

PASSINGS

We are very sad to relate the loss of our two wonderful long-time neighbors— **Nancy Ackerman** and **Dr. Harold Perkel**.

Nancy Ackerman died on September 9, 2004. Nancy was born November 5, 1930. She and Bud were married in 1951 and celebrated 53 years together. Before becoming the marketing coordinator in her husband's firm, Nancy was a chemistry professor at Rutgers University for 32 years. Active in her community of Metuchen, New Jersey, Nancy claimed that her favorite place to be was their home in Mahkeenac Shores, which she and Bud purchased in 1984. In addition to her work and caring for her homes and gardens, Nancy was an avid golfer. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and neighbors. In acknowledging her love of all the years she spent here on the lake, Nancy left a very generous bequest to the Stockbridge Bowl Association. The Board is grateful to her for her generosity and will use these funds on a special project that will be dedicated to her memory.

On January 11, 2005, **Harold Perkel** died at his home in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey in 1918. After graduating from New York University School of Medicine in 1944, Harold enlisted in the Army, where he held the rank of Captain. He was stationed in the Philippines, Okinawa, and elsewhere in Japan. From 1949 until retiring in 1994, Dr. Perkel practiced pediatric medicine in Jersey City and Bayonne, where he lived until he and his wife Helen moved, in 1994, to their summer home in Mahkeenac Terrace. Harold and Helen were married in 1943. Dr. Perkel devoted the latter part of his medical career to caring for children with learning disabilities, and was named New Jersey's Humanitarian of the Year in the 1980s. He enjoyed classical music, going to Tanglewood, and watching basketball. Harold's absence from the lake community will be sorely felt by his many friends and neighbors.

Stockbridge Bowl Association



Stockbridge Bowl Association
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Stockbridge Bowl Association



WINTER 2004-05

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Gary Kleinerman
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**Remember!
Don't use ANY fer-
tilizer or pesticide
on your lawn**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On March 4, Town Attorney Tom Harrington, our lake management advisor Ken Wagner of ENSR, and I attended a meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection and the National Heritage & Endangered Species Program. We discussed our proposal to hydro-rake at the Town Beach, Beachwood, Kripalu, Tanglewood Beach, Camp Mah-Kee-Nac, White Pines and the channel behind the island. Ken made the presentation and we got positive feedback from both departments. It seems that the main concern of the DEP and National Heritage is that hydro-raking might disturb the chara beds. Chara is the natural vegetation where the endangered snail, the *Pyrgulopsis lustrica*, lives. I suggested that the raking might remove some of the chara, but the overall cleaning of the invasive watermilfoil would make the habitat for the chara much better. They agreed with this and we went on to talk about our future plans.

I told them that we need to do a 5 ½ -foot drawdown and remove about 85,000 cubic yards of silt from the channel. In addition to the chara, we need to protect the Bridle Shiner fish, which DEP and Heritage believe are in our lake. We shall need to do seining (drop-net fishing) to see if we have any shiners and, if so, how many. Ken Wagner is going to start this investigation so that we shall have some data available when we make our 5 ½-foot drawdown proposal. The 5 ½-foot proposal is being worked on at this time.

We also discussed a long-term plan to work on the north end of the lake near the causeway. The retention pond east of the causeway is silting-in at a very rapid rate. The Heritage team said that doing any work there would entail a lot of testing for endangered species of fish and plants and it was proposed that we do such testing after we have completed all of our other plans. Removing silt in the main part of the lake would not pose as much of a problem as in the retention pond. Therefore, we may do some investigation in that area.

If anyone would like to help with any of our projects or talk about them with me please e mail me at **SBA@THESBA.org** or telephone (413) 243-6718.

Spring is just around the corner.

Gary Kleinerman/Pres: SBA

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Stockbridge Bowl Association Board Members recently formed an ad hoc committee— *The Strategic Planning Committee* (SPC).

Purpose: To assure the implementation of the Lake Management Program of October 1996, for Stockbridge Bowl, which the Selectmen adopted with the approval of 88% of the Town's citizens. (See page 21 of the *Town of Stockbridge Master Plan*.) Mankind has interfered with the natural flow of Mother Nature to the detriment of Stockbridge Bowl. Tenneco Co. installed pipe lines through the outlet. Also Town sewer pipes were placed there. Both installations impede the natural flow of water out of the lake. The holding pond at the inlet has filled in with silt due to increased runoffs from the land resulting from new building sites. We must go back to what the natural conditions were so that we can go forward to protect the future state of the lake.

Approach: It is the intention of the SPC to work closely with the Town Selectmen, state agencies, state senators and representatives, and other vested interest groups, e.g., Tanglewood, Kripalu, and Canyon Ranch. Tanglewood has a prominent view of the lake from its grounds and maintains a beachfront, as does Kripalu. The idea is to follow what was done in the 1970s when the State intended to place a minimal security prison at what was the former Jesuit Seminary at Shadowbrook, now Kripalu. Joan Kopperl was chair of the committee to prevent the prison from being placed at that location. The approach taken was successful and no prison was built at this site overlooking Stockbridge Bowl.

