

WATERY SAUCES OLDIES & BOLDIES

THE YEAR OF FRESHWATER

NEWSLETTER 40
2003

MARCH

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We thank Ray Sutherland for accepting the role of Auditor to the Association. We also take the opportunity of recording our appreciation and thanks to Col Taggart for his many years of service to the Association as Honorary Auditor. Col has been Auditor since the very early years of the Association's existence.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Public Service Club near the Executive Building in George Street on 16th April. Lunch will be served following the Meeting. Formal notice of the Meeting and subscription notices are being sent out with this Newsletter. Please see Treasurer Lee's note following. Members are urged to attend the Meeting and elect an active Executive to manage the affairs of the Association for the next year. Members are also asked to tell the Executive what they want, particularly in the matters of services to members and the number and type of functions for the coming year.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2003-04

Yes-it's that time of year again. Annual subscription notices are attached to the Agenda for the 2003 Annual General Meeting.

Firstly, the good news. The Executive Committee has resolved that subscriptions for the next year will remain unchanged thanks in large part to the continuing support provided by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines particularly with printing and postage.

In other words, subscriptions continue to be \$5 for city members, \$2.50 for country members, ie, resident more than 100km from Brisbane, with membership remaining free for fully paid up members who were financial up to 75 years of age and for partners of deceased members.

Additionally, the Executive Committee have resolved that members may if they wish pay up to 4 years membership in advance, firstly to minimize the cost of cheque payments and secondly, to make the Treasurer's job somewhat easier. Members would also be excused from any subscription increases that the Executive Committee might apply during the period covered by an advance payment.

On this basis, a 4 year membership for city members would be \$20, and for country members \$10.

And now the less good news. For some years now, a membership data base has been maintained by the Department and a separate financial status data base by the Treasurer. Over time, a number of inconsistencies between the data bases have developed. A single data base has now been adopted and financial status data matched against this database. This exercise has revealed that a modest number of members are in arrears by 1 or more years.

This year's subscription notices indicate the arrears as best as can be determined from the records. The Executive Committee would appreciate it if subscriptions and any arrears owing were paid promptly. If any member is concerned that the arrears indicated are not correct, please forward advice to the Treasurer accordingly. The Treasurer will be more than happy to double check the records.

FEBRUARY SOCIAL

Approximately 20 members attended the Social on 26th February at the Public Service Club in George Street and enjoyed themselves and the finger food that accompanied it. It was good to see "old stagers" there like Stu Robinson, John Morse, Stan James and Ben Russo, and the not so old like Bob and Chris McDonald.

MAREEBA MUSINGS

For those who can remember? The original Mareeba District Office site has once again been transformed. The buildings were taken over by the Mareeba Shire Council after they were vacated by the Commission in the early 1960's. They then had a variety of occupants including the local newspaper; H.Q. of the State Emergency Service; et al. A few years back, the buildings were removed and a Tourist Information Centre was to be built. Now, after growing some good crops of weeds in the interim, the block has achieved the magnificent heights of being paved over and turned into off-street parking.

Carlo (Charlie) Paolucci is currently in hospital in Cairns, fighting off some side effects of his recent heart operation. He had been home in Atherton for about a week after having had a couple of valves installed in his heart in Brisbane. He was doing well, and in his own words, adding fifty yards (whoops - metres) to his walk each day, but early this week was rushed off to Cairns for a few days of intensive care. Latest information is that he is now recovering from this and should be out and about by the time this is read. We wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Marge Barnwell was hospitalised in early January as the result of a fall. Last reports were that she was recovering well and about to give back the walking frame.

Col Lewis has had a rough time since his visit to Mareeba last August. He has been in and out of hospital a couple of times since then, and is now relocated to "more suitable" accommodation, nearer to his daughter. His address is

55/100 Wardoo St., ASHMORE. 4214

And few one-liners from the Fossetts:

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Virus is a Latin word used by Doctors, meaning "your guess is as good as mine".

As a child my family menu consisted of two choices, take it or leave it.

The Doctor will be two hours late, that is why you are called "patients".

Drive carefully, it is not only cars that can be recalled by their Makers.

If you mate a bulldog with a shitsui what would you call it and if a pig loses its voice is it disgruntled?

