

Keoka Lake Association



Waterford, Maine

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Fall, 2020

President's Message:

As I get closer to the end of my tenure as President of KLA (Richard Orr, currently Vice President, is taking over as President next summer), I find myself becoming reflective about where we've been and where we currently are. You will find much more about the "where we've been" in the **KLA50 Book**, due out next spring. As far as where we **are**, there is one thing in particular that I feel compelled to point out. It has to do with Milfoil.

I have attended most of the Milfoil Summits, hosted annually each spring for the last twenty years by Lakes Environmental Association. During that time, I have seen the Milfoil issue migrate from a vague horror, to one that is real and literally on our doorstep. However, I have also seen the state-of-that-art with regards to milfoil change drastically during that time. At one time, the prevailing view was that Milfoil was inevitable and it was going to destroy our lakes, much like it has most lakes in Massachusetts. Nowadays, we know that milfoil best practices promote a three-legged stool that is designed to control the threat. Those three legs include: Prevention, Detection, and Eradication.

We have had Prevention (Courtesy Boat Inspections) and Detection (Plant Patrols) well in hand with practices that we have been promoting for the last 15 years. Any invasive plants discovered by either of these programs would result in early detection and position us to eradicate those plants post haste. However, eradication of milfoil is expensive and requires immediate resources to address. Best practices entail sufficient on-hand resources to put milfoil eradication divers in the water ASAP. We have never been in possession of sufficient resources to allow that to happen. Until now.

Through the KLA50 Capital Campaign, we are raising funds so that we stand ready to eradicate Milfoil when it is discovered in Keoka, thereby completing the three-legged stool. For my part, I expect to sleep easier at night knowing that we are doing everything that we can to control the Milfoil threat. My thanks to you all for your support as KLA members and for your generosity in getting us to this enviable position. More on our fundraising results will be covered later in the newsletter, with greater detail available as the campaign closes next spring.

Stay well and have a good winter –
Charlie Tarbell

Long Awaited..... it's here!

As mentioned on Facebook and the KLA website, the new boat ramp at the Town Beach is in!

2020 Loon nest/chicks - status

Did you notice the increase in the number of loons on Keoka this year? Did

you notice the new buoys placed to help keep boaters away from the nesting platform? Due to wind conditions, the buoys weren't installed until after the nesting pair of loons hatched two chicks. So where are the chicks? Sadly, one didn't survive very long as a couple of the bald eagles who have a nest near Kokosing did

a double team on the young family and one chick was lost. Less than two weeks later, one of the 'teenage' male loons attacked the other chick. The parents maintained a soulful vigil until the little one died early the next morning. See Chris Brennan's blog on the website for more information.

Water Quality

The summer of 2020 saw intense rain events as well as serious drought conditions and the lake level was at its lowest in recent memory. LEA's report on Keoka's water quality will be available in early 2021, but early reports are that the Ph and Chlorophyll are in line with the long-term trend, but the SECCHI disc readings have been inconsistent due to the intensity of the few rain events.

Upland Efforts

Due to an increase in attention on watershed management and the effects on lakes, specifically Keoka Lake, Tom Hammett is looking to research/plan for the future to survey/map the watershed, gather data and develop educational materials. This survey would check the status against a survey done in 2000 as there is concern that management of Keoka's watershed may be just as important (or more so) as the focus on milfoil.

Stream Surveys

In addition to completing her certification in StreamSmart, Kim Struck continues to tromp the streams that feed into Keoka in an attempt to 1) look for evidence of overbanking/erosion which might affect water quality in the lake, 2) assess blockages that cause streams to change course, 3) clean up trash that has accumulated and 4) interface with those whose land borders the 10 streams that feed into Keoka. As more attention is focused on the watershed for lakes, such base-level information helps identify potential hazards and pollutants that affect the water quality.

CBI's

Summer 2020 recorded 329 inspections over the 461 hours that a paid Courtesy Boat Inspector was on duty at the Town Beach boat launch. There were 3 catches of plants leaving the lake (all non-invasives), but Milfoil **is** in lakes near us. All who launch and pull out boats need to be alert and vigilant.

Plant Patrol

Despite the pandemic and the concern that people would not be able to get to Keoka for the summer, Arne Klepinger reports that a team of volunteer Plant Patrollers were out in force this summer, monitoring the flora and fauna that lives in the lake. The lake has been divided into sections and each Patroller is alert to changes within their patrol area. Volunteers are always welcome to join the Plant Patrol. Contact Arne for more information.

