



**President's Message:**

Greetings.

We had our first frost at Keoka in mid-October. It was late in coming this year, and then the weather stayed unusually warm allowing lots of time for cruising the lake. One by one, the docks disappeared and the summer residents headed south and west.

The summer season started out poorly for Keoka Lake's water quality. The 4" of rain we received in two hours over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend washed all sorts of debris into the lake and tanked the water quality readings for July. The rains ceased entirely in August and September, and while the water quality improved back to a more "normal" profile, the lake level dropped to historically low levels (other than the years of dam repairs). The end of October rain and windstorm left the village without power for 48+ hours due to down trees and power poles/lines. Additionally, the threat of flash floods meant an 18" rise in the lake level. So much for a gentle restoration of lake quality SECCHI disk readings in the fall!

Our concern for water quality remains paramount. We believe we have mitigated the milfoil risk as much as practically possible with the actions we have in place. Our action attention is now directed toward mitigating the runoff of phosphorus. We are preparing for a big LakeSmart push next summer. We have conducted an extensive survey of tributary streams to make sure they are not overbanking and we continue to work closely with the Town of Waterford around municipal run-off spots. This winter, we will be reviewing Waterford plumbing permits in an effort to determine if we have any ancient septic systems around the lake that may pose a threat to water quality.

I continue to ask everyone's help and cooperation in reviewing your own properties and ensuring that storm water is not running into the lake by eroding driveways, paths, steps and other developed areas. Keoka Lake Association (KLA) cannot do this without everyone's involvement and concern for the health and quality of your lake. We are all in this together.

Thanks,  
Charlie

**Water Quality**

While the Lake Report won't be available until later this year, the July 4<sup>th</sup> rainstorm resulted in areas of silt around brook/stream openings decreasing the water quality by about 20%. Summer 2017 was also another season with high *Gloeo* readings. On a more positive note, there did appear to be fewer mystery snails this summer. The lack of rainfall for the rest of the summer meant lower lake levels, until

Columbus Day weekend's rainstorm when the lake level elevated and had to be adjusted at the dam to achieve 'winter level'.

**CBI**

The summer of 2017 resulted in 233 inspections, 503 hours by paid trained inspectors. One plant was found (outgoing) - the *Keoka Curlyleaf Pondweed* (indigenous to Keoka but considered an

invasive elsewhere). Once again, LEA administered the program for KLA and hired people for whom they have a profile, hence the greater number of inspection hours as the inspectors were able to cover shifts after the traditional mid-August departure date for college student CBIs.

### **Plant Patrol**

The volunteer Plant Patrollers found nothing suspicious this summer. Considering that a small (3/4 acre) infestation of Variable Leaf (invasive) milfoil was discovered on Long Lake this summer, it is all the more important that everyone (lake users and homeowners) be vigilant of what is 'normal' in Keoka Lake and what doesn't belong in the lake. Surveying Keoka is easier because of its size and because of the Plant Patrol program already in place. There already exists a mapping of the vegetation in Keoka so, should milfoil be discovered, we have systems and volunteers in place to be proactive early. Want to learn more? Do you use the lake on a regular basis (boating, kayaking, sailing, paddle boarding, swimming?)? If so, please consider becoming informed and educated by volunteering to be a Plant Patroller.

Arne Klepinger continues his able oversight of the small army of Plant Patrollers (volunteers who commit to doing a regular visual inspection of a portion of the lake to be watchful for vegetation that is new and/or unusual). Several of the portions are larger than ideal and he is looking for several new Plant Patrollers for the waters in front of Kokosing, Keoka Beach Campground, Stone's Cove, Schoolhouse Beach and the center of the lake (around Rock Island where the Keoka Lake Curly Leaf pondweed is found). Please check the box on the dues slip or contact Charlie Tarbell if you'd be willing to step up and lend a hand. Training will be provided next season.

