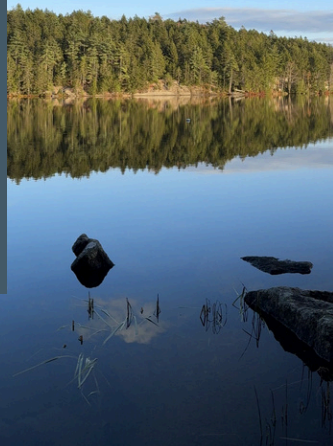


FALL 2026

HARRIMAN POND NEWSLETTER



Hello, Harriman Pond Neighbors!

Summer updates and looking ahead

Harriman Pond is quieter this fall as many of the summer homeowners have gone home. Still, it was another beautiful summer on our beloved pond. The water was cool and refreshing as always and shouts of joy could be heard as people swam and played on the water. All manner of boats and paddleboards on the water experienced the peaceful scenery. Many people sat by the lake appreciating the natural beauty of the trees and serenity of the pond. A pair of loons returned and serenaded us at night with their calls. Not to be outdone, the frogs croaked each evening, seemingly matching their calls. A beaver was seen on the shores and swimming around the pond. More than 20 people came out in the rain to share food and stories at our annual gathering in August.

Below you can read the story of the first home on Harriman Pond, built by an ancestor of the Goodwins, and information about joining the Harriman Pond Lake Association (HPLA). Please send us any stories you have about your family on Harriman Pond.

We hope you will join us over the next year as we aim to increase our membership so we can continue to advocate for and educate the Harriman Pond community and protect our special pond.

Hans Kersten, President, HPLA
Email: harrimanpondmaine@gmail.com

HPLA leadership:

Hans Kersten, President
Denise Goodwin, Treasurer
Sarah Nelson, Secretary

Directors:

Carl Goodwin
Cathy Anderson
Mike Strang

Join in! Send an email with
your interest:

[harrimanpondmaine@
gmail.com](mailto:harrimanpondmaine@gmail.com)



Origin Story: Goodwin's "Rustic Haven"

Have you ever wondered about the camps and homes that dot the shores of Harriman Pond? When were they built? By whom? Why did they choose this location? I can tell you about the very first camp on the pond. It was built by my grandfather, Virgil Goodwin, in 1932. He wrote about the experience as part of a collection of life stories.

Virgil was looking for "a haven, where I could lose myself in the quiet of the woods. I was determined to find my haven at a natural spring-fed lake. Cleanliness was of paramount importance in my search". He first visited the "little lake" in the dead of winter. "It was covered with clear ice. Great ledges and hills of boulders gave evidence that it was a product of the glacial period. The shore had never been touched, not even a shack or sign of civilization. I became the pioneer of Harriman Pond."

The owner of the land was with Virgil on this visit and gave him his choice of lots. The spot he chose was at the outlet of the pond. The apocryphal family story is that Virgil could've purchased the whole pond for \$500. But 1932 was the depth of the Great Depression and he had very little money. To build his camp he paid a local farmer \$3/day to work 10 hours per day.

Work began in early May and the lot was literally covered with trees. It was so dense with hemlock and cedar trees that Virgil's seven year old son, Harlan, got lost and cried out while only 20 or 30 yards away. The original camp was fourteen by sixteen with a hipped roof which gave a room nearly as large upstairs. Somehow, two railroad rails became available at the right price and are to this day holding the camp up. Harlan built the second camp in 1956. Both camps have been expanded and updated over the years, but always adhering to Virgil's vision of a rustic haven.

Contributed by Carl Goodwin

Do you have a story or photo to share? Please reach out: harrimanpondmaine@gmail.com

How to contribute

Harriman Pond Lake Association is a registered 501(c)3 organization. This means that we are able to receive donations and are eligible for some grants. Here are the levels of support for each camp (not per person):

- Pollywog (Standard): \$30
- Rainbow smelt: \$50
- Trout: \$100
- Loon: \$200
- Great blue heron: \$500
- Eagle: \$1,000

If you'd like to make a donation, please send a check made out to Harriman Pond Lake Association and mail it to our treasurer, Denise Goodwin, at:
64 Walpole Meeting House Rd.
Walpole, ME 04573



Virgil in front of the Goodwin Camp
Circa 1940.