

President's Message:

A Short Twenty Years

This is my last newsletter. I've been serving as KLA President for nearly twenty years. A lot has happened during that time. The issue of milfoil has evolved (due to a lot of hard work) from scary scourge to managed risk. The loon raft and a lake-wide buoy system were introduced. The dam was repaired. The boat launch was upgraded. And KLA has made significant strides against storm water runoff – a perpetual threat that we must manage closely going forward.

We have made this progress because of your dedication and support as a member. KLA is fortunate to have the highest participation (96%) of lake-front property owners as lake association members of any lake in the Lakes Environmental Association service area. When you add to that our gift members, KBC members, and others, KLA membership is over 125 people.

It was very gratifying to work on the KLA50 book over the past winter. I hope that when you are able to read it, you will agree with me that this book is a real community builder. One of the themes that rang out from many stories I collected from property owners was the theme of generational legacy at Keoka. Our members' stories honor their forebears and locate hope for the future of Keoka in their offspring. I hope that all of you will do the same by considering how the "next generation" can join in, join up, and lend a hand in keeping Keoka such a special place. Indeed, as I take a step back, my own daughter, Melissa, is joining the KLA Board and I know that she is hoping that more of her own generation will do the same.

Thanks for a great couple of decades. See you on the lake.

Charlie Tarbell, President

ICE OUT!

The official 2021 Ice Out date for Keoka was April 9th. John Pendergast was the winner of the Waterford Library's traditional Ice-Out contest. Congratulations, John!

Annual Milfoil Summit.....

The annual Milfoil Summit was cancelled again for 2021, meaning the last information about the state of the milfoil 'invasion' across the state has to be gleaned from internet research. Links to the statewide monitoring organizations are on the KLA website (keokalake.org) under the Resources tab.

Water Quality

Annually, LEA (Lakes Environmental Association) puts out a water quality report for each lake within its area. The 2020 LEA Water Quality Testing Report is posted on the web (mainelakes.org). It summarizes the data from the two automated buoys, one on Highland Lake and one on Long Lake. The Keoka specific report will

be posted to the KLA website. In general, Keoka is stable with perhaps a little improvement. Chlorophyll and phosphorus are decreasing but the late summer oxygenation at the bottom of the lake continues to be problematic.

Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI)

KLA's combined efforts with CBIs and plant patrols results in a well-managed situation. Once again, at its annual meeting in early March, the Town of Waterford approved a grant for \$3,400; and KLA applied (and was approved) for a grant from the Maine DEP for \$1,600. The remainder of the expense for the 500 hours of CBI coverage for summer 2021 is budgeted as part of KLA ongoing expenses. KLA thanks the Town of Waterford and the Maine DEP for their continued support of KLA's "Prevention" piece of milfoil's best practices – the CBI program.

LEA continues to be the 'back room' for CBIs in that it hires, trains, schedules and does payroll, etc. for KLA. For the 21st season of CBI, we anticipate

there will be inspectors at the town boat launch on Friday afternoons, both days on the weekend as well as during the week of the 4th of July. Many boat owners have learned over the years how to inspect their own boats, but it only takes the tiniest piece of milfoil coming in from another lake to put Keoka at risk. Likewise, a piece of the *Keoka Curly-Leafed Pondweed* leaving Keoka can lead to an infestation in another lake. Anyone launching a watercraft on Keoka, whether there is a CBI present or not, should be inspecting his/her boat (or jet ski) and trailer, to be sure nothing foreign is coming into or leaving Keoka.

Plant Patrols

The Plant Patrol program is the second leg of the three-legged stool that is the fight against milfoil (or any other invasives). As the “Early Detection” part of that fight against a milfoil infestation in Keoka Lake, Plant Patrollers inspect the flora and fauna in front of a defined piece of shoreline (often in front of their individual properties). Again this year, Arne Klepinger has organized a group of volunteer Plant Patrollers, many from past years who are certified and ready to go, as well as some newbies. BUT HE NEEDS YOUR HELP! If you enjoy being in or on the water and are willing, you could become a volunteer Plant Patroller. Responsibilities are to become aware of the flora/fauna in the water in your designated patrol area. The ideal ‘patrol area’ would be about 500’ to 1500’ of lakefront. If, when you are enjoying the lake, you happen to see something that doesn’t ‘look right’, you would have the tools to identify flora/fauna that is invasive and a team to call on for confirmation. Training will be online and reference materials will be provided.