### **Education/Outreach**

In a reprise of the successful recreation of the 2016 Keoka Lake watershed sand sculpture activity at Stockwell's beach, KLA board members Ginger Eaton and Tom Hammett, along with Mary Jewett (LEA) and Sarah Stockwell (Maine Audubon) took the activity on the road to Keoka Beach Campground. Joined by Charlie Tarbell and Joanne Eaton, they used the activity to engage and educate the children about how what we do at various points in the watershed has an effect on Keoka Lake. By understanding how we, as landowners and lake users, treat the watershed and how that ultimately affects (positively or negatively) the health of the lake, we can work to keep Keoka clean and healthy. For those who love the lake, this is paramount and it is hoped that all landowners are on the same page in this quest. Stay tuned for the plans Ginger and Tom have for summer 2018.

### **5<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta**

The fickle sailing winds on Keoka didn't disappoint again this year. Nonetheless, there were 4 Lazers and 4 'Other' sailboats launching from the Chadbourne Beach the afternoon of Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Inconsistent winds and creative strategy made for a fun race. The winner of the race was Claudine Conway (Lazer) followed by Al Struck (also a Lazer). The Open Class winner was Fred Heuttig with last year's Open Class champion, Larry Griffin, coming in second. Elder son of Bud Lazott, Russ Lazott, was present to present the trophies to the first two finishers in each class as well as the "Furthest From First" trophy. Congratulations to all who participated and thanks to the Chadbourne family for the use of their beach.

### **Volunteering**

For over 46 years, KLA has been doing what it does through a committed group of volunteers. Volunteers serve on the Board

of Trustees of KLA; they serve as Plant Patrol inspectors that check a section of the lake on a regular basis to assess unusual flora or fauna activity; they monitor water quality; they maintain and set up/store the loon nest; they assist with merchandising and spreading the KLA word at Community Breakfasts, the Fourth of July parade & the Fall Foliage 5k Race; they serve as volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors and they serve as liaisons to the Town of Waterford, LEA and other state organizations through direct contact or through service as a committee or board member. KLA would not be what it is without those who volunteer. We'd like you to join us!

KLA's Board of Trustees would like talk to anyone interested in lending a hand. Volunteering for KLA is a great way to get to know others who treasure the lake and, as more people volunteer, the work is shared and everyone gets to spend more time enjoying all Keoka and the area has to offer. Lend a hand! Check one of the boxes on the Fall Dues Form and you will be contacted! Our thanks to all who volunteer now and welcome to those who wish to join us!

### **Loon Arti-Plaq Raffle**

The winner of the Arti-Plaq of Bill Colbath's Mother and baby loon picture was Tom Schaefer. Our thanks go to all who bought tickets for a chance on the Arti-plaq. Stay tuned for news on what will be the raffle item for summer 2018.

### **Social Media**

Are you a 'tweet'-er? Do you use Instagram? YouTube? Vine?. How about 'google'? (did you know it's now a legitimate word in Webster's dictionary!) Do you have a Facebook page? (now, that's something most folks have heard of!)

The world of social media is changing before our eyes but rest assured, Keoka Lake is taking it slowly. Yes, KLA has a website (<http://www.keokalake.org>) and

KLA has a Facebook page. If you have a Facebook page too, you can 'Like' us on Facebook 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, check out the KLA website and upload your pictures through the link under the Gallery loon tab. That way - for those long winters not spent on the waters or shores of Keoka Lake, you can be 'in the know'!

### **KLA Merchandise**

In 2017, KLA continued to present articles for sale at the Wilkins House Community Breakfasts as well as at the Fourth of July Parade and the Fall Foliage 5k Weekend. Our organization regularly nets upwards of \$500 from these sales opportunities and we thank each of you who support KLA in this way. Joanne Eaton continues to spearhead this effort and can be contacted for KLA, Waterford and related merchandise.

### **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 in the '60's, '70's and '80's now return to the lake with their families to share those same experiences. Family reunions are so much 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, just fill out the form for your gift recipient, check the "Gift Membership" box and give us **your** name & address. 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!

#### **Fall Dues Notice**

The final page of this newsletter is the Fall Dues Notice. 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 paid their

2017 KLA dues this year, paid memberships received through October 15, 2017 is attached. If you have not paid your 2017 dues, please use the attached Fall Dues Notice. Please note that you can pay your 2018 KLA dues in advance at the same time.

Please 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 the milfoil infestation in Long Lake was approximately \$15,000! Going forward, it will cost thousands of dollars every year just to keep the noxious weeds in check.

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

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