



Volume 11, No. 2

Fall, 2019

President's Message:

It has been a busy and exhausting summer featuring three big projects: a new website, the new boat ramp and KLA50. The status of each of these projects is outlined independently below. One compelling reason to move to a new website platform is the ability to distribute future newsletters via an e-mail facility included in the new platform. This will eliminate an ongoing cost for copying/stamps as well as a significant manual chore in printing, labeling, and mailing. Despite making great progress over the last five years in migrating to more e-mail distribution of the newsletter, we still have over 50 copies that have to go out by snail mail...so PLEASE, share your e-mail address with us.

Another compelling reason to share your e-mail address with us came to light in late October. One morning, I woke up to see an 8'x8' swim raft floating out by Rock Island. The forecast was for increasing southwest winds which would have driven the raft across the lake. With that in mind, I retrieved the raft and towed it to what I believed was the owner's beach. I was then able to send an e-mail to the out-of-town owner alerting them and advising them to contact their local caretaker to secure the raft. Additionally, I've also been able to send email alerts to people who inadvertently leave lights on after fall closing. I've been able to do this because these folks shared their e-mail addresses with us.

Please help us get to 100% e-mail distribution of our newsletter while also setting yourself up for instant communication if those of us who live here year-round see something we think looks awry.

Have a great winter,
Charlie Tarbell

David Abbiati (1943-2019)

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Dave Abbiati on November 11th. Dave served as Secretary for the KLA Board of Trustees from 2004 to 2015 when he stepped down so his son, Joe, could continue the Abbiati commitment to Keoka and KLA. Dave was a reliable fixture at KLA meetings where he recorded minutes and offered the wisdom he acquired from years of work in human resources. Over the years, Dave enjoyed spending time at his camp on Stone's Cove with his wife, Ruth, who predeceased him, his second wife, Thea, and his two sons and their families.

Check It Out!!! – www.keokalake.org

KLA has had a well-managed website for years. The site has been used to post info about the lake, the organization, membership, meeting minutes, pictures, and links to important lake information. As webmaster, Joe Abbiati, has been a formidable force in keeping the site running and updated and our thanks to Joe for all his expertise and hard work.

Earlier this year, new board member, Brenda Hambleton, approached KLA about updating the site using newly available tools on a more versatile platform (Wixnet). She volunteered to create a mock-up that interested parties could review and decide if the new platform was worthwhile. The new site contains all the materials available on the old site, plus more. Importantly, the new site (because of the new platform) displays appropriately on a mobile device.

In addition to providing information, the new site/platform will eventually allow us to: 1) take electronic donations (we are being asked about this option more and more frequently), 2) push out the newsletters electronically (saving production/mailling time) and 3) allow us to have a blog page that can be easily updated by a variety of people.

The new site is now up and running. The url is www.keokalake.org. Take a peek. We think you will like what you see.

Long Awaited..... it's here!

As mentioned on Facebook and the KLA website, the new boat ramp at the Town Beach is in! After a series of weather-related and materials-related setbacks in the spring, good weather, materials, manpower and luck came together and the new boat ramp was installed September 13-14. Many thanks go to Jeff Ward of Jeff Ward Excavation for his contribution of time and equipment to this project. Without Jeff's involvement, this project would never have been done.

There is still some asphalt needed at the top of the ramp. Projected completion of

this last part of the project is subject to contractor availability and favorable weather conditions. Happily, the gravel berm at the top of the ramp is working as designed, directing storm water runoff from Route 35 into the retaining pool and away from the beach. The newly-graded beach looks great and should hold up for the next summer season thanks to Jeff's careful engineering.

Funds for this project came from the Town of Waterford, an anonymous donor from Keoka Beach Campground and a State of Maine grant. A full accounting will be available after the asphalt installation is complete. (President's Note: "I pulled my boat recently and can attest to the fact that this ramp is awesome.")

Water Quality

The lack of torrential rainstorms and good weather over the summer meant water quality of Maine lakes, in general, was very good. The LEA report on Keoka with 2019 data will be available in November. With the new configuration of the boat launch, we hope that the Gloeo levels might drop as there will no longer be erosion across the beach, bringing nutrients from the highway down into the lake in the vicinity of the Gloeo testing site. Keoka Lake continues to experience a lack of deep-water oxygenation, especially in the later weeks of the summer. Using a new approach to testing, LEA's Sonde boat did a systematic testing/mapping of Keoka in late July. Check the website for that report in the spring and/or watch Facebook posts for notice that is available.

Stream Surveys

Kim Struck has tromped the streams that feed into Keoka in an attempt to 1) look for evidence of overbanking/erosion which might affect water quality in the lake, 2) assess blockages that cause streams to change course, 3) clean up trash that has accumulated and 4) interface with those whose land borders the 10 streams that

feed into Keoka. As more attention is focused on the watershed for lakes, such base-level information helps identify potential hazards and pollutants that affect the water quality.

