

Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

Message from the Dexter Town Manager

The winter was long as usual and the fishing was the same slow, according to my weekly updates from residents and the Dexter Fish and Game. The smelts were difficult to find for the bait fishermen, and from my experience as a once weekend warrior fisherman, when there is no bait there are typically no fish. Certainly an issue to keep my eyes and ears opened to.

The bathhouse was opened in late May and the road to the small boat landing was graded. Ducks at the lake this year have been plentiful but the geese have been scarce. We have applied for a geese removal permit in case they become a nuisance, but we haven't received it yet even though it has been over five months since the permit and the check for \$100 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture was submitted. This permit allows a couple of select Maine Guides to remove geese from the lake. Removing the geese is not ideal, but we feel it is necessary for the betterment of our lake and to maintain its quality.

Summer this year won't be quite as busy in town as in the past few years, as the work camp group is taking the year off, returning in 2024.

If you weren't here during the month of May, on the nice hot days Lake Shore Lunch was very busy and the parking lot was full. Please use caution when driving in that area where there are potentially many children running around.

The state postponed the opening of the Rail Trail this spring until Memorial Day weekend due to a few areas of wash out that occurred this spring and needed repair. Our ATV club, the Rail Riders, are continually inspecting the trail and keeping the Maine Department of Agriculture notified if there is any maintenance required.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual meeting and thank all of you for your dedication and hard work keeping our lakes beautiful.

Sincerely,
Trampas King
Dexter, Town Manager



BOAT PARADE

JULY 4TH

12:00 PM

GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

WEDNESDAY
JULY 12

VFW HALL
CEDAR ST.

SOCIAL TIME
6:30 PM
MEETING
7:00 PM



DLA Board Members

President, Dan Hutchins	207-717-9091	Clerk, Rich Pfirman	207-924-3370
Vice President Cathi Frost	207-924-7032	Director, JC Forgotson	207-232-6647
Treasurer, Michael Ann Wells,	301-704-7107	Director, Valerie Silverman	561-309-5977
Asst Treasurer, Adam Briggs	401-524-0852	Director, Debra Lee Morse	207-512-0596
Secretary, Ruth Fogg	207-924-0180	Director Heather Mullen	207-240-0062

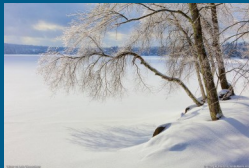


ICE IN

January 9, 2023

ICE OUT

April 18, 2023



**Average Ice Thickness
Approx: 17 inches**

**Notes from the State of
Maine Dept of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife**

Lake Wassookeag was stocked with the following in 2022:

- 4/20/2022 500 9" Brook Trout
- 6/1/2022 500 8" Land Locked Salmon
- 10/4/2022 300 13" Brook Trout
- 10/4/2022 750 7" Brook Trout

The previous years, 2019, 2020 and 2021, was similar except we did not receive the 750 smaller Brook Trout any of those years, so we should be well stocked this year.

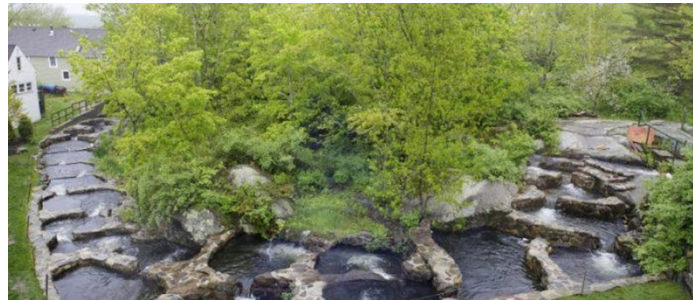
Recognition for behind the scenes dedicated work:

- Janie Snyder for being DLA secretary for 6 years and dedicated invasive plant surveyor.
- Norm White for weekly SECCHI water quality and temperature checks from 2010-2022.
- Frank Spizzuco for putting out and maintaining six safety water buoys.
- Christie and Dee Richardson for taking over from Norm and Vern and doing water quality measurements.

