



Newsletter of the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

Kezar Lake Watershed Association, PO Box 88, Lovell ME 04051

<http://klwa.us>

Fall 2010

President's Report

Charlie Dattelbaum

Good news...for the second time ever, Maine DEP officials have taken a lake "off" the state's list of infested water bodies. Yet, totally eradicating Milfoil is not only challenging, but extremely expensive when compared to taking prudent steps to prevent it at its source. Broad infestation of invasive plants in Sebago Lake and the Songo River continues to threaten Maine's lakes and ponds, including our own watershed.

In September, the KLWA presented the Town of Lovell selectmen with several proposals for the prevention of Milfoil in Kezar Lake, a copy of which is included in this issue of "Watershed Views". Fortunately, our town fathers recognize the serious threat that invasive plants pose to our community and further steps are being taken at this time. Subsequent to that meeting, the KLWA and GLLT each were requested to select five members which, together with representatives from the existing Lovell Invasive Plant Protection Committee, would form a new town 'Water Committee', with additional responsibilities which would include town beaches, launch sites, boat access, courtesy boat inspection and other Milfoil educational and prevention initiatives. If the Town of Lovell acts on the recommendations of this committee and provides the funding required, this could represent an important step forward in our communities' efforts to "protect and preserve the Kezar Lake Watershed for future generations". Stay tuned...

In June, the KLWA sponsored a new Watershed Survey, updating one we previously completed ten years ago. With planning and guidance from the DEP and FB Environmental Associates of Portland, ME, volunteers from the KLWA, GLLT and the town of Lovell gathered to identify over 100 of the most problematic sites of non-point pollution previously identified for re-examination and remedial action, if deemed necessary...paving the way for further extending our survey to all six ponds in our watershed. We were most fortunate to receive funding for this project through a generous gift from the Sea Otter Foundation of Yarmouth, ME.

Our preliminary water quality report of Kezar's lakes and ponds is encouraging, with water "clarity" readings this summer excellent. Like those of us who enjoy our pristine waters, so do loons!



Twenty adults and two chicks were counted by our volunteer spotters on July 17th and reported to Maine Audubon.

Please remember to renew your KLWA membership every year. We rely on you, our members and friends, to support our many environmental programs and activities. We look forward to seeing you at the KLWA's Annual Membership Meeting to be held on Saturday, July 9th at the United Church of Christ in Center Lovell. All are welcome!

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. Current Officers and Trustees are:

Officers:

- President: Charles Dattelbaum, Upper Bay (E)
- Vice-President: John Crowe, Upper Bay (N)
- Secretary: (to be selected)
- Treasurer: Phyllis Wilhelm, Middle Bay (E)

Trustees: (* signifies new Trustee)

- Bob Brown, Upper Bay (E)
- *Diane Caracciolo, Middle Bay (W) and Lovell
- *Peter Fleming, Middle Bay (E)
- *Sue Hamlin, Middle Bay (W) and Lovell
- Tom Hughes, Horseshoe Pond
- *Lucy LaCasse, Stoneham
- Arthur Marcus, Middle Bay (E)
- *Tim McGinn, Middle Bay (W)
- Ray Senecal, Northwest Cove (Lower Bay NE)
- 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 Website Launched

This summer we developed a new website (<http://klwa.us>). We encourage

photographs and ideas for what should be included (or omitted). It is still very much a 'work in progress', which is the whole idea. Check it out, send your comments on the 'Comments' page, and become a part of this endeavor. This is done with the idea of involving you, our members.

What Is The Difference Between a 'Pond' and a 'Lake'?

"The Kezar Lake watershed includes some 56 square miles, the towns of Lovell, Stoneham and Stow, and nine smaller ponds." (KLWA website). Have you stopped to wonder just what the difference is between a 'pond' and a 'lake'. This is not an easy question to answer, nor is it an obvious answer. 'Ponds', you might say, are smaller. Generally that is true. But Kezar Lake is considered a 'Great Pond'. In Maine, 'Great Ponds' are bodies of water larger than ten acres in surface area. Some ponds have second names that includes 'lake' in the name. In our watershed, Trout Lake is also known as Trout Pond.

One of the classic distinctions between 'pond' and 'lake' is that a lake is deep enough to be stratified, temperature-wise, into several layers throughout the warm months of summer. In the winter, it is cold throughout the water column (the imaginary column from surface to bottom), and as the spring winds pick up and the temperatures increase, the water turns over, moving the colder water to the bottom as the top surface warms up. The surface then regains oxygen, which has been depleted by bacteria and other organisms at the bottom; the water near the top is warm, while at the bottom it is



cold.

Another belief commonly held that differentiate 'lakes' from 'ponds' is that, because ponds are shallower than lakes, sunlight can penetrate to the bottom in all areas of the pond and thus support rooted plant growth throughout. But sometimes ponds support algae and other plant growth that can prevent the sunlight from reaching the bottom. Does that then make them a lake? And thus the confusion persists...