CBI's

Summer 2019 recorded 262 inspections over the 384 hours that a paid Courtesy Boat Inspector was on duty at the Town Beach boat launch. The total number of hours is down from past years in part due to the increase in hourly wage for the CBI's. There were 3 catches of plants leaving the lake (all non-invasives), but Milfoil **is** in lakes near us. All who launch and pull out boats need to be alert and vigilant. Please self-inspect your boat before entering/leaving any lake. In 2019, *Eurasian Milfoil* was caught going into the Sebago Lake State Park boat ramp and *Variable-leafed Milfoil* was caught going into Long Lake.

Plant Patrol

While enjoying the lake, a team of volunteer Plant Patrollers are also monitoring the flora and fauna that lives in the lake. The lake has been divided into sections and each Patroller is alert to changes within their patrol area. Volunteers are always welcome to join the Plant Patrol. Contact Arne Klepinger for more information.

7th Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta

The last Saturday in July saw the lake full of sailboats. In addition to the 'usual' Laser and Open classes, this year's regatta saw the addition of boats from four local camps (Birchrock, Fernwood Cove, Wazyiata and Wigwam) competing for the Camp Cup. Thanks to the able and exacting 'handicapping' of the boats by John O'Brien and Peter Leslie, a clear winner could be named in the nearly 'too close' to call Camp Cup finish. The winners: Camp Cup: 1st – Wigwam, 2nd – Birchrock, 3rd – Wigwam. Five boats from Keoka Lake

competed in the adult classes. The winners: Open Class – Eliza and John D'Agostino and Laser Class – Alan Struck (finally!)

Due to the increased number of boats, sailors and supporters, the event was moved from Chadbourne's Beach to Keoka Beach Campground. KLA thanks the Chadbourne family for hosting the first six years of the Regatta. Thanks also to Chris Searles and Keoka Beach Campground for welcoming the Regatta to their beach.

Volunteering

KLA is an all-volunteer organization and it relies on people willing to step up and lend a hand – be it installing a boat launch, helping to ready newsletters for mailing (at least for now), being a Plant Patroller, a Stream Surveyor, helping with the annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta, setting up for the Annual Meeting, serving on the Board of Trustees, helping Joanne Eaton sell merchandise at Community Breakfasts, 4th of July activities on the common or Fall Foliage 5k weekend, writing blogs for the new website, keeping KLA 'up with the times' on social media or a myriad of other 'little things' that make it possible for KLA to do what it does to keep Keoka Lake clean and safe. Want to get involved? Please check one of the boxes on the Fall Dues Notice (included with this newsletter) and you will be contacted. Our thanks to all who volunteer now and welcome to those who wish to join us!

2019 KLA Paddleboard Raffle

The winner of the 2019 Paddleboard Raffle was **Erin Grizone**, owner of Good Health is a Habit. Congratulations, Erin! We look forward to seeing you out on Keoka next summer!

Walkers Mill Dam

Keoka Lake's water level has been very high this fall as the Keoka Dam was shut down tightly during a two-week period in mid/late October (at which time the area

experienced one of the wettest Octobers on record). The water level rose from a record low to spillway height (a 2.5 foot increase) in about two weeks.

The Keoka Dam was closed to allow for the restoration of the Walkers Falls Dam on City Brook in South Waterford. This dam, owned by Bob Spencer and Geri O'Donnell, used to (in the day) retain a mill pond of about one-quarter acre. The restoration of the Walkers Mill Dam included the erecting of a concrete retaining dam behind the eighteenth (1795) and nineteenth-century dams. With this installation completed, the mill pond will return and Walkers Falls will again be a feature of South Waterford. This photo is taken from Back Street (behind Kimball's Hardware) showing the return of Walker's Falls after 30 years.



Reopened the beginning of November, the Keoka Lake Dam is now set to allow the lake water level to return to 'winter normal' levels.

KLA Merchandise

In 2019, KLA continued to present new and different articles for sale at the Wilkins House Community Breakfasts as well as at the Fourth of July Parade and the Fall Foliage 5k Weekend. This year, Joanne Eaton sold in excess of \$2,000 in merchandise and raffle tickets and we thank each of you who support KLA in this

way. Joanne searches year-round for shirts and other apparel to support KLA's mission. Stay tuned for 2020's new offerings.

Social Media

Are you tired of hearing about Twitter or is that how you stay in touch? Unsure about Facebook and Instagram? Or do you use your mobile devices to access a myriad of social media to stay 'connected'? KLA is also trying to keep up.

The world of social media is changing before our eyes but rest assured, KLA is taking it slowly. Yes, KLA has a website (<http://www.keokalake.org>) and KLA has a Facebook page. If you have a Facebook page too, you can 'Like' us on Facebook and any updates and/or posts to the KLA page will show up on your Newsfeed – It's as easy as that. Did you know that we can alert you to updates on our website by posting a notice on our Facebook page. And if you post pictures to Instagram, use #KLA or #keokalake so others who use Instagram can also see your pix. And while you're at it, keep checking back to our new KLA website – it's ever-changing!. We'd love to see the pictures you've taken around or on Keoka Lake. If you have pictures you'd like to share, please check out the Photo Gallery page of the KLA website for how you can transmit your pix to be uploaded to the website.

