------ A Progress Report From -----
THE WASHINGTON LAKES ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. 16 SUMMER 2004

MEETING AUG. 19: WILDFLOWER TALK!

Annual Meeting

The 13th annual meeting of the Washington Lakes Association will be held at 7:00 PM on **Thursday, August 19, 2004** at Medomak Camp Retreat Center (at Senior Camp, the only right hand camp entrance traveling north on Rte. 220). **Everyone is welcome to attend.**

Retired teacher Wanda Garland will give a presentation on wildflowers. She has a MS in Biology and has written a field guide of Maine Wildflowers for a course she offers. She is interested in their historical uses for food, medicine and fiber.

The Nominating Committee has offered the following slate of officers as the 2004-2005 Board of Directors:

President ..... Don Grinnell
Vice-Pres. ..... Pete Melgard
Secretary ..... Sue Mendleson
Treasurer ..... Barbara Carney
Directors: ..... David Cichowski
Linda Luce

We'll be looking for three more directors at the annual meeting.

All Association members in good standing are eligible for election to the Board. If you would like to be added to the final ballot, please submit your name to Sue Mendleson, Secretary at P.O. Box 225, Washington, ME 04574; 845-2008; or nff@pivot.net. Nominations may also be taken from the floor at the annual meeting.

Dues are Due

Membership dues for 2004-05 are due on or before **Sept. 1, 2004**. Please take a moment to fill out the renewal form found on the back of this newsletter so that we can verify our records are current. Pay your dues at the Annual Meeting or mail them to the treasurer.

2003 Lake Test Results

The water quality monitoring report for Washington and Crystal ponds is now available in the Gibbs Library. Ponds were monitored in June and late August of 2003 to provide early and late summer contrasting data. Scott Williams, Aquatic Biologist notes that it is during this open water period that lakes are subject to and exhibit symptoms of ecosystem disturbances or stresses. The report continues with a short course on the different lake quality indicators and the importance of each in determining the health of the lakes. It finishes with a report of the specific findings for our two lakes.

Transparency (water clarity) can vary from less than 1 meter to over 15 meters in Maine's clearest lakes with an average of about 5.5 meters. Washington pond measured 7.4 and 8.15 meters and Crystal Pond 6.5 and 7.8 meters.

Total phosphorus may range from 1-2 PPB (parts per billion) in Maine's clearest lakes to an average of 5-8 PPB and 15 or more PPB in lakes at risk for severe algal blooms. Washington pond rates at 7PPB and Crystal pond at 5-12 PPB in 2003.

Chlorophyll-a which helps to determine the concentration of algae in the water varies from 1-2 PPB in Maine's clear, unproductive lakes to greater than 40 PPB for a few lakes experiencing severe algae blooms. Many lakes are in the 2-6 PPB range. Chlorophyll in Washington pond averaged 1.8-1.9 PPB and 1.5-2.9 PPB in Crystal pond.

The PH in both ponds is slightly acidic at 6.7 and 6.6-6.7 (7 is neutral).

Dissolved oxygen, another important indicator of water quality is expressed in a graph with some decrease in the deepest parts in August.

Multiple factors influence these indicators affecting the water quality. Many are explained in this very interesting and readable report. I hope many of you will take a few minutes to find it in the library and take a closer look.

The President's Notes

The Washington Lakes Association needs to re-organize. Most of the members of the Board have served for seven years or more. We need enthusiastic, new board members to help move the WLA forward. Please volunteer to help. Crystal Pond and Washington Pond are dear to all of us and we need to protect their natural beauty. The Washington Lakes Association is an important factor in the preservation of our two lakes.

Please join me in thanking all the members of the Board for their work. I especially express my appreciation to Barbara Carney who has faithfully kept the finances and membership records in order and to Secretary Susan Mendleson who is editor and publisher of the newsletter and who always kept the board connected.

Best wishes to Don Grinnell who will be next year's president.

Jim Jenkins

Loon Count

There are 8 adults and 2 chicks on Washington Pond, but only 4 adults were spotted by Raymah Mendleson during the official count.

The symbol on the masthead of this newsletter is from a brochure printed by the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection.