



# Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

## President's Message

### ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 16TH

7:00 PM

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEXTER, ME

As we begin the eighth season of the Dexter Lakes Association, I believe the role our lake association in the maintenance of water quality for Lake Wassoosag and Puffer's Pond, is as important as ever.

In general, Maine lakes are more threatened than ever before. New development with larger year-round houses, aging septic systems, widespread land sales, disappearance of natural buffers around lakes, as well as global warming are some causes of these problems. Also, invasive plants have reached as far as Belgrade Lakes. Many of these factors are affecting our lakes and the cumulative impact has certainly necessitated the need for cooperative lake management.

The positive response of Dexter Town officials, Maine State organizations, legislation, along with the much needed help of local lake volunteers has continued to help meet these challenges. People living in our lake watershed have been cooperative with programs that are designed to help benefit the quality of our drinking water source. Thirteen more property owners participated in the Lake Smart program that attempts to

prevent erosive material from reaching the lake. We now have over 60 property owners who have utilized this free assistance. Twenty-six boat inspections were completed last summer. People around the lake are working together to improve the camp roads. Rubber razors that help divert rain-water run-off have been placed on camp roads and driveways.



These efforts have been encouraging. According to a recent lake survey, 40% of Maine lakes have shown a decline in lake water quality, 41% have shown an improvement. Lake Wassoosag and Puffers Pond are still lakes with good ratings, though there has been some decline in water clarity compared to Secchi disk readings

taken several years ago.

Join us at our annual July meeting to see how you can be part of keeping your lake healthy.

Edward Graham  
President

### BOARD MEMBERS

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924-7820

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924-6610

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924-5705

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924-~~3339~~5559



## Rubber Razors

By: Bessie Wright

The Penobscot soil and Water conservation District partnered with the Camp Dexter Road Association to install five rubber razors on their road. Several other camp homeowners placed these rubber razors in their driveways. Rubber razors are an inexpensive yet very effective way of protecting camp roads/driveways, diverting storm water to treatment areas, such as vegetated areas called rain gardens.

## Rain Barrels

More people are becoming aware of an innovative way to capture rainwater that comes off their roof. This water can be used to water gardens, indoor plants and even small patches of lawn. Otherwise this water may become polluted storm water runoff.

During the summer it is estimated that the average household uses 40% of their water bill for lawn and garden purposes. A one inch rain on an average sized roof produces 700 gallons of rainwater runoff.

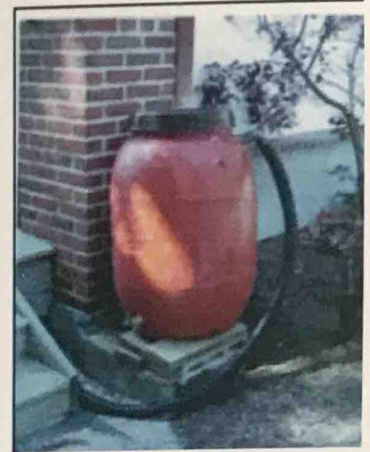
Rainwater contains no chlorine, lime or calcium. It tends to have fewer sediments and dissolved salts than municipal water. While it is not drinkable because of roofing material, plants love the soft chemical free water.

Rain barrels can be placed beneath the down spout (the downspout needs to be cut at the appropriate height) so the water can flow directly onto the screen at the top of the barrel. If you don't have gutters, the barrel can be placed in a location that receives the greatest flow of water off the roof.

Rain barrels cost between \$80.00 and \$200.00. They can even be homemade. Rainwater should be used within two weeks otherwise the water in the barrel can become a breeding place for mosquitoes.

Barrels can be purchased at garden stores or some hardware stores.

A 60 gallon barrel can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of tap/well water on average during dry summer months.



Last year, the PSCD began implementing Dexter Lakes Project, Phase II. The goal of which is to improve water quality for Lake Wassookeag and Puffer's Pond.

Laura Wilson of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension coordinated the 8 session watershed steward program. Participants received in depth education about Lake Wassookeag, Puffer's Pond and watersheds in general. It was attended by DLA members and directors as well as local contractors who work on camp properties.

## Muskrats



Watching a muskrat body surf down a small stream next to our cabin, we were reminded how we share the lake with these aquatic rodents. Their fur has been considered valuable and in the past some people considered them edible. Adults reach 25" in length and weigh 2-4 lbs. They have a gestations period of 29 days and can birth up to 5 litters a year of 5 kits per litter.

Muskrats can hold their breath up to 12 minutes and few muskrats reach 4 years of age. They feed on aquatic vegetation, fresh water claims, frogs and fish.

Have you seen any other wildlife in or near our lake? If so, share your story or pictures with us.

## Dexter Lakes Day

Planning is underway for Dexter Lakes Day, this season to be held at the same location, the public beach, on August 8th. This year the Dexter Utility District will again open the water filtration plant to the public. Last year, the people who toured the plant were very impressed by the facility. This opportunity would be an ideal experience for groups of young people to learn how Dexter takes care of its water system.

Hours for tours will be 11:00 and 12:00

For more information call: 924-6610

In addition, other activities, similar to last year include:

- plant sale
- free ice cream cones for youngsters who participate
- septic system and road association information
- children's creative arts
- organic farmers market
- Invasive water plant station
- Maine Conservatory Institute floating classroom
- rain barrels for sale and more.

**Come and enjoy and learn more about lake care.**



*At Dexter Lakes Day the kids designed their own t-shirts depicting what they think is special about the Dexter Lakes.*

## Important Dates

July 11th

**Maine Volunteer Lake Monitors  
Program Annual Meeting—Turner**

July 16<sup>th</sup>,

**DLA Annual Meeting, Dexter K of C  
7:00 PM**

July 21st

**Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop,  
Univ. of Maine, Orono 3-8PM**

Aug 8th

**Dexter Lakes Day  
Public Beach, 10:00—2:00**

**It is recommended by the DEP, that landowners around the lake employ certified shore land contractors as part of the permitting process. These workers are familiar with shoreline rules and regulations.**

## Sucker Brook

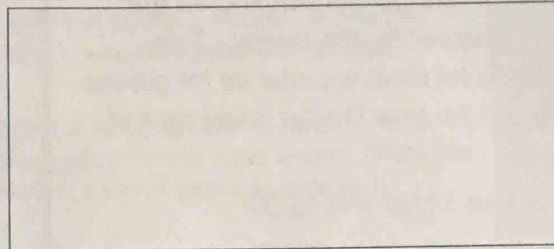
As a result of a Penobscot Soil and Water grant, and with the help of DLA volunteers, two projects should be completed this summer. The run off and flooding problems at Sucker Brook is one project that town and PSW efforts plan to clean out culverts in the area and will rechannel the stream so it won't go directly into the lake. This new work will be fortified with rip-rap to stabilize the stream.

The second project will be to continue the repair on Bear Road located on the east side of Lake Wassookeag. Road work will also prevent water runoff into the lake.

# Dexter Lakes Association

## Mailing Address

Dexter Lakes Association  
c/o Peggy Kaufman Treasurer  
8 Ireland Lane  
Dexter, ME 04930



If you would like future newsletters emailed to you, please contact us at

[esgraham695@wmconnect.com](mailto:esgraham695@wmconnect.com)

## Invasive Plants

The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLP) will hold an Invasive Plant Patrollers Workshop on July 21, 2009 at the University of Maine, Orono

from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. To date over 1650 individual volunteers have participated statewide in this course.

The program promotes prevention, early detection and rapid response for Invasive Aquatic plants. In addition, observers can keep an eye on the development of algae blooms as well as native plants that may become too prolific as a result of excessive run-off of phosphorus in the water.

We believe that our association has been most successful when we have been involved in a teamwork approach with other groups. This was true when we did our part in working with the State to help form the Town Drinking Source Water Committee and our assistance with the Penobscot Soil and Water Conservation District in obtaining grant money to help with erosion issues around the lake.

We believe that if we have enough volunteers from our watershed community, a teamwork effort to monitor our water source would be very beneficial to the lake.

This would require attending the free workshop course and then simple examining of one hundred yards of lake (once or twice a season) for a total of 2-3 hours of time.

This year we are hoping to have 15 volunteers for this 5 hour session. Call Ed at 924-7820 for further information.

If you have not paid  
your dues, please send  
your \$10.00 to :

Peg Kaufman

8 Ireland Lane

Dexter, ME 04930

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE DLA LINK  
ON [WWW.DEXTERMAINE.ORG](http://WWW.DEXTERMAINE.ORG)  
LINK UNDER CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**