

Keoka Lake Association



Waterford, Maine

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President's Message:

The main mission of the Keoka Lake Association (to preserve, enhance, and protect the natural advantages of Keoka Lake and its environs) can be distilled down to one main objective: Education. KLA runs a variety of different programs: Courtesy Boat Inspections, LakeSmart, Water Safety, Kid Programs and Water Testing. The common denominator of all these programs is the education of the users of Keoka Lake. We aim to help all understand how they can promote KLA's mission, because an educated user will be a better user – better for the health of the lake.

As you review our newsletter, please keep in mind that each of you plays a key role in achieving KLA's collective mission. The smarter each of us is about the maintenance of our property, inspecting our boats, the detergents used at camp, and the operation of our watercraft, the better off Keoka will be. I urge you to please take advantage of the programs we offer to help inform yourself around how to be the best possible steward of your lake.

It all begins with your membership. This is our Spring membership appeal. Please join KLA. With your membership and optional additional donation, you help us maintain the critical programs that educate the users of Keoka and promote our mission. Please come to our Annual Meeting – Saturday July 13th, 2013 at the Wilkins House at 8:30AM. We thank you and welcome your feedback.

Charlie Tarbell

14th Annual Milfoil Summit

At the 14th annual Maine Milfoil Summit on March 1st, Maine State Senator Tom Saviello was the keynote speaker and discussed the State budget crisis. There will be no additional state funding of any kind available to fight the war against Milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants/species. The monies generated from boat registrations support the only existing state-funded Milfoil program: the DEP remediation and inspection grant such as KLA has received for the last seven years. The Senator lauded the many volunteers and associations that form the backbone of the war against Milfoil and implored that we keep up our fight,

regardless of the lack of financial support from the State.

The Summit featured a "booth-style" presentation fair. One of the noteworthy presentations was by Sebago Cove Association (located on the west side of Sebago) that has a variable leaf milfoil infestation. The association has spent over \$114,000 over the past three years in an attempt to control the infestation. Its tactics are 'best-in-class' but the funding, by necessity, has been almost entirely private – from association members – echoing the warning from Senator Saviello.

Our thanks to Arne Klepinger for representing KLA at the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) session, receiving the

annual boat inspection and plant patrol training. Both the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department provided updates.

LakeSmart

For the three years that KLA has sponsored the LakeSmart program, over 20 properties have been inspected and 16 properties have received the LakeSmart award. In late 2012 due to budget constraints, the Maine DEP was forced to drop the program. Subsequently, the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA) agreed to pick up sponsorship of the LakeSmart program. KLA will continue its involvement with LakeSmart as one of a few pilots for the new LakeSmart model. This new model will feature a close partnership between COLA and lake associations, wherein lake association volunteers will be trained to complete initial inspections and to recommend to a COLA official those properties that they believe merit the LakeSmart award. The COLA official will then make a final inspection before making the award.

Our ultimate goal is for all lakeshore owners have their properties inspected! The 2013 goal is to have 30% of lakeshore properties to be inspected! You can help make it happen! There is no downside to completing the inspection. You will learn if your property has any issues that could impact the health of the lake and what you can do about those issues. It is then your decision just how much remediation you are prepared to undertake. We welcome every property owner's involvement with the KLA's LakeSmart program. It's a great way to get educated about what you can do to improve Keoka Lake's water quality. If you are interested, please call either Kathy Souza (913.486.4700) or Charlie Tarbell (207.671.6962).

Tar Sands? Did you know.....

... that Waterford is one of the Maine communities that have hosted the

Portland/Montreal oil pipeline for over half a century. The pipeline runs through the western side of town and crosses the Crooked River five times. It has shipped crude oil from the Port of Portland to Montreal for over fifty years without significant incident. Indeed, the pipeline has historically been a good neighbor. However, recently a potential controversy has been brewing around the pipeline.

The Keystone XL Pipeline has been in the news because of the product that is proposed to be shipped through the pipeline – Canadian Oils Sands or Tar Sands. This oil product is developed by strip-mining the boreal forests of Alberta and is then shipped overseas for refining. The product is controversial because it is energy-intensive to produce, destructive to the environment in which it is produced and difficult to transport through pipelines due to its density. In order to be pumped, this dense product must be diluted with light hydrocarbons and other chemicals. As was discovered when nearly one million gallons of the product spilled into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan in 2010, this oil and chemical mix poses an especially difficult cleanup challenge.

