



# THE LAKESIDER

Newsletter of the Greater Pushaw Lake Association, serving Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS! We need your help.  
Become a dues-paying GPLA member TODAY!**

April 2012

Volume 5, Issue 1

GPLA mails this newsletter out to over 650 property owners on Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. Yet fewer than 50 lakeside households are annual dues-paying GPLA members! In past years, we have been able to accomplish our important work to protect the Greater Pushaw watershed without the need to conduct membership drives, thanks to generous water quality grants from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and significant in-kind donations from the Penobscot Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. However, in these hard economic times our state and regional partners have experienced severe budget cutbacks, so we are going to need more financial help from the individual households we serve. GPLA's mission is "**Preserving and improving the quality of Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond.**" Here are just a few of the ways that GPLA volunteers have helped to keep YOUR waterfront property values high, by working to ensure that both lakes remain clean, safe, and beautiful:

**\*To date, attracted \$174,863 in state and federal grants, matched by \$141,870 in municipal contributions, private donations, volunteer service, and in-kind donations, that were used to address major erosion problems, reduce non-point source pollution, and improve water quality on Pushaw Lake;**

**\*Partnered with Bangor Bass Club to install boating hazard buoys on Pushaw Lake; continue to monitor buoys regularly during summer months, and file annual reports with the Maine Department of Conservation;**

**\*Coordinate and conduct summertime water quality testing on both lakes, to monitor for conditions that could lead to obnoxious algae blooms;**

**\*Recruit watershed stewards to identify and prioritize erosion runoff "hot spots";**

**\*Recruit boat inspectors and invasive plant patrollers to check for the presence of alien waterplants that could clog our lakes with weedy overgrowth;**

**\*Publish the public-outreach newsletter "The Lakesider" at least twice annually, and maintain a website, [www.greaterpushaw.org](http://www.greaterpushaw.org), filled with useful information and links for lakeside property owners; and**

**\*Serve as a REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER representing the interests of ALL campowners' associations, road associations, and lakeside residents on both lakes, and assist in efforts to maintain good camp roads and a stabilized shoreline.**

If you agree that these services are worth supporting, then please do your part and become a dues-paying GPLA member. Basic household membership is just **\$15 per year**, although we will gratefully accept larger donations if you are able to be more generous. Business and organizational contributions are also welcomed. GPLA is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, so your donations are fully tax-deductible. An envelope is enclosed in this newsletter to make it easy for you to write a check, mail it back, and feel great because you will know that you are helping to preserve our lakes for future generations. On behalf of the many active volunteers who carry out GPLA's mission, THANK YOU for making it all possible with your paid membership!

**-Sandi Duchesne, GPLA President**

## Inside this issue:

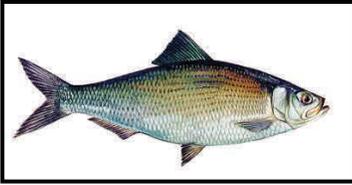
Alewife Update	2
Lakesiders of the Year!	2
2012 Loon Count on July 21	3
Ask a Lake Expert	3
GPLA Blog	4
Saluting our Pushaw Partners	4

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 95% of human brain matter consists of water. Human blood is 82% water, and human lungs are nearly 90% water.
- Over 90% of the world's fresh water supply is frozen in the polar ice cap in Antarctica.
- Loons reappear on Maine lakes within days after ice-out. The males return first, then the females arrive up to a week later. Immature loons remain offshore for up to 3 years before migrating inland to breed.

## Alewife Reintroduction – A Project Underway

by Rich Dressler



In 2010, fisheries biologists from the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) proposed stocking Pushaw Lake with alewives. [Alewives are members of the herring family; they have slender bodies, and they normally grow to 10 – 11" in length, and weigh about half a pound.] The overall goal of this effort is to restore historic alewife runs in the Penobscot River, which will be possible with the removal of several dams on the Penobscot River. To speed up this process, the agency biologists proposed stocking of alewives in Pushaw Lake. Young fish would

migrate to the ocean to grow to maturity and would then return in four years to spawn. In order for the project to be successful, a fishway would be needed at the Pushaw Lake outlet dam for the returning alewife to swim over the dam.

