

November, 2010



SEKON FALL NEWS

Sekon Work Weekend

Saturday, September 18th dawned as a sparkling late summer day. After a week of rain our small group of volunteers welcomed the warm sunshine. The beach furniture, umbrellas, first aid station, etc. were stored for the winter. Then our workers turned their attention to



the two septic fields. It was a backbreaking challenge to remove all the growth and rake the area smooth. The distribution pipes were also realigned.

Thanks to our workers: Jim Marasco, Chris Mosca, Stu Lyon,

Warren Longacker Sr., Warren Longacker, Jr., Bill and Eileen Mansfield.

Thanks also to Bunny Lyon for providing a tasty lunch and to Marsha Stan-

ley, Eileen Mansfield and



Barbara Marasco for appetizers and dinner.

Thanks to Harold and Ellie Mahony and Al and Carleen Crispo who couldn't join us but made a contribution to the cause. To everyone who helped, a big thanks from your neighbors!



July Meeting Minutes

The minutes taken by last year's Sekon secretary, Fred Schwarz, during the July 4th meeting were circulated to the entire membership for comment and review shortly after the annual meeting. This PDF version is posted on the Sekon web site and contains corrections and additions submitted by several members.

July meeting minutes at :

<http://www.sekonassociation.com/board.html>

If you have additional changes to suggest, please email them to Marsha Stanley at marsha.stanley@gmail.com. The minutes

will be accepted and approved after all changes at next year's annual meeting.

Inside this issue:

Steak Roast	2
Florence Powell	2
USL Cookbook Update	3
September Parties	3
Renters' Milfoil Flyer	4
French Drain Update	4
New Bulletin Board	5
Dock Update	5

Sekon—A Great Place to Belong

- *Sekon exhibits a hardworking team effort.*
- *Sekon members give support to neighbors and community by sharing and caring.*
- *Sekon knows how to have fun!*

2010 Steak Roast Set Fundraising Record

The 2010 steak roast was a huge success. Thanks to Carleen Menkes and Lynne Richez for chairing the gala. A big dose of gratitude to our army of volunteers for tickets, shopping, setup, cooking, raffles, auction, kids games, canoe race, appetizers, desserts and cleanup. As you can see, it was a real community effort. All your hard work resulted in a \$4,939.63 profit.

A special thanks to Ellen and Paul Barnett for donating a cruise on their yacht for the auction and to our enthusiastic auctioneer, Tom Gregory, whose exuberant style helped to raise this record amount of money.

This community effort created great fun for all and a lot of money for Sekon.



In Remembrance of Florence Powell



Christmas with Alan (oldest son)

The Sekon community sends heart-felt condolences to the Powell family on the loss of their mother and wife, Florence, who passed away Sept. 25, 2010.

Florence was born in Mackinac, Canada and moved to Saranac Lake Village at the age of 2, where she remained until being swept away to the Rochester, NY area by Nolan, her husband of 61 years. It was Florence who drew the family to the ADK area, where on July 11, 1964 Nolan, attended the Sekon auction with instructions to buy some towels sheets, etc., but bid on the Library Building instead. Since that time, the Powells have been a longtime anchor family of the Sekon community.

Sekon will always have fond

memories of the bright, endearing and caring woman whose life focus was to support and nurture her 6 children. She also was able to extend these same qualities to touch the lives of many students as a high school math teacher. This impact was indicated by the number of reflections posted by her students 23 years after her retirement.

Florence will be missed by all.



Upper Saranac Lake Cookbook Update

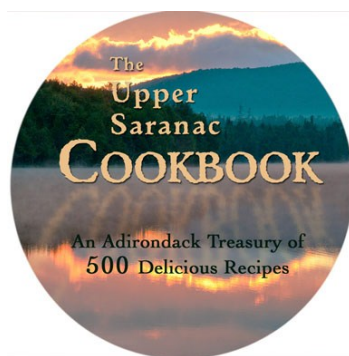
The Upper Saranac Cookbook has been named one of the ten finalists in the publisher's annual contest for best benefit cookbook of the year. The three top cookbooks winners will be announced in mid-January with a \$5,000 prize award to first place, \$2,000 to second place and \$1,000 to third place.

Sekon owners and friends supported the cookbook tremendously in both sales of books and contribution of recipes.

Morris Press Cookbooks of Kearney, Nebraska, the publisher of our cookbook, announced the finalists in the 11th annual contest. Morris said there were a large number of entries this year and some of the best ever. Only cookbooks whose proceeds benefit a good cause are eligible for the contest. The contest will be judged by four food professionals from outside the company.

Competition looks tough this year. The Morris web site indicates that books will be judged on personal pages and cookbook features; originality, beauty, appeal and utility of the cover and dividers; variety, thoroughness, clarity and overall appeal of the recipes; cohesion of all book elements and success of sales.

