

WATERSHED VIEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE KEZAR LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2018



HEINRICH WURM

An Update on Evergreen Valley

by JIM STONE & HEINRICH WURM

In the last KLWA newsletter we told you that a large tract of land known as Evergreen Valley had undergone a contract of sale to Harold Brooks. Brooks announced plans to develop the area into a site for multi-day mass gatherings and other similar events. Given that Evergreen Valley is within the Kezar Lake watershed that we are committed to protecting, the KLWA joined with the Greater Lovell Land Trust to form the Cold Brook Committee. Thanks to the generous contributions to the Cold Brook Fund from over 125 concerned neighbors, we have been able to take a number of actions to mitigate the risk of extensive development.

We have hired the legal firm of Drummond Woodsum to review local ordinances and Maine DEP regulations. And we have retained the engineering firm of Gorrill Palmer to review any development plans for their environmental impact. We have been working with our counsel on several initiatives, including discussions on site ordinances with the Town of Stoneham and

communicating with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

During the fall, the Seller approached us to see if we were interested in signing a back-up contract for purchase of the property if the Brooks contract was not consummated. Thanks to generous commitments by a number of individuals, an LLC owned by the KLWA signed a contract for the purchase of the property.

Unfortunately, we were not able to complete the purchase. Brooks transferred the original contract to an LLC (owned by Tina and Ray Gilliam, Brooks' sister and brother-in-law), which bought the property on December 4, 2017. While we were disappointed, we intend to continue to do everything we can to ensure any development is well planned and environmentally sound. Our attorneys are in contact with Maine DEP and will advise us of any proposed plans to develop this property. Gorrill Palmer, our engineers, will assist in any such review. Our continued vigilance will be required. The Cold Brook Committee is most grateful for your strong support; and we will keep you informed of new developments. We pledge to remain committed to this issue for as long as it takes. ♡

President's Message

by JIM STONE

As I write this piece in mid-April, I can see from the KLWA webcam at klwa.us that the ice on Kezar is beginning to recede and it's time to share KLWA's actions over the winter and our plans for the summer. As you will see in the accompanying articles, your KLWA Board has been busy adhering to our mission to preserve and protect our beautiful watershed.

There are many ways the KLWA contributes to the well-being of the watershed; testing water quality regularly, the Lake Patrol, loon platforms, the Climate Change Observatory, among others. But, from time to time, the watershed faces other threats, most recently from timber harvesting (Albany South) and development (Evergreen Valley) at the north end of the lake. The KLWA's actions in response to both of these are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. And these highlight another benefit the KLWA provides: the value

of having a highly functioning group that can immediately organize effective responses to these threats.

Officers and Trustees

I am very pleased to tell you that Rick Pilsbury has been elected Vice President of the Board. Rick brings a wealth of expertise and a 54-year love of the Kezar watershed. I also want to acknowledge the work and commitment of all of our Trustees. It is a year-round responsibility, which they shoulder with enthusiasm. It is my honor to serve with them.

Tom Henderson

On a sadder note, we mourn the passing of Tom Henderson of the GLLT. Tom was always willing to help the KLWA in a variety of ways and we will miss him. A fund has been established to help Tom's son, Aiden, with educational expenses. If you would like to contribute, you can do so at this website: www.youcaring.com/aidanhenderson-1165410

SAVE THE DATES

July 14, Annual Meeting

8:30 AM: continental breakfast
9:00 AM: business meeting
VFW Hall

July 19, 7 PM

Kezar Watershed Fisheries Talk by Jim Pellerin, IF&W biologist co-sponsored by KLWA and GLLT
Charlotte Hobbs Library

August 14, 7 PM

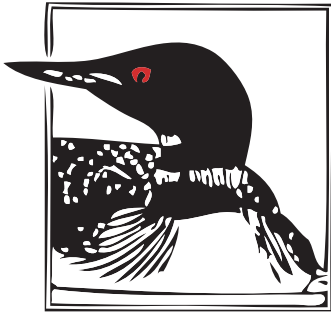
Loons in the Kezar Lake Watershed by Lee Attix, lead researcher co-sponsored by KLWA and GLLT
Charlotte Hobbs Library

