

Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 8TH

7:00 PM

K OF C

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEXTER, ME

Message from the DLA Board

Dear Members and Friends,
Welcome to the 2015 summer season at Lake Wassookeag and Puffers Pond.

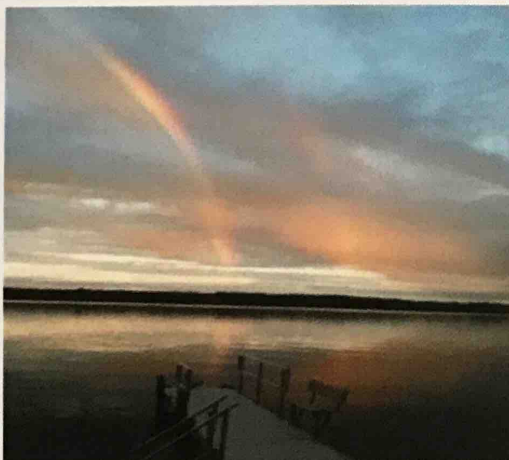
Our annual meeting will take place at the K of C Hall on Wednesday, July 8th at 7 PM.

We have a very special speaker this year-- Rollin Thurlow, who is considered to be one of the finest canoe craftsmen in the State.

A Town Representative will discuss the Shoreland Zoning changes that have been passed by the State and are being reviewed by our Town

Council. The new regulations pertain to building construction as well as landscaping requirements.

We hope to have a good turnout at our



meeting which is open to the general public as well.

This year's newsletter will provide reports from our water testing program.



We came across a t-shirt that displayed a message which was entitled

"ADVICE FROM A LAKE"

* Look Beneath the Surface * Stay Calm * Take Time to Reflect * Make Positive ripples ** Shore-up Friendships * and * Be Full of Life *

We thought the Lake was giving good suggestions. Have a safe and happy summer !

The DLA BOARD



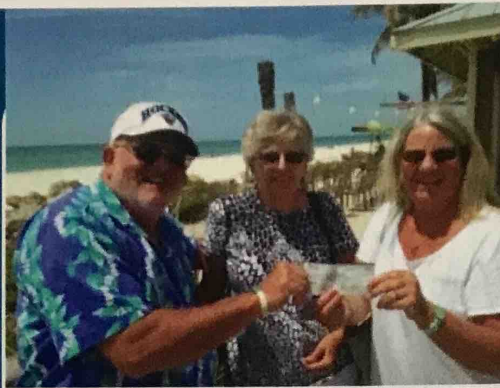
The Gift of Membership.

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.



LakeSmart award winners Janie and Ron Snyder, small Lake Wassookeag



Our effort to use email for membership updates is gaining traction every year. We've had over 50 membership renewals as a result of our email request, including this one. Norm and Karen White met Michael Ann and Dave at Bradenton Beach FL in late March to deliver their membership check !! What a great reason to get together.

Last season two DLA volunteers became qualified to measure dissolved oxygen levels in the lake. Declining oxygen levels may affect animal and plant life and are an early indicator of unwanted change. Norm White continues to monitor weekly secchi disc readings during the summer months.

Lake Wassookeag is still testing high in this regard; overall results show some decline from recent years which could be attributed to several heavy rain events that took place last summer. Secchi disc monitoring did indicate the growth of an algal called GLOEOTRICHIA. It's a blue-green algae species that looks like small fuzzy yellow-green floating dots about 2 millimeters in size and has been observed in quite a few Maine lakes, even in healthy ones such as ours. They are cause for concern though because they can cause blooms in low nutrient lakes and may be an indicator of declining water quality. "GLOEO" carries phosphorus and multiplies under the sunlight (having the potential to create blooms) so it is important for us to reduce the amount of excess phosphorus runoff into our watersheds/ lakes.

Our DLA participates in a University of Maine water temperature study. Yearly water temperature in Maine lakes, including our own, shows increase warmth over the past few years. Our volunteers last summer also were able to survey the entire lake and a section of Puffers Pond. Using underwater scopes, made by Jane and Ron Snyder, we looked for invasive plants, or any unusual growth of natural lake plants. This monitoring also provides the opportunity to look for lake areas where obvious excess phosphorus from runoff may be entering the lake.

