



**President's Message:**

We look forward to summer all year. We make plans for family, friends, adventures and ....Keoka. However, it looks like this is not going to be a normal summer. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of our plans are cancelled, postponed or "virtualized". And there is a confusing and changing set of new government regulations and recommendations. At this writing, it is impossible to forecast what July and August will hold as far as those regulations and recommendations are concerned. So I'm not going to try. Instead, I direct you to the Maine Center for Disease Control website (<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/>) where you will find current State of Maine information about how to approach time in Maine and at Keoka.

We look forward to seeing you all on the lake – at a safe social distance.

Charlie Tarbell

**In Memory of William H. Haynes**

In March, 2020, Waterford suddenly lost its "mayor" and KLA lost a good friend. "Dood", as he was known to many, was a fixture in Waterford town affairs, at Waterford events, behind the lens of his camera, and of course, on his farm and sawmill. He was the author/publisher of the *Mutiny Brook Times*; he was the Town Code Enforcement Officer; he was everywhere in Waterford. Indeed, many called him "Mr. Waterford". Dood was an irreplaceable community member and a good friend. He is truly missed!

**ICE OUT!**

Charlie Tarbell reports that after the large piece of ice that was hiding in Stone's Cove finally moved to the center of the lake, a day of winds made short work – Official ICE OUT date was April 10, 2020! The loons actually hung out a few days before the lake was fully open!!

**Annual Milfoil Summit.....**

Was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Water Quality**

Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) provides water testing to Keoka as well as other lakes. Testing results during 2019 indicate that surface water quality was comparable to results from other recent years. However, deep water oxygen and phosphorus continue to be a problem and create an unfavorable habitat for cold water fish species. Oxygen depletion and phosphorus loading stem from storm water runoff.

For this reason, KLA will continue to aggressively mitigate sources of storm water runoff into the lake.

Optical brightener testing was also conducted in 2019. Optical brighteners are trace chemicals found in laundry detergents and toilet paper. Their presence in fresh water indicates the potential for septic system seepage into the lake. Keoka was tested over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in 2019 and three out of 12 sites tested positive for optical brighteners. Happily, camps near two of the sites replaced their aging septic systems in the last 12 months. The third hot spot will be monitored going forward and all spots will be retested in 2020.

**Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI)**

The summer of 2019 was the 19<sup>th</sup> year for the CBI program on Keoka. Plans are underway for the 2020 season at the town-owned public boat launch by the town's swimming beach with appropriate social distancing requirements, etc.

Again this summer, Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) will oversee and manage the program for Keoka. As our 'back room', (they hire, schedule and do payroll for the boat inspectors), we anticipate 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 his/her boat (or jet ski) and trailer, to be sure nothing foreign is coming into or leaving Keoka.

At the 2020 annual Waterford Town Meeting, the proposal to support the Courtesy Boat Inspections 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 atrollers are the second leg of the three-legged stool that is the fight against milfoil (or any other invasives). As the "Early Detection" part of the fight against a milfoil infestation in Keoka Lake, Plant patrollers inspect the flora and fauna in front of a defined piece of shoreline (often in front of their individual properties). Again this year, Arne Klepinger has organized a group of volunteer plant patrollers, many from past years who are certified and ready to go.... **IF** they get to Keoka! **BUT HE NEEDS YOUR HELP!** If you enjoy being in or on the water, are willing (and you live in Maine!), 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 on for confirmation. COVID-19 should not cause us to be less diligent! This virus will eventually be contained/vaccinated against, but if Milfoli gets into Keoka in the interim – it will not

go away without a significant expense for its eradication.

The ideal 'patrol area' would be about 500 to 1500' of lakefront. Currently, some patrollers are covering multiple sections and there are some longer sections that need to be broken up. While the expectation for summer 2020 is that there will be fewer boats on the lake, many of past year's plant patrollers may not be able to get to Keoka this year either. **PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING THIS SUMMER!** Please check the KLA website ([www.keokalake.org](http://www.keokalake.org)) for more information or to contact Arne or Charlie or - plan to "attend" the Annual Meeting if you'd be willing to lend a hand. Training will be online and reference materials will be provided.

### **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 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. To date, she has found a few obstructions but most of the streams are clear and running well. Started last summer, Kim and Tom Hammett are also looking at 'upland efforts' as KLA works to help keep the Keoka Lake watershed clean. Say hi to Kim (socially distanced, of course) 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**

2020 celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first LakeSmart Awards being awarded to Keoka lakeshore properties. KLA sponsors this 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. Of particular concern has been the rise in phosphorus levels in the lake. Albeit some areas around the lake seem more prone to higher phosphorus test levels, one contributor to higher phosphorus levels is aging septic systems. With some of these being replaced, lower phosphorus testing levels may be coming.

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 contact Ginger Eaton or Charlie Tarbell (207.671.6962). Please leave a VM with a number that you will answer. If you would like to join Ginger's LakeSmart committee (including Doss Hasson and Priscilla Treadwell), please reach out. Training will be provided to ensure you are certified.

