

Dexter Lakes Association

DLA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

Message from the Dexter Town Manager

As we welcome the warmth and renewal of another Maine spring, it's hard not to notice that 2025 is starting off in much the same way as 2024—wet and full of surprises. Lake Wassookeag's water levels are higher than usual this year, despite a winter that brought us less snow than expected. Managing the lake's water levels continues to be a delicate balancing act. Every rainstorm presents a new set of challenges. A two-inch rainfall, depending on how fast it comes and how saturated the ground is, can raise the lake anywhere from an inch to six inches. We want to thank the hardworking team behind the scenes who do their best every day to maintain the right balance for everyone's enjoyment and safety. It's not an easy job, and we're grateful for their dedication.

This past fishing season was much like years past—you need a good bit of patience and maybe a lucky hat or two. Our annual Ice Fishing Weekend was a great success, bringing together families, friends, and fishing enthusiasts from near and far. A heartfelt thank you goes to the Dexter Fire Department for stepping up to organize the derby this year. Their effort to continue this cherished tradition means a lot, and we also want to recognize the Dexter Fish and Game for the many years they ran the event so wonderfully.

We're thrilled to share that the beach area is getting a much-needed face lift, thanks to a generous Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry Grant. Eight hazardous trees have been removed for safety, and in their place, we've planted 16 new ones, along with blueberry bushes and lovely lilacs to bring a touch of color and fragrance to the waterfront. Additionally, we've acquired a brand-new boat ramp for the small lake, made possible by another generous donation from Dexter Fish and Game Club. While we weren't able to install it last fall, we're optimistic about getting it in place by the end of this summer. You'll also notice improvements to local infrastructure—Crockett Road and the parking area near Lake Shore Restaurant are scheduled for paving and upgrades to improve drainage and access for everyone.

The Dexter Development Association (DDA) has been hard at work improving our playground. This summer, they'll be adding more equipment, installing a new pavilion, and placing four new benches—all made possible through generous donations from individuals and the tireless efforts of volunteers who love and care about our lakefront. One of the most heartwarming developments has been the return of swimming lessons, funded by the DDA with generous support from the Bill and Joan Alford Foundation. Last year, we had over 60 kids participate, and we're anticipating even more this year. The lessons will be held in July, thanks to our incredible partners at the Piscataquis Area Community Center (formerly the Y in Dover-Foxcroft). We simply could not offer these opportunities without their commitment and support.

There's no shortage of fun planned for this summer! Mark your calendars for:

Tuesday Music in the Park, 4th of July Parade and Boat Parade, The Annual Red Hot Dog Festival, The Kiwanis Cruise-In, Golf Tournaments throughout the season

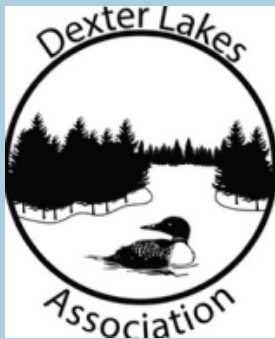
These events are what make summer in Dexter so special, bringing our community together to celebrate the season, our traditions, and each other.

Thank you all for the care, pride, and love you show for our lakes, beaches, and town. Your support and involvement help preserve the natural beauty and strong sense of community we all treasure so much.

Wishing you a joyful, safe, and sunny summer season.

Warm regards,
Trampas King

On behalf of the Town of Dexter



BOAT PARADE

JULY 4TH

12:00 PM

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY
JULY 9

VFW HALL
CEDAR ST.
SOCIAL TIME

6:00 PM

MEETING

6:30 PM



Dexter Lake Association



The purpose of the DLA is to help preserve and protect the health of Lake Wassookeag and Echo Lake.

