members join the Association would help with this, and all additional efforts to 'Protect and Preserve' the lake. So please consider joining. It's an important \$20 investment. Many of you who are not members are the first ones on the phone to us with 'what are you doing about it?' calls. I urge you to be among the first join.

The boat with plexiglass panels in the bottom, to support the Lake Mapping / Invasive Plant Patrol, is nearly ready to launch. The first series of plexiglass panels were installed this past summer and tested for water tightness. It passed with flying colors. Our hope is that the team can get back on the water this summer and pick up from where it left off in 2019. If you'd like to volunteer, contact me or Director Brian Krause via the 'email me or Director Brian Krause via the SLA website Officers page. We know there was much more plant growth last summer due to the shallow waters / deeper penetration of sunlight. Most of those plants die back in the winter. When the lake returns to normal levels we should see more historical plant growth patterns.

Our 2022 annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 9, 2022, starting at 9:30 am, most likely at the Foxcroft Academy grandstands. That worked out really well last year and we are grateful to the Academy for letting us use it. I hope to see you there.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you who are members, some having been members from the very beginning, 51 years ago.

The Association also urges you to support local businesses, many of whom advertise in The Current. They are vital to the health of the lake, and thus to you.

See you soon!

Rudy Davis, President
Sebec Lake Association





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Summers at Sebec Lake

Roberta Fitzgerald,

It's the end of June, the last day of school. In the 1950's and 60's, the last day was only an hour long – just enough time to turn in your books and pick up your report card (back when students were trusted to deliver them to their parents!). While we were at school, Dad was home loading up the station wagon for the two or three day trip to Sebec Lake, Maine.

Dad was a construction worker – a pipe coverer. Summers were not the best time to “take off” work for eight weeks, but that's what Dad did – for “us girls” and for Mom. Actually,



each June he would quit his job. We'd arrive home from school to find the car packed and ready to go. Dad was sitting in the aluminum lawn chair in the backyard, waiting for his boss to drop off that final paycheck. When we returned home at the end of August Dad would be on the phone with the Union Hall, looking for another pipe covering job.

Dad didn't like the long, twelve hour drive to Maine. Back then, the “super” highways weren't what they are today. Most roads were only four lanes. To break up the trip, we'd stop in Hopkinton, Massachusetts to spend the night at Woodworths, the half way mark between Bloomfield, NJ and Dover-Foxcroft. As teenagers, another stop was added to the first leg of the trip. We'd drive to Schenectady, stay at Parkmans' and add Janet & Connie to the station wagon's passenger list.

The station wagon was loaded! Mom and Dad sat in the front seat; the remaining two seats were folded down, creating a huge “bed” for six girls. Sleeping bags were spread out for mattresses and our “ditty bags” filled with our trip clothes served as our pillows. It was a tight squeeze, but we were able to sleep the better part of the trip wedged side by side. Of course traveling like this today is prohibited, but safety belts weren't even invented “back then”.

(Continued on page 15)

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A ‘P.S.’ from the Sebec Lake Association (SLA) President

Creating, printing and mailing The Sebec Lake Current to property owners is a massive effort involving nearly every board member. It is the largest single expense of the Association. So, I want to address those of you who receive the newsletter who are not members but are related to a property owner who is a member.

If you've received this to your 'home' mailing address, you are in our database, even if you are not the owner of the property. This means either you or the owner has asked that you receive the annual newsletter (The Sebec Lake Current). In return for keeping you informed about the work of the Association - To Protect and Preserve Sebec Lake, we ask that you support SLA by joining SLA. You can do this for \$20 on line at the website....which helps cover the development / printing / mailing cost to send it to you. If you would like to opt out of receiving the newsletter, you can let us know by sending an email via the website (www.sebeclakeassoc.org) to the Secretary. To opt out, go to the Officers page at the website and click on 'Janet Hall' to send the opt-out email. However, since it seems apparent that you love Sebec Lake, don't you think it would be better to support the Association by joining? Please give it some thought.

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This newsletter needs YOU!

We are looking for your story about your involvement with Sebec Lake. How you discovered the lake. A special memory at the lake. A grandchild's story. A proposal at the lake. A wedding at the lake. A birth!? We would love to hear from you.

Please write us via the Sebec Lake Association website
(www.SebecLakeAssoc.org) with your memory.





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Sebec Lake Association Annual Meeting, July 9, 2022

The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held at the Foxcroft Academy Field Grandstands on Saturday, July 09 at 9:30 a.m.

