



Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

ANNUAL MEETING

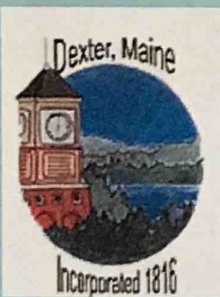
JULY 9TH

7:00 PM

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEXTER, ME



President's Message

ON BECOMING GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR DEXTER AREA LAKES

I've enjoyed all the seasons on Lake Wassookeag, but my favorite is in the summertime, especially in the early morning with a cup of coffee and listening to the sounds of the peace and beauty that the lake offers. There are so many ways to enjoy this beautiful natural resource.

Keeping our lakes clear and healthy is very important. It can be a help to understand how lakes near us are being affected. According to a state report Maine has about 5,850 lakes and ponds. 2314 of these are great ponds (bigger than 10 acres).

32 great ponds are impaired because some of the benefits we expect from them, such as drinking water quality, ability to support aquatic life and recreational uses, including fishing, boating, swimming are impacted. 239 more are at risk of becoming impaired because of development. Hundreds of others are beginning to show varying degrees of small changes over the past several years. Now 23 lakes are infested with variable leaf milfoil/ hydrilla/ Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pondweed. Maine has 5 out of 11 most unwanted invasive

aquatic plants AND the closest to us is in the Waterville area. Messalonskee stream has variable leaf milfoil.

The love of the lake and the desire to help protect it led me to the Dexter Lakes Association. This volunteer-based organization of about 125 members is committed to monitor lake quality, learning about problems that affect lakes and solving problems as they come up. Naturally, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.



Norm White and Beth LaGasse (Puffers) are our certified monitors who do secchi disk testing for clarity. In July, August and September we do the Invasive Plant Water Patrol. This involves canoeing, kayaking, or slowly boating around the perimeter of our lakes from the shore out to a depth of 4

- 6 feet looking for invasives or an over-growth of natural plants. The Maine VLMP offers a yearly excellent 6 hour workshop on identifying aquatic plants plus very helpful handouts of field guides and literature. I've patrolled the small lake for the last 3 years and have had neighbors, the Boy Scouts and friends help. So, if you like to kayak or canoe and are interested in helping, give one of the DLA Board a call.

JOIN US THIS SUMMER !
VOLUNTEERING CAN BE FUN.

The Gift of Membership

You may have noticed there's a lot of gray and white hair (Who us?) at our meetings, so it's time we start getting the next generation (or two) active in the Dexter Lake Association. So when that next birthday or holiday comes up for those kids, grandkids, nieces or nephews, that love coming to lake, consider including a DLA membership for them. They'll get this nice newsletter that reminds them of what a great lake we have and maybe they'll decide to join. Not a bad deal for only \$10.00.

Karen White has observed this invasive plant on our large lake; Dan Hutchins has observed this on the small lake.

Both have attended the Invasive Plant Patrol workshop given by the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (which the DLA helped sponsor in Dover Foxcroft last summer).

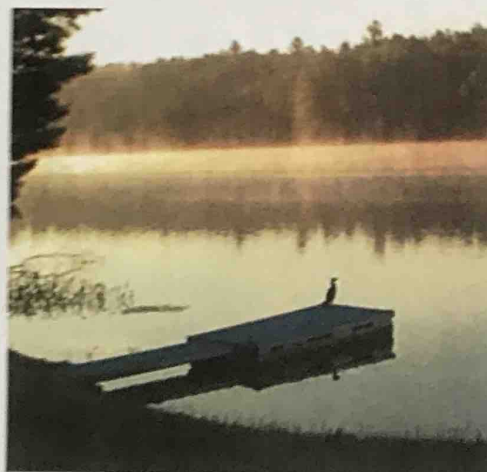
Purple loosestrife is a beautiful plant that grows near the shore. It's about 3-5 feet tall and has purple flowers running up the stem. In fact, many farmers have transplanted this to their properties. It's an innocent looking plant, but very hardy and has the tendency to choke out and overtake our native aquatic plants. This in turn destroys our natural wildlife.

If nicknames are an indicator to be concerned with, then we need to be so. It's been called "The Beautiful Killer", The "Swamp Monster" and the "Purple Invader". In addition to our plant patrol this year, we'll be working on removing purple loosestrife



In Memoriam

*Robert Crawford
First President of the Dexter
Lake Association
Passed away Aug 24, 2013*



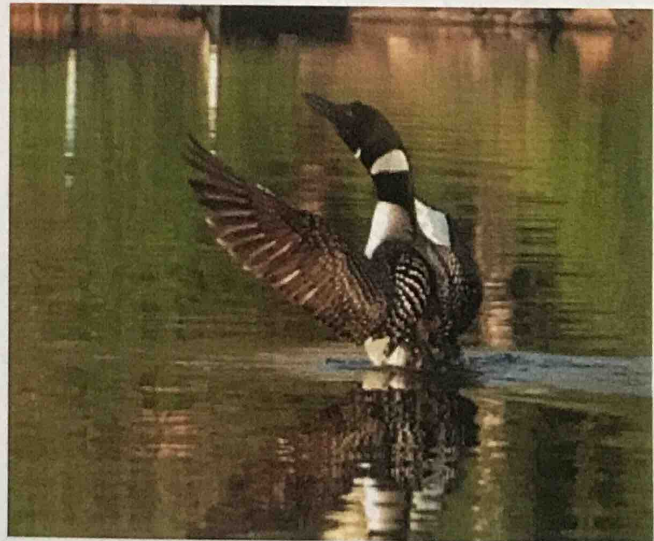
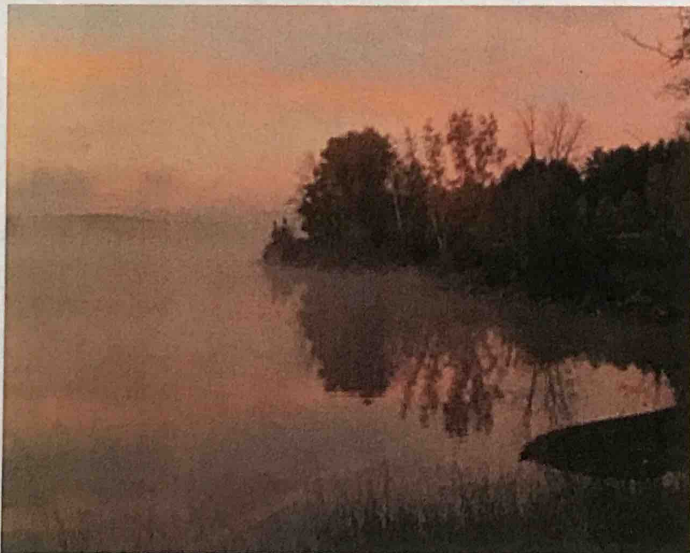
Storm Water

The damage that was the result of the April rain storm in Dexter's main street fortunately has now been completely restored.

Heavy rains, combined with the melting snowpack, caused many small streams as well as the east branch of the Sebasticook to overflow their banks and created a fifteen foot washout next to Dexter's Grist Mill Museum. Downtown businesses were shut down and people on Main Street were evacuated. These events were a dramatic example of the dangers and problems of stormwater run-off. Anytime precipitation runs off impervious surfaces like parking places, rooftops and hard pan surfaces, and isn't able to go along the drain paths that have been constructed for it, damage to roads and buildings is the result. In Dexter the responsibility for dealing with stormwater run-off falls to the department of Public Works whose job it is to fix potholes, replace rusted and undersized culverts throughout the Town.



The DEP, because of budget concerns, has cut their assistance to lakes as well as the number of personnel who had been helping deal with the stormwater run-off issues in the watershed. Therefore it is important that watershed residents do their part to develop their property as close to nature's original design as is reasonable and practical. Suburban-type landscapes can ruin lakes. A forested watershed converts stormwater to groundwater while an overdeveloped watershed brings 5- 10 times the amount of algae feeding runoff into the lake. The main focus of the Dexter Lakes Association has been to encourage and assist landowners around our lakes to develop in the way of utilizing best management practices for good clean water quality. Certified volunteers, upon request, will come to your property and will share with you information learned from many seminars and conferences attended about the unique challenges of lakefront living. This would include material regarding the type of plants that do well along the shoreline, filtering phosphorus from runoff before getting into the lake, camp road maintenance, etc. The desired result of these efforts is healthy waters for the town drinking system, high property values, out-standing recreational opportunities, abundant wildlife and a place that is attractive for new business to settle and become established.



Dexter Lakes Association

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

4th Of July Parade



Board Members

President, Dan Hutchins	924-7064	Director, Rich Pfirman	924-3370
Vice Pres, Edward Graham	924-7820	Director, Vern Crane	924-5412
Treasurer, Michael Ann Wells,	924-3077	Director, Karen White	212-6794
Secretary, Sandy Graham	924-7820	Director— Neil Crane	924-3767

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 LINK UNDER CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS