



Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2012

ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 11TH

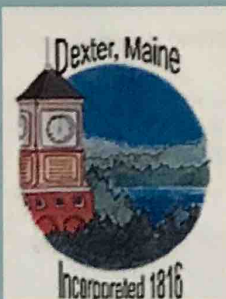
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COLUMBUS HALL

DEXTER, ME



President's Message

Dear Shore Owners,

The DLA's main focus continues to be promoting education and training to maintain good water quality for town drinking water and support recreational activities such as fishing, boating and swimming, thereby securing solid property values for us all. We continue to hear how much we all love and appreciate our lake, but do we always do all we can to protect it?

The EPA's National Lake Assessment revealed that 43% of our nations lakes fail to meet water quality standards. Presently, we enjoy a full range of uses on one of Maine most beautiful and clear water resources , and it enables Dexter to provide safe drinking water at one of the least costly rates.

Experts in water quality management report to us that additional stress on the lake from even minimal amounts of nutrients, phosphorus and nitrogen can cause irreversible damage to our water quality. Studies have found that the cutting of treed shorelines and removal of low brush cover, while seemingly harmless, can

cause significant changes to the health of the lake. Experts recommend strict oversight and control of development, for every lot regardless of size and adherence to best practices to eliminate pollution from runoff.

Over the past 11 years, the board of directors has reviewed commercial growth proposals for an additional boat ramp and a marina. Ultimately we could not support increased pressure on Dexter's drinking water source.



June 2012 in Dexter, ME

Thank you for all your continued concern and

support to our lake. Have a great summer in paradise and we hope to see you at our Annual Meeting.

Respectfully,
Steve Wintle, President

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97% of the Earth's surface is salt water.

3% is locked in ice

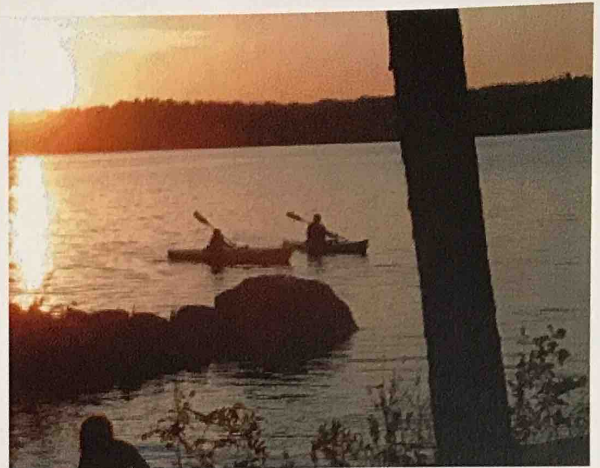
1% is fresh water to be used by everyone on earth

Much of that 1% is polluted



We appreciate the work the director/volunteer Don Hutchins has done for Lake Wassookeag. Maine has one of the best volunteer lake programs in New England.

This past summer volunteers were able to investigate the entire circumference of the larger part of Lake Wassookeag. Even though the DLA is pleased with this accomplishment, we believe it would be even more beneficial to the lake if all waterfront property owners around the lake, DLA members or not, could be more aware of what is needed to maintain good water quality. Many non-members do an excellent job of doing this already.



The overall water quality in Lake Wassookeag still tests well, but there are changes to be considered. There is an increased development with more year round homes. Secchi disc readings show some decline in recent years, and aerial photographs reveal more green growth underwater. The Dexter Water District has found it necessary to clean it's sand water filtration system more frequently. Increasingly invasive plants are creeping into Maine Lakes and property owners can help by being aware of any new kinds of plants in front of their property as well as observing a more rapid growth in natural plants in their vicinity.

By observing changes of underwater plant life in front of your property, along with being aware of what is taking place on your property during heavy rain storms are ways to help check pollution from entering the lake. The DLA could help with any questions you may have about lake problems or we could direct your questions to resources who would be helpful. Unfortunately, some of the volunteers from Puffers Pond are no longer able to help and we hope to be able to find new ones

Often when State officials or volunteer organizations visit Lake Wassookeag, they comment regarding the numbers of homes around the lake that have large green lawns right to the edge of the water. These lawns have replaced the natural ecological balance of the lake near the shoreline and allow an increase of nitrogen and phosphorus run-off into the lake. By planting buffers near the shoreline or having dispersed areas of vegetation on the lawn, erosion to the lake is halted.

