



Washington Lakes Watershed Association

Fall Newsletter 2014

Twenty-three years of water quality advocacy and conservation education

Newsletter #27

December 2014

Trail restoration proposed for portion of Medomak Brook



WLWA is working with the Washington Recreation Committee and others to see whether a public walking trail might be made along Medomak Brook in the area behind Prescott

Memorial School. Six of our members Barbara Carney, Rob Stenger, Charlotte Henderson, Liz Freyenhagen, Maddy Kelly, Sharon Turner, and poodles Zack and Tessa, explored the path and found it rich in potential for both pleasure and educational purposes. Further conversations will take place during winter in hope of a definite plan for the project to begin in spring.



WLWA gratefully thanks the numerous people who fish our lakes for having switched or traded to non-lead gear.

Washington Lakes Watershed Association is a member organization promoting conservation and protection of water quality, providing information on watershed and wildlife stewardship, and offering educational opportunities that relate to our areas of concern –

Washington Pond, Crystal Lake, Medomak Stream and their watersheds.

<http://www.washingtonlakesassociation.org>

NON-PROFIT STATUS FOR OUR LAKES ASSOCIATION MAKES EVERY DONATION TO WLWA TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

It's confirmed ! Notice has arrived making Washington Lakes Watershed Association (WLWA) an official 501(c)(3), honest-to-goodness, grown-up charitable organization! This is the realization of a longtime goal.



For many years, our small association was concerned about the higher costs and requirements of 501 (c)(3) status. Last year the Board debated long and hard and recommended WLWA “go for it” citing the benefits to members and other plusses. The Board unanimously voted for the change and members approved it along with by-laws modifications at our 2014 Annual Meeting.



Non-profit status opens up our ability to apply for both state and federal grants to help us achieve our goals. For members, it makes our donations to WLWA deductible on federal income tax forms (be sure to check with your tax advisor!). We're proud to have taken this big step for our little association!!

Many thanks to members David Allen for his research and to Roger Cady for his many hours of document preparation through this process. View our by-laws and much more at www.washingtonlakesassociation.org.

Association Board to Consider LakeSmart

LakeSmart is a program that acknowledges property owners for being good lake caretakers. It encourages shoreland owners to protect our lakes and ponds by preventing rainwater from running directly into lakes, maintaining a deep ground cover, keeping a buffer of plants and shrubs on the shoreline, making sure septic systems work efficiently, and avoiding use of chemicals. Many of our lake residents and seasonal families are already doing this. Because LakeSmart requires a commitment from association members, please let us know if you wish to take part in the program. If WLWA becomes a participating association, our property owners can apply for recognition for their compliance with LakeSmart standards. For more information check out the program at mainelakessociety.org/lakesmart. To let us know your thoughts, please call Sharon at (207) 845-2140 or send us a message at wlwassn@gmail.com.

Second Ice-Out Contest

Last February's successful partnership with Hill & Gully Riders Snowmobile Club sealed the deal for the 2014 Ice-Out Contest on Washington Pond in February. Ice-Out is the date when passage from end to end without encountering ice is possible. Spring 2014 ice-out was April 15 and the \$50 contest prize winner was Jud Butterman. The Ice-Out Contest is run by WLWA volunteers at Hill & Gully Riders Snowmobile Club's annual Fishing Derby and SnowFest in February. WLWA reports the dates to the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and Me. Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. Both organizations track ice out dates in as many Maine lakes as possible. 2013 winner, Ron Moore, guessed April 8.



2014 Audubon Loon Count
Maine Audubon reports 6 adults and 1 chick observed on Washington Pond July 19, 2014.

Washington Pond is monitored on Maine Audubon's Annual Loon Count Day (the third Saturday of July) from 7 – 7:30 a.m. by faithful volunteers Roger and Mary Cady, and Don and Liz Grinnell. The 2013 count was 9 adults and one chick. Crystal Lake counters David Allen and Leann Diehl observed two adults in 2013. Our volunteers work with the official annual Maine Audubon Loon Count.

Award winning speaker:

Avoid pesticides as much as you can. . .

Gary Fish, professional horticulturist and arborist, was speaker at our Annual Meeting July 15. He is Manager of Pesticide Programs for the Maine Board of Pesticides Control and Coordinator of the Maine Yard-Scaping Partnership. Gary is a recipient of the Friends of Casco Bay Award for his work at Back Cove in Portland. His common sense method is to avoid pesticide applications that kill everything they touch.



