

# Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

## Message from the Dexter Town Manager

BOAT PARADE

JULY 4TH

12:00 PM

GENERAL

MEMBERSHIP

MEETING

THURSDAY

JULY 14

VFW HALL

CEDAR ST.

SOCIAL TIME

6:30 PM

MEETING

7:00 PM



I would like to take this opportunity to first thank the Dexter Lakes Association for all their hard work and continued dedication to the upkeep of Lake Wassookeag. Associations and groups like DLA throughout our state are vital to the well-being of our bodies of water. Here are a few things that I would like to update you on:

- The bathhouse at the beach has been refurbished and updated. It now has two changing rooms and two bathrooms. The bathrooms have been updated with automatic sinks and toilets and the changing rooms both have sinks in them. Additionally, there is an outside shower for rinsing off.
- We asked the Department of Environmental Protection to come advise us what we could and could not do on our public beach. We had hoped to remove the grass in an area measuring approximately 250 feet x 100 feet and replace it with sand. This would one, provide patrons a "beach" experience and two, serve as a deterrent for the geese and ducks, but unfortunately that was not allowed. So for now I will continue my daily routine of scaring the geese away using a scatter gun. So far this year I have been dealing with a family of 3 and a group of 12 adult geese.
- A reminder that the dam is not controlled by the town, but by Dexter Utility District. If you recall, a few years ago we experienced some issues with the water levels of the lake, but I believe this year they are monitoring it much more closely so that does not happen again. Though they can not completely close the dam they can decrease the amount of flow earlier in the spring to keep water levels up.
- Public docks on the large and small lake's boat landings have been working well. The small lake's dock came to us used, so I am working on getting a new replacement. This spring I did a property check with the DEP and was surprised by some of the new regulations in place for shoreland zoning. If a person is planning any renovations, removal of vegetation and adding permissible fixtures within 100 feet of the lake, it is my recommendation that they check with our code enforcement officer prior to doing so to avoid later repercussions from the DEP.

We recognize that our lakes are great assets to our beautiful looking town, if you see anything that may cause harm please notify us immediately. Enjoy the lakes and thank you again for your organization's dedication.

From: Trampas King—Dexter Town Manager

### DLA Board Members

President, Dan Hutchins 717-9091

Vice Pres, Vern Crane 924-5412

Treasurer, Michael Ann Wells, 301-704-7107

Secretary, Janie Snyder 924-3823

Clerk Rich Pfirman 924-3370

Director, Cathie Frost 924-7032

Director, Ruth Fogg 924-0180

Director, Valerie Silverman 561-309-5977

Director Jennifer Forgotson 232-6447

Director Heather Mullen 240-0062

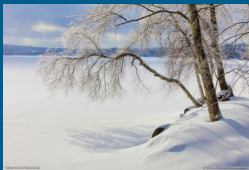


**THANK YOU!**

Bass Tournament organizers self-monitor and train participants in proper boat cleaning and weed removal techniques to prevent contamination from lake to lake. We are grateful to have their stewardship.

**ICE IN**

December 28, 2021



**ICE OUT**

April 15, 2022

**Duckweed**



**What Plants do we find in the Lake?**



Water plants such as SPATTERDOCK are common in Lake Wassookeag and Echo Lake (Puffers). SPATTERDOCK is easily seen and recognized by the large floating heart shaped leaves and bright yellow flower. The flower has saucer shaped sepals with a deep red patch at the base. The central disc eventually becomes the seed pod. The flower emits a scent similar to spoiled fruit to attract insects. Your hands may smell bad if you pick it by hand. The stem is rounded, flattened on top and supports the 4-10 inch notched leaf and emerges from an underwater rhizome. It grows in quiet water with soft sediment bottom where the water is 6 feet or less.

SPATTERDOCK is considered the anchor of the shallow water aquatic community, as is PONDWEED. SPATTERDOCK provides food for water fowl by seeds; deer graze on the leaves, stems and flowers. Muskrats and beaver eat the rhizome and the leaves provide shelter for fish and invertebrates. Native Americans used the rhizomes and seeds for food by baking, boiling or drying it, later grinding it into flour. The seeds can be ground into flour or popped like popcorn.



There are many species of PONDWEED which appear in free flowing water or very still water in a variety of depths; from sediment to sand; and shallow to submersed areas. There are narrow leafed and wide leafed species. They produce a flower spike of a green-brown which is distinctively narrow and rough with tiny flowers. The fruit, an achene, is more like a nut. Pondweeds also grow from rhizomes which help to stabilize the sediment. The leaves provide shelter for invertebrates and fish habitat for spawning and foraging. Water fowl also consume the plant. Some of the many species have submerged leaves as well as, floating leaves, while others have large gracefully curving leaves. Pondweed often is found in shallow water locations and is very thick. Don't pull these "weeds" as they are essential to aquatic life. They may be cut to provide an opening.

WILD CELERY, EEL GRASS, or TAPEGRASS is characterized by long, ribbon-like leaves that grow from a rooted base along a creeping rhizome. The leaves have a prominent central stripe and a cellophane consistency. Only the tip of the leaf emerges, though much of the leaf is submerged. Flowers appear mid-summer and produce a pod like fruit. All portions of the plant are consumed by waterfowl, marsh birds, shorebirds and muskrats. Wild celery also provides shelter and habitat for fish.



**Wild Celery**



**EEL Grass**



**Tape Grass**

**What is Duckweed?** It is a very small, flat oval shaped about 1/16- 1/8 inch long with a single root strand dangling beneath it. It is a free floating plant. Duckweed is a very bright green, rapidly growing flowering plant that can produce a huge biomass. There are many species of duckweed, which is clearly an individual plant unlike filamentous algae which produces long threads that clump together to look like mats of mucous. Both can block light to the bottom and eliminate other vegetation by preventing oxygen production, which unbalances the ecosystem. Duckweed provides feed for aquatic fowl and animals.