### **Water Safety – and the loon nest**

The loons are here! The loon nest was put out on 'the windiest day' of the week in its new location in Stone's Cove. The new loon nest buoys that KLA purchased last fall were installed over Memorial Day weekend along with all swimming and boating safety buoys on the lake. Thanks to Andy Tabor for taking on those chilly tasks! 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**

As of Memorial Day weekend, the dam has been set at its 'summer level'. Spring rains can raise the level of the lake quickly and the dam is being closely monitored so as to not overwhelm and overbank City Brook in South Waterford. Thanks to Glen Merrill, Al Struck and Charlie Tarbell for their monitoring and ongoing care of the dam.

### **Boat Launch**

As reported in the Fall 2019 Newsletter, there is a new (almost complete) boat launch at the town swimming beach. Rebuilt last fall through volunteer labor and Jeff Ward's expertise and equipment the project was underwritten by an anonymous KLA member/donor from Keoka

Beach Campground and the Town of Waterford who matched KLA's cash contribution. All that remains to be done is the asphalt apron along the highway. That work will be done this spring, ahead of the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Thanks to everyone who was involved! Great job!

### **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta**

Please stay tuned to the KLA website for updated information about this year's Regatta.

### **Lights**

Over the last year, several people have contacted KLA requesting that we extend a request to shorefront owners that they be conscious of their external lighting 'signature'. Many folks relish the quiet dark of the summer nights and feel that the natural environment is marred by the presence of excessive lighting that is left burning, in some cases, all night long. Please be conscious of your lighting 'signature' and be kind to both your wallet and your neighbors who are looking for shooting stars across dark skies. If you must have outside lighting, there are many options available to direct your lighting for your own benefit and not to your neighbor's detriment.

### **Membership**

2020 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 and a means to get the next generation involved in lake protection – see the Dues Form for instructions!

### **Merchandise**

Another casualty of the Coronavirus is the cancellation of the Wilkins House Community Breakfasts for the summer of 2020 and with it, the KLA merchandising opportunities that those breakfasts afforded. Please keep checking the KLA website as Joanne Eaton works out possible alternative merchandising plans. For special orders/requests, please email her at [tcljse@roadrunner.com](mailto:tcljse@roadrunner.com) or call her at 207.756.9522.



## So..... what is KLA50?

In 2021, Keoka Lake Association will be 50 years old! Founded in 1971 by an intrepid group of year-round and summer residents who were concerned about protecting Keoka Lake with things like regular water testing plus rebuilding the dam to maintain the water level through the summer, they laid down the early foundations for the educational and environmental work that is at the core of KLA's focus today. And so.... we are going to remember, honor and celebrate those 15 'first volunteers' throughout KLA's 50<sup>th</sup> year. There are many (moving) pieces to the celebration, including:

- **KLA50 Capital Campaign** – KLA will be 50 so the KLA Board of Directors is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a fundraising campaign designed to build a 'milfoil/invasive reserve'. Through its myriad of programs, KLA does its best to present a three-legged stool approach: prevention (CBIs) and detection (Plant Patrols) and yet, when it comes to fighting an invasive infestation, we lack sufficient 'on-hand' funds to immediately put divers in the water to eradicate an infestation when (not if) it is discovered. The goal is ambitious: To raise \$50,000 to celebrate 50 years! We are pleased to report that our early lead donors have stepped up and we are over 80% of the way to our goal!

Please be on the lookout for our KLA50 Capital Campaign letter, coming via 'snail' mail in late June. We ask for your consideration and generosity so that we can wrap up this season with an announcement of great success which will help to protect Keoka far into the future.

- **Publishing a book** telling the stories of the properties around the lake while chronicling the building of the many camps, cabins and houses that line the lake today. If you haven't submitted your Lakeshore Owner Questionnaire, please email it to [kla50.2021@gmail.com](mailto:kla50.2021@gmail.com) or mail it to KLA50, P.O. Box 97, Waterford, ME 04088. The questionnaire can be found on the KLA website ([www.keokalake.org](http://www.keokalake.org)).
- **A historical retrospective** at the Waterford Historical Society during the summer of 2021, highlighting artifacts, pictures, scrapbooks and other memorabilia from the days when people came to Waterford for the 'water cure'. Nancy Marcotte is still looking for things to add to this exhibit. She can be reached at the Waterford Historical Society.
- **KLA50 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** – Of course, a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary means a party! Plans are well underway for a celebration the afternoon of our 2021 Annual Meeting. Please mark your calendars for July 10, 2021 and watch the KLA Fall Newsletter for more information.
- **KLA50 Quilt Raffle**: The KLA50 Anniversary Committee has secured a donation of a queen-sized quilt "Windows on Keoka – Seasons of the Lake". Included with this newsletter is a copy of the Quilt Raffle flyer and a sheet of raffle tickets. Raffle ticket sales will begin immediately and the winning ticket will be drawn at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on July 10, 2021. Please mail your tickets and payment to KLA50 Quilt Raffle, P.O. Box 97, Waterford, ME 04088. If you wish to mail one check for your 2020 dues and raffle tickets, the accounting will be handled on KLA's end.

### **INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER**

1. KLA50 Quilt Raffle Flyer
2. KLA50 Quilt Raffle Tickets
3. 2020 Dues Form