Why does bottled mineral water that has "trickled through mountains for centuries" have a use by date?

Why call the person who handles your money a "broker"?

No man should consider himself truly married until he understands every word his wife is **not** saying. WGP

How beautiful it is to do nothing and then rest afterwards. Spanish proverb.

Thank you Jack Pont.

BUNDABERG NOTES

Lois **Pollard** has helped us again with local news some of which, including the "pilgrimage" to St George has had to be used in other parts of the Newsletter.

Roy and Iris Maxted are at present touring Western Australia catching up where they left off a few years when bad health intervened.

Wonderful rain has fallen in the district and is reflected in our notes on the position in Departmental storages.

QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS.

The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?"

The Engineering graduate enquires, "How does it work?"

The Accountant wants to know, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with a liberal Arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

And of engineers:

What is the difference between Mechanical Engineers and Civil Engineers?

Mechanical Engineers build weapons, Civil Engineers build targets.

PHOBIAS.

We all know someone with one, but they are normally the 'run of the mill' phobias, like fear of spiders or closed spaces. But there are quite a lot of documented phobias that you've probably never heard of, including:

cathisophobia (fear of sitting), xerophobia (fear of dryness), lutraphobia (fear of otters!) and wilsonophobia also known as jamesophobia (fear of combs and hairbrushes).

"Where are you going Pop?" asked my six year old grandson, Sam. I said I was going to get my hair cut. "You don't want to get any cut off Pop, you want to get some more on".

Congratulations to Allen Seabrook who skipped his bowls team to win the Cunningham district Pennants competition. Unfortunately wife Gloria is not yet in skipping form after suffering a broken heel.

HOT AIR BALLOON STORY.

A man in a hot air balloon realised he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am." The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an *engineer*," said the balloonist.

"I am," replied the woman, "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip."

The woman below responded, "You must be in *Management*."

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

To the Engineer, all matters in the universe can be placed in one of two categories: (1) Things that need to be fixed, and (2) Things that will need to be fixed after he has had a few minutes to play with them.

REST IN PEACE

We were all saddened by the news that Adrian **Muller** died on 5th December. His funeral service was held in Bundaberg on 9th December in St Andrews Uniting Church, the Church to which he contributed much, particularly through its Committees.

Adrian was born in Broken Hill in 1935 and after schooling there he worked as a trainee engineer at the Western Electric Power Station before moving to Sydney to complete his engineering studies at the University of New South Wales. It was while in Sydney that he and Colleen were married. After a period of work with companies including Le Tourneau and Ditchcraft, Adrian moved to the Agricultural College at Gatton as an Instructor in agricultural engineering.

After two years at Gatton, Adrian became an Assistant Engineer with the Water Conservation Commission in Dubbo where he worked on water supplies for farmers before moving to the Carrathool Shire near Griffith.

In 1965 Adrian was appointed District Engineer with the Irrigation Commission at Charleville where he worked for four years before being transferred to Bundaberg, initially as District Engineer and then as Regional Engineer for the Burnett Region.

Adrian took early retirement in 1990 to spend more time with his family but four months later he suffered a stroke which caused he and Colleen to reassess their priorities. Nonetheless they were able to spend 12 years travelling in Australia and overseas. In addition to his work for his Church, Adrian served on the Committee of Management of the Pioneer Memorial Home and was a member of the St Andrews Society. He was very active in Rotary Clubs for 33 years and in 1978 visited Tonga on behalf of Rotary International to advise on irrigation and water supply problems.

Adrian also served on the Bundaberg and District Development Board.

As these brief notes try to show, Adrian was possessed of boundless energy and enthusiasm which he successfully directed towards the happiness and wellbeing of his family, to his work and to activities to make life better for those around him.

Our sympathy is offered to Colleen, daughters Catherine and Alison and their families..

Mrs Fred **Haigh**, Lal, died on 16th December 28 years after her husband, Fred. She was 88. Her funeral service was conducted on 21st December at St Andrews Church, Indooroopilly and was attended by a very large congregation. All those who knew Mrs Haigh were very much impressed by her pleasant demeanour. They were conscious of the tremendous support she gave to her husband during his long hours of work and travel and the role she took in raising their family particularly during these absences. There is no doubt that a significant amount of the credit for Fred's professional successes is due to her support. She also worked very hard for community causes.

