



# The Annual Report from The Washington Lakes Association

NEWSLETTER NO. 22

WASHINGTON, MAINE

June 2009

## 2009 Annual Meeting to Feature Beach, Cookout, Green Tech Tour of MFC

**Medomak Family Camp** Beach is the site of WLA's **2009 Annual Meeting** on **Saturday, August 1** starting at 2 p.m. Members, guests, and potential members are invited for an afternoon of swimming, relaxing, and getting acquainted.

A special feature of this year's gathering is George Stone's "show and tell" about the many energy-saving innovations at Medomak Camp. George and his wife, Holly, operate Medomak Family Camp and are committed to "green" as they continually upgrade. George will show us around and answer questions starting around 3:30 p.m.

A cookout with burgers and salads will begin around 5 p.m., followed by a short business meeting and election of the '09-10 Board. Desserts cap the evening. Everyone is welcome.

Please plan to attend this special Annual Meeting at MFC beach on Saturday, August 1. See you there.




Photo courtesy of Medomak Camp

## WLA Website Update

A website for our association is being designed by Cheryl McKeary Designs and will be ready to go on line within a few weeks. We've learned a lot and look forward with excitement to the new opportunities that will open from having a web page of our own. We are already hoping to hear your comments and feedback. When it's "up," we'll be at: [www.washingtonlakesassociation.org](http://www.washingtonlakesassociation.org) We'll be sure to let you know !!!

## Loons Rebounding

Time will tell, but if tallies from last year's loon count hold, there may be an increase when volunteers take the Annual Loon Count on July 18. A thousand or so counters survey over 300 ponds and lakes across the state for the Audubon Maine Loon Project. Results will be on our soon-to-be-launched website. 



## Invasives Prevention

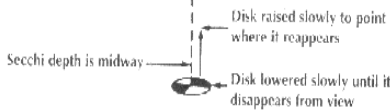
WLA is a co-sponsor of the July 1<sup>st</sup> workshop on Invasive Aquatic Plants, one of many around the state. Registration for this date may still be open, so call to ask or find out about others. (207) 783-7733 or [vlmp@mainemvp.org](mailto:vlmp@mainemvp.org).

Washington Lakes Association  
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Washington, ME 04574



## Water Quality

One of the ways we monitor and help protect lake water quality is through regular checks of its clarity. Member Larry Esancy uses the **Secchi disk**, a device originated with Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi, an astrophysicist and scientific advisor to the Pope, who used them to measure water clarity in the Mediterranean way back in 1865. Most Secchi disks are 8”



diameter metal disks painted in alternate black and white quadrants.

The disk is used to measure how deep into the water it can be seen. It's attached by water-proof tape and lowered into the lake until the observer loses sight of it. The disk is then raised until it reappears. The depth where the disk vanishes and reappears is the Secchi disk reading which is recorded to the nearest foot.

Drawing Courtesy of Michigan Lake and Stream Association., Inc.

## Nominations for Board

Nominees for 2009-2010 include: David Allen, Dave Cichowski, Marlene Cohn, Larry Esancy, Liz Grinnell, Melissa Harvill, Charlotte Henderson, Linda Luce, Mildred Melgard, George Stone, Sharon Turner.

Nominations from the floor will gladly be accepted. WLA's Board of Directors' terms are one year and we meet 4 -5 times per year.

*Please consider volunteering for the board. It's fun, worthwhile and not too demanding ! 😊*

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## School is out for the summer...

but that doesn't mean nothing's happening with the WLA/Prescott School collaboration. 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Hazel Kopishke, is working with faculty this the summer to create a framework to which WLA can provide enhancements through the school year. If you know of a program that could enrich these children's knowledge of water or other outdoor issues, let us know!

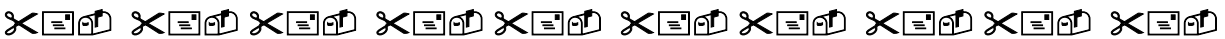
## Maine COLA: Right-On

The Maine Congress of Lakes Associations addressed a number of the more pressing state-, and indeed, nation-wide issues at its Annual Conference held in June.

Two of our board members attended several sessions at the all-day meeting in Standish. Liz Grinnell gathered important new information about loon habitat and behaviors. She also attended a hands-on workshop for strengthening local associations and making them even more effective in their communities. Liz will be using and sharing the knowledge she gained during the next several months as WLA plans its next meetings and projects.

At another workshop, Charlotte Henderson learned about the capacity for soil to absorb phosphorus and how inadequate standards for septic systems can negatively affect water quality. Charlotte also attended *Actions You Can Take to Nurture Your Lake*, a long-term look at ways to stabilize and improve lake water quality.

Maine COLA provides a framework for information sharing and advocacy and is very active at the legislative level offering expert opinions on water quality issues. Check it out at [www.mainecola.org](http://www.mainecola.org).



## Washington Lakes Association Membership Form

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

E-Mail [We do not share] \_\_\_\_\_

Individual - \$10

Family - \$15

Other - \_\_\_\_\_

Sustainer - \$100

Business - \$25

Donation to  
Support of  
Water  
Quality  
Testing

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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