

Keoka Lake Association



Waterford, Maine

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Spring, 2019

President's Message:

In the last six months, since I have taken on a role at Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), I have come to understand just how fortunate we, at Keoka, are to have such a dedicated group of members and volunteers who care deeply about the lake and are willing to contribute and to work to protect and preserve it. Many of the lakes in the LEA service area have caring people, but they lack the organization or willingness to work that exemplifies Keoka Lake Association. You should all be proud of what we have here and I thank you all for your ongoing support (read: please update your membership for 2019).

We have exciting developments underway on 2019. The Boat Launch repairs will occur in June. We currently are employing best practices in managing the milfoil threat. Water quality is a continuing concern, but we are taking actions to address the issue. We have an active and engaged membership, many of whom also support LEA. If you are not a current LEA member, I encourage you to join this fine organization that is at the forefront of protecting Maine's lakes.

Last, but not least, KLA is updating its By-Laws, which have not seen much change since the formation of the organization. The proposed new By-laws are included along with this newsletter letter. Please review them as a vote will be asked of the membership at the Annual Meeting - which will be held at the Wilkins House on July 13, 2019 at 9:00AM (coffee and Lake Store doughnuts at 8:30).

See you on the lake!

Charlie Tarbell

ICE OUT!

The mantle of recording the Ice Out date has passed to a new generation..... With the death of Joan Fillebrown in March, the responsibility of recording the Ice Out date now rests with Charlie Tarbell. Snow came early to Waterford..... and stayed..... and stayed! The last patch of ice hung in Stone's Cove until April 30th - making this one of the latest Ice Out dates in several years!

New Legislation – Septic Inspections

Signed on Earth Day, 2019 by Maine's Governor Janet Mills, L.D. 216 which requires septic inspections prior to the sale of lakefront homes and camps throughout Maine. For more information see the article on the Town of Waterford website – as accessed from the homepage of KLA's website: (<http://www.keokalake.org>).

19th Annual Milfoil Summit

Charlie Tarbell represented KLA at the 19th annual Milfoil Summit in Lewiston on April 26, 2019. Always informative, the Summit presents a perspective on the fight against this invasive aquatic plant. Sadly, Maine still has over 50 lakes that are infested with milfoil, with new infestations being discovered every year. Long Lake's variable-leafed milfoil infestations at Mast Cove and Salmon Point were a close scare but it appears LEA might be able to eradicate them.

Happily, there is solid evidence that Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) actually work. Last season, milfoil was caught several times before it got into a lake (Eurasian Milfoil was actually caught on a boat entering Long Lake in Harrison)! In addition, milfoil has actually been eradicated

in five Maine lakes – proving that it is possible to eliminate this scourge from a lake.

KLA continues to follow milfoil management best practices:

- 1) Prevention – Courtesy Boat Inspections sponsored by KLA and managed by LEA. All watercraft operators are reminded to be diligent about inspecting their boats before entering and upon exiting any lake – anywhere!
- 2) Detection – Volunteer Plan Patrol run by Keoka’s intrepid Arne Klepinger. If you would like to join, please contact Arne.
- 3) Eradication – KLA has been working hard to build sufficient reserve funding for an emergency eradication, when (not likely, ‘if’) necessary.

Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI)

In its 18th year on Keoka, the CBI program will continue at the town-owned public boat launch by the town’s swimming beach. Again this summer, the CBI program will be overseen and managed by Lakes Environmental Association (LEA). As our ‘back room’, (they hire, schedule and do payroll for the boat inspectors), there will be inspectors at the Town Boat Launch on Friday afternoons and both days on the weekend as well as during the week of the 4th of July. Many boat owners have learned over the years how to inspect their own boats, but it only takes the tiniest piece of milfoil coming in from another lake to put Keoka at risk. Likewise, a piece of the Keoka Curly-Leafed Pondweed leaving Keoka can lead to an infestation in another lake. Anyone launching a watercraft on Keoka, whether there is a CBI present or not, should be inspecting their boat, or jet ski and trailer, to be sure nothing foreign is coming into or leaving Keoka.

At the 2019 annual Waterford Town Meeting, the proposal to support the Courtesy A Grant of \$3,400 for boat Inspections was again approved. KLA has also been awarded a \$1,400 grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The remaining funding for the

CBI program comes from KLA. KLA thanks the Town of Waterford and the Maine DEP for their continued support of KLA’s “Prevention” piece of milfoil’s best practices – the CBI program.

Plant Patrols

Plant patrollers are the “Early Detection” part of the fight against a milfoil infestation in Keoka Lake. Arne Klepinger has organized a group of volunteers who inspect the flora and fauna in front of a defined piece of shoreline (usually in front of their individual properties). HE NEEDS YOUR HELP! If you enjoy being in or on the water and are willing, you could become a volunteer plant patroller. Responsibilities are to become aware of the flora/fauna in the water in your designated patrol area. If, when you are enjoying the lake, you happen to see something that doesn’t ‘look right’, you would have the tools to identify flora/fauna that is invasive and a team to call for confirmation.

