



THE LAKESIDER

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

Come to the Annual Meeting — July 24 in Glenburn!

June 2012

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The GPLA Annual Meeting will be held at the Glenburn Town Office on Tuesday, July 24, with socializing from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. followed by the business meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Coffee, cider, desserts, and “healthy snacks” will be served. Please save this date on your calendars, and come out to meet old and new friends from Orono, Old Town, Glenburn and Hudson as we celebrate another great year. Sergeant Roy Peary and Deputy Sean McCue from the Penobscot Valley Sheriff’s Office will be our featured guest speakers. They will share tips and answer questions about how to protect lakeside properties from vandalism and theft. Following a rash of camp break-ins and robberies this spring, several GPLA members have expressed interest in learning more about how to protect their own properties and how to identify unwelcome “guests” in their lakeside neighborhoods.

We will also be voting on significant bylaws changes, electing board members, and having FUN! You can look over the proposed slate of board members and proposed bylaws changes on the GPLA website, www.greaterpushaw.org . If you would like to place an item on the agenda for discussion at the Annual Meeting, or nominate yourself or someone else to be a new board member, please contact GPLA President Sandi Duchesne at 827-3782 or smduchesne@roadrunner.com .

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Furry Fun with a Friendly Fox Family by Sandi Duchesne

There are lots of red foxes in this neighborhood. One mated pair made a new den this spring in the big rocks along the shoreline of Pushaw Lake, right next door to us. This picture (taken by my husband Bob in April) shows Mama Fox with two of her seven kits, all of whom seem to be doing quite well and growing fast. They have become quite accustomed to our presence. We have been able to watch the youngsters explore, pounce, and tumble all over the yard, sometimes while Mama takes a well-deserved nap in the sunshine! Often they will approach to within 10 to 20 feet of where we are sitting or standing. No, we are not feeding them — they are still very wild and wary creatures; they just have determined that we are not a threat, so they allow us to quietly observe their foxy ways.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Barred Owl is nocturnal like most owls, but you may occasionally see or hear one during the daytime, especially on cloudy days. Barred Owls have dark eyes and an easy-to-learn call: “Who hoots for WHO? Who hoots for WHO-all?” They can often be found in trees near lakes and other water bodies.
- Our lakes help to protect two state-threatened species of freshwater mussels: the Yellow Lampmussel and the Tidewater Mucket.

FISHWAY PLANNED FOR PUSHAW LAKE OUTLET IN 2012

by Rich Dressler

Federal and state agency biologists have been working with Kukunsook Camp Owner's Association (KCOA), owners of the dam, to plan the construction of a fishway at the outlet dam of Pushaw Lake. The overall goal of this effort is to restore historic alewife runs in the Penobscot River drainage, including Pushaw Lake, which will be possible with the removal of several dams on the Penobscot River. Construction of the fishway and a new water control structure is planned to be completed by late summer 2012. The old water control gate will be removed and replaced by concrete plus needed repairs to the dam will be completed.

To speed up the restoration of alewives, the agency biologists propose stocking of alewives in Pushaw Lake in spring of 2012. Young fish will migrate to the ocean to grow to maturity and then return in four years to spawn in the lake. In order for the project to be successful, a fishway is needed at the Pushaw Lake outlet dam for the returning alewife to swim over the dam.

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.



Conceptual mock-up of a fishway planned for outlet dam of Pushaw Lake – fishway entrance is to the left of the new water control gate (looking upstream from the southwest shore of Pushaw Stream).

Psst! Have you paid your GPLA annual dues for 2012 yet? If not, please bring your check for \$15 to the GPLA Annual Meeting — or mail it to GPLA c/o Kathy Lukas, 215 Birch Tree Drive, Hudson, ME 04449. Thanks for your support — we can't publish this newsletter without it!

29TH ANNUAL MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT
ON PUSHAW LAKE and LITTLE PUSHAW POND
Saturday July 21, 2012, 7:00-7:30 am

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! -Rich and Marian Dressler



GREEN LAWNS AND GREEN WALLETS, NOT A GREEN PUSHAW LAKE!

by Chris Brewer, Penobscot Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

It's summer, and for many of us that means it's time to pull the rakes out of storage, grease up the lawn mower, and purchase the fertilizers and pesticides that will whip our lawns into tip-top shape for the upcoming season. After all, who wouldn't enjoy a little green after a Maine winter?

But did you know that excess amounts of fertilizers and pesticides can be harmful to our environment (not to mention, your wallet)? Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous easily wash away in stormwater runoff, and collect in Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. While these nutrients can be good for plant growth, they are detrimental to water quality. Excess nutrient levels in your lake cause nuisance algae blooms that turn your lake green, changing the ecology and natural balance of life that these systems sustain.

Don't worry – Not all hope is lost! It's easy to get a healthy green lawn while minimizing your use of fertilizers and pesticides. Below are some tips to keep the green on your lawn and in your wallet, while keeping it out of our waterways!

- ⇒ Set your mower blades to 3" or their highest setting, and leave the clippings on the lawn for a free, natural, slow-release fertilizer.
- ⇒ Lawns over 10 years old typically don't require any fertilizers beyond clippings.
- ⇒ Spread rye grass or other annual fescues on your lawn to naturally control weeds.
- ⇒ Lawns should receive 1" of water per week. If it's going to rain this week, no need for the sprinkler!

If you've tried the above tips and are not satisfied with the results, have your soil tested. The test results will tell you exactly how much and what types of fertilizers your lawn needs. If a soil test indicates that you should apply fertilizers, here are some application tips:

- ⇒ Always use P-free formulas, unless your soil test results tell you otherwise. (P = phosphorus = bad news for lakes)
- ⇒ Avoid products containing both fertilizers and weed killers.
- ⇒ Don't fertilize if there is rain in the forecast – it will all wash away!
- ⇒ Don't fertilize ground that is saturated or soggy.
- ⇒ Apply no more than 2 pounds of nitrogen (or 1 pound if leaving clippings) per 1000 square feet of lawn area per year.
- ⇒ Apply half of the yearly dose after spring green-up, and the other half around Labor Day Weekend.

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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

[Blog Us All About It!](#)

The GPLA website now features a blog section! You can use it to report lost and found items, contribute poetry and essays, share wildlife sightings, describe your most memorable lakeside experiences, or just connect with others who love and appreciate life on Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. Check it out at www.greaterpushaw.org, or you can go directly to the blog at gplablog.weebly.com. If the computer is not your friend, Bill Phillips will continue to take calls regarding 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.**