

Watershed Views



Newsletter of the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

Kezar Lake Watershed Association, P.O. Box 88, Lovell, ME 04051****WINTER 2007

In Memory of Joan Cutler Irish

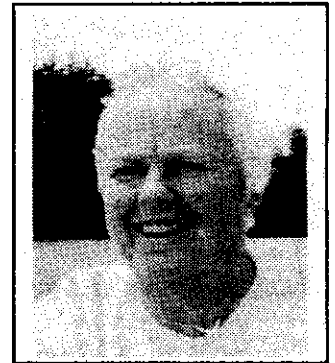
We are dedicating our winter newsletter, Watershed News, to our long-time Trustee and President, Joan Irish, who passed away on September 6, 2006. Joan's great love for Kezar Lake, where she summered for forty years, and her passion for environmental causes was well known throughout the Lovell community and beyond. She was not only our president for 15 years, but also held important positions in several other environmental organizations in Maine and Massachusetts. KLWA has indeed lost a dedicated leader, mentor and friend. We have reprinted her obituary from 'The Bridgton News'.

We want to remember Joan and pay tribute to her good work by building on the strong foundation she helped to lay. This summer we plan to honor Joan's memory at the KLWA's Annual Membership Meeting to be held on Saturday, July 14, 2007 and hope you will all attend. A new venue, the VFW Hall in Lovell, has been arranged, and refreshments will be served. Moreover, we have invited Mr. David Littell, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection for the State of Maine (Maine DEP), to be our guest speaker, and to share in our efforts to honor Joan on this important occasion.

Our agenda is full and growing as we expand our programs to preserve Kezar Lake and its watershed for the enjoyment of generations to come. Chemical testing and analysis has now been extended beyond Kezar Lake to all of the seven ponds in our watershed. Milfoil control, boat inspections, lake patrols, loon counts, KLWA's new website and educational programs, monitoring and advocating responsible development as well as supporting our sister organizations whose missions are closely aligned with our own requires many man (and woman) hours of dedication and work. It also requires funding. To that end, your Board of Trustees recognizes the need and has voted to raise our membership dues for 2007 to \$50.00 per household to help support these efforts. Yet, at the same time, we want to invite and encourage younger adults, families with children and grandchildren to get involved by joining our membership as well. So please don't be dissuaded...as we'll happily accept and truly appreciate contributions of any amount, large or small.

I am mindful of the growing challenges we all face in keeping the Kezar Lake Watershed pure and free from contamination. My sincere thanks to our Officers and Trustees (listed on the back page), all of whom volunteer their time and effort to this worthwhile cause. Like Joan Irish, we share a passion for Kezar Lake, its ponds and surrounding communities. With the on-going support of members like you, together we can make Joan's life-long dream a reality.

Charlie Dattelbaum
President, KLWA



Joan C. Irish
1931 - 2006

Special Interest

Joan Irish's Obituary
p. 2

Water Quality Report
p. 2

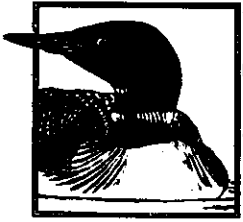
Invasive Plants
p. 3

*Courtesy Boat
Inspection (CBI)*
p. 3

*Volunteer Lake
Monitoring Program
(VLMP)*
p. 3

Cushman Pond
p. 4

Lake Patrol
p. 5



One of Joan's most recognizable sketches

"Joan Irish was a longtime, passionate environmental activist."

YARMOUTH – Joan Cutler Irish, 75, formerly of Sudbury, Mass., died on September 6, 2006, at Maine Medical Center in Portland.

She was born in Newton, Mass., on October 7, 1931, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mann Cutler. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., in 1953.

Mrs. Irish was a longtime, passionate environmental activist. Early in her career she was a member and chairman of the Sudbury Conservation Commission and coordinator of the Sudbury Community Gardens. She was also director of public service information for the Massachusetts Audubon Society for 14 years.

After moving to Maine in 1981, she focused on preserving and protecting Maine's lakes and their water quality. In 1993, she was one of five winners of the Jefferson Award for distinctive community service given by the Maine Broadcasting System. Joan was president (1988-1992), then executive director, and recently a board member of the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA). She was also the president of the Kezar Lake Watershed Association (KLWA) in Lovell and its newsletter publisher. She was active as a volunteer or board member in numerous other environmental organizations. She received a Citizen Scientist Recognition Award by Maine Audubon in 2003 for 20 years as a loon count volunteer.

In addition, she was a talented freelance artist who specialized in pencil and pen and ink drawings and watercolors.

