



President's Message:

Greetings and Happy Summer! It seems we went right from ice-out to summer in Waterford..... and then back to early spring!

As you will read below, we have had recent affirmation that KLA has the right strategy for confronting the Milfoil issue, we just need to be diligent about executing that strategy. My thanks to all those volunteers who do just that – courtesy boat inspectors, plant patrollers, and of course, you, our members, who support everything we are doing with your financial contribution.

We also received the analytic report over the winter, about the very high *Gloeo* algae reading from last summer. While the researchers have cautioned us that our high reading is only one observation, and that it could be a fluke of timing/location, KLA is still renewing our focus on actions to address the other major threat (other than Milfoil) to the health of Keoka – phosphorus-laden storm water runoff. The articles below on Lakesmart and on municipal hot spots are part of this critical effort.

Thank you in advance for your membership, and I'll see you on the lake.

Charlie Tarbell

Please note: The annual Meeting of the Keoka Lake Association (KLA) is Saturday, July 11, 2016 at the Wilkins House. Coffee, donuts and socializing at 8:30 a.m.; the meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

ICE OUT!

After a winter when the snow never seemed to quit, a few unseasonably warm days in early April meant that Ice Out was April 24th – one day sooner than Ice Out 2014! Go figure!

16th Annual Maine Milfoil Summit – Charlie's report

A standing-room-only crowd of over 400 people attended the 16th Annual Milfoil Summit on February 27th, 2015 to hear the "state of the union" with regards to milfoil containment and eradication efforts in Maine. It was a far cry from the two-dozen who attended the first summit sixteen years ago in Augusta.

Among the headlines from the presentations:

- There are now 55 organizations running courtesy boat inspections (KLA is one)
- 105 "saves" of invasive aquatic plants were made in 2014
- The number of water bodies with infestations has been stable (24) for two years.
- Some new infestations are occurring, but eradication success stories are mounting
- The passage of LD1626 by the Maine Legislature means more money will be made available to eradication efforts
- The town of Limerick, which includes part of the heavily-infested Lake Arrowhead, was forced to reduce waterfront property valuations by 20% in 2014, reflecting property sales running 30% below valuation levels. This move redistributes the tax burden

to non-waterfront properties, demonstrating the destabilizing impact that milfoil infestation can produce.

The highlight of the day, however, was a case study of Anabessacook Lake. The story is one of careful observation, quick response, and great cooperation. Anabessacook is in Winthrop, Maine. In July of 2014, a courtesy boat inspector had just finished inspecting a boat leaving the lake. As she was wrapping up the paperwork, standing in ankle-deep water, she noticed a plant fragment floating in the lake. The plant was unusual. It may have been on the departing boat when it beached, but that was not certain. The inspector bagged the plant and sent it in for identification. The lab responded with a positive ID of variable-leaf milfoil. But, nobody knew where the infestation was in the lake.

The Anabessacook Lake Improvement Association (ALIA) immediately convened a meeting of key players in Invasives to develop strategies. These included the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Friends of Cobossee Watershed, The Voluntary Lake Monitoring Program (VMLP), and others. The first action was to organize a plant survey of the entire lake. This was conducted in August, by a large group of volunteers organized by the ALIA. The survey identified a small area of the lake that was infested. The ALIA organized and privately funded an eradication effort in October that was believed to remove the entire infestation. When the removal was complete, they regrouped. Among the next steps were: deploying milfoil warning buoys, outreach efforts, a detailed survey of the infested area, a plan for subsequent removal (if necessary), organizing a repeat survey of the entire lake and expanding courtesy boat inspections. Time will tell if the 2014 eradication effort was successful, but ALIA is ready if additional action is required.

The presenting group had some lessons-learned they wished to share with other lake associations:

- An active lake association is critical to both prevention and addressing infestation;
- This is a large and lengthy process (3-4 years from ID to confirmed eradication);
- Courtesy boat inspections DO work;
- Had Anabessacook already had an organized plant patrol, the response time to survey and eradicate would have been much faster and much less anxiety-filled;
- Lake associations are not alone when confronted with an infestation. DEP, VMLP, LEA and other organizations are available to help;
- The process can seem slow and can be very emotional.

I walked away with a sense that KLA is doing the right things: We already conduct courtesy boat inspections; we have a well-organized plant patrol program; we have a milfoil reserve fund and we have an observant, involved, and invested membership. Should we face the unhappy circumstances that Anabessacook faced last summer, Keoka is well prepared to rally our resources and address the problem. But that doesn't mean we can sit back and be complacent!

