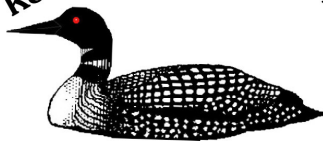


Keoka Lake Association



Waterford, Maine

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Spring, 2016

President's Message:

Greetings and happy spring!! After a blistering Memorial Day Saturday, it seems odd to not be saying happy summer.

The state of Keoka is strong, as the U.S. President is wont to say during his State of the Union Address. Your lake association continues to take steps to ensure that water quality of Keoka Lake is good and indeed, improving; that the risk of Invasives is minimized; that navigation and surface uses are facilitated, and that education/outreach makes us all smarter about protecting our lake. Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), the Town of Waterford, and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection are all strong partners for us in pursuing our mission.

At our annual meeting on Saturday morning July 9, 2016, the agenda includes a report from LEA, a discussion on LakeSmart and Shoreland planting, as well as review of the usual operations of our association. We encourage you to participate.

KLA is an entirely volunteer-driven organization and we would also love to have you join us and volunteer with us. We can always use plant patrollers, whose job it is to be on the front line of spotting unusual plants for further investigation and volunteer CBI's, to cover some of the hours when the CBIs are not funded. Feel free to contact me, or any KLA Board member for more information.

Thanks, and see you out on the lake -

Charlie Tarbell

Please note: The annual Meeting of the Keoka Lake Association (KLA) is Saturday, July 19, 2016 at the Wilkins House. Coffee, donuts and socializing at 8:30 a.m.; the meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

ICE OUT!

After a strange winter temperature-wise and an even stranger spring, Keoka Lake's Ice Out was March 29th! In fact, there was an illusive covering that escaped detection and hung around for a couple of extra days, causing some additional damage to waterlines in Stone's Cove and additional surface abrading by the ice berm. The earliest Ice Out is March 23rd (2010 and 2012) and the latest Ice Out was on April 25, 2014.

17th Annual Maine Milfoil Summit

Representing KLA, Charlie Tarbell joined 300 representatives of other Maine lake associations at the 17th annual Maine Milfoil Summit on February 27th at USM in Lewiston. The keynote speaker was Abe Miller-Rushing, Science Coordinator for Acadia National Park, who spoke about the impact of climate change on species. In short, the effects of climate change favor invasive species and bode poorly for native species, which rely on the cycle of deep cold. A panel of experts then spoke about various

aspects of milfoil prevention and mitigation. There has been one new infestation since last year. It is Northeast Pond, on the NH/ME border near Sanford, Maine.

Finally, OSHA officials spoke about regulations surrounding safety in the diving profession, which served to illustrate and underscore the extraordinary expense of diver-based milfoil remediation. Indeed, it seems to be a growing market as several 'diver companies' were displaying at the vendor show.

Some good news on the Milfoil front is from Annabesacook Lake. After a year of feverish work, the Annabesacook Lake Association believes that it has nipped the infestation in the bud. The Annabesacook Lake case study was the subject of the 2015 Milfoil Summit and their status bears watching going forward.

Interesting truth: that infestation was caught by a Courtesy Boat Inspector in 2015!

Courtesy Boat Inspections – Year #15

At the 2016 annual Town Meeting, the Town of Waterford voted to support the Courtesy Boat Inspections with a grant of \$3,400. KLA also applied again this year to DEP and was awarded a \$1,300 grant. These two combined will cover much of the cost of the paid CBI's. KLA is grateful for the support of both organizations for their ongoing support to help Keoka clean and safe.

Again this year, LEA will handle the hiring, scheduling and payroll for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday coverage on Keoka Lake. At times when there is no paid CBI at the Town Boat Launch, boaters are encouraged to inspect their boats before and after enjoying Keoka Lake. Volunteer CBIs are always welcome to help cover hours not on the paid CBI schedules. If you are interested in being trained, please let a KLA board member know.

Shoreland Zoning changes

The Town of Waterford voted to change Shoreland Zoning regulations at the March, 2016 annual Town Meeting. This vote had the effect of adopting the model law promulgated by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in 2013. The changes from these new regulations are fairly extensive and will impact anyone currently in the 100-foot buffer zone who is looking to expand buildings as well as anyone looking to cut trees in the buffer zone.

The changes are best described by Colin Holme, Assistant Director of LEA and Chairman of the Waterford Planning Board, in his article in the February 2016 Mutiny Brook Times. The entire article is included below:

Proposed Shoreland Zoning Changes

By Colin Holme, Asst. Director

For decades, people with houses or buildings close to the water have had to work with what is commonly called the 30 percent rule. While it has been around for a long time, confusion over what the law actually says and how to apply it abound.

This March, the town will vote on proposed updates to Waterford's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. One of the biggest changes is to the section that deals with reconstruction or expansion of buildings within the setback area. Homes and buildings in this area, which typically extends out 100 feet from a pond or 75 feet from a stream, are often called "grandfathered," meaning that they are (at least partially) exempt from newer regulations. In the ordinance, however, these buildings are referred to as non-conforming structures.

