

Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019

ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 10TH

6:30: PM

RUTH SHURMAN SOCIAL GATHERING. GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW LAKE ENTHUSISTS.

7:00 PM -

ANNUAL MEETING KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL DEXTER, ME

WELCOME TO ALL DOOR PRIZES, AWARDS AND INFORMATION



Dexter Lakes Association 2018 Annual Report

General membership is 125

At the annual meeting, July 11, 2018, the general membership voted on revision of By-Laws which provides the non-waterfront owners an opportunity to serve as Board Members. Game Warden, Will Shuman spoke about water and boating safety and rules. Fifteen boats and two kayaks participated in the July 4th Boat Parade and the DLA also had an entry in the Town Parade.

The Annual Loon count was reported to Maine Audubon Society in July as four adults and two babies on the small Lake; five adults on the big Lake and four adults and two babies on Puffers. Many more loons were sighted throughout the summer, but the official count was at 7:30 am, July 20 and fewer loons were seen at that time.

There is a large study of 35 Maine Lakes for Vulnerability underway and Lake Wassooskeag is among the studied lakes. This is a cooperative effort with Maine DEP, University of Maine, and The Lake Stewards of Maine which involves core sampling from the deepest part of the lake to examine the historical and current health of the lake. The study will be completed with forecasts in 2019.

Four DLA members worked with the Dexter Recreation Department to provide the Children's Day Camp with two forty-five minute interactive workshops. Water Safety, Aquatic Plant Identification, and Aquatic Wildlife were studied. We hope to continue this relationship and expand the offerings in 2019. Thirty-five to forty children attended the sessions.

DLA members assisted with the Red Hot Dog Day festivities. Four members attended The Lake Stewards of Maine Conference in Turner, Maine. Ed Graham won the coveted door prize, a new kayak. DLA maintains membership in The Maine Lakes Society and The Lake Stewards of Maine. Both organizations provide significant scientific training and updates for Maine Lakes.

Plant survey was conducted on both lakes. The largest and most involved activity was conducted between August 8 to 18, when the Annual Invasive Aquatic Plant Survey was conducted on both lakes. Two suspicious plants were submitted to the Lake Stewards of Maine for identification. Neither was problematic. The biggest lake plant concern is that of the expanding prevalence of Purple Loosestrife along the shorelines and in bog areas. It is considered invasive and is difficult to remove. There are no known natural predators. Additional concern about runoff and shoreline erosion from the ATV trail and driveways is noted. The Boy Scouts, under Andy Mitchell's leadership, assisted DLA members with the Plant patrol. Dan Hutchins and Ron Snyder, of DLA facilitated Scouts participation in the 2018 Plant Survey.

Board Members

President, Dan Hutchins 717-9091	Director, Cathie Frost 924-7032
Vice Pres, Bob Sundberg 278-2142	Director, Vern Crane 924-5412
Treasurer, Michael Ann Wells, 301-704-7107	Director, Norm White 212-6794
Secretary, Jane Snyder 924-3823	Director Beth Legasse 341-1656
Director, Neil Crane 924-3767	Clerk Rich Pfirman 924-3370

207-974-8800

Upcoming DLA Calendar of Events

DLA By-Law Change

A significant change in the DLA by-laws was approved at last year's annual meeting. The revision changed the qualifications for being a DLA Board Member from "being a lake front property owner" to "being a member for one year". This is particularly important since many camps simply pass from one generation to the next. This change allows your camp's probable next owner to be a board member and help direct the DLA's activity to preserve the lake for their use and their children's use. Please get your children involved.

THANK YOU to Door Prize Sponsors for 2019

Ace Hardware

Anglers Restaurant

Anthony Lee Winery

Log Cabin Groceries

Snowflakes Shop

Spring Street
Greenhouse & Floral
Shop

The Farmer's Table

Through the Garden
Gate

July - October: Every Sunday, weather permitting, Secchi Disc Test taken, contact Norm White to participate: 212-6794

July 4

9:00am. Celebration Parade, Downtown

11:00am. Boat Parade. Meet at the bridge with decorated boats.

Contact Norm White (207)212-6794 with any questions

July 10

6:30pm. Ruth Shurman Social Gathering of DLA members and guests at Knights of Columbus Hall, Rt 23, Dexter.