The Lake Management Program: The 5 ½ -foot **drawdown** of the lake requires (1) partial **dredging** in key locations south and east of the island as well as around the causeway and the outlet to prevent the silt from choking the lake and (2) the installation of a **diversion drain** in the outlet to draw the water beneath the gas pipeline and the Town sewer line that cross the outlet. The diversion drain will facilitate the drawdown, the purpose of which is to freeze and thereby kill the weed growth along the shoreline. That is the "3-D" Program—dredge, diversion, drawdown. The "3-D" Program is critical to arrest the continuous silting in and weed growth that is gradually and surely destroying the Bowl. The harvester will continue to cut weeds at a depth greater than 5 feet.

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The Lake Management Program is a massive undertaking

that no group alone can accomplish, certainly not the Stockbridge Bowl Association. The lake is a critical piece of the Town's infrastructure that must be maintained. A major financial plan needs to be addressed, and the Town must request permits for the work. Ken Wagner, designer of the Lake Management Program, estimates the cost at **\$2 million dollars.**

Stockbridge Bowl is a multifaceted economic and natural asset to the Town, the County, and Western Massachusetts. Eight years ago, according to the Town's Master Plan report, 40% of the Town's tax base was second-home owners, many of whom live near Stockbridge Bowl. The Josh Billings Run-a-Ground brings about 2,000 competitors to the lake; there are fishing derbies, canoe races, the Town of Stockbridge beach, and the County boat ramp. **We cannot afford to fail in this mission**

—The SPC Committee: R.J. McDonald, chair; Joan Kopperl, Cris Raymond, Peggy Reiser, Richard Seltzer

CAMP UNLEASHED continued from page 3

There was a healing and touch segment for older dogs and two area specialists who work in canine rehab, Jody Chiquoine and Linda Tellington, spoke on the therapeutic effects of touch and ways to calm and comfort dogs. The afternoon segment involved a second agility session and clicker training also was held. For the owners, there was an arts and crafts session for making customized bandannas, and an artist came to speak on the role of dogs in art history. A border collie provided a herding demonstration with "brought in" geese. (What? There weren't enough lake geese to chase??) The camp day ended at 5:00 p.m.

This year camp will be held June 3-5, and perhaps there will be a second session in September. Some new features will be "How to Dance with Your Dog to Music" and Collecting Dog Antiques.

Annie is right. Dogs do deserve to be unleashed, and what better place than in the environment of Stockbridge Bowl.

For further information visit www.campunleashed.com

SBA HATS

The popular blue baseball caps with the SBA logo are back in stock at a cost of \$15 each.

Call Gary Kleiner at (413) 243-6718 or E Mail SBA@THESBA.ORG

Haldor Reinholt, head of the SBA's Property and Trails committee, has been working like a beaver, both literally and figuratively. With only occasional help from SBA members, Haldor almost single-handedly has cleared the trail from Hawthorne Road, the starting point of the Bullard Woods property, down to the lakeshore. One important part of his working team has been provided by Alan Friedman of Camp Mah-Kee-Nac. On many occasions, Alan has donated invaluable manpower from his counselors. These kids are the best workers and the most cheerful companions to be around. The only payment provided by the SBA is coffee and doughnuts for breakfast and sandwiches for lunch.

Dead trees have been cut down, and brush has been piled up and, during burning season, dispensed with. One can now walk unimpeded through the woods. After several meetings with the Stockbridge Conservation Commission, Haldor received permission to install a wooden footbridge over the brook. The bridge is utilitarian as well as aesthetically pleasing, and it enables hikers to pass safely over the steep gully. There was a special fund in the SBA coffers set up in 1988 upon the death of former SBA member Detlev J. Raymond. Those funds were used to purchase the bridge, and a small plaque honoring Detlev will be placed at the bridge in the spring.

In order to entice more people to enjoy the Woods, Haldor asked the SBA Board to finance picnic tables for the area. Two new wooden picnic tables have now been placed at the edge of the Woods overlooking the shore. As you can see in the photos, the tables were inaugurated in the fall by Haldor's work team. At the suggestion of Board Member Elaine London, two brass plaques will be affixed to the tables with the message that the Stockbridge Bowl Association owns and manages Bullard Woods and has donated the tables for the enjoyment of the public. Mrs. Bullard donated this beautiful tract of land to the SBA with the understanding that it would be maintained and open to the public.