No invasive plants have been found in the lake. Maine lakes are the cleanest in the New England area. Massachusetts has 34% of their lakes affected by invasives; Rhode Island 55% and Connecticut 60% all of which are costing considerable sums of money to deal with. Maine also has the greatest number of volunteers working with town governments doing the kinds of things we are attempting in our lakes.

One of the most important things that our members, including all watershed people, can do to help to deal with increasing heavy rain events, rising temperatures, lake and watershed development, is to prevent any kind of toxic runoff from reaching the lake. This can be done by establishing buffers, creating rain gardens, refraining from using certain fertilizers, and more.

The DLA will help anyone in the watershed or at the lake, with any questions regarding these efforts to keep our town drinking water source as well as recreation needs for good swimming, boating and fishing. Lake front residents also can help by being aware of any changes that might be taking place in the water in front of their property.



Parades for the Fourth of July have been held for a very long time on Lake Wausaukee. They were started in the 70's by the late Mr & Mrs Clukey. The paper plate signs, reminding us of the parade, magically appears on each camp road about a week before the Fourth. That told us it was time to start thinking about what we were going to do this year for decorations. Would we stay with just American Flags, or add a little more spice?

What fun we had decorating the boats over the years. There have been American Flags, Santa with a red, white, and blue decorated Christmas tree, a few pirates, and even Hawaiian themes. We have seen the Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam and the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima, as well as boats big and small parading by our dock. Not everyone is in the parade; some people observe or judge from the shoreline, fire cannons in salute. You can hear cheers from around the lake as the parade passes.

The boat parade has become a tradition for many of us, rain or shine. Last year there were at least 15 boats on the rainy July 4th, and for many years we have had over twenty circling the large lake. (The parade is a tradition but not sponsored by any organization.)



**Important Information about
Maine Lakes can be found at
www.mainevlmp.org and
www.mainelakessociety.org**

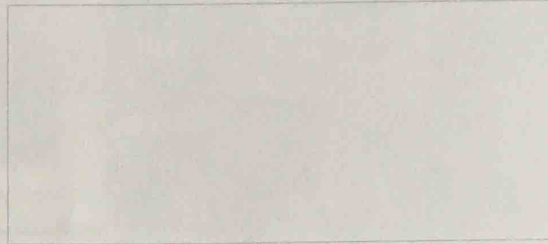
Rollin Thurlow

This year's speaker at our Annual Lake Association meeting on July 8th (K of C Hall) will be Rollin Thurlow from Atkinson, Maine. Rollin is the owner of the NORTHWOODS CANOE COMPANY where he builds, designs, and repairs canoes. His small company has been doing this for the past 30 years. Rollin is regarded as one of Maine's finest boating craftsmen.

Rollin is an adventurer who traveled and canoed 400 miles north of Ungava Bay in Northeastern Canada (northern Quebec). He has explored many of Maine's rivers and will talk about some of his experiences at our meeting. Rollin lives in a solar power home which is a testament to his commitment to responsible environmental living.

By looking up Rollin's website, it is possible to observe his shop and watch him work from 9-5 on a daily basis. We expect to have one of his restored canoe's at our meeting. Our meeting is open to all — hope to see you there.

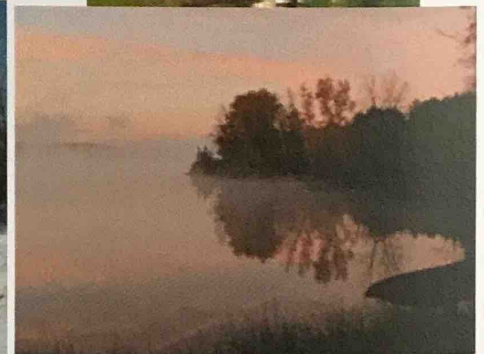
Dexter Lakes Association



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

Eckhart Tolle - Nature

We depend on nature not only for our physical survival. We also need nature to show us the way home; the way out of the prison of our minds. We get lost in doing, thinking, remembering, anticipating — lost in a maze of complexity and a world of problems. We have forgotten what rocks, plants, and animals still know. We have forgotten how to be -- to be still, to be ourselves, to be where life is HERE and NOW.



Board Members

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Director, Karen White 212-6794
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If you have not paid your dues,
please send your \$10.00 to :

Michael Ann Wells

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