



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

<http://klwa.us>

Spring 2012

President's Note

Charlie Dattelbaum

What the KLWA has been able to accomplish over the past few years to protect Kezar Lake and our watershed should be encouraging to us all. We are fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Trustees, GLLT Cross-Representatives and KLWA volunteers who serve on the committees that plan and oversee our activities and operations. And, we can be proud of the many projects and programs the KLWA has successfully initiated that bring greater awareness of the responsibility we all share in preserving the health and beauty of our water bodies, both here and throughout the state.

The KLWA's water quality activities continue unabated as they have now for over 30 years! Please see Ray Senecal's excellent Water Quality Report showcasing our strong commitment to meet the challenges posed by chemical pollutants and invasive aquatic plants. As reported (posted on the KLWA website: www.klwa.us), our 2010 Watershed Survey re-examined over one hundred previously-identified "at-risk" sites around Kezar Lake to determine where remedial action would be necessary, with steps already taken to address those deemed problematic. Moreover, our goal to expand the survey to all six ponds in our watershed may soon become a reality as well, if a grant opportunity extended to the KLWA this spring is approved. "Education" has now become a prominent KLWA initiative with our extensive Eyes on the Water program and informative booklets. This is a collaborative program with the Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee (LIPPC), and is blossoming as an educational outreach program to encourage all of us, as stewards of our lakes and ponds, to keep a vigilant lookout for milfoil and other invasive plants. It was showcased last summer at Lovell's Old Home Days, followed by real-time floating educational seminars (Eyes on the Water Outings) on Kezar Lake's Upper and Lower Bays. The KLWA's Joan Irish Endowment, in memory of our late president (now in its 5th year), is another educational initiative that gives competitive monetary awards to exceptional local high school seniors demonstrating a special interest in Environmental Studies as well as community service. Our new Fisheries Committee is examining the troubling decline in bass-spawning beds in Kezar Lake and the concurrent downward trend in our



fish population, meeting with representatives from the DIF&W to address the problem in addition to other regulatory issues. This year the KLWA began sharing office space with the GLLT in Lovell village to better serve our members and further promote our activities within the Lovell community.

As an 'all volunteer' organization, the KLWA has developed strong relationships with other environmental groups and lake associations, where we partner in environmental projects and seminars, including the Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT), Congress of Lake Associations (COLA), Lakes Environmental Association of Bridgton (LEA), FB Environmental of Portland, Maine Audubon, and Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). We provide the KLWA's own Patrol Boat and officer each summer, assisting boaters on Kezar Lake while insuring safety and the observance of state boating regulations. Articles and editorials relating to these and other of our activities are published in the KLWA's Spring and Fall Newsletters, Watershed Views, and are regularly updated on our website, www.klwa.us.

I am happy to report that the KLWA's new Boat Wash Station on Kezar Lake will be "up and running" this summer with Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) on hand to encourage local and visiting boaters to use the Boat Wash Station while offering assistance and training in the proper use of the facility. It is through a close working relationship with our town's Selectmen, LIPPC, and a generous grant from the Sally Mead Hands Foundation of Grosse Point, Michigan, that this important project became possible. It will help to shield our lake from milfoil infestation and other invasive aquatic plants .

Finally, I would like to thank our growing list of individual and family members, Road Associations, Corporate Sponsors and KLWA volunteers for your ongoing support and commitment to "clean water" here and throughout Maine. In recognition of your generosity, we have included (for the first time) a list of our contributors in 2011 as a heart-felt...."Thank You"!

Welcome Spring in Lovell

Editorial: Ann K. Williams

Well, this winter will be known as 'the winter that wasn't'. Although it started off with a bang, with a snowstorm on Halloween, and a second one on the day before Thanksgiving, there was very little snowfall overall. The ski resorts and outdoor recreation areas suffered. On four consecutive days in mid-March, temperature records were broken all over the state, as thermometers reached 80°F and above. Today, as I write this (March 29), I can report waking up to snow yesterday, with predictions of more snow showers today, and temperatures not reaching 40°F. The vagaries of Mother Nature!