August 15, 9:30 AM

The Loons Among Us guided walk at Trout Lake with Lee Attix co-sponsored by KLWA and GLLT
meet behind Charlotte Hobbs Library to carpool

Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend our Annual Meeting on July 14, at the VFW Hall in Lovell beginning at 8:30 AM with a continental breakfast followed by the meeting at 9AM. We look forward to seeing you there. 💧



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Ray Senecal, *Lower Bay*

Kezar Lake Watershed Association

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LYNDA RASCO

Albany South Update

by LUCY LACASSE

In late December, the US Forest Service released the Albany South Project's Final Environmental Assessment, its Draft Decision, and a Response to Public Comments. The Final EA claimed that the Project would have no significant impact on the environment, thus eliminating their need to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement. For the Draft Decision, they chose Alternative 2, which is a slightly modified version of their original (2012) proposal and represents the most extensive harvest plan of their six considered alternatives, impacting approximately 1000 acres in the northern corner of the Kezar Lake Watershed.

KLWA reviewed the 500+ pages of documents and met with Forest Service representatives to outline KLWA's continued concerns and requests.

The Forest Service has agreed to KLWA's following actionable requests:

1. Use of "structural protection" for all perennial stream crossings within the harvest area.
2. Use of "best available" LIDAR capability for harvest area mapping.
3. Provide quarterly updates and annual project review.

4. Clarify and confirm the protocol being used to monitor and ensure consistent use of Best Management Practices.
5. Provide expertise and cost sharing support to the fisheries monitoring program at Great Brook and Beaver Brook. KLWA will commit to ongoing volunteer support.
6. Provide expertise and cost sharing to the ongoing water quality monitoring for Great Brook and Beaver Brook. Scope to be determined in collaborative effort between Forest Service specialists and KLWA.

The Forest Service's Final Decision to implement Alternative 2 was signed on May 9. The decision is not subject to further administrative review and the Albany South Project may be implemented immediately.

Despite disappointment over the Forest Service's selection of Alternative 2, KLWA's effort to maintain a mutually respectful dialogue led to agreement on some important concessions. KLWA will remain in close contact with the Forest Service for the duration of the Albany South Project, and will closely monitor its progress. ♠

Lake Patrol and Boating Safety

by TOM GILMORE

In December, Lake Patrol representatives met with Lovell Selectmen, Sgt. Kris Barboza, and Officer Tim Coombs of the Maine Warden Service to critique the Lake Patrol and plan for the next season. Key takeaways were the following:

The KLWA will continue to fund extra Maine Warden activity for Lovell.

It was agreed the Lake Patrol provides significant benefit to Kezar Lake property owners by its "calming presence" on the lake.

Maine Warden Service and Lake Patrol are working well together and if their combined efforts prevent even a single boating accident, it is well worth the investment.

Looking forward, I am pleased to announce that John "Turf" Ramsden will be the new Lake Patrol Officer for KLWA. Turf is a long-time Lovell resident and a town selectman. The plan is for Turf to be on the water every Friday through Sunday, weather permitting, mid-June through mid-September. If approached by Turf, remember that it's probably just a friendly boat safety check, nothing confrontational.



Here is a summary of some of Maine's most important boating laws:

Boats under 16'

One life jacket/person. Must be readily accessible, in good condition & proper size. Children ages 10 and younger must wear a life jacket at all times.

One fire extinguisher (needle in the green).

One sound-producing device (whistle, horn, bell).

Boats 16' to 40'

Must have all the above, plus a throwable flotation device.

Canoe, Kayak and Paddleboard

One life jacket per person.

One sound-producing device (whistle, horn, bell).

Water skiing and Tubing

Must wear a life jacket.

Skiing and tubing not permitted between one half hour after sunset and one half hour before sunrise.

Every boat towing a skier or tuber must have a "spotter" on board who is at least 12 years old.

