



THE LAKESIDER

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

Come to the GPLA Annual Meeting — July 18 in Stillwater!

June 2013

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The GPLA Annual Meeting will be held at the Herbert Sargent Community Center, 342 Bennoch Road, Old Town, on Thursday, July 18. We will snack and socialize from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., followed by the business meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Coffee, cider, and desserts will be served. Please save this date on your calendars, and come out to meet old and new lake-loving friends as we celebrate another great year. Danielle D’Auria from Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will be the featured guest speaker. She will discuss Maine’s loon population, with special emphasis on the status of loons in Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. If you’ve got questions or stories to share about loons, here’s your chance to ask an expert!

We will also be reporting on GPLA activities, electing new board members, and having FUN! Nominated to stand for two-year terms from 2013-2015 are **Marian Dressler** and **Cheryl Fox-Briggs** (Glenburn), **Sandi Duchesne**, **Kevin Walsh**, **Lou Cloutier**, and **Dorli Cloutier** (Hudson), **Kerry Sack** (Old Town), and **Callie Ellis** (Orono). 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.

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Knowin' the Bryozoan! by Sandi Duchesne



Photo: Phyllis Heineman

Christine Stevens and Phyllis Heineman were conducting an invasive plant patrol on Little Pushaw Pond late last summer when they found an unusual bladder-like object suspended from a water plant. They gingerly fished it into the boat, and Phyllis used baggies to protect her hands as she removed and examined it. It resembled a gelatinous football. Surely they had never come across anything like this before in all of their paddles — and it wasn’t listed in their invasive species guide. **So what the heck was it?**

After research on the Internet and consultation with our local water quality experts, Chris and Phyllis determined that they had found a **Bryozoan**. These native water “plants” are actually not plants at all, but aquatic animals that date back to prehistoric times. The name is derived from the Greek words for “moss animal.”

Bryozoans filter water through their bodies to feed on microorganisms, like sea sponges. Most bryozoan species are found in saltwater. Freshwater bryozoans prefer “eutrophic” (i.e., low-oxygen and high-phosphorus) lakes where they can find plenty of algae and other organic matter in the water. Thus, although bryozoans are not an invasive species, their appearance in our lakes may indicate an increased risk of summer algae blooms. Thanks to Chris and Phyllis for sharing their research with fellow GPLA members!

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Biggest lake on earth: the Caspian Sea in Asia, at 143,000 square miles.**
- **Biggest known lake in the universe: Kraken Mare on Titan (one of the moons of Saturn), estimated to cover at least 150,000 square miles — about the size of California. Since the average temperature on Titan is -290 degrees F, the lake contains not water, but a mix of liquid and frozen methane and ethane...including methane icebergs!**

PUSHAW DAM FISHWAY COMPLETED

by Rich Dressler

During the late summer and fall of 2012 a fishway was constructed at the Pushaw Lake outlet dam. Work began in August, and the fishway concrete work and a new water control gate were largely completed by the end of October. The construction of a new control gate at the dam will improve the ability of Kukunsook Camp Owners Association (KCOA) to maintain normal lake water levels. Additional work on grating, gate controls, etc. continued into late fall. Several finishing tasks remain to be completed in 2013. During the coming summer, the old water control gate will be closed off with concrete and several minor seams in the dam will also be repaired.

During the coming years, the fishway channel will be opened by Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) from May 1 until June 15 for upstream passage of alewives. Slotted boards will be installed on the top of the new water control gate during the summer to allow adult and juvenile alewives passage downstream. KCOA will continue to open the water control gate by October 31 and close it on or about May 31 by order of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

DMR began stocking Pushaw Lake with alewives in 2012. Young fish produced in the lake will migrate to the ocean to grow to maturity and then return to the lake in four years to spawn. 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.



Photo: Rich Dressler

Fishway entrance at left, new water control gate, and outlet dam to right.

Psst! Have you paid your GPLA annual dues for 2013 yet? If not, please bring your check for \$15 to the GPLA Annual Meeting — or mail it to GPLA c/o Ryan Murdock, Treasurer, PO Box 302, Stillwater, ME 04489. Thanks for your support — we can't publish this newsletter without it!

**30TH ANNUAL MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT
ON PUSHAW LAKE and LITTLE PUSHAW POND
Saturday July 20, 2013, 7:00-7:30 am**

Volunteers will again count loons on July 20, 2013 from shore and from boats to cover all of Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. We are hoping all the volunteers from 2012 will be available to do the survey again this year. If you participated in 2012 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 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



2012 FINAL LOON COUNT RESULTS

by Rich Dressler

The 2012 Loon Count took place on Saturday, July 21st, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. Note the count needs to be completed within one-half hour to try to avoid double counting of loons moving between adjacent observation areas.

Based on initial volunteer verbal reports, the preliminary count for Pushaw Lake included 40 adults and 2 chicks. Audubon's final count for Pushaw Lake, based on inspection of field data sheets, was 43 adults and 2 chicks. Little Pushaw Pond had 13 adults and 3 chicks. We know there were 2 other chicks on Pushaw Lake not seen in the half-hour survey. In summary, adult loon numbers on Pushaw Lake increased in 2012 over previous years, however, potentially some of these loons were not resident. Chick production improved somewhat over 2011 but still remains relatively low.

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.

What can YOU do to improve water quality in Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond?

- ⇒ Prevent any exposed soil on your property from running off into the lake during rainstorms and spring snow melt. Anything that helps to prevent or slow runoff will help: plantings, water bars, even tarps. Soil erosion is the **NUMBER-ONE CAUSE** of phosphorus loading and algae blooms in our lakes!
- ⇒ Minimize lawn fertilizer use, & avoid "P" type products. (P=Phosphorus=Polluting for Pushaw!)
- ⇒ Don't wash your car or boat in an area where the sudsy water will make its way to the lake.
- ⇒ Inspect your boat before & after putting it into any lake, and carefully remove any plant matter.

Greater Pushaw Lake Association

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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

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«FNAME2» «LNAME2»
«S_ADD»
«S-TOWN», «S-ST» «S-ZIP0»

[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.**