

New Hampshire's Lake Umbagog

Pronounced Um-'bay'-gog, the lake name is Abenaki for shallow water. The Abenaki were a Native American tribe that resided in the area. The lake has an average depth of 12-14 feet.

The Errol dam flooded the area in 1853 to form the lake here today. It appears that there were three separate lakes connected by marshes and swamps prior to the dam. On the north end of the lake there is a "deep hole" with depths over 40 feet.

This flyer highlights a few distinct landmarks on the lake as well as a bit of history about the area (map on backside).

For more information stop by the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge located at 2756 Dam Road (Rt. 16) Errol, NH. Or the State Park located 7 miles east of Errol, NH on Rt. 26.

1. METALLAK ISLAND

This is a privately owned island so keep your viewing to the water. Metallak island is where the Indian chief Metallak lived for many years. Metallak was well known throughout the area for his skills as a hunter and for being a knowledgeable guide. The island was renamed Dutton's island when the Duttons built a resort here and ferried guests out to it using steamboats. In the early 40's the owners of the Errol dam developed plans for a bigger dam that would completely flood the island. As a result the resort was dismantled. However the plan was eventually abandoned and the island never flooded. Navigate around the island to view the old foundation of the hotel and water tower where a gazebo now stands.

2. POTTER FARM

An old farmstead from before the lake was flooded. There is an old stonewall just beneath the water that is marked by red and black buoys. This farmstead was purchased by the National Wildlife Refuge and will eventually serve as their headquarters and visitor center.

3. HARPERS MEADOW

Designated as the "Floating Island National Natural Landmark" by the National Park Service in 1972. It is a floating bog and serves as habitat for many different species of wildlife. It provides a great resting place for migrating

birds as well as a good place to look for species such as moose, eagles and osprey. This unique wetland also provides nesting habitat for loons as well as other waterfowl.

4. ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER

This is where the Magalloway river and Androscoggin river meet. This area is the source for the Androscoggin before it travels south to Gorham then cuts east to empty in the Gulf of Maine. The Abenaki called it Amascogin meaning "fish coming in the spring." This is the only outlet from Umbagog Lake. This river provided loggers a route to send logs down to the large mills in Milan and Berlin. The water levels of the lake are controlled by the Errol dam, located a few miles down river.

5. MOLLS ROCK

Named Molls rock for the second wife of Chief Metallak, Molly Molasses. She was known to have enjoyed sitting upon the rock gazing out to the scenic beauty of Umbagog Lake. The rock now houses the popular remote group campsite 27. At this site visitors can jump off the low rock into the waters of Umbagog as well as peer out across the water as Molly did so many years ago.

6. TYLER COVE

Tyler cove is home to many attractions. First and foremost there is "Pebble Beach" where boaters can enjoy swimming and picnicking at. Forget water? That's okay if you follow the trail on the east side of the beach it will take you .2 miles back to a natural spring. Though a natural springs it is still recommended that you treat the water. Finally if you spend time looking around the woods a little bit you may be able to see the remains of an old golf course that was put there in the times of Dutton's Island.



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