As a follow up, LEA did an extensive survey of the lake at the 5’, 10’ and 15’ levels last fall. They found no invasive plants.

Stream Surveys

As part of KLA’s efforts to improve the water quality in the lake, Kim Struck has embarked on a project of surveying the streams that feed into Keoka. Primarily looking for evidence of overbanking that can be mitigated to reduce erosion and to keep sediment from getting into the lake, she has also been picking up trash and meeting folks whose property borders the streams. To date, she has found a few obstructions but most of the streams are clear and running well. Begun in 2019, Kim and Tom Hammett are also looking at ‘upland efforts’ as KLA works to help keep the Keoka Lake watershed clean. Say hi to Kim and see if there’s anything that’s of concern along your

piece of any of those streams. KLA looks to collaborate on any mitigation issues. Anyone wishing to help Kim, contact her or Charlie.

LakeSmart

Despite COVIDs grip on summer 2020 activities, an enthusiastic trio of women launched a renewed effort to engage lakeshore owners to be aware of potential hazards to the water quality of the lake. Ginger Eaton, Doss Hasson and Priscilla Treadwell did three new LakeSmart inspections last summer and are building their list of properties to be inspected this summer. As a reminder, the LakeSmart inspection is a positive, educational, and non-judgmental assessment of the best practices for your particular property. There are NO downsides to the program! Common concerns are for run-off whereby phosphorus may be getting into the lake or where the shoreline is being eroded. Ultimately, it’s not about the LakeSmart award, it’s about mitigating as much of Keoka’s water quality ‘issues’ as humanly possible. Do it for the sake of the lake!

LakeSmart awards must be renewed every 7 years, so if you are one of the original LakeSmart awardees who are due for a ‘reinspection’, please reach out to one of the team to get your property on the list for reinspection in 2021. The ‘Team’ is fully trained and certified and may have ideas for mitigation measures for your piece of property.

Water Safety – and the loon nest

Over Memorial Day weekend, an intrepid group of volunteers (and younger backs) installed the Town Beach Boat Launch docks. Additionally, the new swim lines and buoys have been deployed – for warmer weather. The loon nesting platform and vertical white warning buoys have also been deployed for summer 2021. Thanks to Andy Tabor for taking on these chilly tasks!

With regards to the loons – they like their privacy as well, so please give the nesting platform a wide berth as you kayak, canoe or paddleboard by that area. We ask that motorboat and jet skis be respectful of the loons and their nest – please…… no morning sickness! Slow down!

For updates on the occupancy of the nesting platform, projected incubation dates and news of chicks, please watch social media (Facebook, Instagram) as well as the KLA website! Fingers crossed that summer 2021 will see two healthy chicks survive. (as a caution, there are two adult and two youth eagles on the lake as well)

Dam

Despite a rainy and cold Memorial Day weekend, the area needs rain. The Mason Dam, so named for the donation from Charlie Mason of the land on which the dam is sited, has been closed down to normal summer level and the lake water level is reported to be at the July level. However, thunderstorms can raise the level of the lake very quickly, so the dam is closely monitored to balance the level of Keoka's water against the water needs downstream.

"Bye, Bye, Big Branch"

Who hasn't uttered those words while pushing a partially-submerged piece of winter blowdown offshore? Well, please think twice before you do so again. Keoka has only one outlet – over at the Mason Dam. That means that Keoka does indeed have a small current which leads to the dam. All those big branches eventually make their way across the lake - to the dam.

The Mason Dam has a three-foot sluiceway. Most of those floating branches wind up lodging across the mouth of the sluiceway. They can stop the water flow out of the lake. When a half dozen manage to intertwine, it can be a trick to separate them and get the water flowing again. And guess who has to lever those branches out of the sluiceway, or in some cases, cut them up with a chainsaw? Yes, our intrepid crew of volunteers, the youngest of whom is mid-sixties.