Keoka and Milfoil – status

In 2014, the Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) did not catch any Milfoil coming into Keoka nor do we have any known Milfoil infestations in Keoka at this time. We do know of certain plants (a variety of Curly Leaf Pondweed, affectionately called Keoka Pondweed) that the Plant Patrollers are watching as it has grown very rapidly in the center of the lake. As this plant appears to be only present in Keoka, it is of particular importance that we not 'share' any with other bodies of water, so CBIs and boat owners who self-inspect their boats should be mindful that none of it leaves Keoka on outgoing boats. With several lakes and streams in the area, including Brandy Pond, Sebago Lake, the Songo River as well as the Saco River, all

having infestations of Eurasian Milfoil (the fastest growing and most devastating species), vigilance by all watercraft owners and operators is paramount. Keoka Lake remains a high-risk lake for Milfoil for two reasons – the lake’s relatively shallow depth and the presence of a public boat launch.

Courtesy Boat Inspections – Year #14

At the 2015 annual Town Meeting, the Town of Waterford voted to support the Courtesy Boat Inspections with a grant of \$3,400, ensuring that Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBIs) will continue on Keoka Lake this summer. Waterford has been exceptionally supportive and generous with its funding over the last ten years. In addition to the support from the Town of Waterford, KLA has also applied for and received a DEP grant to help support the CBI effort. As CBI coordinator, Charlie Tarbell is working with LEA to ensure that paid CBI staff will be at the Town Beach/Public Boat Launch on weekends between mid-May and Labor Day, plus the entire week of July 4th. The CBI’s job is two-fold: 1) to inspect boats entering and leaving Keoka Lake and 2) to help educate boat owners as to how to self-inspect their boats when an inspector is not present. Please feel free to stop by the Boat Launch at the town beach when you see an inspector present and watch the process.

Volunteer CBIs are needed for 4-hour shifts during the times when the paid staff is not available or is not scheduled. Depending on the ‘return to college’ dates of the paid CBIs, volunteers may be needed to cover shifts over the Labor Day weekend and beyond. Come to the Annual Meeting to learn how easy it is to be trained as a CBI and to sign-up for a once a week shift, a single shift or to be ‘on call’ in case of emergencies. After all – the CBIs are protecting Keoka Lake!

Plant Patrols

In August, 2014, LEA’s divers did a plant survey of Keoka. They checked likely areas of infestation and found nothing unusual. The

Keoka Pondweed continues to thrive out in the center of the lake. Ongoing, Arne Klepinger and Tom Stockwell are spearheading KLA’s efforts to have Plant Patrollers monitor Keoka Lake on a regular basis. To that end, the shoreline of Keoka was divided into segments and volunteers have stepped up to claim a section of the lake to monitor for the summer. They need 2-3 more volunteers who would be willing to ‘keep an eye’ on a segment of the lake – looking for anything unusual over the course of the summer. This can be done from a kayak, canoe, party boat or other floatable. Training and reference materials will be provided. If you can help out, please come to the Annual Meeting, check the box on the Dues form attached and/or use the KLA Feedback form on the website to notify KLA of your willingness to help keep Keoka clean and safe.

Water Quality and GLOEO.....

The short report is that in 2014, the water quality tests results showed that clarity was better, phosphorus levels were up and chlorophyll levels were down. Last summer, the algae was thicker but the amount/number of algae blooms was down. However, *Gloeo* (*Gloeotrichia echinulata*) spiked from 18 in 2013 **to 70** last summer!! While this may be an errant/fluke reading, *Gloeo* is exacerbated by high phosphorus levels which are often caused by runoff (see below).

Keoka has HOT SPOTS!

In 2002, Project 319 addressed several municipal ‘hot spots’ around Keoka Lake in an attempt to control the amount of phosphorus runoff into Keoka Lake. There is an inverse relationship between the amount of phosphorus that runs into the lake and the water quality of the lake – the more phosphorus, the poorer the water quality. With the efforts of the Town of Waterford at that time and the efforts of shoreline landowners who have had their properties inspected through the LakeSmart program,

Keoka's water quality has remained fairly steady and predictable. The spike in the *Gloeo* reading last summer combined with the 13 years since Project 319 was completed puts Phosphorus Runoff high on the alert list for KLA. In an effort to control (and ultimately decrease) the amount of Phosphorus Runoff into Keoka, this spring, Charlie Tarbell and Colin Holme, LEA's assistant director (and a resident of Waterford), revisited the municipal hot spots that were addressed in Project 319 to determine which ones need attention. The list, once compiled and coordinated with pictures, will be discussed with the Town of Waterford Public Works Department and the state DOT to determine what and how soon work can be done to address these concerns.

In the meantime, any landowners who are part of the Keoka Lake Watershed (and therefore part of the Sebago Lake Watershed from which Portland's Water District pulls water) are urged to be vigilant in controlling runoff from their property into the lakes. For more information on what you can do, visit the KLA website under the "The Lake" loon tab!

LakeSmart

This will be the fifth summer that KLA has sponsored the LakeSmart program. To date, over 25 properties have been inspected and 19 LakeSmart Awards have been granted. Under the current system (initiated in 2014), a LakeSmart inspection is a two-step process. Trained Lake association volunteers complete the initial inspections and then they will submit a list of properties they believe merit the LakeSmart Award to a Maine Lakes Society (formerly COLA) official. The MLS official will then make a final inspection before making the award. Not all properties that undergo a LakeSmart inspection may be, in fact, eligible for a LakeSmart Award due to their proximity to the shore/lake or other factors, but each inspection provides the landowner with information about existing factors that may impact the health of the lake as well as possible remediation efforts. It is the lakeshore owner's decision just how much

remediation to undertake. There is no downside to completing the inspection!

