



Dexter Lakes Association



Dexter Lakes Association

Annual Newsletter—June 2007

Annual Meeting
K of C
Wednesday, July
11th
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, Vern Crane 924-5412

Director, Robert Tilson—924-5578

Director, Neil Crane 924-7582

Presidents Message

This year's annual newsletter is being sent to all lake residents whether they are Dexter Lakes Association (DLA) members or not. Presently we have approximately 120 members which includes those from Puffers Pond as well as Lake Wassookeag.

While the DLA is well represented on the newly formed Town Water Source Committee, we believe we could be even more representative of the lake community if we were to be a larger membership. The Town Water Committee provides the opportunity to present lake concerns to town officials and water district members.

The DLA has always kept in mind that it is easier to maintain good water quality than it is to restore a polluted lake.

Generally, the lake is in good condition. However, last year's seechi disk reading indicated that water quality at the end of the summer was down in comparison with previous years at this time. While this is not scientifically conclusive (spring rains prior to last season were unusually high and could be responsible) increased development on and near our lake will effect water quality and warmer weather patterns are resulting in some problems for the lake.

Currently, our Board of Director are a diverse group composed of year round Dexter residents as well as seasonal residents.

Each year several of our officers attend state-wide water conferences where we learn and pass along useful information about good lake management practices. We also have provided educational activities for young people about lake environments.

This year, we are planning two sessions with the well known Chewonki traveling natural history group. One session will involve lake ecology and the other with raptor birds in the area.

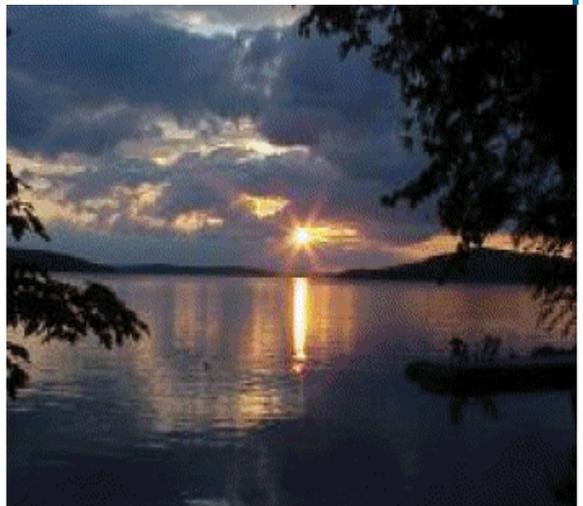
Our dues are modest and if new members simply join and attend our annual meeting it would be helpful.

We continue to encourage lake owners to have their property evaluated by qualified personnel from the Penobscot Soil and Water Department. This program is strictly voluntary and can be useful in learning about landscaping at the lake as well as how to deal with water run-off and other problems.

For people who would like to become more involved, we could use your help for a few hours maintaining the demonstration buffer by the town beach, also we welcome new ideas and suggestions for our organization.

This years annual meeting will be held at the K of C hall on Wednesday, July 11th at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully, Edward Graham, President



Boat Launch

Last summer's discussions regarding the state's proposed development of the boat launch site on Lake Wassookeag (Route 23) reflects state-wide issues concerning lake access.

Maine has 6000 lakes, more than all other New England states combined. Lakes in Maine generate 3.5 billion annually for Maine's economy. Every year visitors to Maine lakes spend almost 2.3 billion on lake related uses and activities. This sustains 52,000 jobs for Maine citizens.

640,000 Maine residents, in one way or another use Maine lakes and are moving and settling closer to them everyday. While lakes are vital to Maine's economy, the increasing development and activity is making it more difficult to maintain good water quality. One half of Maine's citizens depend on lakes for drinking water. Water quality affects property values and the economy as well.

A study that evaluated lakefront property prices on Pushaw Lake revealed that if water quality improved by 1 meter, property value increased on the average by approximately \$5,000 per resident (for a total of 7 million for the whole lake). If water quality degraded by the same amount, property values decreased by \$7,000 per owner.

Therefore, it is very crucial to find the balance between the need to maintain good water quality while at the same time providing recreational income for the state. Discussions are taking place at the state level to investigate the possibility of legislative action to help with this problem.

The DLA's main interest at this point is to see that road run off at this launch



Boat Inspection

On the 4th of July weekend the DLA will conduct a boat inspection for invasive plants at the State launch site. Trained volunteers will conduct the voluntary inspections and will distribute informative pamphlets about the subject.

Currently there are 250 state boat ramps in the state of Maine, 95 of which have summer-long inspections taking place (some lakes have more than one launch site). Presently in Maine, there are 27 water bodies known to be infested with invasive aquatic plants. Twenty-two of these are infested with variable water milfoil and only one pond is infested with Eurasian water-milfoil which is the most damaging kind.

The problem in Maine has not been as severe as in neighboring states where damage by wide-spread infestation has involved a great deal of time and money to deal with the problem.

Details of the inspection date will be in the local paper.

For More Information

The Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (virtual Herbarium) has a very informative website that features a collection of photos, line drawings and scanned images for eleven invasive Maine aquatic plants.

<http://www.mciap.org/herbarium>





A special thanks to George Sampson and Lois Richmond for their caring work for the benefit of the quality of our lakes. We appreciate your dedication and service in recent years.

Repairs to begin on the Dam.

The repairs on the Wassookeag dam will begin no later than July 9th and if weather permits, it will start earlier.

The present dam was rebuilt in the mid 80's when it replaced an antique wooden structure. The availability of water is originally what attracted first settlers to Dexter. In 1801, Samuel Elkins arrived here and proceeded to construct mills that ground grain and could provide lumber for building. Since Dexter is situated at 420 feet above sea level, it was an ideal place to build these mills because within the first mile of the township the water level drops approx 150 feet, therefore providing good water power.



In the early days, the lake level was at least 20 feet lower than it is today and the little lake was not much more than a bog.

Early settlers constructed a rock channel to direct water to a holding pond at the present site of the Abbott mill (which is claimed to be the first woolen factory in Maine). As time went on, there were over 16 mills in town that were used for such activities as: a creamery, newspaper office, machine shop, wood working, carding wool, etc. In the late 1800's, town electric was produced by water power and a water wheel, (located behind what is the parking lot behind Tilson's store). This is what Central Maine Power used to water power to provide electric for the town.

The project this summer is intended to enlarge the existing spillway by installing two additional spillways as well as replacing a portion of the west kike to control leakage. These repairs will give operators greater control in maintaining water levels as well.

A cofferdam will dewater the area where the work will be done and water levels should remain relatively normal this summer as a 3 foot culvert will permit water to flow downstream



The lake was first completely covered by ice in mid January. Ice was out by April 30th.



Dexter Lakes Association

MAILING ADDRESS

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



Dexter Lakes Association Membership Form

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



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