The Lewiston Sun-Journal reported that this mild winter just may well become the norm. A collection of news stories and reports from

biologists and climatologists around Maine tells the story of the impact of the winters of 2011 and 2012 on outdoor enthusiasts. This volume, 'On Thin Ice', suggests that carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants are largely to be blamed for the climate change that poses such a threat to Maine's outdoor heritage.

Secondary roads were posted in February, as opposed to the usual dates in March, limiting the allowable axle weight of vehicles traveling these side roads. This is to curtail damage done to the roadbeds as the frost comes out of the ground and heaves the roads, leading to sinks and potholes.

The maple syrup season was short, with warm days in February taking some of the producers by surprise. By Maine Maple Sunday (March 25 this year), the syrup runs had ended for the most part, although the homemade Maple Ice Cream with thick warm syrup served at



one sugar house that I visited was delicious!

Ice-out on Kezar occurred on March 23, almost a month earlier than in the past years, although the subsequent freezing weather put a skim of ice back on small ponds and puddles. Keewaydin, to the north, and the Norway lakes of Pennessewassee and Little Pennessewassee, as well as Moose Pond in Bridgton, also experienced ice-out that day. On March 22, while driving over the Narrows bridge, I witnessed a brave kayaker in open water up against ice which still had not melted. Where was my camera when I needed it?!

Here is a wonderful description of the phenomenon known as 'Ice-Out', from an early newsletter from Severance Lodge, "Woods-moke", written by Harold Severance, with permission of his daughter, Carol Severance Taylor:

"Today, the ice went out, and with it the deep silence of winter. For months, snow has piled high around the cottages. The forests have been silent indeed. Just a short distance from the Lodge, thick coated deer have yarded and kept their strange quiet, pointing their ears forward to catch the frost tick of an echo of echoes. Under the wind rippled snow, Lake Kezar ice was two feet thick; and deep under the ice, there hung in that green cold fluid darkness small mouth bass and salmon and brown trout. Today this is a memory. Today the ice went out. For days now, the sun has climbed high in the sky--brown patches, then green, have appeared between the piles of snow. The icy surface of the lake has turned grey, then black. This morning a brisk wind came tearing down from Eagle Crag. The jingling tinkling sound of crushing ice was in the air, and windrows piled high on the eastern shore. As the sun set, the lake had become free once again.

Yes, we have glorious blue water again; and with it, the warming sun, and all the mysteries of life reborn. After the long silence of winter, the deer may well be forgiven if they kick up their heels and renew their youth in all reason-

able ways.

Soon the rare days of June will be here, and the Lodge will again become alive. Good friends from the cities will be back to renew themselves in the sweet freshness of the Maine Countryside--to change into comfortable loose fitting clothes, to leisurely enjoy good Maine food, to fish and to swim, to feel the softness of the forest carpet under foot, to chat with old friends and new, to look forward to nights of restful sleep in the pine laden air. Golf clubs and fishing rods will be much in evidence, and Kezar will be dotted with boats."

Thank you for sharing this, Carol! I have seen the ice turn grey, then black. I have heard that tinkling, sounding like crystal chandeliers bumping together as the bubble-riddled ice collapses on itself. I have felt that clearing wind, and have seen the dancing waves released from their prison of ice. It is all indeed quite magical.

Water Committee Report

Ray Senecal

I'm at my desk, facing the deck, looking out on Lower Bay, while beginning to write about the Water Committee activities and plans for 2012. Half the ice is gone, and there are almost twenty ducks, a couple seagulls and three Bald Eagles swooping at fish at the entrance to Sucker Brook. What is wrong with this picture? Nothing! I'm savoring it! Then I start thinking about moving my docks and launching the boat... Wait a minute!!... It's the 23rd of March !! That's why Lee isn't answering calls at the Marina... It's a month early!

It's been an amazing winter, and those snowplowing savings will be put to good use. We hope the recent months' dry spell and very early spring don't have a negative effect on our watershed. The KLWA Water Committee and our environmental partners will continue to address the chemical and biological signals in Kezar Lake and the six ponds, starting in June. We plan to take a look at the historical scientific



data of Kezar Lake collected over thirty years (!) and present it at our Annual Meeting in July. Looking at historical trends and the conclusions drawn from them will help us address just how we deploy our very valuable, but limited, resources.

