



Kezar Lake Watershed Association
PO Box 88, Lovell ME 04051

(207) 925-8020
<http://klwa.us>

Fall 2011

President's Report

Recognizing the threat that invasive plants pose to our community, the KLWA's initiative to build a low-pressure boat wash station on Kezar Lake is now a reality! With assistance from the Town of Lovell and its Invasive Plant Protection Committee (LIPPC), the KLWA was successful in funding its construction and installation this summer, adjacent to the Narrows launch site, through a generous grant from the Sally Mead Hands Foundation of Grosse Point, Michigan. The new wash station will be fully operational during the 2012 boating season and will be staffed by full time Courtesy Boat Inspectors. While not mandated by law, boaters will be encouraged to wash down their boats and trailers upon entering and leaving Kezar Lake. The KLWA's experience in working with our town Selectmen and LIPPC to preserve the health and beauty of our watershed demonstrates a spirit of cooperation other communities could emulate.

Several KLWA initiatives have been further developed this year to better communicate our community's need to protect the Kezar Lake Watershed:

- Our Education Committee exhibited a strong presence at Lovell's Old Home Days in July with our "Eyes on the Water" program- an educational outreach initiative to encourage everyone to keep an eye out for Milfoil and other invasive plants. This program is a collaborative effort with the Town of Lovell's LIPPC group.
- While Kezar Lake remains one of the cleanest water bodies in Maine, it is still sensitive to pollution. Storm water runoff, rain and sediment wash nutrients and chemical pollutants like phosphorus and chlorophyll into our lakes, streams and ponds. The KLWA's 2010 Watershed Survey identified over 100 previously-identified sites around the lake where runoff carries such sediment into our water bodies- requiring remedial action. With the cooperation of our town fathers and Lovell's Road Commissioner, the KLWA is addressing these problematic sites to encourage and assist in corrective action. Moreover, funding through additional grants, etc., will enable us in the near future to extend our survey work to the remaining six ponds in our watershed.
- The steady decline of bass-spawning beds in Kezar Lake is of growing concern to local fishermen and naturalists alike. This summer, the KLWA established a new "Fisheries Committee" to

study this upsetting trend and have initiated meetings with the DIF&W to discuss the problem as well as state sanctioned bass-fishing tournaments and other regulatory issues.

- Importantly, in an effort to better serve our members and to further promote the KLWA's presence and activities within the Lovell community, the KLWA is taking advantage of an opportunity to share office space during the coming year with the GLLT in downtown Lovell. So, look for our new sign coming this winter and, if you'd like, drop in for a visit.

The KLWA's Annual Membership Meeting on July 9, 2011 marked our 42nd year as a lake association. Highlighting the occasion were presentations by FB Environmental of Portland, ME on the impressive health of the lakes and ponds in our watershed (water clarity in the Middle and Upper Bays of Kezar Lake exceeded thirty feet this summer-- well above the state norm!) and by our keynote speaker Maggie Shannon, Executive Director of Congress of Lake Associations (COLA). In a mission to serve the Maine lakes community, Maggie has been a strong voice in shaping Maine's laws to protect our state's freshwater bodies. In addition, this year our Education Committee announced the awarding of our 2011 Joan Irish Endowment Award to Lauren Brooking of Lovell, who was presented the award at Fryeburg Academy's commencement exercises in May. Congratulations, Lauren!

The KLWA's next Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 14, 2012. Please mark your calendars now and stay tuned for further details. Until then, our 'thanks' go out to our growing list of Corporate Sponsors, our many volunteers and, of course, to all of you- our annual members, for providing the financial and other support we so need and greatly appreciate.

Thank you!