Sounds a Little Fishy by Jane Snyder

While all of us have scattered for the winter and early spring, waterway conservation efforts continued throughout the country. One \$3.5 M project is underway to reestablish spawning routes for eel and shad in central Pennsylvania along the 2000' Adam T. Bower Dam. The construction of a "fish ladder" by using natural materials will provide an elevation increase of 10' over a 900' path for mature fish and fingerlings to reach freshwater spawning areas or to return to the sea. The most successful fish ladders mimic natural passages with riffles, pools and holes where fish can rest while traveling through the waterway.

An example of such at Damariscotta Mills, Maine, was created over 210 years ago for alewife migration. The hand-dug passageway rises over 42 vertical feet across 69 connected pools and 1500 linear feet to Lake Damariscotta where alewives spawn. Alewives serve as lobster bait for the local industry. The fish ladder is worth a visit and if you do, note the incorporation of natural rock and habitat and the walkway for recreation and observation.

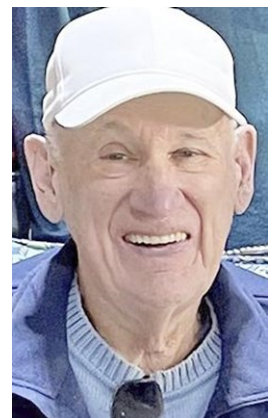


Damariscotta Mills Fish Ladder

Tribute to Vern Crane by Ed and Sandy Graham

Vern Crane joined the Dexter Lakes Association as an early member and shortly thereafter became a dedicated DLA Board member for 17 helpful years. He participated in all phases of lake association activities including: helping with DLA booths at the Wild West Weekend and Dexter Days, helping with placing buoys in the lake, taking the SECCHI clarity levels from his boat in the summer and many other contributions that helped with better water quality on our fine lake.

For many years the Maine Lakes Association brought their educational pontoon boat to Lake Wassookeag for the children of Dexter to learn about the scientific aspects of aquatic life. This event all took place on Vern and Donna's lakefront property. Vern was always a helpful advocate for these events



Wings for Wishes

Jim Crane says Wings for Wishes to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation is coming back for its third year on the weekend of Aug 4-5! It kicks off Friday afternoon, Aug 4, at 3:30 pm at the municipal waterfront when airplanes start arriving and landing in the field by Bugbee Lane or float planes land in the Little Lake and come up the boat ramp. Come watch the airplanes arrive and talk to the pilots. For a donation you will get a voucher for an ice cream cone at the Lakeshore Restaurant. Then Saturday is Make-A-Wish day at the Dexter Airport with a combined Fly-In and Kiwanis Cruise-In from 10 am - 4 pm.

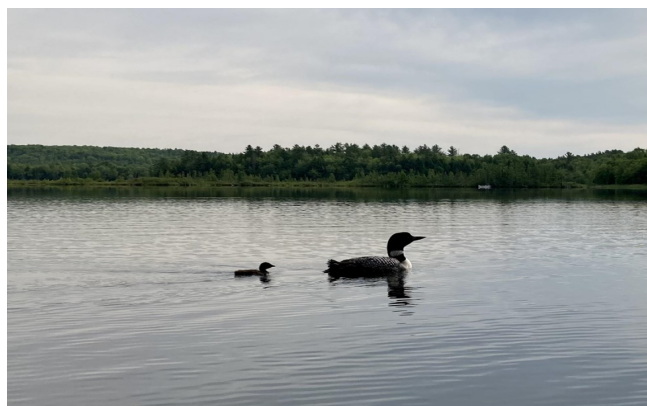
Jim Crane by his Carbon Cub at the park by Little Wassookeag



Buoys:

Most of you know this, but for visitors unfamiliar with the lake, pass the following along: There are six buoys on the lake: two headway buoys (slow down till there is no wake) on either side of the causeway bridge and four hazard buoys where water is less than 3 ft deep. Two of the hazard buoys are on either side of the island on the far SW end of the Big Lake to prevent boaters from attempting to run around the island where the water is very shallow. The third hazard buoy is by the island in the Little Lake where boats should stay to the center of the lake away from the extremely shallow shore. The fourth is further away over a stump by the NE shore of Little Wassookeag. If you see one, stay clear and as all navigators should know: Red, right returning.