It is illegal to operate a vessel towing a person(s) on any device in the following situations:

Within 200 feet of any shoreline, including islands, unless operating in a manner that does not endanger any person or property while picking up or dropping off a person on water skis, surfboard, or other device.

In a way that causes the device or the person on the device to move within 200 feet of any shoreline, including islands.

Alcohol and Drugs

It is a criminal violation to operate a vessel while intoxicated.

No one under the age of 21 can drink and drive a boat. If 21, the legal limit is 0.08% alcohol by weight, just like on the road. If requested by a law enforcement officer, you must complete a blood alcohol test.

In an Emergency

Call Maine State Police dispatch in Gray, Maine at 1-800-228-0857. ♠

Update on Water Quality

by HEINRICH WURM

Once again, our watershed stayed out of harm's way last year. Following an old-fashioned winter with a solid snow cover, we experienced only modest rain events until September 2017, when a total of five inches of rain fell and led to a temporary reversal of flow in the Outlet River. This caused some issues for those of us negotiating the Narrows on a regular basis as the bridge took its toll on antennas, Bimini tops and – yes, my trolling motor. But, considering weather events throughout the US, western Maine was—once again—an oasis of moderate weather and we like it that way.

Water clarity was good to excellent in the Upper and Middle Bay, but suffered a bit in the Lower Bay where green floating globs of stringy algae, called metaphyton, made their appearance during the dry months of July and August. These algae formations are harmless, but they remind us of the many lakes in the Northeast where harmful algae blooms occur with regularity, shutting down all watersports. Monitoring for such threats is on our list of future efforts to protect and preserve our waters.

2017 was the inaugural year for our red measuring buoys, deployed in the Upper and Lower Bay. A string of temperature and dissolved oxygen loggers gathered thousands of data points which, in correlation with weather data, created a lake water temperature profile spanning six months from May to November. The data will be most valuable several years from now when we will see weather-related trends developing. The advent of our own weather station located on the eastern shore of the Middle Bay will allow even more accurate correlation of weather data to lake parameters. One important result was the lack of low oxygen conditions, even at the bottom of Upper Bay during the height of summer. This bodes well for our cold-water fisheries and lake health in general.

For details of the 2017 Water Quality Report, check our website where you will also find the Annual Report of the Climate Change Observatory with outstanding commentary and explanations. Don Griggs and Laura Diemer of FB Environmental, have



Kezar Outlet River during backflow conditions late last fall.



Kezar Outlet River the way it should look.

done outstanding work, both with documentation and strategy. Its rewarding in that these data mark the beginning of a long-term monitoring project that surpasses our previous efforts in sensitivity and scope. For a more detailed introduction to electronic lake monitoring, come to our Annual Meeting on July 14th.

Not all is well in the watershed. We continue to struggle with very low pH numbers indicating high acid content. As predicted, however, after a winter with a hefty snow cover in 2016/17, there was a slight, yet promising, rise in pH, at least in Kezar Lake. We continue our dialogue with limnologists around us to determine what future efforts are most appropriate and helpful. We will keep you updated. 💧