(Material for this article came in part from the VLMP Newsletter, the Maine DEP and the NH DES)

KLWA Officials Meet With Selectmen

Members of the KLWA board (Charlie Dattelbaum, John Crowe and Tom Hughes) met with the Town Selectmen on August 24 to discuss the very real threat of milfoil and how the Town (the Lovell Invasive Plant Committee-LIPPC), the KLWA, the Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT) might work together to try to prevent the steady march of invasive species into our watershed. Also in attendance were representatives of the GLLT, the LIPPC, and the Planning Board.

Below is the text of the prepared statement that Charlie delivered to the Selectmen:

Proposals to the Selectmen of the Town of Lovell for Milfoil Prevention From the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

The purpose of these proposals is to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic plants into Kezar Lake and to reduce the risk of further infestation within our watershed. Protecting our public and private economic resources, bird and fish wildlife habitats, and preserving the natural beauty of our lakes and ponds is of prime importance to the welfare of our community. The Town of Lovell Selectmen recognized this threat, as we do today, in a letter to all taxpayers in Lovell on October 20, 2001 that reads, in part:

“Lake Kezar is threatened by milfoil and this constitutes a potential economic threat

to the Town of Lovell...Kezar Lake is surrounded by lakes invaded by variable milfoil... Lake Kezar is classified as highly vulnerable and highly valuable. Lake properties currently provide 80 percent of Lovell's tax base. Lake properties lose value if the lake is infested. This would raise the tax burden for all properties off the lake...We appreciate all individual efforts to avoid introducing this invasive species to our lake.”

By working in concert with the Town of Lovell Milfoil Committee (LIPPC), Lovell's Office of Selectmen, the Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT), and other local clubs and road associations, the KLWA requests that now, more than ever, the various preventive initiatives that follow be considered for adoption to provide the Town of Lovell (and its water resources) the greatest feasible protection at this time. Our proposals represent but a first step in our shared mission:

- 1) Since it is widely recognized that “Courtesy Boat Inspection” is the most effective defense against Milfoil infestation, we recommend that all boats, trailers and jet-powered watercraft entering Kezar Lake be thoroughly inspected; that our local inspection program be expanded at the Narrows' launch site and at the North-end landing to include the intervening months from Memorial Day through the Columbus Day weekend, approximating 5 months; that full time inspectors be on hand to monitor boat launching from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm (or earlier), seven days a week; with activities funded by the Town of Lovell and presented in the Town's 2011 Budget report: (Approximately \$25,000-\$50,000 per year depending on the number of full time inspectors hired). Volunteer inspectors can supplement these efforts at one or both public launch sites.

Fishing boats carrying live bait may present a particular risk and therefore require special precautions during



both state sanctioned bass-fishing tournaments and at all other times, with boat inspectors paying specific attention to fishing gear, traps, nets and well/buckets. Operators should be warned that dumping unused bait is prohibited by law. Moreover, commercial bait dealers should be subject to prior permitting, their gear thoroughly inspected with entry to Kezar Lake restricted to public launch sites only.

2) Limit public launch sites to what is currently the Narrows' public landing and the North-end landing of Kezar Lake. The Lower Bay, given its shallow depth and silty bottom, is particularly susceptible to the introduction and proliferation of milfoil and foreign plants. Therefore, the KLWA recommends ending any further consideration by the Town of Lovell (or its Planning Board) to add additional public launch sites or access to the lake, noting that greater public entry points there, or elsewhere, runs counter to the stated mission of the Town of Lovell's Invasive Plant Committee – "to protect our water bodies from invasive species" and poses an additional threat to the health of our lake.

3) Newly-designed "Stop Milfoil Here" signs or other signage previously approved by the LIPPC should be prominently displayed at our public launch sites and other designated areas as reminders to all boating enthusiasts (and their hosts) of their legal responsibilities.

4) We propose that a Power Wash Station for Kezar Lake be considered at a site in close proximity to the Narrows' public launch site- with electric service, fresh water and suitable drainage beds provided; and with a "Courtesy Boat Inspector" on hand during designated hours of operation. Washing of all incoming boats and trailers should be made mandatory during those hours of

operation. In addition, a regular garden hose should be also provided as an attachment to the pump house for use during non-operating hours, along with appropriate signage and instructions. Further, lake front owners should be strongly encouraged to avoid the initial launching of motorized boats from private property, but to use the Town of Lovell's public launch site where boats can be inspected and washed down- especially after having been used previously in other water bodies.

Recent cost estimates (not including land acquisition/leasing or utilities) in the range of \$15,000 for the construction and installation of a Power Wash Station could be funded, we believe, through grant applications, joint community fundraisers or with assistance from the Town of Lovell. The KLWA can assist in investigating this initiative further.