Charlie Dattelbaum

Maine Audubon's Loon Count
 July 14, 2011 on Kezar Lake:
 18 adults and 2 chicks

New Trustees Elected

At the Annual Meeting held on the second Saturday in July, several new trustees were elected. As is the custom, these individuals represent various areas of the watershed. Ray Senecal was voted vice-president and incoming president, but because of his work schedule, he cannot assume the position of president until next year. Charlie agreed to continue as *ex officio* until that time. Current Officers and Trustees are:

Officers:

President: Charlie Dattelbaum, *ex officio*
 Vice-President: Ray Senecal, Northwest Cove (Timber Bay Shores)
 Secretary: (to be selected)
 Treasurer: Diane Caracchiolo, Middle Bay (E)

Trustees: (* signifies new Trustee)

- Bob Brown, Upper Bay (E)
- Diane Caracchiolo, Middle Bay (W) and Lovell
- * Tom Coffman (Upper Bay)
- Sara Cope, Lower Bay
- Peter Fleming, Middle Bay (E)
- Sue Hamlin, Middle Bay (W) and Lovell
- Lucy LaCasse, Stoneham
- Arthur Marcus, Middle Bay (E)
- Tim McGinn, Middle Bay (W)
- Jim Stone, Lower Middle Bay
- Lou Ureneck, Stoneham
- Moira Yip, Center Lovell, Upper Bay (E)

Cross-Representatives from GLLT Board:

Tom Henderson
 Paula Hughes

The Officers and Trustees work hard throughout the year to assure the protection of the water of our watershed. Please contact them not only with your concerns, but also with your 'thanks' for a job well done.

New Fisheries Committee

The KLWA formed a new Fisheries Committee this summer to investigate increasing concerns that the Kezar Lake fishery, most notably small mouth bass, is in an accelerating decline. Committee members are Ed Poliquin (chair), Carl Bois, Tom Coffman and Diane Caracciolo. The committee met in late August and early September to discuss goals and develop a strategy.

In September, the committee met with Francis Brautigan, the Regional Fisheries Biologist for the Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Department, who gave his insight on trends he is seeing in the lakes, as well as comments on the potential impact of the ice fishing tournament held in the Lower Bay last March.

Possible causes for the downward trend in fish populations occurring over time include declining bait fish and crayfish populations, both of which are important sources of food for both warm and cold water species, and might also include the increase in acid rain and mercury pollution.

Currently, the State of Maine is focused on improving the Salmon Fisheries of select lakes which includes Kezar Lake. The State's stocking of Lake Trout on Kezar in the past was not good for our lake, as they are now reproducing naturally. Lake Trout compete with and hurt other species of game fish such as Salmon. Unfortunately, there are no programs or plans currently in place at the State level to study bass. Therefore, the committee is looking into various other options to study the small mouth bass decline.

Another potential impact on the bass population in Kezar Lake is the ice fishing tournament that was held in March 2010. The tournament was permitted by the state and run according to all of the state's rules concerning fishing derbies. It was strictly a bass tournament and was held only in the Lower Bay. Currently, the state mandates that all fish caught and weighed in winter fishing derbies must be killed, unlike the summer bass tournaments, which are catch and release. Contestants are only allowed to keep one fish per day, but depending on attendance, this could amount to quite a few fish. There is a chance that the number of participants in the derby could increase from one hundred and sixty to over three hundred next year. The committee is concerned that future ice fishing tournaments of this size could damage the bass fishery.

As a result, the KLWA is working together with the tournament organizers to discuss options on how the tournament could be changed to help our goal of conserving the bass fishery on Kezar Lake. Ideas that were discussed include: changing the date of the tournament from March (it is a big feeding month for bass prior to spawning); opening up the tournament to the rest of the lake; including Lake Trout; tagging fish for release, and then allowing only the tagged fish to be killed and weighed, with a large prize for the biggest tagged fish; and focusing the prizes on other fish such as perch and pickerel. The committee feels that it is in the lake's best interest to have some changes implemented in the tournament rules.

In the future, the fisheries committee plans on looking into improvements to the state's current rules for ice fishing tournaments. We are also looking into different ways to improve the baitfish and crayfish populations, and improve Salmon spawning locations. Stay tuned.....