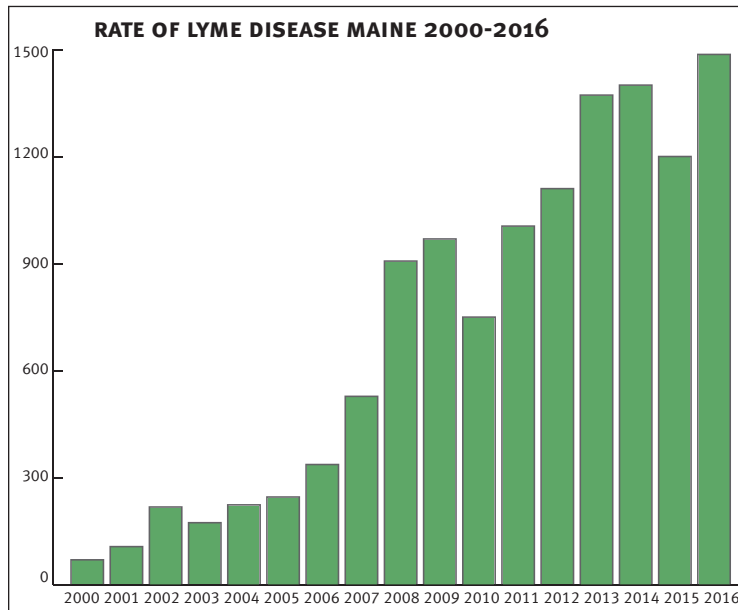
Climate Change Observatory (CCO) News

by DON GRIGGS

The primary activity of the CCO for the spring 2018 was to complete the analysis of data collected in 2017 and to publish the CCO 2018 Annual Report. This report contains updated details of climate, water, and land trends observed over the past year, along with a few new sections. This year, we are featuring the climate change impact on deer ticks and rapid rise of instances of Lyme disease in Maine.

A Clear Climate Change Impact on Us

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) data shows that the number of reported Lyme disease cases



Fish Update

by ED POLIQUIN

Smallmouth bass are, without question, in decline in Kezar Lake and other lakes throughout Maine. They are under siege from a variety of things.

During the spring spawn, the smallmouth beds are much easier to see than the largemouth beds. These fish are targeted as they defend their beds and bite on almost anything within reach. Consequently, they are caught and released over and over again until they get exhausted from the constant pressure fisherman place on them.

Many states and parts of Canada surrounding the Great Lakes have closed the bass season during the spawn. In that region, you may fish other species but it is illegal to target bass.

As the bass are on beds at the shoreline, it is easy for wardens to spot people fishing for them. This has met with great success in the Great Lakes as the bass numbers have rebounded. I recently read a study conducted by biologists in those states that confirms the reasons for closures.

In a recent discussion with our state's fisheries biologist I learned of another challenge placed on the fish. In 2010, an extensive fish study was completed on Kezar. The results showed whole year classes of bass were absent, which indicated nesting failure in those years. The suspected reason for this was huge rain events that increased the lake level by feet during the spawn in early June. This has been occurring more frequently than it had historically.

in Maine is increasing. See chart at left. This increase in reported cases is likely due to a combination of climate-induced factors of warming air temperatures (especially in winter), more precipitation, a longer growing season, and a proliferation of their primary hosts (mice, chipmunks, and other small mammals). Although deer, moose, and other large mammals are also hosts to ticks, small mammals are considered their primary hosts and generate a far greater threat to humans because small mammals live closer to where we live, work, and play.

Deer ticks carrying Lyme disease can be found in wooded areas or open, grassy areas, especially along the edges of forests. To best control tick populations around your property, clear brush and leaves, and deter deer, mice, and chipmunks. Be vigilant in checking for ticks and seek immediate medical help if you were bitten by a deer tick. Lyme disease can be easily treated with antibiotics, but if left untreated, can cause severe illness, arthritis and neurological problems. For more information on prevention and treatment, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks> and <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/gotpests/bugs/ticks.htm>.

Climate Change Impact on Loons

Another featured section in the Annual Report is an article by Dr. Mark A. Pokras, DVM, Associate Professor Emeritus, Wildlife Clinic & Center for Conservation Medicine, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University, concerning climate change impact on loons. Please go to page 51 of the Annual Report for the full article, but a few key points are the following:

Higher air temperature and full sun exposure can overheat loons on the nest. If they slip into the water to cool down, the nest is exposed to predators and the eggs can quickly overheat, killing the embryos.

Changes in air temperature and moisture can increase the potential for infectious diseases and parasites. Several studies have shown that southern pathogens and parasites are moving north. In recent years, a significant increase in the incidence of avian malarial parasites in loons has been documented. ♠

With numbers declining, every fish killed exacerbates the problem, especially for the spawning fish. Bass tournaments are not allowed during the spawn but you can still go out and fish for bass. If we continue to abuse the spawning fish we will not have anything left.

