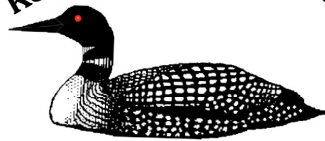


Keoka Lake Association



Waterford, Maine

Volume 2, No. 2

Fall, 2010 Newsletter

President's Message

This summer, I had the opportunity to meet with leaders from several other lake associations in the LEA service area. Eleven lakes and ponds were represented. We've met twice thus far and had wide-ranging discussions about the issues facing Maine's lakes and lake associations. The goal of the group is to share best practices. From the discussions, it is clear that KLA is not alone in confronting the major issues of invasive species, phosphorus runoff, dam maintenance, attracting and retaining members, water safety, boat launches, etc. However, at the risk of too transparently patting the KLA Board and Membership on the back, I will say that I also learned that your lake association is taking the appropriate steps, within our means, to address these issues.

More on what KLA is doing follows but I'm pleased to say that my involvement with the LEA Lake Partners program has helped me to confirm that we are a comparatively active and effective lake association. We are able to make this "boast" because of the dedicated efforts, sustained over the years, by our Board of Trustees and by other members. When you see these folks in Waterford, please join me in thanking them for the effort they are putting into making your lake association one of the best in the state and your lake one of the most desirable.

Happy Holidays -

Charlie Tarbell, KLA Board President

Continuing the war on "INVASIVES" –

CBIs – Peter Morse has managed our effective Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program for the last several years. Each summer, approximately 500 hours are logged by paid CBIs inspecting about the same num-

ber of boats entering and exiting Keoka Lake. There is strong support for this program from the Town of Waterford, from LEA, from DEP and from our members. This summer, the paid CBIs coverage of weekends and the 4th of July week was augmented by KLA member volunteers on some evenings during the summer. Due to college start dates for the paid CBIs, Labor Day and the following weekend were uncovered. Peter presented the CBI training course as part of the 2010 Annual Meeting in the hopes of having more volunteer CBIs to cover weekday evenings (4-8 pm) throughout the summer. If you'd like to join this group and help keep Keoka clean and clear of invasives while spending a few hours beside the lake on a summer evening, please let Peter know and he'll add you to the list for summer 2011.

Plant Inspections – For years, Tom Stockwell has organized the annual plant inspections of Keoka Lake as well as coordinating the bi-annual inspections of the lake with a professional botanist. Summer 2010 was the year for Pixie to join Tom and other KLA members in a combined dock-to-dock tour of the lake promoting LEA/KLA memberships and surveying existing plant life. When Pixie's written report is received, it will be posted on the KLA website, but initial reports are there are no invasives in Keoka. The inspection showed an increase in the amount of bladderwort along the bottom as well as six clusters of _____, a non-invasive shoreline plant that is very rare. We do have our own species of Keoka Pondweed that grows in the middle of the lake around the rocks, but it appears not to have spread. As always, any boaters who motor through that area should be mindful LakeSmart Awards. Four of the remaining

that Keoka Pondweed is indigenous to Keoka Lake – other lakes may not want it introduced into their ecosystems, so please self-inspect your boat as you pull it out of the water!!!

Water Quality and The Dam –

Water Quality - KLA ran a wide-ranging phosphorus runoff control program on both municipal and private hot spots between 2003 and 2006. Long-term water quality trends are beginning to show improvement from that effort. Each summer, Don Rung does the water testing for Keoka and KLA supports LEA's more comprehensive water testing on the lake. Water quality readings are impacted by the weather and this year's hot, dry summer led to 6.1 average readings, better than 2009's rainy summer readings. Keoka Lake has moved from a 'high concern' lake to a 'moderately high concern' lake.

The Dam – The dam was upgraded in 2007 with a new control unit that regulates the water and can be easily opened when flooding is imminent. The dam is now functioning effectively and is well-maintained. The state of Maine rates dams for the risk they pose to downstream communities and our dam is considered low risk.