She loved memories of her childhood summers in Marshfield, Mass., eating Maine lobster, picking blueberries, visiting farm markets and crafts shows, attending the Portland Museum of Art with her children, playing the guitar, learning the Internet and how it could support advocacy, canoeing, and spending time at her 40-year-old summer camp located on her beloved Kezar Lake in Lovell.

She is survived by four children: John L. Irish of Evanston, Ill, Susan D. Irish of Philadelphia, Pa., Bradley C. Irish of Portland, and Laurie D. Irish of Louisville, Tenn.; a brother, Charles M. Cutler, Jr.; her former husband, James L. Irish, and a granddaughter.

A private memorial service will be held in the spring of 2007. Memorial donations may be sent to the Kezar Lake Watershed Association, Inc., P.O. Box 88, Lovell, ME 04051, or Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library, P.O. Box 105, Lovell, ME 04051. Arrangements are by Funeral Alternatives, LLC, 500 Route One, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

(With permission of 'The Bridgton News', September 20, 2006)

Water Quality Report of the Lakes and Ponds in the Kezar Watershed

For nearly 3 decades, the KLWA has monitored Kezar Lake every spring, summer and fall. The critical information gathered enabled us, in 2005, to successfully lobby the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to place Kezar on Maine's 'Priority Waterbody' list, which may, in turn, enable the KLWA to leverage state and federal resources to protect the lake. This is indeed good news!

Water quality tests include water clarity, phosphorous content, algae growth, dissolved oxygen, acidity (pH), and several others. In addition, a study is being conducted to monitor the concentration of zooplankton, essential to the lake's food chain (think 'fishing!').

2006 results are, in a nutshell, very good. The clarity of all sampled areas of Kezar (Upper Bay, Middle Bay and Lower Bay) is well above average for the 6,000 lakes in Maine. We have started 'baseline' monitoring for the ponds in the watershed (Bradley, Cushman, Farrington, Heald, Horseshoe, and Trout Lake). Of these, the clearest was Trout Lake, although all were 'quite clear' at the time of measurement (mid-August). Phosphorous levels and algae growth were generally lower than average; however, oxygen levels near the bottoms of Bradley Pond, Horseshoe Pond and Trout Lake were quite low, indicating vulnerability to the effects of land uses in the watershed. We will continue to monitor the ponds in the watershed. A more detailed report will be available to the KLWA early in 2007.

Scott Williams, Aquatic Biologist

Invasive Aquatic Plant Screening Survey

During the months of July, August and early September, 2006, the Lake Watershed Resource Management Association (LWRMA) biologists conducted a Tier 3 (entire littoral zone) invasive aquatic plant screening survey for the following water bodies in the Kezar Lake watershed: Kezar Lake (Upper, Middle and Lower Bays), Trout Lake, Heald Pond, Farrington Pond, Horseshoe Pond, and Bradley Pond. This survey was conducted in accordance with methods established by the Maine DEP and the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants. There are eleven invasive plants identified as threats (for information on these, contact the KLWA). To sum up the studies: **No invasive aquatic plants were detected in any of the surveyed lakes and ponds.** Cushman Pond, which has a documented invasion of milfoil, was surveyed under another program, and thus was not included in this project.

Scott Williams (LWRMA) and Gerry Nelson (Chair, Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee [LIPPC] and KLWA Board Member)

"En Gard!!"

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

We could become complacent. 'Our' lake and ponds have no new invasion of noxious aquatic plants. WE MUST NOT!! Recently, a snorkeler surveying the Great East Lake, which straddles the border of Maine and New Hampshire, discovered milfoil. Just one single plant, identified and removed by a trained individual, seems to have made the difference between infestation or no infestation. Volunteers are needed to survey and recognize Invasive Aquatic Plants (IAP's). The State of Maine has a resource known as the 'Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program' (VLMP). Workshops are conducted at the Brackett Environmental Center, on the shore of Lake Auburn, to teach volunteers to identify invasive plants, supported by DEP grants and funds from other organizations and individuals. In 2007, the LIPPC and the KLWA will join together in an effort to encourage Lovell residents (summer AND year-around) to attend one of these workshops. We encourage you to join the more than 1300 volunteers trained by this effective, proactive initiative to prevent milfoil, or any of the other 10 invasive aquatic plants, from gaining a foot-hold in Kezar or its associated ponds.

Gerry Nelson (Chair, LIPPC), and Charlie Dattelbaum (President, KLWA)

Courtesy Boat Inspection

This summer was probably the most comfortable summer for Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) duty because of the beautiful, well-made, and bug-free shelter!! Many thanks go to Ed Nista, Pat Carson, and Dave Mills for making our 'headquarters at the Narrows'. Not only was it protective cover, but it also sent a strong message to boaters that our community is serious about protecting our waterways!

