



June 5, 2009

Dear KLA Member,

Thank you for your continued support of your lake association. I commend you for taking a proactive interest in protecting an asset of great importance to us all – the water quality and health of Keoka Lake. As you know, Keoka Lake is a high risk lake for several reasons – 1) Keoka’s “always open” public boat access ramp and relatively shallow depth makes it very vulnerable to invasive aquatic plants (Milfoil), 2) Keoka’s large and rapidly developing watershed make it very vulnerable to phosphorus run-off, and 3) Keoka’s history of water quality issues puts it in a high-risk category for re-emergence of problematic water quality readings in the future. KLA is working to address the risks facing Keoka Lake, and to help ensure that Keoka Lake is a safe, well-managed environment for everyone’s enjoyment.

MILFOIL

Milfoil continues to be the greatest risk facing Keoka. During 2008, the tally of Maine lakes infested with Milfoil rose to 30 from 28 the year before. In 2009, KLA will again continue to direct the courtesy boat inspection program at the public boat launch. We are again grateful for the support by the Town of Waterford, who allocated KLA \$3,600 to hire inspectors again this year. We also hope to be the recipient of a DEP grant for \$1,200 to support inspections. These monies go directly to support the hired inspectors. Without these funds, KLA could never afford to support the inspection program from our current dues structure (\$25/family/year).

Waterbodies with courtesy boat inspections grew from 76 in 2007 to 82 in 2008. At the same time, Milfoil infestations in lakes with inspection programs was held flat. These inspection programs work. Over fifteen hundred plants were found during inspections in Maine – 114 of which turned out to be invasive. Happily, none of these was in Keoka. Among the “confirmed saves” (invasive plants found and removed) in our area are Sebago Lake (twice), Thompson Lake, and Lovewell Pond in Fryburg. Among the setbacks last year was the discovery of Eurasian Milfoil in Salmon Lake. Eurasian Milfoil is the most aggressive form of Milfoil and is the hardest to control, once it infests a waterbody.

For Keoka, this year we will continue the same inspection schedule as last year. This amounts to about 550 hours of inspection time, run mostly on the weekends and using split shifts during the week. When you visit the Boat Launch, please introduce yourself to our inspectors – Karen Fillebrown, Kelsey Morse and Michael Brockett.

KLA continues to sponsor volunteer plant patrols that inspect sectors of the lake for the presence of unusual plants. We also get a professional botanist biannually to conduct a full inspection of the lake for Milfoil. As of last year’s inspection, there are no invasives to report. If you come across plants that you feel are suspicious, please give me a call and we can have someone check them out.

Lastly, on Milfoil, **you** are a critical element of defense for our lake. Please make sure to remind guests and renters to inspect their boats carefully for any signs of hitchhiking plants. Many boats, especially smaller boats, are launched across private property and therefore do not get the benefit of the inspection at the Boat Launch. It is amazing what kind of plant fragments can catch and get stuck on a kayak or a canoe – especially those with rudders.

When it comes to handling invasive infestations, LEA and other advisors recommend preparedness. Our preparedness comes in the form of a rapid response plan, adopted from a model put out by the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department of the State. If you want a sense of what eradication involves, check out the LEA website (www.mainelakes.org) or the Little Sebago Assn (www.littlesebagolake.com/) site. The scale of the effort and the cost is quite sobering.

RUNOFF

The second major threat to Keoka Lake is from phosphorus-laden storm water runoff. While this threat seems to take a back seat to Milfoil, it is just as real and very damaging to the lake. Keoka has a very large watershed area (over 3000 acres) and the rapid (and seemingly accelerating) pace of residential development in the watershed (notwithstanding the current recession) has the potential to do grave damage to the water quality of the lake. While Keoka’s water quality is stable, it remains a high concern lake because of its water quality statistics and large watershed.



In this area, I wish I could say we were more active. We participated in the preparation of a Watershed Survey in 2003 and have used the “runoff hot spots” from that survey to target remediation. We could use new people with energy for continuing this watershed protection work. If you are reading this and find it something you would like to get involved in, please give me a call and I can get you started. In addition, **all of us can participate in protecting the lake by making sure that the runoff from our roads and properties is handled properly and is not diverted directly into the lake.** While our water quality has held steady for the last decade, it has only done so as a result of the significant efforts of many individuals to help control runoff from their own properties and from public “hot spots”. We owe our on-going appreciation to the Town of Waterford for addressing many of the public road “hot spots”.

Briefly addressing other matters around the lake:

- The public boat launch at the Town Beach was repaired this spring by the Town DPW. Until we are able to secure a complete re-engineering of this launch by the state, we will probably find that annual work after ice-out is necessary.
- The Dam continues to work well. The water level is maintained at 1-2 feet below the spillway level. Peter Morse keeps an eye out for the dam, the sluiceway and the water level and deserves our thanks for his vigilance.
- Water Safety remains a paramount concern. Maintaining the Boat Launch channel and hazard buoys is one of our key water safety responsibilities. In addition, our Board members continue to help make individual boat operators aware of the proper (and legal) way to operate their craft. Improper operation creates a safety hazard and impairs the enjoyment of Keoka for others. Please be conscious of the laws of proper boat operation when operating on Keoka.

What You Can Do to Help.....

1. **Pay Your Dues.** If you are a multi-family household, as many of our summer camps are, please make sure that all of your families are members of KLA. 2009 Dues Notices are included in this mailing. We no longer send dues reminders, as the costs of multiple annual mailings has become prohibitive.
2. **Inspect Your Boats.** Please self-inspect your boats and remove any plant material you might

find. If you rent, make sure your tenants are aware. If you suspect Milfoil, then contact our inspectors at the Town Boat Launch, or one of the KLA Board members.

3. **Clean Up Your Property.** Stop runoff before it gets to Keoka. Fix your camp roads and paths. If you see evidence of erosion on your property, chances are it is hurting Keoka. If you want help or ideas, contact us at KLA or LEA in Bridgton. We are always willing to help with ideas or volunteers. **This is one of the most important things you can personally do for your lake.**
4. **Document Boating Violations.** Call the Warden Service in Gray (1-800-482-0730) to report that someone is operating a boat illegally. Hint – if they are annoying you with circling, chasing wildlife, loud noises, or apparently dangerous moves, chances are they are operating illegally.
5. **Volunteer.** KLA has many volunteer opportunities from Plant Patrol, to Salesperson, to Board member. Please note on your dues sheet or call me if you would like to volunteer.
6. **Support KLA:** Through merchandise sales, raffle purchases and other fundraising activities.

Our annual meeting this year is Saturday July 11, 2009 at 9:00 at the Wilkins House in Waterford. Coffee is at 8:30 with Lake Store doughnuts (yum).

KLA’s strength is a testament to the strong support we enjoy from our members. From the KLA Board of Trustees, we offer our thanks.

Best regards,

Charlie Tarbell, President
207.671.6962
(ctarbell@maine.rr.com)



2009 DUES Notice

Please complete and return this form (to pay your annual 2009 KLA dues and/or if you wish to make a contribution) with your check to:

Treasurer, Keoka Lake Association
 Box 97, Waterford, ME 04088

Name(s) as you wish them to appear _____

Winter Address (Principle Contact):

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Summer Address:

Phone: _____

2009(Calendar Year)	Family Dues	\$25.00
	Contribution (Unrestricted)	_____
	Total	\$ _____

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Honorary Trustees: Charles Mason Keoka Beach Camping Area Tom Hammett and family