We extend our sympathy to Don and Geoff Haigh and to Marguerite Verdec and Christine Hardy and their respective families.

Cath **Uhlmann's** father, John James **Grace** died on 9th January 2003 after a long illness. We extend our sympathy to Cath, her mother, her brother and her family.

We have just heard that Ian **Edmiston** died on 20th March 2003. Ian worked for IWS in Forward Planning and at Tinaroo, and would be known to many members as a Consulting Engineer. We will try for more notes for the next newsletter.

WARNING - SMOKING IS A WEALTH HAZARD

Appeals against a recent US court decision against a tobacco company awarding US\$28 billion to an American woman for damage sustained as a result of years of smoking are not before time. We don't want the legal eagles suing the Governments that established tobacco based Irrigation Areas and built works to supply irrigation water to those thirsty crops. The humble designers and builders, managers and operators of these schemes should not feel apprehensive.

The legal people however may still be able to sit back and enjoy brandies and cigars after hard days in court arguing hypothetical "class actions" against growers, governments and public servants.

When the dry cleaner loses your suit he pays for it. When a lawyer loses your suit he takes you to the Cleaners.

In Italy for thirty years under the Borgias they had warfare ,terror, murder, bloodshed – they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance. In Switzerland they had brotherly love, five hundred years of democracy and peace, and what did they produce? The cuckoo clock!

- Orson Wells.

And an America's Cup!

DROUGHTS....ARE THEY GETTING WORSE?

After the recent disastrous drought, described as the worst ever, there are loud cries blaming ourselves for causing it. It is appropriate to quote from an article on droughts by David Wilmott in the July 1994 edition of our Newsletter.

"Blame for this worsening (of droughts) has been many faceted, but has generally been laid to the door of man's failure to control the out-pourings of modern day air pollutants. So, it was interesting to look back on past droughts and read the comments."

"1850...A severe drought ravaged New South Wales. Landholders in the Bogan, Castlereagh, Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers areas experienced heavy stock losses. It was a wet year on the coast."

"1865...Queensland has experienced one of its most severe droughts."

"1877...The entire colony suffered terrible drought conditions, with 'disastrous' stock losses."

"1888...This has been a severe drought year for Queensland.....In the Maranoa native scrub died and great numbers of native animals perished."

"1902...This has been the climax of eight poor years, with less than ten inches of rain over the greater part of the south-west of the State."

"1915...One of Queensland's worst droughts."

"1919...Sees the continuation of the 1918 drought, wet season and winter rains failed in the south.....

Disastrous for primary industries.

"1926-27, 1940, 1944, 1951-52, were all severe drought years, with 1944 being the third successive year of drought."

Thanks again David.

This Association's official weather commentator has remarked on the particularly hot weather in Northern Queensland and said that when he was stationed in the North-west he remembers one February day which was so hot that the day's minimum temperature was hotter than it's maximum!! Maybe he was stationed too long in the North-west!

He also said that it was so dry that the trees were chasing the dogs in the hope of getting a little moisture. Another expert said that St George was so dry that the Council had to close two lanes in its swimming pool.

ST GEORGE IRRIGATION AREA REUNION 14-16 FEBRUARY 2003

Johnny Barrett, led a small team of local helpers to organise the reunion which was attended by nearly 90 former employees, family members and friends. John, is a former employee of the then Irrigation and Water Supply Commission during the construction of Beardmore Dam, and is currently Deputy Mayor of the Balonne Shire Council.

Many travelled long distances to attend. Fred Barlow came down from Darwin, Cec Dinsdale journeyed from Mackay, Reg Miller from Biloela and a whole team came from Bundaberg and Gympie including Max and Jill Riley, Dave and Lois Pollard, Daph Morrison, Merv and Marlene Brand, Sharon MacRaild, Marg Brydon, Barrie Lennon and Andy Winkler, Pat O'Gorman came from Woody Point and Ray Schluter and Gwen and Don Drury, Toowoomba.

The busy program commenced on the Friday evening at the St George Memorial Club where employee Beardmore Dam construction and the expanded irrigation area development of the 1970's met and the recounting of memorable stories of impeccable veracity commenced.

