



Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

ANNUAL MEETING

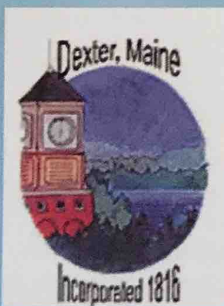
JULY 13TH

7:00 PM

K OF C

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEXTER, ME



Message from the DLA Board

Dear Members and Friends,

We are excited to begin summer, and all the enjoyable activities that summer brings, while we celebrate our 15th Anniversary Year of the Dexter Lakes Association.

Because there have been questions about Lake Wassookeag water quality, the DLA has contacted the Dept of Environmental Protection to learn what their studies indicate about Dexter Lakes.



This is In an attempt to get an accurate assessment of the water quality and clarity of our lakes. The DEP shared the following: "data for Wassookeag shows generally stable with quality trend. Water clarity is above average for Maine Lakes and the phosphorus and chlorophyll data indicates that the lake shows low nutrient conditions and less chance for algae blooms."

Our yearly average sechi disc readings have shown some decline in water clarity. Increased shoreline development, storm water run-off, and longer lake growing seasons due to warming weather all impact water quality (ice out this spring was April 3rd) which is one of the earliest dates recorded. Changing weather is making lake behavior less predictable. All of these problems are present in Lake Wassookeag but a much lesser degree at this time.

The State DEP and Make Lakes Society suggest that of all fixes that can be done, shoreline buffers are the most important.

Quality drinking water is becoming a serious concern in certain areas in the US and is even a greater problem in many locations around the world.

These trends indicate a change in the past weather patterns which may cause more problems for lakes in the future. This makes it all the more important to do the best job we can to protect Dexter's Lakes.

The DLA BOARD

2016
Maine
**Red Hot Dog
Festival**
Dexter, ME

Saturday

August 13, 2016

Downtown Dexter, Maine

9:00am to 7:00pm

Join the Fun at the Red Hot Dog Festival and visit our DLA Booth.

Actions for Water Quality

The Annual VLMP Conference is July 30th

Location — Turner Maine

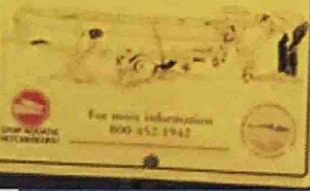
TOWN WATER SUPPLY

Please protect our lake heritage by observing the warning below.

Protect Maine Lakes
Dexter Lakes Association

WARNING

Remove all plants from boat, trailer, prop, anchor & lines. It's the law!
Drain all water from boat and live well on land
Don't release live bait



Learn about Hazardous Algae Bloom on the CDC Website



We would like to review suggestions that continue to be the most important actions that lake residents can do to maintain water quality:

Every summer members of the DLA survey the entire circumference of Lake Wassookeag looking for; invasive plants, algae growth as well as excessive growth of natural lake vegetation. Property owners could make our coverage more complete by being aware of plants growing in the water in front of your property. We will assist you with plant identification or any questions you may have about what you find.

Help us to increase our Lakes Association membership. Our dues are modest and it's a part of shore living.

The DLA often hears about boaters who are not following lake boating rules. It often involves visitors or renters who are only on the lake for short visits and are not aware of these rules (e.g. speeding around the back of the island, circling loons, shoreline wake speed, etc). Help us make people aware of these rules.

For the past several summers, Norm White (weather conditions permitting), takes his pontoon boat out on Sunday's, between 12:00—1:00 PM, to obtain a water clarity reading (secchi disc). If you would like to go out with him, call to reserve a place on his boat to see how it is done and to learn about the lake. (207-212-6794).

This years annual meeting is scheduled for July 13th at the K of C Hall at 7PM. We will discuss latest developments in Maine Lakes as well as other topics. Meetings provide the opportunity for group discussion, questions and concerns regarding Lake Wassookeag and DLA plans for the future.



Erosion Control Mix (ECM) is a special kind of mulch that stabilizes and enriches the soil. It is much heavier than other types of mulch. It is ideal for bare soil spots on or near lake property. It helps prevent erosion on paths, stoops and around plants. ECM improves soil as it decomposes. It can be somewhat difficult to find, if you contact the DLA, we will be happy to help if this is a problem



Rubber Razors are designed to divert water from running down camp roads and bringing unwanted nutrients into the lake. There are several workers in town who will construct them for you or the DLA will provide you with plans to make your own. Call us for this information, they make a difference.

