



# THE LAKESIDER

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

## Come to the GPLA Annual Meeting — July 24 in Glenburn!

The risk of an algae bloom on Pushaw Lake continues to rise, and Little Pushaw Pond has already experienced partial algae blooms in previous hot summers. What would happen to YOUR property values and municipal tax bills if we started to have major algae blooms every summer? Come to the GPLA Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2014 in the Glenburn Town Office to learn about the economic effects of poor water quality with our special guest speaker, Professor Kathleen Bell, Ph.D., from the University of Maine. We'll snack and socialize starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Decaf coffee, seltzer water, cider, and desserts will be served. Please save this date on your calendars, and come out to meet with lake-loving friends and help GPLA celebrate another great year.

We will also be reporting on GPLA activities, electing board members, and having FUN! Nominated for re-election for a 2014-2016 term are **Rich Dressler, Terry Bellman, Dorli Cloutier, Kathy Lukas, Bill Phillips, and Mary Phillips**. We are seeking nominations to elect one more board member for the 2014-2016 term, and fill three vacated seats for the 2013-2015 term. We are particularly interested in recruiting a few folks from Orono and Little Pushaw Pond, but geographic location is less important than your ideas, engagement, and willingness to work in support of GPLA's mission and activities.

If you would like to place an item on the agenda for the Annual Meeting, or nominate yourself or someone else for GPLA board membership, please contact GPLA President Kathy Lukas at 327-2800 or [kael1945@gmail.com](mailto:kael1945@gmail.com).

## 2013 WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

by Jeff Hayward

Water testing continued on Pushaw Lake this past summer with GPLA members trained by the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP). Testing is performed bi-weekly from late Spring to early Fall, and was performed last summer by GPLA members Louis and Dorli Cloutier, seasonal residents in Hudson. Their bi-weekly testing started in May and lasted into mid-September. Thanks to Lou and Dorli for their volunteer efforts again this year on this extremely important GPLA activity.

Clarity (the distance that an object can be viewed under the water from the surface of the lake) was improved over 2012, however the trend is still slightly downward over time, indicating that water quality as measured by clarity is decreasing.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) testing for 2013 continued to show healthy levels of oxygen in the water and healthy mixing, most likely due to the lake's North-South run that churns up in heavy winds.

Phosphorus levels continue as a prime concern on Pushaw Lake. 2013 results overall were lower than the historical mean, but the overall historical trend is still upward. **The phosphorus level is already high enough to support an algae bloom.** Pushaw's colored water may actually have helped the lake avoid an algae bloom thus far, because the sun cannot penetrate to the bottom to trigger algae growth. Nevertheless, we all must continue to work to decrease phosphorus contributions to the lake.

GPLA has funded the purchase of two new Dissolved Oxygen meters, one for Pushaw Lake and one for Little Pushaw Pond. These newer, more user-friendly meters will ensure that our volunteer lake monitors have appropriate tools to continue this valuable monitoring service. **Your dues and contributions helped to make this possible!** As always, water testing and this analysis of results are done solely by volunteers. All results are reported to the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, where environmental scientists (the true experts in water quality) monitor the results and study the trends. For more information, visit <http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/>.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

- A moose mama with a nursing calf needs to consume about 70 pounds of vegetation each day, including aquatic plants that provide salt and other essential minerals. Healthy females may give birth to twins in years with more ample food supplies.
- Q: What animal is spotted but seldom seen? A: The spotted salamander, found throughout the GPLA watershed. By day, they hide under rocks and logs. At night, they emerge to prey on spiders, worms and other small invertebrates.

## IN MEMORIAM: TWO GREAT LEADERS OF GPLA

by Barbara Hildreth and Kerry Sack

### CAROLYN "CALLIE" ELLIS, 1927-2014



The Greater Pushaw Lake Association lost a steadfast board member and energetic leader with the death of **Carolyn "Callie" (Wilson) Ellis** on February 8, 2014.

Callie attended the August 1989 meeting which led to the formation of the Pushaw Lake Association, renamed the Greater Pushaw Lake Association in 1995. Callie served as GPLA President from 1995 through 2001, and she was an active and involved board member until her death.

During her presidency, some of the issues that GPLA addressed included water quality monitoring and the purchase of a Dissolved Oxygen meter; resolution of safety issues at Gould's Landing, which resulted in the addition of an attendant in the park 5 days a week and a No Wake Zone buoy; educational presentations about caring for and enhancing the water quality of Pushaw and Little Pushaw; dissemination of GPLA newsletters; and gathering materials for Pushaw history.

GPLA Members, Board of Directors and Officers extend our most sincere condolences to Callie's children and their families. Callie will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

### KATHY HODGKINS, 1957-2004



This year also marks the tenth anniversary of the untimely death of **Kathy Kay (Jenkins) Hodgkins**. Ten years ago this August, we lost Kathy in a tragic accident. She was a commercial pilot, flight instructor, and founding member of the PLA (renamed GPLA in 1995). Kathy and Kerry Sack acted as co-chairs when the PLA was first established in 1989. Kathy later served as President in 1991-1992, and as Secretary for all but one year between 1993 and 2001.

Kathy hosted many of GPLA's early organizational meetings. She helped to research and develop the original by-laws. Many annual meetings were held at picnics at the Hodgkins' Lucky Landing Seaplane Base in Glenburn, where attendees were offered plane rides. Kathy and Tim Hodgkins always kept "an eye from the sky" on Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond.

Kathy is appreciated for her work as one of GPLA's founders. She is missed by those of us who knew her.

## JOIN OR RENEW YOUR GPLA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (please provide both summer and winter addresses, if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail along with \$15 annual dues in the attached envelope, or mail to:

GPLA, PO Box 302, Stillwater, ME 04468. **Thanks!**

**31ST ANNUAL MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT  
ON PUSHAW LAKE and LITTLE PUSHAW POND  
Saturday July 19, 2014, 7:00-7:30 am**

Volunteers will again count loons on July 19, 2014 from shore and from boats to cover all of Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. We are hoping all the volunteers from 2013 will be available to do the survey again this year. If you participated in 2013 you should receive a mailing from Maine Audubon in late June or early 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 to 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



**2013 FINAL LOON COUNT RESULTS**

by Rich Dressler

The Annual Loon Count took place on Sunday, July 21, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. (postponed from Saturday due to rain). Based on volunteer data sheets, the count reported to Maine Audubon for Pushaw Lake included 25 adults and 1 chick. While we have full coverage of the lake we do not always get a complete count due to weather/wave conditions and movement of loons. Volunteers also counted 13 adults and 1 chick on Little Pushaw Pond.

There appeared to be some re-nesting due to high water in June. In summary, adult loon numbers declined somewhat on Pushaw Lake in 2013 over previous years. Chick production still remains relatively low. Thanks to all volunteers that participated in the count from boats, kayaks, and shoreline – without your help, the count could not be completed in one-half hour.



**SUMMERTIME HOME & CAMP MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER LAKE**



- ⇒ Limit runoff from exposed soil on your property, especially during rainstorms and spring snow melt. Anything that helps to prevent or slow runoff will help: shoreline buffer zones, stone-lined ditches, rip-rap to reinforce eroding banks and slopes, water bars, simply placing a tarp over bare soil areas and stockpiles. Soil erosion is the **NUMBER ONE CAUSE** of phosphorus loading and algae blooms in Maine lakes!
- ⇒ Minimize your use of lawn fertilizer, & avoid "P" type products. (**P=Phosphorus=Polluting for Pushaw!**)
- ⇒ Wash your vehicle & boat in an area where the sudsy water will not drain directly into the lake. Even better, use the commercial car wash in town that empties into a sewer, or patronize the high school car wash fundraiser.
- ⇒ Inspect your boat before & after putting it into any lake. Discard or burn any plant matter you find; don't just drop it on the ground or compost it. We all need to do our part to keep invasive species OUT of our lakes!
- ⇒ Go low-maintenance by letting the natural vegetation and leaf litter grow up a little along the shoreline. If you prefer the look of a manicured lawn all the way down to the lake, at least raise your mower blade to its highest setting and add a buffer zone of plants, wood chips, or crushed stone along the shoreline to minimize runoff.

## Greater Pushaw Lake Association

Greater Pushaw Lake Association  
PO Box 302  
Stillwater, ME 04489

Phone: 207-327-2800  
Website: [www.greaterpushaw.org](http://www.greaterpushaw.org)



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

**Margaret Mead**

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### Share your observations, memories, photos, and more!

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](http://www.greaterpushaw.org), or you can go directly to the blog at [gplablog.weebly.com](http://gplablog.weebly.com). Bill Phillips will also continue to provide a phone-in clearinghouse for lost-and-found items; contact him at 827-0454.

Photo credit: Cheryl Fox-Briggs

## 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 have helped 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.**