The Upper Saranac Cookbook had cookbook gross sales of \$46,400, the highest of any of the finalists. The second highest in sales was Kids Feeding Kids Cook-



book, a project to benefit the Northern Illinois Food Bank – Youth Nutrition Program, with gross sales of \$40,000.

The Upper Saranac Cookbook sold its full order of more than 2,200 books in about nine weeks last summer. The book raised a total of more than \$52,000 to fight milfoil infestation on Upper Saranac. That total includes proceeds from all sales and advertising, plus more than \$16,000 in gifts, a figure that was substantially boosted by the generous gift of \$14,000 from the Maggs, Schoff and Welch families of Wenonah. The Wenonah owners donated the entire payment by a national retailer who used the famous Great Camp in an advertising photo shoot last summer.

Cover pictures and further details about this year's finalists are available at this link on the Morris web site:

http://www.cookbookawards.com/finalist_s10.asp

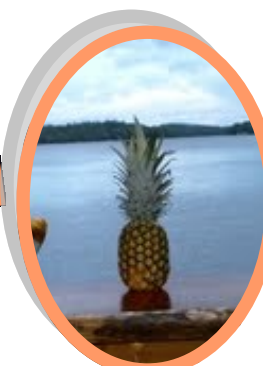
September, the Month of Parties

The Traynors held a traditional Mai Tai Party at their TIKI Bar on Sept. 4th. It was not the best weather for a party; rainy with a bit of a breeze. Yet, everyone was smiling, conversations were flowing and people were



enjoying the toxic drink MAI TAI. Six gallons were consumed.

The following weekend Stu and Bunny Lyons had a successful party with Mojitos as the theme drink with Cuban sandwiches.



Not to be outdone, The Millers, Al and Linda, held the final party of the season with their version of the now familiar MAI TAI.

Next year, perhaps we can continue this tradition with more theme parties with exotic drinks.

Next year Traynors plan on a Blue Hawaii Party at the TIKI Bar. See you there!



Renters' Milfoil Information Flyer

This flyer encouraging renters to donate to the Upper Saranac Foundation is available to all who rent camps. If you don't have one posted in your place, please be sure to ask for one. All of us want to keep the lake pristine, even those who visit.

Thanks to Carleen Menkes for putting this together this summer.

If You Are Enjoying this Beautiful Lake Please Consider Contributing to Fight An Invasive Plant that Threatens Upper Saranac Lake

We here at Sekon hope you are enjoying your rental time. We are sure you will become as big a fan of this pristine lake as all of us. We hope you will consider a donation to help us fight an invasive plant that threatens the future of our lake.

Eurasian Water Milfoil first appeared in Upper Saranac Lake in 1996. The noxious plant was accidentally introduced to the U.S. in the 1940s, and now is found in almost every state. By 2010, it had infested 43 Adirondack lakes, including all of the Saranac chain and most of the Raquette chain, and was spreading to another four or five lakes every year. By 2003 it had become a serious problem in Upper Saranac.

Milfoil, found at depths of up to 20 feet, can grow a foot a day, forming large, floating mats of vegetation when it reaches the surface of the water. It can tangle the limbs of swimmers and boat propellers, and kill off native aquatic plants by blocking the sunlight. It contributes to algal blooms by reducing the oxygen in the water. It has become so pervasive in some lakes that daily "mowing" with large paddle-wheeled harvesters is required to permit swimming, boating or other recreation.

In 2004, the residents of Upper Saranac began an innovative program of underwater hand harvesting, using teams of divers who swim the entire shoreline of the lake twice each summer. Divers tease each plant out by its roots and bag the vegetation to prevent any fragments from floating away to form new plants. Hand-harvesting has continued every year since. By 2007, we had brought milfoil under control. However, because milfoil can never be completely eradicated from an infested lake, the control program must continue in perpetuity. Milfoil control is an expensive endeavor, costing about \$150,000 a year in 2010 dollars on Upper Saranac Lake.

You can help.

Make a tax deductible contribution to the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation.

Find out more at www.USLA.org



French Drain Is Complete

The work to install the French drain in the common property was accomplished during the third week in October.

The trench between the boat ramp and the front of the Longacker property went well until the contractor encountered seven (7) separate clay tile drains that were draining water into the common property from unknown sources. All the tile drains were moving water into the ditch, thus requiring us to make that section of the ditch a French drain rather than just enclosed piping.