President, Dan Hutchins	207-717-9091
Vice Pres Cathie Frost	207-924-7032
Treasurer, Michael Ann Wells,	301-704-7107
Membership, Adam Briggs	401-524-0852
Secretary, Ruth deBeurs	207-924-0180
Advisor, Janie Snyder	207-924-3823
Director, Debra Lee Morse	207-512-0596

DLA Board Members

Director, Ron Apel	207-924-0180
Director, JC Forgotson	207-232-6447
Director, Heather Mullen	207-240-0062
Director, Valerie Silverman	561-309-5977



WINTER NEWS

ICE IN:

Dec 23, 2024
(11 days earlier
than last year)

ICE OUT:

April 18, 2025
(a week later
than last year)

MAX ICE THICKNESS

About 23 inches
on the Little Lake,
a little less on the
Big Lake.

President Message

Every one of us is a player in keeping our lake healthy. Let the grass grow long to help slow down storm run-off and clean your fishing boat to prevent the accidental release of tiny invasive plant fragments into the water.

Dexter Lakes
Association,
Dan Hutchins,
President

Wassookeag Loon Update

Last year a pair of loon chicks were born on June 24 on the Little Lake. On the July 19th loon count, we counted a total of 10 adults and 2 chicks on both little and big Wassookeag. The loons chicks grew well with no dominance issues. However something happened to one of the chicks around September 17. By October 3rd, one of the parents had migrated away leaving one chick with one adult on the little lake. By Oct 21, the remaining parent had left and the sole juvenile could be seen flying loops around the lake keeping the shoreline in sight. The loon would put so much energy into flying it literally dropped in an exhausted heap into the water when it landed. By Oct 23, the juvenile had ventured into the big lake, hanging out by himself until one day it was joined by another solitary juvenile. They enjoyed each others company for several days until the newcomer decided it was time to go. Our juvenile was determined to stay until the ice started to form on the Little Lake in early December. The last he was seen was Dec 11.



Four month old adolescent loon
chilling out on big lake Oct 23,
2024

News from Augusta

LD 1763: An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters, is currently progressing through the legislative process. This legislation was initially proposed by several members of the Sebec Lake Association.

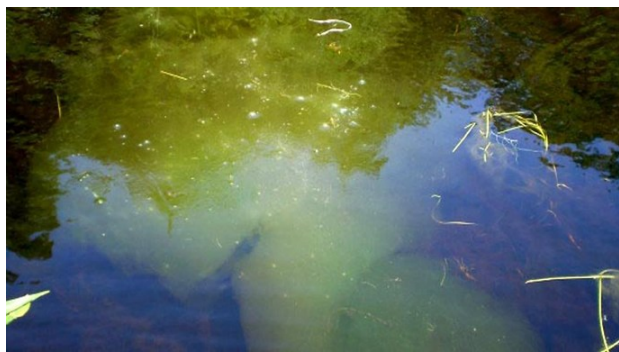
LD 1550: Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules to protect water quality by reducing nutrient pollution from septic systems.

Into the Icy Water: On Jan 11th, the ice on the big lake was thick enough to walk and snowmobile on but a large swath of ice about 100 ft across by 20 feet wide where the lake is very deep (by Enchanted Way) was still open. On Jan 14 a new layer of clear ice had formed over this deadly patch. Most people seemed to know and fisherman stayed clear. However, two men on a snowmobile were fooled by the new ice and attempted to cross, slowly. They did not get across. Both men were able to get themselves out of the water and walk to safety, one minus his boots. The snowmobile was recovered two days later.

Winners of Boat Contest

Last years Fourth of July Judged Boat Contest was a great success. 1st place went to Tom Tilson and 2nd place went to the Wintle Family.





Algae Blooms: Those unmistakable masses of green yuck in our lakes. If any body of water has high nutrient levels, warm still water, and adequate sunlight, it becomes the ideal environment for algal blooms. Fertilizers, especially phosphorus, chemicals from roads, nutrients from septic systems can make their way into the water causing algae populations to increase. With global temperatures rising, the incidence of algae blooms is increasing world-wide.

Little Wassookeag has a few coves where algae tends to grow, fluctuating in size from year to year. Are these areas toxic? No.