LakeSmart

Under the leadership of Ginger Eaton, she, Doss Hasson and Priscilla Treadwell received their LakeSmart training in the spring and proceeded to inspect 4 properties and awarded three additional LakeSmart awards. Congratulations to Brenda Hambleton/Mick Bosowski, John & Charlotte Huffman and Jim & Heidi Schellenger!

LEA Survey

On October 1, 2020, four LEA divers swam the perimeter of the lake and rock island. Their mission was to survey for any invasive aquatic plants. The strategy was a "belt and suspenders" strategy, coupled with the work that our Plant Patrollers do all summer.

The four paid particular attention to the shallow areas of coves where milfoil is much more likely to take hold. Happily, no invasive aquatic plants were discovered during the survey. KLA will sponsor an LEA survey every two years in an effort to

ensure early detection of any potential infestation.

Volunteering

KLA is an all-volunteer organization and it relies on people willing to step up and lend a hand – be it installing a boat launch, helping to ready mailings, being a Plant Patroller, a Stream Surveyor, helping with the annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta, setting up for the Annual Meeting, serving on the Board of Trustees, helping Joanne Eaton sell merchandise at Community Breakfasts, 4th of July activities on the common or Fall Foliage 5k weekend, writing blogs for the new website, keeping KLA ‘up with the times’ on social media or a myriad of other ‘little things’ that make it possible for KLA to do what it does to keep Keoka Lake clean and safe. Want to get involved? Please check one of the boxes on the Fall Dues Notice (included with this newsletter) and you will be contacted. Our thanks to all who volunteer now and welcome to those who wish to join us!

Dam

Due to the heavy rains in June, the dam was opened up all the way, but with the summer drought, the dam was closed down to minimum level in order to keep water flowing through South Waterford and into Bear Pond. The result was consistently very low lake levels well into the fall. Let’s hope that Mother Nature brings some moisture over the winter!

KLA Merchandise

Due to COVID-19, there were no POS opportunities for KLA merchandise in 2020. In that the sale of merchandise is a major income source for KLA, revenues are down and KLA must rely on Dues payments and donations for its operating expenses. Stay tuned for new items for 2021, including some with the KLA50 logo!

Social Media and Website

We are transitioning to more and more

use of social media to get the word out on KLA. Melissa Tarbell has stepped up and is joining the team that administrates the KLA Facebook page as well as keeping the KLA Instagram page interesting. If you have a Facebook or Instagram account, “Like” us and any updates and/or posts will show up on your Newsfeed – it’s as easy as that! If you post pictures of Keoka or Waterford to Instagram, use the hashtag #KLA or #keokalake so others can see them!

Brenda Hambleton has assumed responsibility for the website (<http://www.keokalake.org>) and is working to develop more and more capabilities. Check out the Blog section of the website which includes monthly updates on a myriad of topics. The next entry will be on the ‘murder’ of the loon chick.

We encourage you to keep checking back to our new KLA website – it’s ever-changing!. We’d love to see the pictures you’ve taken around or on Keoka Lake. If you have pictures you’d like to share, please check out the Photo Gallery page of the KLA website for how you can transmit your pix to be uploaded to the website.

Fall Dues Notice

The final page of this newsletter is the Fall Dues Notice. Given that COVID took away KLA’s chances to connect in person, either at the annual meeting or at the community breakfasts with the KLA POS table of merchandise, the number of KLA members who have paid their dues is down. Given that there was no POS opportunities this summer, we would like to encourage everyone to bring their dues current. As our membership grows (90% of lakeside landowners are KLA members), the practice of listing those who have paid their dues for the year on the dues notice has grown unwieldy. However, for those who don’t remember if they have or if they have not yet paid their 2019 KLA dues, please reach out to Charlie Tarbell or Ginny Raymond. If you have not paid your

2020 dues, please use the attached Fall Dues Notice. Please also note that you can pre-pay your 2021 KLA dues at the same time.

We'd ask that you consider a gift in excess of the \$25 dues amount either as an unrestricted donation or directed to the Milfoil Reserve or Educational Initiative. KLA is a volunteer organization that relies on donations to continue its mission to maintain the health and safety of Keoka Lake, especially in the face of the threat of invasives, both flora and fauna, and naturally occurring and man-made environmental threats. KLA is also committed to protecting the waters of Keoka Lake for future generations by educating its membership about environmental threats, environmentally conscious and proactive best practices and safe boating practices to protect those who enjoy its waters. Point of fact: the initial response to a milfoil infestation is upwards of \$15,000! It then costs thousands of dollars every year just to keep the noxious weeds in check.