The ideal ‘patrol area’ would be about 200’-500’ of lakefront. Currently, some patrollers are covering multiple sections and there are some longer sections that need to be broken up. Please come to the Annual Meeting to talk to Arnie or Charlie if you’d be willing to lend a hand. Training and reference materials are provided.

Water Quality

The 2018 Water Quality Report from LEA shows Keoka remains in the HIGH Concern Category. On the bright side, the trends in clarity and surface-layer phosphorus went from stable to improving in 2018 with chlorophyll remaining stable. Average values for all three measurements were within the moderate range and were all improved over long-term averages. However, Keoka Lake’s main water quality concerns continue to be low oxygen levels, inadequate coldwater fish habitat, high deep-water phosphorus levels and elevated *Gloeotrichia* levels. LEA’s sonde test protocol will hopefully give more answers for ways to improve water quality.

Stream Surveys

As part of KLA's efforts to improve the water quality in the lake, Kim Struck has embarked on a project of surveying the various streams that feed into Keoka. Primarily looking for evidence of overbanking that can be mitigated to reduce erosion and sediment getting into the lake, she has also been picking up trash and meeting folks whose property borders the streams. Say hi to Kim and see if there's anything that's of concern along your piece of any of those streams. KLA looks to collaborate on any mitigation issues. Anyone wishing to help Kim, contact her or Charlie.

LakeSmart

KLA sponsored the first LakeSmart inspections in 2011. A program whereby property owners can have reviews done of their lakefront property with an eye to helping keep Keoka Lake's water quality at its highest possible level, LakeSmart is voluntary and designed to be educational – there are NO downsides to the program! If the property tallies sufficient 'points', a LakeSmart award is presented. Common concerns are for run-off whereby phosphorus might be getting into the lake or where the shoreline is being eroded. As part of the review, mitigation measures may be suggested. However, it's not about the LakeSmart Award, it's about mitigating as much of Keoka's water quality issues as humanly possible. To date, 30 properties have been inspected and approximately 20 LakeSmart Awards have been granted.

If you are interested in having your property 'LakeSmart inspected', please sign up at the Annual Meeting on July 13th or call Jim Flynn (813.416.3009) or Charlie Tarbell (207.671.6962). Please leave a VM with a number that you will answer.

LEA is Monitoring . . .

Again this summer, LEA is monitoring temperatures at various depths from a buoy that is located off the Kokosing shoreline. Please respect the buoy and give it a wide berth – in other words – leave it alone! With several years of *G/leo* testing data in hand, LEA will now be passing that testing protocol

to Citizen Scientists. *G/leo* is still there and needs to be monitored. Bill and Sara Stockwell have volunteered to be trained as Keoka's Citizen Scientists. Our thanks go to Bill & Sara for your diligence. New this summer, LEA will be using Keoka as a test lake for a sonde (a water tester that is dragged behind a boat allowing water to pass through it) to determine water quality at various points around the lake. This data will be used for education on the effect of septic tank leaks and other lake health issues. See attached for more info on LEA.

Water Safety – and the loon nest

The water safety buoys at the Town Beach, in Stone's Cove and in the middle of the lake were placed over Memorial Day weekend. The loon nest was put out on May 4th and the loons are on the lake. Loons deserve their privacy too as they customize their nest and settle in - so please give the nest platform a wide berth when boating! Watch KLA's Facebook posts for updates as the season progresses!

Dam

It was a long winter and a wet and 'slow to warm' spring. The dam gate was opened all the way on April 1st but the incessant rain and snow since then has resulted in the water level remaining high. As of the end of May, the water level is slowly coming down. Thanks to Al Struck and Charlie Tarbell for monitoring and ongoing care of the dam.

Boat Launch

Thanks to the generosity of many people, the Town Beach Boat Launch will be rebuilt as soon as the spring runoff recedes to a level at which the work can proceed. The work will consist of removing the current ten-foot wide boat ramp along with the concrete tiles to the left of it, rebuilding the base with washed crushed stone, and laying a new twelve-foot wide ramp over the stone. The new ramp will be slanted to allow for easier access from the parking lot and the road shoulder will be graded and tarred to channel runoff into a retention pool in order to minimize phosphorus runoff coming from

Waterford Road. The wooden boat ramp dock will also be installed when the work is complete. All necessary permits are already in hand, but Mother Nature has to cooperate to allow the lake level to drop so work can commence! The result will be a win for boaters, a win for lake water quality, and a win for beach goers, as the Town Beach will no longer have a runoff channel on its north end. NOTE: For dock owners, this will mean a lower than usually spring water level but the dam will be closed after the work is complete to bring the water level back to its summer norm.