Members who are not volunteers are helpful by supporting the DLA's efforts, paying the modest yearly dues (\$10.00 per person per year), attending our yearly meeting in July and offering positive suggestions for improvements or change.

Lake Wassookeag is truly a jewel of a lake. It is important to understand how to take care of things that have significant value. We all have a part to play in this process.

**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 with
soap in the lake.**

Opening Camp: by Karen White

We opened camp early this year. What with the early spring and ice being out we decided it was safe to put the water in. That is just the beginning of opening camp. Then to cleaning, making beds, getting out chairs, kayaks, etc. (We didn't find any nature inside-the mice must have found a new home.) OK by me!!

Saturday met us with wind blowing different ways all day until it finally settled on the northeast. Not too warm and if you weren't where it was blowing the black flies were out in force. Sunday was warmer and calmer but it showered off and on all day.

Loved looking into the woods. Did you notice that spring always shows yellow, like a celebration of being so bleak in the winter? Yellow dandelions dotted the lawn but my favorites are the dog tooth violets in the woods. They were there in full force with a few red "stinking benjamins" trillium to accent the yellow.

There was a loon swimming by, but only saw one and didn't hear any later in the evening. Thinking they all aren't here yet. They come a few at a time so the next couple of weeks should bring the chorus back.

A woodpecker was calling his mate by rapping on a hallow tree. Sounded like he was taking out the tree completely. Would like to think it might be a Pileated one, but could not find him to be sure. There are many on the lake, they have a distinctive rectangular hole that they make in a tree. I have watched them pull 4-6 inch pieces out and throw them three or four feet away from the tree. Dead trees still standing are their favorite!

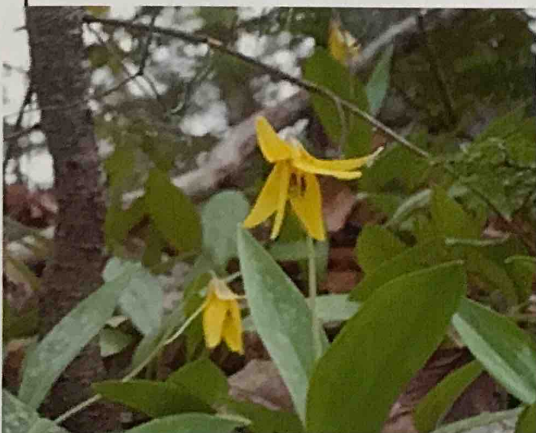
Oh, a humming bird flew by, but there wasn't much for him to eat in my yard yet.

The tree frogs will soon be back and the dragon flies will hatch under our dock. This always is a good show for all. It takes an hour or so to completely hatch and dry their wings and I am always amazed at the transformation they make.

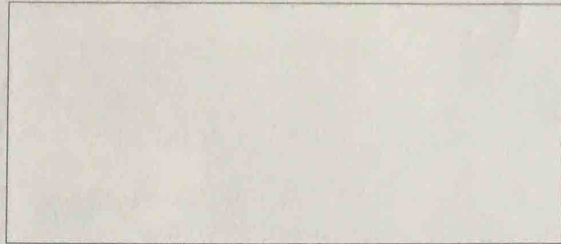
What can you discover as you sit in the peace and quiet of your deck or dock? Let us know about it so we can print your discoveries next year.
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Karen White is a DLA Board Member who enjoys kayaking on the lake, taking pictures and writing about her experiences on the lake.



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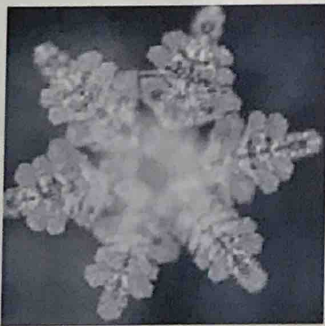


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esgraham@optonline.net

Water Crystals

Dr. Masaru Emoto, a Japanese scientist, has been a pioneer in the study of water crystals for several decades. Using a high powered microscope along with a high-speed camera he has photographed thousands of newly formed frozen water crystals. Remarkable, his findings indicate that producing different words and music to these water samples can change their form.

A Mozart symphony will create crystals that are very beautiful in shape and size, while water taken from very polluted water produces very deformed shapes, shrunken in size. Other researchers are conducting similar studies in order to continue this work. These findings certainly could change the way we look at water.



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

Michael Ann Wells

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924-3077

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