



THE LAKESIDER

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

Please join us for **SUNDAES ON THE LAKE**
GPLA 2010 Annual Meeting, July 25, 1:00 p.m.

June 2010

Volume 3, Issue 1

The GPLA Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 25, from 1:00 to 2:45 p.m. at the Herbert Sargent Community Center, just off the Bennoch Road (Route 16) in the Stillwater section of Old Town. The theme for the meeting this year is "Sundaes on the Lake." We will provide make-your-own ice cream sundaes, homemade chocolate chip cookies, and fresh fruit to celebrate another successful year of neighbors working together to protect the watershed around Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. Feel free to bring your families, friends, and houseguests. The more the merrier!



This year's meeting will feature a special guest speaker, Richard Dill, a fishery biologist from the Bangor office of the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR). Richard will speak and answer questions about the possible restoration of the historic alewife fishery to Pushaw Lake, following the removal of barrier dams along the Penobscot River. Richard's talk will follow up and expand on the initial alewife presentation for GPLA in April 2010 by Ray "Bucky" Owen, former Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. In addition to his expert knowledge of alewife behavior, Richard oversees DMR's program to control the northern pike population in Pushaw, so he can answer questions about that effort as well. For more background information on alewife restoration, check out the GPLA website at www.greaterpushaw.org.

Other highlights of this year's meeting will be a vote to invest some of GPLA's funds to purchase new water quality testing equipment for Little Pushaw Pond; the introduction of GPLA's new Outreach Plan, to educate and inform lakeside residents about how they can help GPLA keep the lakes and shorelines clean and healthy; and a discussion of GPLA's new status as a non-profit corporation. The rules for non-profit oversight may require a future change in our bylaws to restructure the existing Board of Directors. If you would like to place an item on the agenda for discussion at the Annual Meeting, please contact GPLA President Sandi Duchesne at 827-3782.

GPLA Lost & Found Department

Bill Phillips of Hudson has volunteered to operate a clearinghouse for items that float away as the result of storms, high winds, or mishaps. In 2009, the lost & found service successfully retrieved a tow-behind surfing raft for a grateful resident! Whether you have lost or found an item, please call Bill at 827-0454 and he will try to return it to its owner.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- The Maine Dept. of Conservation has provided new "no-wake zone" markers for Pushaw Lake to replace the old faded markers. No-wake zones are designated to protect wildlife (including nesting loons) and to maintain stable shorelines in narrow channels, so please respect these zones whenever you operate a powerboat or jet ski.

27TH ANNUAL MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT
ON PUSHAW LAKE and LITTLE PUSHAW POND

By Rich Dressler



Saturday July 17, 2010 7:00-7:30 am

In July 2009, volunteers counted loons on both Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. Both bodies of water were covered in their entirety by the volunteers, many representing GPLA. The official total loon count reported by Maine Audubon on Pushaw Lake was 31 adults and 2 chicks. We postponed the 2009 count on Pushaw Lake until Sunday due to poor weather conditions. Volunteers counted 8 adults and 1 chick on Little Pushaw. Note that weather conditions and other factors may limit visibility so it is not always possible to count every loon on the lake. The count occurs over one half-hour period to minimize the possibility of double-counting loons moving about the lake.

Volunteers will again count loons in July 2010 from shore and from boats, canoes or kayaks to cover all of Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. We are hoping all the volunteers from 2009 will be available to do the survey again this year. If you participated in 2009 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 July 5. 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!

2009 Lake Association of the
Year Award Goes to GPLA

In March 2010, GPLA was honored as the 2009 Lake Association of the Year by the Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) at its Annual Awards Banquet. The award was given "...in recognition of their stewardship commitments and efforts in protecting and enhancing water quality of Pushaw Lake."

Immediate Past President Kerry Sack, one of the original founding members of GPLA, attended the banquet and accepted the award on behalf of the organization, and GPLA member Barbara Steller also attended.

PCSWCD Coordinator Chris Brewer put together a great video for the banquet to highlight GPLA's achievements. To check it out for yourself, go to YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/penobscotcountyswcd> and click on "2009 Lake Association of the Year."

Congratulations to ALL of our active volunteers and partners for your contributions — this award is for YOU and everything you do to keep our lakes beautiful and clean. The award plaque will be on display at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 25.



(Photo credit: "Common Mergansers on Pushaw Lake," Bob Duchesne)

Anglers: Get the Lead Out!
(and get new, FREE non-toxic gear for your tackle box!)

The Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) is still offering a **FREE** tackle exchange program to help anglers swap out their old lead sinkers, jigs, and lures for new non-toxic materials, including tin, brass, bismuth, and ceramics. Maine law now prohibits retail sales of lead items, but previously purchased lead tackle can be used indefinitely — and the new non-toxic tackle is more expensive, so many frugal Mainers have still not switched over to the new materials. The problem starts when a line breaks, and that leaden lure or weight sinks to the bottom of the lake. A single lead sinker will poison and eventually kill an adult loon! Lead can also bioaccumulate in fish tissues and move up the food chain, poisoning larger fish, mammals, birds, and of course humans if they eat what they catch.



(Photo credit: Pam Griffith)

Children are especially sensitive to lead poisoning, and they can suffer **serious, lifelong damage**. Responsible fishing in the 21st century means more than just catch-and-release; it means that you have an obligation to protect innocent people and creatures from toxic exposure to lead gear, while continuing to enjoy your fishing experience.

If it's time for your old tackle box to get a non-toxic makeover, call Chris Brewer at PCSWCD, 947-3555, or bring your gear to his office at 1423 Broadway in Bangor. It's first-come first-served, so don't delay!

WHAT GPLA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Patron: \$15-50 per year dues, no minimum volunteer commitment

Underwriter: \$51-100 per year dues, no minimum volunteer commitment

Sustainer: Over \$100 per year dues, no minimum volunteer commitment

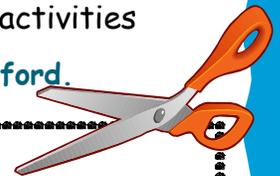
Helping Hand: \$0-35 per year dues, 1-15 hours per year for GPLA activities

Activist: \$0-35 per year dues, 16-36 hours per year for GPLA activities

Watershed Warrior: \$0-35 per year dues, 37+ hours per year for GPLA activities

...or just pay a flat rate of \$15.00 per calendar year, or whatever you can afford.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR GPLA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!



Name

Address (Please list primary and seasonal addresses, if applicable)

Phone and E-Mail Address

Mail this form with your dues to: Kathy Lukas, GPLA Membership Chair
281 Birch Tree Drive
Hudson, ME 04449



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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 Classifieds...?

Several active members of GPLA have expressed a desire to post lightly-used goods, services, and property listings (both sales and rentals) on the new GPLA website, sort of a local version of "Craig's List" except that it would be run by lakesiders, for lakesiders. The idea is that you can have a higher trust level if you know that the people offering these items are neighbors within the GPLA community. We are working with our volunteer webmaster, Joanne Van Voorhis, to determine if this is feasible. In the meantime, if you have an opinion about online classifieds, or would like to post items online if this service becomes available, please contact GPLA President Sandi Duchesne at 827-3782.

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, Maine Department of Marine Resources**, plus our four Municipal Partners: **Town of Orono, Town of Hudson, Town of Glenburn, and City of Old Town.**