



# THE LAKESIDER

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

We are dedicating this issue of the Lakesider to our friend, neighbor and Board Member Art Hildebrandt. With Art's passing as result of Covid-19, it brings home the need to take all the precautions and steps from State and Federal CDC to limit the spread of the disease among family and friends and in public places.

We hope you had a safe winter whether you live year-round on the lake or seek warmer climates in the winter. As the warmer weather is here please get your vaccinations and keep your efforts up to limit further spread of Covid-19 as you enjoy your time by the lake this summer.

We are looking forward to getting back to normal activities for GPLA. This includes continuing the annual loon count and water testing in a Covid-safe manner. We hope to restart our efforts to implement the Lake Smart Project. **However, because of uncertainty regarding use of available facilities we will hold our Annual meeting via Zoom.**

Enjoy your time near and on Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond this summer. Please respect other users of the water, including loons and other wildlife. Be Safe!!

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## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING IN-PERSON CHANGED TO ZOOM MEETING

Based on continued uncertainty about the status of COVID-19, we have decided again to hold GPLA Annual Meeting in July by Zoom. We are planning to hold a special online Zoom meeting of the GPLA Board on **Wednesday, July 21**, open to all GPLA members and lake residents who wish to become members. We will be highlighting GPLA's activities over the past year, and holding Board elections. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE EMAIL RICH DRESSLER at [greaterpushawlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:greaterpushawlakeassociation@gmail.com) for instructions for logging into the meeting will be circulated a few days before the meeting, along with an agenda.** You must be a current dues-paying member of GPLA to vote in the Board elections; a membership form and mailing envelope are included in this newsletter. Please visit our website, [www.greaterpushaw.org](http://www.greaterpushaw.org) for more information about GPLA.



## Remembering our neighbor and friend Art Hildebrandt

Art passed away in December 2020 after a short battle with Covid-19. Art was a member of GPLA and served on the Board of Directors for a number of years representing Hudson's Pushaw lakeside owners. Art was an easygoing fellow who provided input to guide GPLA, helped advance a number of GPLA projects and regularly attended GPLA Board and Annual meetings. He helped each July with the annual loon count on Pushaw Lake and also represented the GPLA at our table at the now annual kayak/canoe races on Pushaw Lake. As part of our implementation of the LakeSmart project to help lakeside landowners reduce their impact on the lake, Art volunteered to have his property evaluated. Art will be missed!



**38th ANNUAL MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT  
ON PUSHAW LAKE and LITTLE PUSHAW POND  
Saturday, July 17, from 7:00 to 7:30**

The 2021 loon count will take place on Saturday, July 17, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. following existing Covid-19 guidelines. Typically we have an individual or family units involved within defined areas of Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond. If possible, the count needs to be completed within one-half hour to avoid double-counting of loons moving between adjacent observation areas. In some larger observation areas we do extend the count to achieve complete coverage. We will be contacting all volunteers who participated in the count in 2020 to determine availability to help count loons from boats, kayaks, and shoreline this year. If you have helped in years before 2020, or have never helped but would like to get involved, please contact Rich Dressler at 827-5407.

**You can help protect the loons—as well as yourself and your fellow lake users— by reporting any reckless, endangering, or illegal boating behavior you observe to a game warden.** To report a potential violation 24 hours a day, please contact the dispatch operator at the Regional Communication Center (Bangor) at 800-432-7381. The Bangor regional game warden headquarters can be reached directly during weekday working hours at 207-941-4440.



### **Invasive zebra mussels**

Invasive zebra mussels have been found in "moss balls," an aquarium plant product sold in Maine. Moss balls are commonly sold under trade names such as "Betta Buddy." Zebra mussels, which so far have not become established in Maine, are **one of the most destructive invasive species in North America.**

#### **We need to keep them out of our lakes!**

**If you recently purchased moss balls, immediately destroy them using one of these methods:**

- Freeze - Place the moss ball into a sealable plastic bag and freeze for at least 24 hours.
- Boil - Place the moss ball in boiling water for at least 1 full minute.
- Bleach - Submerge the moss ball in chlorine bleach for 20 minutes.

After destroying the moss ball, DISPOSE of the moss ball and any of its packaging in a sealed plastic bag in the trash. Do not dump moss balls down drains or in waterways or gardens.

**If moss balls were placed in your aquarium, DRAIN and clean the aquarium:**

1. Please remove fish and other living organisms and place them in another container, with water from a separate, uncontaminated water source.
2. Aquatic plants may also harbor zebra mussels and should be destroyed along with the moss ball.
3. Sterilize the aquarium water by adding 1 cup of bleach for each gallon of water. Sterilize filter, rocks, décor, and any other items in contact with the water.

Let the water sit for 10 minutes and then dispose of the treated water down a household drain.

[The LakeSmart program is updated and active again!](#)

- Do you want to protect Pushaw Lake and Pushaw Pond?
- Would you like to learn more about LakeSmart?
- Would you like a visit and a free individualized LakeSmart plan for your property or find out if your property qualifies for an award?
- Would you like training to become a volunteer evaluator or assist with the program and be a part of our team? If you answered Yes to any of these questions, please contact Carolyn at [pushlakesmart@gmail.com](mailto:pushlakesmart@gmail.com).

*GPLA is always interested in hearing from our members. We encourage you to participate in our annual survey to help us best serve our community. Find out more at: <http://tinyurl.com/GPLAsurvey>*



- ◆ **Congratulations** to our Facebook Ice- Out contest winners: **Sara Walton** correctly picked April 1 for the Central and Southern Pushaw Lake. **Missy Dorr** correctly picked April 5 for the Northern Pushaw Lake.
- ◆ Pushaw Lake Day will be held on Sunday, July 11. If you would like to participate in an official canoe or kayak race sanctioned by the Maine Canoe and Kayak Racing Organization (MaCKRO), you can sign up on their website or on the day of the race. Start time: 9 a.m. from Lakeside Landing, Glenburn. These races include 4-mile and 8-mile races. GPLA volunteers will be helping out with the races.

-Art Hildebrandt and Rich Dressler at Pushaw Lake Day

**ITEM FROM "MAINE LAKES":** 'In light of the continuing health concerns about COVID-19, we will be hosting our 2021 Maine Lakes Conference speakers in another series of "Wednesday Webinars" running the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, from February through June.' **Registration is free!!** See <https://www.lakes.me/maine-lakes-conference> to see the lineup and to register.

### 2021 Lake Water Testing

Thanks to the efforts of Dorli and Lou Cloutier (Pushaw Lake) and Laura and Quinton Hurst (Little Pushaw) we will continue to monitor for phosphorus levels, dissolved oxygen and clarity this summer. Water clarity and dissolved oxygen were relatively good last summer but **we all need to do more to reduce phosphorus levels.** All lakeside residents should to do their part to reduce runoff carrying soil into the lake, fix faulty septic systems, improve lakeside hygiene, maintain/improve shoreline buffer on their properties. Please check out our LakeSmart program and get your property evaluated by our LakeSmart volunteers!

**Greater Pushaw Lake  
Association**

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Find us on Facebook @GreaterPushawLakeAssociation

**GPLA MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!**

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

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

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

If you are interested in learning more about LakeSmart check here:

**Are you interested in becoming more active in GPLA? Joining the Board of Directors?**

**Please mail \$15 annual dues (more if you wish, and if you can) to: GPLA, PO Box 302, Stillwater, ME 04489. If you prefer, you can now donate securely online by PayPal and major credit cards at [www.greaterpushaw.org/membership.html](http://www.greaterpushaw.org/membership.html)**

**Thanks!**