The initial French drain was to begin at the front of the Longacker property and was initially expected to extend 50 feet

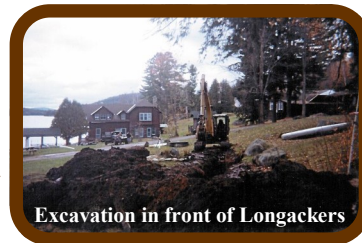


toward the pump station. At this corner of the excavation, the contractor encountered excess water and what he described as either an old log road or an old log foundation. That debris had to be removed and replaced with stone in order for the project to be successful. At the point where the drain was to end, another clay tile drain was found, along with more rock ledge. A substantial amount of water was encountered coming from the drain, as well as coming from the surface of the ledge. Thus the French drain was extended from 50 feet to 80 feet.



Jim Hudspath was at Sekon on the weekends of 10/30 and 11/6 and it was still raining. It had been raining for weeks. The lake was at a level comparable to the spring. Thus, the final clean up and planting of grass could not be completed and will need to be done in the spring.

The good news is that the project was successful in draining the common property, which looked like a lake this fall, making it more useable, as well as eliminating groundwater problems for the pump station.



Before leaving for the last time, Jim checked the outlet near the ramp and a good stream of water continued to flow out.

More photos of the work will be posted on the Sekon website later this year.

New Bulletin Board

If you haven't noticed, the main common area has an upgrade, thanks to the handy work of Ed Traynor and his able assistant, Deb.

This is an area for Sekon Association members to post information for all to see.

It has easy access, so feel free to post information you'd like to share.

A special thanks go out to Ed and Debby for their efforts and support of Sekon.

(Look closely and you'll see Ed in the bottom left corner of the bulletin board.)



Dock Update

A discussion to improve the docks has continued for almost 30 years. The Board, with the approval of the membership, created a dock committee consisting of Al Crispo, Al Miller and Fred Schwarz. Following the 2009 Annual meeting the committee met with all interested members to determine our needs. Several items were identified:

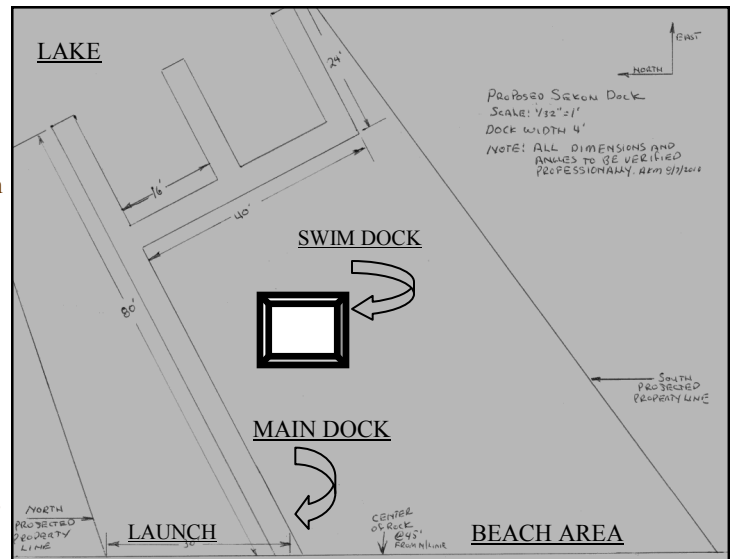
- Wood construction compatible with the Adirondack style
- Safety for boaters and swimmers
- Stability of docks
- A permanent structure so installation and removal is not required each year
- Creation of easy access for adjoining properties
- Relieve shoreline congestion

The dock committee reviewed all suggestions, visited sites of several dock configurations and interviewed several dock builders. The committee recom-

mends the following plan which addresses the needs identified.

The new design is a permanent dock with a steel frame topped with wood decking and skirting. The proposed configuration consists of an 80-foot main dock with a 40-foot leg that brackets two

17-foot wide slips. The slips face the lakeside (east) and the non-docking side will face the beach (west). The new design is aligned with the start of the current southernmost (right) dock and angles to the north away from the swim area. This will increase the size of the swim area and effectively create a physical barrier between the swimmers and the boat operating area. The swim dock will be moved to the left within the "L" for safety. The Monks will enjoy easier access to their boathouse. The boat ramp will be to the left of the main dock and wide enough that docked boats will not have to be moved in order to launch. This will give the Danker/DeMouth families a wider access to their dock.



The plan has been reviewed and is acceptable to the NYSDEC and the APA has issued a non-jurisdictional letter.

After contacting several providers the committee recommends the Dock Doctors out of Vermont. Much of their work can be seen on the lake. The structure will be low in the water to provide both easy access to boats and be aesthetically pleasing.

It is clear that the useful life of the current docks is expiring and a capital improvement is needed. This undertaking will be a big investment paid by the dock users. They want to get the most "bang for their buck" by addressing the problems identified. We are confident this is the best solution available. Additional information will be sent next spring and we will vote on the proposal at the 2011 annual meeting.



Sample of Boat Doctor's dock