LakeSmart –

A cooperative endeavor with the DEP and Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation, LakeSmart is a program that offers free opportunities for homeowners to learn how to manage their lakeside properties to protect their lake's water quality. The program's goal is to change the increasingly common suburban landscaping practices around lakes to a more natural, lake-friendly environment. The primary focus of LakeSmart is to keep a lake's water clean by stabilizing eroding areas, reducing the use of chemicals, diverting rainwater into vegetated areas, and maintaining or planting trees, shrubs, and ground cover along the shoreland. Introduced to Keoka in 2010, 10 properties were inspected and 5 of them received LakeSmart Awards. Four of the remaining

five properties require some remediation before they can be re-considered/re-inspected. The fifth property that participated passed (>67%) in all four areas (driveway & parking areas; structures & septic system; lawn, recreation & footpaths, and shorefront/beach area) but due to proximity to the lake, it cannot be awarded a LakeSmart Award. Spearheaded by Kathy Souza, KLA's LakeSmart program has a goal of at least 30% participation of Keoka Lake's properties. A DEP inspector must evaluate the participating properties with 5-6 properties scheduled per lake visit. Kathy is hoping to have 12 or more properties evaluated during Summer 2011. While it is nice to have lots of LakeSmart Award plaques posted at the end of driveways or along the lakefront, the more important goal is striving to get all property owners to participate and have their property evaluated. If you would like to have your property inspected next summer, please contact Charlie Tarbell or Kathy Souza.

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Water Safety –

KLA maintains all hazard buoys and the boat launch buoys around the lake. Water Safety is an important element to enjoying lake recreation and KLA encourages and seeks to enforce all surface use laws and regulations.

Loon Update –

The resident pair of loons on Keoka Lake laid one egg on the raft/nest in June, however, the egg wasn't viable. It was removed from the nest in late July to allow the pair to 'get on with their lives'. Soon thereafter, a group of six loons was spotted

all over the lake one Thursday evening – maybe a support group for ‘childless couples’?? If anyone got pictures of all six six loons, please send them to the website for posting.

Website –

KLA’s website (<http://www.keokalake.com>) is in for some big changes this fall. Our webmaster, Joe Abiatti, has been experimenting with new software and is in the process of getting a lot of information up and running on the website. An ongoing need is pictures of Keoka Lake and the Waterford area. Please email your photos (max 5 per email, please) to keokalake@gmail.com for inclusion in the Gallery section of the website.

Membership –

KLA membership is now in the capable hands of Ginny Raymond, a year-long resident of Waterford. Through her efforts, homeowners at Keoka Beach were made aware of KLA and three Keoka Beach residents are new KLA members. We welcome all new KLA members who join existing members in their commitment to keep Keoka Lake clean, safe and a wonderful place to enjoy. Dues remain at \$25 a year and a dues notice is included with this newsletter for those members who have not yet paid their dues.

Kayak Raffle –

Tickets for the 2010 KLA Kayak Raffle were sold at all Community Breakfast this summer as well as at the 4th of July Parade and the Fall Foliage 5k that was held on Saturday, October 16th. Winner of this year’s Kayak Raffle was KLA’s own Peter Morse!!! Congratulations, Peter (and Jane)!!!

Merchandise Sales –

This year, in addition to postcards and notecards, KLA merchandise included polos, long and short-sleeved t-shirts and hats in a variety of styles, colors and custom stitching.

Shirts were available for purchase but orders were also taken for custom combinations of colors, stitching and shirt style. Merchandise is still available and/or can be ordered for holiday giving. Watch the website for an updated list and order instructions.

KLA OHHS Scholarship –

The 2009 KLA Scholarship was awarded to Waterford resident and Oxford Hills High School senior, _____.
By vote of the KLA board at the fall 2010 Board of Trustees meeting, the \$250 KLA scholarship will be awarded annually to an Oxford Hills High School senior who resides in Waterford and who has a commitment to, and record of, environmental stewardship, particularly with regard to the health of the lakes of Maine.

Need a gift idea??

Stuck for an idea of something to give your children or grandchildren for birthday or the holidays?? Do you and they love Keoka Lake and spending time by its shores, on its waters or in the Waterford area?? Are they members of KLA??

Consider giving a Gift Membership to Keoka Lake Association. It’s easy! On the enclosed Dues Notice, check the “Gift Membership” box and fill out the information for the person to whom you’re giving the membership. KLA will do the rest and send you a GIFT MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE that you can deliver as you wish. Passing the torch to the next generation ensures the continued enjoyment of the lake by all.

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