KLWA To Share Office With GLLT

The KLWA is now sharing an office with the GLLT! Not only the office, but internet access, office equipment, filing space, space for meetings and for assembling the newsletter. GLLT staff



will assist with program support, grant writing, project leadership, and response to public inquiries regarding lake and wildlife concerns. The new phone number for the KLWA is (207) 925-8020. Roger Williams made the very colorful sign, which is shown here in black and white because of newsletter constraints. Do stop in!

The KLWA and other watershed stakeholders must continue to work together to maintain excellence.

KLWA Receives Grant For Boat Wash Station!

Charlie Dattelbaum, with the assistance of the Town of Lovell and the Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee, was successful in receiving a competitive grant from the Sally Mead Hands Foundation for the construction of our first boat wash station.

Conveniently located near the Narrows boat launch, this promises to be an additional barrier for invasive plants' introduction to Kezar Lake. Although not yet mandated by the state, CBI volunteers will oversee the boat wash and strongly



suggest that boats having any plant material found in the inspection process go through the boat wash.

The town gave permission to build it on

town property, and town crews prepared the site according to accepted specifications. There is housing for both electricity and water which supplies the low pressure hose. Power is supplied with an underground hook-up from the pole near the marina.

The boat wash station was completed on October 12. Plumbing is an 'in-kind' gift from John Bacchiocchi (Lovell Plumbing & Heating).

Congratulations, Charlie! This is a wonderful example of collaborative efforts between the KLWA and the Town of Lovell!

Corporate Members

We are very appreciative of the following businesses who have risen to the challenge of becoming Corporate Members. Please thank them by bringing them your business!

- B&L OIL AND PROPANE, 389 Portland St, Fryeburg, ME 04037-1611. Telephone:(207) 935-2064
- BOAT MD (Shirl Chaplin), PO Box 19,350 Main St. Lovell, ME 04051. Telephone:(207) 925-1177
- CENTER LOVELL MARKET, 1007 Main St., Center Lovell, ME 04016. Telephone:(207) 925-1051
- CHALMERS INSURANCE GROUP AND

REALTY, P.O. Box 189, 100 Main St., Bridgton, ME 04009
Telephone: (207) 647-3311

• **CROWELL CONSTRUCTION, INC.**, 34 Housely Road, Harrison, ME.
Telephone: (207) 583-6450

• **FB ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES**, 97A Exchange St., Portland, ME 04101
Telephone: (207) 221-6716

• **HARVEST GOLD GALLERY**, Main St., Center Lovell, ME. Telephone: (207) 925-6502

• **HASTINGS LAW OFFICE**, PO Box 290, 376 Main St., Fryeburg, ME 04037. Telephone: (207) 935-2061

• **KEZAR LAKE MARINA**, 219 West Lovell Road (at the Narrows), Lovell, ME 04051.
Telephone (summer): (207) 925-3000

• **KEZAR REALTY**, PO Box 272, 224 Main St., Lovell, ME 04051. Telephone: (207) 925-1500 (o); (207) 890-3834 (cell); (207) 925-1520 (Fax)

• **LOVELL PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.** (John Bacchiocchi), PO Box 75, Public Works Rd, Lovell, ME 04051. Telephone: (207) 925-3045

• **MICKLON TREE AND LANDSCAPING**, P.O. Box 596, Fryeburg, ME. 04037.
Telephone: (207) 935-3293

• **NEW SUNCOOK REAL ESTATE**, 693 Main Street (PO Box 162), Center Lovell, ME 04016
Telephone: (207) 925-6888. Fax: (207) 925-6877

• **NORWAY SAVINGS BANK**, P.O. Box 347, 261 Main Street, Norway, ME 04268.
Telephone: (207) 743-7986

• **QUISISANA on Lake Kezar**, 42 Quisisana

Drive, Center Lovell, ME. Telephone: (207) 925-3500

• **NEW IMAGE COATINGS**: "Seal-Once," a Revolutionary Breakthrough, is the world's only eco-friendly waterproofer for wood, concrete/masonry & composite decking providing long lasting protection against water and UV damage. Carried by Lovell Hardware.