Be sure to check the Sebec Lake Association website (www.SebecLakeAssoc.org) under “Announcements” for the latest annual meeting information regarding date, time and location. With the Covid-19 virus still being an issue, you just never know. If it all works out we look forward to seeing you there!



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(Continued from page 6)

Spending almost eight weeks every summer in Maine at Levanselor's camp on Sebec Lake was a major part of our lives. It was like Thanksgiving and Christmas in the middle of summer as we got to know all the members of the Washburn Clan. Huge family pot lucks at the farm, at the grange hall, or at the lake as a progressive dinner were like Thanksgiving gatherings - lots of food with "Woody's Auction" fun afterwards. One year, we even had a "Christmas in July" party. Other fun activities during the summer included roller skating at Rollerland, learning to water ski, climbing Borestone Mountain, singing "hootenannies" at camp, and socializing at the beach.

Riding to town to visit with Gramie and Grampa Washburn was another regular event during the summer. As our parents visited, the cousins would pick raspberries, walk into town, or hang in the sewing room. On rainy days, we'd make paper dolls from Gramie's old sewing pattern catalogues. There were other favorite games and toys: parachute man, the stereoscope (the Victorian version of a viewmaster), a kaleidoscope, and the prisoner's puzzle.

Our summers were special, but I don't think we realized how special they were until we became adults. Even now as I tell stories of how I spent my summers as a teen, people are amazed that my father actually quit his job each year so we could go to Maine.



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A Trip to Maine, Personal Memoir

Allison Wilke

Every summer since I was born, my family, which consists of my older brother Ethan, my younger brother Chase, my mom Kelly and my dad Andrew, sets aside time to travel to the beautiful forests and lakes of Bowerbank, Maine. This annual adventure is the only time that I do not have to stress out about quizzes, tests, homework, and constant practices for basketball and lacrosse. Central Maine is where I can relax and enjoy the peaceful lake with my relatives. I look forward to this trip every year in anticipation of all the good memories it will bring.

My first trip to Bowerbank, Maine was a few weeks after I was born. My older brother, Ethan, who had just turned two, my mom, my dad and I took a plane to Bangor, Maine. Ten years later, Ethan and I flew on our first plane ride by ourselves to get to Bowerbank. Nowadays, my mom, Ethan, Chase and I pack up our blue minivan and make a 2-3 day road trip to Maine. Trapped in a car for over three days with two brothers and a mom who listens to educational podcasts (digital audio talks), can grow bothersome. However, when we arrive in Maine, the long car ride is worth it. My uncle Brian, Aunt Hanako, whom we call Aunt Hana, and their kids Hawken and Jasmine from Salt lake city, Utah, and my uncle Kevin, Aunt Susan, and their two boys, Emerson, and Banneker from Boulder, Colorado, all find the time and a way to come, too.

Every day we go down to my favorite place in the world, Sebec Lake. The sun shines through the white pine trees and glistens on top of the water, while waves slowly brush the shore from boats that have passed. My cousins and I all try to push each other into the lake because of the chilly water, but once we all get in, we do not want to get out. We create games, new jumps, play on the rafts, and just enjoy the cool clear water that surrounds us. On special occasions we take the pontoon boat out to the middle of the lake and jump in, unable to see the bottom, which appears to go on forever. Sometimes I need a rest so, I lay down in the hammock under the trees with a book and listen to the nature around me.

We usually do not let a little rain stop us from enjoying the lake, but lightning does. On those days we go to a department store only found in Maine called Renys. We only leave the house a couple of times because

(Continued on page 20)

Invasive Plant Patrol Update

Brian Krause

After limited ability to gather in groups for the last two summers, the Sebec Lake Association's Invasive Plant Patrol intends to resume the whole lake survey that was started a few years ago. Members of the IPP, having shifted gears, started a retrofit of an aluminum boat that was donated to the SLA by Pam and Russell Krause of Cove Road in Sebec. The boat is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2022, and will be put to use in the continuous surveying and monitoring of Sebec Lake for invasive aquatic species. The boat should aid help to streamline the surveying process moving forward.

Calls for the team to survey private properties has declined over the previous two summers, but the team still visits camps and does an inspection when the owners see something they don't recognize growing in the water.

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(Continued from page 17)

car rides take about an hour just to get to the nearest town, but we make an exception for Renys. We also go on an annual canoe trip down different rivers like the Sebec, Pleasant and Piscataquis rivers every year. Although the thrill of going down rapids is exciting, I prefer when we glide across the glass-like river observing the different animals, like geese, deer, fox, and bald eagles.

