



Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 14TH

7:00 PM

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEXTER, ME



President's Message

The Dexter Lakes Association has completed the ninth year of working with the town and community to help maintain good water quality on Lake Wassookeag. Clean water is beneficial for recreational activities as well as providing healthy drinking water for the town of Dexter.

Several years ago the EPA informed the US Congress that about 64% of the surveyed lakes throughout the country were too polluted for swimming and fishing. We don't want that to happen here. We believe whoever is living on Dexter's lakes also has the responsibility for lake management practices that protect water quality.

One of the goals of the DLA is to be involved in and provide educational programs. The DLA is a member of the Dexter Source Water committee that is made up of a group of stakeholders from the town who are involved with water quality issues. There are only a few towns in the State who have a group of this kind.

Last year members from the DLA attended 3 state water conferences (COLA, MVLP and the Maine State Water Conference). We learned about new State regulations, new management practices and kept current about threats

to our water bodies. This was shared at our annual meeting, informational booths at Dexter Lakes Day and Wild West Weekend.

Last season we had more volunteers become qualified as Invasive Plant monitors. Currently we have 12 monitors and we are hoping for more volunteers who can observe their small areas to see what is happening in Lake Wassookeag and Puffers Pond.



Working with the Penobscot Soil and Water Conservation District, we have been able to help the Bear-Elk Lane Road Association receive assistance from the District to upgrade their camp road --read Dan Hutchins article in the newsletter.

We still encourage more participation in the LakeSmart Program and the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program. Let's raise our numbers in these areas as well as membership...all for the good of our lakes.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting, July 14 and hearing from you.

Respectfully,
Ed Graham, President

BOARD MEMBERS

President, Edward Graham
924-7820

Vice President, Neil Crane
924-3767

Treasurer, Michael Ann Wells, 924-3077

Secretary, Steve Wintle
924-5559

Director, Rich Pfirman
924-3370

Director, Vern Crane
924-5412

Director, Peg Kaufman
924-6610

Director, Jim Sherburne
924- 5705

Fish Tales, by Alicia Thompson



Quite early in the morning last summer, while looking out on Big Wassookeag, a mug of hot tea in hand, I noticed a bird seeming to have great difficulty making it's way to shore. Flailing it's wings, it struggled to swim, making me think it was injured. I called my husband, Charlie, to come and witness this event and went to get the binoculars too. We watched from the screen porch as this rather large bird finally succeeded in getting safely to the beach. It still appeared encumbered by something at it's claws as it stumbled a few feet more to the grassy buffer. Closer examination revealed it was an eagle that had caught something in its talons, apparently too heavy to carry while flying. This eagle, whom we had earlier in the week seen soaring with his partner above the lake, left his burden and flew away. Even with the binoculars it was not possible to discern what he had delivered to the shore.

We waited for a while, thinking he would return to reclaim his treasure, but instead, his partner, (a differently colored eagle we took to be his wife), swooped in, landed, and took inventory of this prize. After a few moments, she too flew away toward the west.

Charlie and I waited for a long time before walking to the water's edge to see close up what the eagle had brought. We were amazed to see the very good sized fish that the majestic eagle had valiantly struggled to bring in and wondered why neither Mr. nor Mrs. Eagle returned to get their bounty and take it home to enjoy. Maybe they'd had the same kind of fish for dinner the night before?

Calling all Kayaks

On the morning of July 24th, as part of Dexter's Summerfest Day, the DLA is planning kayak races and a kayak get together for those who don't wish to race.

Event will take place starting near the boat launch on the campgrounds. Details will be presented at the DLA meeting (7/14/10) Nessi's Ice Cream Stop has generously offered kayaks for small fee of \$5.00 for the morning event.

Time: 8:00—11:00



Dexter Lakes Day--children looking at underwater microscopic aquatic life



Wild West Weekend 2009 DLA Information Booth

Annual Meeting

We hope you will attend our annual meeting this year to be held at the Dexter K of C Hall on Wednesday, July 14th. Everyone is welcome. The main speaker is Tom Gordon who presently is the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Conservation Districts. Among other credentials, he is a former past president of the Maine Congress of Lakes Association (COLA). He has had a lifelong love of lakes and has worked hard for ecological sound management of Maine lakes and watersheds. His current interest is in how lakes and our stories about lakes may serve to reawaken a deeper spirit of place and a more sustainable relationship with nature.

