



# Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011

## ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 13TH

7:00 PM

K OF C

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEXTER, ME



## President's Message

Summer is here again (at least by the calendar) and we at the Lake Association hope you will enjoy the beauty of Lake Wassookeag this year. That continues to be the reason for our existence, striving to keep this lake in pristine condition.

Several lake property owners took a course last summer to help identify any invasive plants not native to this lake. We divided the shoreline into areas we will monitor periodically during the summer months. We are looking for volunteers from Puffer's Pond to do the same. We encourage others to be trained so we can be sure that all the shoreline can be covered. Available times and places for this training are on the MVLMP website ([mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/](http://mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/) workshops) and will be mentioned at our annual meeting. Our New England neighbors are suffering with major invasive plant infestations; Maine has 33 affected lakes. We do not want this to increase--so volunteers to the rescue!

The DLA also has a few volunteers trained to do courtesy boat inspections at the boat launch especially on heavy boating or fishing events. A class will be available this summer to increase these helpers.

The DLA continues to promote the Lake Smart Program in cooperation with the DEP and the University of Maine Extension. This program teaches us good management of our lake shore areas in front of cottages around the lake. This, too, is a volunteer effort by property owners to learn about buffers, low impact fertilizer products and other management tools for a clean lake.



Last summer, as part of DexterFest, the DLA held its first kayak race. 15 participants from ages 8-80 paddled their courses, received certificate and ice-cream prizes. We hope to repeat this event in the future.

We are proud that this is our 10th anniversary. We have many accomplishments--yet, we have much more to learn, share and do. We look for your input, ideas, help.

Come to our annual meeting --July 13th at the K of C Hall 7PM and help us celebrate this DLA anniversary.

Respectfully,  
Neil Crane, 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, Karen White**  
212-6794

**Director, Dan Hutchins**  
924-7064

## 2011 Celebrations

Maine Congress of  
Lake Associations  
(COLA) - 41 Years

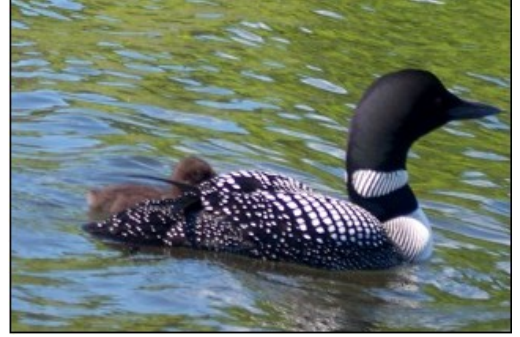
Maine Volunteer Lake  
Monitoring Program  
40 Years

Dexter Lakes  
Association  
10 Years



**Loosestrife Plants  
are considered  
invasive, please  
remove from near  
lake property.**

I grew up in Dexter, on the west end of the lake we love so much. My grandfather, Don Holsapple, saw the beauty of our lake fifty years ago, when he started to run a boys' camp with my grandmother Betty. He's lived there ever since, and even though I moved away with my parents twenty years ago, we've always come back to the lake every summer.



The lake is our spiritual place. It anchors us and is the focus of our summer activities. We spend all day every day together on the lake. And we never, ever leave Dexter without saying goodbye to Wassookeag.

Last year, my brother Nate and I bought a place together just off the Shore Road, less than two miles from the house my father built and we grew up in. We love the time we are able to spend there, and it is a shared home away from home for our extended family. Our place is a family camp, and when we first went to look at it, we all went together: all of my brothers, my parents, and our spouses. I'm sure the neighbors thought we were crazy, and I know the realtor wasn't sure who to deal with. It didn't really matter. It was a shared decision. Besides, we were really filling up my uncle's place at the end of the lake and needed the extra space!

We have always loved Dexter, but having a place of our own on our lake has brought us all closer. Our family has always travelled -- I live in the Canadian Arctic, my parents live in the southern U.S., Nate is from Alberta, and one of my other brothers spent several years in Japan -- but the lake has always been where we all get back together, and our house is always busy and full in the summertime. We have what people in the Arctic would call "feasts": a dozen or two dozen people crowded around the table, sharing a huge meal. We light campfires and sing traditional songs. Our tradition calls for *Ohio* and *Like a Rolling Stone*, which we sing as a responsorial hymn, with my father as the cantor and the rest of us as the choir:

CANTOR: Once upon a time, you dressed so fine, threw the bums a dime in your prime...

CHOIR: Didn't you?

CANTOR: People'd call, say, "Beware, doll, you're bound to fall"; you thought they were all...

CHOIR: Kidding you!

While I'm away, I check in on the lake every day. (Thanks for the Lake Wassookeag Webcam, Doug Clukey!) Each spring morning, I check to see how much ice has melted. Each evening, I watch a video of the previous day's lakecam shots: twelve hours in about 60 seconds. It always starts in deep blue. Then a flash of gold comes over the sky, and the sun rises. I watch the kayaking in the summer and the icefishing in the winter.

**I can't wait to come home in July.**

**A few reminders to help keep our Lake clean include:  
cleaning up after your dogs, please do not feed the ducks  
(they can cause swimmers itch) and please no bathing in the  
lake,**

## A Jewel of Wassookeag: By Karen White

Did you know that there is a hidden jewel on big Lake Wassookeag? Well, there are probably many, depending on a person's perspective.