Coverage at the boat ramps started in mid-May and ended in mid-September. We covered a two-day bass tournament on September 30th and October 1st. A total of 5 bass tournaments took place over the summer. We conducted a total of 921 inspections this season.

Fishermen and recreational boaters were supportive of the inspection program. The word is certainly out! People are becoming more and more concerned and will bring in samples for us to check. We have certainly come a long way in the past few years that this program has been in effect! Our Adopt-a-Saturday program ran well this year, with a strong turn-out. If you have a group of neighbors and friends who would like to adopt a ramp for a day, please call Katrina at 647-3042. Working together, we will continue to get the word out to clean boats, look for suspicious plants and keep our beautiful watershed the way it should be!! Many thanks go out to the members of the LIPPC, our lake volunteers and stewards and our selectmen for their support as we work together against invasive aquatic plants.

Katrina Soucy (CBI)

Page 3 of 6

Cushman Pond Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Program

Benthic barriers have proven to be an effective tool...

Benthic: from Greek 'benthos', meaning 'bottom of the sea'. The flora and fauna of the sea bottom.

Webster's

Cushman Pond has a known population of Variable Milfoil, discovered by Gerry and Meg Neslon while canoeing about 10 years ago. For the past 8 years, the pond has been intensively surveyed 5 times/season by divers paid by the Town of Lovell, assisted by many volunteers. This program operates under the auspices of the LIPPC, with permits and oversight by the Maine DEP. In 2006, there was a total of 3 gallons of Variable Milfoil harvested using approved techniques; the last dive of the season yielded only 6 small plants. The program continues to be a success! A permit was granted by the Maine DEP to install 8 benthic barriers, each 5 ft. square, made of light-proof fabric and rebar. These will be left in place on the bottom of the pond where plant growth has been found, and will be removed next spring. They have proven to be an effective tool to kill unwanted aquatic plants in other areas, and we are confident they will be here as well.

Gerry Nelson, LIPP Committee

News from the Greater Lovell Land Trust

Tom Henderson, Executive Director of the GLLT, announced the successful completion this fall of the Sucker Brook Project, a 200-acre acquisition from Maine Woodland Properties. This protects water quality for Lower Bay, and links current protected habitats between the White Mountain National Forest and the Kezar Outlet Fen. Tom Morgan, vice president of KLWA, stated "The Sucker Brook Project is consistent with the organization's goals, as it relates to habitat protection, water quality preservation and the preservation of the ecological richness of the watershed." The KLWA donated \$5,000 to help complete this project. Also completed was the 'fee ownership' of 130 acres, known as the Lovejoy Parcel in Stoneham, at the headwaters of the Kezar River, and includes a major feeder stream to the Five Kezar Ponds. This was made possible by the hard work of the Five Kezar Ponds Watershed Association, specifically their Land Protection Committee. Thanks and congratulations to this hard-working group!

The GLLT initiated a successful trial run of 'Cranberries for Conservation™', selling wild cranberries picked by volunteers in the Kezar Outlet Fen, with the goal of reconnecting individuals and communities to the life sustaining power of the land. Over 50 lbs. of cranberries were hand-picked, cleaned, packaged and shipped to locations throughout the country, including California, Oregon and Montana! This program will be expanded in 2007. The cranberries are delicious! The GLLT encourages the public to pick berries in season (blueberries, cranberries, blackberries, etc.) and to re-create on GLLT land.

Odds and Ends

- Joint meeting GLLT/KLWA: Following the GLLT/KLWA meeting in August, 2006, the KLWA sponsored a very successful series of outings on the 'floating classroom' pontoon boat the 'Melinda Ann'. All 3 trips were quickly filled. The joint meeting in August 2007 will be held on August 14. We are fortunate to have as our guest speaker Tom Wessels, author of Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England. Don't miss this meeting!
- The loon count was held July 16, 2006, from 7:00 – 7:30 AM. Counted were 19 adults and 1 chick. In 2005, there were 13 adults and 3 chicks. Unusually high water in the spring of 2006 was tough on nests. Thanks to all who volunteered!
- The KLWA and the GLLT, with the help of Tripp Turner at the Center Lovell Market, are looking into ways of making environmentally-friendly products readily available. Stay tuned!
- The KLWA website is under construction at www.kezarlake.org.

KLWA Dues to Increase

The Trustees, after careful consideration, have decided to raise dues for basic membership in KLWA to \$50.00 per household, effective on June 1, 2007. Expenses continue to escalate; we have expanded our water testing program to include not only Kezar Lake, but the ponds in the watershed, and our program continues to grow. In order to be proactive to watershed issues as they arise, we feel we must have a monetary fund in place to do so. Our president, Charlie Dattelbaum, outlined the very real needs in his letter on page 1 of this newsletter.