To answer all our questions regarding the health of various fish species in the Kezar Lake watershed, KLWA and GLLT will co-sponsor talk at the Charlotte Hobbs Library by Jim Pellerin, IF&W's lead biologist for our area on July 19th, at 7:00 pm.

The meeting will give participants an opportunity to discuss concerns and what can or cannot be done. All are welcome to join us and ask questions or provide input. ♠

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR KLWA'S 2018 BROOK TROUT SURVEY!

August 7 & 8 (raindate August 9)

KLWA is collaborating with the White Mountain National Forest to expand understanding of native Brook Trout populations in the northern part of the Kezar Lake Watershed. 2018 represents the third year of this project; the goal is to provide baseline data prior to potential future impacts from upstream logging activities and climate change.

The Summary Report of the 2017 Great Brook Watershed Electrofishing Survey can be found on KLWA's website: www.klwa.us.

If you are interested in volunteering for either or both of these dates, please contact Lucy LaCasse: wnder@aol.com

Update on Loons: Call for Volunteers

by HEINRICH WURM

As announced last fall, KLWA will embark on a loon study this year called “Sustaining Loons in the Kezar Lake Watershed: A Community Response.” The plan is to closely monitor loon behavior from mid-May to mid-August, identify nesting behavior, plus breeding and rearing activities. This project was made possible by a generous grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation and will span a two-year period initially.

Lee Attix, who will lead the research project, is looking for help in identifying local birders who would be willing to volunteer to conduct surveys using a canoe or kayak. Volunteers must be accomplished paddlers and will need their own canoe/kayak and binoculars. Familiarity with word processing software and access to a computer and the internet are desired. Lee will provide detailed on-the-water instructions to all volunteers. At this time, we are specifically interested in volunteers for Heald and Cushman Ponds, as well as Kezar Lake.

So, why is the KLWA doing this and why aren't we perfectly happy with rafts of up to 23 loons observed last year on Kezar



HEINRICH WURM

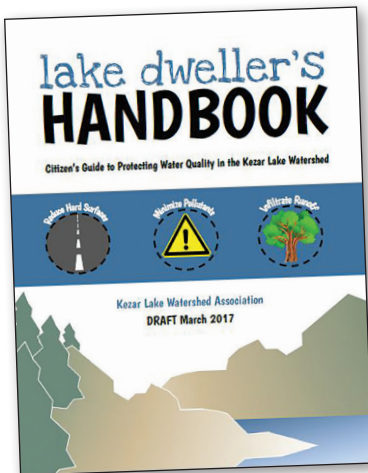
Common Loon with tag is part of a research project in Kezar Lake Watershed.

Lake? The answer is simple. We are taking the long view. *Gavia immer*—the Common Loon—is an indicator species subject to dislocation as temperatures rise both in the ocean and inland lakes. We also worry about heavy metal contamination interfering with the reproductive success and health of loons.

Interested in being a citizen scientist and helping with this project? Contact Lee Attix at lcattix@gmail.com or me at whwurm@gmail.com for more information. ♡



HEINRICH WURM



Lake Dweller's Handbook Now Ready for Distribution

by HEINRICH WURM

Two years ago, KLWA and the Climate Change Observatory published a colorful poster entitled “A Healthy Watershed Starts with Us—Ways We Can Help Protect our Lake, Ponds and Streams.” This year a follow-up publication, entitled *Lake Dweller's Handbook*, picks up the topic and explains in more detail

the joys and responsibilities of lake living. Expertly produced by Laura Diemer at FB Environmental, the book deals with topics ranging from managing a septic system to wake boat etiquette, and is a treasure trove of information, including town ordinances applicable to our watershed.

As part of the grant KLWA

received under the heading, “A Comprehensive Health Plan for the Kezar Lake Watershed,” this book will be distributed to lake dwellers throughout the watershed. To defray printing costs, we ask for a \$5-10 donation for additional copies, which will be available at the Town Hall, businesses and our Annual Meeting. ♡

LIPPC Update

by DIANE CARACCILO

We are looking forward to another invasive free summer! Thanks to the Town and your donations, our CBI inspectors will be busy this year. We expect full coverage, seven days a week at the two public ramps on Kezar Lake to start in early May and run through October. We are also planning additional evening shifts on the busy weekends.