While buildings in this area have been allowed to stay as well as be rebuilt, there are limits on how much they could be enlarged. These limits were put in place to make sure that much of the area adjacent to the water remains intact for stormwater treatment, habitat and privacy. Thus for many years,

expansions to buildings in the “buffer zone” were limited to 30% of the floor area and volume of the structure as of Jan. 1, 1989. The floor area standard is easier to understand and is actually just the interior square footage of all floors, decks and porches. The volume standard was put in place to help prevent structures from growing disproportionately vertically and presumably impacting the aesthetics of the shoreland zone and other landowner’s view of the water. The problem with both these measurements is that they are often difficult to calculate and even more difficult to verify.

While floor area is fairly easy to calculate, it requires inside dimensions and this can be time consuming for a code officer to check. And in Waterford, expansions to non-conforming residents are reviewed by the Planning Board, which meets once a month and traditionally only has site visits for larger or complicated projects. For homes with unique architecture, calculating volume can be extremely difficult and because of this, some towns now require the homeowner to hire a certified architect or engineer to verify the numbers are correct. Even using professionals, calculation errors still occur. These problems can lead to sticky situations for the homeowner and regulator as well as feelings of unequal treatment by the landowner or neighbors.

To help alleviate these issues, the state has changed the guidelines for this section. The new wording, which we will be voting on March 5 does away with the floor area and volume requirements and uses a footprint and setback limitation instead. Footprint is simply determined by the exterior dimensions of the home and can be easily calculated. This calculation includes decks, porches and cantilevered sections. With the new standard, landowners have the option of a 30% footprint expansion or alternatively an expansion up to the predefined limit based on the building setback. These limits are 800 square feet within 25 feet of the water, 1,000 square feet within 75 feet and 1,500 square feet within 100 feet. To prevent landowners from expanding

upward without any constraints, there are also height limitations based on setback distance.

In both the proposed and existing regulations, expansions to non-conforming structures cannot make the building less conforming. In other words, the building cannot be enlarged or reconfigured in any way such that it is somehow closer to the water than it was before.

While there will still likely be confusion around these new expansion rules, applying them to reconstruction projects in this sensitive zone should be easier for both the landowner and the town. Let’s hope so anyway.

Hazard and storm damaged trees, which have usually been exempted from tree cutting standards in the shoreland zone, are also now defined and the regulations regarding their removal are clearly spelled out. These changes have been in the making since a diverse, statewide, stakeholder group identified these tree categories as sources of many legal problems.

Exemptions to clearing standards have been added for several activities including removal of invasive plants, removal needed for permitted structures, removal because of contamination, temporary removal for shoreline stabilization projects and for sites where cutting has occurred regularly prior to the establishment of the regulations. While these exemptions were commonly allowed before under the existing rules, these specific provisions give landowners and regulators more clarity in previously murky waters.

Re-vegetation standards for both violations and permitted projects have also been added. This has long been needed and will help ensure fairness and more uniformity in planting plans when vegetation is removed in the shoreland zone.

Another proposed change includes a requirement that regularly used camp sites are not added to existing house lots without adequate space. This was put in to alleviate intense use of small areas that circumvent standard lot size and plumbing code requirements.

Plant Patrols

Each summer, under the guidance of Arne Kleppinger and Tom Stockwell, a group of volunteers combine their kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing, boating and general lake enjoyment with monitoring the flora in the water and along the shores of Keoka. The shoreline of Keoka has been divided into segments and volunteers have stepped up to claim a section of the lake to monitor for the summer.

Appeal: 2-3 more volunteers are needed to help 'keep an eye' on a segment of the lake – looking for anything unusual over the course of the summer! This can be done from a kayak, canoe, fishing boat, party boat or other floatable. Training and reference materials will be provided. If you can help out, please come to the Annual Meeting, check the Volunteer box on the Dues form attached or use the KLA Feedback form on the website to notify KLA of your willingness to help keep Keoka clean and safe.

LEA is monitoring....

Once again this summer, LEA will be supporting KLA by analyzing concentrations of *Gloeo*, doing continuous temperature monitoring and continuing the baseline monitoring of all algae species. With membership approval at the Annual Meeting, the *Gloeo* and algae baseline monitoring will be done monthly between June & September.

The temperature sensors are at varying depths and are attached to the buoy that is out from Kokosing. We ask that everyone respect the buoy and give it a wide berth – in other words.... Leave it alone!!

Water Quality.....

The 2015 Secchi disk average was 6.4 meters – deeper than the long-term average of 5.9 meters. Dissolved oxygen depletion began to appear in the bottom waters in early June 2015. As the summer continued, depletion progressed and affected the bottom 5 meters of the water column.

Phosphorus concentrations in surface waters were moderate and averaged 6.1 ppb for the year (below the long-term average of 8.0 ppb – perhaps due to lack of storm runoff during the dry summer?) Due to the low Algae:Iron (Al:Fe) ratios in Keoka Lake sediments (5.3:1), the lake is not susceptible to internal phosphorus recycling.