So, please, think twice before you say: "BYE, BYE, BIG BRANCH".

Boat Launch

The paving of the apron along the highway was not completed last fall but the new boat launch weathered the winter well. It is anticipated that the apron will be paved this season. Check it out when you drive by the town beach – it is a masterful job, thanks to volunteer labor and the equipment, skill and time of Jeff Ward! Thank you to all who contributed to the project.

9th Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta

After a COVID postponement in 2020, the Regatta is back! Scheduled from the Keoka Beach Campground beach on Saturday, July 31, 2021. Al

Struck is in contact with the camps to determine their participation for the Camp Cup and the Bud Lazott Memorial race will be for adult sailors. Stay tuned to the KLA website and social media for additional information – but mark the date now!

Membership

KLA membership was off in 2020, no doubt partially due to travel restrictions in place due to the pandemic, the lack of merchandise sale opportunities and the uncertainty of adapting to a 'new' normal. Dues for 2021 are now due and a Dues Form is attached to this newsletter. Once again, the Wilkins House has cancelled the Community Breakfasts for the summer of 2021, so please mail your dues checks to KLA, P.O. Box 97, Waterford, 04088. As a clarification, a donation to the KLA50 Capital Campaign is not the same as an annual membership dues payment.

Merchandise

Without the Wilkins House Community Breakfasts, there is still no schedule for merchandising events for the summer for this summer. Stay tuned to the KLA website for information of upcoming KLA presence for your annual purchases of KLA shirts and hats, etc. See the KLA50 section below for news on KLA50 merchandising opportunities.

Annual Meeting - 2021

It is anticipated, weather permitting, that the 2021 Annual Meeting will take place outside, on the parking lot between the Wilkins House and the church, socially distanced and according to whatever COVID restrictions are in place in Maine on Saturday, July 10th at 9:00 a.m. – Bring your own Coffee; no donuts this year! In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held via Zoom call and there will be an email sent to all members (for whom we have email addresses) with the time and the link to the zoom call. We can only ask that Mother Nature make up for the cold, wet Memorial Day weekend with a nice period of weather over the 4th of July vacation week.



KLA IS 50 YEARS OLD – THIS YEAR!!!!!!

Founded in 1971 by an intrepid group of year-round and summer residents who were concerned about protecting Keoka Lake with things like regular water quality testing plus rebuilding the dam to maintain the water level through the summer, they laid down the early foundations for the educational and environmental work that is at the core of KLA's focus today.

BUT.... Thanks to COVID, we're going to *stretch out* our 50th anniversary celebration!

Early this year, the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, met by Zoom and were concerned that by 7.10.2021:

- Would the COVID restrictions/guidelines from the CDC and the State of Maine allow gatherings of the size we were planning?
- Would there be 70% of the population who would be fully vaccinated (herd immunity)?
- What about throwing a celebration party where people were uncertain whether those in attendance were vaccinated or not?
- And the desire to have the Anniversary Celebration be a true party, a celebration of the history of KLA; to be able to gather (with food and drink)) to honor and celebrate KLA's founders and to socialize with other KLA members.

So.....the Anniversary Celebration Committee made the decision to postpone the party until July 9, 2022 and to put plans/activities on 'Pause' until we had a clearer sense of what impact COVID-19 was going to have on all of us. That left David and JoLynne Johnson, as KLA50 Committee Co-chairs, to reassess the various activities/projects/plans we had put in place to happen in 2021. It, in fact, gave us some unexpected opportunities. Below is a (ever-fluid) timeline for this now 18-month-long opportunity to remember, honor and celebrate those 15 'first volunteers' who founded KLA:

Full-speed ahead:

- The **BOOK** – is at the printer's and is expected shortly. This project was well underway when the 'Pause' decision was made and without all the other activities planned for 2021, full emphasis can be given to marketing **KEOKA LAKE– History of Our Life on Our Lake**. Full (400+ pages full) of the stories of the properties around the lake (all 77 of them!), background and information about families who have shaped the community of Waterford that surrounds Keoka Lake, a history of some of the landmark buildings in The Flat, lots of pictures, and some rainy-day activities gleaned from this crowd-sourced effort, the book is a massive publishing project. At this point, books are available for pre-order – either with the form included with this newsletter plus a cash/check for \$35 to KLA or through the KLA website (by credit card for an additional \$1). Pre-ordered books can be picked up at the Waterford Library at the Friday Coffee Café on June 11(if the books have arrived), June 18, June 25, July 2 and at the July 4th parade. It is possible to still purchase books by completing the Pre-Order form and bringing cash or check to any of those pick-up locations. There will be other distribution opportunities throughout the summer. Stay tuned to the KLA website for further information.