As an organization, we face ever-increasing challenges in our watershed. This was driven home by the two important conferences that I attended in March. The first of these was the 13th annual Maine Milfoil Conference, where the theme was “Self Inspect.” New Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Patricia Aho gave a fine keynote presentation. She emphasized the strong need in the battle against milfoil and other invasive plants to press for individual responsibility and accountability before launching. Checking for invasives is everyone’s responsibility, as Courtesy Boat Inspections are only a partial safeguard. It’s sort of like Smokey Bear... “Only YOU can prevent Milfoil”!

At the 18th annual Maine Water Conference, there were many presentations by experts, talented professionals in attendance, and thought-provoking discussions. The impact of development without attention to future consequences was addressed. While the quality of Maine’s lakes is well above average compared to other states, about half of Maine lakes have current or impending problems due to increased phosphorous. This leads to summer algae blooms in many cases. A doubling in shorefront development can lead to a five or ten-fold increase in phosphorous pollution coming into the lake. Costly remediation is a twenty year project at best to restore high quality water, much like what we have today in Kezar Lake.

The message was not that we should stop or oppose development, but that it should be carefully monitored, studied, and thoughtfully controlled. Many believe that in Maine we have entered a new era of less caution in regard to the environment. In the State Legislature, a bill has been proposed to roll back shoreland zon-

ing requirements, and a bill now in committee would loosen regulations on open-pit copper/zinc mining. If passed, this could have significant impact on northern Maine lakes, aquifers and fisheries.

At the very same time, at the Pebble Mine in Alaska, a tremendous controversy continues on a proposal, to dig a huge open-pit mine, which would be the largest such mine in the US. There is very significant concern for the well-being of Bristol Bay’s rivers/ headwaters and salmon resources. We may face a similar challenge at Bald Mountain, Maine.

Closer to home, and perhaps more significantly, I learned of a proposal called “Albany South”, which would conduct a huge timber harvest near Great Brook and its tributaries at the north of our watershed. This would include a sizable land area in Stoneham to Keewaydin Lake. It is planned for a year or so from now. We will be monitoring and participating in hearings starting later this year.

Maine’s DEP is working hard to address shrinking budgets, and will find it difficult to deal with the increasing number of environmental challenges. Private citizens and organizations need to help, increasing their commitments to address these important problems as active stakeholders.

So we enter 2012 with significant issues, resolved to meet the challenges to protect our waters. Working in cooperation with many other regional and Maine state environmental partners and with help from generous grants and donors, KLWA expects to continue to address strongly the ongoing health and protection of the watershed. It is our mission.

“The single largest pollutant to Maine lakes is Soil, and the greatest source is private unpaved roads. Your actions can make a difference.”
(from flyer of ME DEP).



Letter From Membership Committee

Spring is here and so is membership renewal time for the Kezar Lake Watershed Association. Membership dues and contributions are the primary source of funding for the KLWA, allowing us to cover the costs of keeping Kezar Lake and the ponds in our Watershed as pristine and recreationally attractive as they currently are today.

The KLWA is sponsoring two educational programs at the Charlotte Hobbs Library and two docent-led nature walks in Lovell this summer. If you would like to be notified about these programs, please provide us with your e-mail address along with your 2012 membership contribution in the enclosed envelope.

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, July 14th at the Lovell United Church of Christ. All are welcome for coffee and doughnuts at 8:45am, followed by our meeting at 9:30am, so please plan to join us. This year our Guest Speaker will be LaMarr Clannon. LaMarr was born and raised in Alaska, where people often feel that space and natural resources are limitless. She has a background in Chemistry and Environmental Engineering and has lived in Maine for the last 10 years. Currently, LaMarr coordinates the Maine NEMO Program (Non-point Education for Municipal Officials), sharing her passion for clean water with land-use decision makers. She also provides information on "Low Impact Development and Training", bringing together the scientific community and municipal representatives in addressing water quality issues throughout the state.

**KLWA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2012
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Aquatic Plant Identification Workshop Planned for Lovell!

The Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP), in conjunction with the Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee (LIPPC), has scheduled an aquatic plants identification workshop in Lovell on Thursday June 21, from 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm. It will be held in the Stephen & Tabitha King Meeting Room on the lower level of the Charlotte Hobbs Library. We will break for supper, so bring a sandwich for supper, or plan to get something from Rosie's. This workshop is one of only nine to be held in Maine this summer, and the only one in Oxford County, so we hope that you will make plans to attend. Others are scheduled as follows. Contact the VLMP [www.mainevlmp.org] for more information on these workshops).

These are intensive hand-on workshops intended to familiarize participants with both native and non-native (invasive) plants. It is a wonderful opportunity to gain the skills necessary to protect the waters of your watershed, and there is NO COST to attend!

To sign up, email your name, phone number and your choice of the Lovell workshop to: www.mainevlmp.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

'Plant Paddle' Outings Planned

There will be several Plant Paddles this summer, designed to enable participants to gain confidence in learning about native aquatic plants. The idea is that if we know what should be growing in our waters, then we can learn to recognize what should not be there. The first Plant Paddle scheduled will follow up on the Plant ID Workshop on June 21, and will be held on Saturday June 23, from 9 am - 11 am, to practice the skills of aquatic plant identification in Lower Bay. We will meet on Northeast Cove Rd: from the Narrows, go on the West Lovell Rd, to Timber Bay Shores Rd. and turn left. Signage will direct you from that



point. The second will be held in the Narrows on Monday, July 23, again from 9 am - 11 am; meet at the Narrows boat launch, and we will fan out from there. There will be a full-blown "Eyes on the Water" excursion, sponsored by the Education Committees of both the KLWA and LIPPC, on Sunday August 19, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Horseshoe Pond. There will be an expert to help with aquatic plant identification. Meet at the boat launch. For each excursion, come with canoes or kayaks, plenty of sunscreen and enthusiasm for learning about aquatic plants. For further information, go to www.eyesonthewater.us.

Fisheries Committee Report

Salmon: In 2005, the State of Maine DEP proposed a 'Classic Salmon Initiative', designed to develop the strategies deemed necessary to favor the creation of a trophy, open-water salmon fishery on Kezar Lake. The goal was to increase the numbers of three-to-four pound salmon in the lake, plus a few larger than that. This would be accomplished by stopping the stocking of lake trout (togue), which compete with salmon for forage, and also eat the juvenile salmon. Togue limits would also be increased, to reduce their numbers. Also the stocking of young salmon in the spring would be reduced, to reduce competition for forage. The size limit would be changed to 'keepers' of 14" minimum, with one per bag, but salmon larger than 20" would be released. This has effectively reduced the salmon catch in the short term, but the end result will be a restored salmon fishery.

Bass: Springtime means "spawn time" for bass. Bass spawn in beds made by the males to attract the females. The males scour out areas of lake bottom that can be up to six feet in diameter. The beds are typically in water that is from two to twelve feet deep and can be seen from above when standing in a boat. Each female produces between 10,000 to 20,000 eggs, of which only a small percentage reach

adulthood due to predation and lack of forage, as well as other lake specific reasons. There is some concern that the smallmouth bass beds have declined in Kezar Lake over the past few years. The Fisheries Committee plans to count and monitor bass beds on the Lake this spring. Specific areas will be monitored on an ongoing basis to identify trends going forward. The committee has also sought advice from Francis Brautigan of Maine's DEP Inland Fish & Wildlife.

Fryeburg Rec Department Ice Fishing

Derby: In the fall, the Fisheries Committee met with some of the organizers of the Fishing Derby to try to come up with a plan to protect the bass while maintaining a successful fishing derby. The second annual derby was held on March 3-4, and despite some bad weather at the start, attendance was up over last year. There were 147 participants from all over New England, including 62 children. Unlike last year, bass were excluded, and top prizes were awarded for biggest togue, pickerel and perch. The adult winners brought in togue weighing from 4.95 lbs to 6.95 lbs, while the children caught togue weighing from 3.4 lbs to 3.95 lbs, as well as some large pickerel. The areas fished in the tournament were Lower Bay and some of Upper Bay. Yes, there are some big fish in Kezar!