Through analysis of the 2015 baseline algae monitoring that LEA conducted, green algae are the dominant type of algae in Keoka, followed by the blue-green (cyanobacteria) algae. The cyanobacteria are typically responsible for algae blooms. On the positive note: Keoka Lake's concentration of cyanobacteria only averaged 10%, which is below the average across the lakes LEA samples.

By monitoring the temperature at varying depths, it is possible to identify mixing events and to provide clear records of the lake's stratification patterns. The date of fall turnover (complete lake mixing was October 22nd in 2014 and October 23rd in 2015. Because of low oxygen conditions and periodically elevated phosphorus levels in the bottom waters, Keoka Lake is in the **MODERATE** degree of concern category.

LakeSmart

This will be the sixth summer that KLA has sponsored the LakeSmart program. To date, over 25 properties have been inspected and 19 LakeSmart Awards have been granted. If you are interested in having your property 'LakeSmart inspected', please sign up at the Annual Meeting on July 9th or call Peter Morse (207.583.4502) or Charlie Tarbell (207.671.6962). Please leave a VM with a number that you will answer. (In 2015, several inspections were unable to be scheduled because contact information was incomplete.)

The Dam

The dam was opened up at the end of last summer to allow the level of the lake to fall, in part so people could do maintenance on

their docks but also to try to protect the shore from the erosion caused by the ice in recent winters. The dam is now set for summer, however, the lower lake level reflects the lack of snow cover and spring rains. Rain is needed – may it come before July 4th and not all summer!

Education Initiative

Plans are in the works for some new educational programs this summer. Stay tuned to the website or come to the Annual Meeting to hear more about what is planned.

Loon Update

There is a pair of loons on the lake but currently, no reports of eggs in the nest. Stay tuned for updates and if you're out on the lake, please give the nest a wide berth. (The eagle has also landed – and has been seen on the rocks in the middle of the lake).

Water Safety

The navigational buoys are in place marking the boat launch near the Town Beach – but a word of caution to those using the boat launch. The winter ice was not kind to the access – be careful!

The Warden Service IS watching.....

As a reminder to all, 2016 Boat Registrations now include the Milfoil Sticker and can be purchased at Town Hall during business hours. Upon payment of the fee, a boater is given a paper receipt. Actual stickers can take 30 working days!!

Fundraising

The big news is that you will find the KLA merchandise table INSIDE the Wilkins House at the Community Breakfasts in 2016. Be sure to stop by and check out all the goodies.

New at the KLA merchandise table this summer will be some new colors and necklines for shirts. In addition, as a good neighbor, KLA will be selling some shirts embroidered with McWain Pond.

Raffle

Already have a kayak? Have you been waiting for KLA to come up with something new for a raffle? Well, 2016 is YOUR year! The 2016 raffle is a beautiful wooden bench with a metal loon insert along the back. Tickets are \$3 each, 4 for \$10 and 10 for \$20. A sheet of raffle tickets is included with the newsletter. Feel free to make as many copies as you wish. The raffle will be drawn at the Fall Foliage 5K on October 9, 2016.



KLA is EVERYWHERE

Do you 'Like' us? Have you 'Googled' us? Did you know you could 'upload' to us? KLA's website is: <http://www.keokalake.org> - check it out! Our web-master, Joe Abbiati, is always updating and improving the look and content of the website. A new feature in the Gallery section allows anyone to upload pictures for the website. Check it out! And please share some of your pictures of Keoka and the surrounding area.

And for those who use Facebook – 'like us' at Keoka Lake Association and stay up-to-date on news from Waterford! Check it out!

Going forward, KLA will be utilizing the Internet and social media to disseminate information, important announcements and invitations – Check 'us' out!

Membership

2016 dues are now due! A Dues Notice is included with this newsletter. Consider making an additional donation to the Milfoil Reserve Fund or the Educational Initiatives.

KLA - Being Environmentally 'Correct'

Going forward, we will be looking to deliver newsletters via email as the US Postal Service seems to be increasing costs for slower service. Please note your email address on your dues form so we can keep

you informed in a timely manner. Get the KLA news faster – and save a tree (or two)!!

INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Keoka Plant Patrol map
- 2016 Loon Bench Raffle Tickets
- 2016 Dues Notice

Dates to Remember

July 4	Wilkins House Community Breakfast Waterford 4 th of July Parade
July 9	KLA Annual Meeting – Wilkins Community House Coffee, donuts & socializing @ 8:30 a.m.; Meeting starts @ 9:00
July 13	Wilkins House Community Breakfast
July 23	4 rd Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta (Raindate: July 24 th)
July 27	Wilkins House Community Breakfast
August 10	Wilkins House Community Breakfast
October 7	Fall KLA Board Meeting
October 9	Fall Foliage 5K/Festival – and KLA Loon Bench Raffle Drawing

KLA Board of Trustees

Charlie Tarbell, President

Joanne Eaton, Vice President

Dave Abbiati, Secretary

Chip Mason, Treasurer

Ginger Eaton
Tom Hammett
Dan Johnson

David Johnson
Jo Lynne Johnson
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Peter Morse
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Don Rung
Tom Stockwell
Andy Tabor

Keoka Lake Association: <http://www.keokalake.org>