Spiny Water flea magnified

We will continue to have inspections at all ponds in the watershed and at the town beach to raise awareness of the threat of invasive aquatic plants from motorized and non-motorized boats.

I would like to share some information on two non-plant aquatic invaders to be on the lookout for this year. They are the Spiny Water flea and Chinese Mystery snails. The Spiny Water flea is a zooplankton native to Eurasia that arrived in the Great Lakes via ballast water in the 1980s. It turned up in the Lake Champlain Canal in Whitehall, New York, and in Lake George in New York in 2012, and is spreading. The fleas disrupt the food chain and ultimately cause fish species to not have enough food to eat. They can also impact anglers as they stick to fishing line, accumulate and make it difficult to reel in.

Chinese Mystery snails are also being found in a number of

Maine lakes and ponds. These snails are distinctively large, over one inch in size, which is much larger than Maine's largest native freshwater snail. When these large snails die, they often wash up on shore, where their dark, olive-colored shells can be easily seen and unpleasantly smelled. Once in a lake, the snail can be transported in bait buckets or water holding areas on boats, and are very hard to eradicate.

What can you do? The best way to avoid spreading any invasive to new water bodies is the Clean, Drain & Dry method. Conduct a visual inspection of your boat and gear, drain all water from inside boats and coolers, and don't re-enter another water body until everything is dry. This simple process is vital to stop the spread of all invasive species!

The majority of invasive plant discoveries have been from people like you using the water and paying attention. We urge you to become familiar with the plants along your shoreline and take notice of any plants when out boating. Let us know of any suspicious plants, or bring them to the CBI on duty, and we will gladly check them out. Early detection is the key!

Want to know what plants you are looking at? Download our LIPPC app. It's free, easy to use, and has a picture of the invasive plants and every native plant in our watershed. Go to the App store search bar and type in LIPPC Plants.

Awareness is one of the best keys to prevention—have a wonderful summer! ♡

News From Greater Lovell Land Trust

by JILL RUNDLE, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The GLLT will sorely miss the exceptional leadership of Executive Director Tom Henderson, who was struck by grave illness over the winter. Tom dedicated his career to protection and conservation of the lands and resources of our region now and for the future, and his contributions have been fundamental to the success of our organization. GLLT will continue its conservation mission in our watershed and our collaboration with like-minded organizations.

This season, the GLLT is partnering with the National Audubon Society in the "Year of the Bird," a year-long celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that protects birds from human threats—hunting in the past, and industry and modern human lifestyles today. Watch social media and email for ways to participate.

A full complement of summer events and outings is planned, including walks, talks, events, and student programs. There are topics and adventures for all ages and abilities—evening presentations at the Charlotte Hobbs Library, kids' outings with the Lovell Recreation program, and docent-led walks on GLLT public properties and trails. Be sure to check gllt.org or our print publications for the complete calendar, and save the date for the GLLT Annual Meeting, August 11 at 9:00 AM at the VFW hall.

The GLLT intern program highlights our education mission and we have a new intern joining two returning interns on the trails. Isaiah Voter, a 2018 Fryeburg Academy graduate, will join former interns Aidan Black, a graduate of Colby College with a degree in Environmental Science, and Dakota Ward, a graduate of Central Maine Community College with a degree in Graphic Design.



LEIGH MACMILLEN HAYES

As you step outdoors in the seasons to come, take a moment to remember the work of Tom Henderson, who loved this area so deeply and devoted himself so completely to making it possible for future generations to enjoy its gifts. ♡

Corporate Sponsors

The KLWA has enjoyed a long tradition of partnership with local business. Each of these Corporate Sponsors has made a much-valued contribution to the financial stability of our organization and to the programs that we support. We are most grateful for their continued commitment and for their recognition of the many benefits that a vibrant and sustainable watershed brings to our community.

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