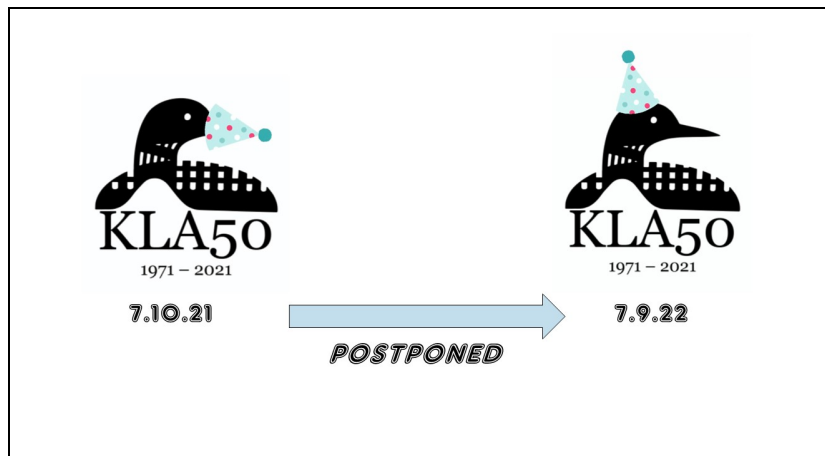
On-going:

- **KLA50 Quilt Raffle**: The KLA50 Anniversary Committee has secured a donation of a queen-sized quilt "Windows on Keoka – Seasons of the Lake" (The picture is on the KLA website). Included with this newsletter is a sheet of raffle tickets. Raffle ticket sales began in the spring of 2020 and the winning ticket will be drawn at the 50^{th+} Anniversary Celebration on July 9, 2022. Please mail your tickets and payment to KLA50 Quilt Raffle, P.O. Box 97, Waterford, ME 04088. If you wish to mail one check for your 2021 dues and raffle tickets, the accounting will be handled on KLA's end.

- **KLA50 Capital Campaign** – KLA is 50 years old this year, so the KLA Board of Directors continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary with a fundraising campaign designed to build a ‘milfoil/invasive reserve’. Through its myriad of programs, KLA does its best to present a three-legged stool approach: prevention (CBIs) and detection (Plant Patrols) and yet, when it comes to fighting an invasive infestation, we lack sufficient ‘on-hand’ funds (third leg) to immediately put divers in the water to eradicate an infestation when (not if) it is discovered. The goal is ambitious: To raise \$50,000 to celebrate 50 years! We are pleased to report that our early lead donors have stepped up and we are well on the way to our goal! The Capital Campaign didn’t have to pause for COVID so we continue to accept (and encourage) pledges and donations of any amount. As of this newsletter, 85% of Keoka Lake properties are represented by a pledge or donation! Watch the website and social media for an upcoming match opportunity to help get us to 100% participation!

‘Paused’ to 2022:

- **A Historical “Retrospective** at the Waterford Historical Society during the summer of 2022, highlighting artifacts, pictures, scrapbooks and other memorabilia from the days when people came to Waterford for the ‘water cure’. Nancy Marcotte is still looking for things to add to this exhibit. She can be reached at the Waterford Historical Society.
- **KLA50 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** – Of course, a 50th anniversary means a party! Plans are well underway for a celebration on the afternoon of our 2022 Annual Meeting. Please mark your calendars for July 9, 2022 and watch the KLA Fall Newsletter for more information. All KLA members in good standing (dues paid for 2021) will receive an invitation to the party in the spring of 2022.



INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

1. KLA50 Book Pre-order form
2. KLA50 Quilt Raffle Tickets
3. 2021 Dues Form