The project was presented to the Kunkunook Camp Owners' Association (KCOA), owners of the outlet dam, and KCOA members voted in August 2010 in support of going forward with initial data collection. GPLA also received several briefings on the project and support was indicated with the expressed need to provide for public information meetings on the project. Several meetings were held by Department of Marine Resources with few attendees.

Based on a careful review of all the information and data related to the proposed project, KCOA members approved moving forward with the construction of a fishway at their 2011 Annual Meeting. The construction of the fishway will have minimal effects on the level of the lake and the associated construction of a new control gate at the dam will improve the ability of KCOA to maintain normal lake water levels.

Fishway engineering design was reviewed, revised and completed in early 2012. These designs were reviewed and approved by the KCOA Board at a March 8, 2012 meeting. Access and construction agreement with ASF and operation and maintenance Memorandum of Agreement with DMR are currently in development. ASF and DMR's goal is to construct the fishway in 2012. Initial stocking of alewives in the lake is planned for 2012.

Efforts related to the project are being monitored closely by the KCOA Board. Concerns or questions related to this project may be directed to KCOA, P.O. Box 307, Stillwater, ME 04489. These will be passed on to the KCOA Board and the state and federal biologists.

## PRESENTING THE 2011 LAKESIDERS OF THE YEAR!

**Joanne Van Voorhis and Luke Esty-Kendall**

GPLA presented its first annual Lakesider of the Year awards, created to honor outstanding pro bono professional service and behind-the-scenes volunteer efforts that greatly benefit our organization, to Joanne Van Voorhis and Luke Esty-Kendall at the 2011 GPLA Annual Meeting. Congratulations to both!

Joanne is the Executive Director of the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center, which provides career-planning resources for students and job-seekers interested in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. She also founded and continues to operate a private consulting firm, Target Marketing and Communications. Joanne was honored by GPLA for her pro bono work in developing the design and layout for the GPLA website, [www.greaterpushaw.org](http://www.greaterpushaw.org), which she continues to maintain as a volunteer webmaster. Joanne enjoys spending leisure time at her east-side home on Pushaw Lake in Glenburn.

Luke is employed by the Penobscot Indian Nation as a computer technician. He also serves as the tribe's webmaster. Luke was honored by GPLA for volunteering his computer skills and graphic design expertise to develop an attractive new logo and "product brand" for the organization. (His distinctive loon-and-kayaker logo is featured on the masthead of this newsletter.) Luke is a resident of Luckey's Landing on Pushaw Lake in Glenburn.

Both Joanne and Luke worked closely with other GPLA volunteers to ensure that their work would fully meet the needs of the organization. They both delivered professional products of lasting value that would have cost GPLA thousands of dollars each if they had been contracted on the open market. We are grateful for Joanne's and Luke's pro bono work on behalf of GPLA, and we were pleased to honor both of them as our 2011 Lakesiders of the Year!

The 2012 award winner(s) will be announced at the 2012 GPLA Annual Meeting in July. Check your June issue of **The Lakesider** for updates on the place, date, and time.

## 29TH ANNUAL MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT ON PUSHAW LAKE and LITTLE PUSHAW POND

Saturday July 21, 2012, 7:00-7:30 am

The 2011 Loon Count took place on Saturday, July 16th, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. Note the count needs to be completed within one-half hour to avoid double counting of loons moving between adjacent observation areas. The official Maine Audubon count for Little Pushaw Pond was 11 adults and two chicks; for Pushaw Lake it was 28 adults and one chick. While the adult count continues to be good, chick production and survival continues to be disappointing. Thanks to all volunteers that participated in the count on both lakes, from boats, kayaks, and shoreline – without your help, the count could not be completed in one-half hour.



Volunteers will again count loons on July 21, 2012 from shore and from boats to cover all of Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. We are hoping all the volunteers from 2011 will be available to do the survey again this year. If you participated in 2011 you should receive a mailing from Maine Audubon in late June or July with instructions. Rich and Marian Dressler will be coordinating the survey again so they will be contacting you by early July to determine your availability, make sure you have the necessary forms, and coordinate the portion of the lake to survey.

If you did not participate in the survey last year and want get involved **please contact Rich or Marian Dressler 827-5407 to get details.** Please respond no later than June 30. The survey takes about 45 minutes to one hour of your time in total. You will need a good set of binoculars and will be recording observed adults and chicks on a map of the lake. Thanks!

### ASK AN EXPERT: DO LOW WATER LEVELS REDUCE LAKE WATER QUALITY?

With practically no winter snowmelt and a week of abnormally warm weather (downright hot, in fact!) in the middle of March, it looks like we may be setting up for yet another low water-level summer season on Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. It seems like a good time to reprint a query that GPLA received from a Pushaw Lake resident during the long, hot summer we enjoyed (?) two years ago. The expert responding to this query is Laura Wilson from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Laura received her BS degree in Water Quality Management from the University of New Hampshire, and her MS in Ecology and Environmental Science (with a concentration in Water Resources) from the University of Maine. She has worked for the Extension's Water Quality Program since 2001. The Water Quality Program provides extensive technical assistance to GPLA in its mission to protect and improve water quality in the Pushaw watershed.

**Question:** What's the story with the extremely low water level on Pushaw Lake this year? I am a seasonal resident, and this is the lowest water level I've ever seen in the 20+ summers I've spent at my camp. I thought the outlet dam was supposed to prevent this sort of thing. Will the low water levels result in reduced water quality this summer?

**Answer:** Water levels can be controlled by an outlet dam - only up to a point. This year [2010], we had very little snowmelt to "fill up" the lakes as much as in most years. The dam gates are controlled as usual, but there wasn't as much water to trap in the lake this year - thus lower water to start. I would anticipate lower than average water quality this year, but more due to the hot temperatures, early ice-out, and periodic heavy rainfall that brings soil and phosphorus into the lake than due to low water levels. Within a long stretch of hot, calm days, the lake may stratify, which means that the warmer, lighter surface water will 'float' on the heavier bottom water. If the lake stays stratified, the oxygen in that lower water may be depleted by the bacteria that decompose algae. The good news for Pushaw is that the lake is shallow enough that a good wind will once again mix the water top to bottom, break that stratification, and reoxygenate the water.



Do you have a question to ask one of our experts? Whether it deals with plants, animals, roads, water quality, or shoreline issues; whether you're flummoxed or just curious, please feel free to call or e-mail and we will try to find an expert who can answer it for you. We'll publish them here and on our website, [www.greaterpushaw.org](http://www.greaterpushaw.org).

## THE LAKESIDER

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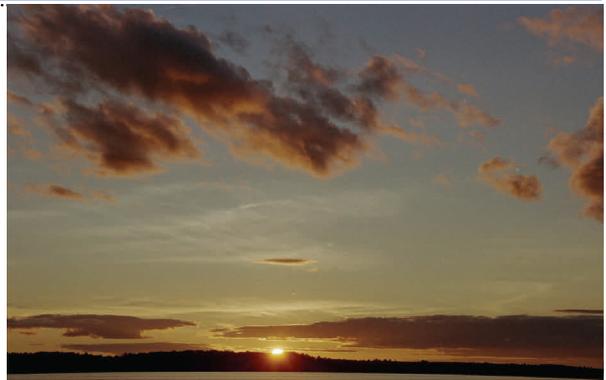
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*“Never doubt that a small  
committed group of  
citizens can change the  
world. Indeed it is the  
only thing that ever has.”*

**Margaret Mead**

### **GPLA Website has a Whole New Blog!**

The GPLA website now features a blog section! Log on at your convenience to report lost and found items, share observations about your lakeside experiences, and connect with others who love and appreciate life on Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. Check it out at [www.greaterpushaw.org](http://www.greaterpushaw.org), or you can go directly to the blog at [gplablog.weebly.com](http://gplablog.weebly.com). If the computer is not your friend, Bill Phillips will continue to take calls about lost-and-found items; contact him at 827-0454.



### **GPLA Salutes Our Pushaw Protection Partners!**

GPLA is fortunate to have a core group of active and strongly committed volunteers. We are grateful to all of our GPLA members, donors, and volunteers for their ongoing support, and to the many organizations that help us protect the watershed surrounding Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond: **Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, Maine Council of Lakes Associations, Bangor Bass Club, Orono Land Trust, Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, Maine Department of Conservation, and Kukunsook Camp Owners Association**, plus the elected leadership and hard-working staff of our four Municipal Partners: **Town of Orono, Town of Hudson, Town of Glenburn, and City of Old Town.**