At a barbecue breakfast held at the Weir on the Saturday morning, Bernie Credlin spoke to the attendees on his reluctant arrival in St. George in 1953 followed by his growing attachment to the town and its people. He finally stayed 10 years! Bernie's witty tales of some of the more colourful characters of the early days were much appreciated. He also emphasised the very large contribution made by earlier Departmental staff and contractors to the prosperity of the St George District by way of artesian bores, drains, tanks, stock route watering points and irrigation foresight half a century before the Weir. Copies of Bernie's notes are available from the Secretary.

Following breakfast a convoy of cars travelled through the irrigation area to the Buckinbah camp site where many of the families who had lived in the camp wondered how they had managed the dust and the heat with such limited facilities. The convey then stopped at the Buckinbah pump station before travelling along the Thuraggi watercourse to Moolabah Weir and then to the Beardmore Dam camp site area. Here, former residents attempted to locate where they had lived before moving on to the lookout area for a barbecue lunch.

After lunch, Dennis Gilbard spoke of his 5 years involvement in the project arriving from Coolmunda Dam with Project Engineer John Moreton. Dennis explained the difficulties of establishing the Buckinbah camp at the same time as the workforce rapidly increased and a start was made on the works. For the Beardmore camp, Dennis explained that far more effort was made to develop a pleasant camp environment for the employees and their families.

A smaller group returned to St George on the west bank road looking at a large private off stream storage development and the historic "Anchorage" homestead on the way. A wine tasting at the Riversands Winery was also enjoyed.

Before dinner at the Memorial Club, participants enjoyed looking at a large collection of historic photographs contributed by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and from personal collections. After dinner, Greg Claydon, the Department's General Manager, Water Planning spoke of his time as District Manager, St George and of the challenging times in today's water industry.

There is no doubt that every one who travelled to St George enjoyed the weekend – meeting old friends and seeing the prosperity and stability that the irrigation project has brought to the district. At the same time, the impact of the drought was very obvious with virtually all supply from Beardmore Dam exhausted and Jack Taylor Weir less than a third full.

Many thanks to Johnny Barrett and his team. Here's hoping good rains generate sufficient runoff to fill the St George storages in the very near future.

Thanks Lee Rogers

THE PLIGHT OF THE FARMERS

It all started in 1961 when they changed from *Pounds* to *Dollars* – ME OVERDRAFT DOUBLED.

I was just getting used to this when they brought in *Kilograms* instead of *Pounds* and ME WOOL CLIP DROPPED TO HALF.

Then they changed rain to *Millimetres* and WE HAVN'T HAD AN INCH OF RAIN SINCE. So what do we do?

They bring in a thing called *Celsius* and it never gets hotter than 40 degrees in summer. NO WONDER ME WHEAT WONT RIPEN.

If that wasn't enough, they had to change us over from *Acres* to *Hectares* and I END UP WITH HALF THE LAND I HAD.

So one day I sat down and had a think. I reckoned that with *Daylight Saving*, I was working seven extra hours for nothing. SO I DECIDED TO SELL OUT.

But to cap it all off. I just got the place in the hands of the agent when they changed from *Miles* to *Kilometres* and now I find – I'M TOO FAR OUT OF TOWN FOR ANYONE TO BUY THE PLACE.

ADMINISTRATIUM

A major research institution has recently announced the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science.

This new element has been tentatively named "*ADMINISTRATIUM*".

Administratium has 1 neutron, 12 assistant neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons and 11 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it a atomic mass of 321. These 321 particles are held together by a force called "morons", which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called "peons". Since *Administratium* has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A minute amount of *Administratium* causes one reaction to take over 4 days to complete when it would normally take less than one second.

Administratium has a normal half-life of 3 years. It does not decay, but instead undergoes a re-organisation, in which a portion of the assistant neutrons, deputy neutrons and assistant deputy neutrons

exchange places. In fact, *Administratium*'s mass will actually increase over time since each re-organisation causes some morons to become neutrons forming "isodopes".

This characteristic of moron-promotion leads some scientists to speculate that *Administratium* is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity concentration.

This hypothetical quantity is referred to as a "Critical Morass".

You will know it when you see it.

Thanks John Morse.

DOPE

It is said that Tommy Smith's father, also a racehorse trainer, was in England before the War and was persuaded to purchase a bottle of special "go fast" mixture to bring out the best from his horses. On the voyage back to Australia in 1938 he showed the bottle to a colleague who dropped it on the deck where it smashed. Apparently the concoction was so successful and so powerful that the ship cut two days off its return trip.

WAR RECORD

Alan Vizer reports that when a friend applied to join the Returned Services League he was asked to produced his war record. He promptly handed over a 78 rpm record of Vera Lynn singing "The White Cliffs of Dover".

It has also been reported that proof Saddam Hasein had purchased huge quantities of weapons of mass destruction came to light with the discovery that the US had kept copies of it's receipts.

ORIGIN OF CRICKET

It is now being suggested that Cricket was actually invented by Local Authorities and their employees. Who else could devise a game that had only two people working (the bowler and the batsman) and the other 20 people looking on.

John McEnroe took time off from putting down non-Americans at the recent Australian Tennis Open to watch a cricket match. His host tried to explain the field positions and when he got to "Square Leg" McEnroe interrupted to say his first wife had a square leg. When it came to "Fine Leg" he said his present wife "had one of those".

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members - Jim Mobbs, Doug Petersen, Des Rayner and Rod Terry, Mike McKenna.

CONGRATULATIONS

Eleanor Bower is celebrating the birth of her first grandchild, Isabella Sneddon, a daughter to Vanessa and John.

Mother and daughter are doing well and maternal grandmother is continuing to make a good recovery.

ON THE MEND

Alec Vitte is not enjoying the best of health although this is unrelated to the celebration of his 80th birthday in January.

Stan James had a few days in hospital recently as did **Norm White**.

Don Beattie has had successful surgery to an eyelid and can no longer be accused of being one eyed.

Dave Munro is also poorly.

“BENE” BENEFITS WATER STORAGES

Cyclone Bene in early February and the follow up rainfall have been of major benefit to water storages in the Burnett region and along the Curtis coast. For the first time in over a decade, rainfall more like “wet seasons” of the past occurred but storages in other parts of the State have yet to receive any significant inflows.

SunWater storages in the Burnett region to recover included Fred Haigh Dam which is now storing 61% of capacity after being less than 10% full for most of the last decade and for the first time in many years Irrigators in SunWater’s Bundaberg Area have access to 100% of their allocation , Cania Dam now has 38%, up from 4%, and Wuruma Dam, now stores 23%, having risen from 1% of capacity before the cyclone.

Further north, the recently raised Awoonga Dam now stores water 4.96 meters above the old full supply level, or a whopping 484,070 megalitres, up from only 58,000. Urban supplies had been reduced 50% of allocation and industrial and power generation supplies reduced by 25%. Indeed, such was the concern with the possibility of more severe restrictions that the State Government had committed to detailed investigation and design of a pipeline from the Fitzroy River Barrage to Gladstone. Now that several years of supply is assured, work on the pipeline has been terminated.

And over the Calliope Range, SunWater’s Callide Valley storages also benefited with Kroombit Dam filling from empty and Callide Dam rising to 39% of capacity. Water is now stored against the Stage 2 gates for the first time in many years.

As the end of the “wet season’ nears low levels remain in much of the State. In the south east for example, current storage levels are Moogerah Dam at 4%, Atkinsons Dam at 3%, Lake Clarendon is empty and Bill Gunn Dam at Laidley, is at 3% of capacity. In the south west, Leslie Dam is at 8% of capacity and Beardmore Dam at 4%.

Storage levels in the north are better but again, could become critical later in the year without inflows. In the Mackay district, Eungella Dam is at 42%, Kinchant Dam at 37%, and Teemburra Dam at 46% of capacity. On the Atherton Tableland, Tinaroo Falls Dam is storing 206,000 megalitres or 47%.

Members with access to the Internet and interested in checking on SunWater’s storage situation can log onto their web site at www.sunwater.com.au and click on Current Storage Info.

Thanks Lee Rogers

MORE DAM DAMS

The following letter and its reply have been shortened and departmental names changed to suit Queensland terms. After years in the stream control business Jim Uhlmann is apparently satisfied with their authenticity and passed them on with heart-felt thanks that dam building platypuses don’t frequent the Condamine River. Others will detect similarities between these letters and many encountered (maybe even written) during their working lives:-

“Mr. Ryan DeVries
Montcalm County,
MICHIGAN

Dear Mr. DeVries:

It has come to the attention of the Department of Environmental Quality that there has been recent unauthorized activity on the above referenced parcel of land. You as the legal landownerdid allow the following unauthorized activity:

Construction and maintenance of two wood debris dams across the outlet stream of Spring Pond.

A permit must be issued prior to the start of this type of activity. A review of the Department's files shows that no permits have been issued. Therefore, the Department has determined that this activity is in violation of Part, etc of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act of 1994. The Department has been informed that one or both of the dams partially failed during a recent rain event, causing downstream debris and flooding.

We find that dams of this nature are inherently hazardous and cannot be permitted. The Department therefore orders you to cease and desist all activities at this location, and to restore the stream to a free-

flow condition by removing all wood and brush forming the dams from the stream channel. All restoration work shall be completed no later than January 31 2002.

Please notify this office when the restoration has been completed. Failure to comply with this direction or any further unauthorized activity on the site may result in this case being referred for enforcement action. We anticipate and would appreciate your full cooperation in this matter. Please feel free to contact me at this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David L. Price District Representative
Land and Water Management Division"

This is the actual response

"Dear Mr. Price,

Your certified letter dated 12/17/97 has been handed to me to respond to.

First of all, Mr. Ryan DeVries is not the legal landowner. I am the legal owner and a couple of beavers are in the (State unauthorized) process of constructing and maintaining two wood "debris" dams across the outlet stream of my Spring Pond. While I did not pay for, authorize, nor supervise their dam project, I think they would be highly offended that you call their skilful use of nature's building materials "debris."

I challenge your department to emulate their dam project any time and/or any place you choose. I believe I can safely state there is no way you could ever match their dam skills, their dam resourcefulness, their dam ingenuity, their dam persistence, their dam determination and/or their dam work ethic.

As to your request, I do not think the beavers are aware that they must first apply for a dam permit prior to the start of this type of dam activity.

My first dam question to you is:

- 1) Are you trying to discriminate against my Spring Pond Beavers or
- 2) Do you require all beavers throughout this State to conform to said dam request ?

If you are not discriminating against these particular beavers I, under the Freedom of Information Act, request completed copies of all those other applicable beaver dam permits that have been issued. Perhaps we will see if there really is a dam violation of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, 1994. I have several concerns. My first concern is - aren't the beavers entitled to legal representation ? The Spring Pond Beavers are financially destitute and are unable to pay for said representation - so the State will have to provide them with a dam lawyer. The Department's dam concern that either one or both of the dams failed during a recent rain event causing flooding is proof that this is a natural occurrence, which the Department is required to protect. In other words, we should leave the Spring Pond Beavers alone rather than harassing them and calling their dam names.

If you want the stream "restored" to a dam free-flow condition please contact the beavers - but if you are going to arrest them, (remember) they are unable to read English.

In my humble opinion, the Spring Pond Beavers have a right to build their unauthorized dams as long as the sky is blue, the grass is green and water flows downstream. They have more dam rights than I do to live and enjoy Spring Pond. If the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection lives up to its name, it should protect the natural resources (Beavers) and the environment (Beavers' Dams.).

So, as far as the beavers and I are concerned, this dam case can be referred for more elevated enforcement action right now. Why wait until 1/31/2002? The Spring Pond Beavers may be under the dam ice then and there will be no way for you or your dam staff to contact/harass them then.

In conclusion, I would like to bring to your attention to a real environmental quality (health) problem in the area. It is the bears ! Bears are actually defecating in our woods. I definitely believe you should be persecuting the defecating bears and leave the beavers alone. If you are going to investigate the beaver dam, watch your step! (The bears are not careful where they dump !)

Being unable to comply with your dam request, and being unable to contact you on your dam answering machine, I am sending this response to your dam office.

Sincerely,

Stephen L.Tvedte"

Cheers
Bernie Credlin

and to continue THE YEAR OF FRESHWATER theme by courtesy of David Morwood