



# The Annual Report from The Washington Lakes Association

NEWSLETTER NO. 20

WASHINGTON, MAINE

July 2008

## 2008 Annual Meeting at Medomak Camp

**WLA members are invited to the 17th Annual Meeting of the Washington Lakes Association on Thursday, August 21, 2008 at Medomak Camp on Route 220 North in Washington from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Supper will be served by the WLA Board of Directors at 6 p.m. with the business meeting scheduled for 7 p.m.**

The lakes association will provide **hotdogs, hamburgers, "the fixin's"** and dessert. We hope you will come learn more about the Washington Lakes Association, its mission and projects.

The **business meeting** will include an **update** on recent activities, a **vote on a by-law amendment\***, and **election** of board members for 2008-09.

*\*The WLA Board of Directors recommends a by-law amendment which will allow the addition of two more board seats, raising the number from nine to eleven. The board believes this will increase our ability to engage a more diverse representation on our board and help broaden our scope of activity.*

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

## WLA Highlights

It's been fun and challenging to spend a year working with WLA's board and friends to keep our message going. We want everyone to know Washington Pond and Crystal Lake – and other bodies of water in our town – are among the most pristine in the state. We especially want people to understand that in order for these ponds to stay that way, it will take all of us. We all must learn what makes a "great" lake and how to keep it healthy. *And* we want lots and lots of people to join with us.

Please enjoy this recap of some of our activities over the past year. If you approve of our work, join with us. Your participation as a member and supporter makes it possible to reach effectively into the community to educate and influence our neighbors *for our lakes' sake*.

Three major projects of our past year were the 2007 Washington Day Boat Rides, the Water Quality Analysis, and the educational program for Prescott School students.

The free boat rides on Washington Pond offered by members Ron Luce and Sue Mendleson are a very popular feature of the day. WLA is proud to offer views of the lake from the water – a treat many townspeople rarely or never get. Our great gratitude to Ron and Sue and our members who make it possible.

The water quality analysis an expensive proposition for our small group but it's more important than ever that it be done (particularly now – please see summary article).

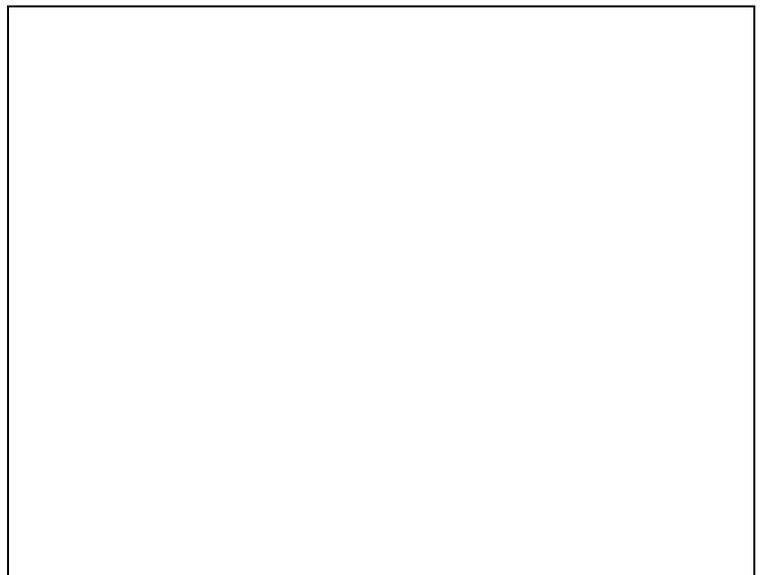
The Grange hosted an evening to learn about WLA history, volunteer water clarity testing, support of Prescott School, and our mission. Many thanks to Liz Grinnell, Mildred Melgard, Sharon Turner and Charlotte Henderson for this presentation.

The collaboration with Prescott School achieves a lot of "bang for the buck" reaching many students at once. This year's programs from Chewonki explained the habits of some of the riparian area creatures and revealed the importance of water to wildlife.