Fall Dues Notice

The final page of this newsletter is the Fall Dues Notice. As our membership grows (90% of lakeside landowners are KLA members), the practice of listing those who have paid their dues for the year on the dues notice has grown unwieldy. However, for those who don't remember if they have or if they have not yet paid their 2019 KLA dues, please reach out to Charlie Tarbell or Ginny Raymond. If you have not paid your 2019 dues, please use the attached Fall Dues Notice. Please also note that you can pay your 2020 KLA dues

in advance at the same time.

We'd ask that you consider a gift in excess of the \$25 dues amount either as an unrestricted donation or directed to the Milfoil Reserve or Educational Initiative. KLA is a volunteer organization that relies on donations to continue its mission to maintain the health and safety of Keoka Lake, especially in the face of the threat of invasives, both flora and fauna, and naturally occurring and man-made environmental threats. KLA is also committed to protecting the waters of Keoka Lake for future generations by educating its membership about environmental threats, environmentally conscious and proactive best practices and safe boating practices to protect those who enjoy its waters. Point of fact: the initial response to a milfoil infestation is approximately \$15,000! It then costs thousands of dollars every year just to keep the noxious weeds in check.

Gift Memberships

Many of the 'camps' that border Keoka Lake are multi-generational camps with long histories on the lake. Childhood friendships are renewed at Keoka when those who spent their summers here in the '60's, '70's, '80's and '90's now return to the lake with their families to share those same experiences. Family reunions are so much of what summers are all about!

But the work of KLA is supported largely through dues payments made by individuals, couples and nuclear families. Please consider encouraging your children and grandchildren to take a direct interest in the lake by becoming independent members of KLA. To jumpstart the transition from one generation to another, consider giving a ***KLA GIFT MEMBERSHIP*** to children, grandchildren and/or nieces/nephews. On the enclosed Dues Notice, check the "Gift Membership" box, fill out the form for your gift recipient and tell us the relationship. KLA will do the rest and send you a ***GIFT***

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE that you can gift-wrap and/or deliver as you wish. Want to give more than one Gift Membership? Just attach the information to your dues form and it will happen!

Passing the torch to the next generation ensures the continued enjoyment of the lake by all. A KLA Gift Membership is a gift that keeps on giving (and doesn't need batteries, doesn't take up space, doesn't need a charger or an electrical outlet and doesn't collect dust!). KLA Gift Memberships make great stocking stuffers or Hannukah gifts!

We're going to be 50!

KLA was founded in 1971 and in 2021, we will be celebrating 'our' 50th anniversary. Plans are already in the works for a summer-long celebration. There will be a party to mark the occasion; there will be an exhibit at the Waterford Historical Society during the summer, commemorating KLA's 50th anniversary..... and there will be stories told. But we need your help! Do you have photos from KLA activities, meetings or volunteer efforts from 1971-2021?? Do you have scrapbooks? 'artifacts' that you might consider lending to the Waterford Historical Society for their summer-long exhibit? Scrapbooks/photo album pictures could be digitized if you're more comfortable with that.

Stories..... we want to hear them! In the 2019 Spring KLA newsletter, we asked that you share your family's history on/near Keoka. Included in that newsletter was a Shoreowner Questionnaire. Many have been submitted; many are still needed. It is our goal to have a history for every property on Keoka Lake (and there are over 80 of them) and to compile them into a book that will be available in time for the KLA50 Anniversary Celebration.

Have you emailed yours to KLA50.2021@gmail.com? Did you (snail) mail it to KLA50 at P.O. Box 97, Waterford, ME 04088? Or is it still sitting on your desk

waiting for you to find time to fill it out? If you need an additional copy, it's included with this newsletter – but PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for submission (to be included in the book) is January 30, 2020. Please tell us your story (or else we'll be forced to 'make something up'!)

Finally, as with any good organization celebrating a significant anniversary, we are undertaking a Capital Campaign to create an endowment so KLA is ready should milfoil (or any invasive) find its way into Keoka Lake. Other lakes in Maine are already infested with various varieties of

milfoil. KLA has attacked the three-legged stool of Milfoil mitigation: (1) prevention (we have that in our CBI program), (2) detection (we have that in our Plant Patrol program); but we lack the resources to fund the (3) Eradication process. Eradicating milfoil/invasives is an expensive proposition - to put divers into the water can run over \$100,000. We are currently in the Quiet Phase of the KLA50 Capital Campaign. Stay tuned for information about the Public Phase – coming in the spring of 2020.

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*We wish each of you a Happy Holiday Season
and a very Happy New Year!*

<http://www.keokalake.org>

KLA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.