KLA would like to thank Jeff Ward (of Jeff Ward Excavation) for contributing his time and equipment to this effort, an anonymous KLA member/donor from Keoka Beach Campground and the Town of Waterford for matching the KLA contribution of cash. Together, we will make the impossible possible!

3rd Annual LEA Paddle Battle

The 3rd Annual Maine Lakes Open Paddle Battle is scheduled for Saturday, July 6th at Tarry-A-While Resort on Highland Lake. There will be 2K and 5K courses for men and women (minimum age: 15), three different age classes, two board length classes and what promises to be a good time! Registration is now open and advanced registration is required (<https://mainelakes.org/educationevents/paddle-battle/>) The Paddle Battle is a fundraiser for LEA so support LEA by competing – or joining those at Tarry-A-While Resort who are cheering them on!

Fireworks - A Reminder

In 2018, the Town of Waterford passed a Fireworks Ordinance that requires permits for firework displays in town. Please refer to the Spring 2018 newsletter (on the KLA website) or visit the Town of Waterford website for the specifics of that ordinance. Be safe and be considerate!

7th Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta

Big things are happening for this year's BLMRegatta on Saturday, July 27th! Four

local camps will be sending boats to compete for a new "Camp Cup". The BLMR plaque will be awarded to the overall winner of the adult Laser and Open classes. Chris Searles, who owns Keoka Beach Campground, has graciously offered the KBCG beach for the launch point and awards ceremony. Watch for flyers around town and on the KLA website! TIMING: 1:00 pm - arrive and assemble boats; 1:30 pm – registration; 1:45 pm - Captain's meeting and Race Start - 2 pm. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the regatta, please contact Al Struck.

Membership

2019 dues are now due! A Dues Notice is included with this newsletter. Consider making an additional donation to the Milfoil Reserve Fund or the Educational Initiatives. With graduations upon us, a gift membership to KLA is always a welcome thought – see the Dues Form for instructions!

Merchandise and Paddleboard Raffle

Watch for the KLA merchandise table at the four Community Breakfasts and the KLA Annual Meeting for new surprises for 2019. Joanne Eaton coordinates the sale of KLA, Waterford and Maine gear and brings a new assortment to the table each year. Tickets for the raffle will be available at the KLA table at the community breakfasts, the Fourth of July Parade, the Annual Meeting or from Joanne Eaton. (email: tcljse@roadrunner.com or call her at 207.756.9522 for tickets or her Venmo acct information)

Historically speaking.....

KLA was founded in 1971 by a group of year-round and summer residents who were concerned about protecting Keoka Lake, rebuilding the dam to maintain the water level through the summer, regular water testing and the early foundations for the educational and environmental work that is at the core of KLA's focus today. Was your family enjoying the waters of Keoka Lake that summer nearly 50 years ago? Was your camp still a pipe dream? What is your history on Keoka Lake? We want to know

the story of **YOUR** family's time on Keoka Lake!

As we look ahead to celebrating 50 years since those intrepid 15 people founded KLA, we are asking that you tell us your story - about your camp/cabin/house on Keoka - its history, its construction, your family celebrations and/or traditions, etc. For those for whom Keoka has always been part of your life (or summer) for as long as you can remember, pull out those memories and write them down for us. If your tenure on Keoka began after KLA was founded, we want to know your story too! In conjunction with the Waterford Library and the Waterford Historical Society, KLA is hoping to compile a book of stories about the properties that border Keoka Lake - be they a rental you've visited year after year, a space at Keoka Beach Campground that's been part of your summer plans for forever (or just recently), or a cabin/camp that was constructed (or

resurrected) over a period of time, creating memories for your family along the way.

Included with this newsletter is a **KLA50 SHOREOWNER QUESTIONNAIRE**. As your family gathers this summer, please complete the Questionnaire and return it per the instruction on the back of the form. We are looking for as many stories as possible by Columbus Day weekend so that over the winter, real work can begin on the book. Please join us as we move toward KLA's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2021.

INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

1. What Does LEA do? (Charlie's insights)
2. President's Memo re: KLA Revised By-Laws
3. Revised By-Laws
4. KLA50 Shoreowner Questionnaire
5. 2019 Dues Form

2019 Dates to Remember

July 4	Wilkins House Community Breakfast (7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)
July 4	Waterford Fourth of July Parade
July 6	Maine Lakes Open Paddle Battle 2019, Bridgton
July 13	KLA Annual Meeting – Wilkins Community House (8:30 a.m. for coffee and donuts; meeting starts at 9:00 a.m.)
July 17	Wilkins House Community Breakfast (7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)
July 27	7 th Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta, Keoka Beach Campground (1:00 – 3:00 p.m.)
July 31	Wilkins House Community Breakfast (7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)
TBD	Annual KLA Education/Outreach Event
Aug. 14	Wilkins House Community Breakfast (7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)
Oct. 11	KLA Fall Board Meeting
Oct. 13	20 th Annual Fall Foliage 5K/Festival and Raffle Drawing - Waterford