Toxic algae, or the blue-green cyanobacteria is not present in Lake Wassookeag. Algal blooms do not have to be toxic to have a negative effect on the environment, however. Negative effects include reduced oxygen levels in the water, decreased light penetration, fish kills, and disruption of the food web. Low oxygen occurs when the bacteria and algae from a bloom start to decompose, a process which takes up oxygen from the water. This reduction in oxygen availability for fish and other aquatic plants and animals can lead to higher mortality rates for these species (think smelts). Furthermore, the decrease in light penetration negatively affects the growth of many plants that other organisms may depend on.

Many lakes such as Sebasticook Lake, a shallower lake with a higher phosphorous content than Wassookeag, suffer each year from large algae blooms. Their recourse is to lower the phosphorus amount by draining the lake in September before lake turn-over. They have considered alum chemical treatment, as several other lakes in Maine have successfully done, however, for such a large lake it costs about \$2M and is not a permanent solution.

More Good News!!

The Dexter Development Association (DDA) is very busy again this summer with its Bring Back the Beach initiative started by Frank Spizuoco. New playground equipment will be coming and a large pavilion for group picnics and concerts will be built later this summer. Trees and bushes were planted this Spring. The DDA thanks the DLA for their support to help reach the \$75K needed to complete the project. You can help by buying a commemorative brick

at www.thatsmybrick.com/BBTB, or write a check to DDA and mail to: Town of Dexter, 23 Main St, Dexter, ME 04930



Photo of Frank Spizuoco adding mulch to the playground area.

The Lake, Poem by Julie Jewels Smoot

You call my name every year,
 You pull me to you and I cannot
 Get to you fast enough
 Once I get to you, I have to see you
 I see how beautiful you are,
 You have lessons to teach me
 You show me how to slow down,
 To ground in the present moment
 To let everything else go,
 You teach me to listen to all of
 The sounds around me,
 To smell the fresh air,
 And to watch all of birds and
 Wildlife around me.
 On occasions you have let deer
 Cross my path reminding me
 To be gentle with myself and others,
 Then a blue heron flies by and I
 Know Spirit is with me
 You want me to return to myself,
 To be in the present moment,
 To breathe fully,
 To be who I am meant to be,
 You want me to be authentic,
 You want me to allow myself to be seen,
 You want me to be free and when I
 Spend time with you, I feel that I am
 Most connected to myself and I am free.
 Photo by Ruth deBeurs—Jan 19, 2025

Dexter Lakes Association

49 Bear Lane

Dexter, Maine 04930

Calendar of Events

Fri, July 4: Town Parade with DLA float at 10 am and Decorated Boat Parade at 12:00 noon. Boaters should meet at the causeway bridge. FMI contact Dan Hutchins, 207-717-9091.

Wed, July 9: Annual Meeting which starts with a social gathering at 6:00 pm, meeting starts at 6:30 pm. VFW Hall, Cedar St, Dexter. Open to all. FMI contact Ruth deBeurs 924-0180.

Sat, July 19, Annual Loon count 7:00 - 7:30 am. FMI contact "JC" Forgotson at 207-232-6447.

Sat, Aug 2, Kiwanis Cruise-in at the Ridgeview Middle School 10-2.

Sat, Aug 9, Dexter Red Hot Dog Days, Downtown Dexter 10-5 pm

Sat, Aug 2 - Aug 15, Invasive Plant Survey, FMI contact Dan Hutchins 207-717-9091. Volunteers needed for both lakes and training is provided. Identification of non-native invasive plants is crucial to maintaining the health of the lake.

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.

**If you have not paid 2025 dues, please send
\$10 per member to**

**Adam Briggs
49 Bear Lane Dexter ME 04930**

**The purpose of the DLA is to help preserve and
protect the health of Lake Wassookeag and Echo
Lake.**



**Here is a clear reason why we bring in our
docks each Fall!**