5) Twin prior grants totaling \$20,000 awarded for the containment and remediation of Milfoil in Cushman Pond, and administered by the KLWA, should be further explored to ascertain if and when those available funds can be used for additional invasive plant prevention activities elsewhere in the watershed, with appropriate approval sought.

6) Educational Efforts: Build awareness within the Lovell, Stow and Stoneham communities of the ever-growing threat that Milfoil poses to the lakes and ponds in the Kezar Lake watershed. Enlist the KLWA, GLLT, Town of Lovell Milfoil Committee (LIPPC) and our Town Officers to engage our community through educational seminars, publications, newsletters, web-sites and letter writing campaigns, seeking broad approval and support for our joint mission. The KLWA (and GLLT) can help to coordinate these efforts.



7) Consider additional fund-raising opportunities within the community, requesting the support (both financial and otherwise) of the towns of Stoneham and Stow, local businesses, road associations and other interested citizens to share in the cost of specific projects and other Milfoil prevention activities.

There are other options, of course, for the prevention of Milfoil infestation that have been recently brought to light and discussed locally, some measures considerably more stringent than others (such as permanently closing and gating the North-end landing, which we do not endorse at this time). However, it is the position of the KLWA that a reasoned approach as outlined above, seeking the support and cooperation of the Town of Lovell Selectmen, the LIPPC and the GLLT, is our best chance to “win the day” in our fight to save Lovell’s precious waters and, in so doing, insure the economic and social welfare of our community. We believe these proposals to expand the Town’s current Milfoil prevention program represent a good start in this shared effort, and are deserving of your serious consideration.

Ultimately, the responsibility of protecting the Kezar Lake Watershed (with its valuable lakes and ponds) lies with the Town of Lovell. The Town’s acceptance of this responsibility, its visible support and willingness to fund these and other initiatives are critical to the success of our shared mission. The Kezar Lake Watershed Association stands ready to take a leadership role in working with the Town of Lovell to affect a broader range program to prevent the spread of invasive plants into Kezar Lake and its surrounding water bodies. It’s not too late to act!

Respectfully submitted (for the KLWA),
Charlie Dattelbaum, Tom Hughes, John Crowe

Our Responsibilities

It is our responsibility, EVERYONE’S responsibility, to keep a sharp eye out for inva-

sive aquatic species, be they plant or animal. If you or a guest bring a boat, motor, canoe, kayak or paddles from another water body, inspect them for ‘come-along’ plants. Also inspect fishing tackle, nets, hip-waders and other footwear.

Check, Clean and Dry

Check: Before leaving a river or stream, remove all obvious plant and algae material from clothing, gear and boats, and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the affected site. If you find any later, do not wash them down drains; dispose of all material in the trash.

Clean: Soak and scrub all items for at least one minute in hot (140 degrees F) water, a two percent solution of household bleach or a five percent solution of salt, antiseptic hand cleaner or dishwashing detergent.

Dry: If cleaning is not practical, after the item is completely dry to touch, wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any other waterway.

Several years ago, the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants published the *Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants and their common native look alikes*. A major gift of support for the project was donated by the KLWA to honor the memory of Joan Irish. This handbook remains one of the best tools available for identification of invasive plants. It is printed on waterproof and tearproof paper, and is designed to be used in the field. We highly recommend that every camp has a copy. You might devise identification games for the look-alike native species, so that when a thug comes along, it can be identified as ‘different’. Might be a good activity for the inevitable rainy day.

Volunteer Lake Monitors will be given a free copy of the field guide (limit one per monitor); they may also be purchased for \$19.95

from VLMP, 24 Maple Hill Rd, Auburn, ME 04210.

Joan Irish Endowment Award



At the July 10 Annual Meeting of the KLWA, Sue Lanser presented the third Joan Irish Endowment Award to Esme Myhre, who graduated from Fryeburg Academy this past year. Esme is attending St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She is the daughter of Kim Marie and Tom Myhre of Lovell. In the spirit of Joan Irish, the award is given to a deserving student pursuing studies relating to environmental science.

Watershed Survey

Ray Senecal

The big project for the KLWA last Spring was a watershed survey project, part of a long-term effort to keep Kezar Lake and the watershed clean for future generations to enjoy. Mother Nature was on our side... there were four survey dates from June to September and in each case, heavy rains and winds were present through the nights, and into the mornings of the surveys. But on each occasion, the rains subsided and clearing commenced as we started our day's activities!

The goal of the first part of the project was to revisit those sites identified in the 2000 watershed survey as having uncontrolled soil erosion and polluted runoff. The survey was

conducted by seven teams, including twenty-one volunteers, with four Maine Department of Environmental Resources personnel, and three

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

FB Environmental team leaders. All the participants attended a morning training session, including residents and Town officials.