Suggestions Continued.....

Creating rain gardens on lake front property can become an attractive addition to your lake property and is a very effective way to prevent storm water from bringing algae producing nutrients and pollutants into the lake. They are designed to capture and absorb rainfall where it lands. Rain gardens are constructed in a bowl-shaped depression about 3 –7 inches deep and are strategically located near patios, roofs, lawns and other run-off places. Many people around the lake have already created these types of gardens.

Buffers—Lawns contribute some storm water run-off that bring nutrients into the lake. Planting buffers will aid in recreating the natural vegetation that was on the shoreline. Combining a lawn with staggered plantings can provide an attractive landscape as well. Unlike some other states, Maine has not banned the use of fertilizers, but strongly recommends careful use of them. Maine soils generally have enough phosphors in the soil. Be sure not to over fertilize when applying. Testing the soil in these occasions is recommended. Buy fertilizers whose middle number is 0.



The Maine Lake Society, Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, The Mitchell Center, and the DEP provides have interesting and informative websites regarding Maine waters. These organizations are all very active in legislative issues that concern the protection of Maine’s water resources. Often public support is needed in these efforts .

Smelts

There are many Smelts in Lake Wassookeag but we don’t normally see them. During the summer, smelts congregate in schools at the bottom of the lake. At nighttime they feed closer to the surface except in winter they feed closer to the surface and are easy to catch.

The freshwater smelt is a small silvery fish that provides bait for fishermen in over 500 Maine lakes. They also can be eaten. Smelts are very important to a healthy population of fish. Togue (lake trout), salmon, and brook trout are some of the fish that depend on them. Salmon eat smelts exclusively.

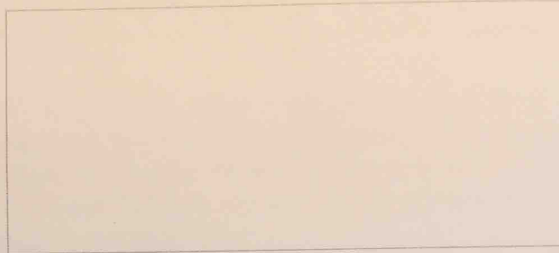


In recent years Maine Fisheries have placed more regulations on catching smelts due to lower spawning runs. Their numbers go through cycles from year to year. Smelts spawn in the spring about the same time that peepers start to sing.

Lake levels are important to the life cycle of the smelt. If the level is too low, it becomes difficult for smelts to reach Wassookeag’s tributaries and be able to return to the lake.

Lake residents can help keep a healthy smelt population by maintaining a natural habitat along the shoreline.

Dexter Lakes Association



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

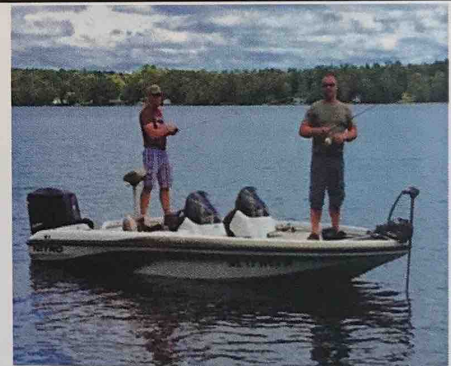
NOTES FROM THE DEXTER FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION

Here are some of the fish that were stocked in Lake Wassookeag.

- 4/13/16 - Brook trout (500 - 10 inch long)
- 5/03/16 - Brook trout (500 -10 inch long)
- 5/16/16 - Land locked salmon (500 -10 inch long)

Also would like to say that the fishing on Lake Wassookeag this past winter was good. The lake Trout or Togue, as we call them, seemed to be a bigger size this winter. The ones we were catching ran around 4 to 6 pounds, which was a lot better than the 3 to 4 pounders we got the winter before.

The Ice Fishing Derby this past winter went well. Not a lot of ice, but everyone was safe and we had a great turnout. - **By Jim Nicholas (President)**



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

Michael Ann Wells
PO Box 25
Dexter, ME 04930

Board Members

President, Dan Hutchins	717-9091	Director, Rich Pfirman	924-3370
Vice Pres, Ron Snyder	924-3823	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
		Director—Jeff Lovejoy	924-3553
		Director—Ed Graham	924-7820