7:00pm. General Meeting of The Dexter Lakes Association. Welcome to all. Door prizes, awards and information.

July 16-17

Daily pre-scheduled educational tours on The Melinda Ann, scientific boat on Lake Wassookeag. To participate or volunteer contact Janie Snyder (207) 924-3823.

July 20

7- 7:30am. Loon count on all Lakes. Report your findings to DLA Secretary by 8 am or to conserve@maineaydubon.org on the Loon Page.

July 27. Lake Stewards of Maine Annual Lake Monitoring Conference. Pleasant Pond, Turner, Maine. 2019 topic: Influences of Climate Change on Lakes: What's Coming and What's Already Happening. Register at stewards@lakestewards.org

August 7- 17.

Aquatic Plant Survey. Loosestrife removal. Daily as scheduled. Contact DLA Pres, Dan Hutchins (207)717-9091.

August 10

Red Hot Dog Festival, downtown Dexter

Volunteers needed. Register at www.redhotdog.org

August 28

6:30pm. Wrap-up DLA Board Meeting



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In response to local concerns, Senator Paul Davis presented concerns in Bill LD442 about ATV trail usage resulting in sediment filled run-off into water bodies along trail areas. This bill prohibits the operation of an all-terrain vehicle at a speed of more than 15 miles per hour within 50 yards of a stream or pond, unless the ground is frozen and sufficiently covered with snow. It specifies that a person who violates this prohibition commits a civil violation, except that a person who violates this prohibition after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more violations of this prohibition within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. The bill went to committee, not yet implemented.

Senators Davis, Guerin, and Gatwick were urged to continue State Legislative full funding to Lake Stewards Monitoring- VLMP and MLS Lakesmart through LD-959. This provides financial support for the professional expertise to guide thousands of volunteer citizen scientists to preserve and protect Maine Lakes and Waterways. This funding is particularly important considering the recent discovery of Invasive Milfoil on Sebago Lake.

From Ed Graham

Ed Graham reports information from Lake Stewards of Maine regarding the vulnerability of lakes to experience water quality decline over time. Lake Wassookeag, as other lakes throughout the state, has been unusually clear in 2018. Scientists have attributed this to the dry conditions for four consecutive years, thus reducing the storm runoff with sediments and pollutants which cause algae blooms.

Norm White, who conducts Secchi Disc measurement at Lake Wassookeag concurs with 2018 clarity reports that were among the best he has recorded.

While clearer lake water is positive, warming lake temperatures have been depleting the dissolved oxygen levels, because warmer water retains less dissolved oxygen. The resulting lower oxygen level is detrimental to aquatic plant and animal life balance. With a longer summer, warmer water and residual pollutants algal blooms are more common and larger. PLEASE do what you can to reduce or eliminate chemical and sediment runoff into Lake Wassookeag and Echo Lake (Puffers Pond).

Lakes Alive !

This Summer The Dexter Lakes Association is sponsoring a two day visit of The Melinda Ann Educational boat to Lake Wassookeag. The Melinda Ann is a 30 foot long pontoon boat featuring an on-board aquatic classroom available through Maine Lakes Society.

On July 16-17, the crew of The Melinda Ann will be providing an exceptional, cooperative hands-on experience for Day Campers, grades 2-4, from Dexter Schools and Recreation Department. We are hopeful that the DLA membership and public officials will avail themselves of this amazing resource while The Melinda Ann is in town.

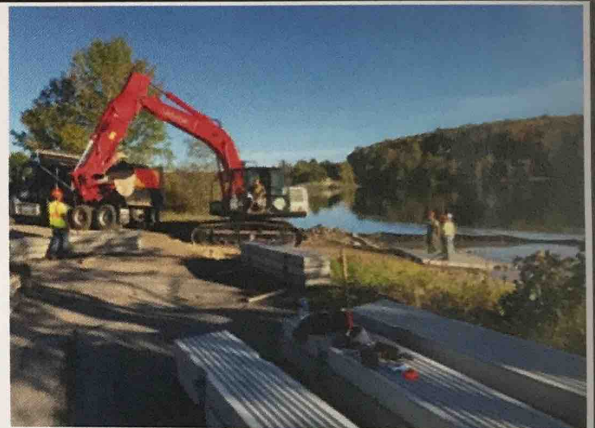
To reserve a place on the Melinda Ann, contact Janie Snyder at 924-3823. There is a 15 person limit for the 1 1/2 hour session. The Day Campers will be given priority on mid-day excursions. The Melinda Ann will do three 1 1/2 hour tours daily.

