



Worrromontogus Lake Association Newsletter

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Summer 2007

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Support COLA

You can show your support of Maine Congress of Lake Associations by buying a ticket for their raffle. Tickets are only \$10 for a boat package worth \$17,000! Go to www.mainecola.org to view the boat and trailer. The drawing will be June 23rd.

Dear Fellow Members,

June is finally here and the weather helps me understand why I live here during the hard months. We've been spending a lot of time on the 319 grant since our last Newsletter and meeting. I'm happy to say, that part of the work is now done and the grant was submitted to the state Bureau of Purchases on Wednesday the 23rd of May. We put in a good and innovative grant, totaling some \$143,000. We had strong and meaningful partnership from the City of Augusta and now we can just cross our fingers and hope our grant is funded.

Regardless of the result of the grant awards, we've made strong progress this spring. The Association and the City are communicating in a positive way; we're getting a message that the City understands Togus Pond is an important part of the community and the City is interested in the water quality of the Pond.

We've started talking with the Department of Marine Resources about their Alewife project and Dick Harvey and the Education and Environmental Committee is studying the issue. Ken McNeill and Jon Andrews have been busy and we're making improvements to the Landing and providing proper signage at our dam.

The Road Associations have been meeting with John Pucciarelli, the Chair of our Political Affairs Commit-

tee, and have provided very good information on what each of their roads need to cut down on non-point source pollution.

There is a lot of energy around the Association lately and soon we'll have new by-laws and be starting the process of becoming a card carrying non-profit corporation.

The last few meetings have been well attended and entertaining. This time we'll be hearing a report from the Education and Environmental Committee on Alewife restocking in the pond, working a bit on the next step of finalizing new by-laws, and listening to a state expert on milfoil and how we can help protect our lake from this menace. We'll have another fifty-fifty raffle, a chance to meet old and new neighbors and hopefully have a laugh or two. I hope to see you there... and if you have a chance, grab a friend or neighbor from the pond/stream (particularly if they're not now a member of the WLA) and bring them along too!

Patten Williams, President WLA



Education and Environmental Report on Alewives

Should WLA consider introducing alewives to Worromontogus?

On May 30th a meeting was held for Vassalboro residents and concerned citizens to discuss the possibility of putting in a fishway to promote alewife migration into and out of Webber Pond. These native fish, once historically abundant in virtually all the lakes and streams of the Kennebec river valley were essentially eliminated when dams were introduced on the river to fuel the industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. In the past few decades many sportsmen, conservationists and state fisheries managers have made the restoration of alewife populations in the state of Maine a desirable goal. This strategy has a direct impact on the residents of Togus Pond, because we have also been approached with a similar proposal -to reintroduce alewives and build a fishway to promote their migration into Togus. We feel it is important that the members educate themselves carefully because if we choose to do this, it will forever change the nature and character of Togus Pond.

A small contingent of us from the Togus Pond Lake Association went to the Webber Pond Meeting to learn as much as possible from their experiences. We learned that; alewives are anadromous – that is, sea run fish, who live the majority of their lives at sea but would return to spawn in fresh water lakes like Togus Pond or Webber Pond in the spring. We heard much conversation about them, technical aspects of various fishway designs, including the engineering and costs. According to Nate Gray of the Department of Marine Resources, a group of public and private agencies would share the responsibility and costs of installing the fishway from a grant they have received. The Webber Pond Association and the town of Vassalboro would work together to defray the annual maintenance and operating costs. Although alewives have been stocked in Webber Pond for a decade we have not had that experience on Togus.

Some concerns of residents included:

- Impact of alewives on water quality
- Impact of alewives on existing fish populations
- How alewives affect other birds, wildlife and the ecosystem
- Accidental introduction of invasive species, such as carp or milfoil
- Technical aspects of installation
- Operating and maintenance costs of various fishways
- Safety and liability concerns



These are just some of the many questions that need to be answered in order for us to make an informed decision.

