



# Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

## ANNUAL MEETING

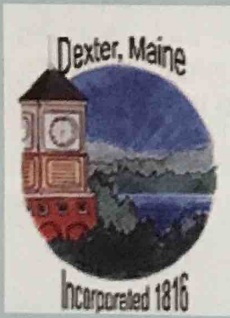
JULY 10TH

7:00 PM

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEXTER, ME



## Board Message

Welcome Members and friends,

E B WHITE, in his essay "Once More to the Lake", describes the excitement he had when returning with his family to their familiar Maine lake each new season. The scent of the pine laden air and the smell of the wooden cabin brought happy memories. We hope that you share this excitement as well when you return to your Lake Wassookeag/ Puffers Pond summer vacations.

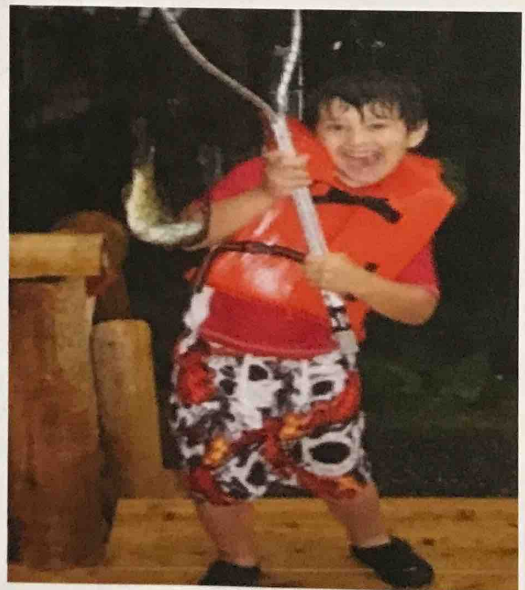
Each June representatives from the DLA attend the Maine Lakes Conference at Colby College in Waterville. One of the main topics of discussion was the effects that climate change is having on lake water quality and how lakes can deal with it. Last summer, open water season for Maine Lakes came almost a month earlier than the historic average and ended the season with a later ice-out than normal. Also, an extreme rain event that lasted for two days in early June produced nearly 8 inches of rainfall, causing significant stormwater phosphorus-laden run-off. Based on recent yearly trends, weather experts predict increasing warming trends and more heavy rain events in the future.

When Dexter lake residents hauled in their docks and moorings, they were surprised to see the amount of silt collected on their equipment. Also, there were quite a few reports of dark muddy water being washed into Lake Wassookeag at these times.

This would indicate areas in the Wassookeag watershed where rainwater is not being absorbed into the ground and is ending up in the lake instead. Maine lakes that have experienced a decline in water quality have not always dealt with incremental changes that affected their lakes. More rainfall events make it even more important to have well established shore-land buffers and properly designed storm-water management structures.

Secchi disk (water quality measure) readings in Dexter's Lakes indicate some of these changes. Lake Wassookeag is a headwater lake that has many active springs that contribute to good water quality. However, climate change concerns, increased lake development that doesn't take into account stormwater run-off, as well as state budget constraints that are less able to provide funds for lake help to local communities, remain our challenge.

Thank you  
DLA Board of Directors

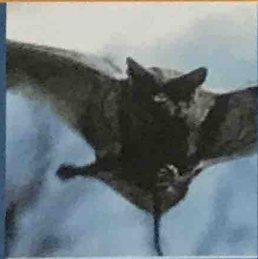


## Test Your Lake Knowledge

The DLA won a dissolved oxygen sensor .

The DO sensor will be useful for lake testing. The greater amount of dissolved oxygen in the lake, the healthier the lake. DO levels in lake water are influenced by many factors, including water temp, the concentration of algae and other plants in the water and the amount of nutrients and organic matter that flow into the water from the watershed.

### BATS



1. **What is the largest lake in Maine?**
  - A. Eagle lake
  - B. Sebago lake
  - C. Moosehead Lake
2. **Water is the temperature that holds the most oxygen?**
  - A. Warm
  - B. Cold
  - C. Medium
3. **To be distinguished a Great Pond, (or lake) they must be larger than?**
  - A. 10 acres
  - B. 30 acres
  - C. 100 acres
4. **How many acres is Lake Wassookeag?**
  - A. 878
  - B. 1062
  - C. 1215
5. **How many acres in Puffers Pond?**
  - A. 115
  - B. 85
  - C. 173
6. **The greatest depth in Lake Wassookeag is approx?**
  - A. 73 feet
  - B. 94 feet
  - C. 86 feet
7. **The greatest depth in Puffers Pond is approx?**
  - A. 46 feet
  - B. 64 feet
  - C. 52 feet
8. **The approx number of lakes in Maine?**
  - A. 5200
  - B. 6000
  - C. 3500
9. **Lakes in Maine are owned by:**
  - A. Local government
  - B. State government
  - C. Federal government

Early evening canoeists and kayakers are often surprised by bats swooping in close proximity to their heads, making it seem like the bats might land there any time. Actually the bats are helping the evening's lake outing to be more pleasant by consuming as much as 1000-3000 mosquitoes a night. Unfortunately Maine's bat population is being severely threatened by the rapid spreading "White Nose Syndrome". According to experts this could possibly reduce the bat population by 90% or more.