Gift Memberships

Many of the 'camps' that border Keoka Lake are multi-generational camps with long histories on the lake. Childhood friendships are renewed at Keoka when those who spent their summers here in the

'60's, '70's, '80's and '90's now return to the lake with their families to share those same experiences. Family reunions are so much of what summers are all about!

But the work of KLA is supported largely through dues payments made by individuals, couples and nuclear families. Please consider encouraging your children and grandchildren to take a direct interest in the lake by becoming independent members of KLA. To jumpstart the transition from one generation to another, consider giving a ***KLA GIFT MEMBERSHIP*** to children, grandchildren and/or nieces/nephews. On the enclosed Dues Notice, check the "Gift Membership" box, fill out the form for your gift recipient and tell us the relationship. KLA will do the rest and send you a ***GIFT MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE*** that you can gift-wrap and/or deliver as you wish. Want to give more than one Gift Membership? Just attach the information to your dues form and it will happen!

Passing the torch to the next generation ensures the continued enjoyment of the lake by all. A KLA Gift Membership is a gift that keeps on giving (and doesn't need batteries, doesn't take up space, doesn't need a charger or an electrical outlet and doesn't collect dust!). KLA Gift Memberships make great stocking stuffers or Hannukah gifts!

KLA Board of Trustees

Charlie Tarbell, President

Richard Orr, Vice President

Kim Struck, Secretary

Dan Treadwell, Treasurer

Joe Abbiati
Ginger Eaton
Joanne Eaton
Jim Flynn

Brenda Hambleton
Tom Hammett
David Johnson
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Arne Klepiner
Chip Mason
Peter Morse
Ginny Raymond

Bill Robichaud
Tom Stockwell
Al Struck
Andy Tabor



So..... what is KLA50?

In 2021, Keoka Lake Association will be 50 years old! 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 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. And so.... we are going to remember, honor and celebrate those 15 'first volunteers' throughout KLA's 50th year. There are many (moving) pieces to the celebration, including:

- **KLA50 Capital Campaign** – KLA will be 50 so the KLA Board of Directors is celebrating 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 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 we are wrapping up the final stages of the Public Phase of the Campaign. For those who have yet to make a pledge or donation to the KLA50 Capital Campaign, we urge you to send your pledge/check to KLA50 Capital Campaign, P.O. Box 97, Waterford, ME 04088

We ask for your consideration and generosity so that we can wrap up this season with an announcement

- **Publishing a book** telling the stories of the properties around the lake while chronicling the building of the many camps, cabins and houses that line the lake today. If you haven't submitted your Lakeshore Owner Questionnaire or your story of your family's place on Keoka Lake, please email it to kla50.2021@gmail.com or mail it to KLA50, P.O. Box 97, Waterford, ME 04088. The questionnaire can be found on the KLA website (www.keokalake.org).
- **A historical retrospective** at the Waterford Historical Society during the summer of 2021, 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 Quilt Raffle**: The KLA50 Anniversary Committee has secured a donation of a queen-sized quilt "Windows on Keoka – Seasons of the Lake". Included with this newsletter is a copy of the Quilt Raffle flyer and a sheet of raffle tickets. Raffle ticket sales will begin immediately and the winning ticket will be drawn at the 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 10, 2021. 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 2020 dues and raffle tickets, the accounting will be handled on KLA's end.

- **KLA50 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** – Of course, a 50th anniversary means a party! Plans are well underway for a celebration the afternoon of our 2021 Annual Meeting. Please mark your calendars for July 10, 2021. Given the uncertainty of all things COVID-19 (except that the number of cases keeps rising), the Anniversary Celebration Committee will be monitoring the situation closely in the coming months. A decision will be made by early March as to whether the 50th anniversary celebration will take place in 2021 or be postponed until 2022. One year or the other, we WILL gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of KLA!

SAVE THE DATE

KLA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PARTY
SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021*
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**COVID willing*

INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

1. KLA50QuiltRaffleFlyer
2. KLA50QuiltRaffleTickets
3. 2020FallDuesForm

*We wish each of you a Happy Holiday Season
and a very Happy New Year! Stay well!*

<http://www.keokalake.org>

KLA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.