



**President's Message:**

Greetings.

The autumn colors around the lakeshore are currently spectacular and the prevailing winds are shifting around to the north/northwest; the water temperature has dipped below 60 degrees; most docks are out and boat traffic is sporadic - It is fall on the lake!

Still, we at Keoka Lake Association (KLA) continue to have a lot going on: Boat inspections, plant patrols, water testing, education, water safety, runoff pollution prevention, dam management, fundraising, websites, social media, and more. You can get an update of our activities by reading the rest of this newsletter. Many of the 'behind the scenes' aspects of our activities are supported by Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), but we rely, first and foremost, on our KLA membership and Board of Trustees to support the mission of KLA. Those working for KLA are all volunteers and are all motivated by a love of Keoka Lake. We thank you for joining KLA and supporting our efforts. If you would like to get more involved, we would be more than happy to have you. I know just how you can help! Please feel free to call me at 207.671.6962 or e-mail me at [ctarbell@maine.rr.com](mailto:ctarbell@maine.rr.com).

Thanks, and see you on the (soon to be frozen) lake.

Charlie Tarbell, President

**What can YOU do to help our lake??**

At Keoka Lake Association (KLA), we are playing a long game – generations long. We have come a long way since our founding, in 1971, by my parents' generation. At the time of our founding, one of the chief reasons for KLA, aside from the need for repairs to the dam, was the poor water quality of the lake. Indeed, as a kid, I remember the thick summer algae blooms at the mouth of Kedar Brook.

Not entirely coincidentally, Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) was founded in 1970. LEA began testing the water quality and rating the lake health of service area lakes in the 1970's. Keoka Lake was ranked a "High Concern" lake from the outset of testing until around the year 2000. Over the course of that time, significant efforts had been undertaken to stop runoff pollution from both municipal and private landowner sources. By 2000, Keoka had improved to a "High/Moderate Concern" lake. The work has continued and the effort is paying off: Keoka is now rated as a "Moderate Concern" lake.

Yes, we have come a long way! Water quality testing results in 2016 (full report due

out later this fall) were better than the long term average – perhaps largely due to the dearth of rainfall this summer. After the tree pollen cleared, water clarity was the best I can recall. However, anybody who lives near the many inlets to Keoka can attest to the fact that mid-August still brought algae blooms to the warm, shallow bottom waters of the stream deltas. Excessive algae are a "canary-in-a-coalmine" phenomenon; they indicate an overabundance of nutrients. We have come a long way since 1971, but we are not yet out of the woods. Work still remains to be done.

KLA continues to promote maintenance of the remediated municipal hot spots that were identified in the 2000 Keoka Watershed Report. I'm happy to say that the public/private partnership of the Town of Waterford and KLA is working well to maintain the good work completed during the period just after the watershed report was released. Brad Grover, Waterford Road Commissioner, and his crew did an exceptional job of relining the ditching of Mill Hill road during the past summer. We also highly recommend that you take advantage of

the LakeSmart program for private landowners, if you haven't already done so.

But beyond those two measures, I strongly suggest that ALL landowners, especially in the shoreland zone, take a walk in the rain. Suit up and go for a walk while it's raining hard. Walk along your roads and driveways, around your structures, check any culverts, and stroll along the paths to the waterfront. What you are looking for is rainwater running off in a torrent, toward the lake or toward tributaries. Follow the torrents and see where they lead. Ideally, they will lead to settling areas where the water can accumulate and percolate into the ground, rather than gush into the lake or into streams. When this runoff water gushes into the lake, it carries with it phosphorus runoff, which can lead to algae blooms and other untoward results.

If you find such gushers, identify locations where you may be able to divert the runoff, so that the water gets a chance to pool and percolate, rather than run directly into the lake. Check your road and driveway culverts. Do they overflow and cause water to run over the road or over the land? Undersized or clogged culverts can be the cause. Water running over the land and into the lake picks up much more phosphorus than water running down the streambed. Also check the water coming off your roofs. This water should be channeled to where it can pool and percolate and not run directly, unimpeded, into the lake.

All of these items, plus others, are reviewed and discussed with landowners during a LakeSmart inspection. These inspections are free and carry no obligation to correct identified issues – but then, why would you not? You might find that it is amazing how small an amount of effort is required to remediate a significant source of phosphorus loading.

So, if you don't like the idea of a stranger doing a LakeSmart inspection on your property, at least take a walk in the rain yourself and figure out what you can do to stem the flow, restore the lake's balance, and help us all with the long game. Thanks.

### **Plant Patrol**

Every year, a mini-army of volunteers combine their on-the-lake activities with a regular 'eyes on' assessment of the flora and

fauna that lives beneath the waters along a stretch of shoreline. For the purpose of 1) knowing what's there and 2) 'catching' something that shouldn't be there, Keoka Lake has been divided into segments to allow an orderly (and complete) overview of Keoka's native underwater life. Combined with the Courtesy Boat Inspections, this regular plant patrol should position us to act very quickly in the event an invasive (namely, milfoil) is discovered on a boat exiting the lake.

BUT – we have a problem!! The map of the segments is posted on the website – and you will note that some of those segments are large, extending in some cases nearly .25 of a mile. The mini-army needs some help! Ideally, each Plant Patroller would 'patrol' the area in front of his/her own property/beach and one property either direction – so about 600 feet, not hundreds of yards.

If you can volunteer to join the Plant Patroller's mini-army, please contact Arne Klepinger or Charlie Tarbell. If everyone does a little bit, it's not a big job for anyone. Thank you!

### **CBI**

The hot and dry weather this summer resulted in 425 hours of Courtesy Boat Inspections, 229 inspections and 14 'catches' – all outbound. The catches were the *Keoka Curlyleaf Pondweed*, indigenous to Keoka but considered an invasive elsewhere. Once again, LEA administered the program for KLA and hired people for whom they have a profile. The CBI coverage continued all the way through Labor Day weekend. This followed a spotty start over the Memorial Day weekend due to slower hiring, something that will be remedied for 2017.

### **4<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta**

Due to the fickle weather we've experienced the past two years, the date of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta was moved to the end of July. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, nine intrepid sailors braved a questionable sky and set off at 2 pm from Chadbourne's beach to maneuver the course (set that morning) before the winds shifted! The winner of the Laser Class was Christian Struck; second place went to Robert Conway. Chip Howard was the winner of the Open Class with Larry Griffin coming in

second. The boats were barely back to Chadbourne's beach before the skies opened up and it poured, delaying the sailor's return to 'home ports'. So much for trying to avoid August's fickle weather!!

Our congratulations to the winners and our thanks to Tom Chadbourne and the Chadbourne family for the use of their beach as the registration and launching point for this annual regatta. Stay tuned to the website and the Spring Newsletter 2017 for the date of next year's regatta.

### **Education/Outreach**

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ginger Eaton, along with Mary Jewett (LEA) and Sally Stockwell (ME Audubon) and children who had heard about the event on social media, recreated the Keoka Lake watershed in the sands of the Stockwell Beach. Education about how what we do at various points in the watershed and the ultimate effect on Keoka Lake are the beginnings of understanding how we, as landowners and those who want to keep Keoka Lake clean and safe, can affect (positively or negatively) the health of the lake. Ginger hopes to re-create this activity at Keoka Beach Campground next summer.

### **Volunteering**

For over 45 years, KLA has been doing what it does with a committed group of volunteers. Volunteers serve on the Board of Trustees of KLA; they serve as plant inspectors that check a section of the lake on a regular basis to assess unusual flora or fauna activity; they monitor water quality; they maintain and set up/store the loon nest; they assist with merchandising and spreading the KLA word at Community Breakfasts, the Fourth of July parade & the Fall Foliage Race; they serve as volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors and they serve as liaisons to the Town of Waterford, LEA and other state organizations through direct contact or through service as a committee or board member. KLA would not be what it is without those who volunteer. Would you like to join us?