Give a Gift

Do you have a Big Birthday coming up? Or do you have someone you would like to honor or commemorate? Or do you have a new baby or grandchild? Support for the KLWA will help to ensure that as they grow up, the waters will be as pristine as they are today. Think of giving a gift to the KLWA in honor of the occasion. We are a 501 (c)(3) organization, and all such gifts are tax deductible. Thank you for your consideration.

Ongoing expenses include water quality testing for Kezar Lake and the six ponds in the watershed, the cost of the patrol boat (maintenance, gas and insurance), our patrol officer, Alan Broyer, semi-annual newsletters, the Joan Irish Endowment Award, periodic crayfish and plankton studies to support the fishery. We are grateful for your support.

Update on Joan Irish Award Recipients

Joel Rhymer, biology teacher at Fryeburg Academy, is a common factor in the lives of each of the recent recipients. All commented on the pivotal experience of studying environmental ecology in Puerto Rico, under his direction. Joel says this of the Joan Irish Award program: "And thank you... the KLWA, for your support of the Joan Irish Award, and the generosity associated with it. It's become a great way to honor and acknowledge some special and deserving kids."

Lauren Brooking, recipient in 2011, is a freshman at The Evergreen State College in

Olympia, Washington.

Esme Marie (shown below with Sue Lanser) received the award in 2010. She is the daughter of Tom Myhre and Kim Marie, also of Lovell. Esme is a sophomore at St. Olaf College in



Northfield, MN. Esme is having a wonderful experience focusing on the Middle East and the environment as

well, by taking an international law/environmental class. On top of everything else, she is a Community Scholar at St. Olaf, tutoring disadvantaged kids.

Jesse Sawin (shown below with Katrina Soucy), is the son of Farwell and Heather Sawin of Lovell. Jesse, who received the award in 2009, is now a junior at University of Maine-Orono, where he is majoring in Electrical Engineering. Recently he was elected into the Golden Key Honor Society, and has been on



the Dean's List every semester! He is considering a minor in Mechanical Engineering; however,

his degree will be in Electrical Engineering. He is still contemplating working in alternative energy following graduation.

Aaron Tripp was our first recipient in 2008. Now a student at Pratt Institute in NYC, he has worked every summer as a Courtesy Boat Inspector, and is pictured below after

making a 'save' this summer. He found a fragment of milfoil on a boat about to enter Kezar!



"Eyes On The Water"

In the spirit of collaboration, the Education Committees of both the KLWA and LIPPC have created a program designed to encourage people to keep their eyes on the water in order to recognize just what is native aquatic vegetation and what isn't. Committee members from KLWA are Lucy LaCasse, Sue Hamlin and Moira Yip, and from LIPPC are (Lucy LaCasse, Sue Hamlin) and Ann Williams. Working with the *VitalSigns* group of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland, and with the DEP, we created a spiral-bound laminated booklet explaining the program and depicting both native and invasive aquatic plants. With the help of a generous grant, copies were printed and given away, free of charge, to summer and year-around residents of Lovell. The goal is that every waterfront cottage has a copy for reference. The booklets were placed in the Town Office, both libraries, the Center Lovell Market, and given out at Road Association meetings this past summer. Mark Moulton at Lovell Hardware, made ten bucket scopes (buckets with the bottom cut out and replaced with clear plexiglass) to use as a tool for viewing the underwater world.

Two "*Eyes on the Water*" outings brought kayakers, canoes, boaters and waders together to scour the shallows (technically, the littoral areas---areas where sunlight penetrates to the bottom) around the North End boat ramp in July and the Narrows boat ramp in August.



Jackie Bailey, a biologist from St. Joseph's College in Windham, joined the August gathering and provided assistance in identifying the plants collected. We found no milfoil, but lots of native aquatic plants such as common bladderwort (above), watershield, spatterdock, little floating heart, and fragrant water lily (above).