Loons! The 2022 Loon count at Wassookeag was 16 Adults and 1 chick followed by another chick hatched after the loon count. This was a typical number. Our loon counts have been anywhere from 25 as in 2004 to only 2 in 2013. Two loon chicks grew to adolescence and flew away late last Fall several weeks after their parents left. Adolescent loons are typically abandoned by their parents at about 12 weeks to continue growing and gaining strength to fly long distances. Just like adult loons who tend to start grouping up before migrating, adolescent loons do the same, just later in the Fall.

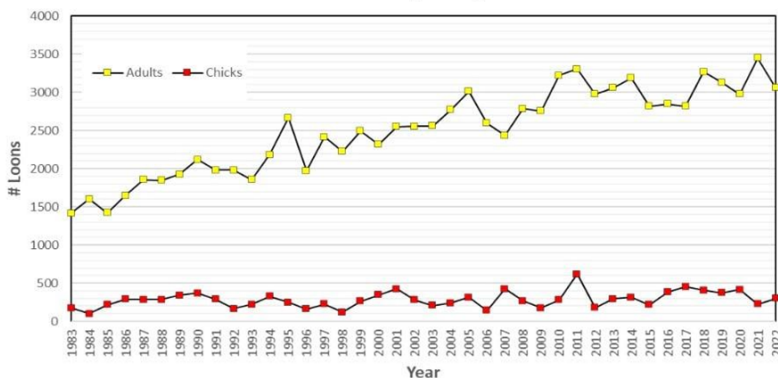


2023 marks the 40th year of counting loons in Maine lakes!

The Maine Audubon Society has published the following loon count data south of the 45th parallel — roughly south of a line from Rangeley to Calais — which is the area where the Society has enough lakes covered by counters to make a reliable estimate.

The Audubon Society reminds us that trauma, especially from boat or jet ski collisions is now the leading cause of adult loon deaths. Also, large wakes can cause loon nests to flood and wash out eggs.

Estimated Loon Population in the Southern Half of Maine South of 45th parallel, 1983-2022



Dexter Lakes Association

PO Box 25
Dexter, Maine 04930

Calendar of Events

Tues July 4th

Parades: Town Parade at 10:00 AM and Annual Boat Parade on Lake Wassookeag Meet at the Bridge with decorated boats at 12:00 to tour the lake. FMI contact Steve Moore, 207-399-3040

Wed July 12th

DLA Annual Meeting, VFW Hall , Cedar St, Dexter
6:30 Social and 7:00 PM Meeting. **ALL WELCOME**

Sat July 15th

Annual Loon Count. Annual Loon count 7:00 - 7:30 am. FMI contact "JC" Forgotson at 207-232-6447

Fri/Sat Aug 4/5

Wings-for-Wishes Seaplane Fly-In at Little Wassookeag Park by LakeShore Restaurant on Friday, 3:30 pm to dusk. General Fly-In Saturday at the Dexter Airport from 10 am to 4 pm

Sat Aug 5th— Tues Aug 15th

Invasive Plant Survey, FMI contact Dan Hutchins 207-717-9091

Sat Aug 12th

Dexter Red Hot Dog Day 10:00 AM— 7:00 PM

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 2023 dues, please send \$10 per member to **Michael Ann Wells, PO Box 25, Dexter, Me. 04930. Checks payable to DLA.**