I will always treasure the time I get to spend in Maine: from the car rides up to Sebec Lake to the canoe rides down the rivers. This is a special time that I see relatives who live around the country and make new memories with them and time where we can all disconnect from our technology and busy lives and connect with each other. No matter how far apart, or how busy our lives get, we will continue to come together to make new memories.

Grand Opening of the Jim Robinson Field House at Foxcroft Academy August 5th.

As is noted on the 2022 Sebec Lake Area Events pages (pages # 32 & 33 this August 5 there will be the grand opening festivities for the Jim Robinson Field House at Foxcroft Academy (FA). This is the new structure nearby the FA football field. Construction got underway on May 3rd of 2021 and has progressed quickly since then despite the pandemic and supply shortages.

The Jim Robinson Field House will feature synthetic field turf, sporting a surface big enough to play a regulation field hockey game. In addition, there will be a four-lane walking track spanning the perimeter of the inside of the building, a jump pit for indoor track events, locker room facilities, office spaces, and a weight room. Most, if not all, of the Foxcroft Academy athletic teams, will use the facility at some point during the season.

The field was made possible due to the generosity of The Libra Foundation (the same folks that are responsible for the Piscataquis County Ice Arena and much of the renovations in Monson.), Jim Robinson, Charlie and Jane Merrill, and many other donors.

As part of the project, the Wiley House, located between the Foxcroft Academy campus and A.E. Robinson Irving Convenience Store, was razed ahead of the groundbreaking. The house and lot were donated to the Academy by Phyllis and Earl Wiley. Mrs. Wiley taught commercial subjects for 30 years at Foxcroft Academy (1951-1981), and Earl is one of four brothers who attended FA. This area will be forever memorialized in Earl's and Phyllis' names to recognize their very generous donation to this project.

Sebec Lake Reflections

Dale C. Flanders

There is a heaven on the earth. I first set foot in heaven while my mother sunned herself on the public beach at Greeley's Landing around 1954. The sand was white, the sky was blue, the woods were green, and the rocks were granite. Yes; granite on the south side of heaven, and black slate on the north.

Mother, in her one piece, was slick with baby oil. I was towhead blonde. Only recently has my hair become white-blonde again. Well; more white than blonde now. We lived in Guilford on the very end of Ellis Ave. The beach was simply "Down to Sebec." We'd stopped at Butterfield's the new ice cream place half-way there. I'd gotten the first of hundreds of cones of black raspberry.

I dipped my toes in the very western end of Sebec, on the last day of school celebration, at Earley's camps the year I'd graduated from Kindergarten. Only five years old, and although I didn't have a single clue to its existence, I'd bracketed Tim's cove which lies about midway between Earley's and Greeley's.

In 1969 I left Guilford forever, I thought, bound for California never in all my youth having seen the "Big Lake" above the narrows. Thirty years after first dipping my toe in heaven I thought better of California and returned to rent a camp on the lower lake on Steadman's landing. It was up to my wife, Julia, and three-year-old daughter, Alice, when I was gone back to Boston for work, to rent a boat with an outboard and venture, like Vasco Da Gama, through the narrows and into the wilds of the big lake. Julia looked, Alice trailed her hand in the water and slept to the humming of the Johnson. Julia called me that night and said she'd discovered a paradise.

The following weekend Neil Mallet, myself, and Julia, in Neil's land-boat Lincoln entered, "The Road" and I prayed that we'd return alive. We lived. He took us to Simpson's Point where I stepped to the shore on the empty lot for sale. I walked gingerly to the shore, just as I'd done in 1954. I looked across the water, out Tim's Cove to the big lake, and turned to Neil.

"We'll take it. This place looks like heaven."

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The Castle

The Castle, located near the mouth of Wilson Stream, was designed and built in 1893 by Willis E. Parsons, as the family story goes, to give his bride, Agnes, a castle, which he named Norwood for Northwoods. Mr. Parsons was a Maine state senator



and the first Fish and Game Commissioner for the State of Maine. He lived in Dover-Foxcroft, and, according to his granddaughter Marilyn Wortman, actually performed the ceremony to 'marry' Dover to Foxcroft. They were also very involved with Foxcroft Academy, which their son, Willis G. Parsons attended.

Willis G. Parsons, along with his wife, Alma Parsons maintained the camp until they were no longer able to do so. According to Marilyn,



who now owns the camp with her brother, John Parsons, the wooden structure remains as it was built by her grandfather with turrets and odd shaped rooms, along with the addition of a kitchen, bathroom and running water. Marilyn

remembers using the outhouse and pumping water as a child.