While no specific plans currently exist to ship Canadian oils sands through the Portland Pipeline, a variety of groups have organized to educate and take actions aimed at preventing any nascent plans to do so. One such group, Waterford 4 ME, was successful at promoting a resolution at the March 2 Waterford Town meeting. The non-binding resolution, which passed by a comfortable margin, focuses on the risks to the Crooked River and Sebago Lake watershed posed by shipping Canadian oil sands and urges the Federal government to provide enhanced review and oversight of the Portland Pipeline should pipeline management turn to shipping Canadian Oil Sands through the existing pipeline. You can learn more about this issue by reviewing the Waterford 4 Me website: <http://www.waterford4me.org>.

KLA – Working FOR you and WITH you!

- Courtesy Boat Inspections – Year #11!

Courtesy Boat Inspections will continue at the Town Beach boat launch this summer. At the 2013 annual Town Meeting, the Town of Waterford voted to support the Courtesy Boat Inspections with a grant of \$3,400. Waterford has been exceptionally supportive and generous with their funding over the last eight years. KLA has also received a DEP grant. Under Peter Morse's able guidance, the CBI program will schedule paid staff on weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day plus the week of July 4th. CBI's will continue to inspect boats entering and leaving Keoka Lake and help to educate boat owners as to how to self-inspect these boats when an inspector is not present. Please feel free to stop by when you see an inspector at the boat launch and thank them for their efforts.

Volunteer CBI's are needed for 4-hour shifts during the times when the paid staff is not available or scheduled. Attend the Annual Meeting to see how easy it is to be trained to be a CBI and sign up for a weekly shift, a single shift or to be on call in emergencies. After all – the CBI's are protecting Keoka Lake!
- Plant Patrols -

Volunteer plant patrols are organized by Tom Stockwell and Arne Klepinger. Plan to attend the Annual Meeting to learn more about these KLA Milfoil prevention and detection efforts as well as suggestions for lakeside plantings to help the health of the lake!
- Education initiative – 2013

KLA will expand its education efforts in 2013, repeating a program at the Town Beach during swim camp in addition to running programs at Keoka Beach Campground. We have been fortunate to be able to utilize expert resources from LEA to produce these programs. Ginger

Eaton is organizing KLA's education efforts.

- Water

...Safety is a key focus of KLA's efforts on the lake. In addition to placing and maintaining the navigational buoys around the lake (maintained by the Tabor family), KLA sponsors **Operation Report It Now!** which is aimed at getting users of the lake to report illegal operation when they witness it. A flyer about this program begun in 2012 is included in this mailing. Please post it in your camp.

...Testing will begin again in May. Last year's results were mixed possibly due to the heavy spring rains in 2012. We continue to expect a longer-term improvement trend, based upon programs designed to reduce runoff. Don Rung does the testing for Keoka.
- Fundraising

Aside from CBI grants, membership dues/donations are KLA's main source of funds. We also conduct raffles and clothing sales at the Wilkins House breakfasts. Joanne Eaton spearheads these sales efforts and welcomes assistance at the KLA table at any of these fundraising events. Can you help her out this summer by staffing the table at one of the Community Breakfasts (July 4, 17, 31 or Aug. 14)? Or the 4th of July? Any funds in excess of the KLA annual budget are used to enable KLA's Educational Initiatives and to build an emergency Milfoil Reserve. This reserve will allow KLA to act with expediency on remediation efforts should a milfoil infestation ever be discovered in Keoka.
- The Dam

Al Struck continues to do a terrific job of controlling the dam under high and low water conditions.

KLA is everywhere –

Do you 'like' us? Have you 'googled' us? Did you know you could 'upload' to us?

KLA's website is located at <http://www.keokalake.org>– check it out! Our webmaster, Joe Abbiati, is always updating and improving the look and content of the website. A new feature in the Gallery section allows anyone to upload pictures for the website. Check it out! And for those who use Facebook – ‘like us’ at Keoka Lake Association and stay up to date on news from Waterford! Check it out!

Going forward, KLA will be utilizing the internet and social networks to disseminate information, important announcements and invitations – Check ‘us’ out! In addition, we will be looking to deliver newsletters via email as the US Postal Service seems to be increasing costs for slower service. Please note your email address on your dues form so we can keep you informed in a timely manner.

Membership musings

KLA 2013 dues are now due. Please use the form attached to this newsletter to pay your dues. Please consider a gift in excess of your membership either as an unrestricted donation or directed to the Milfoil Reserve or Educational Programs. 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 and others about environmental threats, environmentally conscious and proactive best practices and safe boating practices to protect those who enjoy its waters.

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 and ‘70’s return to Keoka with their families to share those same experiences. Family reunions are what it’s all about!

But, the work of KLA is supported largely through dues payments. Please consider encouraging your children and grandchildren to take a direct interest in the lake by becoming a member of KLA. To jump-start this transition from one generation to another, consider giving a ***KLA GIFT MEMBERSHIP*** to children, grandchildren and/or nieces/nephews. ***KLA Gift Memberships*** make wonderful Graduation and Birthday gifts!

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