Some Lake Wassookeag or Puffer's Pond residents returning to their summer cabins may find an unwanted family of bats occupying their residence. Experts from the Fish and Game Department as well as the Maine Audubon Society request that they not be removed until middle or late August, otherwise the newborn bats would not be strong enough to fly. The experts are willing to help in this regard and are interested in any information you could give them about any loss of bat colonies in your area.

Maine Audubon Society---207-781-2330

Maine Fish and Game Dept---207-287-8000

## MAINE LAKES SOCIETY

Maine Lakes Society will now take over the non-regulatory LakeSmart program that was begun in 2004 by the Dept. of Environmental Protection. Because of state budget concerns, the state is no longer able to help lake programs as they did in the past, so it is up to the towns, people in the watersheds and lake shoreline homeowners to take steps to preserve their valuable water resources.

Local towns in Maine that are having the greatest success in protecting their water quality are combining local town efforts with the help of volunteers. While additional strain on lakes due to climate change is a concern, equally important is the problems of storm water run off in the watershed. The main work of the DLA has been to prevent storm water from reaching the lake as much as possible. According to studies, the LakeSmart program has been successful based on the best principles of lake protection.

Karen White, one of our DLA board members, enjoys taking many pictures each summer of the Wassookeag animal and plant life and writing about lake life as well. In describing water craft last summer she writes "seemed like there are more different ways to get around. Saw a number of paddle boards in the coves as well as the usual seadoos, jet skis, pontoon boats, motor boats, fishing boats, canoes, kayaks, and even pedal boats. Did I miss anything?"



How about wind surfers, sunfish and 2-sail sail boats. Can't forget Galen Sands umbrella/kayak! Years ago there was a red convertible amphibious car that would appear on the lake to everyone's surprise.

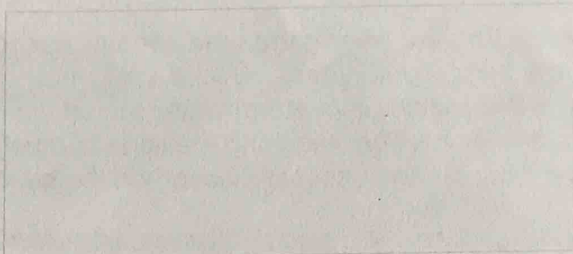
"One thing I did see that was really interesting--a flotilla of Bonaparte gulls. They are not native but must have been resting on a fly-through. They were on the lake for an hour or so, then disappeared."

Up behind the island, yellow iris have started appearing. "this is the second year I have seen them. Supposedly a non-native that should be watched. Still trying to ID more dragon flies that abound there. Every time I find something different!"

Thank you, Karen. Besides Karen's interesting observations about nature, it is useful to have people on the lake being aware of plants that could become problems. If any member or friend has pictures or lake stories, history or nature, and would like to place them in our newsletter, please contact any DLA board



# Dexter Lakes Association



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

## Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring

It would be helpful for Lake Wassookeag and Puffers Pond to have more volunteer lake monitors to keep an eye on plant life in our lakes. Having more helpers would shorten the area that each individual would have to cover and make the report more comprehensive.

Fortunately, the training course for new monitors will be given this summer at the Dover-Foxcroft Academy on July 19th from 11AM -5PM. This FREE 6 hour course provides interesting information about plant life in the lake and how to identify invasive and non-invasive plants. The time required to do the survey at their lake would be less than an hour--one time during the summer. (Some people who are on the lake for a longer period of time will often do the monitoring a second time.) You do not have to be a DLA member to participate. Call to register: 207-783-7733 or contact a DLA Board Member.

### Board Members

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Director, Dan Hutchins 924-7064

### Answers

**1-C, 2-B, 3-A, 4-B, 5 -A, 6 - C, 7-C, 8-B, 9-B**

If you have not paid

your dues, please send  
your \$10.00 to :

Michael Ann Wells

PO Box 25

Dexter, ME 04930

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