The Watershed survey was focused on Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution and targeted about one hundred sites that had been identified as moderate-to-high-impact in the prior 2000 Survey. Each team surveyed the formerly-identified sites. They walked Association and Town roads, driveways, residential properties, and other developed areas within the Kezar Lake watershed. Volunteers recorded written and photographic reports on the current status of these sites.

We were pleased to confirm that 34% of sites identified in 2000 were remedied and are no longer a pollution issue. However, another 34% were rated high or medium impact, with the remaining classified as low impact erosion/polluted run-off areas. Problems were identified and documented, with teams recording recommended corrective measures, thanks to Maine DEP and FBE expertise. The majority of problem sites result from erosion of roads and some properties, causing displacement of the phosphorous-rich soils into watershed streams, ponds and the lakes.

During the summer, watershed survey results were reviewed with residents and town officials. Response has been positive, and actions are underway to address identified NPS sites. Work has been initiated and completed on many sites. We will be moving forward with individual reports to communicate survey results to the remaining site-owners in 2011.



Water Sampling

We continued monitoring of Kezar Lake’s three basins and the six (inhabited) watershed ponds, as we have for more than thirty years. Samplings were completed in June, August and September. The dry conditions were significantly different from the prior two wet summers. In 2010, we observed:

- Average Kezar Lake Water clarity/ Secchi measurements showed 27.6 feet in 2010, versus 22.6 feet in 2009. In layman’s terms, this means that the lake was considerably more clear this year, compared to last year.
- Major natural elements such as Phosphorous, Nitrogen, Oxygen levels were found to be normal. However phosphorous, a major component of soil run-off, was slightly higher in 2010.
- FB Environmental also monitored E.coli levels in Boulder Brook and Great Brook in June, August and September of 2010. While levels exceeded the DEP standard in both streams in June, levels in August and September were very low. We believe that heavy rain before June testing, may have contributed to high readings. Continued monitoring of these streams is recommended in 2011.

In summary, the water-bodies monitored show stability and some of the best water quality in Maine. The KLWA and other watershed stakeholders continue to work together, and need to strengthen efforts to maintain this excellence, by also addressing the additional risk to the waters of introduction of invasive plants.

New Membership Category: Corporate Members

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

FOR 2010:

- B & L Oil and Propane, 389 Portland St, Fryeburg, ME 04037-1611. Telephone: (207) 935-2064
- CHALMERS INSURANCE GROUP AND REALTY (<http://chalmersinsurancegroup.com/>), 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
- HARVEST GOLD GALLERY (<http://www.harvestgoldgallery.com/>), Main St., Center Lovell, ME. Telephone: (207) 925-6502
- KEZAR LAKE MARINA (<http://www.kezarlake.com/>), 219 West Lovell Road (at the Narrows), Lovell, ME 04051. Telephone (summer): (207) 925-3000
- MICKLON TREE AND LANDSCAPING, P.O. Box 596, Fryeburg, ME. 04037. Telephone: 207 935 3293
- NEW IMAGE COATINGS (<http://www.newimagecoatings.com/>). “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. “Seal-Once” is carried by Lovell Hardware.
- QUISISANA on Lake Kezar (<http://www.quisisanaresort.com/>), 42 Quisisana Drive, Center Lovell, ME. Telephone: (207) 925-3500

GLLT Wildlife Corridor Project

Tom Henderson, Executive Director

The Conservation Plan for the Kezar River, Kezar Lake and Cold River Watersheds (August, 2008), a community-based strategic plan, sparked the GLLT’s development of a land



protection program known as the *Wildlife Corridor Project*. The goal is to preserve viable, native wildlife populations, through the establishment of two permanently-protected wildlife corridors linking the already preserved habitats of the Saco River to those of the White Mountain National Forest. These corridors will prevent isolated 'islands' of land, too small to support viable native wildlife populations, which depend on wide-ranging mobility for breeding, foraging and sustainability. We have identified opportunities for adding land to augment the corridors in the eastern and western portions of our service area through the Kezar River and Sucker Brook/Lower Bay ecosystems, respectively.

Since we embraced the *Wildlife Corridor*

Project, we have added 935 quality acres of preserved habitat within the corridors. These additions were made possible by eleven private landowners who voluntarily placed conservation easements on their properties, and by three high-priority land purchases made by the GLLT. Amos Mountain, a 198 acre parcel purchased in 2009 from Erdna (Mrs. Howard) Rogers, is geographically central to the eastern Wildlife Corridor, and its size and scope makes it an effective addition to our habitat goals. Our Board of Directors is committing significant organizational resources to support this effort.

More information on each project can be found on our website, www.gllt.org, and in the Fall/Winter Newsletter 2010-2011.