Summer Library Talks

The KLWA is sponsoring two programs at the Charlotte Hobbs Library this summer. The first, on July 11 from 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm,, will be presented by Colin Holme of Lakes Environmental Association who will give an interactive presentation on the functional and attractive native plants of New England that make western Maine unique. The talk will be focused on underused native ornamentals that not only beautify the landscape but also play an important role in the environment. While landscape companies and some nurseries focus



much of their attention on a few dozen non-native hybrid species, Colin will showcase some of the stunning combinations of color and composition that can be achieved with local plants.

The second program, on August 22 from 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm, will be of special interest to all fisherman. Dr. Stephen Coghlan, Asst. Prof. of Freshwater Fisheries Ecology at the UMaine (Orono), will talk about the hidden lives of common freshwater fish, their ecology in lakes and streams, and key considerations in fisheries conservation. Dr. Coghlan's research interests focus on the interactions between smallmouth bass, Atlantic and landlocked salmon and brook trout, the effects of dam removal on fish communities, and the role of forests in supporting stream habitat for coldwater fish.

News from the GLLT

Tom Henderson, Executive Director

The Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT) is pleased to announce the completion, in 2011, of five land conservation projects that preserve a total of 1,421 acres of forest and wetlands. The scale, scope and quality of the land conservation achieved this past year is unprecedented in the 26 year history of the GLLT! Preserving large blocks of forestland is the single best way to ensure the preservation of water quality in our watersheds. In 2011, the GLLT helped to preserve 890 acres in the Cold River Watershed, and 531 acres in the Kezar Lake Watershed which includes 379 acres at Sucker Brook, the major feeder stream to the Lower Bay. At present, a total of 1,262 acres with over 3.5 miles of brook frontage is under protection in the north-south land and water corridor from the outlet of Kezar Lake to Horseshoe Pond. The GLLT's land protection program is being guided by the community-based "Conservation Plan for the Kezar River, Kezar Lake, and Cold River Watersheds," published by the GLLT in 2008 and available

on their website: www.gllt.org. The Conservation Plan identified "Focus Areas for Land Protection Efforts" based upon the presence of multiple conservation and resource values in those areas. All of the lands preserved in 2011 are situated in identified "Focus Areas", except for a 53 acre parcel on Christian Hill. Each parcel abuts previously conserved lands, greatly advancing the GLLT goal of preserving viable, native wildlife populations through the preservation of the habitats upon which they depend. The significance of land protection in a contiguous manner is that connectivity provides native species of mammals, birds and amphibians the range and type of habitat they need to thrive. By maintaining wildlife habitats and corridors such as the one from Sucker Brook's outlet to the heights of Adams and Speckled Mountain, this diversity of life will survive for generations to come.

Save the date! The GLLT's 23rd Annual Education Meeting will be held on August 11, 2012 at the VFW Hall in Lovell, beginning at 8:30 am. We are honored to have as our speaker George Jacobson, University of Maine professor emeritus of Biology, Ecology and Climate Change. Professor Jacobson is currently the Maine State Climatologist and is a former Director of the Climate Change Institute at the University, where he continues to be an active participant. He has written extensively on the patterns and mechanisms of long-term climate change and its influence on Maine environments. Professor's Jacobson's talk, "Long-term climate variability and Maine ecosystems – past and future" will explore much of what makes the natural history of our state so interesting.

The GLLT 2012 Environmental Education Program is very robust. For a complete listing of programs, including guided nature walks, go to www.gllt.org or email info@gllt.org , call 925-1056 or stop into the office at 208 Main St. in Lovell village.



Officers & Trustees

Officers:

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

Trustees:

Bob Brown, Upper Bay (E)
Tom Coffman (Upper Bay)
Sara Cope, Lower Bay
John Crowe, Upper Bay
Peter Fleming, Middle Bay (E)
Sue Hamlin, Middle Bay (W), Lovell

Lucy LaCasse, Stoneham
Arthur Marcus, Middle Bay (E)
Tim McGinn, Middle Bay (W)
Jim Stone, Lower Middle Bay
Lou Ureneck, Stoneham
Moiria 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 waters of our watershed. Please contact them not only with your concerns, but also with your 'thanks' for a job well done.

Newsletter Editor: Ann K. Williams

