

Keoka Lake Association



Waterford, Maine

Volume 13, No. 2

Fall, 2021

President's Message:

The time on the lake after Labor Day is bittersweet. For those lucky enough to linger longer at the lake, the air is pure; the fall foliage is increasingly intense, and the sunsets are spectacular. But as one looks across the lake, the docks and swim floats are pulled up; boats are taken out and the easy chairs and water toys disappear into winter storage. For many of us, leaving at the end of the summer creates a sense of separation.

But technology can keep you connected to Keoka. Melissa Tarbell joined the KLA board in July. She actively curates a social media presence for lake lovers. You may be treated to images of summer sailboats, loons and eagles or flaming skies at dusk. You may also see winter scenes -- a fascinating perspective for people who do not have an opportunity to visit Keoka when it is frozen over and the trees are laden with snow.

On Facebook, go to the "Keoka Lake Association" page. On Instagram sign up to follow "Keoka Lake Association." And if you have photos you are willing to share, please send them directly to Melissa at melissa.m.tarbell@gmail.com or send them to her through the Keoka Lake Association Instagram account.

Finally, watch your postal mailbox this spring for an invitation to KLA's 50th Anniversary Celebration. The event was postponed due to COVID and is rescheduled for Saturday, July 9, 2022, at 3 pm. in Waterford. Fingers crossed that we will finally be able to gather in person again. If so, we will celebrate 50 years of KLA and reveal the results of our successful KLA50 capital campaign for milfoil protection. Be sure to complete and return the RSVP card. We hope to see you and your family at the Celebration.

Stay safe this winter –
Richard Orr

In Memory of Shirley (Betty) Strong Miller

In September 2021, Betty lost her battle with Alzheimer's disease. Those who knew her, adored her. Her enthusiasm knew no boundaries. She loved Keoka and her Waterford family. For over 100 years, her family, and extended Kokosing community, pioneered many aspects of life on our lake. While her long battle with Alzheimer's may have taken the wind out of her sails, her impact and memory will live on. See KLA's website for complete tribute.

Check It Out!!! – www.keokalake.org

Always new and exciting, have you logged into the KLA website recently – to read about the three eagle chicks hatched this summer? To read the back story of

the adventures on the 8th Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta Committee Boat? To see all the entries in the first ever KLA Photo Contest – and see the winning pictures?

Water Quality

Due to the combination of lake waters warming early due to the heat in June, July being a virtual washout due to the amount of rain and August being very dry, early reports are that area lakes experienced lots of *gloeo* and algae during the summer of 2021. Keoka Lake was no different. Due to the rain and wind, SECCHI disc readings have been variable. LEA's report on Keoka's water quality won't be available until early 2022, however, early indications are that Keoka will show as 'average' when all the data is complete.

Stream Surveys

All streams leading into Keoka Lake are surveyed twice annually by Kim Struck and Ting Doore. The fall stream walk uncovered numerous areas of undercutting and erosion of stream banks, some obviously due to the Sept. 24th 'flash' storm. The beaver 'situation' in Kedarbrook has been mitigated and the residual concern with the sand at the mouth of Kedarbrook will take time to changeover.

Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI's)

During the summer of 2021, CBI's recorded 400 hours at the Town Beach Boat Launch between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The CBI program is supported by a grant from the Town of Waterford and a grant from Maine DEP with the remainder of the costs covered by KLA dues. No invasives were found in Keoka in 2021, but there are two nearby lakes 'of concern'. Milfoil has been found at the Harrison end of Long Lake and Cobbosseecontee has an infestation of *Eurasian Milfoil*.

Plant Patrol

Two new plant patrollers were added to Keoka's coverage map – Brent McCarter and Sarah Stockwell. Arne Klepinger coordinates the Plant Patrol program and

feels that the more eyes monitoring the flora and fauna of the lake the better. Anyone wishing to join the Plant Patroller team for summer 2022 should contact Arne. Training is provided.

LakeSmart

The LakeSmart team of Ginger Eaton, Doss Hasson and Priscilla Treadwell surveyed 6 properties during the summer of 2021. Two new Lake Smart Awards were granted: Kim Struck and the Lenarssi family camp. Two more properties are lined up for inspection in 2022. The focus of the LakeSmart team is to 1) educate lakeshore property owners about those items that can be mitigated and 2) provide resources to help eliminate/mitigate those issues that affect lake health. It takes a community effort to maintain the health and safety of Keoka Lake.

Dam

The paperwork to officially transfer the land on which the dam is located to KLA was completed in 2021. At that time, Andy Tabor put up warning signs and buoys around the mouth of the dam. Despite all the rain, the dam has been basically shut down since July. Despite numerous heavy rainstorms, the water level in the lake has not risen significantly. Currently, Charlie Tarbell and Al Struck monitor the dam on a regular basis. They hope to add an additional monitor for 2022.

Volunteering

KLA is an all-volunteer organization and it relies on people willing to step up and lend a hand – be it helping with the 'dock parties' in spring and fall when the Town Beach Boat Ramp docks are readied for either summer use or winter storage, helping to ready newsletters for mailing (at least for now), 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 (hopefully resuming in 2022), 4th of July activities on the common or the Fall Foliage 5k weekend (again, hoping to return in 2022), writing blogs for the new website, keeping KLA 'up with the times' on social media, sending pictures taken around the lake 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!