KLA's ultimate goal is for all lakeshore owners to have their properties inspected! The 2015 goal is to have 30% of Keoka lakeshore properties inspected. We are close! And you can make that happen! We welcome every property owner's involvement with the KLA LakeSmart program. It's a great way to get educated about what you can do to improve Keoka Lake's water quality and it may give you a heads up if your property lies in one of the phosphorus hot spot zones around the lake (see below). If you are interested, please call either Charlie Tarbell (207.671.6962) or Peter Morse (207.583.6360).

LEA is monitoring....

Once again this summer, LEA will be analyzing concentrations of *Gloeo* and also doing continuous temperature monitoring. In addition, LEA will be adding baseline monitoring of all algae species to its support of KLA this summer. The *Gloeo* and algae baseline monitoring will be done at various times throughout the summer, but the temperature monitoring is continuous throughout the water column. The temperature sensors are attached to the buoy that is out from Kokosing. We ask that everyone respect the buoy and give it a wide berth – in other words.... Leave it alone!!

Education Initiative

Following on the success of last year's Friends of Keoka Community education program at Keoka Beach Campground, plans are in process for two sessions of educational 'student outreach' programs this summer, including one at KBC. Watch for information on the website, flyers around town and/or updates at the Annual Meeting!

Loon Update

The black flies are out in force and to date, there are no eggs in the loon nest on Keoka

(alho, there are two eggs in the nest on McWain). Stay tuned to the website for updates.

The Dam

The word on the dam is Grease! And it shall be done! Also, stay tuned to the website (and the Annual Meeting) for information about the plans for lowering the water level in the lake in advance of next winter. This past winter, the ice caused extensive undercutting along the shore.

Water Safety

The navigational buoys are in place marking the boat launch near the Town Beach – but a word of caution to those using the boat launch. The winter ice was not kind to the access – be careful!

The Warden Service IS watching.....

As a reminder to all, 2015 Boat Registrations now include the Milfoil Sticker and can be purchased at Town Hall during business hours. And a further reminder, KLA has initiated an ***Operation Report It Now!*** Program (flyer included with this newsletter) to encourage boating safety, courtesy and compliance by all who use watercraft on Keoka Lake. As a further deterrent..... a member of the Maine Warden Service lives in the area – and was spotted on Keoka Lake last summer. If you see something (inappropriate or unlawful boating practices??) on the lake say something – call and leave a message for the Warden's Service.

Fundraising

New at the KLA merchandise table this summer will be a short sleeved sweatshirt. This is not a Kayak Raffle year but look for a one-day raffle at the Merchandise Table at the Community Breakfasts (July 4, 15, 29 and August 12th) plus at the 4th of July Parade and Fall Foliage 5K (October 11th). Do you have

your KLA neon orange keychain?? See Joann Eaton at the KLA merchandise table for all your KLA gear!

KLA is EVERYWHERE

Do you 'Like' us? Have you 'Google-d' us? Did you know you could 'upload' to us? KLA's website is: <http://www.keokalake.org>– check it out! Our web-master, 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 please share some of your pictures of Keoka and the surrounding area.

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 media to disseminate information, important announcements and invitations – Check 'us' out!

Membership

2015 dues are now due! A Dues Notice is included with this newsletter. Please note the space available for you to augment your annual dues (\$25) with an additional donation to be applied to the Milfoil Reserve, Educational Initiative or as an 'Unrestricted' donation. In addition, KLA gratefully acknowledges the receipt of several 'memorial' gifts in 2014. If you have lost someone and they loved Keoka and KLA, what nicer way to memorialize them!

KLA is an all-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, as well as 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 as children in the '60's, '70's and '80s 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 primarily 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 jumpstart this transition from one generation to another, consider giving a **KLA GIFT MEMBERSHIP** to children, grandchildren and/or nieces/nephews. Gift memberships are also a wonderful way to honor a graduate – from middle school, high school or college. With

summer right around the corner (we hope?), it can be put right to use!

KLA - Being Environmentally 'Correct'

Going forward, 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. Get the KLA news faster – and save a tree (or two)!!

INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER:

- 2015 Dues Notice
- **Operation Report it Now!** 2015 flyer – please post in your cabin/lakefront home for easy reference.

Dates to Remember

July 11	KLA Annual Meeting – Wilkins Community House Coffee, donuts & socializing @ 8:30 a.m.; Meeting starts @ 9:00
August 1	3 rd Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta (Raindate: August 2 nd)
October 9	Fall KLA Board Meeting
October 11	Fall Foliage 5K/Festival

KLA Board of Trustees

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Keoka Lake Association: <http://www.keokalake.org>