News from the GLLT

Tom Henderson, Executive Director

In 2011, the Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT) expanded its Environmental Education and Land Protection programs, both central to its mission.

More people attended our evening talks and special library programs than in recent memory. Nature walks and hikes were increased and enjoyed greater participation, as well. Feedback from volunteer docents and participants was very positive, revealing both deep appreciation for the topics offered and the excitement of learning more about them.

At the beginning of 2011, the GLLT Land Protection Program had forty one properties and 3,366 acres permanently protected from alternative uses. We are poised now to surpass 4,600 protected acres by the end of the year!

The 2011 land conservation projects nearing completion will secure the preservation of some magnificent local gems. Each property is ranked as high priority in our goal of preserving viable native wildlife populations through the protection of their habitats. The resultant offshoot is the enhancement of water quality, ecosystem functional integrity, productive

working forests, recreational opportunities, and beautiful landscapes. These values help secure the economic well-being and health of our communities.

The GLLT leadership is looking forward to the expansion of our longstanding collaboration with the KLWA, thus promising to increase the effectiveness of both organizations in achieving our closely aligned missions.

Water Quality Committee

Ray Senecal

2011 brought its share of weather-related 'events' affecting our watershed. While spring was relatively normal with rains quite heavy at times, in mid-June there arrived a dry spell that continued through the summer. Lake levels fell and many long-time residents observed Kezar Lake at the lowest levels in decades.

This 'dry-spell' came to an abrupt halt with the arrival of Hurricane Irene during the last days of August. Irene is listed by some as among the ten most costly and deadly hurricanes to hit the US since 1980. The Saco River rose extremely fast, carving out earth and mud to become a brown soupy torrent. The river re-routed itself in many areas, as mature trees, rocks and boulders washed through, taking out roads and bridges. Many parts of Kezar Lake saw water levels rise two feet in several days, as the flowage from throughout the watershed dumped into the lakes and ponds. Although Vermont was hit the hardest of all the New England states, Irene impacted our watershed significantly. Many homes and camps in Lovell were without power for days. And then came more heavy rains in mid-October!

We are always concerned with heavy run-offs, which add phosphorous to the waters and can be a 'fertilizer' for algae. Total Phosphorous (TP) values usually do not show large short-term differences, but are very important to assess on a long-term basis. FB Environmental, KLWA's consultants in Portland, are analyzing results of the September 19 sampling,

and finalizing the 2011 year-end report for the lake and ponds. September data gathered for Boulder Brook and Great Brook show a lowering of TP (and also E.coli) from June levels. We believe this is a 'flushing effect' from the heavy run-offs of the earlier weeks. The clarity of the lake and ponds, as measured by Secchi disk, diminished in September, as expected, throughout the watershed. From June to September 2011, all the key chemical sampling values, such as alkalinity, oxygen, chlorophyll-a, and color, appear to be consistent with 2010 or 2009 data. They still remain within normal ranges of environmental standards, and overall, excellent, compared to other Maine lakes.

The KLWA is initiating programs in the coming year to assess the longer-term trends that are impacting the watershed's lake, ponds and streams. We will be closely analyzing both chemical and clarity data collected over the past thirty years, to confirm subtle positive and negative trends that affect our water quality. A

new and active Fisheries Committee is reported in this newsletter. In the past, we conducted crayfish and zooplankton studies to assess biological trends and establish a benchmark for Kezar Lake; however, these studies were not conclusive in addressing an observed decline in salmon and bass populations. We feel that the committee's work is necessary to conserve and build up valuable warm and cold water fisheries in Kezar and the ponds in the watershed. Additionally, we are continuing to follow up on the 2010 Watershed survey, communicating findings and working with other parties to address identified problematic run-off sites.

In summary, 2012 will bring an expansion of the water quality efforts of KLWA, enhanced by partnerships and collaboration with like-minded local and state-wide organizations, thus continuing our history of active stewardship of this precious area.

Ann K. Williams, Newsletter Editor