And, most exciting, Ranger Reinholt has an incredibly beautiful future plan for hikers. He has talked with the Town, which owns and manages Gould Meadows, and hopes also to get permission from Tanglewood to clear a trail through their area. The trail would then connect Gould Meadows with Bullard Woods. If this dream is accomplished, one would enter the trail on Route 186 at the Meadows, walk along the lake, and exit on Hawthorne Road.

Haldor is an equal opportunity employer—all SBA members and Town citizens are invited, nay encouraged, to volunteer their time and help with this marvelous endeavor.

As we know, many SBA members leave their summer cottages after Labor Day and return the following May. During the summer, lake concerns center on weed harvesting, bears, geese, and the many water activities that we all enjoy.

During the winter months, the SBA leadership continues its work. Filing applications with the Stockbridge Conservation Commission for expanded weed harvesting and hydro-raking as well as long-term management of Stockbridge Bowl are on-going endeavors. The Town also has several projects that are ongoing, and upon completion will be reflected in the tax rate.

The expanded sewer lines are completed on the eastern side of Stockbridge Bowl and in Glendale. The general contractor who was working in the Goodrich Street area has shut down work for the winter. The cost of this project is \$6.5 million, and it was passed at a Town Meeting by 1 vote. That is how incredibly close the vote was. Work will be resumed in the spring, and many individual hookups should be completed by this summer.

The Berkshire Hills Regional Elementary and Middle Schools are nearing completion in Great Barrington. The District comprises students from Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and West Stockbridge. It had been hoped that the move to the new schools would happen during a two-week break at the end of February and early in March. However, because of delays with some subcontractors, the actual move to the new schools may be delayed until the summer, with finality achieved by the beginning of the new school year. During the past few months, there has been an extensive number of controversial newspaper letters regarding the naming of the regional schools.

The Town of Stockbridge will receive the Plain School building from the School District on June 30, 2005. A Plain School Task Force is evaluating the options available for this Main Street building site. Marketing and architectural firms are presently studying the best use for the building, and an informational Town Meeting dealing with it took place on January 24, 2005. The Board of Selectmen would like to move the Town Offices to the Plain School, which may also become a multiuse building. The present Town Hall is being considered for restoration as a community building.

The Town is involved with several major projects that I mentioned above. It is important for our summer residents to be knowledgeable about these projects and other Town-related issues. Certainly the year-round residents of Stockbridge appreciate the importance of the Bowl to the Town, and its contribution to our quality of life. Likewise, the summer residents should be cognizant of the items of concern to our year-round residents. Together, we must all cooperate to maintain this wonderful community.

George Shippey, Selectman

Last September, Camp Mah-Kee-Nac extended its season by hosting a totally different kind of camping experience—Camp Unleashed. This incredible camp for dogs and their owners is the brain-child of Annie Brody. Annie's philosophy is that dogs have to live in a human environment and that they deserve to be unleashed for one fun-filled weekend. In her words, "Dogs need time to be dogs, to sniff new scents, and to run free."

Annie and her dog Hero lived on the 29th floor of a building in New York City. One day, she decided to move to the country for the sake of her dog, so she left the asphalt of New York for a private dirt road in Canaan, New York.

Two years ago, Annie and Hero attended a six-day camp in Vermont. The camp had 120 people and more than 200 dogs. This was, in her opinion, too large a community for the dogs to receive special attention, so she decided to organize a more intimate and relaxing setting for people and pets. Also, she wanted a shorter camp time.

Annie visited many camp sites and decided that Camp Mah-Kee-Nac was the ideal place on the ideal lake, and the camp's owners were very open to the idea of a doggy camp. So, from Friday afternoon until Sunday noon, Camp Unleashed opened for guests.

There were not enough participants, so Camp Mah-Kee-Nac couldn't open up all its cabins. Many of the guests and pets stayed at Shaker Mill Inn at Shaker Mill Farm and drove to the camp each morning. People were allowed to bring up to two dogs each. All had to fill out a questionnaire about their dog's behavior, training, level of socialization, etc. as part of the "screening process." The requirement for admittance was no aggressive dogs, no unsocial dogs, and no neurotic dogs. Annie didn't say whether or not this rule also applied to dog owners! The doggy campers ranged in age from under one year to the oldest who was 12. Some owners were nervous about unleashing their dogs, but they eventually relaxed and the dogs loved it. There were other very strict safety and health protocols regarding proof of vaccinations, health certificate, and scoop-the-poop rules. Dogs needing more personal space were required to wear orange bandannas. This signaled to other dog guardians that bandanna-dogs were a bit "touchy" about interactions and that greetings should be supervised carefully.

Camp began at 8:00 a.m. with a guided one-hour morning hike. The next activity involved agility at a fenced-in two-acre area. Dogs were separated by size and agility. All the dogs, from a Maltese to a Doberman, got on well together. After morning activities, Annie provided a catered lunch for the two-footers, and treats for the dogs. Following lunch, it was quiet time for the dogs.

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