KLA's Board of Trustees would like talk to anyone interested in lending a hand. Volunteering for KLA is a great way to get to know others who treasure Keoka Lake and, as

more people volunteer, the work is shared and everyone gets to spend more time enjoying all Keoka and the area has to offer. Lend a hand! Check one of the boxes on the Fall Dues Form and you will be contacted! Our thanks to all who volunteer now and welcome to those who wish to join us!

### **Social Media**

Are you a 'tweet'-er? Do you use Instagram? YouTube? Vine?. How about 'Google'? (did you know it's now a legitimate word in Webster's dictionary!) Do you have a Facebook page? (now, that's something most folks have heard of!)

The world of social media is changing before our eyes but rest assured, Keoka Lake is taking it slowly. Yes, KLA has a website (<http://www.keokalake.org>) and KLA has a Facebook page. If you have a Facebook page too, you can 'Like' us on Facebook and any updates and/or posts to the KLA page will show up on your Newsfeed – It's as easy as that. Did you know that we can alert you to updates on our website by posting a notice on our Facebook page. And if you post pictures to Instagram, use #KLA or #keokalake so others who use Instagram can also see your pix. And while you're at it, check out the KLA website and upload your pictures through the link under the Gallery loon tab. That way - for those long winters not spent on the waters or shores of Keoka Lake, you can be 'in the know'!

### **KLA Merchandise**

In 2016, KLA continued to present articles for sale at the Wilkins House Community Breakfasts as well as at the Fourth of July Parade and the Fall Foliage 5K Weekend. This year, KLA 'moved up' and had table space inside the Wilkins House for the summer Community Breakfasts. In addition, there was a KLA booth at the Fall Foliage 5k the Sunday of Columbus Day weekend – to sell merchandise and raffle tickets for the Loon Bench Raffle. Our organization regularly nets upwards of \$500 from these sales opportunities and we thank each of you who support KLA in this way.

## **Loon Bench Raffle**

The winner of the Loon Bench Raffle was Doss Hasson. Our thanks go to all who bought tickets for a chance on the bench. Stay tuned for news on what will be the 2017 KLA raffle item.

## **Gift Memberships**

Many of the 'camps' that border Keoka Lake are multi-generational camps with long histories on the lake. Childhood friendships are renewed at Keoka when those who spent their summers in the '60's, '70's and '80's now return to Keoka with their families to share those same experiences. Family reunions are what it's all about!

But the work of KLA is supported largely through dues payments made by individuals, couples and nuclear families. Please consider encouraging your children and grandchildren to take a direct interest in the lake by becoming independent members of KLA. To jumpstart the transition from one generation to another, consider giving a KLA GIFT MEMBERSHIP to children, grandchildren and/or nieces/nephews. On the enclosed Dues Notice, just fill out the form for your gift recipient, check the "Gift Membership" box and give us **your** name & address. KLA will do the rest and send you a **GIFT MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE** that you can gift-wrap and/or deliver as you wish. Want to give more than one Gift Membership? Just attach the information to your dues form and it

will happen!

Passing the torch to the next generation ensures the continued enjoyment of the lake by all. A KLA Gift Membership is a gift that keeps on giving (and doesn't need batteries, doesn't take up space, doesn't need a charger or an electrical outlet and doesn't collect dust!). KLA Gift Memberships make great stocking stuffers or Hannukah gifts!

## **Fall Dues Notice**

The final page of this newsletter is the Fall Dues Notice. Our thanks to those listed who have paid their 2016 dues by October 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have not paid your 2016 dues, please note that you can pay both the 2016 and the 2017 dues with this notice (and save yourself a stamp!). Remember, each membership is eligible for one KLA floating keychain!

Please consider a gift in excess of \$25 either as an unrestricted donation or directed to the Milfoil Reserve or Educational Initiative. KLA is a volunteer organization that relies on donations to continue its mission to maintain the health and safety of Keoka Lake, especially in the face of the threat of invasives, both flora and fauna, and naturally occurring and man-made environmental threats. KLA is also committed to protecting the waters of Keoka Lake for future generations by educating its membership about environmental threats, environmentally conscious and proactive best practices and safe boating practices to protect those who enjoy its waters.

*We wish each of you a Happy Holiday season and a very Happy New Year!*

## **KLA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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