**What Fish we find in the Lake**

**Smallmouth Bass** are part of the sunfish family. Usually they spawn from April through June in sparsely vegetated, faster flowing streams and cool water. They prefer pea gravel coves or gravel flats to hang out. About ten days after they spawn in 10-12 foot deep water, they move to deeper, cooler water 20-30 feet areas. In August, they may go as deep as possible before moving to the shallows in the Fall. Fertilized eggs are gray-white to amber and are sticky and cling together until the hatch. The fry( babies) are tiny black fish. Fish nests are about 3 feet in diameter can be seen at 4-20 feet depth. The fry eat Zooplankton, which are small microscopic or immature animals like crustaceans and mollusks. Adults can be identified by their brassy brown color and the jawline, which does not extend back beyond the eyes. There is also a small break in the dorsal fin. They are popular with fishermen and are edible.



**Largemouth Bass** are part of the Black Bass species with a horizontal black streak along each side. They have a distinguishing large jaw and a large powerful tail. Generally green in color with a whitish belly. They prefer weedy, backwater area of lake shores with aquatic vegetation and muddy bottoms. The males defend the nests which can be 6 feet in diameter. The fertilized eggs are yellowish - orange, somewhat transparent. The fry remain in the nest for 6-7 days and are pale green. They feed on zooplankton, insects and small fish. Fry can tolerate warm water until about 2" in size. Then move to deeper water and eat more small fish which they swallow whole. Bass are carnivorous and react to sudden movement, which make them vulnerable to quick fishing lures that replicate natural prey.

**Freshwater Mussels** are filter feeders that remove suspended particles from the water including algae and bacteria, and detritus. They are a valuable indicator of water quality and are very sensitive to contaminants. The young are part of the Zooplankton eaten by Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass. They can be eaten and require preparation and cooking. Look for opened shells along shorelines and rocks where birds and other animals may have eaten them. They are important to lake health and need shoreline security to reproduce. They cannot move on their own.



**TICK POPULATION**

The Tick population is expected to be more severe this summer due to the heavy snow pack that protected them. Mainers may not see the "The Lone Star" tick, but it has appeared in Southern New England. The tick has a white pattern on its back and is somewhat larger than those we often see here. Its bite can result in allergies to red meat.

Protect yourself and your pets by using tick repellents; check yourself and pets frequently. Monitor your property by keeping lawns mowed and remove piles of leaves and debris. Some can be controlled by natural predators, such as chickens, Guinea fowl, and pathogenic fungi. You can apply habitat targeted chemicals- but Caution around water bodies.

For More Information:  
<https://extension.umaine.edu/ticks/mana>

The **Common Snapping Turtle** has a pronounced beak-like mouth, a large head; very long legs, necks and tails with usually brown or black skin. They have armor-like section plates on the heavy dark shell. They can grow 12-15 inches long or longer. They live on muddy bottoms of freshwater. They eat meat, plants and will hunt prey in the water. These turtles can live to be 40-50 years old and may weigh 9-45 pounds.



**Wood Ducks** are especially stunning due to the coloration of the male. They are a little larger than a starling and have webbed feet for swimming, but can be seen sitting on tree limbs. They arrive in inland Maine to breed and raise young, but spend most of their life at sea. They use abandoned tree cavities for nesting, where they hatch 8-15 eggs. Often nesting as high as 30 feet, the female leads the young from the nest to the water.

They usually hatch in June and eat plant material from the nesting area. The common diet includes duck weed, wild rice, grasses, fruit and nuts. In fact, they eat so many nuts that the common name is "acorn duck". The nuts include acorns, hickory nuts, butter nuts. After the first hard frost they head back southward to the sea.



# Dexter Lakes Association

PO Box 25  
Dexter, Maine 04930

June 18th	<u>Hancock County Bassers Tournament</u> at Lake Wassookeag
July 4th	<u>Annual Boat Parade</u> on Lake Wassookeag Meet at the Bridge with decorated boats at 12:00 to tour the lake. Contact Dan Hutchins at 207-717-9091 for info
July 9th	<u>Waldo County Bass Addicts Tournament</u> at Lake Wassookeag
July 11- 16	<u>Workcamps.com</u> will be bringing about 300 students and adults to Dexter. As in the past, there will be recreation after noon on Wed 7/13. The Kiwanis is sponsoring the cookout and requests that DLA provide Kayaks and canoes with life jackets for them to use. DLA has generously donated in the past. Contact Rich Pfirman at 924-3370
July 14th	<u>DLA Annual Membership Meeting</u> , VFW Hall , Cedar St, Dexter 6:30 Social and 7:00 PM Meeting. <b>ALL WELCOME</b>
July 16th	<u>Annual Loon Count</u> 7:00 AM—Contact Jennifer Forgotson for info 207-232-6447
July 30—Aug 13	<u>Invasive Plant Patrol</u> —Contact Dan Hutchins 207-717-9091. Volunteers needed for both Lakes and can be trained. The search for non native invasive plants is an annual event to keep lakes clean and safe
Aug 6	<u>Kiwanis Cruz—In</u>
Aug 13th	<u>Dexter Red Hot Dog Day</u> 10:00 AM— 7:00 PM—Downtown Dexter
Aug 20	<u>Bronze Back Mainiacs Bass Tournament</u> at Lake Wassookeag
Aug 25	<u>Mainly Boaters Bass Tournament</u> at Lake Wassookeag

## 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 2022 dues, please send \$10 per member to Michael Ann Wells, PO Box 25, Dexter, Me. 04930. Checks payable to DLA.**