Prescott School 1<sup>st</sup> Graders enjoy learning about animals that call riparian areas home through a WLA sponsored program

Washington Lakes Association  
Post Office Box 373  
Washington, ME 04574



Please show your support for Washington's Lakes -

Renew your membership or join as a new member. Please use the form on the bottom of this page to help us keep our records current. Include your e-mail to help us be faster and less expensive with mail. We ask that you remit by Sept. 1, 2008, please. Thanks!

### Annual Election of Board

The following members are nominees for the 2008-2009 WLA Board of Directors:

- David Allen
- Marlene Cohn
- Larry Esancy
- Liz Grinnell
- Charlotte Henderson
- Linda Luce
- Mildred Melgard
- Peter Melgard
- George Stone
- Sharon Turner

Nominations can be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

The term for all Board members is one (1) year, beginning at the adjournment of each Annual Meeting. Board members may succeed themselves. Officers may serve no more three (3) terms in the same office. All Association members in good standing are eligible for election to the Board. Officers will be elected by members present at the Annual Meeting.

Congratulations and thanks Larry Esancy recently completed the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Training Program

### Lakes Water Quality

Last August, samples were taken from Washington Pond and Crystal Lake for the periodic water quality analysis. Samples are drawn at this time of year because it's the time when trouble will show up if there is a problem. WLA usually receives the actual written report in late winter and a copy is available in the Washington town office or from us.

The report is good but contains a caution. The good news according to our aquatic biologist, Scott Williams, is: compared to other Maine lakes, the water clarity of both lakes is better than average, phosphorus is at the low end of the moderate range, and chlorophyll (used to determine the concentration of algae) is in the low/ moderate range.

In the case of oxygen levels, however, Williams found severe oxygen loss in the deepest areas of both lakes. Dissolved oxygen levels are usually low in August due to the warmth of the water and other factors, but the August 2007 finding is more serious than has been reported from earlier tests. The low dissolved oxygen indicates an increased stress on the lakes' ecosystem. More importantly, it can be a warning of difficult problems to come. Low oxygen levels are often preliminary indicators (by as much as twenty years) of degradation.

Williams recommends a more vigorous watershed stewardship program including increasing landowner awareness of the effects of development and use, engaging landowners in creating and carrying-out a protection plan, and collecting water quality data on a regular and consistent basis.

We are fortunate to have very good lakes to work for - the challenge is to protect them from harm.



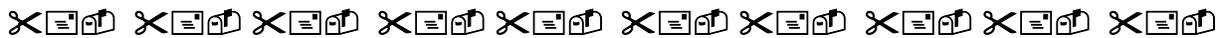
If you would like to have the complete report or send a comment, e-mail [charlotte@fairpoint.net](mailto:charlotte@fairpoint.net) or write P.O. Box 373, Washington 04574 and we'll send you the entire document. If you want to learn more about dissolved oxygen, water quality, or any lakes information contact: [www.pearl.maine.edu](http://www.pearl.maine.edu)

### Maine COLA Conference

The 2008 Maine Conference of Lakes Associations was held at Colby College on June 21<sup>st</sup>. WLA sent two delegates - Liz Grinnell and Charlotte Henderson - to the 38<sup>th</sup> annual meeting titled "Who Owns the Water, and How Can We Protect it?" Keynote speaker Jim Wilfong's talk raised questions about surface water and/or ground water, whether they are one or two entities, and discussed legislation which may help clarify the issue. Scott Williams, the aqua-biologist who does WLA's water tests talked about the ways weather influences water quality.

Other presenters from DHHS, Maine DEP, Maine Dept of Conservation, Maine Forest Service, several Lakes Associations and others, offered information about water related laws, the LakeSmart program, public access, buffer zones, non-point sources, and much more. It was more information than we could really grasp! However, we did bring home copies of much of the literature available there and we'll bring it for display at the annual meeting.

The Conference was a day very well spent where we gathered a wealth of information and great ideas and met a lot of other lake association members from all over the state. We have a lot of companions in our conservation efforts.



### Washington Lakes Association Membership Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual - \$10

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Family - \$15

Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Student - \$5

Phone/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Sustainer - \$100

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Business - \$25

Please complete this form and return it with your membership donation.

This is our only way to assure our records are up to date.

Make checks payable to Washington Lakes Association and mail to: WLA - Treasurer

P.O. Box 373 Washington, ME 04574