



Dexter Lakes Association

Dexter Lakes Association

Annual Newsletter—June 2006

Annual Meeting

K of C

Wednesday, July
12th

7:00 PM

Board Members

President, Edward
Graham—924-7820

Vice President, Jack
Brown—924-1098

Treasurer, Peg
Kaufman—924-6610

Secretary, Steve
Wintle—924-0003

Director, Bob
Crawford—924-5549

Director, George
Sampson—924-6626

Director, Lois
Richmond—924-5964

Director, Vern Crane
924-5412

Director, Robert
Tilson—924-5578

Director, Neil Crane
924-7582

Presidents Message

The 2005 summer was a very active one for the Dexter Lake Association. We participated in: a new town-lake committee; a long -range Lake planning group; a watershed demonstration booth during Wild West Weekend ; networking with other lake associations at the annual Congress of Lake Associations Conference; involvement with town water level and launch issues, as well as time spent informing lake property owners regarding the Lake Smart Program. More details about these activities appear later in this issue.

The more controversial of these challenges demonstrate the difficulties of balancing recreational needs and drinking water standards. With the creation of the new town-lake committee, all points of view are well represented which should result in the best decisions for the lake.

It was encouraging to learn at the Lake Conference Annual meeting, that of the 6000 lakes and ponds in Maine, there is a very low invasive plant infestation as compared to other New England States. This record is the envy of neighboring states.

Last summer over 40,000 boat inspections by Maine Volunteer Monitors contributed to this fine record. This is only one part of lake maintenance.

It is very important to be involved with good lake stewardship practices because of water quality changes that are taking place at our lake. Increased development and the fact that Maine Lakes are now thawing earlier and therefore are producing more algae by summer's end are important concerns.

Each year lake surveyors have observed more lawns without buffers going to the edge of the lake. Where land does not have a buffer, there can be a much greater growth of plants in the water of those locations.

One of the main goals of the DLA this summer will be to help owners get help with lake friendly landscaping. We would encourage people to talk to property owners who have benefited from the Lake Smart Program or to contact DLA directors who can provide contact information. We would like to thank those property owners who gave us useful input regarding last year's issues---we can better represent lake owner interests when we have this information. We encourage owners to continue to report your concerns and we hope you will attend our annual meeting on Wednesday, July 12, 2006 at the K of C Hall.

Respectfully, Edward Graham, President



Boat Launch



At this time, the state has withdrawn plans for the proposed construction of a larger boat launch at the lake. This controversial project illustrates the difficulties involved in making decisions that attempt to balance recreational needs with those of water quality concerns.

Pending legislation in August will decide if these issues will be decided by state or by local town officials. There is a possibility that a bill will be considered that would establish the distance between boat launches and the intake values that provide town drinking water.

Lake Wassookeag Source Water Committee

The other main projects that took place last summer was led by Susan Breau (Hydrogeologist from the Maine Rural Water Association). This project has been completed and the final plan has been submitted to the Dexter Town Council for final approval.

The purpose of this study is the creation of a long range plan to reduce or eliminate potential and existing risks to the drinking water supply for Lake Wassookeag.

This would involve educating Wassookeag watershed residents regarding lake stewardship practices (which has been one of the main goals of the DLA),



Lake and Dam Management Plan

Myron Petrovsky (MBP Consulting Firm-Engineer) was hired by the town of Dexter to assess the condition of the town dam and to evaluate the existing plan for lake levels. In March, 2006, his plan was submitted for review to the Dexter Source Water Committee and was recently approved by the Dexter Town Council.

The management plan significantly lowers lake levels and will replace the current plan that was adopted in 1985.

The study provides operating procedures to prepare the Lake for the spring and fall run-offs, limits shoreline erosion, and provides minimum downstream releases preventing downtown flooding.

The DLA was very active in this issue this past summer and we greatly appreciate lake members who provided useful insight and information during this study.

While the plan may need some adjustments as it is put in practice, it is assuring to know the plan provides a solid scientific basis for managing lake levels.

The DLA contributed money that has been generously donated to us by the Wells family to complete this study.

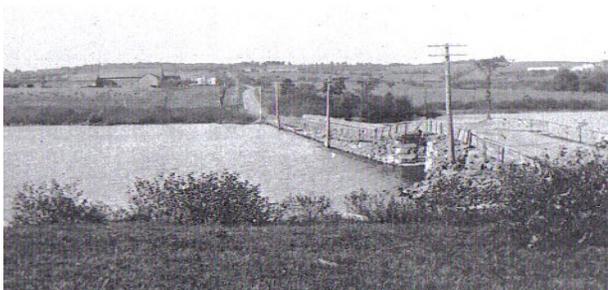
Lake Smart: A Way You Can Help Protect your Lake

The second season of the Lake Smart program has been successful on Lake Wassookeag. Upon request, an evaluator from the Soil and Water Conservation district will survey properties on or near the lake and will recommend improvements that will protect water quality as well as increase the beauty of your property. Each year, more Wassookeag property owners have taken advantage of this program and several have received Lake Smart awards.

Please contact DLA Directors to find out how to arrange these appointments.



The Bridge 1934



Penobscot Soil and Water Program

Nine DLA volunteers assisted the Penobscot Soil and Water Department (PSW) in a Watershed Survey whose purpose was to identify and prioritize non-point source pollution sites in the Lake Wassooskeag watershed.

The stakeholder group consisted of PSW and DLA members as well as Town of Dexter employees and community representatives.

Problem areas in the Dexter Lake Watershed were documented in detail so that they can be addressed in the future. PSW is now in the process of writing for grant money to help fix the most serious problems. However, a great deal can be accomplished by educated members of the lake community.

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

Last summer, Bob Crawford again used seechi disk measurements to evaluate water quality and track algae blooms. He began testing in mid May and continued to test every two weeks until mid September. Last seasons testing continued to show that water quality in Lake Wassooskeag continues to be good, despite a slight decline from the previous year.

Buffer Planting

Last August, the PWS Watershed Committee, with the help of a landscape architect planted a demonstration buffer near the town beach as an example of what property owners could do to prevent algae producing run-off into the lake.

As of spring, the buffer zone is in rather bad shape. The unusual amount of fall rainfall flooded the area before plants were able to establish themselves. We may have to try again and look for a different planting site.



Dexter Lakes are part of the larger Sebasticook River Watershed which contains many rare and endangered species including; Bald Eagle, Black Tern, Least Bittern, Common Moorhen, Ribbon Snake, Wood Turtle, Tidewater Mucket, Yellow Lampmussel, Tomah May fly, and Warpaint Emerald.



Least Bittern



Common Moorhen

The Dexter Lake Association is named for the two lakes within the town of Dexter.

Lake Wassooskeag has a surface area of 1030.4 acres. It drains an area of just under ten square miles (9.86 miles) and flushes 0.39 times a year. The lake has an average depth of 27 feet and a maximum dept of 86 feet. Wassooskeag is listed as an NPS Priority Watershed by the DEP, due to its use as a public drinking water supply. Wassooskeag is well known for its Landlocked Salmon and Lake Trout.

Puffers Pond (Echo Lake) is situated at the headwaters of the East Branch of the Sebasticook River. The pond covers 89 acres with a maximum depth of 52 feet and flushes 1.63 times a year. Puffers watershed drains on area just under 2 square miles (1.93 miles).



MAILING ADDRESS

Dexter Lakes Association
c/o Peggy Kaufman—Treasurer
22 Tern In Lane
Dexter, Maine 04930



Dexter Lakes Association



Dexter Lakes Association Membership Form

Please complete only if not submitted when annual dues notices were sent.

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The membership dues are \$10.00 per year/per member

Name: _____

Summer Mailing Address: _____

Winter Mailing Address: _____

Fire Lane: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mail Checks to:
 Dexter Lakes Association
 c/o Peggy Kaufman
 22 Turn In Lane