Lake News: By Dan Hutchins

On Bear and Elk Lane we have about .6 mile of camp road and 30 property owners. Over the years only a few people have been involved in road maintenance. Two years ago during the spring thaw, the road was impassable for 2-3 weeks.

We established the Bear Elk Lane Association last year to get all our property owners involved. We formed by-laws; elected a moderator, secretary, treasurer, and two road commissioners. The town collects a premium on tax bills from us, but will only accept a road that meets certain requirements.

Many of us are also involved in the Dexter Lakes Association and became aware of a grant through the Penobscot Soil and Water Conservation District to help improve runoff that would contribute to the pollution of Lake Wassookeag. As an example, my camp is at the bottom of the hill at the beginning of Bear Lane. During heavy rains the road bed looked more like a steam that turned down my driveway and directly into the lake — causing the water to be brown with run-off.

Ed Graham, President of DLA, Neil Crane, Vice Pres of the DLA and Supervisor of PSWCD and Chris Brewer of the Penobscot Soil and Water Conservation District (members of the original Watershed Survey) helped move this project forward. Jack Downing worked hard at getting camp owners involved and preparing and directing the paperwork through proper channels so that we were awarded a \$25,000 grant.

The grant needed to be used to prevent soil erosion in the lake by proper ditching, placing culverts, etc. Soil and Conservation Engineer John Simon gave us the detailed specs and we hired McKusick Construction to do the work.

It was a 60/40 grant, meaning we received about \$15,000 and were responsible for \$10,000. The Bear Lake Association agreed on dues of \$200.00 for year round owners and \$150.00 for seasonal owners to cover this cost. We were able to work off some of the \$10,000 by cutting trees, hauling brush, seeding and placing hay on the finished job.

The beginning of Bear Lane with the steep hill is finished. Matt McKusick did a great job. The road is now crowned to deep ditches and concrete culverts in two locations. This year we're planning to ditch the north side of Elk Lane and work on the middle section of the road between Barry Hughes' and Lewis Trembly's. Many hands make light work. It's been a good way to meet many special neighbors and to make our road better for all.

P.S. Other lake property owners living on smaller camp roads, who have not officially formed road associations, nevertheless have been working together to improve their roads.

Lawns on the Lake

Lawns around the lake still pose a problem for water quality. Professor Douglas Tallamy, professor of Entomology and Wildlife at the University of Delaware, points out in his article "Gardening for Life" that Americans now mow an area the size of Missouri every weekend during the growing season. This loss of biodiversity has an impact on wildlife (from bugs to birds and others that are all part of lake ecology) that depend on native growth for food and shelter. Also, lawns without plant variety become semi-impervious surfaces that can deliver unwanted pollutants into the lake. Lawns are fine if there is an adequate buffer near the edge of the water and/or more native plants and vegetation dispersed throughout the open lawn area. This stops runoff as well as sustain the wildlife.

Wonders of Water

When we drink one glass of water, it flows through our body and will satisfy the needs of some 50 trillion cells. Once you are properly hydrated, your blood will carry up to 4x more oxygen to your brain and body. Even though water is composed of 2 parts hydrogen and 1 part oxygen, the percentage of oxygen in the make-up of water is 85.6. The reason for this is that oxygen atoms are larger than those of hydrogen. These facts emphasize how important good clean water is to our bodies.

Dexter Lakes Association



If you would like future newsletters emailed to you, please contact us at
esgraham@optonline.net

LakeSmart: A Way You Can Help Protect Your Lake

What you do on the land **DOES** affect the lake!

The LakeSmart Program recognizes property owners in lake watersheds who manage and landscape their property to protect lake water quality. Clearly it is in everyone's best interest to **take action to protect lake water quality**. Landscaping and managing you property in an environmentally friendly manner through LakeSmart is a way to do YOUR PART in protecting YOUR lake while beautifying and increasing the value of your lot.

Homeowners may schedule a visit (totally educational not enforcement) for a LakeSmart evaluation by contacting Peg Kaufman at 924-6610, Sandy Graham at 924-7820, or the local Soil and Water Conservation District 990-3676. For more information visit the website at www.MaineDEP.com.

To date, over 60 property owners have participated in this program and we'd like to increase this number. Let's do what's best for our Lake Wassookeag and Puffers Pond.

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

Michael Ann Wells

PO Box 25

Dexter, ME 04930

924-3077

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE DLA LINK
ON WWW.DEXTERMAINE.ORG
LINK UNDER CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**