Kezar Lake Patrol Officer

The Lovell community is very fortunate to have Paul Sirois keeping an eye on lake activities. You may recall that the KLWA provided him with a new state-of-the-art patrol boat in 2005, a Boston Whaler equipped with a center console, a 115-hp 4-stroke Mercury motor, a spotlight, and other items specifically geared for law enforcement. This enables him to respond to situations quickly and safely. He has been able to alert boaters of impending storms, often going from one end of the lake to the other to do so. He has issued verbal and written warnings, and, on occasion, given summonses, to boaters engaged in unsafe boating practices. He has also engaged in rescue operations

In 2004-2005, Paul was able to live in his camper at what used to be the Kezar Lake Campground, and to keep the KLWA patrol boat there; however, this past summer he was unable to use that spot, or even to find another place on the lake. Instead, he kept the KLWA boat at the Marina, while he lived in Harrison, 25 miles away! The roads between Harrison and Lovell are tortuous at best, and Paul was unable to respond as promptly as needed to problems as they arose.

We dodged the bullet of a catastrophe last summer. Boat traffic was down, probably due to poor fishing and increased gas prices, while the 'normal and usual' activities of wakeboarding, waterskiing and recreational boating by area residents remained somewhat stable. There was only one instance that Paul knows of where he was unable to get to the lake in time, and this involved abuse of jet skis by renters at Ladies' Delight.

We hope that Paul will be able to find a place, or places, on the lake for summer use. He has a camper; to use it, he needs electric hook-up and sewage disposal. If you know of such a spot that he could use, and keep the KLWA boat, from mid-June to September, it would enable Paul to have a rapid response to issues as needed. A patrolman needs to live near the lake he patrols!

A patrolman needs to live near the lake he patrols!

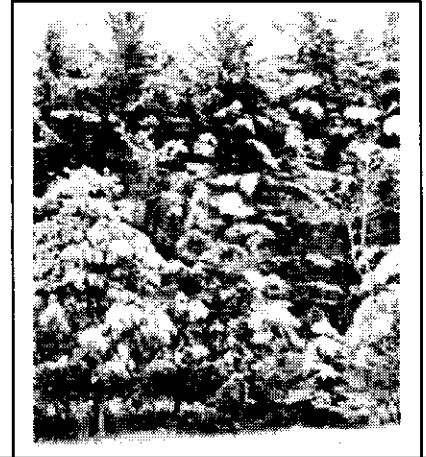
Summer Meeting of KLWA Scheduled

The July meeting of the KLWA will be held on Saturday, July 14, at the VFW Hall on Rt. 93 and Smart's Hill Rd. in Lovell Village. We will have a social hour to meet and greet old friends and new at 9:30 A.M., with refreshments provided, and the meeting itself will start promptly at 10:00. The meeting will be dedicated to Joan Irish's memory. Her children will be invited. Our speaker (yes, for the first time we will have a speaker!) will be David Littell, Commissioner of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection. Please make plans to join us for what we hope will be a very meaningful tribute to Joan. We recognize her dedication not only to the KLWA, but also to a broader stewardship of the lakes and natural resources of Maine. KLWA notepads, with Joan's sketch of a loon, as well as our laminated maps of the lake, will be available for purchase. Make plans now to attend this important meeting, and bring your friends and neighbors.

Officers and Trustees of the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

President: Charlie Dattelbaum – (Upper Bay)
Vice President: Tom Morgan – (Middle Bay)
Treasurer: Andy Feld – (Upper Bay)
Secretary: Susan Leighton – (Heald Pond)

Carl Bois: (Lovell)
Anne Hudson: (Upper Bay)
Tom Hughes: (Horseshoe Pond)
Ford Hutchinson: (The Narrows)
Sue Lanser: (Lower Bay)
Dave Mills: (Middle Bay) \\
Fred Mitchell: (Upper Bay)
Gerry Nelson: (Cushman Pond)
Ray Senecal: (Northwest Cove/Farrington Pond)
Ann Williams: (Middle Bay)
(Newsletter Editor)



The KLWA is always looking for 'a few good men and women' to become active as Trustees. This is a hard-working group which holds meetings 'at least' 3 times during the summer. The work is very satisfying, as the health of the waters is at stake. Decisions that the KLWA makes today will be felt for many years, if not generations. We hope to identify people from throughout the watershed who are interested in serving as a Trustee. Please consider speaking to any of the Trustees of your interest

**KEZAR LAKE WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION, INC.**
P.O. Box 88
Lovell, Maine 04051

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