



The Annual Report from Washington Lakes Watershed Association

Twenty years of water quality advocacy and conservation education.

NEWSLETTER #24

WASHINGTON, MAINE

JULY 2011

WLWA funds school program

Children of all grades (K-6) at Prescott Memorial School participated in the Chewonki Foundation's traveling classroom last month. The topic was *Animal Adaptations* focusing on the ways animals adapt to their surroundings and become "perfect fits" for their environments. Instructor Kate Braemer gave each class an enriching and entertaining session. It was enjoyed, too, by a couple of WLWA members who sat in. WLWA underwrites a program for Prescott School students annually.



Prescott students eagerly joined in Chewonki Foundation's interactive presentation on *Animal Adaptations*.

New Name: The WLWA has expanded its name to include *watershed*. Why? We recognize water quality depends on the health of the entire watershed that feeds our lakes and streams. Our focus has always been on this wide region - now our name reflects that commitment. We invite everyone who lives in the watershed to join WLWA and get involved in keeping our water quality high.

Brochure: With input from our board, Roger Cady has created an informative brochure that's included with this annual report. We hope you will read it and keep it as a handy reference.

20th anniversary

Annual Meeting – July 21 – 7pm

Maggie Shannon, Executive Director of the Maine Congress of Lake Associations, will be guest speaker at our annual meeting on July 21, 7 p.m. at Evening Star Grange Hall. Shannon will talk about the important issues in lake conservation, her work at Maine COLA, and highlights of the legislative year. Maine COLA, of which WLWA is a member, is a nonprofit organization of one-hundred plus groups representing over 10,000 lake users in Maine. There will be a brief business meeting and refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Invasive Plant Nightmare

a true story by WLWA member Roger Cady

Ever have a nightmare where you are tangled in giant plants that seem to have you trapped? That is what invasive plants are like in a lake.

Before coming to Washington, we lived on a lake that had no known invasive plant life. I had seen a display of invasive plants, so, curious, I took a look at the "weeds" around my dock. Lo and behold, I found something that looked bad. I took a sample to the extension service, and they said (with horror) "Eurasian Water Milfoil." I started a survey of our bay, and found some near my neighbor's dock, in 5-8 feet of water. And another patch further down. It was growing maybe 18" tall. *By the next year*, my neighbor could not bring his boat to his dock. The EWM had grown thick and taller than its depth so it lay in a mat on the top of the water. Swimming was out of the question, of course.

Treatment – manual or chemical is VERY, VERY expensive and then only 80-90% effective. Nobody really knows how that got into the lake but best guess is that it came in on a boat that had been on an infected lake. It doesn't take much, just a few fragments, to start a colony which then multiplies and spreads like wildfire. We don't want this nightmare in Washington, so please make sure every boat and trailer is washed down before launch, no scraps of weed in the bilge or an old bait bucket. And please spread the word --

Prevention is worth lots more than a pound of cure!

Maine COLA

The Maine Congress of Lake Associations conference was held on June 25. The theme "A Sense of Place" was developed by guest speakers and informative break-out sessions. At the short business meeting delegates were asked for member contact information. COLA puts out a terrific newsletter as well as legislative updates and more. If you'd like to subscribe to COLA, contact them at www.MaineCOLA.org.

WLWA member appointed to trust board

The Lloyd Davis Trust of Waldoboro has appointed WLWA board member, Charlotte Henderson, to their Board of Directors. The trust's Alewife Enhancement Project is working to restore alewife access to ponds in the Medomak River watershed including our "big lake," Washington Pond, the largest freshwater body in the entire Medomak River watershed.

Nominees for 2011-2012 WLWA Board of Directors: Roger Cady, Sue Frank, Barbara Carney, Marlene Cohn, Leann Diehl, Sharon Turner, George Stone, Linda Luce, Liz Grinnell, David Allen, Charlotte Henderson. Nominations accepted at the Annual Meeting followed by elections.

Washington Lakes Assn
PO Box 373
Washington, ME 04574

Non-Profit Std
Permit # 12
Washington ME

Washington Lakes

Watershed Association

20th Anniversary

Thursday, July 21 7 p.m.

Evening Star Grange Hall

Postal Patron

Washington, Maine 04574

Washington Lakes Watershed Association

has twenty years of lake protection and community education to its credit. Over the years WLWA offered speakers on a variety of lake-related topics, underwritten programs for local school students, distributed lake information packets, made improvements at public access, offered free boat rides on Washington Pond and much more. We are proud of our track record and invite everyone with an interest in our activities to join us – as members, as board or committee members, or simply attend meetings.

A new website that reflects WLWA's new name is under construction and should be up soon.

www.washingtonlakeswatershed.org

Help us? All of this work and more is done by volunteers. If you will help, please contact us at wlwassn@gmail.com.

Not a WLWA member? Join us! One of the best ways to help with WLWA's projects and programs is by simply joining. Membership is our sole support. You can become a member using the enclosed envelope or at our new website:

www.washingtonlakeswatershed.org

Water testing In August, a comprehensive water test in Washington Pond and Crystal Lake will be done by Lake & Watershed Resource Management. WLWA provides this service about every three years in partnership with the Town of Washington. Results come in early winter and are available on request at wlwassn@gmail.com.