Marilyn and John maintain the camp as a labor of love, honoring both their parents and grandparents.

Thank you, Marilyn, for sharing this history.

If you are curious about, or know the history of, an interesting location or structure on Sebec Lake, please let us know. Click on the 'Contact Us' link on the Sebec Lake website, and send us an email!

- Thanks to Marilyn Wortman for permission to use picture of her Castle.
- Thanks to Dickie Martin for the pictures.



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Sebec Lake Association Database:

There are over 950 records in the Sebec Lake Association (SLA) database...and each one is mailed a copy of The Current via USPS mail to the mailing address of record. Many properties are second homes, people move from their primary homes to new homes, transfer their lake properties to new owners/family members, head to warmer climates for the winter, each prompting a change of mailing address. Each year, many newsletters are returned by USPS as undeliverable because there is no active forwarding order.

So how do we keep up with address changes?? Each of the four towns on the lake produces a 'Tax Commitment List' in October of each year. That list is public information and reflects the current property owner's name and the address to which the following year's tax bill is sent. Each January, we compare those lists to the properties in our database for ownership and tax mailing address and adjust the information for each property: new owner and/or change of mailing address. But we can't get information that changed after October from the town offices including change of owner, owners relocated, spend time away from their home in the winter, etc. We need a mailing address that works in early spring when we send out the newsletters. For this, we rely on you to update your mailing address. You can do this by sending in a Member form on the SLA website (sebeclakeassoc.org) at any time OR fill out the form on the back page of the Newsletter and mail it in (hopefully with a dues payment), OR send an email to Janet Hall from the Officers page on the website. We also encourage you to share a valid email and/or phone number so we can reach you if there is a question about your address. Many of you have received an 'SLA Address check' email, which is the easiest way for us to get the most appropriate mailing address for early spring if there is confusion. We do NOT SHARE/SELL email addresses.

Our database includes property owners, other family members, advertisers, those who have donated to the SLA and other interested parties. Note that dues payments are for people, not properties, so we hope everyone receiving a newsletter will consider joining the SLA with a dues payment and/or a contribution to help the Sebec Lake Association continue our mission to Preserve and Protect beautiful Sebec Lake for future generations. We appreciate your support!

Janet Hall, Secretary
Sebec Lake Association

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Celebrating 100 Wedding Anniversary of the towns of Dover and Foxcroft



100 years have passed since the merger of two Maine towns.

Chris Maas, the town historian says, "There were two separate towns. It was straight lines, about 36 square miles for each of the two towns. It wasn't quite the river. Everyone thinks it's the river, but it's not. It went through the Masonic Lodge and through several homes. Mr. Hall, Dr. Hall used to complain that he slept in Dover and his wife slept in Foxcroft."

Back in the early 1900s, there was quite a bit of jealousy between the two towns. But, many approved of a union and took steps legally to make that happen.

Maas says, "The first bill was sent to the legislature in 1915. The citizens, all men at the time, voted it down on both sides. They were not in favor of it. Every year they'd have a town meeting and it would get voted down. Until 1921."

1921 was the last time a vote could be made without legislation and it undoubtedly would have failed, except for that in that year, women earned the right to vote here in Dover and across the country. In the Dover Central Hall people voted 376 to 249 approving the union of Dover-Foxcroft. Maas says, "It was the women who caused this to happen. Enough of this foolishness."

The towns were then literally married. Maas says, "They actually had a bride and a groom representing Dover and Foxcroft to celebrate the wedding of the two towns. I remember reading in the papers, some people accused it of being a shotgun wedding. But it was a marriage ceremony."

2022 Sebec Lake Area Events

April

April 5th. Quilting 1st Floor Community Room - Central Hall Commons

April 16 - 55th Annual Kenduskeag River Race

April 23 - 48th Annual Kiwanis Piscataquis River Race - Starting Line-Guilford, Finish Line-Dover-Foxcroft

May

May 1- 6 Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) Tree & Plant Sale fundraiser. Pick up plants on May 21st.