There are a lot of websites with good information on this subject. We have put several websites on a simple point and click website called portaportal.com.

Please visit the site <http://www.portaportal.com> and enter the **guest access** by using the password **toguspond** this will give you all the websites using a point and click format. It will also allow us to post a lot of relevant information online that members may want access to. If you don't have access to a computer we will have some handouts at the June 22nd meeting.

Please take a moment to read about alewives from this website - hopefully before the next meeting.

June 22 meeting at Fox Glen Clubhouse

Please join us for the next general meeting of the Lake Association scheduled for Friday, June 22, at the Fox Glen Snowmobile Clubhouse. The meeting will follow a pot luck supper and we hope to have a good turnout.

A social time will begin at 5:30 pm with a pot luck supper at 6:00. The meeting will begin at 6:30. For the potluck please bring either a main dish, salad or dessert and your own place settings and beverage. The Association will

provide coffee and tea.

The Fox Glen snowmobile club is located on Buck & Doe Trail: from Route 3 go 0.8 miles on Weeks Mills Road to Buck & Doe Trail, which is on the left. The club is the first building on the left on Buck & Doe Trail.

Roy Bouchard from the Maine DEP will be our guest speaker. He will be speaking about the invasive plant milfoil and how we can help prevent the spread of this plant.

Boat Landing and Picnic Area



It appears that someone backed into a supporting post for one of the gates at the landing. On May 23rd Ken McNeill met with a representative from the Pine Tree Fence Company to see what it would take to repair the gate. They are currently preparing an estimate and will get back to him within the next few days. Providing the estimate is reasonable, Ken will gain the association's approval and have the gate repaired. If the estimated cost is too high, he will find an individual willing to do the job for a fee.

The following is a list of projects we would like to accomplish this summer at the landing:

- add more gravel and loam to smooth out the parking and picnic areas
- add several cement slabs to form a boat ramp to improve the ability to launch and retrieve watercraft.

Upcoming Events

June 16th Gravel road maintenance workshop 9:00 to 1:00 Sebago Town Hall

June 23 Congress of Lakes Assn. Meeting. Colby College, Waterville, Maine
7:30 AM Diamond building lobby

Highlights: Climate Change in New England *with an Emphasis on Potential Lake Effects* from Dr. Tom Huntington, climate specialist with the USGS, and How to Build your Association by Bob Moore, who built Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed from 73 to 5,000 members in 3 years. You'll be able to choose from 15 workshops and a variety of small group discussions to explore issues and share information with experts and lake leaders from across the state.

Update on Road Associations

The Political Affairs Committee has been focused on building an active relationship with the Road Associations and working with Patten Williams on our grant application. Both of these endeavors have yielded positive results. All roads have been well represented at meetings of this group and all roads responded in a timely fashion to our requests for issues to be addressed as part of the application.

John Pucciarelli with the help and guidance of Mr. Dennis Curtis will be presenting a set of standards to this group. The codification of methods and materials is another step in establishing a common language so that needs and wants can be appropriately framed in our ongoing relationship with City Council and City Staff.

Have you renewed your membership? Please renew now by sending the form below, or bringing to the meeting. Include your e-mail for delivery choice and receive faster news and help save paper and money for the Association! If you have questions about your membership status, please call Sarah Fagg at 621-9768 or email at worrLakeAssoc@adelphia.net

Membership Renewal 2007

Renew today! Just send this form and your check to:
Worromontogus Lake Association
PO Box 2582, Augusta, Maine 04338

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Lake Road _____ E-mail address _____

Preferred news delivery method circle one: Delivered by road monitor E-mail US Mail

2007 Dues (Family Membership \$15; Individual Membership \$10).....\$ _____

Voluntary Contribution to the Dam Maintenance Fund.....\$ _____

Total Amount of Check.....\$ _____

**Please help us keep our records up to date.
Contact us with any address or email changes. Thanks!**