8th Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta & 2nd Annual Camp Cup Regatta

Saturday, July 31, 2021 dawned clear and blustery for the 8th annual regatta. Thirteen boats vied for the 2nd Annual Camp Cup and 7 boats registered for the 8th Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Trophy. Despite upsets, winds at 10-15 mph at the start of the race and marker flags disintegrating before the race, it was a spirited race. Winners of the Bud Lazott Memorial Trophy were: Glen Haberbusch (Laser Class) and Daniel Frey (Open Class). Winner of the Camp Cup was Birch Rock Camp with Teddy winning the Camp Laser Class; Nate winning the Sunfish Class and Sterla (from Camp Waziyatah) winning the Catamaran Class. Congratulations to the winners, to all who participated and to all who got an unexpected swim. KLA thanks Chris Searles for the use of the Keoka Beach Campground beach to launch the regatta. Thanks also to those KLA volunteers who worked behind the scenes as well as on the day of the regatta.

Loon Update – Summer 2021

While there were several loons on the lake during the summer, there was not a mating pair, so there were no chicks. However, a pair of loons and a juvenile were seen in Stone's Cove in early October. Hopefully Keoka will be a 'destination' for a mating pair next summer.

KLA Merchandise

In 2020 there were no retail sales opportunities for KLA merchandise due to the pandemic and in 2021, there were only two – the 4th of July parade on the common and the KLA Annual Meeting. The cancellation of the Fall Foliage 5k meant many items were not presented for sale. Joanne Eaton searches year-round for shirts and other apparel to support KLA's mission and hopes to have a variety of new and different merchandise in 2022.

Social Media

Are you tired of hearing about Twitter or is that how you stay in touch? Unsure about Facebook and Instagram? Or do you use your mobile devices to access a myriad of social media to stay 'connected'? KLA is also trying to keep up.

The world of social media is changing before our eyes but rest assured, KLA is taking it slowly. Yes, KLA has a website (<http://www.keokalake.org>) and KLA has a Facebook page and an Instagram page. If you have a Facebook/Instagram page too, you can 'Like' us/follow us and any updates and/or posts to the KLA page will show up on your Newsfeed – It's as easy as that. Did you know that we can alert you to updates on our website by posting a notice on our Facebook page. And if you post pictures to Instagram, use #KLA or #keokalake so others who use Instagram can also see your pix. And while you're at it, keep checking back to our new KLA website – it will undergo a facelift this winter! 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 or email them directly to Melissa.m.tarbell@gmail.com

Fall Dues Notice

The final page of this newsletter is the Fall Dues Notice. It provides for you to catch up on your 2021 dues and pay your 2022 dues proactively. However, for those who don't remember if they have or if they have not yet paid their 2021 KLA dues, please reach out to Charlie Tarbell or Ginny Raymond.

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.

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 (or make the notes on the back of 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, doesn't collect dust and isn't subject to supply-chain issues!). KLA Gift Memberships make great stocking stuffers or Hanukkah gifts!

We ARE 50!

KLA was founded in 1971 and in 2021, we were to be celebrating 'our' 50th anniversary. Plans were already in the works for a summer-long celebration. And then, there was the pandemic! So, we hit pause on some plans and continued on with others.

~THE BOOK: *Keoka Lake A History of Life on Our Lake* – a crowdsourced tome encompassing stories of each of the lakefront properties as well as pertinent history of Waterford Flats properties, residents and businesses was published last spring. Copies are available at the Waterford Library during normal library hours. At a cost of \$35 (cash or check), the book is offered at cost. It has been well-received and would make for

wonderful gifts (no supply chain issues here!). Check out the KLA website for guidance on how to order books and have them shipped to you or your chosen recipient.

ON PAUSE:

~*The KLA/Waterford 50-year Retrospective* Exhibit at the Waterford Historical Society was postponed until summer 2022. We could still use your help! While you were sorting photos during the pandemic, did you find any from KLA activities, meetings or volunteer efforts from 1971-2021?? Do you have scrapbooks? 'artifacts' that you might consider lending to the Waterford Historical Society for their summer-long exhibit? Scrapbooks/photo album pictures could be digitized if you're more comfortable with that.

~*KLA 50th Anniversary Celebration* has been postponed to Summer 2022. See the Save the Date at the end of this newsletter!

ONGOING:

~*KLA50 Quilt Raffle* - raffle tickets are available (see the KLA website for the flyer and downloadable tickets) until the drawing at the KLA 50th Anniversary Celebration

~*KLA50 Capital Campaign* - as with any good organization celebrating a significant anniversary, we are undertaking a Capital Campaign to create an endowment so KLA is ready should milfoil (or any invasive) find its way into Keoka Lake. KLA has attacked the three-legged stool of Milfoil mitigation: (1) prevention (we have that in our CBI program), (2) detection (we have that in our Plant Patrol program); but we lack the resources to fund the (3) Eradication process. Eradicating milfoil/invasives is an expensive proposition - to put divers into the water can run over \$100,000. Pledges and donations can be mailed to KLA, P.O. Box 97, Waterford, ME 04088. (Please add KLA50 to the memo line.)

KLA Board of Trustees

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

<http://www.keokalake.org>

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