May 3 Quilting 1st Floor Community Room - Central Hall Commons

May 14 - Annual Kiwanis Bike Rodeo, YMCA/Kiwanis Park

May 21 - Sebec - Bean Supper with Pulled Pork

June

June 18 - Sebec - Ice Cream Social - 6-7:30

June 25 - Maine Whoopie Pie Festival, Dover-Foxcroft

July

July 4 -Sebec - 5K 8:00, Parade 9:30, Canoe Race 11, Chicken BBQ, Whoopie Pie Sale 11 till sold out

July 6 - Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers 8:00 AM Central Hall

July 9 - Sebec Lake Association Annual Meeting, Foxcroft Academy Field Grandstands 9:30 AM

July 15-16 - Annual Guilford Town Wide Yard Sale

July 23 - Sebec - Ice Cream Social - 6-7:30

July 28-31 - 72nd Annual Dover-Foxcroft Kiwanis Auction

July 30 - Annual Piscataquis River Festival - Guilford

August

August 2 - Quilting 1st Floor Community Room - Central Hall Com-

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August 5 - Grand Opening of the Jim Robinson Field House at FA; D-F/FA Alumni Weekend

August 6 - Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming Celebration - 100th Wedding Anniversary of Dover-Foxcroft

Parade - Street Vendors - Beach Party & Fireworks at Municipal Beach, Dover-Foxcroft

August 7 - Homecoming Rain Date

August 20 - Sebec - Silent Auction and All You Can Eat Breakfast - 8-10:30

August 25-28 - 135th Annual Piscataquis Valley Fair, Dover-Foxcroft

September

September 6 - Quilting 1st Floor Community Room - Central Hall

September 17 - Sebec - Ham Supper with Scalloped Potatoes

September 24 - Sebec - 3rd Annual Whoopie Pie Sale & Yard Sale for Jimmy Mike's Birthday

September 24 - Annual Guilford Harvest Fair

Fall

October 22 - Sebec - Bean Supper with Pulled Pork

November 5 - Sebec - Chicken & Biscuits Supper

December 3 - Sebec - Christmas Party

Some events may be pending - check websites and Facebook for times and updates.

Sebec supper times are not provided, considering offering pickup only, dining in or both. Call Barbara Mauzy, 564-3232 for updates.

Compiled by Cindy Woodworth & Janet Hall

Contact List

SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE - www.sebeclakeassoc.org

SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD

- President -- Rudy Davis
- Vice President - Drew Daubenspeck (Newsletter Editor)
- Treasurer – Brian Woodworth
- Secretary - Janet Hall (Webmaster & Data)
- Corresponding Secretary - Cindy Woodworth
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- Director - Brian Krause (Invasive Plants Lead)
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- Director - Jennifer Rogers (Facebook page)
- Director - Ellen McDermott
- Director - Joe Guyotte

If you have a question, comment or suggestion about The Current content, you can email our Board members via the Sebec Lake Association website (www.sebeclakeassoc.org). Click on Lake Association on the blue banner, then on “Board” on the green banner. Click on a name to send and email. We look forward to hearing from you!

COMMUNITY NUMBERS If you have an emergency call 911!

Mayo Hospital Emergency	207-564-4260
Maine State Police	207-866-2121
Piscataquis County Sheriff	207-564-3304
Dover-Foxcroft Police	207-564-8021
EMS Ambulance	911
Physician Referral Service	207-564-1224
Pine Tree Hospice	207-564-4346
Bowerbank Fire Department	207-564-3535
Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department	207-564-2310
Sebec Fire Department	207-564-2090
Willimantic Fire (Provided by Guilford)	207-876-2202

Dover-Foxcroft Transfer Station & Recycling Center

Monday Wednesday Friday - 9-5

Saturday - 8-4

Willimantic Transfer Station & Recycling Center

Wednesday and Saturday 8 - 4

Sebec Lake Association membership is open to all with an interest in our mission to Protect and Preserve Sebec Lake whether or not you own lake property.

To pay your dues for 2022:

Online: Go to www.SebecLakeAssoc.org, click on **Dues/Donations/Store**, and pay your dues and/or make a donation with a credit card via PayPal. Then click on Membership and fill out the form if any information has changed.

Or fill out the form below and mail it with a check for \$20 to:

Sebec Lake Association Treasurer
P.O. Box 303, Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426

Total check amount: \$ _____

In addition to my \$20 Dues, I have included a Donation for:

IPP Initiative \$ ____ General Fund \$ ____

First/Last Name(s): _____

Home Street Address: _____

Home City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

For Lake Property owners:

Lake Property Street Address: _____

Lake Property Town: _____

Year Lake Property acquired: _____ Are you a **new** owner? Y/N: ____

Lake Property Map# _____ Lot# _____ (if new owner)

Lake Phone: _____

Number of properties: ____

Do you share ownership? Name(s): _____

Email(s) (SLA will NEVER share your email):

If you have already paid your dues or sent a contribution for 2022,
THANK YOU for your support of the Sebec Lake Association!



Sebec Lake Association

P.O. Box 303

Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426