Gary Fish and WLWA President, Sharon Turner, chat following our 2014 Annual Meeting

Fish suggests we focus on eradicating only truly harmful plants and insects from our yards and gardens. In that way we will leave alone the many *beneficial insects*. If we cultivate plants shrubs, trees and grasses that are native to our area, we provide for birds, butterflies, and wildlife. We nurture ourselves, the local wildlife, and the environment. Lots more ideas can be found at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org



Upcoming WLWA Board Meetings

Monday, January 12, 2015 7 p.m. Bryant

Room Washington Code Enforcement Officer Bob Temple will describe areas of mutual concern and we'll learn how our association can help support codes.

Monday, March 9, 2015 7 p.m. Bryant

Room Review of trail repair and grooming with Washington Conservation Committee.

Monday, May 11, 2015 7 p.m. Bryant

Room Prepare and mail Spring update to members.

Monday, June 8, 2015 7 p.m. Bryant

Room Final plans for Annual Meeting.

Wednesday, July 15, 2015 7 p.m.

Members' Annual Meeting Place, program and time TBD

WLWA members are always welcome at Board meetings. Because we work from a prepared agenda, we ask you to please let us know you're coming so we can plan time for you. Call Sharon at 845-2140 or email wlwassn@gmail.com at least 2 days before the meeting. Thank you !

Keeping properties safe

In spite of the recent snow, it's been a very dry fall. We need to use extra care to prevent fires. Washington's Fire Chief Tom Johnston, says we can protect our property by keeping areas around cottages and homes cleared of debris, dry brush, anything flammable. Firewise, a program from the Maine Forest Service (MFS) provides information on how to reduce fire risk and also a list of fire-resistant plants and trees. Contact MFS at 800-750-9777 or online at www.maineforestservice.gov.



Maine Lakes Society Conference

One of the best lake conventions ever was the 44th Maine Lakes Society (Maine COLA) Conference. Completely planned and presented by staff and members, forums dealt with the ways lake associations learn and work together, share science and resources, and challenge themselves to solve problems. Lake success stories included clearing a milfoil invasion, winning legislative support, tracking septic leaks with dogs, doing shoreline surveys, and much more.

Often, the conference presents national and regional authors, scientists, and activists in the lake conservation field. The 2014 conference brought it all home with presentations by and from our own associates in our own state. It was a pleasure to see our philosophies in action.

The Maine Lakes Conference is held each year in June. Registration is open to everyone. FMI contact: info@mainelakessociety.org



Fall Foliage on Washington Pond Oct 2014

DO YOU KNOW ???

Was Washington Pond once called Medomak Lake? When and why was it changed?

Tell us at:

E-mail: wlwassn@gmail.com or call 845-2661



Could this be you?

WLWA is searching for a life guard and swim instructor for

swimming lessons for local children next summer. If you are certified or know someone who might be available next June, please send an email to wlwassn@gmail.com or call Charlotte at 845-2661.

Why water temperature matters. . .

All aquatic species thrive in a narrow temperature range which is best for them. Even a few degrees of change make a difference to fish, insects, zooplankton and phytoplankton. As little as 2-degrees can change the chemistry of the water and the biology of the creatures so that their environment is no longer inhabitable.

**OUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS REVISED
TO THE CALENDAR YEAR
[January through December]**

All members who paid for 2013-14 were extended to the end of 2014

PLEASE JOIN US NOW FOR 2015 !

Officers for 2014-2015 are:

Sharon Turner, President; Roger Cady, Vice President; Rob Stenger, Secretary; Barbara Carney, Treasurer. Charlotte Henderson, Newsletter Editor. George Stone, Webmaster. Board members: David Allen, Frank Braun, Terry Bromfield, Liz Freyenhagen,; Madelon Kelly, Andy Lascoutx, Linda Luce.

If you shop **Amazon**, please consider supporting Maine Lakes Society by using smile.amazon.com and selecting them as your charity. MLS will get a donation of half a cent on a dollar from Amazon.

Lake Water Quality Teetering



WLWA's most recent water quality testing samples were taken in August of 2012. The report showed a slight decline in the water quality of both our big lakes because of a large dissolved oxygen deficit. WLWA has a professional assessment done every three years - the recommended maximum between tests. The 2012 report is available on our website: www.washingtonlakesassociation.org or by request at wlwassn@gmail.com or 207-845-2661.

According to Maine Lakes Society, Maine's freshwater lakes are under serious threat. A 2012 University of Maine study shows the clarity of many Maine lakes has declined as much as 20% since 1995. Funding for lake protection programs have been dramatically cut eliminating staffing, educational programs and silencing the voice of science. Washington Pond and Crystal Lake and surrounds are a precious asset which need our conscious efforts to avoid declines.

**WASHINGTON LAKES WATERSHED
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WWW.WASHINGTONLAKESASSOCIATION.ORG



**QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?
WLWASSN@GMAIL.COM**

Now, more than ever, Washington Lakes Watershed Association needs your support. To our long time members and friends, and all our shoreland owners, please become WLWA members.

Thank you !