New Boat Launch !

Thanks to Steve Lawson and his crew!

As you can see Steve and his crew did a fantastic job of replacing the boat launch on the big side of Lake Wassookeag. We waited a long time to see such a great improvement. Thanks to funding from DLA, Dexter Revitalization Committee and Steve's generous donation of labor and equipment, we have a first rate launch area! After, many years of waiting, this past fall a boat launch was finally constructed on big Lake Wassookeag. Finally pontoon boats will have easy access to the big lake without trying to navigate under the bridge. The ramp is located across from the K of C Hall (Rt 23).

It is constructed of 12" wide pre- cast sections, bolted together and is 35' long. Crushed stone has been placed beyond the end so that even if a trailer went beyond the 35', there wouldn't be a problem. The water depth there is 4-5' and may vary depending on the lake level. In the fall a friend used the ramp to remove a pontoon boat for winter. He said "the ramp is beautiful.



A Message from the MAINE WARDEN SERVICE Will Shuman, Local Warden

The Maine Warden Service would like to welcome the Dexter Lakes Association Members to the SUMMER of 2019! There are no new boating law updates for 2019. The Maine Warden Service is hoping for a safe and enjoyable boating season. Please do your part and read over the few safety tip reminders listed below before you go out on the water this year. Thank you for your attention and remember if you are in need of the assistance of a Game Warden Please call: 1-800-432-7381. We will see you out on the water!

Boating is a very popular summer recreation and includes all power, hand, and wind propelled watercraft. Before leaving home, insure you have all the necessary safety equipment to include lifejackets. Remember that when heading out either by yourself or with a group, always tell someone where you are going. Keep a close eye to the weather forecast to prepare for any unexpected changes such as thunderstorms, wind, and fog.

Life Jackets and Personal Flotation Devices - State law requires each person on board to have a properly-fitting U.S. Coast Guard-approved serviceable life jacket. Also, boats longer than 16 feet must have a throwable PFD. The Maine Warden Service recommends that everyone wear his or her lifejackets while on the water.

If your boat has any enclosed compartments or a false floor you must carry a Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher.

Make sure it is charged and accessible.

Always test your boat lights before the boat leaves the dock and carry extra batteries.

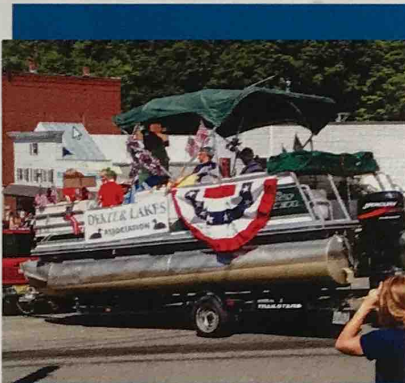
Keep emergency supplies on board in a floating pouch complete with maps, flares, and a first aid kit.

And make sure you have an anchor and can properly use it.

Dexter Lakes Association

PO Box 25

Dexter, Maine 04930



From DLA Treasurer - Michael Ann Wells

A big thank you for all 77 people who renewed their memberships as a result of our email! That's so nice of all of you who responded and cuts the work and expense of a hard copy mailing by more than half! If you did not get an email, but would like to, just let our treasurer Michael Ann Wells know at michaelann@verizon.net.

We wish long time members Keith and Sue Burnham well, as they have sold their camp on Firefly Lane, and thank them for letting the new owners Kevin and Darcie Leighton know about us. Welcome Kevin and Darcie! It was so nice of Keith and Sue to pass along information about DLA to you. Welcome, also, to Michael John and Helen Lun, new owners on Jakes Lane.

Gift of Membership

Let's continue the Dexter Lakes Association's great tradition of lake stewardship by sponsoring a new member this year. It makes a great gift for the next generation.

Membership Form

Name _____
Address _____
Town and State, Zip _____
Phone # _____
E-Mail contact _____

If you have not paid 2019 dues, please send \$10 per member to Michael Ann Wells, PO Box 25, Dexter, Me. 04930. Checks payable to DLA.