My hidden jewel is "behind the island," a place that I love and have watched change for years. The wild life abounds there and the only living thing that I have yet to see is a moose. There are plenty of times when a person could feel like he would just walk out of the reeds for a drink of water or a lily pad for lunch.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of watching the land change, plants come and go, birds of all kinds, active beaver lodges, muskrat swimming, large snapping turtles, many small painted turtles, frogs mating, dragon and damsel flies hatching and the most beautiful spider webs covered with dew in the early morning sun.

The birds are absolutely beautiful. I have watched Loons, Great Blue Herons, Osprey, Bald Eagles, Cedar Waxwings eating hatching damsel flies, Red-Winged Blackbirds sounding an alarm every time I approach, Sand pipers looking for food, Kingfishers looking for and catching a fish, Sparrows and Warblers hiding in the brush. Once there was a nest of Eastern Flycatchers right at the edge of the water. Got to see the babies right after they hatched.

### My most memorable sights have been:

1. The day I saw a Bittern standing so still he looked like a log. I had always wanted to see one and knew that they must be in the marsh some where! Came around a corner and there he was. Only a minute though, then he made a loud squawking noise and flew away.
2. A loon sitting on her nest, just watching as I took pictures. She never went into a defensive position and actually let me watch her every day till the chick hatched. Then, she let me follow her, as she taught the chick how to find food, and dive. The best part was the day she tried to get the chick to eat a crawfish. He was having no part of it. Spit it out every time! Good mom that she was, she picked it up and gave it back to him, many times. Finally, it went down. I really had to smile at that. Just like any kid, aren't they??
3. I discovered a plant that is called Bog Rosemary. Took me almost one whole summer to ID it and I have only found one plant. Is it rare? I don't know but, it is really exciting to find something new and different. The amazing thing is that all of this is free for the enjoyment of all. Get yourself some patience, a kayak or canoe, and a calm lake (and a camera if you want to take some memories home). Take that paddle and see what jewels you can find.



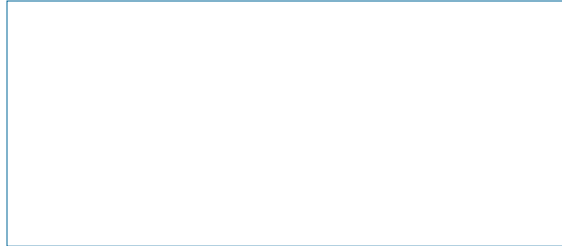
In 2010 the Dexter Water District provided 940 service connections to town residents and commercial buildings with water from Lake Wassookeag. This output amounted to 45,462,000 gallons of water.

The town of Dexter is fortunate to have this valuable water resource. In many parts of the world convenient access to clean water is not the case. One out of 8 people lack access to clean water and 3.3 million die from water-related health problems each year. Water shortages are becoming more acute. Nearly 70% of the world's fresh water is locked in ice. Most of the rest is in aquifers that are being drained more quickly than the natural recharge rate. Two-thirds of our fresh water is used to grow food and with 83 million more people on earth each year, the demand for water keeps rising. Therefore, it is necessary for us to maintain our water supply wisely.

In addition to providing drinking water, Lake Wassookeag contributes to the Dexter economy by bringing local and seasonal recreationalists year round to the lake. In a recent national survey, vacationers ranked going to the beach or a lake as their favorite outdoor activity. More Americans fish than play golf or tennis combined. The Dexter Water District has provided quality water and our lake has not experienced any serious water problems. However, many nearby states and even some waterbodies in Maine have issues of declining water quality. We think it is more important than ever to take steps to continue to protect Lake Wassookeag very important that we all be aware of the types of problems that could affect Lake Wassookeag.

The DLA appreciates working with the town officials involving efforts to maintain good water quality for Dexter as well as many of our lake residents who have cooperated in these efforts.

# Dexter Lakes Association



If you would like future newsletters emailed to you, please contact us at  
[esgraham@optonline.net](mailto:esgraham@optonline.net)

## Camp Roads

Camp roads have been an important subject in our yearly newsletter. State environmental organizations and lake associations consider gravel roads and associated ditches to be the largest source of pollution in Maine lakes. The State legislatures are particularly concerned about lakes that provide town drinking water. In order to be prepared for any changes in State and Town mandated requirements concerning camp roads, camp road groups should be aware of what needs to be done.

Almost yearly some sand and gravel on camp roads needs to be replaced. The sand that has eroded doesn't necessarily stay in the nearby ditches. Rain and snow wash the sand and gravel into the lake which clouds the water and makes it difficult for fish and aquatic insects to feed and reproduce. In addition, road run-off carries many different kinds of pollution into the lake.

Several years ago the Maine legislators passed the Clean Water Act which requires towns that obtain their drinking water from a lake to support State mandates for camp roads. This season Dexter's Code Enforcement Officer will be inspecting all camp roads around Lake Wassookeag to determine the quality of maintenance for these roads.

In the past few years, many lake residents have been aware of these concerns and have been improving their camp roads. Roads that are designed to shed water into nearby wooded areas and are well ditched and have well-designed culvert crossings require less money to maintain, save wear and tear on cars, and, very importantly help prevent unwanted pollutants from reaching the lake.

The town will provide help and information for roads that need improvement and assist in establishing a plan to follow for meeting requirements.

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](http://WWW.DEXTERMAINE.ORG)  
LINK UNDER CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**