



Washington Lakes Watershed Association

Spring Newsletter 2013

Over twenty years of water quality advocacy and conservation education

NEWSLETTER #26

Washington, Maine

March 2013

Alewife Restoration: Annual Meeting Highlights

Many years ago alewives spawned in Washington Pond and in a few years they may spawn here again. At the 2012 WLWA Annual Meeting, David Wilkins gave an inspiring talk about the efforts underway to restore alewives along the Medomak River watershed.

Wilkins' talk focused on the barriers for alewife migration to ponds and the work being done to open these barriers. He described the sea- to fresh water migration cycle and the ecological and economic value of these amazing fish.

The 40+ attendees at the Annual Meeting engaged in a lively conversation. Alewife expert Sam Chapman and Lloyd Davis Trust director Dr. Ted Mohlie were also on hand to answer questions.

WLWA supports this exciting effort because alewives can enhance the health of a lake. They are a food source for fish, birds and mammals.

Because they uptake phosphorous, the phosphorous levels in the lake are reduced which results in fewer algae blooms.

Wilkins is President of the Muscongus Pond Assoc. & a Lloyd S. Davis Trustee.



Prescott Memorial School: WLWA Sponsors Programs

Thanks to sponsorship by the WLWA, students at the Prescott Elementary School will be treated to a hands-on, live animal program from Chewonki Foundation this spring.

In Stories of the Pond, students will learn about the animals and plants that dwell in the special habitat of a pond. WLWA's goal is to teach the younger generations the value of our local waterways.

David Wilkins will also teach the students about the local alewife restoration project. To deepen the lesson, students are building model fish ladders & learning how the ladders provide access to our lakes and streams.

SAVE THE DATE—July 17

The **WLWA Annual Meeting** will be packed with interesting speakers—the Medomak Middle School Science Olympiad **State Winners** & Forest-er Barrie Brusila will talk about the many influences on lake water quality. Did you know dragonfly larvae can tell us about the health of our lakes?

On tap, too, is a brief update on the alewife restoration project for Washington Pond. Other speakers will be announced soon.

Meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Evening Star Grange Hall. We hope to see you there!



Help Keep Our Lakes Milfoil Free

This spring, watch for milfoil warning signs at the public boat launches on Washington Pond & Crystal Lake. Twenty-six Maine lakes are affected with invasive plants that ruin lake quality. We want to keep our lakes clean & clear. We need your help.

Anyone who boats on different lakes can bring these destructive plants to our waterways.

To protect our lakes, the WLWA asks boaters to **PLEASE** check all surfaces of the boat and trailer for *anything* that's hitching a ride. This thorough check should be done twice - before launch and after pulling a boat out of a lake.

If you find something, no matter how small, remove it & bag it. It must be disposed of in household trash - not on the shore.

If draining water out of the boat, drain it at the same site where water was taken on.

Home owners who rent their houses to vacationers are asked to provide information about invasive plants to boaters who may be from out-of-state.

Together, we can keep our lakes clean.

2012 Water Quality Test Results

Last year's March ice out followed by heavy June rains & 80 degree weather took a slight toll on Washington Pond's water quality.

WLWA's 2012 water testing results show Washington Lake with a slight increase in phosphorous and algae growth.

Crystal Lake experienced a slightly above average year in spite of the weather.

In late August, the water was very clear, and the concentration of both phosphorus and algae were relatively low.

Thanks to your generous donations and financial support from the Town of Washington, WLWA can hire water quality experts to do this testing. Detailed results are posted on the WLWA website.

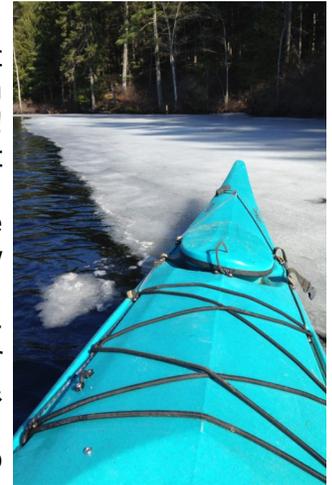
Ice Out Contest

Our First Annual Ice Out Contest for Washington Pond is a huge success! Entrants predicted ice out from mid-March to May. Tickets were available at the Hill & Gully Club's Snow Fest.

Thanks to Charlotte Henderson & David Allen for staffing the WLWA table & to the Club for their support.

The contest's goal is to raise awareness of WLWA and our work to protect local waterways.

The correct guess wins \$50. The winner will be announced in local newspapers and on the WLWA website.



COLA Conference—Two Seats Available

WLWA will pay for two people to attend the June 22 Congress of Lakes annual conference at Colby College, Waterville. The focus is: What Is Your Lake Trying to Tell You? Lakes: Sentinels of Change

If you are interested, please email us:
wlwassn@gmail.com



Please join or renew: [Membership Thru July 2014](#)

Washington Lakes Watershed Association Membership Form

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