



# THE LAKESIDER

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

## Come to the GPLA Annual Meeting — July 23 in Glenburn!

The GPLA Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2015 in the Glenburn Town Office. We'll snack and socialize starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by a short business meeting and the main program at 7:00 p.m. Our special guest speaker this year is Orono resident and Master Maine Sea Kayak and Recreation Guide **Karen Francoeur**, owner of **Castine Kayak Adventures**. Karen is a veteran kayak guide and instructor who has spent many enjoyable hours paddling with friends and teaching kayak classes on Pushaw Lake. She will discuss paddling safety and share tips to enhance your next lake kayaking experience, in addition to relating a few of her own tales of lakeside and seaside paddling adventures. Please save this date on your calendars, and come out to socialize with neighbors and help GPLA celebrate another great year.



We will also report on GPLA activities, elect board members, and have FUN! Nominated to fill a board seat for the remainder of the 2014-2016 term is **Joyce Engelmann**. Nominated to serve 2015-2017 terms are **Lou Cloutier**, **Sandi Duchesne**, **Marian Dressler**, **Carolyn Eaton**, **Cheryl Fox-Briggs**, **Barbara Hildreth**, and **Art Hildebrandt**. There is one vacant board seat remaining for the 2015-2017 term, and we welcome self-nominations if you would like to get more involved with GPLA.

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

## 2014 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 board 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.

**PLEASE— do not cut the lines or run your boat over the bleach bottle buoys that mark our three test locations. This makes it much more difficult for GPLA to conduct reliable testing.**

Water clarity averaged 3.5 meters for 2014, an improvement over 2013 and the historical average of 3.3 meters. However, the overall historical trend is still slightly downward over time, indicating that there is still opportunity for improvement to return to historical levels of water clarity.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) testing for 2014 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 remain the prime concern. 2014 results (12.5 ppb average) were below the historical mean of 15 ppb, but **the phosphorus level continues to be high enough to support an algae bloom**. Pushaw's colored water may have helped to prevent significant blooms thus far, by hindering widespread algae photosynthesis. But our goal is still to reduce phosphorus results to the single digits.

**Your annual dues, local municipal funding, and private donations have helped to make this monitoring possible!** As always, water testing and results reporting are conducted solely by volunteers. All results are reported to the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and go into the Maine lakes database, 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?

- If you find an unusual water plant and want to know if it might be an invasive species, cut a sample and seal it (still wet) inside a plastic baggie. Take it to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension office in Orono, and they will identify it for you. Better safe than sorry!
- It was a very hard winter for barred owls. and the local population may have thinned out. Owls can hear their prey moving under the snow—but not under the 4+ feet of snow we had last winter.

## WHAT THE HECK ARE ALL THOSE BUOYS FOR IN PUSHAW LAKE???

In one word: **SAFETY**. GPLA volunteers worked with the Bangor Bass Club to initially purchase and install permanent buoys, and Maine's Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) now owns and maintains them. They help to protect the safety of boaters, water skiers, and jet skiers, as well as their equipment. The chart below will help you decode what the different buoys mean. If you spot a damaged or drifting permanent buoy, please call BPL immediately at 207-582-5771.

Please note that permanent buoys were not installed within 200 feet of the shoreline, as this is a no-wake zone where boaters can usually see hazards in time to avoid them. In a tannin-rich lake such as Pushaw, however, dark rocks close to the surface are often hard to spot against the dark lake water — even at very low speeds. Lakeside residents often place "bleach bottle buoys" (BBBs) in this zone to mark underwater hazards, and GPLA uses BBBs to mark its three water quality testing sites. These smaller buoys can be easily dislodged by boats and jet skis, so PLEASE keep an eye out and steer clear as you navigate around our beautiful lake.



**Black and White Vertically Striped-** Aids shall mark obstructions extending from the nearest shore to the aid and shall indicate to a watercraft operator not to navigate between the aid and the nearest shore.



**Circular Symbol-** Orange circle on white buoy indicates that a watercraft operated in the marked area is subject to certain operating Controls and Restrictions. The nature of the controls and restrictions shall be indicated by words, numerals, and/or well-known abbreviations in black block letters inside or beside the circle. Extra explanation may be given above, below, or beside the symbol in the white background. Some examples, "Headway Speed Only" or "Slow Zone"

**Note-** "Headway Speed" buoys were placed in the lake inlet and outlet.  
"Safety Slow Zone" buoy was placed in the approach to Gould's Landing.



**Vertical open-faced diamond symbol, orange on white buoy, to mean DANGER-** The nature of the danger may be indicated by words and/or well-known abbreviations in black block letters above, below or beside the symbol in the white background. Some examples, "Hazard Area," "Shallow Area," "Rock," and "Dam."

**Note-** Hazard area buoys may be found singularly or in multiples to mark an area.

## GPLA MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!

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

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

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

Please mail along with \$15 annual dues (more if you wish, & if you can) in the enclosed envelope, or mail to: GPLA, PO Box 302, Stillwater, ME 04489. **Thanks!**

**32ND ANNUAL MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT**  
**ON PUSHAW LAKE and LITTLE PUSHAW POND**  
**Saturday, July 18, 2015, 7:00-7:30 am**

MAINE



Loon Project

Volunteers will again count loons on July 18, 2015 from shore and from boats to cover all of Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. We are hoping all the volunteers from 2014 will be available to do the survey again this year. If you participated in 2014 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 Dressler

**2014 FINAL LOON COUNT RESULTS**

by Rich Dressler

The Annual Loon Count took place on Sunday, July 19, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. Based on volunteer data sheets, the count reported to Maine Audubon for Pushaw Lake included 38 adults and no chicks. There were reports of 4 separate chicks on the lake before the count, but none were seen during the count. 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 one chick on Little Pushaw Pond. In summary, adult loon numbers rose somewhat on Pushaw Lake in 2014 over 2013. Chick production and survival still remain 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, or 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, and avoid “P” type products. (**P=Phosphorus=Polluting for Pushaw!**)
- ⇒ Wash your vehicle and 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 the underside of your boat before and 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 and let Mother Nature protect your shoreline with natural vegetation and leaf litter. If you prefer the look of a manicured lawn, at least set your mower blade at its highest setting and add an attractive shoreline buffer zone of plants, wood chips, or crushed stone to minimize any direct soil runoff into the lake.

## Greater Pushaw Lake Association

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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**

**BUSINESS SPONSORS WANTED** to help support GPLA and its mission of preserving and improving water quality in Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. If you own a lakeside business, or one that serves lakesiders, please consider a tax-deductible **GPLA CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP** of \$100 or more. We'll acknowledge your business name and contact information in future newsletters, and you'll be doing your part to help keep our lakes clean and healthy! Thank you!

### **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.**